

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

March 21st/March 22nd 2026: Fifth Sunday of Lent (English)

First Passion Sunday (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 Walter Roberts, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of his soul from March 22nd to March 28th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Ann Roberts from March 29th until April 4th.

ANNUNCIATION: The Feast of the Annunciation is on Wednesday, March 25th. There will be an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. and a High Latin Mass at 6:30 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We will have Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. during the Fridays of Lent (Stations on Good Friday, April 3rd it will be at 2:30 p.m.).

PALM SUNDAY: Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Due to time constraints, for the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Palm Sunday the abbreviated Gospel will be used, the palms will be previously blessed, and there will be no procession. Also, the 10:45 Mass will be a Low Mass.

YOUNG WOMEN’S RETREAT DAY: Single Catholic women age 18 to 28 are invited to attend the Dominican Holiness Retreat Day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th at the Dominican Monastery of St. Jude in Marbury, Alabama. The cloistered Dominican nuns will share how their charism can inspire you to draw closer to Jesus and Mary in your life today, followed by prayer, lunch, and a Q&A session. Learn more and register at: marburydominicanuns.org/retreat-days

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION for local homeschool students is set for Thursday, May 21st, 2026. The ceremony will be in the Great Hall on the campus of the Cathedral of St. Paul and will begin with Vespers at 5:00 p.m. More information can be obtained via bhamcathgrad@gmail.com or to register, please visit <https://bhamcathgrad.weebly.com/>

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Deacon John Paul Stepnowski, Deacon Andrew Vickery, Deacon 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, Deacon Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7571 and \$1035 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 March 20th, we have \$25,175 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 May 25th.

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

Sat, Mar 21:	9:15 a.m.	Special intention for Charlie Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Chuck Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
Sun, Mar 22:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Hannah Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Kim McCain (by the Ferino Family)
Mon, Mar 23:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Ann Marie Hahn (by the Donellan Family)
Tues, Mar 24:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Joyce Pandelis (by the Ferino Family)
Wed, Mar 25:	8:30 a.m.	† David Pandelis (by the Ferino Family)
	6:30 p.m.	Private Intention
Thur, Mar 26:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Judy Pandelis (by the Ferino Family)
Fri, Mar 27:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Elizabeth Cole (by the Ferino Family)
Sat, Mar 28:	4:00 p.m.	Special intention for Charles Ferino, Jr. (by the Ferino Family)
Sun, Mar 29:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Nancy Ferino (by the Ferino Family)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Bonnie Hill (by the Ferino Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for Kathy Newman, Daniel Flemming, 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, 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. Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mt 26:14-27:66
7:30 a.m. Palm Sunday	Phil 2:5-11, Mt 27:45-52
9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday	Isa 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mt 26:14-27:66
10:45 a.m. Palm Sunday	Phil 2:5-11, Mt 26:36-27:60

Jesus, the Suffering Servant

In reviewing the first and the second Suffering Servant Songs, one might ask ‘where is the suffering?’ The third song of the four certainly refers to the Servant’s suffering:

“The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to answer the weary a word that will waken them. Morning after morning he wakens my ear to hear as disciples do; The Lord God opened my ear; I did not refuse, did not turn away. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who tore out my beard; my face I did not hide from insults and spitting. The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; Therefore I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He who declares my innocence is near. Who will oppose me? Let us appear together. Who will dispute my right? Let them confront me. See, the Lord God is my help; who will declare me guilty? See, they will all wear out like a garment, consumed by moths. Who among you fears the Lord, heeds his servant’s voice? Whoever walk in darkness, without any light, yet trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon their God! All you who kindle flames and set flares alight, walk by the light of your own fire and by the flares you have burnt! This is your fate from my hand: you shall lie down in a place of torment” (Isa 50:4-11).

Jesus made a point of saying that His mission could be characterized as doing the will of the Father (Jn 5:30, Jn 6:38, Jn 12:49, Jn 15:10, etc.), so it is not surprising that the Suffering Servant does much the same: *“The Lord God opened my ear; I did not refuse, did not turn away.”* All of that Jesus did was the will of the Father and Jesus chose to accept the Father’s will both in His own divine will and His human will. We see Jesus’ human and divine wills at work in His agony in the garden prior to His arrest: *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will... My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!”* (Mt 26:39, 42).

And it is certain that Jesus gave His back to be beaten. It was the normal practice of the Romans to beat the back of someone about to be crucified, a beating that was a preliminary to the scourging mentioned in the Gospels. The beating of the back was meant to amplify the agony of the scourging that followed. Likewise, like the Servant, Jesus was struck, spat upon, and insulted by the Jewish soldiers (Mt 26:67), the Roman soldiers hit Him, insulted Him, mocked Him, and spat upon Him (M 27:29-30, Mk 15:18-20, Jn 19:2-3), and Herod’s soldiers struck and mocked Him (Lk 23:11).

Despite the abuse, the Servant proclaims His innocence. *“Who will dispute my right? Let them confront me. See, the Lord God is my help; who will declare me guilty?”* Jesus’ innocence was a problem for the Jewish authorities who wanted Him to be silenced and humiliated. They could find no crime that He committed that warranted a sentence of death. They even went so far as to inspire false testimony against Jesus, but this backfires because the false witnesses contradict one another. The Gospel of Mark tells us that *“The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none. Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging, ‘We heard him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands.’ Even so their testimony did not agree”* (Mk 14:55-59).

When it comes to finding Him guilty Jesus has to help out the Jewish officials, the men of the Sanhedrin. When challenged as to whether or not He is the Messiah, Jesus confirms that fact and goes on to claim divinity as well, saying *“But I tell you: From now on you will see ‘the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power’ and ‘coming on the clouds of heaven”* (Mt 26:64). Here He quotes from the prophet Daniel (Dn 7:13-14). They now have a charge against Jesus, blasphemy, and they hand Him over to the Romans for execution. Ironically, He makes divine claims before Pilate who finds Jesus innocent (Lk 23:4, Lk 23:13-15, Jn 18:38, Jn 19:4) and wants to let Him go. It is clear to everyone except the callous Roman soldiers, men who were just following orders and didn’t care about innocence or guilt, and the leaders of the Jews that Jesus is indeed innocent. He suffers greatly nonetheless.

-Fr Booth