

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**August 2nd/August 3rd 2025: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
8th 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 Eileen Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 3rd to August 9th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Julia V. Bryant from August 10th until August 16th.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for the Seminarian Education Fund, which helps fund the education of our seminarians.

FIRST SUNDAY: This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

NAZARETH HOUSE VOLUNTEERS: Catholic high-school students interested in working with children and youth having intellectual and developmental disabilities, in a Saturday morning program of religious education, are invited to a training workshop on Saturday, August 16th. The training workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School. Those who participate in the Nazareth House Saturday Program are eligible for service hours that meet the requirements for high school graduation and college scholarship applications. For further information contact Sarah Houser LICSW (sawiseiv@gmail.com) (205) 612-6111 or Fr Patrick Cullen (Rathmines.Cullen@gmail.com)

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 \$6693 and \$135 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, Aug 2:	8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Margaret Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Jeff Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Aug 3:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Maziarz Family (by the Donellans)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Trusler Family (by the Donellans)
Mon, Aug 4	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Jeff Hahn (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, Aug 5:	*8:30 a.m.	† Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Wed, Aug 6:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Ben & Annabelle DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Thur, Aug 7:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Will DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Fri, Aug 8:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Abby DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Sat, Aug 9:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Isabelle DiPiazza (by the DiPiazza Family)
Sun, Aug 10:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Agnes Maziarz (by Jacob & Gabby Gagnon)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Agnes Maziarz (by Erin & Brandon Maziarz)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Jesse Hernandez, 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.	19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wis 18:6-9, Heb 11:1-2, 8-19, Lk 12:32-48
7:30 a.m.	9 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 10:6-13, Lk 19:41-47
9:00 a.m.	19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wis 18:6-9, Heb 11:1-2, 8-19, Lk 12:32-48
10:45 a.m.	9 th Sunday After Pentecost	1Cor 10:6-13, Lk 19:41-47

Free Will or Not?

As stated previously, the issue of human free will is contentious on many levels. Atheistic science tends to deny that we act freely. The basis of this argument is that both chemistry and physics are deterministic, meaning that the behavior of objects and chemical reactions progress in a way such that the outcome is determined beforehand. That experiments and observations are repeatable is the very basis of experimental science. If a chemist in Paris mixes two compounds together and a reaction occurs, that very same reaction would be expected in Peoria, or on planet Ceti Alpha V or Giedi Prime, whether conducted today, a thousand years in the past, or into the future. While human life is more complex than a laboratory experiment, the argument is that the same chemistry and physics governs every aspect of our lives, even what we choose to do.

This is a materialistic argument. This is not materialistic in terms of the desire to possess money or nice things but materialism in terms of a denial of any reality other than what can be observed or measured by man or the instruments he has devised. This strips us of not only of our free will, but also of our human dignity and the value of human life. Carrying this to its logical conclusion, there is no morality, no crime, no virtue, no honor, no faith, no hope, and no love. To end a human life is merely to end the biochemical processes that identified as John or Jane Doe.

The denial of anything other than what can be observed or measured renders us as soulless beings suffering from the illusion of free will, meaning, and purpose. But why would the blind and indifferent forces of nature produce beings that suffer from the delusions of free will, meaning, purpose, and especially love? How does living a life of illusion promote the survival of the fittest, how does natural selection produce a creature with supernatural appetites? How does man's penchant for destruction – self-destruction and the destruction of all that exists in this world – correspond with an evolved being surviving in its biological niche? Are we not the destroyer of niches?

Either way, science cannot explain much about consciousness. Every animal has fairly well defined behavior patterns. Carnivores share certain behaviors, but a bear, a shark, and a lion behave differently. They have their own species-specific behavior. But if man is governed by the same material forces as bears, sharks, and lions, why is our behavior so variable, chaotic, and inconsistent? We know why bears, sharks, and lions kill, but do we really know why men murder apart from cases of self-defense? Why does man seek to understand the nature of truth, the workings of the universe, and abstract mathematics? Why do we grapple with trying to understand the meaning of life?

It ought to be clear that man cannot be reduced to mere chemical and physical processes. It ought to be clear that there is meaning to our lives and to the world we inhabit. And it ought to be clear that we have an origin and a purpose beyond mere materialistic processes. That purpose is best described by the answer to Baltimore Catechism question 6, that is 'Why did God make you?'

To whom does that answer, namely 'God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in heaven,' actually apply? The answer is that God made everyone for this same purpose. Again, as mentioned previously, there is a strain of Christianity that denies that God wishes all to be saved. They claim that God has definitively determined the saved and the reprobate, that apart from God's grace no one can choose anything but to sin, and only the saved receive His irresistible graces. This too is a denial of human free will, and a denial of Scripture. Didn't Paul write *"This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth"* (1Tim 2:3-4)? Also *"For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died"* (2Cor 5:14)? Didn't John say of Jesus, that *"He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world"* (1Jn 2:2)? Didn't Peter testify that *"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit"* (1Pet 3:18)? So if Jesus died for all, why are all not saved? Human free will plays a huge part.

- Fr Booth