

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Booklets for adults and children are available in the back of Church for pickup. Please make use of these during this season of Advent.

Christmas Sharing - Angel tree gifts/donations need to be dropped off by this Sunday, December 15th. Contact Courtney Warden at 256-460-0125. There is a box in the back of Church labeled "canned food items" for food donations which will be used for families in need.

CYO/PSR Play Practice times – 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.

Dance Night is this Friday December 20th from 6-9pm in the gym. All families and youth are invited for some fun.

Decorating of the church for Christmas will be held on Monday, December 23, starting at 8:00 am. Any and all volunteers welcomed and appreciated. Also, if you can provide magnolia leaves or other greenery, that would be great. Any questions, please call Frances Holder at (256) 762-1938. Thank you, and Merry Christmas.

The Sanctuary Candle has been placed in honor of Judy Beale by friends.

Please turn in all in-kind and reimbursement receipts by December 20th to ensure it's filed for the 2024 calendar year. Contact the bookkeeper with questions. Thank you in advance.

Nursery is now available for use in the Parish House (just west of the Church)! The nursery isn't currently staffed with volunteers but parents are welcome to use the room during Mass time. We hope to staff volunteers in the future - but don't have enough people at this time to. We would like to thank Megan Eck and the Maintenance committee for all their hard work redoing this new wonderful space. Stop by sometime to see the nursery if you haven't—we think you'll like it. Contact Megan if you'd like to help.

Tuesday Night Bible study will not meet again until January 7th.

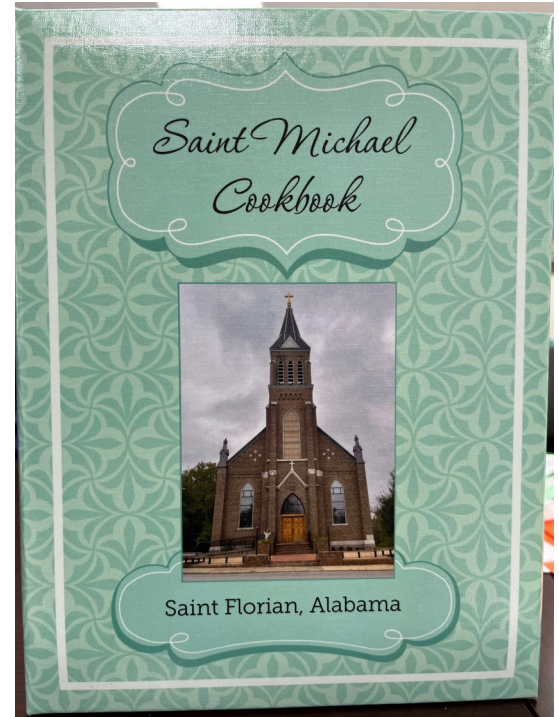
Thursday Morning Bible study will not meet again until January 9th.

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!

Catholic Charities/Bishop's Appeal Update - St Michael's goal is \$35,000. As of November 26th, a total of \$27,320 have been pledged. 51 registered families have participated/pledged, about 19% of the parish.

Church Office will be closed the week of Christmas, December 23-27th, and December 31st and January 1st for Christmas and the New Year.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is January 1st and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule is 5pm Vigil Mass on December 31st and 10am on January 1st. There will be no evening mass.



COOKBOOK AVAILABLE!!

St Michael's new cookbook is now available for purchase after all masses this weekend! Cookbooks will also be available for purchase in the church office.

Books are \$20 each with 450 recipes!

300 books were ordered. Be sure to get your copy and maybe an extra one or two as Christmas gifts!

Special thanks to all who made this cookbook possible! We hope you enjoy it!

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!! Refreshments will be available every night.

1600 St Bernard Dive SE Cullman, AL 35055

Dates

Dec 13, 14th - 5pm-9pm (food trucks, kids rides, wagon rides, Santa Claus)

Dec 19, 20, 21, 22, 23rd - 5pm-9pm

Dec. 26, 27, 28th - 5pm- 9pm

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR NOTES

Christmas Choir practice for Midnight Mass will be Wed. 12/18 after 6 pm mass, and Mon.12/23@6 p.m. Voices welcome including junior high and high school voices.

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.

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

Mar. 17, Sunday, St. Patrick spud meal hosted by CYO.

CAN YOU FIND IT? St. Paul

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

Answers: St Paul stained glass window on east side of church. The quill pen and scroll on the window represent that St. Paul wrote many letters. Because he was a Roman citizen, he could not be crucified. So he was beheaded. The sword is a reminder.

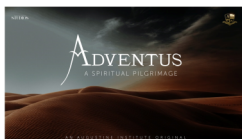
THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

Week of December 15, 2024



30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



Christmas (Part 2) | What Catholics Believe

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? Was Santa Claus a real person? What is Advent?

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

BENEDICTINE CHRISTMAS

Collection for funding the Benedictine Christmas Appeal continues. Please help provide new lighting for Annunciata Hall at Sacred Heart Monastery and furnish the Novitiate classroom at St. Bernard Abbey living quarters as well as other Christmas gifts. It is not too late to sign up for the December 19 trip to Cullman for St. Michael's annual visit. Please text or call Carolyn Eck at 256-436-2045 to make a reservation. We leave at 7:45 am. The group will gladly take baked goods and other gifts to Cullman. They may be left at the church office.

SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWS

Board Member Opening - The St. Joseph School Foundation is accepting applications to complete the unexpired term of a former Board member. A strong long-term commitment to Catholic education and to building a perpetual endowment are essential. Please submit a brief statement of interest and/or a bio/resume on or before January 1, 2025 to St. Joseph School Foundation, 115 Plum St., Florence, AL 35630 Attn: Paul Bernauer or e-mail to Paul Bernauer at bp0208b@aol.com. For questions or more info, contact any of the following Board members: Paul Bernauer, Carolyn Eck, Carol Eckl, Felice Green, Fr. Jonathan Howell, Courtney Magee, Tom Minnelli, Audrey Newton, Pam Taylor, Amy Thompson or Renee Vandiver.