

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

February 7th/February 8th: 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

Sexagesima (Latin)



**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.

IN MEMORIAM: For Colt Hull, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from February 8th to February 14th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Joel Levenberg from February 15th until February 21st.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the month. We will have vocations prayers and a social following the 10:45 a.m. Mass.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2026: Contribution envelopes are located in the back vestibule. If yours are not there, let Fr Booth know.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS have been mailed.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT WEEKEND: The Office of Vocations is hosting a Priesthood Discernment Weekend from February 20th to 22nd at Casa Maria Retreat Center. Father Kurt R. Young, Vice-Rector at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, will lead this weekend of prayer, talks, and fellowship for men discerning a call to priesthood. Fr Wyman Vintson, Vicar for Vocations, will be present and available to answer questions about discernment, the application process, and seminary life. This weekend experience is for men ages 18-35. The event is free, but registration is required. Register for this event at: <https://bhmdiocese.org/discernment-weekend>

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 \$7694 and \$680 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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 February 6th, we have \$24,175 pledged.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: There is large backlog on Mass Intentions. Therefore, until further notice, Mass Intentions will only be accepted on a one Mass per family per week basis. No exceptions. The Mass Intentions for this week date from April 27th.

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

Sat, Feb 7:	8:30 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Donellan Family)
	4:00 p.m.	† Wendy Floyd (by the Donellan Family)
Sun, Feb 8:	7:30 a.m.	† James Cook (by the Donellan Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Nancy Donellan (by the Donellan Family)
Mon, Feb 9:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Lena Cook (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Feb 10:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Lena Cook (by the Donellan Family)
Wed, Feb 11:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for the Hill Family (by Jonathan & Gina Gagnon)
Thur, Feb 12:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Anna-Grace Staub (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)
Fri, Feb 13:	*8:30 a.m.	† Catherine Lester Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
Sat, Feb 14:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Emalyn Staub (by Zach & Bayley Maziarz)
Sun, Feb 15:	7:30 a.m.	† Grace Hill (by the Peter Gagnon Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Joel Levenberg (by Mary Jane Kelly)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Kathy Newman, 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, 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. 6 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 15:15-20, 1Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37
7:30 a.m. Quinquagesima	1Cor 13:1-13, Lk 18:31-43
9:00 a.m. 6 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Sir 15:15-20, 1Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37
10:45 a.m. Quinquagesima	1Cor 13:1-13, Lk 18:31-43

We Choose to Love

The hallmark of a Christian ought to be love. Many think the distinguishing aspect of those who follow Christ is faith. Faith cannot be dismissed at all. Faith is essential. Faith is the beginning but not the end. One cannot stop at faith and call it good. Faith can also be defective. Someone can believe in Jesus as in 'I believe that Jesus existed' or 'I believe that Jesus taught many wonderful things.' All of these are true, but they are only some of the facts that form the content of the faith. Embracing only some of the Nicene Creed that we profess every Sunday is insufficient and adding beliefs that contradict the testimony of the Scriptures or the witness of the Church would also result in a deficient or even heretical faith. While the Creed is not a totally comprehensive expression of the content of the faith, rejecting the Resurrection or Jesus' miracles would be problematic as would adding teachings that Jesus never taught, such as if Jesus were alive today He would approve of abortion, irregular marriage, exploiting women and children, or hating of some people for what ever reason we think is justified.

It should be clear that hate is no more justified than adultery. Jesus parks these two sins next to each other in the Sermon on the Mount. In both cases, Jesus clarifies and expands on the Ten Commandments by teaching that lust equates to adultery while hatred equates to murder (Mt 5:21-30). This should not be shocking, but it did shock many of the Jews that heard Jesus teach on the sinfulness of lust and hatred. It should not be shocking because adultery is preceded and fueled by lust and murder first requires hatred. In both cases what lies in the human heart matters even if it is not acted upon. 'I did not touch her' or 'I did not strike him' might be legitimate defenses in a legal court but they won't hold up in the divine tribunal.

Indeed, both lust and hatred are serious defects in our love for our neighbor. Given that God loves the one who lusts, the one who is lusted after, the one who hates, and the one who is hated, defective love of our neighbor is a defective love of God. This is seen, as was noted last week, in the First Letter of St John: *"If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen"* (1Jn 4:20). In other words, one cannot legitimately hate his fellow man and claim to love God. And it would be a mistake to think that 'I love everyone except Eloise Crabapple' or 'I only love my family and my friends.' Yes, love begins at home (a paraphrase of 1Tim 5:8) and, yes, maybe Mrs. Crabapple is a terrible person, but love knows no limits. Some people will test or challenge our love, but love calls us to rise above our aversion, our loathing, and our revulsion because God demands this of us.

But what is hate? If I dislike Eloise Crabapple because of her harsh and bitter personality, have I hated her? Hatred and dislike are not the same thing. Disliking someone might be a natural aversion to an aspect of another, such as their demeanor, their bad breath, their opinions, or their behavior in general. Disliking is more of an involuntary reaction, even an emotional response, to the qualities of another. We do not have the ability to like someone who we find unlikeable. We generally cannot like everyone all of the time. Even husbands and wives struggle at times to like each other, but that does not mean they hate one another. They married someone imperfect and those imperfections sometimes breed emotional anger and disappointment. Those imperfections may make them unlikeable from time to time but not unlovable.

The primary distinction between dislike and hatred lies not in the one who is disliked or hated but in the one who dislikes or hates. Dislike is a natural, often personal response to the other. Hatred is chosen, hatred is deliberate. Dislike does not engage the intellect or the will per se, but hatred is certainly an act of the will and often involves the intellect. When the intellect and the will are involved, mortal sin is a distinct possibility. An aversion to Eloise Crabapple may not be chosen, but choosing to despise her, to wish ill upon her, or even to take pleasure in ill that befalls her certainly crosses the line from dislike to hate. For the Christian, hate is always avoidable while love is always possible. Literally, the choice is ours. -Fr Booth