

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Luca Parasiliti on receiving the Sacrament on Baptism on January 12th! Parents are Carmelo & Kristina Parasiliti.

Children's Church begins this Sunday, January 19th. Leanna Brooks and Carol Mecke will lead the children to the Parish House before the First Reading (for the duration of the Readings, Gospel & Homily). It is for children ages 4-7 grades 4K-1st only who are not actively participating in 2nd grade First Communion preparation classes. There will be a brief discussion of the readings, activity and coloring sheet which follow the theme of the weekly Gospel reading that will be handed out for the children to color. Carmelo Parasiliti will walk to the parish house at 10:30am to help bring the children back. If anyone is interested in being a substitute please contact the church office or Melanie Connolly.

Cemetery Reservation Dues for 2025 are ready and in the back of Church for pickup. If you have a reserved plot, please pick up your statement. Dues are in a black box listed alphabetically by last name. Plots not paid after two years will be relinquished back to the Church as available. Cemetery plots may be reserved by active and contributing registered parishioners who have been members for 5+ years. Non registered Catholics may purchase plots at full price. Cemetery brochures are in the gray pamphlet stand in the back of Church with additional information and rules.

How To Obtain A Plenary Indulgence Handout during the 2025 Jubilee Year are in the back of Church for pickup and posted to our website.

2024 Contribution statements have been finalized. If you requested a statement last year, a copy has been mailed/email. If would like to receive your statement or have any questions please call/email Mary Jo.

Baby Shower for Elaine Smith is January 26th from 1-3pm in the Parish House. All ladies are welcome to attend. She is registered on Amazon.

Cookbooks are still available in the Church Office. Around 40 books are left. Books are \$20 each with 450 recipes!

2025 Calendars are in the back of Church and in the Office for pickup.

Altar Servers! Any child that has made their First Communion are eligible to be an altar server. If you child is interested and needs training please contact Deacon Steve. If volunteers are listed on the ministry schedule please note that any trained server is welcome to volunteer.

Lay Ministers Needed - Lay ministers are needed at all weekend masses to be Eucharist Ministers, Ushers, Lectors, Gift Bearers and Altar Servers. If you would like to help in some way please contact the office and someone will get in contact with you. Any suggestions on improving how we do our ministry scheduling are welcomed. All help is appreciated.

Priesthood Discernment Weekend at Casa Maria Retreat Center in Birmingham on Friday-Sunday, February 7-9th. Father Andrew Gutierrez, from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, will lead this weekend. Father Wyman Vintson, Vicar for Vocations, will be present 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. Please visit bhmdiocese.org/vocations to register.



WorldWide
**Marriage
Encounter**

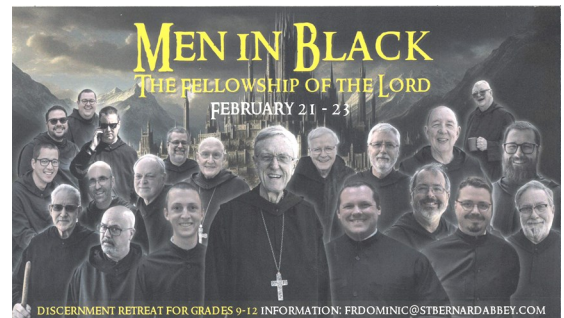
**Married Couples and Priests
"Live Your Best Life in Love"**

Enrich and Renew your Sacramental relationship by attending a Marriage Encounter Experience, a retreat where you will learn the tools to restore communication, renew your commitment, and rekindle the Joy of your Sacrament!

It is the perfect gift for your spouse on this Valentine Day

**Join us FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025
at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Alabama**

For more info: wwme.org
or Call: **Frank & Kathryn 205-530-3607**



MEN IN BLACK

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS!!

Interested in learning about and experiencing monastic life? Join Father Dominic Lee, O.S.B. at St Bernard Abbey for a weekend. Weekend highlights include prayer time, Mass, social and recreational activities, talks, Liturgy of the Hours, and learning about the monastic life.

