



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

## Parish Staff

**Pastor**  
**Father Linus G. Akpan, STD**  
(205) 569-8767

**Deacon**  
**Rev. Mr. Douglass Moorer**  
(205) 427-7885

Address  
**708 First Street, South**  
**Birmingham, AL 35205**

Contact Information  
**Rectory: (205) 322-1205**  
**Fax: (205) 714-5056**  
**Email: [olf@josephite.com](mailto:olf@josephite.com)**  
**Website: [olfbirmingham.org](http://olfbirmingham.org)**

Office Hours  
**Tuesday-Friday**  
**9:00 A.M.– 3:30 P.M.**

Sacraments  
**Masses: Saturday..... 4:00 P.M.**  
**Sunday..... 7:00 A.M.**  
**11:00 A.M.**

**Baptism:** Parents desiring Baptism for their children are encouraged to contact the Rectory to arrange for the required preparation class for parents and Godparents

**Funeral:** Please contact the Rectory for Funeral Arrangements. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

**Anointing of the Sick:** If you or a family member is Sick or Shut-in, please inform the Rectory so that we may arrange to bring the Sacraments to your home, hospital or nursing home.

**Marriage:** For Marriage Arrangements, please contact the Rectory at least 6 months before intended marriage date.

**Confessions:**  
Saturdays 3:00 P.M. to 3:45 P.M.  
Sundays 6:00 A.M. to 6:45 A.M.  
10:00 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.



## Parish Mission Statement

*Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church is committed to proclaiming our belief in the Message and Mission of Jesus Christ. Also, the members are committed to sharing our time, talent, and treasure through Sacramental, Educational and Pastoral ministry, Service to those in need and working for Social Justice.*



## Church Membership

There are levels of Church membership. Anyone living within the boundaries of our parish for at least 6 months is automatically a member. Those who live inside or outside our boundaries and choose to “register” are members. “Contributing members” are those who choose to use the envelopes on a regular basis and are entitled to regular financial reports from the rectory.

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**September 17, 2023**  
**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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# TODAY'S GOSPEL READING & Reflection

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Lord, How Often Shall I Forgive My Brother?

If God has shown mercy to us in granting us pardon for our sins, then we, in turn, must show mercy and forgiveness towards every person who has offended us. The willingness to forgive those who offend us is a sacred duty. If we expect God to pardon us and show us his mercy when we sin and disobey his commandments, then we must be willing to let go of any resentment, grievance, or ill-will we feel towards our neighbor. Jesus teaches us to pray daily for the grace and strength to forgive others in the same measure in which God has forgiven us. If we do not show mercy and forgiveness to our fellow human beings, how can we expect God to forgive us in turn?

If we want mercy shown to us we must be ready to forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven us. Do you hold any grudge or resentment towards anyone? Ask the Lord to purify your heart that you may show mercy and loving-kindness to all - and especially to those who cause you grief and ill-will.

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## A Prayer of Devotion

*Lord Jesus, you have been kind and forgiving towards me. May I be merciful as you are merciful. Free me from all bitterness and resentment that I may truly forgive from the heart those who have caused me injury or grief. - Amen*



## Today's Psalm

*Psalm 103:1-5, 8-12*

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger for ever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions

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## Daily Readings

Sunday: Sirach 27:30—28:7  
Romans 14:7-9  
Matthew 18:21-35

Monday: I Timothy 2:1-8  
Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday: I Timothy 3:1-13  
Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday: I Timothy 3:14-16  
Luke 7:31-35

Thursday: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13  
Matthew 9:9-13

Friday: I Timothy 6:2c-12  
Luke 8:1-3

Saturday: I Timothy 6:13-16  
Luke 8:4-15

## Prayers for the Sick & Shut-In

Liz Arrington, Joycelyn Bayles, Lenora Bolling, Yolanda Collins, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Craig, Rosa Lell Craig, Belva Harris, Elizabeth Harris, Whilomena Harris, Ronald Greene, Shanitra Johnson, Vascaus Saunders, Allen Small, Robert Tankersley

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*On the 1st Friday of every month, those that are sick will be anointed after the morning Mass.*

Stewardship Update  
September 9th & 10th

Saturday 4:00 P.M.	\$1,829.00
Sunday 7:00 A.M.	\$1,064.00
Sunday 11:00 A.M.	\$1,556.00
Mailed In	\$2,284.00
Church Improvements	\$2,665.00
Security Fund	\$ 152.00

**Total: \$9,550.00**

Please continue to make effort to return security envelopes weekly. If you have not received the "Security Fund" envelope, please pick some up from the vestibule.

