

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

*January 6<sup>th</sup>/January 7<sup>st</sup> 2024: Epiphany (English)  
Holy Family (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211  
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Website: [www.myblessedsacrament.org](http://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 a.m., 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:** For Jerry Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 7<sup>th</sup> to January 13<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Neal Tallie from January 14<sup>th</sup> until January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRST SUNDAY:** This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

**BLANKET DRIVE:** We will be collecting new blankets and comforters for the Catholic Center of Concern all through Advent until Epiphany.

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2024, UPDATE #3:** After having spent 36 days on the road between Indiana and Birmingham, the second box actually arrived on Thursday. FedEx was responsible for 34 of those days while UPS was able to get the box delivered in just 2 days. In any case, all of the contribution envelopes are in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

**MEMORIAL SANCTUARY LAMP SIGN-UP SHEETS** for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are at the religious goods counter in the vestibule at the back of the Church.

**PRO-LIFE MASS & RALLY:** There will be pro-life Mass at the Cathedral of St Paul next Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. followed by a prayer vigil and witness for life at 10:45 a.m. at the Birmingham Planned Parenthood located at 1019 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. North,

**NATIVITY INDULGENCE:** We will leave our nativity scene in place until February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the sake of obtaining a plenary (total) indulgence in honor of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Francis introducing the nativity scene in the year 1224. More info to follow.

**THANK YOU:** The families that benefited from our Angel Tree this past Advent wish to thank all involved. Many thanks indeed.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** We continue with the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for Catholic Charities 2024 campaign. You also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$20,000.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last weekend was \$7217 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$2255. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

**PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS:** Please pray for our seminarians: 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, Joshua Callahan, Michael Masny, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, and Dominic Rumore. May more good men to answer God's call to the priesthood.

**NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS:** There is about a 7-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Jan 6:	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Stephen Rumore (by the Gagnons)
	4:00 p.m.	† Johnny Cooper (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Jan 7:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Sterling & Jill Caudle (by the Donellans)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Bill & Judy Donellan (by the Donellans)
Mon, Jan 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Blaise Hahn (by the Gagnons)
Tues, Jan 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mary Theresa Fenandes (by the Gagnons)
Wed, Jan 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Margaret Pohorelsky (by the Gagnons)
Thur, Jan 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Judy Donellan (by the Donellans)
Fri, Jan 12:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Bill Donellan (by the Donellans)
Sat, Jan 13:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Zachary Archer (by the Donellans)
Sun, Jan 14:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for John Anthony Jimenez (by the Donellans)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Scott Donellan (by the Donellans)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially Laura Minjares, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Alexandra Taylor, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Mary Jerabek, Sr Maria Lucis, Debbie Booth, Deacon Walter Henderson, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Don Williams, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Gail McMahon, Gracimo Ribeiro Bento, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Bill Dinan, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Lawrence Brandley, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, Beverly Scroggins, 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.	Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	1Sam 3:3-10,19, 1Cor 6:13-15,17-20, Jn 1:35-42
7:30 a.m.	Second Sunday After Epiphany	Rom 12:6-16, Jn 2:1-11
9:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	1Sam 3:3-10,19, 1Cor 6:13-15,17-20, Jn 1:35-42
10:45 a.m.	Second Sunday After Epiphany	Rom 12:6-16, Jn 2:1-11

## ***The Heavens Declare the Glory of God***

Psalm 19 begins *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky proclaims its builder's craft. One day to the next conveys that message; one night to the next imparts that knowledge. There is no word or sound; no voice is heard; Yet their report goes forth through all the earth, their message, to the ends of the world.”* This Psalm declares that the existence of God can be discerned by looking at what He has created. Another example of this can be found in the first chapter of St Paul's letter to the Romans: *“The wrath of God is indeed being revealed from heaven against every impiety and wickedness of those who suppress the truth by their wickedness. For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made.”*

Since the heavens declare the glory of God, it is reasonable that the Magi are drawn to the Jesus by a heavenly sign. These Wise Men overcame the vain reasoning and the darkening of their minds that pagan sinfulness produces. They realized that there is a newborn King of the Jews. They realized the importance of seeking Him out and doing Him homage. They overcame the indifference of King Herod, the chief priests, and the scribes. And they overcame the lowly and squalid conditions the Child King was born into. Nothing about the appearance of Joseph and Mary, nothing about the surroundings, and nothing about the appearance of the Child even remotely suggest that He is a newborn King. Yet, *“they prostrated themselves and did him homage.”*

This seems to be an early fulfillment of one of Isaiah's prophecies about the Messiah. The fifty-third chapter of Isaiah begins with *“Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him.”* Nevertheless, the Wise Men were drawn to the Baby Jesus. As far as we know, the Wise Men and the shepherds were the only ones to seek out and find the newborn Messiah. Yes, the shepherds had the angelic announcement of Jesus' birth and the Wise Men had the star to guide them to the newborn King of the Jews. In other words, they had divine assistance in finding Jesus.

The same could be said of those who did not go forth in search of Him. The priests, the scribes, and the Pharisees had the prophecies found in the prophets, the psalms, and elsewhere in the Old Testament. They had a relationship with the one true God, a unique relationship in being God's Chosen People. They had a covenant with God that promised a Messiah. They even had the announcement of the Wise Men to prompt them. Yet they chose to ignore the news of the birth of their Savior.

So how are the shepherds and the Wise Men different from Herod and the religious leaders in Jerusalem? It's not that Herod and Temple officials are stupid. It's not that the shepherds are as learned as the scribes, Pharisees, priests, and Magi. No, the primary differences between those who sought and found the Baby Jesus and those who did not are two-fold. The Magi and the shepherds are open to being led by divine promptings and they are basically modest men. We can go even further in saying that the underlying quality that distinguishes those who find the newborn King and those who don't is the virtue of humility. We must accept that we must be humble to be led anywhere by God, whether God communicates to us through nature, through the message of angels, through prayer, through our consciences, through the Scriptures, or the teaching authority of Jesus' Church.

We even have more advantages over the Wise Men and the shepherds, more so even than the priests, scribes, and Pharisees. We have the fullness of the Scriptures, the Church, the sacraments, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the graces that flow from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. But none of these advantages will distinguish us from those who did not seek and find Jesus if we are proud. We have the same capacity for sin as they did, we have the same ability to reject Jesus through pride as they did. The response of the Magi is a sign of hope for our world, but the failure of Herod and the Temple officials to respond stands as a warning to all who are disciples of Jesus. - Fr Booth