

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**
- 1/9 The Baptism of the Lord
 - 1/14 Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - 1/22 **Volunteer Appreciation Sunday:**
Wine and hors doeuvres from 4:30 until 6 pm
 - 1/25 Conversion of Saint Paul
 - 2/22 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
Holy Mass at 8:30 AM and 7 PM
 - 3/12 **LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE : 6 pm**

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY—JANUARY 8, 2012

An excerpt from a sermon by Pope St. Leo the Great, 5th century

THE VISIT OF THE WISE-MEN

THE LOVING PROVIDENCE OF GOD determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ...

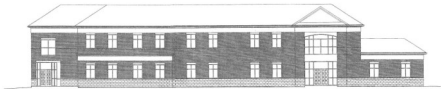
A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

THIS IS THE DAY that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised.

THIS IS THE DAY that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: *“All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name. Again, the Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.”*

THIS CAME TO BE FULFILLED, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. **The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.**

DEAR FRIENDS, YOU MUST HAVE THE SAME ZEAL TO BE OF HELP TO ONE ANOTHER; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



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

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Jan 9-15

Mon 1/9		
Tues 1/10	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the Chapel Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wed 1/11	8:00 am 8:30 am	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the chapel Novena to St. Anthony
Thur 1/12	8:00 am 8:30 am	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the Chapel Novena to St. Jude
Fri 1/13	8:00 am 8:30 am 9—7 pm	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the chapel Adoration
Sat 1/14	8:00 am 8:30 am 4:30 pm 5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Rosary & Adoration Holy Mass in the chapel Novena of Miraculous Medal Rosary Holy Mass in the Church Hispanic Mass
Sun 1/15	8:30 am 10:45 am 11:15 am	Rosary/Holy Mass Rosary Holy Mass

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



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.

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 interested.

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

JANUARY: MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." *Philippians 2*

The Jesus Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

This short prayer, called The Jesus Prayer, is a combination of that early Christian practice and the prayer offered by the publican in the parable of the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:9-14). St. Paul urges us to "pray without ceasing," and this prayer is one of the best ways to start doing so. It takes only a few minutes to memorize, after which we can recite it whenever we remember to do so. If we fill the otherwise wasted moments of our day with the Holy Name of Jesus, we'll keep our thoughts focused on Him and grow in His grace.



The Church offers a plenary indulgence to those who sing or pray the following hymn in honor of the Holy Name of Jesus every day for a month.

Hymn in Honor of The Holy Name of Jesus

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills the breast!
Yet sweeter far Thy face to see
And in Thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
Nor can the memory find,
A sweeter sound than Jesus' name,
The Savior of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart!
O joy of all the meek!
To those who fall, how kind Thou art!
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah! this
Nor tongue nor pen can show -
The love of Jesus, what it is,
None but His loved ones know.

Jesus! our only hope be Thou,
As Thou our prize shalt be;
In Thee be all our glory now,
And through eternity. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

David and Sarah Howse

10 yrs 1/13

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

WELCOME!

PLEASE WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

Walter and Michelle Figueroa & Daughter

Michael and Lilith Mensi

Steve Moquin

Maximino and Maria Perez and Family

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes resume
this Sunday, January 8.

Youth Group resumes this Sunday,
January 8 in the youth room at 6 pm.

FOOD PANTRY



The food pantry is in need of
Tuna Helper, Bars of Soap,
Pancake Mix and Syrup.

Thanks for all your Support!
Rachel Thompson

CLASSES ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH



Adult classes on the Catholic faith
begin this Sunday January 8 at 9:30
(after the 8:30 Mass) in the cry room
of the church

THANK YOU

*Thank you for all the prayers,
calls, cards and food. I am so
proud to be a part of our Church
family. My best to you all in the
New Year.*

Love,
Maria Van Kirk

To request a statement for your 2011
donations, please call or email the
office. (256) 232-4191
stpauloffice@gmail.com

MARCH FOR LIFE

2012 UNITED FOR LIFE
RALLY & MARCH



*He who closes his ear to the cry of the helpless
will himself cry out and not be heard.
Proverbs 21:13*

Saturday, January 14

**Respect Life Mass
9 AM
Cathedral of St. Paul**

**Rally & March
10:45 AM**

Brother Bryan Park
22nd Street South at 10th Avenue
Birmingham, AL

Rain or Shine-Legal & Peaceful
Bring Your Kids and Come Celebrate Life!

1-205-252-0706, ext. 30
BirminghamMarchForLife.com

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION
SUNDAY
JANUARY 22
4:30-6 PM**

WINE & CHEESE GET TOGETHER

If you have volunteered for any church function during 2011, you are invited!

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Sacristans, RE Teachers, Choir Members, Musicians, Cantors, Kitchen Workers, Cooks, Decorators, Children's Program Leaders and Workers, Altar Society, Knights of Columbus, Maintenance help, Helpers for Christmas, Lent, Easter, and other special liturgical programs, Yard work, Rosary procession, special dinners, any volunteer work at all...

YOU ARE INVITED!

CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT

**Introduction to Centering Prayer
January 20-22
Cullman, Alabama**



Sponsors: Benedictines Sisters Retreat Center and Contemplative Outreach Birmingham

Registration: 6-7 pm on Friday, January 20
Program ends on Sunday, January 22 after the noon meal.

Cost: \$195 per person for a private room
Lodging, Meals, and Linens included

Description: This retreat is designed for those new to Centering Prayer, a form of Christian prayer rooted in the ancient Christian contemplative tradition. Its purpose is to foster a deeper intimacy with Christ through the silence and stillness of contemplative prayer. Private rooms and the ability to maintain silence are required.

*Contact: Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center
(256) 734-8302
Email: retreats@shmon.org*

STRONG MEN STRONG FAITH

**CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH
6-9 PM**

**Two Nationally Known Speakers:
Deacon Alex Jones and
Philip Rivers**



Deacon Jones is a former Pentecostal minister who decided to research how the early Christians worshipped and joined the Catholic Church a few years ago after his research.

Philip Rivers is a former parishioner here at St. Paul, a devout Catholic, and quarterback for the San Diego Chargers.



**Registration Fee: \$10 Advance
\$15 at the door**

*Contact: John Martignoni
Office of New Evangelization & Stewardship
Office: 256-255-5801*

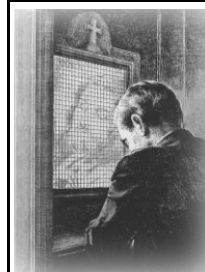
MASS READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Sat 1/7	1 JN 5: 14-21 Ps 149: 1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a, and 9b JN 2: 1-11
Sat Vigil/Sun 1/8 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	ISA 60: 1-6 Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 EPH 3: 2-3a, 5-6 MT 2: 1-12
Mon 1/9 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	ISA 42: 1-4, 6-7 Ps 29: 1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 ACTS 10: 34-38 Mk 1: 7-11
Tues 1/10	1 SAM 1: 1-8 1 SAM 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ab cd Mk 1: 14-20
Wed 1/11	1 SAM 3: 1-10, 19-20 P 40: 2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Mk 1: 29-39
Thur 1/12	1 SAM 4: 1-11 Ps 44: 10-11, 14-15, 24-25 Mk 1: 40-45
Fri 1/13	1 SAM 8: 4-7, 10-22a Ps 89: 16-17, 18-19 Mk 2: 1-12
Sat 1/14	1 SAM 9: 1-4, 17-19, 10: 1 Ps 21: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mk 2: 13-17
Sat Vigil/Sun 1/15 BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	1 SAM 3: 3b-10, 19 Ps 40: 2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 1 CHR 6: 13c-15a, 17-20 JN 1: 35-42

COLLECTION ENVELOPES

If you missed picking up your envelopes in December, you can pick them up in the office between 9 AM and 1 PM. - Or you can call the office and request that we leave them in the church sacristy for you to pick up. We'll take them to the Church for the weekend Masses and leave them on the counter in the sacristy.
Office phone: (256) 232-4191

SAVE THE DATE



**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
MONDAY
MARCH 12
6 PM**

We expect to have four priests hearing Confessions to help you prepare for receiving the Holy Eucharist at Easter. Mark your calendars!

*The Weekly Bulletin and the Servers List
are available online at:
www.stpaulcatholicchurchathens.org*

January 14/15, 2012 Server Schedule

To receive a schedule by e-mail,
send your request to Tom at 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	JoAnn Harvey	Thomas Lipka Eugene Scabel* Eva Trussell	Virgil Bartlow, Jr.	Sam AuBuchon	Organ
8:30	Karen Wood	Joe Serocki* Jackie Serocki William Bet-Sayad	Frank Westmoreland	Maggie Besh Sarah Kate Besh Lillian Caillouet	Organ
11:15	Chris Miller	Maria Taylor* David Toney Greg Beam	Carl McLemore	Alec Baugher Ben Rhodes Josh Maplesden	Guitar

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

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

1/7	5:pm	Holy Mass in memory of ROBERT DALSLING (Jay McCook's friend)
1/8	8:30	Holy Mass in memory of MARY DEMORY
	11:15	Holy Mass in memory of TOM VALLEROY
1/10	6:pm	Holy Mass of healing for STEVEN STROH (Jay McCook's friend)
1/11	8:30	Holy Mass
1/12	8:30	Holy Mass for the POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY
1/13	8:30	Holy Mass
1/14	5:pm	Holy Mass for the intentions of ANNE LEFEVRE
1/15	8:30	Holy Mass in memory of JIM JACKSON
	11:15	Holy Mass in memory of ALICIA OBLEA AND DANILO TAGALOG

THANK	Collection Report: December 31 & January 1 Regular \$4,730 Building \$9,646 Memorial to Building \$108 Burse Club \$20 Christmas \$105 Solemnity of Mary \$1,283	YOU
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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

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.wvmealabama.org or (800) 540-9963.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS:

Feb 3, March 23, April 13
Contact by e-mail at: register.cebirmingham@gmail.com
or visit the website at www.birminghamcee.org

PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT DROP YOUR CATHOLIC CHARITIES DONATIONS IN THE COLLECTION BASKET. PLEASE MAIL DIRECTLY TO BIRMINGHAM.

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.