**Financial Update from The Finance Council**

Our Lady of Fatima has had the following expenses over the past year:

Rectory Garage Renovation	\$ 8,500
Church Doors Refinishing	\$ 7,295
Audio Equipment Replacement	\$12,170
Annual Insurance Payments	\$30,830
**Church, School, Convent	
Balance owed to Birmingham Diocese	\$13,152
**Taxes not paid during COVID & Catholic School Subsidy	
Church Storage Shed Renovation	\$12,600

Many of these important improvements can be noticed around our Church. In addition to these expenses, we continue to have the typical operational expenses that include *utilities, salaries to paid church personnel, repairs and ground maintenance, and housekeeping services*. Tithing has not returned to pre-COVID levels but we have made good progress.

Thank you to everyone who pays their tithes to support our Church operations and family. The Lord is pleased. The Finance Council will continue to attend Parish Council Meetings periodically to provide a financial update as we have done in the past. If you have any further questions please contact:

**Melanie McNary, Chair 205-908-4885 or  
Ocie White, Treasurer. 205-381-8380**

Per Bishop Raica of the  
Birmingham Diocese  
concerning Catholic Charity:



September 24th- Pledge Sunday! Pledge cards will be collected on this date!

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**First Friday Devotion**

On the 1st Friday of every month, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 8:00 A.M. until 12:00 Noon. Everyone is invited to participate in the Adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

Upcoming Devotion Date:

**October 6, 2023**

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**Bible Study Group**

Please join us for Bible Study every Wednesday at 11:00 A.M. New members are always welcomed!



**School of Religion & RCIA**

Today is the last day to register for Parish School of Religion. Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule. Payment for student literature will be collected by Mrs. Veronica Boykin.

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**All Young Adults who are interested in joining the Catholic Church or learning more about the faith, please sign up (YELLOW sign-up sheet) for our RCIA program, slated to begin in October. Baptized AND unbaptized are welcomed alike. Current Catholic members wishing to revitalize their faith are invited to sign up for a refresher class (BLUE sign-up sheet).**



# ...Church News & FYI

## September Birthdays

Amber Anderson 9/13  
 Omari Emil Bayles 9/4  
 Rafael Brathwaite 9/17  
 Calvalene Burnett 9/20  
 Natalie Brown– Kelly 9/9  
 Annie Bryant 9/25  
 Rosa Craig 9/2  
 Rosalind Crowder 9/9



Valencia Curry 9/21	Nathaniel Henderson 9/3
Arthur Hill 9/10	Jeremy Hilson 9/20
Martin Hinton 9/3	Fannie Hasberry 9/18
Mamie Johnson 9/20	Paige Juzang 9/29
Natalie Meeks 9/14	Wilma Norris 9/6
Edward Russell 9/23	Darrah Sims 9/12
Barbara Sizemore 9/18	Allen Small 9/30
Pat Simpson 9/21	



Brent & Dawn Patterson *married on September 27th*  
 David & Nefertari Brown *married on September 11th*  
 James & Erica Prewitt *married on September 12th*  
 Charley & Dora Robinson *married on September 28th*  
 Larry & Lisa Cooper *married on September 4th*  
 Anthony & Melva Johnson *September 25th*

## Special Dates

Labor Day, September 4th  
 National Grandparents Day, September 10th  
 Patriot Day, September 11th  
 Hispanic Heritage Month, Sep. 15th –Oct. 15th  
 First day of autumn, September 23rd



The next Young Catholic Professionals event is coming up, and we hope you can join us on

**Thursday, September 21st 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**  
 at Meet on Morris 2325 Morris Ave,  
 Birmingham, AL 35203.

This event is for members only. HOWEVER, people can definitely come to the event and sign up for membership there. For the YCP Belong membership, there is an annual fee of \$36, and for the Belong + membership, there is an annual fee of \$84. Either membership gets you access to all of our events.



- Election Committee will announce results on Sunday, September 24th
- On Sunday, October 1st, the newly elected Parish Council Officers will be inaugurated at the 11:00 A.M. Mass.
- After which, they will proceed to the Parish Hall for orientation. A priest has been invited from outside to celebrate the Mass and give orientation.

\*\*\*\*The members of the Finance Council and all person whose names appear on the list of Parish Ministries shall also attend orientation.

## Our Lady of Fatima

Friends & Family Celebrating our  
 New Beginning

**When:** Sunday October 1st. 2023, following the 11:00am mass

**Where:** On the church grounds and inside the Parish Hall

We are going “Old School” style and asking you to bring your own tents and lawn chairs and to wear comfortable attire. There are sign-up sheets in the vestibule asking for donations of food, beverages, desserts, etc.

Let’s work as one with the goal of making this outing a success!

**Together We Stand - Divided We Fall.**

For more information you can contact either:  
 Veronica Boykin: 205-222-4439 or  
 Carol Prince: 205-540-5993