

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

May 24th / May 25th 2025: 6th Sunday of Easter (English)
5th Sunday After Easter (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. To join Blessed Sacrament, please pick up a parish census form in the vestibule at the back of the church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Chester Olson, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from May 25th until May 31st. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ida Olson from June 1st until June 7th.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: For the Latin Mass, the Feast of the Ascension occurs on Thursday, May 29th. For English, it occurs on Sunday, June 1st. Since the English Mass has been transferred to the following Sunday, the Ascension is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Nevertheless, we will have a Latin High Mass on Thursday, May 29th at 6:30 p.m.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. Instead of coffee and donuts there will be a potluck brunch following the 9:00 Mass.

PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION: Men, do you feel God is calling you to serve in a deeper way in your parish and community? If so, perhaps you are being called to be a deacon. The Inquiry period begins on August 16th. An Inquiry Information Session will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, 2061 Patton Chapel Road, Hoover, AL 35216. Wives are encouraged to attend with their husbands. Additional information and requirements to enter formation can be found at the Office of Permanent Diaconate website - <https://www.bhmdiocese.org/office-of-permanent-diaconate>. You can also fill out the registration form for the Inquiry period at this website. Online registration is open now through July 3rd. If you have questions, contact Deacon Jeff Montgomery at jmontgomery@bhmdiocese.org.

SEVEN SISTERS DAY OF REFLECTION: Join dozens of women in our diocese who have answered the call! One Holy Hour each week, one priest, Seven Sisters! You are invited to a Morning of Reflection, Saturday, June 14th at St Theresa Catholic Church in Leeds. There will be Mass at 9:00 a.m. with Fr Gray Bean followed by informative talks, including keynote speaker, Janette Howe, the Foundress of the Seven Sisters Apostolate. Lunch will be provided. For more information call Kathy Paffumi (205) 266-9687 or SevenSistersApostolate.org. Email to register at sevensistersbirminghamAL@gmail.com

CATHOLIC CHARITIES UPDATE: The Bishop’s Annual Appeal continues. Our goal for this year is \$28,000. So far, Blessed Sacrament has pledged \$28,935 and \$23,165 (about 83% of the goal) has been paid as of May 23rd.

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.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$9095 and \$1009 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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, May 24: 4:00 p.m. † Bill Dinan (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, May 25: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for the Osorio Family (by Alan & Pam Olson)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Ivan Piola (by the Lang Family)
Mon, May 26 *8:30 a.m. † Richard Willing (by Jeff & Catherine Hahn)
Tues, May 27: *8:30 a.m. † Richard Willing (by Jeff & Catherine Hahn)
Wed, May 28: *8:30 a.m. † Richard Willing (by Jeff & Catherine Hahn)
Thur, May 29: 8:30 a.m. † The Souls in Purgatory (by the Ferino Family)
6:30 p.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (Kevin Kelly)
Fri, May 30: *8:30 a.m. † The Souls in Purgatory (by the Ferino Family)
Sat, May 31: 4:00 p.m. † Shirley Rinder Bellock (by Jeff & Catherine Hahn)
Sun, Jun 1: 7:30 a.m. † Shirley Rinder Bellock (by Jeff & Catherine Hahn)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Shirley Rinder Bellock (by Jeff & Catherine Hahn)

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. Ascension | Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Lk 24:46-53 |
| 7:30 a.m. Sunday After the Ascension | 1Pet 4:7-11, Jn 15:26-16:4 |
| 9:00 a.m. Ascension | Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Lk 24:46-53 |
| 10:45 a.m. Sunday After the Ascension | 1Pet 4:7-11, Jn 15:26-16:4 |

One Body One Church

Christian unity has been a problem ever since apostolic times. St Paul laments the various factions that formed in the Corinthian church, such as is mentioned in 1Cor 1:10-13. This was just one of many forms of division plaguing the Corinthian church, in this case a division based on the prestige of the one who baptized, as if Peter's, Paul's, or Apollos' baptism carried more or less significance. Division was not unique to the Corinthians. All churches were subject to factions and divisions, but this is hardly what Jesus had in mind when He established His Church. Paul makes this point to the Christians at Ephesus, saying "*I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all*" (Eph 4:1-6).

Seven essential aspects of unity are mentioned: One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all. These categories of unity, not surprisingly, include the Holy Trinity, the sacraments, and the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. Interestingly, love is not among the seven specific qualities of unity, but love is necessary for humility, patience, bearing with one another, and for striving for unity and peace within the Church. All of these unities are also centered upon God, not man. The theological virtues all have God as their object. They are not man-centric: not faith in the world or in politics or in science; not hope in power or money or progress; not love of the world or any of the world's false gods. Yes, we are to love our neighbor, but Jesus' love for us is always the model by which we are to love one another. This is not a worldly love but a love that transcends the limits of godless, worldly love.

Indeed, baptism became a source of division in Corinth because the people took their eyes off of the meaning and significance of this essential sacrament. They were not baptized into Peter's death, they were not made sons and daughters of Paul, and they did not rise from the death of Apollos. They were baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, not in the name of the mere man that baptized them. Through baptism they did not receive the spirit of Peter or become tabernacles of Paul. No, they were baptized into a relationship with the Holy Trinity and into the one body of unity mention by Paul.

What is this body exactly? It is a collection, corporation (from the Latin word *corporatio*, to combine in one body) of Christians, but is it the church in Ephesus, Corinth, Damascus, or any other city? Is it a corporation of believers in a particular nation or region? No. None of these distinctions is possible any more than a distinction based on the one who baptized. When Jesus said "*My Church*" (Mt 16:18) and when Paul wrote "*one body*" (Eph 4:4), they meant one, not one among many.

But did Paul really mean one Church when he said one body? Yes, body can mean corporation or assembly, but couldn't it also refer to Jesus' body, the body of His birth, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension? Yes, the Incarnation is central to Christian belief, but Jesus' physical body *per se* is not really a matter of unity as Paul describes. Likewise, while Jesus' sacramental Body in the Eucharist brings about communion with the Holy Trinity and with other believers, that communion presupposes membership in the corporate body of the Church.

What Paul meant by one body is evident in how he uses the word throughout this letter. While Paul references Jesus' physical body once, every other use of the word was in reference to the Church. His first use of the word in Ephesians makes it clear that body refers to the Church: "*And he [the Father] put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way*" (Eph 1:22-23).

So why are Christians so divided today? The causes are the same as they were 2000 years ago, namely human pride and satan's desire to separate us from one another and from God. - Fr Booth