

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

September 13th/September 14th 2025: Exaltation of the Cross



**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.

NOTICE ON CHECKS: Please make out all checks to Blessed Sacrament or Blessed Sacrament Church.

IN MEMORIAM: For Ann Roberts, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 14th to September 20th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ellen Daniel from September 21st until September 27th.

MORNING WITH MARY: All ladies are invited to a morning of devotion next Saturday, September 20th. Adoration will begin at 8:30 a.m., there will be confession during adoration, followed by benediction at about 9:10 a.m., and concluding with a Low Latin Mass at about 9:15 a.m.

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.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Pledge Sunday for the Bishop’s Annual Appeal campaign for 2026 is on September 28th. You should receive a Pledge Card in the mail soon, but you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000.

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The keynote speaker will be Joy Pinto, executive director of Her Choice. Make your reservation now, consider hosting a table of eight or make a life saving donation. Her Choice Birmingham Women’s Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

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, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Nick Smith, Benjamin Caruna, Matthew Pickard, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5891 and \$890 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is about a 9 month backlog on Mass Intentions. Thus, requested Mass dates cannot always be honored.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: (*Masses in the Rectory Chapel)

Sat, Sep 13: 4:00 p.m. † Julia V. Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Sep 14: 7:30 a.m. † Dennis Jerry Bryant (by the Bryant Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Mrs. Terri Cole (by Peter & Sharon Gagnon)
Mon, Sep 15 *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Kieran Dailey (by Zach & Bailey Maziarz)
Tues, Sep 16: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Janice Renda (by Zach & Bailey Maziarz)
Wed, Sep 17: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Steve & lou Franks (by Zach & Bailey Maziarz)
Thur, Sep 18: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Maria Maziarz (by Zach & Bailey Maziarz)
Fri, Sep 19: *8:30 a.m. Special intention for Elijah Maziarz (by Zach & Bailey Maziarz)
Sat, Sep 20: 9:15 a.m. Special intention for Dean & Kathy Fazio (by Ryan & Hannah Penney)
4:00 p.m. † Lawrence Brandley (by the Bryant Family)
Sun, Sep 21: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Stephen Saville (by the Osorio Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. Special intention for David Muck, Jr. (by the Duvall Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Brian Schwager, Patrick Schwager, George Sampedro, 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, 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. 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Amos 8:4-7, 1Tim 2:1-8, Lk 16:1-13
7:30 a.m. 15 th Sunday After Pentecost	Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16
9:00 a.m. 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Amos 8:4-7, 1Tim 2:1-8, Lk 16:1-13
10:45 a.m. 15 th Sunday After Pentecost	Gal 5:25-6:10, Lk 7:11-16

Holy Cross

As we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Cross this weekend, we need to realize that Jesus' soul-saving crucifixion was prefigured in the Old Testament, especially with the episode of the seraph serpents during the exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land. The people complained against God regarding the manna and they were growing impatient with the God who had been so gracious and patient with them. As a result of their rebellious ingratitude the Lord "*sent among the people seraph serpents, which bite the people so that many of the Israelites died. Then the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned in complaining against the Lord and you. Pray to the Lord to take the serpents from us.'*" So Moses prayed for the people, and the Lord said to Moses: *Make a seraph and mount it on a pole, and everyone who has been bitten will look at it and recover. Accordingly Moses made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever the serpent bit someone, the person looked at the bronze serpent and recovered*" (Num 21:6-9). The seraph mounted on the pole became an image, a prefigurement of Jesus' own crucifixion. The people bitten by the serpents lived if they chose to look upon the bronze serpent. Those who suffered a bite from the seraph serpents but chose not to look at the bronze serpent lifted up on a pole found no remedy for the serpent's venom. The cure was presented to them and made available: some chose to accept the cure, others rejected it.

Who in their right mind would reject a cure for venom or a cure for sins? It is difficult to imagine not availing ourselves of such remedies especially when they come at no cost to us, especially when the need for the cure is a matter of life or death as with the serpent's venom or a matter of heaven or hell as with our sins. Indeed, it is not as if God abandons those who abandon Him, which He certainly has a right to do, and it is not as if God demands from us an infinite recompense for our infinitely grave offenses committed against Him, an infinite God. Who in their right mind would reject such gracious offers of salvation? Logically, it makes no sense. However, through the prophet Jeremiah the Lord tells us that "*More tortuous than anything is the human heart, beyond remedy; who can understand it? I, the Lord, explore the mind and test the heart, giving to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their deeds*" (Jer 17:9-10).

Surely the murder of a woman walking her dog, the murder of a woman on a commuter train, shooting at children in a school or at Mass, politically motivated violence, assassinations, etc. all stem from wickedness residing in the hearts of men. The prevalence of such atrocities leads some to ask why God does not fix our tortuous hearts such that man made evils might be eliminated or greatly reduced. Certainly this is within His power. Such evils also occur because mental illness or deliberate derangement allows men to act in malevolent ways, but why doesn't God fix the minds of those bent upon evil? Certainly this is within His power. Likewise, some might ask why God does not simply forgive all sins ever committed such that all obtain heaven. Certainly this too is within His power. It was also within God's power to remove the seraph serpents from the midst of the Israelites. He could have done this in response to the people repenting of their disobedience.

But God's ways are not our ways, or more importantly, our ways are not His ways. Apart from God and left to ourselves, our solutions tend to be dreadful. Man has tried to create heaven on earth and this never ends well. All utopias end up producing more evil than good, eventually devolving into totalitarianism. Just the communist utopias of the last 100 years have racked up between 80 and 150 million dead. Perhaps 10 million died when the Soviets collectivized farming and up to 45 million died in China when their communist government tried to increase industrial output by taking farmers off of farms. These so-called workers' paradises were far more hellish than heavenly.

Thus, we do well to remember that God knows what He is doing. In the case of the seraph serpents, He provided a remedy for their venom, the bronze serpent that prefigured Jesus' cross. In the case of our sins, God provided the graces and forgiveness that flow from Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. In both cases God provides a remedy, a remedy that is totally unmerited.

- Fr Booth