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.)

December 26, 2021
CHRISTMAS / The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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: 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 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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Administrator, **Father Reju Pynadath Johny**, on his 18th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on December 30. We are blessed by your ministry and knowledge of God's Word as you lead us in faith. Congratulations Father!!

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 on December 26 and January 2, due to the holidays. Classes will resume on January 9. 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.

FIRE OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

Fire of the Spirit Prayer Group will not meet on December 30, due to the holidays. The group will resume on January 6. 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!!

CALENDARS

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

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

The Church Offices will be closed on New Year's Eve in observance of New Year's Day.

MASS INTENTIONS

December 25 – January 2, 2022

(✞ = Deceased)

Christmas Day

Saturday (8:30 a.m.) . . . . . ✞ Jack Chiarella
Saturday (10:00 a.m. Spanish). . . . . .Parishioners

Sunday (8:30 a.m.). . . . . Saint Aloysius Parishioners
Sunday (11:00 a.m.). . . . . ✞ John Paul Guerrero
Monday. . . . . .No Mass (Father Reju out of town)
Tuesday. . . . . .No Mass (Father Reju out of town)
Wednesday. . . . . .No Mass (Father Reju out of town)
Thursday. . . . . ✞ Philip Antonio
Friday . . . . . Rose Wilson

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Saturday (4:30 p.m.) . . . . . ✞ Debra Albright
Saturday (7:00 p.m. Spanish). . . . . Parishioners

Sunday (8:30 a.m.). . . . . Saint Aloysius Parishioners
Sunday (11:00 a.m.). . . . . .Mary Ann Simonetti

FEAST DAYS FOR THIS WEEK

December 26: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 27: Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

December 29: Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

December 31: Saint Sylvester I, Pope

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

SYMPATHY

The Parish Community extends prayerful sympathy to the family of **Michael "Mack" Zito**, who is survived by his wife, Joyce, three sons, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, brother, Frank (Sheila) Zito, and other family members. Please keep this family in your prayers.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Due to the first Saturday of January being a holiday, our parish's monthly Eucharistic Adoration will be moved to January 8 from 4:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. He gave His whole life for us. Can we give one hour a month for Him? 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.

V.I.P. MASS

Our parish's monthly V.I.P. Mass will not be celebrated in January. It will resume in February.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

January 2 – The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

	Last Week	Online Giving	Year-to-Date
Offertory	$15,015.20	$2,336.00	$434,135.81
Building Fund	$ 180.00	$ 235.00	$ 58,457.42
Sch. of Religion	$ 325.20	$ 20.00	

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

Nursing & Retirement Homes, & Assisted Living

The Oaks on Parkwood	*Plantation Manor*
Rudy Cooper	Claudia Charme
Jean Sullivan	

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSIONS

There will be no Exposition on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, due to Father Reju being out of town. 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.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Adult Education Class will not be held in December. Class will resume on Tuesday, January 11. 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.

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

Air Force
Daniel K. Hicks
Shea Hicks
James McKinney
Lance Rosser

Army
Joseph R. Chiarella
Zach Edmonds
Blake Seidel

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 the following couples who are celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries:
December 29. . . . . .Ronnie and Frances George
December 30. . . . . .John and Mary Sandra Virciglio

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

December 26. . . . . Bernie Spidle, Willyne Hill,
. . . . . .Cesar A. Cruz
December 27. . . . . .Vickie Stoves, Susan Kinney
December 28. . . . . .Irene Tutten, Sunny Richards,
. . . . . Pam Manzella
December 29. . . . . Caroline Tamburello
December 30. . . . . .Sandy Jolivette, David Wade
December 31. . . . . .Yasmin Flores, Silvestre Alvarado
January 1. . . . . .Abraham de Jesus Perez

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) ..... 10:00 a.m. (English)
(with Accompanist and Cantor)

Dia 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, 1°. de Enero del 2022 ..... 7:00 p.m. (Español)

