

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sacrament Emergency Number is 256-735-6858.** This number is to be used for sacrament emergencies only and during non-office hours.

**Volunteers** are needed to clean the Church weekly until the job position is filled. Contact the Church Office if you can help.

**Office Phone** is still out. Please email or stop by for anything.

**Lost!** Blue velvet bag with hearing aid inside. Please contact the office if you find it.

**Saint Joseph School Benefit** - Make plans to join fellow parishioners at Don Migue Mexican Cuisine on Monday January 12 for the St. Joseph School benefit night! The School will receive 10% of all dine-in and to-go orders beginning at 5pm! Visit them on Florence Blvd or call in your order at (256) 431-5820. See you there!

**Ladies Altar Society** will meet this Tuesday, January 13th, at 10am in the Church Library.

**The Tuesday night Bible study** will resume January 13th at 6pm in the Church library. We will begin a new DVD series from EWTN study on Heresies the church has faced. All are welcome.

**2025 Contribution Statements** will be ready soon. If you'd like to have yours emailed or mailed, contact the office.

**Shroud of Turin Exhibit** will be on display here at St Michael Gymnasium on February 7-8th after all the weekend masses. PSR parents should visit with their children from 8:45-9:45am on February 8th. There is no cost, make plans to attend this special exhibit!

**Ladies in charge** of the altar for January is Cindy Varner and Carolyn Eck.

**Confirmation** is March 18th at 6pm. Confirmation will be here at St Michael. Please keep our confirmandi students in your prayers!

**Benefit** - Saint Michael's Catholic Church Gymnasium will be the venue for a benefit fish fry honoring Anthony Morgan, a local carpenter on Friday, January 23rd 4-8pm. The funds raised will help assist him and his family to pay for a recommended medical procedure. \$15 per plate and is pre-sale tickets only. Plate includes 4 pieces of fish, hushpuppies, French fries, cole slaw, tarter sauce, drink and dessert. Dine-in or take-out will be available. Contact his daughter, Candice at 256-710-0834 or his sister Susan Frederick at 205-515-6492 for purchase of tickets.

**Men in Black** - Retreat for Catholic High School Boys is February 13-15th at St Bernard Abbey. Retreat is free. Registration form is on our website and in the back of Church. Deadline is February 6th.

**Job Openings** for Bookkeeper and Church Cleaner are available. If interested please fill out an application (on our website and in the back of church in gray pamphlet stand) along with a resume with several references to the Church Office by January 28th. All candidates will be interviewed by Father Patrick, Deacon Steve and a committee.

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD EXPLAINED

In the liturgical calendar, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord signifies the end of the Christmas season. The Baptism of the Lord is notable because it marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. This event is documented in all the gospels except John.

**The Trinity Displayed in the Baptism of the Lord** The Gospel of Mark describes the event: *It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."* (Mark 1:9-11) Christ's baptism remarkably shows all three Persons of the Trinity at the same time: the Son being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending, and the Father speaking from the heavens. In this event, the Father and the Holy Spirit confirm the deity of Christ, and Jesus submits to his Father's will.

**Why Is Jesus Baptized?** When Jesus comes to John, John hesitates to baptize him. John's is a baptism of repentance, and Jesus has nothing for which he needs to repent. Why then does Jesus insist on being baptized? By choosing to be baptized, Jesus fulfills all righteousness – preparing himself to be a perfect sacrifice for us. The account in Matthew demonstrates this: *Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."* Then he allowed him. (Matthew 3:13-15)

**What Does Baptism Mean for Us?** As we reflect on Christ's baptism, we are reminded of our own baptism. Pope Benedict XVI said on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, "[Baptism] is communion with the One who conquered death and holds in his hand the keys of life. Belonging to this circle, to God's family, means being in communion with Christ, who is life and gives eternal love beyond death." Thanks be to God, who has redeemed us from our sins and given us eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Source: *Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception website*

## ACTIVITY DIRECTOR NOTES

**Nursery available** in Parish House during 10 am mass. This service is available for your little one ages birth -4 yrs old. A parent must sign in their child when dropping off child, not a sibling. Anyone who would still like to be a greeter or work in Nursery, contact Donna.

