

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Sympathy** is expressed to the Kipp Family on the passing of their mother Roswitha Ann Kipp. May her soul rest with Our Lord.

**Special thanks** to Mary Jo Rivera for her time serving the Church as bookkeeper. We greatly appreciate all she has done in the office, for the parish and everything behind the scenes. Mary Jo has decided to step down as bookkeeper. She will continue to work part time until a replacement is found and trained.

**Gratitude** is extended to Teresa Chaney for her time serving the Church as cleaner. We appreciate her hard work keeping the church clean. Teresa has step down from this job at the beginning of the year and we are looking for some volunteers to clean the church weekly until a replacement is found. If you're interested in volunteering please notify the office.

**Epiphany House Blessing Prayer** is on the back of this page/insert. Blessed chalk is available in the back of Church in a basket for pickup.

**Thanks** to all who made the Christmas masses so beautiful and meaningful. It was truly beautiful.

**2026 Calendars** are available for pickup in the back of Church and in the Office. Thank you to Will & Dee's Florist for sponsoring them!

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

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

**The Initial Offering** in 2026 is not taxed by the Diocese of Birmingham - meaning 100% of your donation stays with St Michael. To ensure this please use the offertory envelope that says "Initial Offering" or write it on your check in the memo line. Thank you!

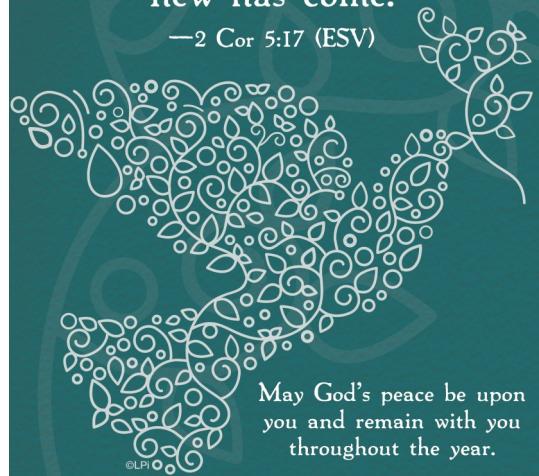
**Knights of Columbus** would like to thank everyone who purchased a raffle ticket to benefit special needs children. Cindy Wood from St Joseph won the Shoals Marriott prize.

**Because of a new obligation** to help pay for the altar wine, the Ladies' Altar Society is raising their yearly dues from \$10 to \$25. The envelopes you receive will not indicate this increase. We hope that everyone understands this decision. Thank you for your support!

**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.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



May God's peace be upon you and remain with you throughout the year.

## JOB OPENINGS!

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) and bring 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.

## BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

**The Thursday morning Bible study** will resume on January 8th at 10:30am. We will use a DVD series on the heresies within the church from EWTN. We meet in the Church Library, all are welcome.

**The Tuesday night Bible study** will resume January 13th. In January we will begin a new study on Heresies the church has faced. It is a DVD series from EWTN. We continue to meet in the library at 6:00 pm on Tuesday night. All are welcome.

**Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will resume on January 6, 2026 at 10am in the Church Library. All are welcome.

## 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.

**Christmas Stained Glass Window ornaments** for sale after each mass this weekend, 12/13-14. Come get an ornament of St. Michael, Mary, and Joseph. One ornament is \$20 or set of all three for \$50. Checks may be made out to St. Michael's Altar Society. Note: Sales on Sat night after mass will be held in Parish House

**Soup Kitchen** will be Jan. 17th 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 \$5390 from online sales. Look for more updates as items sell

**Stained Glass Window Ornaments** all sold except 4 Mary ornaments! Contact Karen Minelli @256 227-6713 if would like to have one of these beautiful ornaments. Thanks to Karen Minelli and the Altar Society for a wonderful idea to have our very own stained glass windows for ornaments. Look for other stained glass window ornaments to be sold next year.

**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.

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

## EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING 2026

Traditionally conducted by the head of the household. Using the blessed chalk that you brought with you from church, you will write numbers, letters, and crosses on the lintel of your home's front door (and any other door you wish) while reciting a prayer. The end result should look something like this, ideally centered over the door:

**20 + C + M + B + 26**

The prayer follows below; read it through beforehand and try to visualize the spacing and positioning of the letters so that you have a beautiful outcome! The inscription may be written either on the outside or inside of the home. The C stands for Casper, M for Melchior and B for Balthasar (the three wiseman) – and for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which is Latin for "May Christ Bless this House".

As you are writing, pray the following prayer: "In the name of the + Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. God, incline your ear. Bless us and all who are gathered here. Send your holy angel, who will defend us, and fill with grace all who dwell here. May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever. Amen."

In conclusion, you may wish to sing the carol, 'We Three Kings". This remains throughout the year as a reminder that your home is a Catholic and Christian home. "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!" (Joshua 24:15). It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for the Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. The many blessings connected with the Church's liturgical cycle and feasts are important ways for us to sanctify our homes and our lives throughout the year and benefit from special graces along our way. Be sure to keep the chalk for next year!