



4609 Martin Street South, Cropwell, AL 35054
Office: 205-525-5161 **Fax: 205-525-5162**
www.ollpellcity.com **parish@ollpellcity.com**

Rev. Michael F. Sexton, Pastor

Deacon Terrence Rumore

Deacon Serge Brazzolotto

Deacon E. Lee Robinson

Director of Religious Education
Music Director
Parish Secretary

Tammy Ingels
Charmaine Welch
Kathy Bryant

MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. or
by appointment.

MARRIAGES:

Must be scheduled with the Priest
at least 6 months in advance.

MORNING ROSARY:

8:30 a.m. before Mass.

MONDAYS:

Miraculous Medal Novena following Rosary.

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY:

Novena To The Sacred Heart
of Jesus - before 9 a.m. Mass.
Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION:

Third Sunday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

August through May. Ages 3 yrs. through
High School.

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

Saturday, December 24, 2016

Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am



*The Nativity
of the Lord*

December 25, 2016

*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not
overcome it.*

— John 1:5



Mass Intentions

December 26– January 1



Monday: Marlene Catalino by Sam Catalino †
Tuesday: Joseph & Marie Amaro by the Zopfi Family †
Wednesday: Adela Amaya by Gloria Raynor †
Thursday: Nikki Harrell by the Zopfi Family †
Friday: Tom & Frances Zopfi by the Zopfi Family †
Saturday: Andy Brennan by the Brazzolottos †
Sunday: All Parishioners by Betty Huetteman

Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

*Paul Boyle, Crystal Welford, Cecil
Rodgers, Jacky Johnson, Kitty Gordon,
Jim Hopper, Anne & Cary Forister,
Rita Martens, Gail Layton.*

**Please pray for all our loved ones who are
ill and our shut-ins. To add a name, call the
church office; or to add to the Prayer Hot
Line call Sharon Stice at 205-338-0207, or
email: cocoapuff@centurytel.net**

Please note that names remain on the prayer
list for 30 days and then are removed unless
the Church Office is notified.

Weekly Readings ~ Dec. 26—Jan. 1

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab,
16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5
-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps
124:2-5, 7b-8;
Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3,
5b-6; Lk 2:36-40

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col
3:12-21 [12-17];
Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15,
19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-
2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3,
5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21

Today's Readings



First Reading — All the ends of the earth will
behold the salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:7-10)

Psalm — All the ends of the earth have seen
the saving power of God. (Psalm 98)

Second Reading — God has spoken to us
through the Son, the very imprint of God's be-
ing. (Hebrews 1:1-6)

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his
fullness we have all received grace. (John 1:1-18
[1-5, 9-14])

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Pastor's Message

**"It is Christmas,
Christmas that lasts forever.
Light the candles—they have more right to exist
Than all the darkness." (Fr. Karl Rahner)**

The miracle of Christmas is upon us once again, its age-old promise undimmed. Luke's beautiful Christmas narrative (read at the Christmas Masses) reminds us that the human condition is now suffused with God's beauty.

As Fr. John O'Donohoe, the Scripture scholar, puts it: "The human condition has been radically changed by the coming of Christ and this is cause for good news of great joy. He has changed our lives forever with his presence, with his power, with his love."

In Jesus, the Eternal Word of God became wombed in time. "The shepherds found the child lying in a manger". (Luke 2:16) A feeding trough for animals, and made of wood, housed the one who would become the Bread of Life, to feed the hungers of the world.

Pope Benedict XVI in a Christmas homily in 2005 has given voice also to the paradox and the beauty of Christmas: "God is so great that he can become small! God is so powerful that he can make himself vulnerable and come to us, a defenseless child so we can love him. God is so good that he can give up his divine splendor and come down in a stable, so we can find him; so that his goodness might touch us, give itself to us and continue to work through us".

St. Augustine wrote: "Let us celebrate the festive day (Christmas) on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time". Pope St. Leo the Great said: "O Christian, remember your dignity and now that you share in God's own nature do not return by sin to your former condition".

