

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

April 19th / April 20th 2025: Easter Sunday



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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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Cindy Messmer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from April 20th to April 26th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Jose Vasconcellos from April 27th until May 3rd.

REST IN PEACE: Grace Hill, wife of Robert Hill, passed away on April 9th. Her funeral will be at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, April 26th. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

THIRD SUNDAY: There will be no potluck lunch after the 10:45 Mass this weekend due to Easter.

ST ELIAS FUN RUN & FOOD FESTIVAL: St Elias Maronite Catholic Church is hosting a charity fun run – 5k, 1 mile, and sleep in – on Saturday, April 26th at 8:00 a.m. More info on the fun run can be obtained at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Birmingham/Cedar5K>. More info on the Food Festival can be found at <https://stelias.org/festival/>

GOLF FORE LIFE: The Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center annual golf tournament will be played on Friday, May 16th at Highland Park Golf Course. Please come play golf and help raise money for Her Choice, a pro-life pregnancy resource center. Tee-off will be at 9:00 a.m. and box lunches will be available afterwards. The cost is \$250 (\$125 of which is tax deductible) per individual golfer and prizes will be awarded immediately following the tournament. Questions can be directed to Jim Pinto at Golf4life@herchoicebirmingham.org. Please register at <https://www.herchoicebirmingham.org/gfl/form.htm> by May 10th.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5688 and \$520 was given for the Preservation Fund. 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, Ross Gilliland, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about an 8-month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

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

Sat, Apr 19:	8:00 p.m.	† Andrea Tullos (by the Juneau Family)
Sun, Apr 20`:	7:30 a.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Cardinal Burke (by the Juneau Family)
Mon, Apr 21	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Matthew Gagnon (by the Hall Family)
Tues, Apr 22:	*8:30 a.m.	† Normand Conrad Gagnon (by the Clemens Family)
Wed, Apr 23:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Karol Whitcomb (by Valori Clemens)
Thur, Apr 24:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Helena Ducote (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, Apr 25:	*8:30 a.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Sat, Apr 26:	4:00 p.m.	† BJ Seymour (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Apr 27`:	7:30 a.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Donna Ayers (by Monica Duvall)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Katherine Dunham, Jose Mariano Hernández Avila, Stan Hartdegen, Kent Graeve, Justin Meadows, Rachel Maxwell, John Minjares, Sr., Virginia Elmer, Diane Norton, Pedro Antonio Triana, John Davis, Chorbishop Richard Saad, Deb Rankin, Paul Trussel, Paul Caruso, Jeff Brown, Mary Simmons, Linda Henry, Lisa DeKam Nicholls, Ronnie Buchanan, Barbara Williams, Bob Wiseman, Eve Moore, Carol Brandley, Eddie Hunter, Pete Ransom, Jerry Joiner, Beryl Curtis, Linda Cooper, Danny Rohling, Kay Dorion, Krissy Chism, 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. Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:12-16, Rev 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19, Jn 20:19-31
7:30 a.m. Low Sunday	1Jn 5:4-10, Jn 20:19-31
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:12-16, Rev 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19, Jn 20:19-31
10:45 a.m. Low Sunday	1Jn 5:4-10, Jn 20:19-31

Jesus Is Risen!

On Easter morning Mary Magdalene reports to the Apostles that Jesus' body had been taken by someone. As a result Peter and John dash off to the tomb. They both peer into the tomb, and yes, His body is missing. We are told by John himself in his Gospel that they "*saw and believed.*" What did they see and what did they believe? They saw an empty tomb and they believed that Jesus' body was somehow missing. It might be easy for us the jump to the conclusion that Peter and John saw evidence of the Resurrection and had come to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. We would be mistaken, as mistaken as Mary Magdalene was about someone having taken His body. John himself testifies "*they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead*" (Jn 20:8).

Why didn't Peter and John understand the clear evidence that lay before them? Why didn't they understand that the empty tomb clearly meant that Jesus had risen from the dead? Because the evidence itself was not so clear. It merely pointed to the fact that Jesus' body was absent. The evidence did not point to how His body came to be missing. But didn't Jesus tell the Apostles about His suffering, death and resurrection? Yes, Jesus told them at least three times that He would suffer, die, and rise again. Jesus told them but they simply did not understand. Right after Peter proclaims to Jesus that "*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,*" Jesus provides the first prediction of His Passion. He says He must "*suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised*" (Mt 16:21).

Jesus does not provide many details here and the same can be said for the second prediction of His Passion: He *will be raised on the third day*" (Mt 17:23). In the third prediction of the Passion, Jesus gets far more detailed and explicit about what was to happen to Him, yet provides no details on the Resurrection other than "*on the third day he will rise*" (Lk 18:33). So Jesus adds more details about His suffering and death, but He never says much more than "*on the third day he will rise*" regarding His Resurrection.

So why didn't Jesus sit them down and tell the Apostles more about the Resurrection than simply saying "*on the third day he will rise*"? Surely Jesus could have made it clear that death would not have the last word. Certainly Jesus could have told them that He would defeat death by His rising again from the dead. Jesus could have drilled the reality of the Resurrection into the minds of the disciples to the point where Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John would not have been wondering about the significance of the empty tomb. Jesus could have made it so plain to them that they would have expected to see that empty tomb. Had Jesus done this, it would have certainly spared the disciples a great deal of grief, tears, and lamentation.

And that is exactly why Jesus did not say much more about His Resurrection than "*on the third day he will rise.*" Had they understood the Resurrection before the Passion as they would come to understand it later, there would be a real risk of not taking the events leading to Jesus' death seriously. Would Judas' betrayal be so dastardly if he had known that Jesus would rise from the dead? Would the disciples truly have mourned the suffering and death of Jesus if they thought that His death was only temporary? Would Peter have wept bitterly when he denied Jesus three times?

Likewise, if we focus on the Resurrection at the expense of the Passion, we will lose sight of our personal responsibility for the events of Good Friday. It was our sins that brought Jesus to the cross, but it is for our justification that Jesus rose from the dead. It was by His cross that Jesus cleanses us from our sins and it was by His Resurrection that He gives us new life (Rom 4:20-25).

Unless we weep with the Apostles, weeping over our own sinfulness and our role in Jesus' suffering and death, we will not fully experience the Apostles' Easter joy. Unless we understand how and why Jesus ended up on the cross, we will be as mistaken about the significance of the empty tomb as Mary Magdalene was when she first saw that the stone had been rolled away. Indeed, we must never separate the horrific Passion of Jesus from His triumphant Resurrection.

- Fr Booth