When: February 21-23, 2025

Where: Saint Bernard Abbey in Cullman, AL

Cost: Free!

Requirements: Be a Catholic high school-age male student open to learning about the monastic life.

Lodging: Free stay at the Abbey Retreat Center with private room and bath. Qualified adults will also reside in the Retreat Center.

Registration Form: Form is posted to St Michael's website under the "publications" tab then click "bulletin inserts" - or call the Church Office.

Deadline: February 6, 2025

More details: Contact Fr Dominic by email at frdominic@stbernardabbey.com

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR NOTES

Coffee and doughnuts this weekend, Jan. 18/19 after each mass.

Feb 2, Souper Sandwich Sunday after 10 am mass, gym. Enjoy a bowl of chili, sandwich and drink. Afterwards stay for Bonus Bingo, Heads or Tails, and coverall. Cost is \$15. \$25 gift cards or Bingo prizes valued at this price needed. Proceeds go toward continued renovations/ improvements of buildings/ church.

Souper Bowl weekend 2/8, 2/9, Fill a Truck weekend. Each year CYO collects canned goods/ cash on the same weekend as Super Bowl. This nationwide effort gives back locally to what they collect. 1/2 of proceeds will go to Loaves and Fishes and half to our local St. Vincent de Paul in Florence.

Feb. 15, Sat. 4pm: Valentine meal for married couples, widows and widowers. Mark your calendar.

Feb. 23: Bowling on this date with youth and church family. Save the date.

Mar.4, Fat Tuesday, 5 pm games and snacks in gym. Bring sandwiches or snacks to share and games before we have Ash Wednesday.

Mar 16 : St. Patrick Spud Meal and Bingo

April 19, 1 pm: Easter Egg Hunt in front of church

Can You Find It? St. Benedict statue and stained glass window? Why cracked chalice ?

Submitted by Donna Peters, contact Donna for more info at 256-577-1607.

Answers: Window is as you go up the stairs of church and statue just inside back corner on east side of church. St. Benedict's chalice cracked when being offered up because a monk had put poison in the wine. His staff represents being an Abbot. He was a Benedictine Monk.

Blessing of Throats

FEBURARY 1-2ND
AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES

The committee for "Christmas for the Benedictines" would like to thank all you supported the appeal for this project. We surpassed our goal and next week there will be an insert with more information. - Carolyn Eck

©LPi
Pray
FOR THE
PROTECTION
OF THE UNBORN

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM *et* ALABAMA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The CHOOSE Act
Application Is Open
through April 7, 2025!

Qualifying students who enroll in or currently attend Diocese of Birmingham Catholic schools can receive up to \$7,000 a year for tuition, certain fees, and other eligible expenses.



To Complete the Application:

Visit: <https://chooseact.alabama.gov>

Have:

- **Student's birth certificate**
- **Proof of Alabama residency**
 - Must match the physical address listed on the application.
 - Examples include a recent tax return, state driver's license, state issued ID, utility bill, voter registration card, mortgage statement, rental or lease agreement
- **Proof of Income**
 - Examples include the most recent federal or state tax return record, Form W-2 or 1099, Social Security statement, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits statement.

→ Eligibility for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027*

- Students whose family's adjusted gross income from the preceding tax year does not exceed 300% of the poverty level
- 500 awards for students with special needs
- Dependents of active-duty service members who are zoned for a priority school

→ Eligibility for 2027-2028 and Beyond*

- All families can apply regardless of adjusted gross income
- 500 awards for students with special needs
- Dependents of active-duty service members who are zoned for a priority school

*Priority given to previously participating students and their siblings

Please note: Students who currently receive a scholarship through AAA are not eligible for an ESA

FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

205-838-8303

CSO@bhmdiocese.org

www.bhmdiocese.org/schools

