



Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

751 Academy Drive

Bessemer, Alabama 35022-5276

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

E-Mail: staloysius@bellsouth.net Website: www.staloysiuscc.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.)

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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: staloysiusre@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: staloysius@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: jjim@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.; 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. (Spanish)

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Monday No Mass
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.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS: LUKE 1:1-4 & 4:14-21

❖ BIBLE SUNDAY ❖

■ In his motu proprio of September 30, 2019, “Aperuit Illis,” Pope Francis has declared that “the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God...a day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures.” So today is Bible Sunday.

■ Luke 1:3 says that Luke is writing the Gospel to Theophilus. The name Theophilus means the “friend or beloved of God.” We are the loved ones of God. So the Word of God is written personally to each and every one of us. We have to read and listen to the Word of God as a personal letter to you from God.

■ Luke 4:21, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1-2. It’s a text of great prophecy. After reading the Bible, Jesus confirms His decision to take the Word of God personally. He is sure that it is written about Him. Have we ever taken the Word of God personally? Can you take it seriously as a personal love letter to you from your God?!

■ Jesus has come to the synagogue after His baptism (Luke 3:21). The Isaiahan prophecy stands out as The Mission Statement of the Baptized Jesus. We, too, are baptized with Him. So our mission is one and the same of Christ. In short, it is the “good news to the poor.” My Christian identity is centered around this statement. As a baptized Christian, I too should be considering the Word of God as a personal letter. And I should be bringing the good news to the poor.

■ It is a first century world that Jesus was in. At that time of Jesus there were certain factors that decided someone as poor. Gender, genealogy, education, occupation, sickness, disability, degree of religious purity, etc. were some of those prominent factors. So thus the term “poor” has to do with economic status as well as those other factors that lowered one’s situation in society. The poor are those neglected to the margins of society.

■ But now for Jesus these “outsiders” are very special. For Jesus the poor are the:

- Worthy hearers of the Good News
- Recipients of God’s kingdom (6:20)
- A sign of Jesus’ ministry (7:22)
- Invitees to the kingdom feast (14:13)
- Special invitees to God’s mercy

■ Therefore just like Jesus we have to take the Word of God seriously and personally. We have to propagate the good news to the ‘poor’ of the day in a much more tangible and practical manner. Criticism of Karl Marx could always be a challenge to us. In his work, *A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right*, Karl Marx criticizes world religions as “religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.”

■ As baptized Christians we should not be ‘opium’ dealers, but be reaching out to the ‘poor’ in their realities with our helping hands. We should take the Word of God personally and should practice it. That is our mission. May God strengthen you all. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

January 22 – 30

(† = Deceased)

- Saturday (4:30 p.m.) † Sherman & Martha Venz
- Sunday (8:30 a.m.) † Michael “Mack” Zito
- Sunday (11:00 a.m.) Saint Aloysius Parishioners
- Monday No Mass
- Tuesday † Bernard LaRussa
- Wednesday † Tillie Barnhill
- Thursday JoAnne Antonio
- Friday † Susan Ragsdale
- Saturday (4:30 p.m.) † Lorraine & Bill Lang
- Sunday (8:30 a.m.) † Judi Hobbs
- Sunday (11:00 a.m.) Saint Aloysius Parishioners

FEAST DAYS FOR THIS WEEK

- January 24:* Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- January 25:* The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle
- January 26:* Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops
- January 27:* Saint Angela Merici, Virgin
- January 28:* Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

☒ MASS TIME CHANGE ☒

Beginning on February 1, our daily Mass time on Tuesdays will change from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. until further notice.

WELCOME

The Saint Aloysius Parish Community welcomes **Roman Gonzalez and Epifania Arenas** and children, **Darby, Joseline, Lucia, and Leonardo** as new members.

COMING SOON

You know the Father as the Provider. You know the Son as the Redeemer. Now get to know the wonders of the Holy Spirit in your life with an exciting new series. Kathy Tortorice will be in the Narthex after all the Masses on January 29-30 to answer questions and solicit your input on the best times to hold an in-person evening program and an online virtual presentation.

FAITH FORMATION / SACRAMENTAL PREP.

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.

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting information in the February calendar is Tuesday, January 25.

ANNULMENT ADVOCATES NEEDED

The Diocesan Office of the Chancellor is in need of Annulment Advocates in the Birmingham area. An Advocate directly assists those people who are seeking an annulment by helping them fill out their paperwork, answering their questions about the process, following their annulment through from start to completion, being a "listening ear," and pastoral accompaniment. Those who have experience with civil law (active or retired), those who have been through an annulment, or someone with a compassionate heart would be a good candidate. A training session for Advocates will be held soon. If you are interested, please call the Church Office at 205-424-2984 no later than January 28.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

January 30 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13
Luke 4:21-30

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	Last Week	Online Giving	Year-to- Date
Offertory	\$4,404.75	\$2,399.00	\$20,000.50
Building Fund	\$ 625.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,160.50
Sch. of Religion	\$ 485.50	\$ 155.00	

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.

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.

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.

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**

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.

Mary Adams Eddie & Penny Allison	Jim & Nancy Franklin Rev. Len Gavin	Debbie Rupert MaryAnna Schilleci Stanley Szafransky Steve Tate
JoAnne Antonio Myra Antonio Ann Baker	Ronnie George John V. Jones, Jr. Meredith Jones	Powell Thompson Irene Tutten Rose Wilson
George Bratton Kathy Evans	Ginger Russo Mosley	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
Secretary (position to be filled)
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, February 5 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

LADIES ROSARY GROUP

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

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Adult Education Class is held on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Church. 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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSIONS

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held on Tuesdays 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.

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!!

JOB OPENINGS AT EWTN

EWTN is searching for qualified candidates for the following positions in Irondale: **Graphic Designer, Administrative Assistant, Recruiter, Cash Management Specialist, Accountant, Donation Processing Specialist, Donor Care Specialist, Closed Captioning Technician, IT Support Technician (Tier 1), Production Assistant, Non-linear Editor, Radio Producer, Safety and Security Officer, Viewer Services Representative, Bilingual Viewer Services Representative, Groundskeeper, and Fulfillment Center Associate (temporary)**. Job requirements can be viewed at www.ewtn.com. E-mail cover letter, salary requirements, and résumé to humanresources@ewtn.com.

RETREATS

The Blessed Trinity Shrine Retreat in Fort Mitchell, Alabama will hold several upcoming retreats:

- *Spending the Day in the Desert with Jesus:* March 30, led by Father Stephen J. Giorno, S.T.
- *Encountering the Divine in the Beauty Around Us:* April 1-3, led by Sister Terry Bretthauer
- *Annual Men's Retreat—Gospel of Luke:* April 29-May 1, led by Father Guy Wilson, S.T.
- *Healing Retreats:* September 2-4, led by Father Matt Linn

For more information or to register, please call 1-334-855-4474 or visit www.msbt.org/btsr.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Charlie and Ann Baker**, who are celebrating their 64th Wedding Anniversary on January 25.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

January 23. Ramona Pitesa, Eddie Washington,
 Gloria McDonald
 January 24. Sam Tamburello, Isabella Stokes
 January 25. Alicia Blake, Nathan Contreras,
 Sharon Bull
 January 26. Beth McCandless, Mary Garrison
 January 27. Hallie Brantley, Kathi Alexander
 January 28. LuAnn Graham, George Pruitt,
 José Lomeli, Mike Lambert
 January 29. Marilyn West, Austin Land,
 Dale Bailey, Shannon Donaldson