

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Important! The Church Office front door will now be locked during hours when only one employee is in the building. Please ring the doorbell on the right side of the door for assistance when locked. This is for their safety. Thank you in advance.

Afternoon at the Movies is this Sunday November 30th at Shoals Theater at 1:30pm. The Knights of Columbus presents 'Mary of Nazareth'. Movie is free, bring the family and/or a friend!

Thank you to Ronald Eckl, Anthony Eckl, Bernie Mettenberger and Louis Epping for replacing the retaining wall beside the school building and parking lot. We appreciate your hard work and time!

Finance Council will meet December 3rd at 10am.

The Thursday morning Bible study will not meet after December 4th until the new year. They will begin a new study on January 8th focusing on the heresies the church has encountered. We will be using a DVD series produced by EWTN. We will discuss one heresy a week.

Homeschooling! Sacred Heart Loretto is hosting local Catholic families who are Homeschooling their children. If you are interested in this group please contact Anita Jones at 931-279-2926.

Christmas Sharing kicks off this weekend. There's a tree in the vestibule with angels for adoption. Contact Courtney Warden for more info.

Town of St Florian Christmas Parade is December 6th at 6pm. St Michael Church is still looking for parishioners to participate, contact the church office if you can. Candy donations or any float lights/decorations may be dropped off at the church office. Let's have a great representation of our parish in the town parade!!

Knights of Columbus are selling raffle tickets. Please see a KOC member to get your ticket after Mass.

Play practice dates for CYO Christmas Play are after 10am mass on 11/30, 12/7, 12/14. PSR students may participate.

Gaudette Sunday Breakfast with the Knights of Columbus is December 14th in the gym after the 7:30 & 10am Masses. Make plans to join us after Mass for food and fellowship.

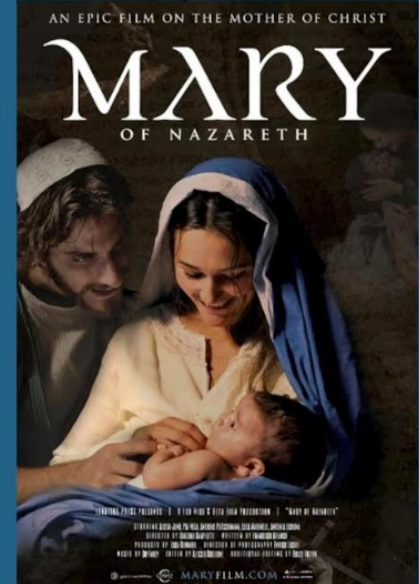
Advent Penance Service is December 15th at 7pm. Mark your calendar!

"Christmas for the Benedictines" Appeal has now reached more than one-third of the \$10,000 goal. Appeal runs through December. Thank you! Anyone that wishes to go to Cullman on Dec 19th to visit the sisters/priests should make a reservation with Carolyn Eck at 256-436-2045.

Christmas Mass Schedule: 4pm Children's Mass, 12am Midnight Mass and 10am Christmas Day Mass.



presents...



**Sunday, November 30th
1:30pm at Shoals Theater**

CHRISTMAS AT THE GROTTO

Experience the magic of the season at Ave Maria Grotto, beautifully lit and filled with festive cheer! Wander through Br. Joseph's stunning creations, glowing under holiday lights, and enjoy music, food, and family fun.

2025 Event Dates:

Nov 28–30 / Dec 4–7

Open 11AM–9PM (Thurs, Fri, Sat) and Sun (12pm–8pm) Lights on at 5PM

Dec 11–23

Open 11AM–9PM (Mon– Sat) and Sun (12pm–8pm) Lights on at 5PM

Don't Miss the Grotto's Special Weekend – Dec 13 & 14! Meet Santa, Horse-drawn wagon rides (\$5), Live music & entertainment, Food trucks

Admission: Adults: \$12 | Seniors: \$10 | Military/First Responders: \$9
Teens (13–17): \$10 | Kids (5–12): \$9 | Under 4: FREE

Ava Maria Grotto

1600 St Bernard Drive SE
Cullman, AL 35055 | 256-734-4110

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR NOTES

Nursery now 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.

4 pm Christmas Eve Mass: Does your child play an instrument? Contact Donna if they would like to play a Christmas hymn they know before mass. Also, youth are needed as readers for this mass.

Choir Practice for Midnight Mass: will start Wed. 12/03 after the 6 pm Mass. Then all Wednesdays before Christmas. Voices welcome!

Yard Sale profits in excess of \$4,700. A final total will be given after we see if some online items are purchased. Thank you again to all who donated, worked, and made purchases.

Sip and Paint, Sat. Dec. 6, at 5 pm in parish house. Come and enjoy wine ,cheese or sparkling juice and then paint your very own Christmas painting on canvas. This is so much fun and for beginners to artists. Cost is \$25 and is fun for all ages (youth around ages 11/12 and up that enjoy drawing would enjoy this as well). Let Donna know if you would like to come. 256-577-1607 to reserve your painting spot. Fun! Fun! Fun!

Dec 13 Senior Appreciation Meal, 11am ages 65 and up. Please call or text Donna if you would like to come so that we can plan how much food to prepare.

Dec. 14: Parish Christmas Meal and Play, 5 pm. Meat, bread and drinks provided. Please bring a vegetable/ salad or dessert to share.

Family Mass Dec. 21 @ the 10 am mass.

Soup Kitchen, Next soup kitchen will be Jan. 17

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



**FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

MASS TIMES
7:30 AM
12 PM
6 PM

DECEMBER 8TH

**HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION**

Question: What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer: Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.