



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

Sonya Lewis
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.-11:00 a.m.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION:

Third Sunday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
Exposición del Santísimo el segundo Miércoles
de cada mes @ 7:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

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

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

*Saturday, December 16, 2017
Mass 5:00 pm*

*Sunday, December 17, 2017
Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am*

*Third Sunday of
Advent*

December 17, 2017



*Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.*

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17



Mass Intentions

December 18 – December 24



Monday: Joe Stanley by the Brazzolottos †
Tuesday: Special Intentions
Wednesday: Joe Stanley by Edie Otto †
Thursday: Jim Gutsell by KOC 12270 †
Friday: Jack Martin by Brenda & Jerry Kern †
Saturday: Rodney & Beth Martin by the D'Amicos
Sunday: Christmas Eve

****Sunday's Mass Intentions are offered
at the 11:15 am Mass****

Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

*Paul Boyle, Crystal Welford, Cecil Rodgers,
Jacky Johnson, Rita Martens, Gail Layton,
Nicki Brasfield, Rene Bentel, Carolyn Marston.*

**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: sharonstice46@gmail.com.**

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. 18—Dec. 24

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2,
12-13, 18-19;
Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps
71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;
Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-
4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

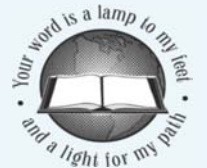
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-
18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm
2:1, 4-8abcd;
Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps
25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14;
Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a,
16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-
38

Today's Readings



First Reading — As a garden makes its growth
spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up
before all the nations. (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11)

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God.
(Luke 1:46-50, 53-54)

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test every-
thing; retain what is good. (1 Thessalonians
5:16-24)

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in
the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.
(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Pastor's Message

This Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Latin, "Rejoice") Sunday or, as Pope Francis calls it, the Sunday of Joy. The focus shifts somewhat to the Joy that awaits us in God's coming Kingdom.

The prophet Isaiah writes about the mission conferred on him by God—to bring glad tidings to the lowly and to heal the broken-hearted. He speaks about the joy he experiences in God, who clothes him in a mantle of justice and salvation.

Early Christians took up these words of Isaiah to describe the mission of Jesus. By virtue of our baptism in Christ, this ought to be our mission as well. As the prophet suggests there is no greater joy than doing God's work.

The Gospel presents John the Baptist as the one who testifies or gives witness to the Light who is coming into the world. We can rejoice because he is the Light that darkness cannot overcome.

John the Baptist realized that he was not the light but "Came to testify to the Light". In this season of lights, though we are not the light, we can light candles of hope because the Light who is Christ is in our midst, even as we await a fuller coming of that Light at Christmas.

Pope John Paul II reminded us: "We need in our own time heralds of the Gospel who are experts in humanity. Who know the depths of the human heart, who can share the joys, the hopes, the agonies, the distress of people today, but who are at the same time contemplatives who have fallen in love with God".

John the Baptist is our guide in Advent. He teaches us how to witness. We do not draw attention to ourselves. We are not the center of the picture or the selfie. We carry the lamp lit by the Light that fills the world. It is all about his Light. Advent provides us many opportunities to give witness to the Light. Parishioners have been doing this in a thousand ways—the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Christmas Giving Tree, sharing in the Christmas Dinner—a dish here, a salad there, the cooking of the meat, and the setting up and cleaning up the hall. Many of you were also bearers of light in your involvement in the Guadalupe Mass on Tuesday. Oh for the Joy of the Gospel.

Sacrament of Reconciliation This Week: Reconciliation is an integral part of Advent and Christmas preparation. This week we will offer the Sacrament of Confession every morning from 9:30-10:30 and on Wednesday evening, a Communal Penance Service with a visiting priest. Experience the peace and joy that comes with being reconciled and forgiven. A joy often to tears!

Church Envelopes for 2018: The boxes of envelopes with parishioners names attached are in the Parish Hall. Please stop by and collect your Church envelopes for weekly use.

Prayer of Advent: "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

Peace and Blessings,
Fr. Sexton

December 17 ~ December 24

Sunday-December 17

Mass 8:30 am & 11:15 am

3rd Sunday of Advent

*RE 9:45-11:00 am

*Reconciliation— HS

*Holy Hour 7 pm

*Sr. Youth 5:30-8 pm



Monday-December 18

Mass 9:00 am

*Reconciliation 9:30 am-10:30 am

*Legion of Mary

*Bridge

*Fr. Sexton's B'day

Tuesday-December 19

Mass 9:00 am

*Reconciliation 9:30 am-10:30 am

*NO RCIA

Wednesday-December 20

Mass 9:00 am

Penance Service 7:00 pm

*Reconciliation 9:30 am-10:30 am

Thursday-December 21

Mass 9:00 am

*Reconciliation 9:30 am-10:30 am

Friday-December 22

Mass 9:00 am

*Reconciliation 9:30 am-10:30 am

Saturday-December 23

Mass 9:00 am

*Reconciliation 3:30-5:00 pm

Sunday-December 24

Mass 8:30 am & 11:15 am

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Masses-

4:30 pm & 8:30 pm— Carols

30 minutes prior to Mass

*NO RE



**Weekly
Offertory**

July 2017 — June 2018

	Actual*	Needed
Last Week	\$10,293.17	\$5702.00
Year to Date	\$135,323.82	\$136,848.00

*Please note the actual total includes Seminarian Fund, 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 – 50 cans

The 2018 Offertory envelopes are ready for pickup in the Parish Hall.

