

# St. Joseph Catholic Church (Maysville)

1703 Dublin Street ▪ Mobile, AL 36605

Staffed by the Josephites and Dedicated Lay People of St. Joseph Parish

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 22, 2013

## REFLECTIONS

### STOP and LISTEN – FOR YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT SIGN YOU WILL RECEIVE

Today’s reading reminds me of when I was first approached about being a Supervisor. The company I work for hired a large number of employees and was looking for veteran workers to mentor the new workers and or be promoted to supervisor. My initial response was I would mentor, but I did not want the responsibility that goes along with being a supervisor. I can be accountable for myself, but I did not want the responsibility or liability of being responsible and accountable for others. I was approached a second time, this time I listened to their pitch of how they believed that my knowledge and experience was what they wanted and needed to lead the new employees. My response was I would think about it. In my thinking about the responsibility and liability, I also prayed about my decision. One morning while riding the elevator with a young man, in a general conversation, I commented about the beauty of the day, and enjoying the morning drive, spring flowers, and how it was going to be a good day. His response was “You’ll make a great supervisor”. Now he had no knowledge of my being approached or being considered for supervisor. While I simply replied thank you, I walked away asking myself if this was a sign, is this the answer to my prayer? Well, I accepted the promotion not wanting to question the sign of how my decision affected and benefitted others.

In the first reading, the Lord said through the Prophet Isaiah, “*Ask for a sign from the Lord your God*”. But Ahaz did not want to ask as he did not want to tempt the Lord. The Prophet Isiah responded “*Listen*, it is not enough to weary (wear out) people, must you weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this *sign*: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” In the Gospel, Matthew 1:18-24, Joseph receives a *sign* when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him JESUS, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.”

During this season of ADVENT, as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer, Stop and Listen, for we know not what sign He will send to answer our prayers.



*Providing a Beacon of Hope  
in the Maysville Community.*

### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Stephen Remilekun Sohe, S.S.J. .... Pastor

Rev. Mr. Ronnie A. Hathorne..... Deacon

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEB ..... [www.stjosephmaysville.org](http://www.stjosephmaysville.org)

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FACEBOOK ..... StJoseph’s

TWITTER..... StJosephMaysvil

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil ..... 4:30 PM

Sunday Mass ..... 9:30 AM

Tuesday ..... 5:30 PM

Wednesday – Friday ..... 7:45 AM

Holy Days Of Obligation ..... 6:00 PM

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Sunday ..... 8:45 – 9:15 AM

(or by appointment)

### THIS WEEK’S MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday.....For the People of the Parish

Monday.....For Charles & Frozine Mitchell

Thursday..... For Charles & Frozine Mitchell

Friday..... For Sister Lois Karlin, CSA

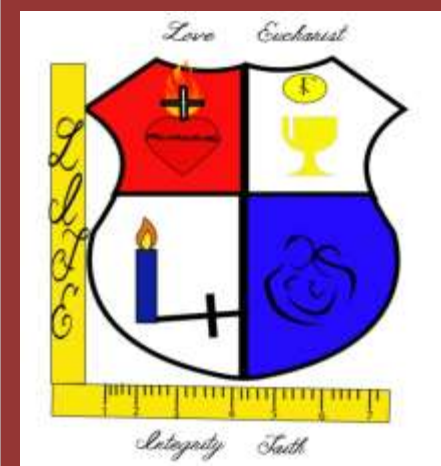
### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CCD Classes ..... After Sunday Mass

Bible Study ..... Monday, 6:00–7:00 PM

RCIA Classes ..... Thursday, 6:00–7:00 PM

### CHOIR REHEARSAL



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Happy Birthday!

Atman (Glenard) Barnes  
at  
Glenard's (Glenard) Barnes  
born on this day December 22.

Now we wish you were here to celebrate this day!

We Love You at 1854 1/2 You are Forever in Our Hearts!  
The Barnes, Randle, & Stokeman Families

“Thank you, Blessed Mother  
for a favor granted to me  
through the prayer of the  
Holy Rosary.”



Merry Christmas to  
St. Joseph Church Family

### ADVERTISEMENTS

Would like to advertise you business or send a special message to a loved one? Contact anyone on the Media and Public Relations Committee.

#### PERSONAL ADS (cost per week)

Up to 32 Characters ..... \$7

Up to 64 Characters ..... \$12

#### BUSINESS ADS (cost per month)

Business Cards ..... \$25

1/8-Page..... \$50

1/4-Page..... \$100

1/2-Page\$..... \$210

Full-Page ..... \$430



MINISTRIES

Altar Servers ..... Brandon Barnes  
Altar Society ..... Patricia Reed  
Bereavement ..... Pamela Barnes  
Bible Study..... Ruth McKitric  
Bldg. & Grounds Mgr. .... Walter Battles  
Choir Director ..... Lillie Key  
Finance Chair ..... Robert Pettaway  
Hospitality & Ushers .....Sharon Malone  
Legion of Mary.....Hilda Carroway  
Liturgical .....Ruth Pettaway  
Liturgical Dancers .....Yvette Smith  
Male Choir ..... William Frazier  
Media & Public Relations..... Greg Cyprian  
Parish Council .....Thomas Whittaker  
RCIA ..... Deacon Ronnie Hathorne  
Religious Education Dir. .... Tiffany J. Barnes  
St Joseph School Alumni ..... Shawn Bivens  
Stewardship ..... Keith Brewer  
Technology/IT ..... Michael Smith  
Youth Activities & Family Life .... Tara Evans

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

•TODAY - DECEMBER 22  
Lectors.....Rosemary Austin & Tara Evans  
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist .....Charles & Barbara Mitchell  
Altar Servers.....Brandon, Kimara, Lance  
Family Gift Bearers.....  
.....Duccloux/Hawthorne Family  
• CHRISTMAS DAY  
Lector .....Pamela Barnes

