

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 20th/May 21st 2023: Ascension (English)
Sunday After the Ascension (Latin)



1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
Phone: (205) 785-9840

E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org
Website: www.myblessedsacrament.org

Pastor

Rev. Jim W. Booth

SACRAMENTS and LITURGY

English Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

English Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Traditional Latin Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

English Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Latin Weekday Masses: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. on First Friday

First Saturday Latin Mass: 8:30 a.m. with confessions beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass: As Announced

Confessions: Saturday 3:30-3:55 p.m., Sunday 7:00-7:25, 8:30-8:55, and 10:15-10:40 a.m.

Baptisms: By Appointment

Marriage Arrangements must be made with the Pastor **at least 6** months before the date of the wedding. Talk to the Pastor before making any firm wedding plans. No destination weddings.

COVID-19 RESPONSE, MASS & DEVOTIONS: We have an additional Sunday Latin Mass at 7:30, to aid in social distancing, and continues on a provisional basis.

NOTE ON CONFESSIONS: If there is a significant line for confession, Fr Booth might say part of the formula of absolution while the penitent recites the act of contrition. The full formula of absolution is always said, but the first part might be said softly during the act of contrition. Thus, you might only hear “and I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

WELCOME to all of our visitors: We are glad you have attended Mass with us. If you wish to join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form at the Religious Goods Counter located in the vestibule of the front entrance.

IN MEMORIAM: Edward Von Hagel, Sr., the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from May 21st until May 27th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Glenn L. Varnell from May 28th until June 3rd.

THIRD SUNDAY: This Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

DOMINICAN NUNS VOCATION RETREAT: The cloistered Dominican nuns in Marbury, Alabama invite young women age 16-26 to draw closer to Jesus and Mary and learn more about their hidden vocation at the heart of the Order of Preachers. The retreat will be from June 9th to June 11th. Visit: MarburyDominicanNuns.org/Vocation-Retreat-June23

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: “Come Drink the Water of Renewed Love.” Give your marriage the gift of attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – a weekend-long retreat focusing on each other, find deeper intimacy, rekindle your romance, and revitalize your marriage – and leave with a marriage that is refreshed and full of energy. From 24th to 25th at John Carroll Catholic High School. Meals are provided but overnight accommodations are not. You can get more information or register online at www.wwme.org.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon Daniel Sessions, Patrick DePew, Max Gallegos, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, John Paul Stepnowski, Andrew Vickery, Hunter Limbaugh, Adam Sellers, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God’s call to the priesthood.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5365 and \$390 was donated to the Preservation Fund. Many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 6-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

- Sat, May 20: 9:15 a.m. Special Intention for MaryJo Fernandes (by the Hahn Family)
4:00 p.m. Special Intention for the Wes & Brenna Hill Family (by the Hahn Family)
- Sun, May 21: 7:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Valencia Family (by the Hahn Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for the David & Ryan Hill Family (by the Hahn Family)
- Mon, May 22: *8:30 a.m. Special Intention for the Andrew & Hallie Hill Family (by the Hahn Family)
- Tues, May 23: *8:30 a.m. † Therese Gagnon (by the Clemens Family)
- Wed, May 24: *8:30 a.m. Private Intention
- Thur, May 25: *8:30 a.m. † Jerry Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
- Fri, May 26: *8:30 a.m. † Julia V. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
- Sat, May 27: 4:00 p.m. † Bob Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
- Sun, May 28: 7:30 a.m. † Jennifer Rodriguez (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special Intention for Robert, Colette, and Therese Rodriguez (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Madeline Sampedro, Jeff Brown, Debbie Trussell, Mary Simmons, Victoria Sanderson, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Sam Montalbano, Gloria Archambault, Don Williams, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Aaron Minjares, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, William Scroggins, Lamar Smith, Wayne Little, Maria Morin, Andrea Little, Joseph Edwards, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

- 4:00 p.m. Pentecost Gen 11:1-9, Rom 8:22-27, Jn 7:37-39
7:30 a.m. Pentecost Acts 2:1-11, Jn 14:23-31
9:00 a.m. Pentecost Acts 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7,12-13, Jn 20:19-23
10:45 a.m. Pentecost Acts 2:1-11, Jn 14:23-31

He is Risen, He has Ascended

Jesus ascends into heaven and leaves the eleven Apostles on their own. There is still joy in their hearts about Jesus rising from the dead and their heads are filled with a forty-day crash course in evangelizing the world, but they are not up to the task that has been assigned to them. Wouldn't it be a whole lot easier and effective to evangelize the world with Jesus at their side? From a strictly human perspective, the answer must be yes. It is not just a matter of having one more evangelizer. Jesus was their leader and the Apostles are accustomed to being led. After all, they are just a small handful of ordinary men with no particular worldly talents that set them apart.

Despite their Easter joy, they had to be asking why Jesus had to leave them, this time not for three days but forever. Jesus tells them at the Last Supper that it is necessary that He leave them. Jesus also told them that it was necessary for Him to be betrayed, arrested, tortured, crucified, killed, and buried. It was tough for them to understand how it was possible for Jesus to be crucified by wicked men, and it was not until after the Resurrection that they began to understand why it was necessary.

It was necessary for Jesus to die for our sins that we might be forgiven: justice requires atonement for every one of our sins. As St Paul tells us, it will be credited as righteousness to those *“who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our transgressions and was raised for our justification”* (Rom 4:24-25). It was also necessary that Jesus rise from the dead thereby defeating death and opening the way to justification through faith. The Preface for Easter proclaims the necessity of Jesus dying and His rising: *“For He is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying, He has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life.”* In other words, Jesus dying on the cross and rising from the tomb are necessary because they are matters of life and death. In this case, the establishment of our eternal life and the very destruction of death itself. Could anything be more necessary as this?

But again, why was it necessary that Jesus leave the Apostles? Why couldn't He have stayed in the world with them and remained even to this day? What man or woman worthy of being called a Christian would not want to touch, to see, to hear, and to speak to the Risen Jesus? Yet it was necessary that He ascend into heaven beyond our reach, beyond our vision, beyond our hearing, and beyond the physical sound of our voice. And, yes, it was better that He ascend into heaven beyond our senses than to remain physically on earth.

Why? So that human nature in its fullness might be in heaven and that our nature might be united in its fullness to the Holy Trinity. Yes, Enoch and Elijah were assumed into heaven. Yes, the transfiguration of Jesus implies that Moses resides in heaven just like Elijah does, but Enoch, Elijah, and Moses were not united to God like Jesus was united to the Trinity. In the risen and ascended Jesus, man truly tabernacles with God and God truly tabernacles with man. This unity of Jesus' human nature with God, divine nature united to human nature through His personhood, makes it possible for us here on earth to become divine tabernacles through the sacraments. Through the sacraments, God takes up residence in our souls. If you give it even a moment's thought, this is infinitely better than seeing, hearing, touching, and conversing with the risen Jesus.

In his second letter, St Peter teaches Jesus' *“divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature”* (2Pet 1:4). In other words, it was necessary that Jesus ascend into heaven bringing with Him His human nature that we on earth might participate in the divine nature He had before the foundation of the world. Not only is our spiritual union with God through the risen and ascended Jesus better than having Him among us today, as wonderful as that would be, it is even better than what Adam and Eve possessed before their fall into sin.

- Fr Booth