



Saint Aloysius Catholic Parish

751 Academy Drive

Bessemer, Alabama 35022-5276

Telephone: 205-424-2984 Website: www.staloyuscc.org

Office Hours: Monday and Friday, 10:00 am – Noon

Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (closed for lunch, Noon – 12:30 pm)

Sunday, February 15th, 2026 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ADMINISTRATOR

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

BOOKKEEPER

Jennifer Richardson (256) 443 4407
Email: finance@staloyuscc.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Ginna Lopez (205) 424 2984
e-mail: st.aloyus24@outlook.com

CHURCH OFFICE

e-mail: info@staloyuscc.org (205) 424 2984

HISPANIC COORDINATORS

Gabriel Lopez (205) 434 7169
Gabriel Arellano (205) 765 2936

WEEKEND EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday (English) 9:30 a.m.
Sunday (Spanish) 12:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday (Father celebrates the mass privately for your intention)
Tuesday through Friday 12:00 p.m. Noon

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

For more info contact the Church Office for Baptismal Preparation English & Hispanic Coordinator for Spanish Baptism.

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

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

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.

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.

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.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Deadline for new items

Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

OUR SICK
Carl McDaniel Larry Jones Mary Jones Sam Morris

HOMEBOUND SICK AND SHUT-IN	
Nancy Franklin Robert Wilson Sue Nielsen Robert Vincent	John V. Jones Jr. Meredith Jones Dot Herald Johana Findley

NURSING / RETIREMENT HOMES / ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS
<u>The Oaks on Parkwood</u> Rudy Cooper Jean Sullivan

If you need any assistance for the spiritual needs of the sick or shut-in, or know someone who is well enough to be removed from this list, please contact the Church Office at (205) 424 2984, or email to: info@staloyuscc.org

MILITARY PRAYER LIST

Pray for our military who are deployed throughout the world to fight for the freedom and security of our country, including:

<u>AIR FORCE</u>	<u>ARMY</u>
Daniel K. Hicks Shea Hicks James McKinney Lance Rosser Gabriel Petix	Blake Seidel Brandan Engel Luke Thomas Joseph R. Chiarella
	<u>U.S. INTELLIGENCE</u>
	Daniel Thomas

Call the Church Office at 205-424-2984 or send an e-mail to info@staloyuscc.org with the names of the military personnel and their branch of service to be placed on or removed from this prayer list.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY 17 - FEBRUARY 22 († = Deceased)		
Tuesday 12 Noon	February 17	NO MASS
Ash Wednesday 9am	February 18	(SURG) Charles Tortorice
Thursday 12 Noon	February 19	NO MASS
Friday 12 Noon	February 20	(BD) Frank Zito
Saturday 4:30pm	February 21	† Leonard Gavin Jr. † Anne Wren
Sunday 9:30am	February 22	(BD) Jim Pinto † Rita Minor

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE: MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions are received weekly during office hours by phone, mail or in the office. You can also register on **Online Giving App** or website and request Mass Intention, under Mass Stipends.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Tuesdays through Fridays at 11:30 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.

SAINT ALOYSIUS ROSARY GROUP

A group of parishioners (men and women) will now meet on **WEDNESDAY at 11:30 AM during adoration** to pray the Rosary. Everyone who wants to pray the Rosary is welcome.

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. The group meets **every Thursday** of the month (**except the 2nd Thursday**) in the Church at **6:30 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.

ALOYSIUS CHOIR PRACTICES

The Choir started back to practice on **Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm** at the church. Anyone interested in joining the choir can contact Paula Clowdus (205) 382 0845, or any choir member.

Make a Joyful Noise

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

Charles Ellis, President
Vickie Gavin, Vice Chairperson
Michael Tomberlin, Secretary
Charles Tortorice
Phillip Galloway
Kellie Whitson
Eddie Blanco
Oliver Lopez
Ginna Lopez

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gloria McDaniel, Chairperson
Mike Snelling, Vice Chairperson
Ray Mernaugh, Secretary
Gabriel Lopez

MINISTRIES CONTACT PERSON

Mother of Christ Altar Guild
Angie Cacioppo (205) 281 1901

Holy Family Altar Guild
Kellie Whitson (205) 296 3390

Knights of Columbus
Anthony Rupert (205) 428 6600

Men's Society
Charles Ellis (205) 365 5896
Jim Galloway (205) 516 1645

Music Ministry
Paula Clowdus (205) 382 0845

FR. REJU'S VACATIONS

Father Reju will be on vacation from February 9th to 20th. *Remember there will be **NO MASSES ON WEEKDAYS**, except for **Ash Wednesday on February 18**, English Mass at 9:00AM, NO 12 Noon mass on that day; Friday February 20, 12 noon Mass followed by the Stations of the Cross.