• DECEMBER 29  
Lectors.....Windola Thompson & Pavia Dewberry  
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist ..... Keith & Claudia Brewer  
Altar Servers ..... Kai, Matthew, Pat  
Family Gift Bearers.....  
The Hayes (Lott/Mackie) Family

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

•ANNIVERSERIES  
15 .....Allen & Gwen Hickman  
23.....Noel & Marilyn Moseby  
(35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)  
30.....Herman & Teresa Alexander

•BIRTHDAYS  
01 ..... Malachi Pratt  
06 ..... Courtney Simpson  
07 ..... Marshae Blackmon  
09 ..... Herman Alexander III  
09 ..... Rafael Donaldson  
09 ..... Robert Pettaway  
13 ..... Thomas Smith and Henry Smith  
19 ..... Johnny Thompson  
20 ..... Lisa Dewberry  
21 ..... Caleb Roberson  
23 ..... Genevieve Carter  
23 ..... Tiffany Davis  
26 ..... William Lofton Jr.  
26 ..... Michael Steele  
28 ..... Kendrick Mackie

Weekly Collection – \$2,466.00  
(December 15)

Attendance - 112

Know Your Faith

The Date of Christ’s Birth

The first Christmas was said to have been celebrated 1700 years ago. This indicated that Christmas was not celebrated until around the fourth century after the death of Christ. That notwithstanding, we ask the question: Is December 25 the actual date of Christ’s birth? There are several arguments against December 25 being the actual date of Christ’s birth. Some Christians in fact refuse to celebrate Christmas or December 25 for these reasons, among all others, that the date has no biblical record, and that it relates to a pagan day celebration of the sun-god. Undoubtedly, there is no mention or reference to December 25 in the Bible. History noted that not even among the early Christians up to the fourth century was the birthday of Jesus Christ mentioned or celebrated.

However, should these historical facts necessarily stop us from celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ? An attempt to understand the meaning of Christ’s birth and its celebration at Christmas will help to clarify some of these misinterpretations. The birth of Christ climaxed the history of our salvation. Thus it is absolutely appropriate and necessary that we call to mind the mystery of our salvation and celebrate it, even far and above every other blessing we can imagine. With regards to the date, December 25, is it not fitting that the celebration of a pagan sun-god, a non-entity, whose worship consumed the entire world at that time, be baptized into a Christian celebration? St Paul made it clear to the people of Athens, who had built a shrine for an un-known god that he knew and preached about that God who was un-known to them. It is equally arguable that those who worshipped the pagan sun-god were doing so in ignorance of the real Sun of Justice, Christ the Lord. It thus behooves Christianity to tell the whole world of the real Sun of Justice, the Son of God, by celebrating his birth in place of the pagan sun-god celebration, even though the date of Christ’s birth is historically unknown.



THOUGHTS & REMINDERS

Keep In Prayer Our...  
Ill & Homebound Parishioners  
Mrs. Delores Battle      Mrs. Delores Isom  
Mr. William Lucas      Mrs. Reola Juzang  
Mrs. Theresa Gulley      Mr. James Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Hickman      Little Christen Roberson

(Please sign the Healing Prayer Book to list ill and/or homebound parishioners)

Sacrament of Matrimony

Any parishioner seeking marriage must contact the Pastor at least six (6) months prior to the desired wedding date.

Baptism

Parents desiring baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the pastor at least two weeks in advance to arrange for the required preparation class for parents and godparents.

Mass of Christian Burial

When a funeral is to be celebrated, please contact the Pastor before contacting the funeral home. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

READINGS FOR MASS

Third Week of Advent

December 23-29, 2013



MON 23	First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Gospel: Luke 1:57-66
TUE 24	First Reading: Isiah 62:1-5 Second Reading: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-2
WED 25	First Reading: Isiah 52:7-10 Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6 Gospel: John 1:1-18
THU 26	First Reading: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22
FRI 27	First Reading: 1 John:1-4 Gospel: John 20:1A, 2-8
SAT 28	First Reading: 1 John 1:5-2:2 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18
SUN 29	<b>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

NEW LAW PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN AND TAX CREDITS FOR SUPPORTERS:

Individuals and corporations can receive dollar for dollar tax credits for contributions to approved Scholarship Granting Organizations, effectively directing their tax dollars to fund scholarships for low income K-12 students who want to transfer out of failing public schools in Alabama. Through this program the financial barriers of tuition can be lowered or erased, allowing these families the freedom to choose the education that they feel works best for their children. For more info, se the December 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Catholic Week*. Help a needy child attend a Catholic School.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE – 6: 30 p.m.  
CHRISTMAS DAY – 9:30 a.m.  
NEW YEAR’S EVE – 6: 30 p.m.  
NEW YEAR’S DAY – 9:30 a.m.

- ❖WELCOME - We welcome in our midst Brother Joseph Kikanda, a Josephite Seminarian. Brother Joseph will be with us for one more week, then he will travel back to the Josephite Seminary in Washington DC. Please let us show him our spirit of hospitality and make him feel welcome.
- ❖RAFFLE – The Media/Public Relations Ministry are selling raffle tickets for a basket of cheer. Tickets are one dollar each. See any member of this ministry to purchase tickets. Raffle will be held Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> after Mass at the Carroll Coffee Café,
- ❖MOST PURE HEART OF MARY – BINGO, every Friday night. Doors open at 6:00 pm., games begin at 7:00 pm. Help save our school!
- ❖PRAYER INTENTION CARDS are now located in the Vestibule of the Church.
- ❖Our Community Life Committee is asking for clothing donations for the **WINTER CLOTHING & BLANKET DRIVE** for Catholic Social Service.

