



Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

751 Academy Drive

Bessemer, Alabama 35022-5276

Telephone: 205-424-2984 Fax: 205-426-5753

E-Mail: staloyusius@bellsouth.net Website: www.staloyusiuscc.org

Office Hours: Monday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (closed for lunch, Noon – 12:30 p.m.)

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

ADMINISTRATOR

Rev. Reju Pynadath Johny Office: 205-424-2984
Cell: 205-829-5933
(e-mail: rijupynadath@gmail.com)

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Stephanie Gerson 205-424-2984
(e-mail: staloyusiusre@bellsouth.net)

HISPANIC DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Patricia Rector 205-568-5747
(e-mail: wprec4639@icloud.com)

DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Position to Be Filled

CHURCH SECRETARY

Mrs. Judy Cacioppo 205-424-2984
(e-mail: staloyusius@bellsouth.net)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Randy Clowdus 205-540-1394
(e-mail: rclowdus@bham.rr.com)

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Jim Keyes 205-910-8178
(e-mail: jim@keyesausmankeyes.com)

HOLY DAYS

Please check Parish Bulletin

FUNERALS

In order to secure the services of a priest or the use of the Church, it is necessary to contact the Church Office *before* making arrangements with a funeral home. Father Reju is ready to help with funerals.

WEEKEND EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. (Spanish)

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday (during Advent) 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday through Friday 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Deadline for new items Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.
(or before and after daily Mass except Sunday)

SACRAMENT of ANOINTING of the SICK

The Church recommends this sacrament to all who are seriously ill or in danger of death. Please call the Church Office.

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Please contact Stephanie Gerson in the Church Office for Baptismal Preparation.

SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage must meet with Father Reju at least six months before your proposed date. Weddings will not be performed after 2:00 p.m. or before 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

Memorare to Saint Joseph

O God, who by Thy ineffable Providence did vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph for the spouse of Thy most holy mother, grant we beseech Thee, that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth may be our intercessor in Heaven. Amen

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS: LUKE 21:25-28b, 34-46

❖ THE ADVENT SUNDAY ❖

■ We are entering into a new year. From today the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church begins the “Year of Grace 2022; Year C.” So let us all welcome this Year of Grace 2022 with more hope and faith. Liturgical new year starts with the season of Advent. The Latin word “Advent” means ‘coming,’ and so through these four weeks of prayer and penance, we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ Jesus.

■ As the tradition goes, the four weekends prior to Nativity form the Advent season. We light up four different candles on all these weekends. First Sunday (i.e., today) it is called the “Prophet’s Candle” and it represents the virtue of ‘hope.’ Next Sunday it is called “Bethlehem Candle” and represents the virtue of ‘faith or love.’ The third Sunday it is called the “Shepherd’s Candle” and represents the virtue of ‘joy.’ Only on this third Sunday we light up ‘pink’ candle. Now the last/fourth Sunday it is called “Angel’s Candle” and it represents the virtue of ‘peace.’ Hope, Faith (love); Joy and Peace are the virtues that Jesus brought in to earth on Christmas. Those are the Christmas gifts from Jesus Christ.

■ We are in the First Sunday of Advent. Today we light up the Prophet’s Candle which is purple in color. Purple is the royal color and it represents kingship. So it reminds us that the King of the Universe is coming.

■ Purple is also the color representing repentance, penance, and ardent prayer. So from today on, we are preparing ourselves to welcome the real king of the universe to our own lives. The means of this preparation are repentance, penance, and prayer.

■ We call it Prophet’s Candle. And in today’s first reading we hear the prophecy of the prophet Jeremiah about the king who is going to come as the fulfillment of all the prophecies and expectations. This week we meditate on the prophets and their prophecies predicting the coming of the Messiah.

■ The virtue we meditate today is hope. The Old Testament people and prophets expected the coming of Christ. The nativity of Christ gives hope to the world. It provides the world with a new light. Let us be more hopeful in life. There is no reason we should be desperate. If you are a Christian you should be an optimist and never pessimistic in life. We should be able to see the positive sides of all life experiences.

The Advent Wreath

■ The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God’s complete and unending love for us—a love that sent His Son into the world to redeem us from the clutches of sin. It also represents Eternal Life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ. The Advent wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time on each of four Sundays. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the world’s Savior—from Adam and Eve to Jesus Christ. Some Advent wreath traditions include a fifth white candle, namely the “Christ Candle,” representing the virtue of ‘purity,’ that is lit on Christmas Eve.

■ Let us have hope in life. Hope for Christ. Be bold enough to hope like the Old Testament people. Be hopeful of eternal life. Babe Jesus bless you all.

MASS INTENTIONS

November 27 – December 5

(† = Deceased)

Saturday (4:30 p.m.) † Tommy Thompson
Sunday (8:30 a.m.) † Pat Lambert
Sunday (11:00 a.m.) Saint Aloysius Parishioners
Monday † Patsy Grubbs
Tuesday † Debra Albright
Wednesday † Bill Semk
Thursday † Rosalie Giambrone
Friday Terry Brantley
Saturday (4:30 p.m.) Steve & Carol Tate
Sunday (8:30 a.m.) Saint Aloysius Parishioners
Sunday (11:00 a.m.) Dorothy Keyes

MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

During the season of Advent, Father Reju will offer Mass on Mondays at 8:30 a.m., beginning on November 29.

