



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

December 20, 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

So many thanks to those who turned in their tithing cards. The others of the parish were either out of town, still thinking, not quite sure what their earnings will be, or never checked the mail or missed the sermon on God's Plan to Support His Church. If you have lost your tithing card, call the office.

If we need \$2 million to operate the parish, and the pledges so far are \$1.5 million, we simply need another \$500,000 to operate. So, if you did not turn in a card, please turn in your card with your disposition. If you are unemployed, say so, etc. With 1500 families registered, there are 1200 pledges missing.

We need to give to God more than God needs our money, and God arranged it that He does need our money to keep our parishes alive and successful. Church law states that everyone must belong to a parish and give to the support of this parish. More importantly, the mind of God is that we give the first part of what we earn to Him. He owns everything we say is "ours."

Please send in your card and your intention to give to God through your parish. Even if your amount is small, the offering to God through the parish shows that you belong to the parish.

Merry Christmas! We can never get far from the glorious reality that the God of all the million planets and stars chose to come to small little earth, where He has creatures made to His own image and likeness to be with us, suffer with us, die for our salvation, and offers us unbelievable love. When the Savior came, He split our history in two.

We only have a few days left to get something for His birthday. The Advent wreath is the

time clock reminding us that we are so close to the day of celebration of His birth, five more days.

The Church uses three great Biblical characters to inspire us to celebrate His birthday:

- 1.) Isaiah, with so many prophecies concerning the Savior;
- 2.) John the Baptist, who prepared others for the coming of Christ, and;
- 3.) Lastly, Mary, who prepared for His birth and continues to point us in the direction of her Son.

Busy as the time is, we would be so wrong to forget the reason for all the celebration. We need to stop and imagine what it would be like if Jesus did not come. Could anyone of us survive before God without the mercy brought by Jesus? Could we be inspired to live for God if Jesus did not come? What kind of worship could we give the Father without Jesus? Lord Jesus come! Let us relive the time of expectancy. Let us plead and cry for the Savior as we renew our recognition of His coming by celebrating His birthday. Let every gift be given in His name. Let every heart rejoice and praise His goodness.

With 456 references to the Messiah in the Old Testament, people at the time of Christ were waiting, anticipating, and expecting someone great. He turned out to be far greater than they expected. God Himself decided to be our Savior, joining Himself to our human nature, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

If we had X-ray vision of our inner selves to see a scale of love on one side and selfishness on the other side, we might be shocked. Even though we love so much, most of us would be shocked at the amount of selfishness in our lives. Selfishness is another way to describe sin. In all reality we absolutely need the Savior.

We talk unkindly of others.

We use modern technology for evil, as well as good.

We are jealous, possessive, self-indulgent.

We are weak in faith and trust and even in love.

We tend to give into our feelings rather than do the things we know we should do.

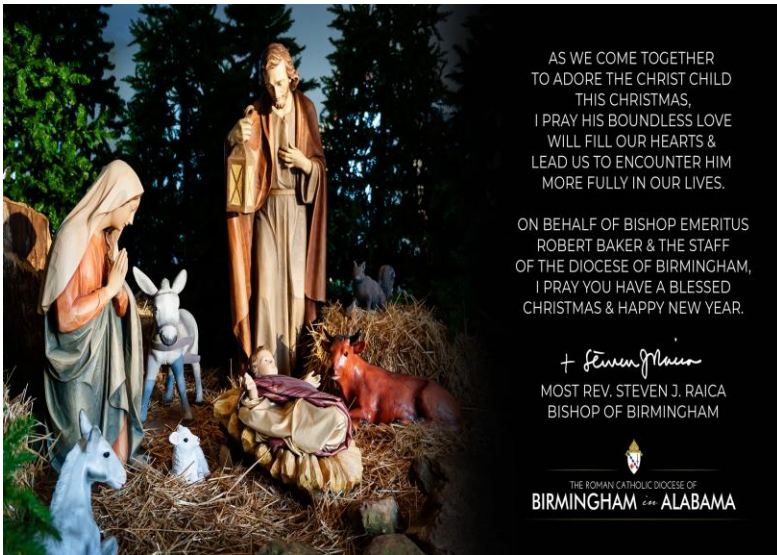
Thank you. Lord, for coming to save us from our sins. Oh, how much we need the Savior of the world!

