PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Epiphany House Blessing Prayer is on the back of this insert. Blessed chalk is available in the back of Church in a basket for pickup.

First Sunday Adoration is this Sunday, January 5th concluding the 10am Mass until 3pm. Stop by at any time to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Please note that someone must always be present in the Church during Adoration.

PSR and OCIA Classes will resume this Sunday, January 5th at 9am.

A special thank you to Frances Holder who works diligently every year on a plan for decorating the Altar for Christmas. This year was exceptionally beautiful! Also, thank you to all that came to help decorate!

Parish Council will meet this Thursday, January 9th at 6pm.

The Ladies' Altar Society will meet next Tuesday, January 14th, at 10 am in the church library. All ladies are welcome!

Contribution statements will be finalized at year end. If you requested a statement last year, one will be sent to the address/ email on file.

Important! If you have made contributions which were NOT processed by office personnel they may not show up on your statement. Contributions can be placed in the offertory plate, mailed to the church, or dropped off in person during business hours. This is the best way to ensure your statements are accurate and complete. Please call/email Mary Jo if you have any questions or need further clarification.

The Initial Offering in 2025 is not taxed by the Diocese of Birmingham meaning 100% of your donation stays with St Michael. To ensure this please use the offertory envelope that says "Initial Offering" or write it on your check in the memo line. Thank you!

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

High School Retreat for boys interested in learning more about the monastic life is February 21-23rd at St Bernard Abbey. Cost is free. Registration form is on our website under 'bulletin inserts'. Contact Fr Dominic by email at frdominic@stbernardabbey.com for more details.

Cookbooks are still available in the Church Office. Less than 60 books are left. Books are \$20 each with 450 recipes! We will not be order additional books so get one while they last!

2025 Calendars have been delayed. Calendars will be out as soon as they arrive.

Movie Showing - Knights of Columbus movie has been postponed until March.

Friendly reminder to please silence/turn off phones before Mass starts and to enter and leave Church quietly and respectfully!



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

ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE MASS AND WITNESS FOR LIFE

Saturday, January 18, 2025
Respect Life Mass with Bishop Steven Raica
9:00 AM · Cathedral of St. Paul
2120 3rd Ave. N, Birmingham, AL

Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life 10:45 AM · Planned Parenthood 1019 1st Ave. North, Birmingham www.BirminghamMarchforLife.com

Facebook: Birmingham Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life

Call 205-447-8796 for additional details

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1-30, 2024

36 utility cases (Lauderdale) totaling \$6,848.90 22 utility cases (Colbert) totaling \$4,177.02 10 rent cases (Lauderdale) totaling \$2,197.00 10 rent cases (Colbert) totaling \$1,958.00 1 medical case totaling \$79.38 18 food cases (Lauderdale and Colbert) total-

ing \$540.00

25 assistance vouchers (Lauderdale and Colbert) totaling \$983.25

Volunteers are needed to work in the SVDP Thrift Store. If you are interested this effort, please call 256-718-0901. Thrift Store hours are Monday through Friday from 10 am to 4pm and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. The SVDP Conference needs volunteers to assist primarily with rent and utility casework. Weekly Conference meetings are on Thursdays at 11:30 am in the Thrift Store Conference Room.

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR NOTES

Soup kitchen dates for 2025: Jan. 18, Mar 15, May 17, July 19, Sept 20, Nov 15. Call Donna if you would like to help serve.

Jan 12: Youth Mass, 4pm with Fr. Dominic. Afterwards all youth and their families welcome to come over for games.

Jan.18/19: coffee and doughnuts after each mass in parish house. Come enjoy a doughnut and spend a few moments with our church family.

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. Proceeds go toward continued renovations/ improvements of buildings/ church.

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 Sunday, St. Patrick spud meal hosted by CYO.

April 19, Easter Egg Hunt at 1 pm

Can You Find It? Who is the angel carrying a banner? Angel carrying a sword? Angel blowing horn?

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

Answers: These angels are over the archway as you go up to the altar. Raphael mentioned in the book Tobit, known for promoting healing shealing and how the fish was used for healing Tobias' blind father. The name Raphael means "God has healed". Michael with sword, captain of the Heavenly Host. Gabriel blowing horn, let Mary know she would become the Mother of God.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING 2025

Traditionally conducted by the head of the household. Using the blessed chalk that you brought with you from church, you will write numbers, letters, and crosses on the lintel of your home's front door (and any other door you wish) while reciting a prayer. The end result should look something like this, ideally centered over the door:

20 + C + M + B + 25

The prayer follows below; read it through beforehand and try to visualize the spacing and positioning of the letters so that you have a beautiful outcome! The inscription may be written either on the outside or inside of the home. The C stands for Casper, M for Melchior and B for Balthasar (the three wiseman) – and for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which is Latin for "May Christ Bless this House".

As you are writing, pray the following prayer: "In the name of the + Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. God, incline your ear. Bless us and all who are gathered here. Send your holy angel, who will defend us, and fill with grace all who dwell here. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen."

In conclusion, you may wish to sing the carol, 'We Three Kings". This remains throughout the year as a reminder that yours is a Catholic and Christian home. "As for me and my household. we will serve the Lord!" (Joshua 24:15). It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for the Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. The many blessings connected with the Church's liturgical cycle and feasts are important ways for us to sanctify our homes and our lives throughout the year and benefit from special graces along our way. Be sure to keep the chalk for next year!