

# **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

*January 20<sup>th</sup>/January 21<sup>st</sup> 2024: Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)  
Third Sunday After Epiphany (Latin)*



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

**E-mail: [church@myblessedsacrament.org](mailto:church@myblessedsacrament.org)  
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 Thomas Kelly, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from January 21<sup>st</sup> to January 27<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Edward Von Hagel, Jr. from January 28<sup>th</sup> until February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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.

**NATIVITY INDULGENCE:** We will leave our nativity scene in place until February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the sake of obtaining a plenary indulgence in honor of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Francis introducing the nativity scene in the year 1224. Copies of the steps necessary to obtain the indulgence can be found at the back of the church.

**FIRST COMMUNION:** We will have our First Communion on March 10<sup>th</sup>, Gaudete Sunday, at the 10:45 Mass. Opportunities for first confession will be announced.

**CONFIRMATION:** We are planning on having Confirmation later this year at a date that is to be determined. The bishop has offered to confirm using the new rite in Latin followed by a High Latin Mass where he will sit in choir.

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

**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2024:** Contribution envelopes are located 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.

**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.

**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.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** The collection last weekend was \$4446 and the Preservation Fund collection was \$100. As always, 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, Jan 20:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for the Moran Family (by Brenna Schwager)
Sun, Jan 21:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for the Renard Family (by Brenna Schwager)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for the Isabella Rose Schotzko (by Brenna Schwager)
Mon, Jan 22:	*8:30 a.m.	† Andy Olson (by Justin & Amanda Lang)
Tues, Jan 23:	*8:30 a.m.	† Jack Lowther (by Virginia Daniel)
Wed, Jan 24:	*8:30 a.m.	† Pat Bohm (by Ann Noblitt & Ginny Daniel)
Thur, Jan 25:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Sherry Morrow (by Monica Duvall)
Fri, Jan 26:	*8:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Charles Anthony & Elizabeth Rumore (by the Hahn Family)
Sat, Jan 27:	4:00 p.m.	Special Intention for Dr. Michael Irwin (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Jan 28:	7:30 a.m.	Special Intention for Mr. & Mrs. Danny Rohling (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special Intention for Charles & Allison Rumore (by the Hahn Family)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND** especially William Munch, 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 McMahan, 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.	Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Deut 18:15-20, 1Cor 7:32-35, Mk 1:21-28
7:30 a.m.	Septuagesima Sunday	1Cor 9:24-10:5, Mt 20:1-16
9:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Deut 18:15-20, 1Cor 7:32-35, Mk 1:21-28
10:45 a.m.	Septuagesima Sunday	1Cor 9:24-10:5, Mt 20:1-16

## ***The Former Sixth Precept of the Church***

Since September of last year we have covered the Precepts of the Church, the bare minimum responsibilities we have as Catholics beyond the duties of loving God first above all, loving neighbors as ourselves, and following God's Law, with faith and hope, as it is written on our hearts, written in the Bible, and handed on to us in Sacred Tradition. For the sake of review, these precepts are as follows:

1. to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation and to refrain from work and activities which could impede the sanctification of those days;
2. to confess one's sins, receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once each year;
3. to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season;
4. to abstain from eating meat and to observe the days of fasting established by the Church.
5. to help to provide for the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.

A sixth precept has been mentioned in former times (until to about 30-40 years ago), namely that we are obliged to follow the marriage laws of the Church. Marriage is a sacrament and the Church is authorized by its very institution to administer and regulate the sacraments. Marriage is not a man-made institution but was established by God at our creation: Adam, on seeing the newly-created Eve, says "*This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of man this one has been taken. That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body*" (Gen 2:23-24). While there are aspects of weddings that reflect various cultural sensibilities (e.g., a lasso, an exchange of coins, attire, etc.), the culture has no authority over what constitutes a marriage or how a wedding is celebrated.

That being said, the Baltimore Catechism taught the basics of the Church's marriage laws. 'To receive the Sacrament of Matrimony worthily it is necessary to be in the state of grace, and it is necessary also to comply with the laws of the Church. In receiving the Sacrament of matrimony we are bound to comply with whatever laws of the Church concern Matrimony; such as laws forbidding solemn marriage in Lent and Advent; or marriage with relatives or with persons of a different religion, and in general all laws that refer to any impediment to marriage' (Questions 1031 and 1032). There are laws governing the marriage between a Catholic and a protestant as well as between a Catholic and someone that is not baptized. The Church also forbids marriage between family members more closely related than second cousins. Likewise, both bride and groom must be free to marry, which encompasses their age, maturity, and whether or not either party has been married before. These are universal laws of marriage in the Church.

There are also local laws that might pertain to a given nation, state, or diocese. For example, in the Diocese of Birmingham, there is a mandatory six-month preparation period before the wedding can happen, the couple must be prepared in some appropriate manner, and the priest has the authority to delay a wedding if he deems one or both parties are not ready to marry. Our diocese likewise requires that all weddings must be celebrated in a church and that no weddings may occur on a Sunday. Exceptions can be made in some circumstances, if the cause is just. For example, a marriage may occur in Advent or Lent or when a bride or groom is not Catholic, but only with the permission of the bishop. Others are hard and fast laws that cannot be abrogated under any reason. No matter what, no marriage can be performed if a bride or groom is divorced from a previously valid marriage without an annulment nor can a wedding be celebrated outside of a church. These marriage laws are binding even though they are no longer listed among the Precepts of the Church.

- Fr Booth