

THE PEOPLE OF GOD CALLED TO FORM THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF

Rev. Charles Alookaran,  
Pastor  
1900 Highway 72 West  
P.O. Box 998  
Athens, Alabama 35612

Office: (256) 232-4191  
Rectory: (256) 771-1164

web:  
stpaulcatholicchurchathens.org  
e-mail:  
stpauloffice@gmail.com



**Chapel Hours**  
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday:  
8 a.m. until 3 p.m.  
Tuesday and Friday:  
8 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Other hours are by appointment.

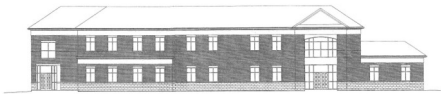
Office hours  
Tuesday—Friday  
9 a.m.—1 p.m.  
or by appointment

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS AND PARISHIONERS

If you'd like to join our Parish Family please fill out the parish registration form in the vestibule and place it in the collection basket, mail to Post Office Box 998, Athens, AL 35612 or bring to the church office.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

12/4	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
12/6	ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: 5:30 Rosary, 6 pm Mass & Penance Service followed by Confessions
12/8	HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Masses 8:30 am & 7 pm
12/10	ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:45 pm
12/12	Our Lady of Guadalupe 5:00 am Rosary & Benediction



NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BUILDING

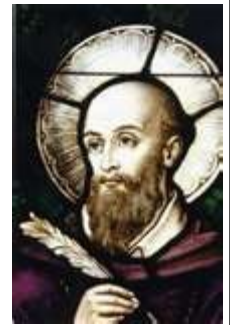


PRAYER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BUILDING

O God, with whom every good thing has its beginning, and through whom it is improved and increased: grant, we beseech Thee, that this work, which we have begun for the praise of Thy holy name, may be happily brought to completion through the never-failing gift of Thy fatherly wisdom.

We pray for the safety of all those who are working and who will work on this new building and that they will be blessed for their hard work with the satisfaction of a job well done for Your glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 4, 2011**



*In the Advent Gospels we experience John the Baptist urging us to "repent, prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight his paths." St. Francis de Sales comments on this passage:*

**"MAKE STRAIGHT THE PATHS OF THE LORD."**

Roads that twist and turn too much, only fatigue and mislead travelers.

Our life contains many tortuous ways that we must make straight for our Lord's coming.

First, **we must correct our mixed intentions and have only one, that of pleasing God by changing our heart.**

Like the mariner who always keeps his eye on the needle of the compass as he steers his boat, we too must **always have our eyes open to penitence, that is, a change of heart.**

**IN CHANGING OUR HEARTS, WE RETURN TO GOD'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS IN US.**

In repentance we experience tribulation and sorrow for having offended God's goodness.

We are no longer slaves to our emotions.

Our inclinations, feelings, and emotions are now directed toward the love of God and neighbor.

We see plainly that it is a most reasonable thing to be repentant for our great faults when we consider attentively the benefits of a virtuous life.

All acts of repentance are made for the sake of the beauty, honor, dignity and happiness of our own well-being.

**A change of heart leads to an even disposition.**

**THE PERFECTION OF PENANCE IS TO HAVE A HOLY LOVE FOR GOD THAT OVERFLOWS INTO LOVE OF NEIGHBOR.**

The love of God and self-centered love continually *struggle* within our heart and cause us great travail.

**True self-love serves God.**

When divine love reigns in our hearts it tames all other loves.

It places our natural emotions and desires under the Divine plan and service.

**LET US THEREFORE WALK WITH DETERMINATION BEFORE GOD LIKE JOHN THE BAPTIST.**

Let us be a voice crying out that we must prepare the way and make straight the path of the Lord, **so that receiving Him in this life, we may enjoy Him in the next.**

*(Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales)*

## THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

**Dec 05-11**

Mon 12/05		Mass at the Prison
Tues 12/06	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the chapel <i>Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i>
Wed 12/07	8:00 am 8:30 am	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the chapel <i>Novena to St. Anthony</i>
Thur 12/08	8:00 am 8:30 am 7:00 pm	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the Church Holy Mass in the Church
Fri 12/09	8:00 am 8:30 am 9—7 pm	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the chapel Adoration
Sat 12/10	8:00 am 8:30 am  4:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the chapel <i>Novena to Miraculous Medal</i> Rosary Holy Mass in the Church Hispanic Mass
Sun 12/11	8/8:30 am 11:15 am	Rosary/Holy Mass Rosary/Holy Mass

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)**  
Saturdays: 3:45-4:45 pm or by appointment



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER  
ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE  
IN THE VESTIBULE.** Simply drop  
in the collection basket or mail in

to the office. To have your loved one  
remembered in the Christmas bulletin,  
please return the envelope by **12/22/11**.

