



Saint Aloysius Catholic Parish

751 Academy Drive

Bessemer, Alabama 35022-5276

Telephone: 205-424-2984 Fax: 205-426-0089

E-Mail: info@staloyusiuscc.org

Website: www.staloyusiuscc.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, December 21st, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ADMINISTRATOR

Rev. Reju Pynadath Johny

e-mail: rijupynadath@gmail.com

Office: 205 424 2984

Cell: 205 829 5933

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Ginna Lopez

e-mail: st.aloyusius24@outlook.com

205 424 2984

CHURCH OFFICE

e-mail: info@staloyusiuscc.org

205 424 2984

HISPANIC COORDINATORS

Gabriel Lopez

Gabriel Arellano

205 434 7169

205 765 2936

WEEKEND EUCHARIST

Saturday

Sunday (English)

Sunday (Spanish)

4:30 p.m.

9:30 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday (Father celebrates the mass privately for your intention)

Tuesday through Friday

12:00 p.m. Noon

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Deadline for new items

Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

<i>OUR SICK</i>
Kathleen Jones Sheila Zito Carl McDaniel Larry Jones Sam Morris

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

<i>NURSING / RETIREMENT HOMES / ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS</i>
<i><u>The Oaks on Parkwood</u></i> 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

DECEMBER 23rd - DECEMBER 28th († = Deceased)		
Tuesday 12 Noon	December 23	† Buddy Spatz † Jack Keyes
Wednesday 12 Noon	December 24	† Renea Mareno (S) Anthony Mareno
Thursday 12 Noon	December 25 	(TG) Charles & Kathy Tortorice
Friday 12 Noon	December 26	NO MASS
Saturday 4:30pm	December 27	(BD) Vickie Stoves
Sunday 9:30am	December 28	(TG) Winifred Bratton

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

4:00PM English Mass

7:30PM Spanish Mass

Thursday, December 25th

Christmas Day

The Nativity of the Lord Solemnity
(Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00 a.m. English Mass

10:30 a.m. Spanish Mass

Friday, December 26th - NO MASS

Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th through Friday, January 2nd.



"With a warm embrace, St. Aloysius Staff wishes you a Merry Christmas! May your hearts be filled with the joy of Christmas and your homes with peace and happiness."

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Parish Stewardship 2025				
Sunday, Dec. 14				
Fund	Online Giving	Sunday Collection	Total By Fund	YTD
General Fund	1,789.00	6,430.70	8,219.70	324,975.49
Building Fund	715.00	2,097.00	2,812.00	96,681.76
Parish School of Religion	195.00	571.50	766.50	22,109.01
Total	2,699.00	9,099.20	11,798.20	443,766.26
Total given this week: \$11,798.20				

Sunday, December 21st, 2025

Faith vs Fear: Learning from St. Joseph



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we come on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Church brings us very close to Christmas. The waiting is almost over. Yet, just before the birth of Jesus, the Word of God does something very important: it brings us face-to-face with fear. Faith does not grow in comfort. Faith is born in moments of fear.

Today's readings show us that Advent is a battle, a battle between faith and fear.

1. Fear Is the First Human Response.

Let us begin with the Gospel (Matthew 1:18-24). St. Joseph discovers that Mary is pregnant. The Gospel tells us simply that Joseph was a "righteous man." But righteousness does not mean the absence of fear.

Joseph's fear was real: Fear of scandal, fear of misunderstanding, fear of losing Mary, fear of what people would say, fear of a future he did not plan, Joseph had dreams, plans, and expectations and suddenly everything collapsed.

How many of us know this fear?

When life does not go as planned, when a medical report changes everything, when a relationship breaks, when the future becomes uncertain.

Fear always asks the same question: "What will happen to me now?"

2. Faith Begins When We Listen.

Notice something very important. Joseph does not act immediately. He does not react in anger. He does not expose Mary.

Instead, he listens.

And it is precisely in the moment of fear that God speaks: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid..."

God does not say: "There is nothing to fear"; "You imagined it"; "You are overreacting"

God says: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife."

Faith does not deny fear. Faith walks through fear holding God's hand.

Joseph teaches us that silence, prayer, and openness to God's voice are the first steps out of fear.

3. Faith Chooses Trust Over Control.

Joseph is asked to do something very hard: Accept a mystery he cannot explain, trust God without having all the answers, take responsibility for a Child who is not biologically his.

This is the heart of faith: letting go of control.

Fear says: "I must understand everything first."

Faith says: "God understands that is enough."

Joseph did not ask for proof. He did not demand signs. He trusted. And the Gospel says: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him."

Faith is not a feeling. Faith is obedience born out of trust.

4. St. Joseph: The Saint Who Calms Fear.

The Church gives us St. Joseph today not as a speaker, but as a protector. Joseph speaks no words in Scripture, yet his faith speaks loudly.

He protects: Mary from shame, Jesus from danger, The Holy Family from fear.

That is why the Church calls him: Terror of demons, Protector of families, Guardian of the Redeemer.

Joseph teaches us: Faith removes fear not by noise, but by presence. Not by power, but by obedience. Not by arguments, but by trust.

If fear is disturbing your sleep, your peace, your family — Joseph understands.

5. Faith Changes Fear into Mission.

The angel reveals something astonishing: "You are to name him Jesus."

Joseph is given authority. Joseph is given responsibility. Joseph is given a mission.

Fear always makes us feel small.

Faith reminds us that God trusts us.

Your fear may be: About your children, about finances, about the future, about health, about your faith itself. But like Joseph, God says: "I am trusting you with something holy."

6. Advent Message: God Is With Us.

The Gospel ends with the name: Emmanuel God with us.

Fear says: "I am alone." Faith says: "God is with me."

Advent is not about perfect preparation. Advent is about faithful surrender. Joseph did not understand everything but he trusted the One who did.

Conclusion

Dear brothers and sisters, this Advent, place your fears in the hands of St. Joseph.

Ask him: To calm your anxieties, to protect your family, to help you choose faith when fear knocks. Like Joseph, may we rise from our fear, listen to God's voice, and do what the Lord asks of us.

St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Family, pray for us.

Amen.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

December 28th, 2025

Holy Family Feast

1st Reading Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Psalms 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5

Second Colossians 3: 12-21 or Colossians 3: 12-17

Alleluia: Colossians 3: 15a, 16a

Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

December 22. . . Albert Manzella, Logan Barnes

December 23—Carolyn Gwin

December 25. . . **JESUS** , Vicki Ballard, Cathy Butt,

Carolina Beltran, Christal McMeans

December 26 . . . Bernie Spidle, Willyne Hill

December 27 . . . Vickie Stoves, Susan Kinney

December 28 . . . Sunny Richards, Pam Manzella





LITURGY OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

4:00PM English Mass

(Beginning with Carols at 3:30PM with Saint Aloysius Choir).

7:30PM Spanish Mass

Christmas Day

The Nativity of the Lord Solemnity

Thursday, December 25th

(Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00 a.m. English Mass

10:30 a.m. Spanish Mass

Friday, December 26th - NO MASS

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday, December 28th

9:30 AM English Mass

12:00 PM English Mass





LITURGY OF NEW YEAR



New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31st

12:00 Noon English Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, January 1, 2026

(Holy day of Obligation)

9:00 AM English Mass

10:30 AM Spanish Mass

