

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Wishing everyone a holy and blessed Christmas! May the love and joy of the Newborn Christ fill you always!**

**Decorating of the church for Christmas** is this 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.

**Christmas Mass Schedule** - 4pm on December 24th (Children’s Mass) and 12am Midnight Mass and 10am Christmas Day Mass on December 25th.

**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.

**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.

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

**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!

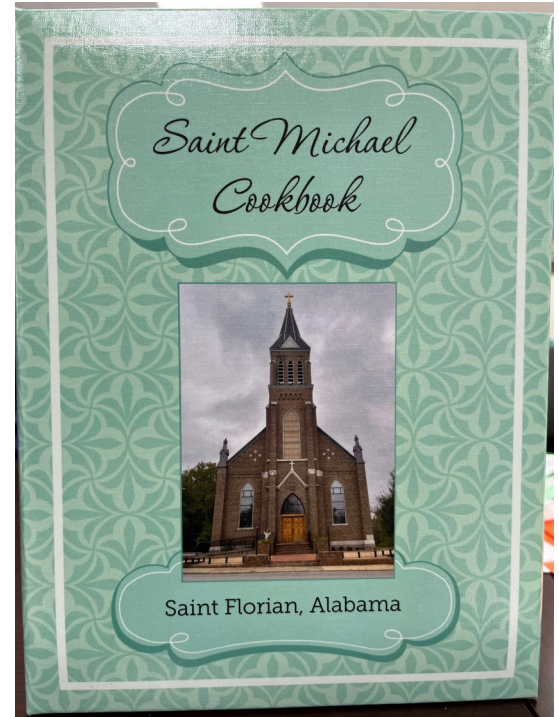
**Nursery is now available** for use in the Parish House (just west of the Church)! The nursery isn’t currently staffed with volunteers but parents are welcome to use the room during Mass time. We hope to staff volunteers in the future - but don’t have enough people at this time to. We would like to 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.

**Movie Showing** - Save the date for Knights of Columbus movie presentation about Saint Joseph on January 26, 2025. Cost is free, it is open to all. Showing will be at Shoals Theater.

**Friendly reminder** to please silence/turn off phones before Mass starts!



COOKBOOK AVAILABLE!!

St Michael’s new cookbook is still available for purchase after all masses this weekend!

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 Mass

DECEMBER 24 | 4PM  
DECEMBER 25 | 12AM & 10AM



ACTIVITY DIRECTOR NOTES

**Christmas Choir practice** for Midnight Mass will Mon 12/23 @ 6pm. Voices welcome including junior high and high school voices.

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

**Mar. 16** Sunday, St. Patrick spud meal hosted by CYO.

**April 19,** Easter Egg Hunt at 1 pm

**CAN YOU FIND IT?** St. Florian

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

**Answers:** Window on East side of church. Saint Florian is the patron saint of firefighters. Our community is named Saint Florian, from Florian Rasch whom is buried at Saint Michael cemetery. The window shows water putting out fires at homes. Also there is a statue of Saint Florian as you enter the front of church.

**Question:** Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

**Answer:** Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable. Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness. In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

SOLEMNITY OF  
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



*January 1, 2025*

**Mass Times**  
December 31st | 5pm  
January 1st | 10am

**O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.**

*Keep Christ In Christmas!*

**SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWS**

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.