

DECEMBER 14, 2025



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00am: Mary Ann DeMaoribus

5:00pm: McKinley & Petrina Curtis

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:15am: +Nancy Marie Leslie

11:15am: For the Parish, +Yvonne DeLorenzo

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00am: +Ireneusz Matoga

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:00am: +Steve Montgomery

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00am: +John Dimmock

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00am: +Mildred Pereira

9:00am*: HFS Students on Christmas Break

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00am: Ezra Morris

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00am: Paulette Risher

5:00pm: +Victor Pesqueira

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

4th Sunday of Advent

8:15am: For the Parish, +Francisco Xavier Gomez

11:15am: +Dolores Aquila

**HFS School Mass*

Dear Brothers and Sisters:



This past Monday we celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America. This feast is a reminder of our calling. In *The Word Among Us: Daily Meditations for Catholics*, there was a meditation for December 8 that I thought would be good to share as we become immersed in this holiday season. The readings were: **Genesis 3:9-15, 20/Psalm 98: 1-4/Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12/Luke 1:26-38.**

I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Today's Gospel reveals three surprising truths about our life in Christ. First, it points to the miracle of Mary's Immaculate Conception which we celebrate. Since Mary was freed from the stain of original sin, she wasn't subject to the cynicism and the selfishness that often lurks in our hearts. We see this in our humble response to the angel Gabriel. He had just invited her to welcome into her womb a child conceived by the Holy Spirit. To say yes meant giving up her own earthly plans and expectations. It also meant becoming vulnerable to all sorts of trials, temptations, and dangers. But because of her Immaculate Conception, she could place her life completely in God's hands. Mary's yes reveals how pure and trusting she was.

The second truth? Mary's yes also revealed the vulnerability of the Lord. God knew that Mary could have said no, but he took the risk anyway. By asking her to become the Mother of God, he placed his whole plan of salvation in her young, innocent hands. Then, in Jesus, God entered his own creation as a defenseless child. He allowed himself to experience pain and temptation every day. And then he offered up his very self to us when he surrendered to the pain of the cross. All because he loved us too much to leave us alone in our sin.

Finally, today's Gospel reveals how God relates to us. Every day, Jesus stands before us and offers us his grace and his wisdom. He knows that, just like Mary, we are free to choose how to respond to his offer. Every day, he opens himself up to the possibility of being rejected by the people he loves so deeply. All in the hopes that we will instead surrender to him. All in the hopes that we will echo Mary's response: "Let it be done to me according to your will."

Jesus is standing before you right now. He wants to share his heart with you. How will you respond?

"Holy Immaculate Mary. Teach me how to say yes to the Lord, just as you did!"

You are in my daily thoughts and prayers. May Advent continue to be a wonderful time of spiritual growth. Enjoy this time and remember, **"Jesus is the Reason for the Season,"** and everything else is extra.

Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe

Sacrament of the Sick

Here at St. Joseph, we have the communal anointing of the sick twice a year – during Advent and Lent. This weekend, December 13 and December 14, there will be the Sacrament of the Sick available at each of the Masses. After the final hymn, those who wish to be anointed will stay in the church and fill every other pew.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Barbara Brodeur, Carolyn Wingenter, Zanetta Brown, Faye Fletcher, Batchelder Family, Stachura Family, Sayre Family, Maddie Clearly, John Rourke, Jr., Cindy Morales, Linda Dimmock, Ralph & Helen Kissel, Judi Trygg, Cecilia Hall, Deacon Mike Rooney, Jane and Dena Bell, Marie Basta, Richard Brown, Jena Lanszell, Charlotte Johnson, Emma Lang, Jackie Weems, Bob Strang, Jacqueline Meador, Adrianna Hilburn, Jason & Jaxson Rivera, Therese Thomas, Art Sandridge, Chris Karlson, Mary Vandergraft, Jeff Baldwin, Ben Sundey, Anna Wilks, Bill Boehme, Mary Flatt, Kennita Turner, Eva Nave, Anna Belander, the Price family, Gail Johnson, Sally Cox, Mary Andrus family, Bruce Jansen, Mary Jean Travis, Jean Arndt, Mil White, Fr. Tim Pfander, Bobbie Quintana, Jr., Ezra Morris, Mark Manning, Larry Barnett, Susan Sheehy, Mike Harwood, Chris Johnson, Peter Donnelly.