Christmas Flowers

Thank you to all those who so generously donated to our Christmas Flowers collection. The beautiful flowers and poinsettias decorating the church are in honor of and in memory of the following loved ones:

Chris S. Artale
Chris & Mary Artale
Tillie Barnhill
Joseph Bateh, Jr.
In Honor of Sarah Katherine Bateh
Ann Marie Batts
Eugenia Batts
Jake & Gloria Bivona
JoAnn Boykin
Joe & Louise Butler
Janie & Tony Cacioppo, Sr.
Sam & Grace Canzoneri
Joseph Peter Contorno
Lena Marie Contorno
Mr. & Mrs. Adrian DeVaux
Hugh Dugger
Marjorie Dugger
Ouida Edwards
Willie Findley
Allen & Ida Gavin
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard M. Gavin, Sr.
Sr. Mary Vernon Gentle, R.S.M.
Jenny Guarino
Tony Guarino
Etna Gutches
Grant Hanson
Claude Hickey
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Hickey
Dan Hicks
Mr. & Mrs. L. Hicks
Betty Hill
Josephine Hinds
Bob Hogue
Mary Elizabeth Rigsby Hussey
In Memory of
The Larry & Mary Jones Family
In Honor of William Jones
Frank & Norma Khalil
Aloysius & Gertrud Klein
Phillip & Anna Klein
Vinzenz & Karoline Klein
Mr. & Mrs. A. Kremer
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Lane
Bernard LaRussa
Concetta "Jennie" LaRussa
Martin & Sandra LaRussa
Paul LaRussa
In Honor of Heather Lenseigne
In Honor of Rosemary Lenseigne
In Memory of The Livingston Family

Joyce Lloyd
Don & Evelyn Logan
Marshall & Gladys Logan
Michael Lester McCandless
Dr. John M. McMahon
Walter Earl Manasco
Helen Mooney
Diana Nesbitt
Frank & Margaret Petway
In Honor of Pam Phelps
Mary Piazza
Mike Piazza
Susan Ragsdale
Mary T. Red
Noreen Ross
Frank & Josephine Russo
Albert & Dolly Schober
Karl & Anna Schröck

Carroll & Irene Stuart
Shannon Sutherland
Barbara Tanner
Joe Teague
Clyde Y. Thomason
Mary Virginia Thren
David A. Van Duser
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Van Duser
Rowena W. Walker
Joe Wehby
Norman & Alya Wehby
Gus Winstead
Richard & Inez Winstead
Carman Wright
Vivian P. Wright
Norm & Janet Zauchin
In Memory of The Zito Family

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

❖ CHRISTMAS ❖

■ God seeking the humans and not the humans seeking God. God is coming down to earth to be with His children and to save them. John 1:14 reads, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." So Christmas is the "Incarnation of the Word of God."

■ Purpose of Christmas: to make you rich: 2 Corinthians 8:9 says, "For your sake He became poor although He was rich, so that by His poverty you might become rich." So our richness means His poverty, our happiness means His sorrows, our wellness means His passion…" That's why we are so happy at Christmas time.

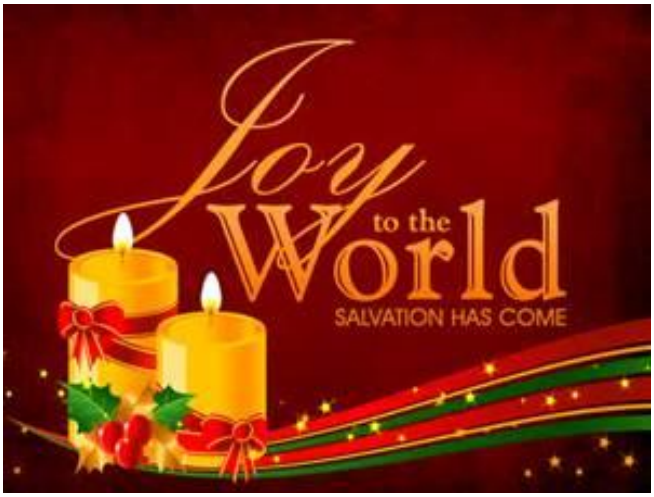
■ To Make You Children of God: John 1:12 reads, "But to those who did accept Him He gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." Catechism of Catholic Church (CCC 460), "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God."

