

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 21st/September 22nd 2024: 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
18th Sunday After Pentecost (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 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 in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 22nd to September 28th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Eileen & Jack Schauer from October 6th until October 12th.

REST IN PEACE: Bill Dinan, husband of Marian Dinan, passed away on September 18th. His funeral will be on Monday, September 23rd at Our Lady of the Valley beginning with visitation at 10:00 a.m., followed by a rosary, and a funeral Mass at 11:30 a.m. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE ON RETREAT: Our diocesan priests (those who are not in a religious order) will be on retreat from Monday, September 30th through Friday, October 4th. There will be no Masses at Blessed Sacrament that week, including First Friday.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Pledge Sunday for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal campaign for 2025 is on September 29th. You should receive a Pledge Card in the mail soon, but you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$28,000.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT: A semi-silent retreat will be held from Friday, October 11th to Sunday, October 13th at Casa Maria in Irondale. The retreat is open to men and women aged 18 to 35 and will be led by Fr John Sica, OP. More information can be found at the following website: <https://sisterservants.org/schedule.php>

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The special guest speaker will be Alison Centofante, Founder of Centofante Strategies, a Huntsville-based consulting firm, is a child advocacy innovator, in-demand public speaker, activist, and writer with over ten years of experience speaking on abortion, marriage, human dignity, and religious freedom. Make your reservation now, consider hosting a table of eight or make a life saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

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, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, and Matthew Gagnon.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$6623 and \$600 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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, Sept 21:	9:15 a.m.	Special intention for Nicole Zaucha (by the Donellans)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Lena Cook (by the Donellans)
Sun, Sept 22:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jeff & Catherine Hahn (by the Donellans)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Margaret Hahn (by the Donellans)
Mon, Sept 23	*8:30 a.m.	† Barbara Morrero (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, Sept 24:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for John Paul Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Sept 25:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Ben & Annabelle DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Thur, Sept 26:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Will DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Fri, Sept 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Abby DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Sat, Sept 28:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Andrew Rumore (by the DiPiazza Family)
Sun, Sept 29:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Fernandes Family (by the Halls)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for the Leahmann Family (by the Halls)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Madeline Sampedro, George Sampedro, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Richard Juneau, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, Debbie Booth, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, ShaKendria Hooks, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, 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, Fran Costanza, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m.	26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Num 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48
7:30 a.m.	St Michael	Rev 1:1-5, Mt 18:1-10
9:00 a.m.	26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Num 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48
10:45 a.m.	St Michael	Rev 1:1-5, Mt 18:1-10

Hope In God, Not the World

We live in a very negative culture. There are many forces that shape this negativity for various reasons. For example, the advertising industry taps into our fears and insecurities in order to convince us that they have a product that will put our lives back in order or that will solve our problems. The pharmaceutical industry floods the airwaves and the internet with ad after ad after ad, often not even telling us what condition the prescription drug is intended to treat. We just see active happy people riding motorcycles or climbing rocks as if we would be as happy and vigorous if we have our doctor prescribe that medicine for us. We have the cosmetic industry telling us that this beauty cream is age-defying or it will eradicate facial wrinkles supposedly erasing decades of aging. Men's t-shirt commercials imply that their product will transform his dad-bod into one that looks trim and fit. Indeed, almost all advertisements promise happiness or at least a better life. The focus of the commercial is not on the product but upon us.

Politics does much the same thing, tapping into our fears and insecurities. The meme of pushing grandma off of a cliff has been used multiple times to instill fear that one party or candidate will essentially euthanize the elderly. This truly terrifies those who depend upon others for so many things. If they are not implying that healthcare will be taken away, they will suggest that the elderly will be reduced to eating cat food, or that one party will favor this demographic over another, or that one candidate will start world war three, or that one candidate is Pol Pot, Joseph Stalin, Genghis Khan, and Mao combined. The focus is not on policies and solutions but upon exploiting our fears.

Our social climate is also profoundly negative. One group's problems are blamed upon another group, one group is oppressing another, this one group has it easy at the expense of others, our culture is evil and needs to be destroyed, and so on. We have been bombarded with existential threats such as global cooling, nuclear winter, over-population, under-population, global warming, climate change, pandemics, and other prophecies of doom. They want Americans to be ashamed of being Americans, they want us divided and afraid, afraid of one another. Once we are divided and afraid, they can exploit the nation in any number of ways, leading us down paths toward war or economic ruin or civil unrest. The focus is not on our country's problems but on exploiting them.

Between marketing, politics, and a toxic culture, we are told that we will be happy if this, or we will be miserable unless that, or we are the source of other people's unhappiness and misery. Will a certain brand of clothing, a certain politician, or a certain modification of our consumerism bring happiness, security, or peace? Almost certainly not. A fallen world provides fallen solutions that can scarcely deliver what is promised. No doubt there are worldly things that can improve human satisfaction, reduce suffering, and increase well-being, but they cannot provide ultimate levels of what we crave. America is proof of this. Compared to the rest of the world, we are very much better off in so many ways but we are far from satisfied with life. Indeed, in terms of per capita material goods we have more than any other country in the world and even the poorest 20% of Americans are better off than the average citizens of the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Australia, Spain, Japan, Denmark, New Zealand, Poland, and many other countries, but our culture insists otherwise. We are blessed, even the poor, much more than we are led to believe.

All of this is corrosive to hope, both natural and supernatural. Natural hope would reflect the confidence that we, our children, and our grandchildren will have the ability and opportunity to live free, safe, and reasonably fulfilling lives. Supernatural hope is the trust or confidence in God and His promises to those that place their faith in Him and love Him with all of their heart, soul, and mind. We live in a time where natural hope is increasingly threatened and supernatural hope in God is diminished such that the hope we ought to have in God can become a misplaced hope in politics or some other worldly power. The world promises much but fails to deliver. God promises more and will deliver on His promises, especially regarding eternal life.

- Fr Booth