Due to low attendance on Tuesdays evenings, our Mass time has changed from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. until further notice.

FEAST DAYS FOR THIS WEEK

November 30: Saint Andrew, Apostle

December 3: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

December 4: Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 8 at 8:30 a.m. (English), 6:00 p.m. (English), and 7:30 p.m. (Spanish).

SYMPATHY

The Parish Community extends prayerful sympathy to the family of **Barbara Bridges**, who is survived by her children, Kathy (Dan) Smith, Martha (Gary) Kelley, Glenn (Sheila) Bridges, Bobbie (Charlie) Burmester, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other family members. Please keep this family in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Congratulations and welcome to **Said and Samir Aguirre Santillan**, children of Armando Aguirre Reina and Margarita Santillan Arroyo, who were baptized on November 20.

SECOND COLLECTION—NEXT WEEKEND

The second collection next weekend will be the monthly Building and Grounds Fund collection.

FAITH FORMATION / SACRAMENTAL PREP.

There will be no classes this Sunday, November 28 due to Thanksgiving. Classes will resume on December 5. Faith Formation Classes, for students in grades 1-8 who are attending schools other than Catholic schools, are on Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. in the School. Sacramental Prep. Classes for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will also be held during this time.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Adult Education Class will not be held in December. Class will resume in January. This class is for anyone who wants to more fully understand the Catholic Church and its teachings. For more information, please contact Father Reju in the Church Office.

CALENDARS

Saint Aloysius Parish calendars for 2022 are available at no charge in the Narthex. One per family, please.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	Last Week	Online Giving	Year-to- Date
Offertory	\$10,552.16	\$2,811.00	\$391,277.02
Building Fund	\$ 245.00	\$ 235.00	\$ 55,779.22

SAINT ALOYSIUS MUSIC: A FEW NOTES

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Masses will be spoken Masses for the time being. Please follow along in the missalette for the Mass of Renewal in order to read aloud the Kyrie; Gloria; Holy, Holy; The Mystery of Faith; The Great Amen; and the Lamb of God. Due to our shortage of cantors at present, this seems a practical solution. As we continue to progress toward more normalcy, our hope is we will have additional cantors and choir members. Many thanks to our present cantors who are so diligent and generous. Please consider joining in music: choir, cantor or accompanist.

CHILDREN'S OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Saint Aloysius Parish offers boxed children's offertory envelopes for those families who wish them. They are available after the weekend Masses in the Ministries Office or during the week in the Church Office. Please sign the list by the number of the box that you receive so we can properly credit the children who contribute.

E-MAIL PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is powerful and we need all the prayer warriors that we can get. Sheila Zito e-mails prayer requests for the parish, Mother of Christ Altar Guild, and the Choir. If any parishioner has a prayer request or wishes to be notified of other people's requests, contact Sheila at fsz321@bellsouth.net.

PARISH WEBSITE

The weekly bulletin, monthly calendar, Online Giving link, religious education information, etc. are accessible on our parish website at www.staloyuscc.org. Scan from your smart phone for our Online Giving link:



You can also give via Text Message to 205-708-0221.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR SICK AND SHUT-IN**

Kathy Evans

(Brookdale University Park)

Recently Discharged From Hospital

Sick and Shut-in

This list is intended for **homebound** members of Saint Aloysius Parish. Those from our parish recently discharged from the hospital will be listed for two weeks. Individuals outside our parish community may be placed on this list for a two-week period only. All the sick are remembered weekly in our **General Intercessions.**

Eddie & Penny Allison	Ronnie George John V. Jones, Jr.	MaryAnna Schilleci Stanley Szafransky
Myra Antonio Ann Baker	Meredith Jones Ginger Russo	Steve Tate Powell Thompson
George Bratton Nancy Franklin	Mosley Susan Ragsdale	Irene Tutton Rose Wilson
Rev. Len Gavin	Debbie Rupert	Marilyn West

Nursing & Retirement Homes, & Assisted Living

<u>The Oaks on Parkwood</u> Rudy Cooper Jean Sullivan	<u>Plantation Manor</u> Claudia Charme
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If you are or you know of someone on the shut-in list who's well enough to be removed from this list, please call the Church Office.

NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

If any parishioner knows of a nursing home or assisted living resident who is Catholic and is not on the above list, please call the Church Office.

VISITING HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, AND HOMES

Father Reju would be happy to visit the sick in hospitals and nursing homes if the person or family requests a visit. Father will also visit parishioners in their home with communion or hear confessions. Call the Church Office to schedule an appointment.

SICK, SHUT-IN, AND NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

If a lay minister is not visiting you on a regular basis, please call the Church Office so we can make the proper arrangements.