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Altar Society:** 1st Tuesday, 9:30 am in Hall

**Bible Study Class:** Sundays 9:50-10:45 in the  
Chapel Sacristy

**Breakfast Sunday:** Resumes in the spring

**Choir Practice:** Wednesday 6:30 - 7:30 pm in  
Church (Tim Gibbs, Director—230-0640)

**Community Food Pantry Collection:** Basket in  
Church Vestibule

**Donut Sunday:** Resumes in the spring

**Family Night:**

**Knights of Columbus:** 2nd Tuesday, 6:45 pm in the  
church hall Youth Room— (Dave Moreau, Grand  
Knight 256-233-4610)

**RCIA:** New class beginning. **Call the office if inter-  
ested.**

**RE:** 9:50 am in the church; parents pick up at 10:45  
in classrooms.

**Ladies Social Circle:** 4th Wednesday,  
9:30 -11:30 am in the church hall.

**Ultreya:** 4th Thursday, 6:45 pm in the chapel

**Youth Group:** Sundays 6:00-7:30 pm- church hall  
Youth Room during school year



Please pray for the repose of the soul  
of

**JIM CLOWRY**

Pete & Carolyn Stromquist's  
brother-in-law who passed away November 21.

*"May the angels lead you into paradise;  
may the martyrs come to welcome you  
and take you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem."*

### CONGRATULATIONS



**CONGRATULATIONS to**  
Michael and Sharon McLean on  
the baptism of their grand-  
daughter

**MADELINE JEAN HAM**

on Saturday, November 26

Madeline is the daughter of Sarah and  
Jeremy Ham



Congratulations to Michael and  
Maryann Palma on the baptism  
of their daughter

**KATELIN NEVAEH PALMA**

on

Saturday, November 19

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Cesar and Magaly Gonzalez	3 yrs 12/05
Danny and Christine Leibecki	16 yrs 12/10
Bruce and Marie Webb	23 yrs 12/10
Manuel and Teresa Sanchez	28 yrs 12/05
David and Beverly Toney	37 yrs 12/07

*May every joy you share and  
every challenge you face bring you closer  
together and closer to God, our Father.*

### FOOD PANTRY



The food pantry is in need of  
Crackers, Pancake Mix, Spaghetti  
Sauce, Complete Meals,  
and Beef Stew.

*Thanks for all your Support!*  
*Rachel Thompson*

### LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY



The Ladies Altar Society  
will meet this **Tuesday,**  
**December 6, at 9:30 in**  
**the Church Hall.**

Following the meeting we  
will have our annual Christmas lunch  
together. All ladies are invited to attend.

## THIS WEEK

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Experience the love of Christ  
through the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
at the **ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**  
on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6.**

**Rosary begins at 5:30**  
followed by  
**Holy Mass at 6 pm**  
and the **Examination of Conscience.**  
**Three priests will be available for**  
**private confessions.**



Confession, preceded by a  
thorough examination of  
conscience, softens our  
hearts preparing us to  
receive Jesus fruitfully in  
the Holy Eucharist and at  
Christmas.

### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

## FEAST OF THE

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The Feast of the Immaculate Conception,  
refers to the conception of Mary in the womb  
of her mother, St. Anne. From the very  
moment that she was conceived she was  
filled with grace by God and preserved from  
the stain of sin so that she might be a pure  
vessel by whom Christ could enter the world.

**Holy Mass will be celebrated at**  
**8: 30 a.m.**  
and  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**in the Church**

## NEXT WEEKEND

### ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

**ST. PAUL ANNUAL ADULT  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10  
SOCIAL HOUR: 5:45 - 6:45 PM  
HORS D'OEUVRES PROVIDED;  
E.Y.O.B.

DINNER SERVED: 7 PM

#### MENU

Creamy Cheddar Asparagus Soup

Entree: (Select 1)

Molasses Glazed Pork Roast  
Garlic Butter Baked Chicken

Glazed Baby Carrots  
w/ Roasted Pecans  
Roasted Baby Potatoes  
Cranberry Congeeled Salad  
Sautéed Green Beans w/Bacon

Yeast Rolls

Dessert: (Select 1)

Mocha Pecan Mud Pie  
Chocolate Cake

Coffee, Tea and Water provided

\$15 per person/\$25 per couple

Selections must be made at time of ticket purchase

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

The Weekly Bulletin and the Servers List  
are available online at:  
[www.stpaulcatholicchurchathens.org](http://www.stpaulcatholicchurchathens.org)

### 2012 DONATION ENVELOPES



Next year's Donation Envelopes will be in the vestibule next weekend, December 10th and 11th. Please remember to take yours home with you after Mass.

