

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

**September 26th/September 27th 2026: 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time (English)
18th Sunday After Pentecost (Latin)**



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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.

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 Elvia Trevino Garcia, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of her soul from September 27th to October 3rd. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Sylvia McCarrick from October 4th until October 10th.

MEN'S ROOM: The former Men's room in the Parish Hall is complete. It is now the Ladies room and the former Ladies room is now the Men's room. The former Ladies room, now the Men's room, will be renovated soon.

ANNUAL RED MASS: The Diocese of Birmingham and the lawyers of the St Thomas More Society cordially invite all judges, lawyers, law students, legal professionals and the public they serve to the annual Red Mass on Thursday, October 1st, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St Paul. A reception will follow.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on October 2nd at 8:30 a.m. in the Rectory followed with Adoration and Benediction and a Latin Low Mass at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

FIRST SATURDAY: First Saturday Mass will be offered in Latin at 8:30 a.m. on October 3rd. Altar server training will follow Mass.

FIRST SUNDAY: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. There will be coffee and donuts following the 9:00 Mass.

SEMINARY LIVE-IN WEEKEND: The Office of Vocations will host a Seminary Live-In at St Meinrad Seminary November 12th to 15th. This event is for men 18-35 years of age. The weekend is an opportunity for men to experience daily life in the seminary, attend classes, and meet current seminarians. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS: Blessed Sacrament will begin accepting electronic contributions in the upcoming months. It will be an on-line based system that will accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, and ACH transfers.

OCIA CLASSES: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes will continue on Tuesday, September 29th 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.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: You should receive a Pledge Card from the diocese 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 \$30,885. As of September 25th, \$3300 have been pledged thus far.

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 María Josefa of the Divine Providence and Jessica Saville.

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was \$7588 and \$590 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 February 22nd.

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

Sat, Sep 26:	4:00 p.m.	Private intention
Sun, Sep 27:	7:30 a.m.	† Mary Lynne Williams (by Alan & Pam Olson)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	† Don & Mary Lynne Williams (by the Hahn Family)
Mon, Sep 28:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for JosephThomas Flores (by Brandon & Erin Maziarz)
Tues, Sep 29:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Carrie Duryea (by Monica Duvall)
Wed, Sep 30:	*8:30 a.m.	† Josie Tunello (by the Ferino Family)
Thur, Oct 1:	*8:30 a.m.	† Alice Muck (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
Fri, Oct 2:	*8:30 a.m.	Special intention for Fr Peter Tassini (by the Hahns)
	6:30 p.m.	Private intention
Sat, Oct 3:	8:30 a.m.	Private Intention
	4:00 p.m.	† Peter Ransom (by Ginny Daniel & Ann Noblitt)
Sun, Oct 4:	7:30 a.m.	Special intention for Cindy Bull (by Richard & Barbara Juneau)
	9:00 a.m.	Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	Special intention for Theresa Craig (by Tiffany Craig)

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, Christine Cover, Thatcher Kerzie, Malcolm Perry, Koslyn Chism, Kathleen Strawmeyer, and Stephanie Perry.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS READINGS

4:00 p.m.	27 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9, Mt 21:33-43
7:30 a.m.	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:23-28, Mt 22:1-14
9:00 a.m.	27 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	Isa 5:1-7, Phil 4:6-9, Mt 21:33-43
10:45 a.m.	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Eph 4:23-28, Mt 22:1-14

God's Scales of Justice Are Not Our Scales

If we were to lay before our eyes every thing we have done in life up to this very moment, what would we see? Almost certainly we would see a mixed bag of things we have thought, said, done, and failed to do. Some of these things we would be truly ashamed of while other things we would consider to be our crowning achievements. No matter who we are, however, there will be good acts and bad acts in that spectrum of things we have done in life. Many people measure themselves by the number and quality of their good actions versus the number and severity of their evil deeds. We might find solace if there are many more good things done than bad acts committed, we might think that all is well with me if the scales tip to the side of good instead of evil. Or if we have done fewer good things than bad, we might go into denial as we all are capable of doing.

But is this how God measures us? Is it a matter of our good acts outweighing our wicked acts? The teaching of the prophet Ezekiel tells us otherwise: "*When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die*" (Ez 18:26). It does not say that when a virtuous man's evil deeds outweigh his good ones, then he must die. Ezekiel's teaching does not say that when a wicked man's good deeds outweigh his evil acts, he will live. We are prone to say that this is not fair. How could it be fair for a man to have eighty years of virtuous living only to succumb to vice at the end of his life and have all of those years of virtue count for nothing? Or more significantly, if someone has lived eighty years of utter wickedness and then repents at the end of his life, this hardly seems fair.

But with God, it is not a matter of fairness. It is not a matter of the scales tipping one way or the other over a lifetime. It is a matter of the state of our soul, whether or not we are in God's good graces. We have to understand that we do not earn God's friendship, but it is an unmerited gift that we can accept or reject, that we can retain or throw away. Likewise, we have to understand the difference between doing good and doing evil. We are never ever justified in doing anything wrong. In the same way, we are always obliged to do good. It is our duty to do good, and we should never see doing good as something extra, something optional, something meritorious, something extraordinary, or something that is above and beyond the call of duty.

Thus we should never see our good acts somehow balancing or canceling out our bad acts as if they were put in opposite sides of a scale. God desires that we have all of our acts on the good side of the scale and none of our acts on the evil side. And yet it still strikes us as unfair when God judges the virtuous man falling into sin or the wicked man repenting. But imagine if it were a matter of balancing our good acts and bad acts so that the good outweighed the bad? How would it be possible for the man who has led a wicked life to ever balance the scales? He'd have to do a lifetime of good things to overcome the bad he has done, which would be impossible. Indeed, what good thing(s) could an adulterer or a murderer do to outweigh the enormous gravity of those sins?

More importantly, if we understand that we have a duty to do good, our good acts can't balance or cancel out our bad acts. Thus, God's way is not unfair at all, it is profoundly merciful because all the good that we do can't possibly make up for the bad, and yet God gives us a way of making things right with Him. It is repentance that sets the forgiven man apart from those who rely upon their own justice. The question we must each ask ourselves is whether or not we rely upon God's mercy through repentance or upon our own merits. Self-reliance is a fools errand given that we will never be righteous apart from God's grace and mercy.

So let us not consider God's ways unfair. Instead, we need to see that His way is most merciful and infinitely generous. If we have to see things in terms of a scale tipping one way or another, let us see that God puts His thumb on good side of the scale for those who repent, and without repentance, the scales will never tip to the side of good because our good deeds, no matter how numerous, have no way of outweighing our evil deeds.

- Fr Booth