In this Christmas season we remember those who have left us in death this year. There will be an empty place at the dinner table and our hearts will ache for them. Charles Dickens said: "Remembrance like a candle burns brightest at Christmas".

We are mindful too of those desolate and war-torn areas of the world where the light of Christmas is dimmed by violence and inhumanity. The city of Aleppo in Syria comes to mind. A U.N. official said this week: "Hell has descended on Aleppo." Pray for peace there and wherever suffering and hunger mars the face of Christmas.

Christmas Wishes Too: From Deacon Terry, Deacon Serge, Deacon Lee, and the Pastoral staff, members of the Pastoral Council and myself, we wish you the best of Christmas blessings, deep peace and abiding joy. You make every day a Christmas day.

A blessed Christmas to you and yours,

Fr. Sexton

December 25 ~ January 1

Sunday-Dec. 25

**Christmas Day
Mass 9:00 am**



Monday-Dec. 26

Mass 9 am
*Legion of Mary
*Bridge

Tuesday-Dec. 27

Mass 9 am
*NO RCIA

Wednesday-Dec 28

Mass 7:00 pm
*Ultreya after Mass

Thursday-Dec. 29

Mass 9 am

Friday-Dec. 30

Mass 9 am

Saturday-Dec. 31

**New Year's Eve
Mass 5:00 pm**

Sunday-Jan. 1

**New Year's Day
Mass 8:30 am & 11:15 am**
*Youth Mass 11:15 am



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FINANCE NEWS
July 2015-June 2016

Last week

	Actual	Budget
*Offertory:	\$ 5154.05	\$ 5653.85

Year-to-date

*Offertory:	\$ 152,930.79	\$ 141,346.25
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*Please note the actual total includes Burse Club, Building Fund & Special Collections which are not part of the general operating budget.



The Love Pantry

The Love Pantry has requested that we bring cans of soup each week to help meet the needs of our Community.

Goal -100 cans/week.

Total cans last week – 88 cans

ULTREYA

ULTREYA meets Wednesday, Dec 28th, after the 7pm Mass in the Parish Hall.

Don't be left out; join us as we kindle the spark of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the life of our Parish.

All those who have made their Cursillo, please think about attending. Spouses are most welcome!

3 Things to bring:

1. A wrapped (Dirty Santa) gift to exchange.
2. A potluck dish to share.
3. Your favorite bible scripture written on a piece of paper.

See you there!!!



Saints and Special Observances

- Sunday:** *The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*
- Monday:** *St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins*
- Tuesday:** *St. John*
- Wednesday:** *The Holy Innocents*
- Thursday:** *St. Thomas Becket; Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*
- Friday:** *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*
- Saturday:** *St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*



Pro Life Corner

Spiritual Adoption Program



Month 8

Thank you for praying for me. I am 8 months old now. I've got long fingernails and I'm busy getting ready for my birthday. I can't wait to see my Mom and Dad. Thanks to you & your prayers, I will see them very soon!

Prayer

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.



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Assignments—Dec. 28— Jan. 1

WEDNESDAY **12/28/2016**

7:00 PM

Altar Servers
Lector Sarah Brazzolotto

SATURDAY MASS **12/31/2016**

5:00 PM

Altar Servers Peter Boyle, Tom Graffo
Greeters Susan Moseley, Kathy Shivers
Lectors Ron & Micky Zielinski
Ministers Deacon, Larry Reese, Sara Reese
Ushers Jim Gorman, Bob Nicholas

SUNDAY MASS **1/1/2017**

8:30 AM

Altar Servers Sophie Poteracki, Natalie Newcomb,
Bailey Nail, Jacob Wiley
Greeters Rosemary Mateer, Jimillia Sayles
Lectors Meagan Freeman, Anna Emerick
Ministers Deacon, Michael Gagliano, Teri Gagliano,
Carly Gagliano, Ronni Gagliano
Ushers Lance Stella, Dennis Veigl, Joaquina Reyes, Joe Yester

11:15 PM

Altar Servers Sawyer Stice, James Lewis, Troy Rosato, Erin Barker
Greeters Shirley Skeivelas, Frank Troncalli
Lectors Miranda Jacks, John Stice
Ministers Deacon, Lee Walser, Maria Jimenez, Wayne Adams, Mary Adams
Ushers Don Frederick, Chris Gallegly

If you cannot keep your assignment

PLEASE find a substitute.



