**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**506 COUNTY ROAD 1 - WEDOWEE, AL 36278**

**December 1, 2024**

**First Sunday in Advent**

**Reverend Gali** **Balaswamy gbalaswamy10@gmail.com**334-497-4847

**Mass Times: Sunday English 10:30 am**

 **Spanish: 12:00 pm**

 **Friday Mass: Spanish: 6:00 pm**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday’s at 5:30 pm**

 **Sunday’s at 11:30 am**

**Contact Information:** Parish office: 256-357-2977

 Email: immaculateconceptional@gmail.com

 Website: Immaculateconceptional.org

 Facebook: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

**Mission Statement:** *To enable ourselves and others to know, love and serve God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To participate in and provide the Sacraments. To promote spiritual growth and religious education and fellowship of the Catholic Church to all. To utilize the talents, leadership qualities and special skills given to us as a diversified parish family and to promote unity and develop closer relationships with other Christian faiths.*

**Pope's December Prayer Intention --**  For Pilgrims of Hope... Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthens us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Weekly Mass Attendance: English 51 Spanish 186

**Weekly Offerings**

 Weekly Collection: $ 1081.00

 Weekly Online: $ 494.69

 Building Fund: $ 595.00

 Building Online: $



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**ONLINE GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. Text to give is now available at Immaculate Conception.** Just text the word “give” to 256-330-5544 and follow the links to set up a one time or recurring donation. Choose your convenient way to contribute either by text, online link https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/icwedowee or QR Code Why not set up your recurring donation today and forget about writing checks. If anyone has any questions or needs help concerning any online giving options, feel free to contact Gerry Gettiinger. 

**ST. BLAISE HALL** is available for small gatherings. Anyone wishing to use the hall for any reason **MUST HAVE THEIR GATHERING PUT ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR**. Contact Michele at variscom506@gmail.com or 678-481-0529

**PRAY FOR THE SICK** –Bennett Lundy (grandson of Brett and Laurie Lundy), Chuck Smith, Patti Livingston, Hiram Massengale, Jim Betts, Lanelle Cova, Cass, Tami Mueller, Daughter of Anne & Gene Bradley, Amarante Chavez, father of Chistina DuPuis

**GUIDELINES FOR RECEPTION OF SACRAMENTS**

**BAPTISM:** Contact Maria Gembe. She will set the date for Classes and confer with Fr Bala for a Baptismal Date. A minimum of 30 days, notice and completion of Baptismal preparation class and documentation must be completed before a date may be set.

**MARRIAGE**: Anyone planning a wedding must first contact Fr Bala. The guidelines set by the Diocese of B’ham state that one must contact the Pastor a minimum of 6 months prior to the selection of a date for the marriage. There are no exceptions.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**: The youth must be in the second grade, older, and actively engaged in PSR for 2 or more years.

**CONFIRMATION:** The individual must be in the 7th grade, or older, and actively engaged in a two-year Confirmation preparation program.

**QUINCEANERA:** Individuals must contact Fr Bala at least 6 months prior to setting a date and begin a time of preparation to fully understand the significance of the celebration. There are no exceptions.

**PARISH NEWS:**

***THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION*** will be celebrated on Friday, December 6, at the 6:00 p.m.  bi-lingual Mass.

There will be a ***WORK DAY***Saturday, December 14. "We will begin at 8:00 or come whenever you can."  We will be putting up the outdoor Christmas decorations and spreading pine straw.  Please come help us get our church grounds ready for Christmas.

***DECEMBER SCHEDULE***

Dec. 1 - First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 6 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception 6pm Mass

Dec. 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 14 - Work Day 8 a.m.

Dec. 15 - Third Sunday of Advent  (Christmas Lunch after 10:30 Mass)

Dec. 20 - Advent Penance available 5-6 p.m. and again at 6:30

Dec. 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 23 - Decorate inside of church  9 a.m.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Masses  10:30 English   12:00 Spanish

Dec. 29 - Sunday Mass schedule

January 1 - Solemnity of Mary  10:30 English  12:00 Spanish

***YOU ARE INVITED TO LESSONS & CAROLS*** at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Anniston on **Sunday, December 15** at 6:00 p.m.  Prelude Music begins at 5:30 p.m.

Please consider making a **Christmas Flower Offering** to help defray the cost of decorating our church for Christmas.  There are Flower Offering envelopes on the table in the Narthex and in your weekly collection envelope box.  You can designate on the envelope if you wish to have the offering in Memory of a loved one or in Honor of someone.  Once you have filled out the envelope, please put it in the regular collection basket or give it to one of the ushers.  Your intentions will be prayed for at the Masses during the Christmas Season.  We appreciate your generosity and support.

Mark you Calendars:   Our **Christmas Luncheon** will be Sunday, December 15, after the 10:30 Mass.  More information will be emailed to you soon.

***ATTN. CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS*** -- The EWTN Gift Shoppe's Christmas Open House is **Friday, December 13th** 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. -- 5817 Old Leeds Road, Irondale, AL   [www.ewtnrc.com](http://www.ewtnrc.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

The boxes of **weekly collection envelopes for 2025** have arrived.  If you used envelopes this past year, there is a box in the narthex with your name on it.  If you did not use envelopes, but would like to do so in 2025, please see one of the ushers or Michele.

**FOOD PANTRY** If you would like to donate food to the Immaculate Conception Food Pantr**y**, there is a list of needed items in the pantry. Monetary donations may also be made.Please remember that if you need food, whether you are Immaculate Conception parishioner or not, please contact Elvira Allende, 256 914-9645 or Stephanie Roberts, 256 276-8133, bedeh0426@gmail.com



**PASTORAL MINISTRIES**

**Reverend Bala Balaswamy**

**Michele Varisco:** Parish Council Chairperson

Email: variscom506@gmail.com Cell (678) 481-0529

**Tommy Cain:** Finance Council Chairperson

 Email: tcain8@bellsouth.net Cell (251) 454-8160

**Jim & Stephanie Roberts:** Building Committee

 Email: jim@multimetco.com

**Anel Covarrubias:** Hispanic Liaison

 Cell: (334) 863-1137

 anercovarrubias7@gmail.com

**December Schedule:**

Sunday, Dec. 1 -- Lector: Bart    Announcer:  Brett

                            E.M.:  Tommy

                            Usher:  Diane & Roger

Friday, Dec. 6 -- Lector:  Chip

                          Usher:  Pat & Tom

Sunday, Dec. 8 -- Lector: Gerry    Announcer:  Bart

                            E.M.:  Pat

                            Usher:  Diane & Tom

Sunday, Dec. 15 -- Lector:  Brett    Announcer:  Chip

                                E.M.:  Michele

                                Usher:  Paul & Roger

Sunday, Dec. 22 -- Lector:  Charlotte   Announcer:  Brett

                                E.M.:  Helen

                                Usher:  Tom & Michele

Christmas, Dec. 25 -- Lector:  Charlotte    Announcer:  Gerry

                                   E.M.:  Patty

                                   Usher:  Tommy & Roger

Sunday, Dec. 29 -- Lector:  Chip    Announcer:  Michele

                                E.M: Gerry

Usher:  Paul & Tommy

**Sacristan:** Alison & Nawana

**Alter Linens 2024**

December - Sandra

**Church Cleaning Schedule:**

December 7 - Vicente/Elvira & Jose/Sandra

December 21 - Anker & Christensen & Burke

January 4, 2025 - Francisca Velazquez & Family

January 18, 2025 - Cain & Broyles

February 1 - Juan Velasquez & Family

February 15 - Galdino Velazquez & Family