Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

October 31st/November 1st 2026: All Saints



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 Eileen & Jack Schauer, the sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of their souls from November 1st to November 7th. The sanctuary lamp will burn for the repose of Daniel Welch from November 8th until November 14th.

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

ALL SOULS DAY: We will have an English Mass at 8:30 a.m. in the Church on Monday, November 2nd. A High Latin Mass will be offered at 6:30 p.m. A plenary indulgence may be gained for the souls in purgatory by visiting a church and reciting an Our Father and the Nicene Creed.

FIRST FRIDAY: We will have our First Friday English Mass on November 6th 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 November 7th. Altar server training will follow Mass.

MEN'S ROOM: The Men's room renovation is nearly complete.

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, November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the rectory chapel.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: You can mail your pledge card to the diocese or enter your annual pledge or recurring gift any time at catholiccharitiesbhm.org. Our pledge goal for this year is $30,885. As of October 30th, $22,400 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, 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.

HER CHOICE FUNDRAISING BANQUET: The annual Her Choice Banquet will be held on Thurs, Nov 5th at 7:00 p.m. at The Club (1 Robert S. Smith Drive). The keynote speaker will be Dr. George Delgado, a pioneer in abortion pill reversal. Her Choice Birmingham Women's Center exists to help women facing a crisis pregnancy to choose life, and to help support them with that decision. Her Choice also offers post abortion recovery services. To confirm your participation, 205-447-8796 or hcbanquet@herchoicebirmingham.org

PARISH SUPPORT: The collection last week was $6210 and $625 was given for the Preservation Fund. As always, many thanks for your generosity.

NOTE ON MASS INTENTIONS: The backlog of Mass Intentions has been greatly reduced. Multiple Mass Intention requests per week will again be accepted. The Mass Intentions for this week date from June 14th.

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

Sat, Oct 31:	4:00 p.m.		Special intention for Cheryl Robinson (by the Hahn Family)
Sun, Nov 1:	7:30 a.m.	†	Souls in Purgatory (by Kevin Kelly)
	9:00 a.m.		Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	†	Alan Mason (by Alan & Pam Olson)
Mon, Nov 2:	8:30 a.m.	†	Souls in Purgatory
	6:30 p.m.		Pope's Intentions
Tues, Nov 3:	*8:30 a.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena
Wed, Nov 4:	*8:30 a.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena
Thur, Nov 5:	*8:30 a.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena
Fri, Nov 6:	*8:30 a.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena
	6:30 p.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena
Sat, Nov 7:	8:30 a.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena
	4:00 p.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena
Sun, Nov 8:	7:30 a.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena
	9:00 a.m.		Pro Populo
	10:45 a.m.	†	All Souls Remembrance Mass Novena

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.	32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 6:12-16, 1Thes 4:13-18, Mt 25:1-13
7:30 a.m.	5th Supplemental Sunday after Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30
9:00 a.m.	32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Wis 6:12-16, 1Thes 4:13-18, Mt 25:1-13
10:45 a.m.	5th Supplemental Sunday after Epiphany	Col 3:12-17, Mt 13:24-30

How Can We Understand Heaven?

There are any number of ways to describe what heaven is like, but they all fall quite short of reality. St Paul makes this point in his letter to the Corinthians: "*What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit*" (1Cor 2:9-10). Here, Paul is paraphrasing Isaiah 64:3. Isaiah provides another insight on what heaven will be like: "*Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair*" (Isa 11:6-8). Isaiah teaches that this radical peace, even between prey and predator, will be achieved by the Messiah, the "*shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse*" (Isa 11:1). The reference to the stump of Jesse, the father of David, foretold the end of the kingly reign of David's sons and the sprout foretold the future restoration of the reign of David's Son. The implication being that a new King of David's line will come to bring unearthly, supernatural peace not possible in the world as we know it. In any case, the Bible has numerous other attempts to describe the indescribable.

The testimony of the Bible regarding heavenly realities necessarily invokes imagery that is unearthly. Descriptions of angels, for example, are more metaphor than literal portrayals. In Ezekiel, cherubim are described as follows: "*When they moved, they went in any of the four directions without veering as they moved; in whatever direction the first cherub faced, the others followed without veering as they went. Their entire bodies – backs, hands, and wings – and wheels were covered with eyes all around like the four wheels*" (Eze 10:11-12). Do cherubim have literal wheels? If so, they are not wheels in an earthly sense of the word. More likely, the wheels convey the property of mobility as do their wings. Likewise, the multitude of eyes is not literal but tells us that a cherub sees all. Earthly analogies are necessary to describe purely spiritual things like angels. We cannot conceive of a purely spiritual being apart from worldly categories. The same applies to heaven itself.

Many people imagine that heaven will be like life here and now but only much better. Such a place would be a utopia, not heaven. Mankind has been trying to create utopias since the Tower of Babel, and we have failed each and every time. The Shakers tried to create a utopia. Brook Farm in Massachusetts and Fordlandia in Brazil were attempted yet failed utopias. The Soviet Union, Communist China, Cuba, and every other marxist endeavor were attempts to obtain paradise on earth. Because we are limited, selfish, fallen, broken people living in a fallen and reliably hostile world, attempts to form utopias are much better at creating something more akin to hell than to heaven.

Yes, we are the problem. It is not the form of government, our leaders, or our economic system. Adam and Eve doomed mankind and the physical world while our sins perpetuate this catastrophe. Mankind as we know it cannot be fixed nor can the natural world. We can only be fixed through dying in Christ so as to enter a perfected state of being. We can call this perfected state of being sainthood. Nature can only be fixed by dying and being created anew. We can call this heaven.

In the mean time, we have a participation, albeit incomplete, in sainthood and in heaven through the graces that God bestows upon us through Jesus and His Church. In baptism, we have become citizens of heaven (Phil 3:20) while remaining residents here and we also have become adopted sons and daughters of God. This is a reality that we are challenged to live out in our present lives, acting as residents of heaven and as children of God. This will come to fruition in heaven but more thoroughly than we can know. As St John testifies, we will remain God's children but become much more in heaven than we are now: "*Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure*" (1Jn 3:2-3). We will be like God, the fulfillment of the very desire of Adam and Eve (Gen 3:5). - Fr Booth