

# Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

July 19<sup>th</sup>/July 20<sup>th</sup> 2025: 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)  
6<sup>th</sup> 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 Mary P. Hastings, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from from July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup>. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of John Ryan from July 27<sup>th</sup> until August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

**A NOTE ON EASTER FLOWERS:** The money donated for the Easter flowers somehow did not get deposited. They will be deposited this week.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 \$6530 and \$120 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, Jul 19:	9:10 a.m.	Special intention for the Juneau Family (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Peter & Sharon Gagnon Family (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Jul 20:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Philip Cook (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Agnes Regina Maziarz (by Elizabeth & Charles Anthony Rumore)
Mon, Jul 21	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Peter Miguel Trusler (by the Jinenez Family)
Tues, Jul 22:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Agnes Regina Maziarz (by the Jinenez Family)
Wed, Jul 23:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mary Brennan (by Brenna Schwager)
Thur, Jul 24:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mary Brennan (by Brenna Schwager)
Fri, Jul 25:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mary Beth Schwager (by Brenna Schwager)
Sat, Jul 26:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Mary Beth Schwager (by Brenna Schwager)
Sun, Jul 27:	7:30 a.m.	† Dominick F. Giardina (by Cathy & Joe DeLeonard)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Evan & Christina Dudenhefer (by Livia Novobilski)

**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.	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen 18:20-32, Col 2:12-14, Lk 11:1-13
7:30 a.m.	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Rom 6:19-23, Mt 7:15-21
9:00 a.m.	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gen 18:20-32, Col 2:12-14, Lk 11:1-13
10:45 a.m.	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost	Rom 6:19-23, Mt 7:15-21

## *Free Will*

Human beings are free to choose between choice A, choice B, or to choose no choice at all. In a buffet line, we see one item that looks enticing and we add it to our plate only to find another item further down the buffet that is even more appetizing. If we are smart, we take only a little of one thing, a little of another, and so on. Once we have tasted each sample we might go back for more of the items that lived up to or exceeded our expectations. Or we don't. Experience tells us that some will gorge themselves at a buffet, others will graze with self-control, some will find some dishes on the buffet irresistible while others will find those same items uninteresting or even repulsive. What is at work here is a combination of personal tastes, circumstances, and human free will.

Many people, going back at least to the ancient Greek philosophers, argue that we really do not have free will, that we really do not freely choose choice A, choice B, or choose not to choose. One modern argument for this denial of human free will boils down to the laws of chemistry and physics. Those laws that govern chemical reactions, motion, and the other behaviors of physical matter are all deterministic. If a bullet of a known weight and shape is shot at a known speed and angle under known weather conditions, then where the bullet lands can be predicted with accuracy. Even the rotation of the bullet and the earth can be accounted for. But does science predict why the bullet was shot, why it was shot in a certain direction, and at a specific angle? There are some who will argue that the human element in this example only appears to be a matter of free choice, but only because we currently do not have the ability to account for all of the variables that go into a particular human action such as shooting a gun. They would claim that the firing of the gun and how it was aimed is utterly predetermined but we just don't have the ability to predict all aspects leading up to the pulling of the trigger. This would mean that my writing this and your reading it was predetermined, or that someone gave up reading before they got to this sentence was equally predetermined.

They would say that the universe has predetermined every thing that has happened and will happen because the laws of chemistry and physics determine everything. Some, especially among the ancients, will argue that God's foreknowledge of everything past, present, and future makes all that we think, say, and do predetermined. We see this in some Christians that teach absolute predestination, that God, who is utterly sovereign, knows and in the process of knowing has explicitly chosen those who will be saved and those who will be damned.

But does God's foreknowledge necessarily mean that He ordains or causes the actions of men and women? Not at all. In fact, to insist that God has preordained our behavior and therefore our salvation is a monstrous idea. Ultimately, it makes God the author not only of salvation but also of sin and evil. Without human free will, God has either ordained a murderer to murder or has not prevented him from doing so. Thus, that some are saved and some are condemned boils down to God gifting some with grace and withholding it from others. If God foresaw and ordained the Holocaust or a flood that kills many children, then it is understandable that some people refuse to believe. A good God would not allow such tragedies to happen. This is ultimately the 'best' argument against God, that He allows evil to exist to the point that the innocent may suffer greatly while evil people often prosper.

Indeed, the idea that we have no free will ought to be repulsive. It reduces the greatest human act, unselfish and altruistic love, to a mere biochemical reaction. A husband and wife's love, their love for their children, and their love of God would be simple illusions. It also reduces the best and worst behavior of mankind to nothing more important or momentous than the vagaries of the weather. Love and hate, liberty and slavery, war and peace, joy and despair, and a whole host of good and evil things done by men become as amoral and meaningless as the course of clouds across the sky.

We instinctively know this is untrue. It is not that we are the authors of our own salvation. But salvation is not foisted upon us against our will. Jesus proposed the Gospel and we are free to accept or reject it. A gift is freely given and freely accepted, or else it is not a gift.

- Fr Booth