SAINT ALOYSIUS PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As Catholic Christians and members of the Parish Family of Saint Aloysius Catholic Church, we are committed:

- To provide all our members (adults and youth) opportunities for spiritual development through worship, prayer, religious education and social interaction.
- To spread the Word of God and support our Parish Family with the gifts He has given us by using our time, talent, and treasure to His glory.
- To strive continually to witness our faith as we journey toward the future that God has promised those who accept His Word.
- To reach out to the larger community of the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama and the world.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Randy Clowdus, Chairperson
Eddie Blanco, Vice Chairperson
Felicia Boyd, Secretary
Micha McMeans
Phillip Galloway
Patricia Rector
Vickie Gavin
Chris Waits

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Keyes, Chairperson
Mike Snelling, Vice Chairperson
Sharon Weathers, Secretary

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

He gave His whole life for us. Can we give one hour a month for Him? Our parish's monthly Eucharistic Adoration will be on Saturday, December 4 from 4:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. A sign-up list will be in the sanctuary to keep a record of who is attending Adoration and at what hour. For more information, please contact Kathy Tortorice at 205-531-0930 or kathytortorice@gmail.com.

NO FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED

Please do not bring food or drinks of any kind into the sanctuary. Dropped crackers, chips, cereal, chewing gum, and stains on the carpet from drinks have occurred. And make sure to not leave your face mask in the pews. Do your best to respect God's House by keeping it clean. Everyone thanks you!!

ALTAR GUILD'S "HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"

The Sisters in Greene County have expressed great need for cleaning supplies and toiletries for the community. If you would like to participate in the Holy Family Altar Guild's Christmas Project, please consider donating the following items: **cleaning supplies, soap, body wash, laundry detergent, deodorant, feminine products, etc.** A box is in the Narthex for drop off through Sunday, December 12. As always, your support and generosity is appreciated!

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSIONS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays through Fridays at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome to pray before Mass begins. Confessions can also be heard during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or after daily Mass. No confessions will be heard on Sundays.

FIRE OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

The Lord has blessed each of us abundantly by giving us the gift of His Holy Spirit. Come learn how He desires to work in your life every day. Our Fire of the Spirit Prayer Group meets every Thursday of the month (except second Thursday) in the Church at 7:00 p.m. Come join us in prayer and worship and release your gifts of the Holy Spirit! All are welcome. For more information, please contact Kathy Tortorice at 205-531-0930 or kathytortorice@gmail.com.

LADIES ROSARY GROUP

The Rosary Group will not meet this week. On December 8, there will be solemn Rosary prayer with Adoration following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. A group for ladies of the parish meets on Thursdays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the Day Chapel to pray the Rosary.



Pray More Rosaries



First Sunday of Advent

RETREAT

The Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat in Fort Mitchell, Alabama will hold the following retreats:

- *Advent Retreat, One Day* on December 8. Sr. Therese Francis Walker, M.S.B.T. will be the leader.
- *Women's Retreat – How Are the Joyful Mysteries of Miryam of Nazareth Reflected in Your Life's Journey?* on January 21-23, 2022. Sr. Chris Wiltrakis, M.S.B.T. will be the leader.

For more information or to register, please contact Sr. Gail Lambert, M.S.B.T. at 1-334-855-4474 or btsr@msbt.org.

MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Please pray for our military that have been deployed around the world to fight for the freedom and security of our country, including:

U.S. Intelligence

Daniel Thomas

Army

Joseph R. Chiarella

Zach Edmonds

Blake Seidel

Air Force

Daniel K. Hicks

Shea Hicks

James McKinney

Lance Rosser

Call the Church Office at 205-424-2984 or send an e-mail to staloysius@bellsouth.net with the names of people and their branch of service to be placed on or removed from this prayer list.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

- November 28. Fonza Smith, Daphne Holdridge, Atzel Zamora, Bobby Campbell, Ramiro Alcantara, Mauricia Romero
- November 29. Judy Webb, Brent Brooks, Brianna Rodriguez, David Angel Rosas, Mayra Flores, Alejandro Arellano
- November 30. Anthony Rupert, Juan Gonzalez, Jaquelin Alvarado Herrera
- December 1. Ronnie George, Aylin Cruz
- December 2. Daniel Pruitt, Lee Lancaster, Maria Hueramo, Margarita Hueramo, Carmela Ezell, Liam Rivera
- December 3. Margy Thrailkill
- December 4. Bonnie Farr, Sydney McCoy, Charles Cagle, Adam Stoves



CHRISTMAS 2021

Liturgy Schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Christmas Eve (Friday, December 24).....4:00 p.m. (English)
(Carols begin at 3:30 p.m. with Saint Aloysius Choir)

Nochebuena (Viernes, 24 de Diciembre).....7:00 p.m. (Español)
(Cantos Navideños a las 6:30 p.m. Con el Coro de San Luis Gonzaga en Español)

Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25).....8:30 a.m. (English)
(with Accompanist and Cantor)

Día de Navidad (Sábado, 25 de Diciembre).....10:00 a.m. (Español)
(Con Acompañante y Cantor)

Liturgy Schedule for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, January 1, 2022.....4:30 p.m. (English)

Sábado, 1º. de Enero del 2022.....7:00 p.m. (Español)

