

# WISEMEN



STILL SEEK  
HIM

# Mass Intentions

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 03

8:00am: For the Unborn  
5:00pm: +Susan McGraw

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 04

### *Epiphany of the Lord*

8:15am: For the Parish, +Bill & Sara Billingsley  
11:15am: +Gilbert & Catherine Verkamp

## MONDAY, JANUARY 05

7:00am: +Mr. & Mrs. Tom Moon

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 06

7:00am: +Bobby Leslie

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 07

7:00am: +Shirley Wall

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 08

7:00am: Ezra Morris  
9:00am\*: Matthew Mahan

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 09

7:00am: +CW3 Bill Alcorn

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

8:00am: +Flora Fisher Passero  
5:00pm: +Ginger Stephens

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

8:15am: +Jahn Danson  
11:15am: For the Parish, Matthew Moon Family

**\*HFS School Mass**



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year celebration. Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany – some call this *little Christmas*. Do you know the origin of the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas?” It is one of my favorite Christmas songs. Rita Cusack gifted me with the following, an explanation of the meaning behind the song.

I know you are familiar with the Christmas song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” To most, it’s a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had quite a serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetition melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts. Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited by law from any practice of their faith, private or public. It was a crime to be a Catholic.

“The Twelve Days of Christmas” was written in England as one of the catechism songs to help young Catholics learn the tenants of their faith, a kind of memory aid. To be caught with anything in writing indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, but you could also be hanged and then drawn and quartered.

The song’s gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The true love mentioned in the song doesn’t refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God himself. The me who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in the pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ’s sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: “Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but you would not have it so...”

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me a partridge in a pear tree – (*Jesus Christ*)  
On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me two turtle doves – (*Old and New Testament*)

On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me three French hens (*The three Virtues – Faith, Hope and Charity*)

On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me four calling birds (*The four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*)

On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me five golden rings. (*The Pentateuch – the first five books of the Bible*)

On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me six geese a-laying (*The six days of creation*)

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me seven Swans a-swimming (*The Seven Sacraments and the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit*)

On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me eight maids a-milking (*The eight beatitudes*)

On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me nine ladies dancing (*The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit*)

On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me ten lords a-leaping (*The Ten Commandments*)

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me eleven pipers piping (*The eleven faithful Apostles*)

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me twelve drummers drumming (*The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed*)

You are in my thoughts and prayers each day. May God continue to bless us all.

***Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe***

### 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

**PARISH EPIPHANY POTLUCK** in St. Francis Hall after the  
11:15 a.m. Mass on January 4. Bring your favorite  
savory dish or dessert to share.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday	1 John 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25	Friday	1 John 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Luke 5:12-16
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mark 6:34-44	Saturday	1 John 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-4, 5-6a, 9b John 3:22-30
Wednesday	1 John 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mark 6:45-52	Sunday <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-4, 9-10 Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17
Thursday	1 John 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 4:14-22		

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES** Are you interested in being an altar server, a lector or an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion? The current ministry schedule runs 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.

**ANNUAL DAY FOR LIFE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026**

Respect Life Mass  
9:00 a.m. Cathedral of St. Paul  
2120 3rd Ave. North, Birmingham Alabama  
  
Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life  
10:45 a.m. Planned Parenthood  
1019 1st Ave. North, Birmingham Alabama

United for Life, CEC for Life and Birmingham March for Life are once again hosting the Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life at Planned Parenthood.

For more information, call 205.447.8796 or visit  
[www.BirminghamMarchforLife.com](http://www.BirminghamMarchforLife.com)

**CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC MONTHLY MASS** January 8, 2026, Our Lady of Sorrows, Birmingham, Alabama.

Join the celebration of our monthly Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church the second Thursday of each month. Come worship and praise and enjoy coming together to give glory to God.

Everyone is invited. Confessions are at 6:15 p.m., music at 6:30 p.m. and Mass at 7:00 p.m. Individual prayer is available after Mass.

For more information, contact Lisa Henderson 205-784-6273.