■ To Speak to Us in Person: Hebrews 1:2 reads, "In these last days, He spoke to us through the Son." Jesus is the personification/incarnation of the Word of God. The purpose was to pitch His tent among us. This Word of God (Bible) makes Christmas an "eternal present" happening. Christmas is the meeting point where God meets the humans.

■ To Have More Intimate Personal Relation: Manger is the meeting point of the Incarnated Word of God and the humans, the shepherds. In Luke 2:16, "So they went in 'haste' and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger." God is coming to see you. You are invited. Of course, you have to go to the manger to meet God. You should be in haste/hurry.

■ How to Celebrate? The name Jesus means 'God saves." God lets you at peace. Angels wish is peace to people of good will on earth. In Micah 6:8, "What the Lord requires of you: only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God." Develop a more intimate relation with the Incarnated Word of God, the Bible.

■ God be with you. Amen.



GOSPEL REFLECTIONS: LUKE 2:41-52

❖ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH ❖

■ In the Book of Genesis 1:27, "God created mankind in His image; male and female He created them." God is the perfect combination of male and female. In their unity, they attain the perfect image and likeness of God. So wherever there is disparity in this union, then the image of God diminishes. So in a marital union there should never be any thought of selfishness. The words and thoughts like 'my, mine, etc.' will kill the Godliness in the family life. Couples should always think as 'we' and 'ours,' etc. You are called to be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

■ The English word 'sin' has an 'i' in the center. And it is very significant. Whenever selfishness becomes the center of family life, whenever 'i' becomes prominent, it becomes sin and that's the end of a marital union.

■ Saint Paul in Colossians 3:14 says that 'love' is the bond of perfection. So the basic thread of family should be love. Colossians 3:13 says, "As the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do." So the life of family depends upon the capacity to forgive unconditionally as the Lord forgives. For in Colossians 3:15, "Let the peace of Christ control your hearts." We should be at ease in our hearts, should have perfect control over our emotions. For the success of a married life, a peaceful heart is a prerequisite and a must.

■ In today's first reading from "Wisdom of Ben Sira," we hear the benefits of family relations, "Those who honor their father atone for sins" (3:3); "Those who respect their father will live a long life" (3:6). If you love and believe the Word of God, then try to live it up so that you may be blessed.

■ In today's Gospel Luke 2:41-52, we are given the model of a holy family. Certain points we can look at:

1. <u>Relation With Neighbors and Community:</u> On their journey Jesus was supposed to be with the neighbors and that community. The parents trusted the neighborhood and had that deep relation with community and imparted the same to their son Jesus.
2. <u>Relation With God:</u> Going to the temple feasts was their normal. They prayed together, that's why Jesus was able to sit with teachers in the temple. Venerable Fr. Patrick Peyton (died on June 3, 1992) is famous for his motto, "The family that prays together stays together." Joseph and Mary traveled a distance of one day (distance from God); and then they had to search for the boy for 'three' days. Their agony/anxiety was to the maximum.
3. <u>Role of Parents:</u> They could find Jesus in the temple, for they had brought Him there and left him there. Parents are duty-bound to take the children to their real parent, that is God.
4. <u>Attitude of Family Members</u>: Luke 2:50 says, "They did not understand what He said to them." Verse 51, "He was obedient to them and His mother kept all these things in her heart." Obedience to each other is the healthiest attitude in family. Not understood, or misunderstanding is quite normal in life, but instead of desperately searching for clarity, it's always good to keep things in your heart. That's the secret to the success of family life.

■ Have a peaceful heart. Try to be humble and forgive your partner. Always long for the unconditional union, so that the image and likeness of God is perfect in your marital life.

■ May the Holy Family guide you always. Amen.