



Our Lady of Sorrows Church
January 20, 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

Mildred Stephens: Mildred was one of those resident saints of OLS. She was also the matriarch of the Stephens family. Her husband, Bill, died 15 years ago. His two brothers had six children apiece. With their wives dying relatively young, Mildred became the "mother" of 18, her own six plus 12. In addition to that, she mothered and loved those who married her six children like they were her own.

Mildred continued to see the eternal dimension of life. Her personal life was a complete preparation to meet Jesus and be welcomed into His eternal dwelling place of perfect happiness. She attended daily Mass as long as the children can remember and, in her recent illnesses, made sure one of those six would drive her to the 7:30 a.m. Mass and another would drive her home. She made a weekly holy hour long before we started the Chapel of Our Savior 26 years ago, after which she had her committed hour in the Chapel of Perpetual Adoration. In her later years she made sure that her daughter, Anita (St. George parish), drove her and stayed for the hour herself.

Mildred's life was doing something (especially cooking) for other people. Her love of neighbor was such that she taught her children to never talk unkindly about anyone. She told them that they did not know all the circumstances; others could be having a bad day. If someone talks unkindly about someone, change the subject or even politely walk away. She claimed that one who would listen would be just as guilty as the one telling the faults of anyone else.

Mildred told her daughter, as she prepared for death, to make sure people prayed for her. She didn't want anyone believing she was in heaven if she might be in purgatory and no one was praying for her. This was my

instruction as I prepared my homily at her Funeral Mass. So, I told the people, "just in case," we will pray the Holy Sacrifice for her intentions.

I personally and strongly believe Mildred was with our loving Savior as soon as she left this earth, with all the last rites. She was anointed and the Apostolic Blessing was given to her two days before she experienced the separation of the soul from the body. To me she is St. Mildred, and I do not accept the blame, because in the first 1000 years of the Church, saints were canonized by popular acclaim. Now it requires endless research into a person's life and at least two first class miracles worked by God through the intercession of the "saint." So, I hide behind the huge "popular acclaim" of the people who knew her. Mention her name to anyone who knew her and they reply: Saint. Saint. Saint. A huge number of people came to the wake from 4-7 p.m. Even the Rosary at 7 p.m. could not start until 7:15, and people waited until after the Benediction consecutive to the Rosary to greet the family. The Church was filled to capacity and those who came to the cemetery seemed to be record-breaking. So, in one of those mansions in heaven labeled OLS, we can find our beloved Mildred.

The Parish Council and Finance Committee met jointly last week to help me decide whether to ask Bishop Baker for permission to purchase the Gorrie Regan building, which is for sale. We heard from everyone at the meeting, and it shocked me that, with secret ballots, there was not one person on either committee who voted that we should not make an offer to buy the building. The inside is such that it is not reusable, and real estate in Homewood is pricey. The reason for the proposed purchase is:

- 1) It would provide 43 parking places for parking. We do not own the parking that we use across the street, and the day might come when we would not have all that parking space. Building a third floor on the parking deck would be about \$2 million and it would shut down the present parking deck for nine

months or so, which would necessitate parking we-know-not-where for teachers for the School, MDO and CCLC. Three times during my administration I have had to apologize to the library for using their parking during library hours when we had large funerals.

- 2) Our principal of the school reminded me that once or twice a week we shorten their playground by a third for different activities. With 43 extra parking places a couple hundred feet away, they could have their full playground more often. Also, I was told there are more accidents on the very confined playground than when they can use the full playground.
- 3) The library is building an addition in the near future on "our parking" area. Parking in the Gorrie Regan space is half the distance to the end of the parking deck and also from the back part of the library.
- 4) We are "land-locked," and it does not come often that next to our property there is 15,000 square feet for sale.

After the Parish Council and Finance Committee voted without one exception to try to purchase the Gorrie Regan property, I will write the bishop for permission immediately after typing this longer than planned *From the Pastor's Desk*.

Parish Support: Just a reminder, we have 1500 families registered and we have 602 pledge cards turned in. If you have misplaced your tithing card, call the office and we will send you one, or call in your pledge. These are confidential. Nothing is too small. We all need to support our parish.

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

P.S. Congratulations to OLS. Fifty-four units of blood were given last Sunday. Thank you to all the donors and the Knights of Columbus.

CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

Monday at 11 AM (Share with Partner)

Tuesday at 8 AM (Share with Partner)

Tuesday at 1 PM (Share with Partner)

Wednesday at 9 AM (Share with Partner)

Friday at 1 PM (Share with Partner)

Our goal is to have at least 2 people on each hour. These are the hours needed, but do select an hour that best fits your schedule.

