

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

August 15th/August 16th 2026: 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)

12th Sunday After Pentecost (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 the Julia V. Bryant, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from August 16th to August 22nd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Helen Von Hagel from August 23rd until August 29th.

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.

OCIA CLASSES: We will begin to offer Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), formerly known as RCIA, this fall beginning on Tuesday, September 1st at 6:00 pm in the rectory chapel. Those interested in becoming Catholic at Blessed Sacrament need to attend these classes with the goal of being incorporated into the Church at Easter.

PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS: Please pray for our seminarians: Hunter Limbaugh, Francisco Rodriguez, Justin Brouillette, Cameron Huhlein, Patrick Letterle, Wilson Moin, Joshua Callahan, Franz Mercado, Thomas Rogers, Benjamin Caruna, Maximilian Waldron, Fernando Casillas, Jack Lyons, Jorge Martinez, Jonathan Ruscoe, Nathan Mitchell, Nicholas Shovel, Axel Lopez, Fox Garon, Deacon Dominic Rumore, Matthew Gagnon, Friar Apollo, and Owen Sederstrand.

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN RELIGIOUS LIFE: Please pray for Sister Maria Josefa of the Divine Providence and Jessica Saville.

CONTINUATION OF FOOD DRIVE: The food drive begun in Lent benefitting the Franciscan Poor of Jesus Christ, who have a ministry to the homeless, and a local food bank will continue on an ongoing basis. If you have further questions, please contact Shannon Dunaway (ssullivan7606@gmail.com) or Steve and Brandy Katona (Katonafamily@yahoo.com).

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$6277 and \$635 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

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 October 19th.

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

Sat, Aug 15: 10:45 a.m. † Julie Wang Kelly (by Kevin Kelly)
4:00 p.m. † Fr Patrick O'Donohue
Sun, Aug 16: 7:30 a.m. Special intention for Cindy Bull (by Mary Wiseman)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Fr James Macey (by Anonymous)
Mon, Aug 17: *8:30 a.m. † Danny Rohling (by Judy Rohling)
Tues, Aug 18: *8:30 a.m. † Danny Rohling (by Judy Rohling)
Wed, Aug 19: *8:30 a.m. † Danny Rohling (by Judy Rohling)
Thur, Aug 20: *8:30 a.m. † Danny Rohling (by Judy Rohling)
Fri, Aug 21: *8:30 a.m. † Danny Rohling (by Judy Rohling)
Sat, Aug 22: 4:00 p.m. † Fr Joseph Arsenault
Sun, Aug 23: 7:30 a.m. † Sonya Cook LaRussa (by the Donellan Family)
9:00 a.m. Pro Populo
10:45 a.m. † Johnny Lamar Cooper (by the Donellan Family)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND especially for James Cover, Dennis Taubitz, Suzanne Vickery, Casey Daniel, 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, 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. 21 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 22:19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Mt 16:13-20
7:30 a.m. 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Gal 3:16-22, Lk 17:11-19
9:00 a.m. 21 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 22:19-23, Rom 11:33-36, Mt 16:13-20
10:45 a.m. 13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Gal 3:16-22, Lk 17:11-19

God's Love in Unconquerable, But it Can Be Rejected

The letter to the Hebrews can be one of the more challenging books of the New Testament to read. It is addressed most likely to Christians with a Jewish background or origin. Hebrews seems to have been written to Jewish converts with the aim of encouraging them to keep the faith and not slide back into the prior covenant that had no power to save souls (Heb 10:1-4). In any case, this letter begins, saying *"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs"* (Heb 1:1-4). Of course we know this Son to be the Second Person of the Trinity. Through Him the universe was made. He shares the glory, the being, and the majesty of God. He is the Word through which the universe was made and He *"sustains all things by his mighty word."* He is superior to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah, and so forth just as He is superior to all of the angels. He is uncreated, He is eternal, He is all-powerful. He *"accomplished purification from sins"* by becoming man so as to die on the cross all while remaining God. He is much more than a prophet, He is much more than an angel. He is God.

This passage from the beginning of Hebrews not only echos the beginning of Genesis but also the beginning of John's Gospel as well: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be"* (Jn 1:1-3). Paul's letter to the Colossians makes the same point about Jesus: *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together"* (Col 1:15-17).

All of this creative and recreative activity of the Trinity was and continues to be an expression of divine love. God did not have to create the universe, but chose to do so. God did not have to create us, but chose to do so. God did not have to create us in His own image and likeness, but chose to do so. God did not have to tolerate our wickedness, but chose to do so. God did not have to become one of us, but chose to do so. God did not have to suffer, die, and rise from the dead in order to save us from our wickedness, but chose to do so. God did not have to give us the Church and the grace-conferring sacraments, but chose to do so. God did not have to promise us eternal life in the world to come, but chose to do so. All of these things God chose to do are expressions of His divine love and His divine might. This ought not be a surprise to us given that God is love. And all of this was done with, through, and in Jesus.

Out of love, Jesus *"sustains all things by his mighty word."* He sustains you and He sustains me. Jesus sustains and He preserves our beings in both body and soul. Yes, the material of our bodies grows and decays, but it does not cease to exist: our bodies return to the dust from which we are fashioned. Once our souls are separated from our bodies at death, He continues to sustain our souls. We do not cease to be but we continue to live without our bodies. Part of Jesus' sustaining all things and holding them together includes our resurrection at the end of time, He will give us immortal bodies, either glorified bodies fit for eternal life in heaven or ignominious bodies fit for eternal life in hell.

God creates us, He redeems us, He offers us eternal life. God desires that all men be saved (1Tim 2:4, 2Pet 3:9) but many, probably most, people reject His offer. He wants us to be saved out of love, but out of love God respects our choice to spurn the offer of salvation. The grace to be reconciled to God, the grace to desire heaven, and the grace to persevere in faith, hope, and love are all unmerited gifts offered out of God's love, gifts many people will sadly choose to reject.

- Fr Booth