

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

*July 5th/July 6th 2025: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
4th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)*



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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 James E. Mickel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from from July 6th to July 12th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Julius Lee from July 13th until July 19th.

FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY: This Sunday is the first Sunday. Since the first Sunday in July falls within the 4th of July holiday weekend, we will not have our usual gathering for coffee and donuts following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

FATHER JAMES E. COYLE MEMORIAL MASS: Let us remember a holy priest killed in the line of duty. A memorial Mass will be offered on Monday, August 11th at 10:00 a.m. at St Paul's. Mass will be followed by a reception and a reflection upon the life of Fr Coyle.

LAY DOMINICANS: Adult men and women who have been Catholics for at least two years are invited to learn about the Dominican Laity and see if this is where God may be calling you. The pillars of Lay Dominican life center around prayer, study, apostolate (sharing our faith with others in ways appropriate to the laity), and community (monthly meetings on Sunday afternoons in Birmingham). As lay members of the Dominican Order, we are drawn together by the love of St Dominic, and invite you to consider joining us! To learn more, contact Amanda Lang, chapter president, at justin.amanda.lang@gmail.com

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, John Gardiner, Collins Hess, Hunter Limbaugh, 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, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, and Friar Apollo.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5223, \$50 was given for the Preservation Fund, and \$1723 was donated to the Cooperative Mission Appeal. 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, Jul 5:	8:30 a.m.	† Fr Michael Klauck
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for the Kelly Family (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Jul 6:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Alex Sabri (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Sharon Gagnon (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Jul 7	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Scott Donellan (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, Jul 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Amanda Lang (by Monica Duvall)
Wed, Jul 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Agnes Masny (by Cora Duvall)
Thur, Jul 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Ava Duvall (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, Jul 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Patrick Smith (by the Duvall Family)
Sat, Jul 12:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Shane Henderson (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Jul 13:	7:30 a.m.	† Cody Johnson (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Don Williamson (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially 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.	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deut 30:10-14, Col 1:15-20, Lk 10:25-37
7:30 a.m.	5 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Pet 3:8-15, Mt 5:20-24
9:00 a.m.	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deut 30:10-14, Col 1:15-20, Lk 10:25-37
10:45 a.m.	5 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Pet 3:8-15, Mt 5:20-24

Independence

This weekend we celebrate the 4th of July, Independence Day. Technically, we did not gain independence from the British on July 4th, 1776. No, we declared independence, not obtain it. The Revolutionary War raged from 1775 until 1783. The war had begun before the Declaration of Independence, with the battles of Lexington and Concord (19 April 1775) that preceded the Declaration, as did the battles of Bunker Hill, Ticonderoga as well as a series of smaller battles, skirmishes, and sieges. In August of 1775 the British declared the colonies to be in a state of rebellion as a consequence of the battle of Bunker Hill. So, the Declaration of Independence we celebrate this weekend was not the beginning of the Revolutionary war, it was not associated with a specific battle, nor was it the end of the war.

The declaration of Independence codified what we the colonists were fighting for and what we were fighting against. The war was not of anarchy or to simply swap out one royal despot across the ocean for a local despot. No, the idea was truly revolutionary: government of the people, by the people, and for the people, a phrase summing up the American experiment coined four score and seven years later than the Declaration of Independence during another war fought for the sake of freedom, freedom from tyranny far worse than taxation without representation.

King George was free to tax the American colonies into oblivion. Plantation owners and others were free to enslave their fellow man. The Supreme Court was free to deny slaves basic human rights, declaring them to be mere property. Later, even after emancipation, the various states were free to discriminate and to abuse American citizens of African or Asian descent. Today, women are free to abort their unborn babies at will. Couples, or single women, are free to create dozens of human embryos for in vitro fertilization, often treating them as mere property. Scientists are free to create new viruses, even deliberately designing them to be lethal. Men are free to marry other men. In many countries and in some American states people are free to seek assisted suicide. There is a growing trend for doctors to have the freedom to terminate the lives of patients without patient or family consent. In some areas children are free to declare themselves to be another gender without parental consent or parents are free to impose gender identities on their children, both done with irreversible surgeries and puberty blocking drugs. The list of atrocities that we are capable of is inexhaustible.

Are these the freedoms the colonists fought for? Or the doughboys fought for? Or our G.I.s fought for? Are these the freedoms the Founding Fathers had in mind? Absolutely not. The Declaration of Independence's Preamble puts it this way: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.'

In other words, the Founding Fathers had a different idea of freedom or liberty than many embrace today. Simply stated, they risked their lives not for libertine behavior, but for the freedom to do what is right and just. The First and Second Amendments to the Constitution delineate some of these unalienable rights, but nowhere did they have abortion, gender-reassignment, or same-sex marriage in mind.

Just like the Founding Fathers, God has much the same expectation of how we exercise our free will. St Paul teaches *"For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'"* (Gal 5:13-14). St Peter teaches much the same thing: *"Be free, yet without using freedom as a pretext for evil, but as slaves of God"* (1Pet 2:13). Thus, every decision we make ought to be an expression of love for God and neighbor. Abuse of our free will for self-serving or destructive purposes is one way of understanding what sin is. Sin is not breaking a rule, but an abuse of our free will.

- Fr Booth