Please call Mary Claire Brouillette at 871-2909 or Trudy Carpri at 643-0248.



Monday, Jan. 21	Sp. Int. Patty Echols Lorraine Von Hagel
Tuesday, Jan. 22	Sp. Int. Rosemary Savage & Family Josephine Russo & Marie Winningham Frank Cusimano
Wednesday, Jan. 23	Sp. Int. Naomi Kassouf Special Intention Sp. Int. Patty Echols Josephine Romano
Thursday, Jan. 24	Mary & Jim Meehan Betty McGrady Sp. Int. Kris & Dan Flemming & family
Friday, Jan. 25	Jeff Butterfield Sp. Int. Patty Echols Sp. Int. Dorie L. Cofer
Saturday, Jan. 26	Julia Riepele Cabrera Sp. Int. Sandra Barranco & family Joseph Alfano, Sr.
Sunday, Jan. 27	People of Parish Sp. Int. Patty Echols Thomas Cairns



Jeanette Gutkowski, Vita
D'Amico, Mary Ann Huie,
Charlie Kai Wadsworth,
Margie Cole

Everyone is invited to attend Adult Education on Sunday, January 27, for *Bible Basics III: Applying the Bible's Teachings to Our Lives*. The gathering begins in the **Parish Hall** at 9:45 a.m. with fellowship and light refreshments and the class begins at 10 a.m. Childcare is available in the nursery.

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

Sunday, January 20th: No meetings! LifeTeen and Edge resume on Sunday, January 27th.

Life Teen High School

Our high school group is home from Washington, D.C. today after participating in the March for Life. Please say a prayer for an end to abortion and find local ways to support life!

Life Teen Mission Trip to Abbeville, LA with Family Missions Company over Spring Break! (Mar 24-30) Find details on www.olsyouth.com/trips.

Edge Middle School

RSVP for Super Bowling Sunday! Meet from 7-9 pm on February 3 at Vestavia Bowl. Cost is \$5 per person and covers bowling, shoes, and dinner. Please contact msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com to register.

Elementary Children's Ministry

Friday, Jan. 25th: Calling all super heroes! 1st-5th graders and families are invited to don your capes and join us for dinner and Hero Games from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Hall. Please RSVP to carol@olsyouth.com.



Save the Date **OLS Vacation Bible School**

June 10th - 14th

9 - 12 pm

NOW TAKING ADULT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION
EMAIL PSR@OURLADYOFSORROWS.COM



Rise Against Hunger: Join the movement to end hunger in our lifetime! Help us to reach

our goal to package 100,000 + meals on February 23rd. Working together we can create a world without hunger. This is open to all members of the church. Shifts are 9-11a.m., 12:30-2:30 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. To register, go to our church website <http://www.ourladyofsorrows.com> or call Suzanne Corso or Tracey Doyal at 871-1431.

The Magnificat Prayer Luncheon will be held at Our Lady of Sorrows Family Life Center from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Our speaker will be Father Justin Nelson Alphonse, C.P. Tickets are \$15 and are available by contacting Donna Chmielarski at (205)408-0308, and from Alpha Church Supply. No tickets are sold at the door.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Saturday, January 26, at 10 a.m. We will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Prayers and Mass. Won't you join us in prayer as we begin a New Year? Padre Pio - our Patron Saint - would LOVE to have you join us! For more information, contact Angela Kolar at 991-9554. All are welcome!

LOST: We are missing two red and white checked tablecloths from the Family Life Center. Also, a sewing basket has gone missing from the Bride's room in the Parish Hall. If you know anything about these items, please contact the Church Office at 871-8121.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 21st for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

You are Invited



OUR LADY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 27, 2019 • 2-4 p.m.



**Growing our children in knowledge and faith...
Experience the Difference!**

- AdvancED Accredited and National Catholic Education Association Southern Association Member.
- Interactive whiteboards, Chromebooks, MacBook & iPad carts available to all students
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- Weekly School Liturgies
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OUR LADY OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1720 Oxmoor Road, Homewood AL • www.olsschool.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OLS

STUDENT HEROES



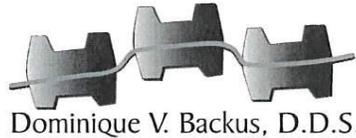
Students packed 10,000 meals for hungry children and families in Haiti!

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School is pleased to present the
2018-2019 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AWARD

to the following individuals and companies.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children and families.

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