



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, September 14th, 2025

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Feast

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:

OUR SICK
Robert Geisen Kathleen Jones Sheila Zito Carl McDaniel

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:

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

SEPTEMBER 16 - SEPTEMBER 21 († = Deceased)		
Tuesday 12 Noon	September 16	Susan Doss
Wednesday 12 Noon	September 17	† Annu Johny
Thursday 12 Noon	September 18	(S) Edward Lawhon
Friday 12 Noon	September 19	(S) Robert Geisen
Saturday 4:30pm	September 20	† Karen Snelling
Sunday 9:30am	September 21	Larry Jones

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

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



JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMAGE TO THE CATHEDRAL

As the Universal Church marks Jubilee 2025, it is a time of spiritual reconciliation and renewal for the faithful, striving to be "Pilgrims of Hope."

One aspect of the Holy Year is pilgrimage, which by its very nature is an "experience of conversion." Spiritually, pilgrimage represents the Christian life as a journey towards a deeper relationship with Christ, with the destination being Heaven.

Another aspect of the Holy Year is an indulgence. Indulgences are offered by the Church for the one seeking the indulgence or for the souls in Purgatory, and they forgive the temporal punishment due to sin that remains after the eternal punishment of our sins has been forgiven.

To help the faithful of the diocese experience this conversion, Bishop Raica has designated a pilgrimage within the Diocese of Birmingham.

For more information see the attached sheet.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS (21 September 2025)

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading Numbers 21: 4b-9

Psalms 78: 1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38

Second Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel John 3: 13-17

HOLY FAMILY ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Holy Family Altar Guild will meet on Monday, September 15th, at 6:00 p.m. For any information you can contact Kellie Whitson, President (205) 296 3390.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Parish Stewardship 2025				
Sunday, Sept. 7				
Fund	Online Giving	Sunday Collection	Total By Fund	YTD
General Fund	1,939.00	5,545.50	7,484.50	228,720.23
Building Fund	1,060.00	2,334.75	3,394.75	69,358.26
Parish School of Religion	25.00	70.00	95.00	11,482.41
Total	3,024.00	7,950.25	10,974.25	309,560.90
Total given this week: \$10,974.25				

Sunday, September 14th, 2025

From the Gospel according to JOHN 3:13-17

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The newly converted Empress Helena went on a pilgrimage to the Holy land and recovered many of the holy places. And she recovered the Holy Cross there on May 3rd, 326 AD. She kept it in Jerusalem. A Persian king, Khosrau II invaded Jerusalem in 614 AD, sacked the city, and carried the true Holy Cross to his capital in Persia. Byzantine Emperor Heraclius recovered the true Holy Cross from the Persians in 629 AD and was then triumphantly brought to Constantinople.

Emperor Heraclius wanted to reinstall the Holy Cross in Jerusalem by himself. Wearing extravagant garments with ornaments of precious stones and jewels he carried the Holy Cross on his own shoulders back to Jerusalem! But at the entrance of Mount Calvary, strangely enough, he was not able to move a step further. Bishop Zacharia of Jerusalem noticed that and made this comment to the Emperor: "Consider that with these triumphal ornaments you are wearing, you are far from resembling Jesus carrying his Cross." The Emperor understood his mistake and changed his costume to penitential garments and then after he was able to move further with the Holy Cross.

The Holy Cross of Christ is not something to be decorated with precious jewels, stones etc. But it should go along with penitential feelings and costume.

The Christian life begins and ends with the cross. Baptism is performed with the sign of cross. Cross is not only a ornament but also a weapon. Cross is a weapon to seal ourselves. When we mark the sign of cross on our forehead, we are praying to sanctify our intellectual mistakes and wrongs. When we mark the sign of cross on our lips; we are praying to sanctify our mistakes through words and our problems with gluttony. When we mark the sign of

cross on our chest; we are praying to fill our hearts with love of God and love of neighbor.

