

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

June 7th/June 8th 2025: Pentecost



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
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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 Julia V. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from June 8th to June 14th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Julius Lee from June 15th until June 21st.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a potluck lunch following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

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, 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 \$6965 and \$1440 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, 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)
Mon, Jun 9	*8:30 a.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Tues, Jun 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Anna Claire Fernandes (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Jun 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Anna Pohorelsky (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Jun 12:	*8:30 a.m.	† The Souls in Purgatory (by the Ferino Family)
Fri, Jun 13:	*8:30 a.m.	† The Souls in Purgatory (by the Ferino Family)
Sat, Jun 14:	4:00 p.m.	† Bill Dinan (by Bryant Family)
Sun, Jun 15:	7:30 a.m.	† Brad Foreman (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for the Botta Family (by the Hahn Family)

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. Holy Trinity	Prov 8:22-31, Rom 5:1-5, Jn 16:12-15
7:30 a.m. Holy Trinity	Rom 11:33-36, Mt 28:18-20
9:00 a.m. Holy Trinity	Prov 8:22-31, Rom 5:1-5, Jn 16:12-15
10:45 a.m. Holy Trinity	Rom 11:33-36, Mt 28:18-20

A Language Ever Ancient, Ever New

After the great flood, God was now starting over with Noah, his three sons, and their wives. Like Adam & Eve they were told to *“Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth... Abound on earth and subdue it”* (Gen 9:1, 7). They had different ideas. In the eleventh chapter of Genesis they say *“Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered all over the earth.”* Instead of filling and subduing the earth, they tried to fill and to subdue heaven by building the Tower of Babel.

And as a result, they lost the ability to communicate because their languages became confused. Yet they end up going throughout the earth to populate it and subdue it just as God had asked. God’s will was done despite the rebellious will of those early descendants of Noah. But imagine the confusion that day when all of those people could no longer speak but one language. How long would it take for each clan to gather together, to reorganize, and to set out to their assigned lands? That process must have been bedlam.

It also must have been bedlam on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. All of those languages being spoken at once to an audience of *“devout Jews from every nation under heaven.”* Every language from every nation was spoken on that day in Babel and also on the day of Pentecost. Both events brought a great deal of confusion in the people and both were acts of God. But there are some very important differences between the Tower of Babel and Pentecost.

First, the confusion of languages at Babel punished man’s arrogance. Man turned his back on God and strove to become godlike by his own efforts. The confusion of languages stems from man wanting to ascend into godhood by building a tower while the outpouring of the Holy Spirit flows from God descending into manhood. Jesus, by humbly taking on flesh, makes us humble tabernacles of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is not a form of punishment. It is a gift, the fulfillment of that human desire expressed in the building of the Tower of Babel. Instead of us attempting to ascend to heaven by human effort, an act of utter folly, God has chosen to descend and come among us, to dwell with us. Jesus came to live among us and He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell with us as well.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is not a punishment but a gift, it does not separate us from God but brings God into our midst, and it is not a destructive event like the flood or the confusion of languages. No, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is an act of creation and re-creation. It cleanses not by destroying evil doers but by destroying evil itself. As St Paul teaches: *“For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live”* (Rom 8:13). The Holy Spirit re-creates by destroying evil and by making us God’s adopted children who can dare say *“Abba, Father!”* Thus, the Spirit creates supernatural relationships, making us sons and daughters of God and placing us under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

But did the Holy Spirit destroy the languages spoken at Pentecost or create a new language we are to speak to undo the confusion wrought at Babel? Did the Holy Spirit institute Hebrew, Greek, Latin, or Arabic as the one language under which God is to be worshiped and mankind to be reunited? Nope. We have no new spoken language given to us from God, no official language of heaven.

But there was a new language introduced at Pentecost. Not a human language. Not a language spoken by the lips and heard by the ear. Not a language written by hand or read with the eyes. This new language is easy to understand but frequently very difficult to speak. This universal language can be understood by all, even those who are deaf, dumb, and blind. This new language could be understood five thousand years ago and will be understood five thousand years from now. This new language is both new and old, it is as eternal as God: it is love.

Jesus teaches *“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me”* (Jn 14:23-24) So the language of love is obedience and gift of self.

- Fr Booth