If you do not see your box, please contact Kathy in the Church Office: 205-525-5161.

**I am a voice
crying out
in the desert**



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Annual Respect Life Mass and March



Saturday, January 13, 2018

Respect Life Mass—9:00 AM
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church
1515 12th Ave. South
Birmingham, AL 35205

**Birmingham Rally &
March for Life—10:45 AM**
Brother Bryan Park—22nd Street South
at 10th Avenue, Birmingham, AL

**www.BirminghamMarchLife.com
205-447-8796**

Advent Wreath Candle Lighters



Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 16th
5 pm Mass - [Frost Family](#)

Sunday, December 17th
8:30 am Mass - [Perry Family](#)
11:15 am Mass - [Luter Family](#)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23rd
5 pm Mass - [Boyle Family](#)

Sunday, December 24th
8:30 am Mass - [Falkner Family](#)
11:15 am Mass - [Lewis Family](#)

Assignments—Christmas Eve

SUNDAY MASS **12/24/2017**
4:30 PM **Christmas Eve Masses**

Altar Servers *
Greeters *
Lectors Chere Lowery, Joe Hoffert
Ministers Deacon, Rosemary Mateer, Susan Moseley, Parma Boyle, Anna Emerick
Ushers Michael Gagliano, Bit Thomaston, Phillip Thomaston

8:30 PM

Altar Servers *
Greeters Jay/Enid Willi, Poteracki B/F/S
Lectors Sarah Brazzolotto, Robert Lewis
Ministers Deacon, Tom Graffo, Chris Gallegly, Ruth Stanley, Teri Gagliano
Ushers *

Assignments—Dec.20 ~ Dec. 24

WEDNESDAY MASS **12/20/2017**

9:00 AM

7:00 PM

Penance Service

Altar Servers *
Lectors Bernie Funderburg

SATURDAY MASS **12/23/2017**

5:00 PM

4th Sunday of Advent

Altar Servers Larry Reese, Stephen Reese
Greeters Tammy McRae, Gloria/Jim Albright
Lectors Sara Reese, Sonia Dale
Ministers Deacon, Gloria Albright, Karen Hand
Ushers Bob Hand, Clayton Martin, Mike DeCastra, Mark McRae

SUNDAY MASS **12/24/2017**

8:30 AM

4th Sunday of Advent

Altar Servers Amelia Reese, Natalie Newcomb, Bailey Nail, Jacob Wiley
Greeters Laura Headley, Rosemary Mateer/ Jimillia Sayles
Lectors *
Ministers Deacon, *
Ushers Michael Gagliano, Laura Headley, Cristy McKinney, Joaquina Reyes

11:15 PM

Altar Servers Brooks Boyle, Peyton Foreman, Troy Rosato
Greeters Patsy LopezdeVictoria, Patrick Cowart
Lectors *
Ministers Deacon, *
Ushers Don Frederick, Larry Foltz, Jeanne Macon, Wayne Lowery





Little Ones in Christ

Grades Pre K—Grade 2

Contact Joanna Murphree (205) 473-1444

2nd Sunday 12:30—2:30pm

Junior Youth

Grades 3— Grade 6

Contact Jordan Murphree (205) 863-5787

2nd Sunday 12:30—2:30pm

Senior Youth

Grades 7-12

Contact Carly Gagliano (205)837-8888

1st and 3rd Sunday 5:30—8:00pm

Food, Fun, and Faith!

Parent Meeting

**Jan. 7—First Reconciliation meeting
9:45am in the parish hall**

**Jan. 14—Confirmation (8th & 9th grade)
meeting 9:45am in the parish hall**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Religious Education

**Dec. 17—RE 9:45—11:00am
High School Reconciliation
Sr. Youth 5:30—8:00pm**

**Dec. 24—No RE
Youth Mass 4:30pm
Carols start at 4:00**

Dec. 31— No RE

**Jan. 7—RE 9:45—11:00
First Reconciliation parent meeting
Youth Mass 11:15
Sr. Youth 5:30—8:00**

**Jan. 14—RE 9:45—11:00
Confirmation parent meeting**

**Jan. 21—RE 9:45—11:00
Sr. Youth 5:30—8:00
Holy Hour 7:00**

Jan. 28—RE 9:45—11:00

Jan. 29—First Reconciliation 6:00pm



Adult Education

**9:45 in the parish hall
No Adult Education scheduled!**



Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: *Third Sunday of Advent*

Thursday: *St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins*

Saturday: *St. John of Kanty*



Chair: Sonia Dale:
wmksdale2000@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Mark McRae:
mmcrae237@yahoo.com

Secretary: Karen Hand
wmkhand@yahoo.com

Matthew Allor: mjallor.1969@gmail.com

Marguerite Gorman: margog55@gmail.com

Johnny Kay: kayjohnny@yahoo.com

Joanna Murphree: Joannam1222@aol.com

Bart Perry: brpgep07@yahoo.com

Jennifer Rosato: jrosato1972@gmail.com

Council meetings are open to all parishioners, and are typically on the third Wed. of the month after Mass.

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