God the Father wants to enter into a love relationship with us. The paperwork for this agreement is done by God Himself and it is the person of Jesus Christ. Now, the choice is ours. We have the freedom to accept or reject the deed. This choice is crucial and forms the base, to identify whether you are a Christian or not.

Before Jesus, cross was a symbol of foolishness, crime, insult and degradation etc. But when this cross was joined to the body of Jesus it became a 'Holy Cross.' We all have different crosses in our life. A particular person, a particular relation, an event... anything may turn out to be experience of hopelessness and cross in our life. But always keep in mind, if we keep our cross united with Jesus, then it becomes Holy Cross!!

*May the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus protect us from the evil one!
Amen.*

Father Reju Pynadath J.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

We celebrate those who are present, and we remember in prayer those who have gone ahead ☩.

September 16 . . . Keyla Medina, Jimmy Freeman

September 17 . . Sandy Brantley, Emily Reno, Amanda Turner

September 18 . . . Theresa Monte, Esbeyda Flores

September 19 Eddie Allison, Sharon Edwards, Carl Blake, Jennifer Gardner

September 21 Mark Garrison, Zoe Ruiz

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

*Congratulations
on your Wedding Anniversary*

September 15 * *Jerry and Janie Joiner*

September 20 * *Jonathan and Teresa Smith*

Jubilee 2025 pilgrimage to the Cathedral

The first Christian Jubilee, which was instituted by Pope Boniface VIII, was celebrated in the year 1300. The number of years between Jubilees varied following the first, but since the late 1400s, the Church has marked a Jubilee Year every 25 years. With the last ordinary Jubilee being that of Pope St. John Paul II's Great Jubilee 2000, Pope Francis on Ascension Thursday, May 13, 2024, announced Jubilee 2025 in the Papal Bull of Indiction *Spes non Confundit* (*Hope Does Not Disappoint*).

One aspect of the Holy Year is pilgrimage, which by its very nature is an "experience of conversion." Spiritually, pilgrimage represents the Christian life as a journey towards a deeper relationship with Christ, with the destination being Heaven. To help the faithful of the diocese experience this conversion, Bishop Raica has designated 11 pilgrimage sites within the Diocese of Birmingham and one of them is **Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham**.

Father Bryan Jerabek, judicial vicar for the diocese explains "effects of our sins remain even after they have been pardoned by God. These effects take multiple forms: a debt of justice, harm caused to others, wounds in our own souls, strained relationships, difficult memories, and so forth." Father Jerabek continued: "Indulgences may be plenary (complete, full) or partial. When one successfully gains a plenary indulgence, the entirety of his temporal punishment due to sin (his spiritual debt) is remitted, thanks to the grace of God made available by the Church, using the Power of the Keys given to her by Christ Himself."

According to Father Jerabek, in order to gain any plenary indulgence, it is necessary to fulfill certain conditions. First, one must intend to receive the indulgence (a general or virtual intention is sufficient). Second, one must be free from all attachment to or affection for sin, even venial sin. Third, the one seeking the indulgence must go to Holy Communion in the state of grace within 20 days before or after intending to receive the indulgence. Fourth, one must go to confession within 20 days before or after intending to receive the indulgence. Fifth, one must pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (typically, by praying an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be). Lastly, the person seeking the indulgence must do the **specific works** connected with gaining the particular indulgence. One of those specific works outlined by the Apostolic Penitentiary for this Jubilee year is make a Pilgrimage and during this pilgrimage the faithful can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence by participating in Holy Mass or Liturgy of the Hours or the Via Crucis or the Marian Rosary or the recitation of the Akathist hymn, or a penitential celebration at the Pilgrimage Center.



**Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage
to the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham**

Saturday, September 27, 2025

1:30PM Confessions at St. Aloysius Church

2:30PM Depart to the Cathedral

3:00PM - 3:45PM Stations of the Cross in the Cathedral

3:50PM Return to St. Aloysius Church

4:30PM Holy Mass at S. Aloysius Church