**Soup Kitchen** next Sat. 1/17 at 11 am, First Presbyterian Church, Florence. Call or text Donna if you would like to help. Save your winter clothing items to bring. Packs of Hot Hands, thermal underwear and tops, heavy coats, sweatshirts, socks, underwear, women's size 10, men underwear, size large, XL and 2XL needed.

**Yard sale** profit is now \$5540 from online sales. Updates as items sell.

**All stained glass window ornaments** sold out! The Altar Society thanks everyone for supporting this fund raising event.

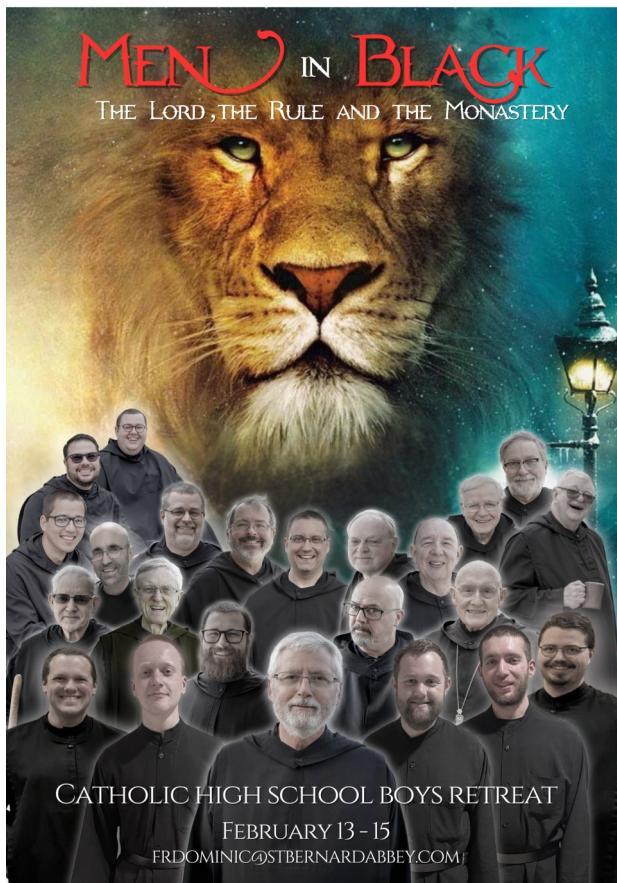
**Youth mass in January** on January 25. Anyone who would like to read, sing, take up a candle, contact Donna.

**Coffee, donuts,** and a thank you to Mary Jo Rivera, Bookkeeper Jan. 25. Coffee and donuts will be in the parish house on this date after both Sunday masses only. We want to also thank Mary Jo Rivera, for the last seven years as Saint Michael's bookkeeper. She will be retiring this position soon. Stop by and send our thanks and good wishes for the future.

**CYO Souper Bowl** weekend 2/7-2/8 and Fill A Truck! Each year CYO tries to fill a truck and collect monies on the same weekend as the Super Bowl. This year 1/2 of proceeds will be split between our Loaves and Fishes and St. Vincent de Paul in Florence. Bring canned items, commercial size canned items, paper supplies , oil, sugar, cake mixes, eggs, or make a cash donation at any mass .

**Sat. Feb 14**, 4 pm, Gym: Valentine meal for couples and widow/ widowers. Save the date! Call Donna if you can come.

*Submitted by Donna Peters, contact Donna for more info at 256-577-1607.*



Sacred Heart, Loretto & Saint Joseph Catholic Churches  
**MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION**  
**JANUARY 31, 2026**  
 KEESTONE RESORT, LORETO, TN





Master of Ceremonies  
 Kenny Beckman

FEATURING JOHN PAUL WHITE  
 FOUR-TIME GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING SINGER-SONGWRITER  
 AND CO-FOUNDER OF SINGLE LOCK RECORDS  
 5 PM ~ EVENING BEGINS WITH LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES &  
 SILENT AUCTION VIEWING, DINNER BEGINS AT 6 PM  
 CASH BAR OPEN ALL EVENING

MENU  
 SALAD, BLACKENED CHICKEN, COCONUT SHRIMP, ASPARAGUS, RED BEANS & RICE,  
 ROASTED POTATOES, CHOICE OF CHEESECAKE OR BREAD PUDDING

TICKETS \$125 EACH  
 CONTACT SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 931-853-4370






Bob Augustin James Gabbett Damien Rico Brenda Hollman