

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Restrooms** are now available in the Parish House on both floors. The school building is also available for use.

**First Sunday Adoration** is this Sunday, December 1st following the 10am Mass and concluding at 3pm. Please remember that one person must always be present in the Church during Adoration.

**Happy Deaconate Ordination Anniversary** to Deacon Steve! He was ordained December 1, 2018.

**Parish Anointing** is this Wednesday, December 4th, at the 6pm Mass. The anointing is open to all in need of it, upcoming surgery, illness, etc.

**Parish Council** will meet this Thursday at 6pm.

**Christmas Sharing** - Know anyone in need this Christmas season or would like to help? Pick up an angel on the tree in the back of Church or contact Courtney Warden at 256-460-0125.

**Immaculate Conception** is next Monday December 9th and is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a 7:30am and 6pm Mass.

**December and Christmas Ministry Schedule** - If you'd like to be scheduled for any ministry in December or Christmas, please contact the office.

**CYO/PSR Play Practice times** – December 1st 11:30-1:00pm; December 8th 11:30-1:00pm; & December 15th Dress rehearsal 11:30-12:15pm then meet 4:00-4:30pm-the Parish Christmas dinner is 12/15 the same day at 5:00pm in the gym with Christmas play following dinner.

**Altar Society News** - We will be selling candles for the sanctuary lamp. You can purchase one for \$25 in memory of a loved one or to honor someone, it burns for 14 days. If interested, put cash/check in a labeled envelope marked, Sanctuary Candle, into the collection basket or bring to church office. The names will be printed in our weekly bulletin. To try to prevent candle soot from accumulating on the alcoves at the top of main altar, we are placing candles on bottom shelf of tabernacle altar. This changes the placement of flowers. If you donate flowers in memory of a loved one, please inform florist that the flowers should be placed on the floor in front of altar. Questions, please call Mary Beth at 256-762-1832.

**Dance Night** is set for December 20th from 6-9pm in the gym.

**2025 Offertory envelopes!** Envelopes will be directly mailed bi-monthly to parishioners starting in January. Notify the office of any change.

**Knights of Columbus** are sponsoring a special raffle to raise money for children with special needs. They have partnered with the Shoals Marriott Hotel to offer a special prize package which includes: a Two Night Stay in the Presidential Suite at the Shoals Marriott Hotel; Dinner for two at the Marriott 360 Grill; Two, one hour Spa Treatments; Two Breakfasts at Swampers Restaurant; and, Two Rounds of Golf at RTJ Shoals. The package may be broken up, but must be used by December 31, 2025. The price value for the package is \$5,870. Only selling 100 tickets! Please see a KOC member to get your ticket after Mass. Thank you for your support!



*Feast of the*  
**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**  
*December 9th*  
**7:30AM AND 6PM MASS**

PENANCE SERVICES DATES

December 13th at 6pm at Saint Michael

December 17th at 5:30 - 7:30pm at St Joseph in Florence

December 20th at 6pm at Our Lady of the Shoals in Tuscombria

*Attention Christmas Shoppers!*

*The EWTN Gift Shoppe's*

*Christmas Open House*

*is Friday, December 13th*

*8am to 5pm*

*EWTN Gift Shoppe*

*5877 Old Leeds Rd. Irondale, AL 35210*

*205-271-2929*

*[www.ewtnrc.com](http://www.ewtnrc.com)*

**TURKEY SHOOT**

Saturday ~~Nov. 23rd~~ → Dec. 14th, 2024

7am - Until we run out of shooters.

**ALL AMMUNITION  
PROVIDED!**



**Shotgun Rounds  
.22cal Rifle Rounds  
.22 Pistol Rounds**

*We Also Have Ham Rounds!!*

**\* Concession Stand Available \***

*Youth Friendly!  
Fun for the Entire Family!*

**Knights of Columbus #3989**  
Langer Hall in St. Florian, AL.  
4051 Co. Rd. 30



ACTIVITY DIRECTOR NOTES

Youth Mass, Dec 8th at the 10 AM mass with Fr Dominic. Fr. Dominic will stay afterwards and spend time with the youth and eat lunch with them.

Dec 14, Sat.11am: Senior Appreciation Meal, ages 65 and over. please call Donna if you can come so we can plan the number of meals. And as always, we will play an exciting game of The Wright Family. If you can help serve, please also call Donna

Dec.15, Sunday Christmas Parish Dinner and Christmas play to include PSR, youth and CYO. Meat, Drinks, Dessert provided. Bring a salad/ vegetable to share. Meal starts at 5 pm

Beverage tabs continue to be taken to Ronald McDonald House. Thank you for continuing to collect them. They may be placed on the white table in vestibule of church. Next delivery to Ronald McDonald House will be in December.

CAN YOU FIND IT? Saint Joseph in two places.

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

Answers: Statue on the east side of the altar, and also the first large stained glass window on the east side of the church. Saint Joseph is holding a carpenter tool in the stained glass window as well as on the statue as he was a carpenter. The lily in his arms represents Chastty or chase spouse. He is wearing brown, which is a sign of penance.

6TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AT THE GROTTO

Come and experience the beauty of Br. Joseph's work at night surrounded by lights and music! We have expanded this unique holiday experience to include a Christmas Tunnel at entry and also Santa's Workshop!! The weekend of December 13-14th will feature even more, including musical performances, food trucks, kids' rides and horse-drawn wagon rides around St. Bernard's campus. Plus, Santa Claus will be here! Refreshments will be available every night. Make your plans to visit now!

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Admission</u>
Nov 29, 30, Dec 1st- 5pm-9pm	Adults - \$10
Dec 5, 6, 7th - 5pm-9pm	Seniors - \$8
Dec 12th - 5pm-9pm	Military / Veterans and
Dec 13, 14th - 5pm-9pm (food trucks, kids rides, wagon rides, Santa Claus)	1st Responders - \$7
Dec 19, 20, 21, 22, 23rd - 5pm-9pm	Teens (13-17) - \$8
Dec 26, 27, 28th - 5pm- 9pm	Children (5-12) - \$7
	Children under 4 - free
	Wagon rides on Dec 13,14 - \$5
	Kids' rides on Dec 13, 14 - \$3

The Ave Maria Grotto is home to the fruitful labor of Brother Joseph Zoettl, OSB. Br. Joseph was a Benedictine monk of St. Bernard Abbey. Originally from Landschutt, Bavaria-Germany, a young Br. Joseph found himself headed to America to pursue monastic life at Alabama's only Benedictine Abbey. Little did anyone know that this young Bavarian would end up leaving the abbey its greatest legacy and in an incredibly humble way. Since 1934, people from around the world visit the Ave Maria Grotto to see famous parts of the world in miniature. The former abbey quarry is now the 4 acre park that the Grotto and surrounding miniatures rest upon. From Monteserrat to St. Peter's Basilica, guests can enjoy this labor of love and hopefully go away realizing how small acts of love, no matter how seemingly insignificant, can be so fruitful for years to come.

DO YOU KNOW?

**Question:** What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

**Answer:** Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.