

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 20th/September 21st 2025: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (English)
15th 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.

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

IN MEMORIAM: For Ellen Daniel, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 21st to September 27th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of John McCarrick from September 28th until October 4th.

REST IN PEACE: Catherine Dunmyer Sellers, sister of Fr Ray Dunmyer, passed away on September 14th and was laid to rest on September 19th. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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.

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.

SEMINARY VISIT: The Office of Vocations is hosting a Seminary Live-In at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans from October 23rd to 26th. This event is for men 21-35 years of age and is an opportunity to experience daily life in the seminary, attend classes, and meet current seminarians. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required: <https://bhmdiocese.org/vocations>

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

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$5264 and \$260 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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.

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 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)
Mon, Sep 22	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Beth Lauriello (by Monica Duvall)
Tues, Sep 23:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mary Ann Renna (by Monica Duvall)
Wed, Sep 24:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Alice Muck (by the Duvall Family))
Thur, Sep 25:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Mallorie Ruiz (by the Duvall Family)
Fri, Sep 26:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for James Erickson (by Monica Duvall)
Sat, Sep 27:	4:00 p.m.	† Clement E. Muck, Jr. (by the Duvall Family)
Sun, Sep 28:	7:30 a.m.	† Beverly Scroggins (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Rev William Scroggins (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially Fr Charles Merrill, 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.	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Amos 6:1,4-7, 1Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31
7:30 a.m.	16 th Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11
9:00 a.m.	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Amos 6:1,4-7, 1Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31
10:45 a.m.	16 th Sunday After Pentecost	Eph 3:13-21, Lk 14:1-11

Our Salvation is Not an Event

As was discussed two weeks ago, we have very little capacity to predict the trajectory of our lives very far into the future. Yes, we have items on our calendar that say we have an appointment on Thursday and that we have an out of town meeting on the following Monday. Given that these are very near term events, we have an expectation that they will happen as planned, but that is not totally a given. Emergencies, unforeseen contingencies, and life in general have a tendency to upend our plans and expectations. We have the reasonable expectation that things will happen as planned, but it is hardly guaranteed. The same thing can happen spiritually. A 20-year-old man might expect to follow Jesus closely all of his life only to abandon Him a few years later when things don't go his way. At 20 he, his family, and friends could describe him as 'saved' only to say later, after the young man abandons Jesus, that he was never saved in the first place. Perhaps, when the man turns 40 and holds his baby daughter on the day of her birth he returns to following Jesus, he and his family might again regard him as 'saved.' Was he saved all along or did he only appear to be saved before forsaking Jesus and only appear to be saved after the birth of his daughter changed his life?

Prior to the heresy of John Calvin in the 16th century, the idea that the man was saved all along or only appeared to be saved throughout his life would have been rejected by any theologian. The idea of once-saved-always-saved has reduced our salvation to an event of some sort, whether it is an unbiblical altar call, an unbiblical acceptance of Jesus into the heart, or an unbiblical recitation of a particular prayer. This heresy minimizes the gravity and the effects of our sins, even making morality of minimal importance in the salvation of souls. It also makes a mockery of Jesus' teachings. Indeed, the Prodigal Son is welcomed back into the father's household when he comes to his senses. The father, representing God, reinstates the Prodigal Son and declares to the older brother *"now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found"* (Lk 15:32). The Prodigal Son was spiritually alive, then becomes spiritually dead when he repudiates his father, and then becomes spiritually alive again when he repents and is reconciled with the father. Yes, he was the father's son all along, but was for a time estranged from the father by his own poor choices.

People gravitate to the idea of being saved and infallibly remaining saved because it is a comforting falsehood. Once-saved-always-saved is built upon the truths that God is faithful, that God is utterly sovereign, and that Jesus keeps His promises but it almost completely discounts and ignores our moral infidelity and our capacity to spurn the promises that flow from being disciples of Jesus. We are sinners, a fact usually acknowledged by the one-saved-always-saved crowd, but we are called to think, speak, and act in accord with the Gospel. This is not an option or a spiritual nice-to-have, but is essential as the Apostle John testifies: *"And by this we may be sure that we know [Jesus], if we keep his commandments. He who says 'I know him' but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: he who says he abides in [Jesus] ought to walk in the same way in which he walked"* (1Jn 2:3-6). The man who claims to know Jesus can say he has faith, but his works can betray that faith making him a liar. It is hard to see how such a man is saved.

So, how are we saved? It is not an event but a way of life. It is not earned but accepted and retained as an unmerited gift that can be renounced. Salvation can be boiled down to having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit: *"But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you"* (Rom 8:9-11).

- Fr Booth