If you have not received envelopes in the past and would like some, please call the office by **Wednesday, December 7.**

If you are receiving envelopes now and prefer not to use them, please let the office know by **Wednesday, December 7.**

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24  
CHRISTMAS EVE



CHILDREN'S MASS  
5:00 PM



MIDNIGHT MASS  
Christmas Carols  
begin at 11:30



Immediately following  
Midnight Mass we will have  
hot cider and cookies in  
the church hall.  
Please join us!

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A  
SATURDAY MORNING MASS AND  
NO CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE.

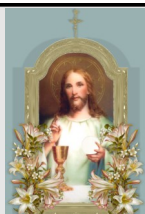
Come to the Penance Service  
on December 6th!



SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 25  
CHRISTMAS DAY

Masses will be

8:30 a.m.  
and  
11:15 a.m.



OUT OF RESPECT FOR JESUS IN THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT AND THE  
SACREDNESS OF THE SANCTUARY,  
kindly refrain from talking inside  
the church. Socializing is always  
welcome in the vestibule, outside  
the church, or in the church hall.

Thank you for your kind observance.

## OTHER NOTES OF INTEREST

**POPE JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
Attention all 8th Grade Students  
Applications are being accepted  
for next year's 9th grade  
[www.jpfalcons.org/admissions](http://www.jpfalcons.org/admissions)  
contact: Kathleen Tetzlaff 256-430-1760, ext.102  
[ktetzlaff@jp2falcons.org](mailto:ktetzlaff@jp2falcons.org)

**AN ADVENT RETREAT WITH ST. LUCY**  
DECEMBER 9-11

Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center  
Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman  
Information: (256) 734-8302 or  
email: [retreats@shmon.org](mailto:retreats@shmon.org)

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31  
There will be no morning Mass

Vigil Mass (English & Hispanic)  
will be at 5 pm

January 1 is not only New Year's Day, but also the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Church makes this day holy to remind us that we should begin each new year in thanksgiving and homage to God.

FIRST MASS OF THE NEW YEAR

11:30 pm Adoration  
Midnight Mass

Begin the New Year by giving thanks to God for all His favors in the past year and asking His blessings for the new year of 2012.

✠ A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule. ✠  
Please let us know if you plan to  
attend Midnight Mass and Adoration.

NEW YEAR'S DAY  
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God  
Holy Day of Obligation

MASSSES AT 8:30 AND 11:15 A.M.

### MASS READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 12/3 <b>SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER</b>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5A, 6-8
Sat Vigil/Sun 12/4 <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8
Mon 12/5	Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 Lk 5:17-26
Tues 12/6	Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14
Wed 12/7 <b>SAINT AMBROSE</b>	Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8 10 Mt 11:28-30
Thur 12/8 <b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>	Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38
Fri 12/9	Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19
Sat 12/10	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sat Vigil/Sun 12/11 <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## December 10/11, 2011 Server Schedule

To receive a schedule by e-mail,  
send your request to Tom at [spschedule@bellsouth.net](mailto:spschedule@bellsouth.net)

### SERVER LISTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE VESTIBULE

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.  
\* Denotes designated temporary Deacon for this Mass.

Mass	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers	Ushers	Altar Servers	Music
5 pm	Pat Hatchett	Eva Trussell Pat Hatchett* Gary Price	Thomas Lipka	John Diaz	Organ
8:30	Michael McLean	Joe Serocki Jackie Serocki Lauretta Viglianco*	Frank Westmoreland	Alexander Mingus Matthew Brannan Haley Branson	Guitar
11:15	7th Grade	Greg Beam Yvonne Dempsey* Carl McLemore	7th Grade David Toney	Isaac Niedzwiecki Adriana Moore Grant Baugher	Piano

**Dear God, we place our sick under Your care and humbly ask that You restore to good physical & spiritual health, Your servants listed here...**