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, January 10. We will continue to livestream Masses. The moral obligation of keeping the Lord's Day holy remains, even for those who use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.



Monday, Dec. 21	Special Intention Joy Raine Anthony Smeraglia
Tuesday, Dec. 22	Carol Hosmer Joseph Fox Reba & Howard Criswell
Wednesday, Dec. 23	Special Intention Sp. Int. Fr. Chris Alar Kathleen & Joseph Milan
Thursday, Dec. 24	Caroline Clara Piola/ J. Huber, Susan F. & Patrick M. O'Donnell Brian Criswell Donald & Marcelle Taccone
Friday, Dec. 25	Joseph J. & Jackie Milazzo Angelo & Rose Maggio Nan Brown
Saturday, Dec. 26	Donors to OLS School Foundation Genie Tallon Joy Raine
Sunday, Dec. 27	People of Parish Sp. Int. John & Mary Catherine Tombrello Mary Vacarella



Annual Respect Life Mass and Witness for Life Saturday, January 16, 2021

Respect Life Mass
9:00 AM · Our Lady of Fatima
708 1st St S, Birmingham

Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life
10:45 AM · Planned Parenthood
1019 1st Ave. North, Birmingham

Pandemic Protocols Encouraged
Contact: 205-447-8796



Carmela Yeakle, Ronnie Williams,
Tony Schilleci, Amanda Gagliano,
Carolyn Jefferson, Bob Doyle,
Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise,
Tim Carlisle, Tom James, Mike
Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan
Pizzitola, Kenny Skellie

Food for Our Journey update:

Once again, we would like to thank OLS for their continued support of our food drive. We are grateful to Fr. Muller for allowing us to continue our food drive every week. I cannot stress enough how vital your donations are to help us to serve our homeless community.

We are in need of a few specific things over the coming months. With the weather getting colder and wetter, we need ponchos, gloves, warm hats, and scarves. We also need sweet and salty snacks to go in the lunch bags. We continue to welcome your donations of sandwiches, soft fruits, and water. Thank you, Christine Golab, Assistant Executive Director

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

Edge and LifeTeen are taking a break! We will resume youth group Sunday, January 10, 2021. You are in our prayers!

Saturday, January 16: Mark the calendar for Catholic Youth on Mission at the Birmingham March for Life! We will have a youth rally featuring Laura Barksdale! More info. To come.

If you are in quarantine for school at this time, we ask that you do not attend Youth Group during that time, as well. Thank you!

For complete calendars, check out www.olsyouth.com.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Open your mind and heart and listen to God's wisdom spoken in dreams, signs, and wonders. Mary and Joseph trusted and let God work through them. What about you? (Matthew 1:18-24)

For seminarians, novices, and all those preparing for a life of ministry in the Church.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve (Thursday)

4 p.m. (Church, Parish Hall, Assembly Hall) –
Nursery Provided

6:00 p.m. (Church)

9:00 p.m. (Church)

12:00 Midnight (Church)

Christmas Day (Friday)

10:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve (Thursday)

6:00 p.m.

New Year's Day (Friday)

7:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.



**John Carroll wishes
Our Lady of Sorrows
Catholic Church a very
Merry Christmas & a
Happy New Year!**

Experience the value of a John Carroll education in the New Year...We are currently accepting transfer students for the spring semester!

Contact: Tina Wos | Admissions Director | twos@jcchs.org | www.jcchs.org

We were made for times such as these!

**The Church Office will be closed on
December 24 & 25. The priests and office
staff wish all of you a very Merry
Christmas!**