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2017 Offertory envelopes are available for pickup in the North Foyer of the Church. If yours is not there please call the office:205.525.5161.

Merry Christmas

May we never be so focused
on getting presents
that we forget to receive

THE GIFT OF HIS PRESENCE.



Happy Birthday JESUS!



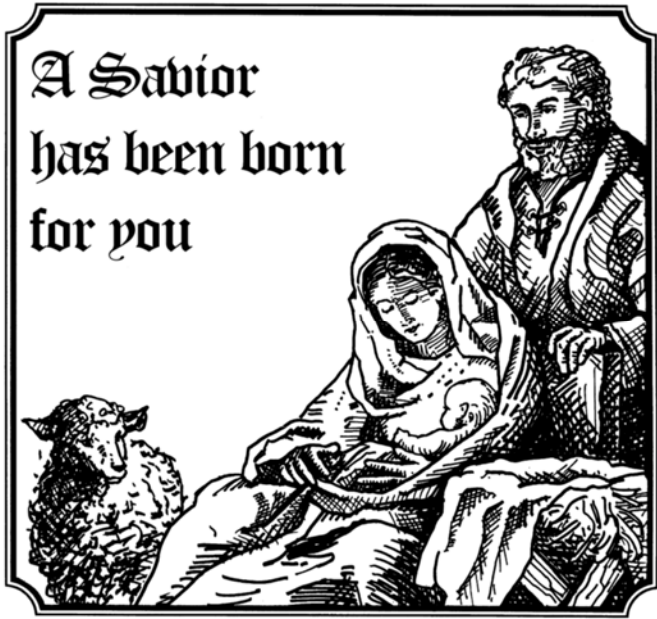
Little Ones in Christ Grades Pre K—Grade 2

Contact Joanna Murphree (205) 473-1444.

Junior Youth Grades 3— Grade 6 Contact Jordan Murphree (205) 863-5787

Senior Youth Grades 7-12 Contact Peter Boyle (205) 613-5435

1st & 3rd Wednesdays— Sr. Youth Meetings & Every 3rd Sunday—Social Night
Food, Fun, and Faith!



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Parish Council

Chair: Sonia Dale:
wmksdale2000@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Mark McRae:
mmcrae237@yahoo.com

Secretary: Karen Hand
wmkhand@yahoo.com

Beth Brouillette: beth_brouillette@yahoo.com

Sonya Lewis: catjames@centurytel.net

Joanna Murphree: Joannam1222@aol.com

Gloria Raynor: grodgers2010@gmail.com

Carl Rochford: rochfordc@bellsouth.net

Joe Stanley: rolytde1@aol.com

Important Announcement from Bishop Baker:

Currently, 18 out of 24 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Birmingham are receiving Tuition Assistance from the State of Alabama through a special fund set up by the State Legislature to help needy students.

As a parishioner paying state income tax you are allowed to designate up to 50 percent of your taxes to Scholarship for Kids.

You are encouraged to visit the website: scholarshipsforkids.org to watch a brief instructional video on how to set up an account so that you can re-direct half of your State Income Tax to be used for Catholic Education.

This must be done before the end of this calendar year for the money to be used next year. Please note on your check the Catholic School you prefer to receive your tax dollars. Thanks for your help.

Fr. Sexton

Matthew Brazzolotto

Many of you have asked for contact info for Matthew in England. He would love to hear from all of you while he is on his Mission Trip.

Matthew Brazzolotto
52 Orrell Road
Bootle
L20 6DZ
United Kingdom
mcbrazzolotto@gmail.com

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Council 12270**



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