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.

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

Altar Society will meet this Tuesday December 10th at 10am. Contact Mary Beth Passarella for details.

Advent Penance Service is this coming Friday at 6pm. We encourage you to make use of this opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation before Christmas. There will be 2 or 3 visiting priests to join us.

Christmas Sharing - Angel tree gifts/donations need to be dropped off by next Sunday, December 15th. Contact Courtney Warden at 256-460-0125.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will resume class on January 7, 2025.

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.

CYO/PSR Play Practice times – 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.

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.

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

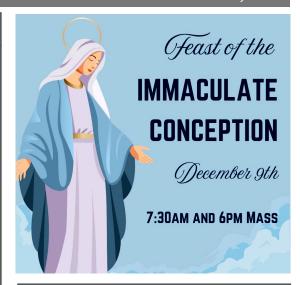
Catholic Charities/Bishop's Appeal Update - St Michael's goal is \$35,000. As of November 26th, a total of \$27,320 have been pledged. 51 registered families have participated/pledged, about 19% of the parish.

Knights of Columbus are selling raffle tickets to raise money for children with special needs. Please see a KOC member for tickets after Mass.

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.

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.



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 Tuscumbia

DID YOU KNOW?

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!

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>

Dec 5, 6, 7th - 5pm-9pm
Dec 12th - 5pm-9pm
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.12/11 after 6 pm mass, Wed. 12/18 after 6 pm mass, and Mon.12/23@6 p.m. Voices welcome including junior high and high school voices.

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 by this Tuesday, 12/10 to confirm if you can attend 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? Baptistry Window and St. Michael's Window? What do they represent?

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

Answers: Baptistry window (in memorial chapel)as you enter church then turn left. Jesus was baptized by John. Words on scroll mean " Behold The Lamb of God". St. Michael's window : (window over the Front door entrance of church). The patron saint of this services and cried that God was his only King. He is the Devil's strong enemy. The sword is representing the leader of the Heavenly army and defending Satan. The scales on window represent the scales of judgment, measuring good and bad deeds on judgment day. The downward position of scales indicates the good deeds out weigh the bad. St. Michael accompanies the faithful in their final hour and in judgment day intercedes on our behalf before Christ.

SAINT FLORIAN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Anyone interested in riding on the CYO, Youth Group, PSR float please contact Teresa Chaney, Ana Maria Padgett or Melanie Connolly. Parents are invited to ride with their children or walk with the float. Space is limited so please let someone know if you'll be riding. Parade starts at 6pm from New Experience Church on Co Rd 47 to St Florian Park.

St Florian Police will redirect traffic on Co Rd 47 right before parade time - 6pm Mass attendees are encouraged to arrive earlier than usual. The parade should be over once mass is out.

SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL REPORT

Report for the month of November:

44 utility cases (Lauderdale) total \$8,274.16

35 utility cases (Colbert) total \$7,757.66

7 rent cases (Lauderdale) total \$1,586.00

5 rent cases (Colbert) totaling \$ 1,079.00

food cases (Lauderdale and Colbert) totaling \$280.00

Volunteers are needed to work in the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store and to assist with casework. If you are interested, please call 256-718-0901.

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.