Anne Lefevre	Wayne Wood	Michael Harries	Janina Gromek	Lois Graff	Irene Vanslager	Joan Hendrick
Angela Morales	June Maplesden	Luzy Heard	April Anderson	Edward J. Johnson	Dale Borden	Marie Stephens
Jose Morales	Terri Rankin	Al West	Braileigh Dempsey	Michael Miller	Elliott Malone	Terry Tyler
Tomas Branson	Carol Bailey	Frank Pitruzzello	Brandon Hicks	Andy Beasley	Rene Zaragoza	Andy Butcher
Jim & June Jackson	Grace Hunt	Jane Hargrove	Brother Jess Smith	Jim Flynt	Wesley Lavender	Howard Vinson
Randy Brinkley	Jackie Johnson	Lolita Halsey	Rebecca Pfeifer	Connie Haislip	Mary Morgan	Gregory Carrow
Lois Ware-Glasper	Virginia Gould	Pam Meyer	Jimmy Stroud	George Remy	Karen Hancock	Michael Carrow
Sandra Glovich	Margaret Stonecypher	John Ogle	Major Burlin Emery	Mildred Slaten	Ryan Hudson	Kimberly Bush
Jo Ann Harvey	Splendi Ward		Myrna Chavez	Loretta Gregg	Millie Bloemer	Noah Ritchey
Maria Hetrick	Irene & Robert Lee		Jose Datu	Carol Whitney	Mary Chambers	Marjorie Guenther
Betty Bates	Marjorie Dissottle		Sadie Davidson	Susan Giddens	Terri Forbes	Traci Louis
Bob Khym	Eva Isdunis		Gaylord Huffman	PFC Bradley Thompson	Tom Mingus, Jr.	Will Pekrul
Pauline Garlen	Cathy Marten		Herbert Williams	Lee Becatti & family	Bobby S. Gilbert	Billy Griffin
Bert Beam	Kenny Carwile		George Harvey, Jr.	Edilberto Aliviado, Sr.	Kathy Foster	Julia Ryberg
				Luis & Josefina Lopez	Mathias Grichtmeier	Norm Wilke
					Betty Jaraba	Della Rumore

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK, HOMEBOUND, MILITARY, AND OTHERS IN NEED. PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE!

**To remove, add/or relist a name, or to submit bulletin information, call 256-232-4191 or e-mail to: [stpauloffice@gmail.com](mailto:stpauloffice@gmail.com) by Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Names on the prayer list may be removed after one month unless otherwise notified.**



### Mass Intentions

*Mass Intention envelopes are available in the vestibule*



12/3	5:pm	Holy Mass in memory of <b>LUCILLE SIDES</b> (Ernest Tucker's friend)
12/4	8:30 11:15	Holy Mass for <b>ST. PAUL PARISH FAMILY</b> Holy Mass in memory of <b>GEORGE STONECYPHER</b>
12/6	6 pm	Holy Mass & Penance Service
12/7	8:30	Holy Mass
12/8	8:30 7 pm	HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASSES IN THE CHURCH
12/9	8:30	Holy Mass
12/10	5:pm	Holy Mass in memory of <b>HOY HIGGINBOTHAM</b>
12/11	8:30 11:15	Holy Mass for <b>KARRIE BONGARD</b> (Karen Woods' sister) Holy Mass in memory of <b>LUCILLE SIDES</b>

### PARISH MINISTRIES & CONTACT PERSONS

**BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:**  
**Parents must be registered members of the parish 4-6 months;**  
call the parish office for an appointment—232-4191

**HISPANIC MINISTRY:**  
Maria Taylor, 233-0226

#### MARRIAGES:

Arrangements must be made **six months** in advance with the priest.

**CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER:**  
Stephen and Kristi AuBuchon,  
230-0483,  
[www.birminghamcee.org](http://www.birminghamcee.org)

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:**  
Tom & Becky Dollman, 233-0705  
Jody & Toni Griffin, 614-0430

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**  
Elizabeth Niedzwiecki, 230-0819

**SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING:**  
Upon request:  
call the office prior to hospitalization, surgery or during illness.  
After hours emergency:  
call the rectory at 771-1164.

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

Register at [www.wmealabama.org](http://www.wmealabama.org) or (800) 540-9963.

### CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS:

Jan 6, Feb 3, March 23, April 13

Contact by e-mail at: [register.cebirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:register.cebirmingham@gmail.com)  
or visit the website at [www.birminghamcee.org](http://www.birminghamcee.org)



Bring your bulletin to Krystal Hamburgers on Sundays. Order a #1 combo or a 12 sack combo and they will donate 50 cents-\$1 to the church!

### PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Jesus, Eternal Priest, protect all our priests, Your servants, from all dangers and keep them safe in Your Sacred Heart. They are Yours and their life is offered in sacrifice at Your altar. Keep them pure of heart and aflame with the love of God and neighbor. Strengthen Your priests by living constantly in them, with them, and through them, especially in times of loneliness and afflictions, and when their life of sacrifice seems meaningless.

Bless all their labors with abundant fruit.

May they persevere in their vocation until the end.

Mary, our Blessed Mother, wrap them under your mantle and save them from all worldly distractions. May the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation in this world and in Heaven, their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen

*Mary, Queen of Priests, pray for us.  
St. John Vianney, pray for us.*



THANK

### Collection Report: November 27, 2011

Regular	\$2,424
Building	\$5,383
Burse Club	\$207
Church in Latin America	\$110

YOU