**CREDIT CARD TRANSACTION FEE** Please note that, beginning on January 1, 2026, we will add a three percent fee on all SQUARE credit card transactions to help offset those costs to the parish. If you have any questions, contact Patty Ayala in the parish office.

**CURRENT WEEKLY OFFERING**

Regular Collection	\$ 9,174.14
Christmas Collection	\$ 12,588.00
Other Designated Funds	\$ 7,555.00

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE****JANUARY 10-JANUARY 11, 2026****ALTAR SERVERS**

5:00pm: Mike Rose  
8:15am: Gabe Stewart  
11:15am: Lena Taylor, William Taylor

**LECTORS**

5:00pm: Grady Harmon, Sabine Wlodarski  
8:15am: Christian Pohl, Gina Bain  
11:15am: Florence Okafor, Tom Uss

**EUCARISTIC MINISTERS**

5:00pm: George Holland\*, Maritza Holland, Geri Donnelly , Philip Graham, Maureen Chemsak  
8:15am: Michelle Nash\*, Kevin Nash, Ashley Medina, Alicia Owens, Jamie Stewart  
11:15am: Bernita Briggs\*, Bob Varga, Dennis Aragon, Gerald Wocken, Nelene Odutola

# Religious Education

## Formation and Catechesis



### Religious Education

**2026 ADULT FORMATION** Hebrews is "the greatest Christian sermon ever preached or written," according to New Testament scholar Daniel Harrington, SJ. Join Fr. Joe to explore this brilliant message of encouragement for six sessions beginning January 14, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

This unique New Testament text presents Jesus as the great High Priest who simultaneously offers sacrifice to God and is himself the sacrifice. His compassion is rooted in his humanity, for he is like us in all things but sin. Harrington's accessible commentary helps us read and reflect on this beautiful Scripture text, giving us a renewed appreciation for the saving work of Jesus.

**BUNCO** in the new year = NEW START TIME! Friday, January 9, 2026. Arrival remains at 6:00 p.m. but PLAY begins at 6:30 p.m., at player request. If you arrive after play starts, access cannot be assured. Still \$5.00 to play; 50/50 Raffle; food or drink to share, and cash for four categories of winning.

North parking lot and entry to St. Francis Hall via the portico. Remember, play BEGINS at 6:30 p.m.

**2026 BREAKING BREAD MISSALS** are available for \$10.00 each at the parish office during regular office hours, while supplies last.

**JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 2026-2027 ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN** Apply today to become a part of the Falcon family. Schedule a tour or a shadow day to learn more about what makes JPII the foremost Catholic high school in Alabama.

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

### FORMATION CALENDAR

Jan. 4	RE/OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. St. Francis Hall/HFS/Parish Office Building
Jan. 11	RE/OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. St. Francis Hall/HFS/Parish Office Building
Jan. 18	<b>NO RE/OCIA—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.</b>

### **VETERANS "COMING HOME" RETREAT: A day of spiritual reflection for adults**

Saturday January 24, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church Parish Life Center

All veterans, spouses and their adult family members are welcome for reflection on the gifts and burdens of having served. Whether you served in any of our military components: full time, national guard or reserves; whether you are currently serving, recently discharged or back in civilian life for many years, this is a day of healing, hope and sharing with others who understand your story.

Open to all faiths. There is no cost to attend. Attendance is limited to 20.

For more information or to register, contact:

John Durant [john.durant8005@gmail.com](mailto:john.durant8005@gmail.com), 256-604-6030  
Deacon Lee Heckman [lee.g.heckman@gmail.com](mailto:lee.g.heckman@gmail.com), 256-714-7027.

## *Here Is What's Happening This Week*

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 06

10:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (LIB)

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 07

6:00pm: 11:15am Choir (SJC)  
7:00pm: 8:15am Choir (SJC)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 08

9:00am: Rosary Makers (LMR)

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 09

6:00pm: Bunco (SFH)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

9:30am: RE/OCIA (LMR/LIB/HFS/SFH)  
12:30pm: KPC/KPCLA (LMR/LIB)

### *Facilities Key*

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