Note

If you wish to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the parish office. When that person recovers, please call again to remove their name so that others can be put on the list. Thank you, Fr. Joe

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Matthew 21:23-27	Friday	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 Luke 1:5-25
Tuesday	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23 Matthew 21:28-32	Saturday	Isaiah 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 Matthew 1:1-17	Sunday	Isaiah 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24
Thursday	Jeremiah 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Matthew 1:18-25	4th Sunday of Advent	

THANK YOU. The Donnelly family would like to express our sincere thanks to our St. Joseph community for all the beautiful cards, delicious food, prayers, hugs and great stories offered to us during our time of loss. We are truly blessed.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES Are you interested in being an altar server, a lector or an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion? The next ministry schedule will begin with the start of Advent, November 29/30, 2025, through the end of March 2026. You will be trained before you are placed on the schedule by one of the following: Fr. Joe (altar servers), Tom Uss (lectors) or Josette Dant (EMHC).

Please contact the parish office with your choice of ministry. We look forward to your service at the Lord's Supper.

2025 Advent Communal Penance & Confessions Schedule

St. John the Baptist, Madison	Dec. 15, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. *
Holy Spirit	Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. **
St. Paul, Athens	Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m. **
Mercy Parish, Madison	Dec. 18, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. **

* = Confessions only

** = Penance Service with Confessions

Please verify the date and time with the parish where you plan to attend an Advent reconciliation service.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation to seasonal flower arrangements or request a special commemoration, please call the parish office at 256-534-8459.

CURRENT WEEKLY OFFERING

Regular Collection	\$ 10,700.57
Other Designated Funds	\$ 8,201.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 20-DECEMBER 21, 2025

ALTAR SERVERS

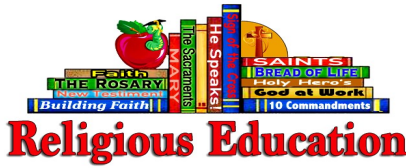
5:00pm:	Chris Reid
8:15am:	Lucy Fried, Peyton Howell
11:15am:	Emma Taylor

LECTORS

5:00pm:	Ben Sunday, Karen Sunday
8:15am:	Robert Styles, Ellen Styles
11:15am:	Cathy Tichow, Joe Pohuski

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00pm:	Karen Thompson*, Sherri Lynn Ross, Geri Donnelly, Gus Smith, Philip Graham
8:15am:	Alicia Owens*, Kevin Nash, Michelle Nash, Rita Cusack, Ashley Medina
11:15am:	Donnis Aragon*, Kristy Hayne, Gerald Wocken, Bob Varga, Bernita Briggs



Dec. 14	RE/OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. St. Francis Hall/HFS/Parish Office Building
Dec. 21	<i>NO RE/OCIA CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>
Dec. 28	<i>NO RE/OCIA CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>



ST. JOSEPH PARISH 2026 CALENDARS We will begin distributing our 2026 church calendars this weekend at all the Masses. Please take one per household and, if we have any extras, we will make them available after Christmas.

Visit <https://www.jp2falcons.org/application-process>, or contact our Admissions Office at 256-430-1760 (ext. 2117) or admissions@jp2falcons.org for more information.

Here Is What's Happening This Week

FMC = Messmer Center/Gym
SJC = St. Joseph Church
SFH = St. Francis Hall
LMR/LIB = RE Center
STA = St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel
BRZWY = Breezeway
VBC = Von Braun Center