

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*May 31st/June 1st 2025: Ascension (English)
Sunday After the Ascension (Latin)*



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211
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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 Ida Olson, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from June 1st to June 7th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Julia V. Bryant from June 8th until June 14th.

REST IN PEACE: Danny Rohling, husband of Judy Rohling, passed away on June 28th. The funeral will be at Blessed Sacrament on June 2nd at 12:00 noon. 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.

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

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on June 6th at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed by Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on June 7th. Altar server training will follow Mass.

PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION: Men, 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's in Hoover. 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

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 \$5024 and \$80 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 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)
Mon, Jun 2	*8:30 a.m.	Special int for Matthew Gagnon (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon)
Tues, Jun 3:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Cameron & Melanie Masucci (by Jacob & Gabi Gagnon)
Wed, Jun 4:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Eric McGinn (by the Lang Family)
Thur, Jun 5:	*8:30 a.m.	† The Souls in Purgatory (by the Ferino Family)
Fri, Jun 6:	*8:30 a.m.	† The Souls in Purgatory (by the Ferino Family)
	6:30 p.m.	† Cody Johnson (by the Clemens Family)
Sat, Jun 7:	8:30 a.m.	† Dr. John Pinkston (by the Clemens Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Kelvin Gullage (by Ann K. Griffin)
Sun, Jun 8:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Ellen Gotthart (by Jeff Darrow)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Cody Johnson (by Alan & Pam Olson)

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, 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. Pentecost	Gen 11:1-9, Rom 8:22-27, Jn 7:37-39
7:30 a.m. Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11, Jn 14:23-31
9:00 a.m. Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11, 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13, Jn 20:19-23
10:45 a.m. Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11, Jn 14:23-31

Jesus Ascends to the Father

Jesus says “*The Father and I are one*” (Jn 10:30) in response to a demand from the Jewish authorities as to whether or not He is the Messiah. There are many ramifications to this statement of Jesus and the Father being one above and beyond being the Messiah. One implication of this statement is that Jesus is divine. The Jews who heard Jesus say this certainly understood what Jesus was saying and they wanted to stone Him because He is making Himself equal to the Father, He is making Himself out to be God. The Jews seek to know if He is the Messiah and Jesus tells them that He is God, a divine Messiah. Later at the Last Supper, Jesus goes on to say to His disciples “*If you know me, then you will also know my Father,*” “*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father,*” and “*I am in the Father and the Father is in me*” (Jn 14:6, 9, 11).

In other words, the oneness of the Father and the Son is not a mere analogy, it is not merely something that reflects that they are on the same page, it is not a claim that Jesus merely agrees with the Father or that the Father agrees with Him, it is not a statement of mere solidarity. It means that the Father and the Son are one and at the same time distinct. They are distinct in Their Persons but one in Their divine nature. The Father and the Son are also distinct in terms of the fact that Jesus took on a human nature with a human intellect, a human will, and a human memory as well as having a human body that can be seen, heard, and known through our senses. This body makes Him distinct from the Father in that Jesus is now subject to human limitations including hunger, fatigue, discomfort, suffering and death, things that divine Persons cannot otherwise experience. That Jesus also says “*the Father is greater than I*” (Jn 14:28) is not a denial of Jesus’ divinity or His oneness with the Father but a recognition the He is simultaneously both Creator and Creature: Jesus is equal in His divinity but less than the Father in His humanity.

And yet the Father and Son are so unified in Their divinity that to see, to hear, and to know Jesus is to see, to hear, and to know the Father as well. This also means that when Jesus was here among us on earth He was nonetheless also in heaven with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

So when Jesus ascends into heaven, it is not like He was absent for thirty-three years. It is not as if the Ascension is a mere homecoming. No, He ascends so as to bring His body and His humanity to heaven. In doing so Jesus brings His priesthood and His sacrifice to heaven, offering His once-for-all sacrifice eternally. He has been personally present from all eternity, but now He is present in His humanity, His priesthood, and His sacrificial victimhood. Likewise, when Jesus ascends into heaven, it is not like He is leaving us high and dry. It is not like He is abandoning us any more than He abandoned heaven by taking on human flesh. We have to remember that He promised at the end of Matthew’s Gospel “*behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age*” (Mt 28:20).

So how does Jesus ascend into heaven and yet remain with us always to the end of the age? He is not merely with us ‘in spirit’ as in He is thinking about us or wishing us well, as we might be with someone in spirit who lives on the other side of the country.

No, Jesus remains with us in a number of ways: in the scriptures, in the poor, in the truth, in our suffering, etc. But Jesus is especially present to us in the sacraments. Just as it took faith to see Jesus as more than a mere man like any other man, it takes faith to know that He continues to abide with us especially in the Eucharist.

Indeed, in a certain way He is more present to us than He was with the Apostles. Jesus, through the sacraments, is present throughout the world in a way that He could not be if He had not ascended into heaven. And we can draw closer to Him through Communion than we could by seeing Him, hearing Him, and knowing Him as He was before He ascended.

So let us recognize how blessed we are that Jesus ascended into heaven. He did not ascend to abandon or to forsake us but to draw closer and more intimately to us through the sacraments He entrusted to His Church.

- Fr Booth