Saturday and Sunday Mass Schedule will be as usual.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of preparation for Easter, following the example of Jesus, who spent 40 days in the desert, not to mention other periods of 40 days or 40 years of great significance, such as the flood that lasted 40 days and 40 nights, the Israelites' 40-year journey through the desert, and the 40 days that Moses fasted on Mount Sinai, or Elijah on Mount Horeb.

On this day, priests place ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of the faithful to symbolize their belonging to Jesus Christ and their repentance for their sins.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th

9:00AM English Mass

7:30PM Spanish Mass

THANK YOU

We thank the Hispanic community for their \$14,000 donation for appliances for the parish hall. Thank you for your support.

Our account for the Building Fund is active.

Please direct all your donations/contributions to the "Building Fund" and they will be tax-exempt.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2025 Contribution Statements have been mailed out. If you would also like a copy sent to you by email, please let *Jennifer Richardson (Bookkeeper)* know:

(256) 443-4407 call or text,

Email: finance@staloyuscc.org.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Parish Stewardship 2026				
Sunday, Feb. 8				
Fund	Online Giving	Sunday Collection	Total By Fund	YTD
General Fund	1,339.00	4,202.50	5,541.50	43,931.00
Building Fund	755.00	15,491.50	16,246.50	58,121.59
Parish School of Religion	25.00	90.00	115.00	1,137.50
Total	2,119.00	19,784.00	21,903.00	103,190.09
Total given this week: \$21,903.00				

Pope's Lenten message:

Abstain from harsh words and rash judgement

Ahead of the start of Lent, Pope Leo XIV invites Catholics to open ourselves to listening, fasting, and community, urging us to abstain from words of hatred in order to make space for words of hope and peace.

As Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, the Pope said this liturgical season offers Christians an opportunity to place the mystery of God back at the center of our lives.

Every journey of conversion, he said, begins by letting God's word touch our hearts, so that we may renew our commitment to follow Christ in the mystery of His saving passion, death, and resurrection.

Pope Leo focused on the importance of listening to God and to those around us, allowing ourselves to enter into authentic relationships.

"In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society," he said, "Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering."

Pope Leo XIV then turned to how fasting helps open us to the deep desire for justice, which he said frees us from complacency.

"Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we 'hunger' for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance," he said.

Fasting, he added, teaches us to govern our desire by purifying, freeing, and expanding it, in order to direct our desire toward God and good deeds.

However, we must fast in faith, humility, and communion with the Lord, and not in a way that leads to pride, said the Pope, adding that other forms of self-denial also lead to a more sober lifestyle.

Pope Leo then pointed to an under-appreciated form of abstinence, which is refraining from hurtful words.

"Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves," he said. "Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness

and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities."

Pope Leo went on to emphasize the communal aspect of listening and fasting, which can be lived out in our parishes, families, and religious communities.

By listening to the cry of the poor and setting our hearts on a path of conversion to Christ, we train our conscience and improve the quality of our lives and relationships, he said.

Pope Leo XIV concluded his 2026 Lenten Message with a call for Christian communities to become places where those who suffer find welcome.

"Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language," he said, "so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others."

Amen.

By Devin Watkins

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-02/pope-leo-xiv-lenten-2026-message-disarm-words-embrace-peace.html>

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

February 15th, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

1st Reading Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7

Psalms 51: 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17

Second Romans 5: 12-19 or 5: 12, 17-19

VBG Matthew 4: 4b

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Birthday Blessings

February 16 . . . Cody Richardson

February 18 . . . Oscar Patricio Martinez, Luis Alvarado

February 19 . . . Tim Whitson

February 20 . . . Frank Zito, Jared Stoves, Juana Garcia

February 21 . . . Jay Curry

February 22 . . . David Dempsey, Tami Hill

TRIP TO NASHVILLE

3 Days trip to Nashville, Tennessee on April 20 - 22, 2026.

For more information contact:

Joe Lovoy at 205 230 1127, 205 477 9443

Marie Swift 205 960 2029, 205 956 6323.