

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

November 22nd/November 23rd: Christ the King (English)

24th Sunday After Pentecost (English)



**1460 Pearson Avenue SW
Birmingham, Alabama 35211**

Phone: (205) 785-9840

E-mail: church@myblessedsacrament.org

Website: www.myblessedsacrament.org

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 Audra & Reid Wilson, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from November 23rd to November 29th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Lois Pruitt from November 30th until December 6th.

ADVENT ANGEL TREE: We have an Advent Angel Tree this year that will benefit a number of truly needy families in our local community. If you take a tag from the Angel Tree, please bring the wrapped gift items back with the angel tag attached on the outside by Sunday, December 21st.

RORATE MASS: In lieu of usual First Saturday events, there will be a Rorate Mass, a Low Latin Mass in honor of Our Lady, on Saturday, December 6th at 6:00 a.m.

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.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: You should have received a Pledge Card in the mail, if not you also can enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is \$29,000. As of November 21st, we have \$21,450 pledged.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$12,671 and \$625 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There remains an 8½ month backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. Period. No exceptions.

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

Sat, Nov 22:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for the Ryan Penney Family (by the Ryan Penney Family)
Sun, Nov 23:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Nicole Zaucha (by the Hahn Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Joseph Zaucha (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Nov 24	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Cyrus Sabri (by the Hahn Family)
Tues, Nov 25:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Fr Den Irwin (by the Hahn Family)
Wed, Nov 26:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Patrick Rumore Family (by the Hahn Family)
Thur, Nov 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Zaucha Family (by the DiPiazza Family)
Fri, Nov 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Machado Family (by the DiPiazza Family)
Sat, Nov 29:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for the Wesley Hill Family (by the DiPiazza Family)
Sun, Nov 30:	7:30 a.m.	† Mike Smith (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Zelf Williamson (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Daniel Flemming, Fr Timothy Gahan, 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. First Sunday of Advent	Isa 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Mt 24:37-44
7:30 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Rom 13:11-14, Lk 21:25-33
9:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Isa 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Mt 24:37-44
10:45 a.m. First Sunday of Advent	Rom 13:11-14, Lk 21:25-33

Jesus Our Great High Priest and King

As indicated several weeks ago, the primary essence of Jesus' atonement on the cross lies not in the idea that He suffered in our place to satisfy the Father's wrath, a concept often called penal substitution. Yes, Jesus suffered immensely, but it was not such that His suffering merely canceled out the punishment that we incur for our sins: the crucifixion was not to satisfy the Father's wrath that we deserve for our disobedience. Indeed, if the suffering of Jesus merely cancels out the suffering we have earned through our iniquity, then either Jesus only suffered for those bound for heaven and not those who will suffer for eternity in hell or Jesus suffered for all such that everyone goes to heaven. But we know that Jesus suffered for all of mankind and we also know that there are many people who end up suffering the pains of hell. Thus, our atonement is not confined to Jesus suffering in our place to satisfy divine wrath.

Again, it was stated earlier that the better and certainly more Biblical understanding of the atonement wrought on the cross has to do with Jesus offering Himself as a propitiatory sacrifice. It is a voluntary act of love for us and explains why Jesus is referred to as a priest: *"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"* (Ps 110:4, Heb 5:5-6). St Paul makes it more clear that Jesus made atonement on the cross for us as a loving and voluntary sacrifice: *"So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma"* (Eph 5:1-2). His self sacrifice was not to quell the Father's anger but was pleasing in the Father's sight.

Besides Jesus offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, other views have been proposed over the centuries, some of which make sense while others are absurd. One of the absurd theories is that of Jesus ransoming us away from satan, that satan held us in bondage but Jesus' suffering bought us away from satan. This implies that we owe satan for our sins when in reality it is God who is owed, that satan must be satisfied, not God. This idea elevates satan to being equal to God and misplaces justice as if anyone but God is ultimately due satisfaction for our sins. A better image of Jesus' atonement on the cross than ransoming us away from satan is that His suffering and death destroyed sin and destroyed our death. Here, satan is not offered something in exchange for our liberty but that our two greatest enemies – sin and death, consequences of the fall of Adam and Eve – are defeated. Satan is defeated and Jesus is not a ransom for our sins but a conquering Hero liberating us from our bondage to sin. Jesus takes on our sins to destroy them and He rose from the dead to destroy death. *"When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed"* (1Pet 2:23-24). *"He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"* (2Tim 1:9-10).

It is important to note that Jesus making atonement by offering Himself to the Father as a propitiatory sacrifice is entirely compatible with Jesus' passion defeating sin and death. It also is compatible with Jesus' Kingship. Christ our King defeats our enemies for us on the cross, enemies that had defeated us and we were powerless to overcome. During His trial on Good Friday Pilate affirms Him as King of the Jews and therefore *"Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews'"* (Jn 19:19). The Good Thief also testified as Jesus, wearing a crown of thorns, hung from the cross, saying *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"* (Lk 23:42). In other words, the cross is Jesus' throne and the altar on which He offers Himself in sacrifice. For Jesus the cross is not an instrument of divine wrath but it is His royal throne and the altar on which He offers Himself for our atonement.

- Fr Booth