

JANUARY 4, 2026 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



# St. Mary of the Visitation

Catholic Parish—Huntsville, Alabama

Oldest Catholic Parish in North Alabama—Established 1861



Parish Center  
220 Lincoln St.

## Mass Schedule

**Weekday Mass:** Tuesday—Friday 8:00am

### Weekend Mass

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 11:00am

Nursery provided next door in Visitation Hall for both Sunday Masses.

### Confession

Tuesday—Friday 7:30am

Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00pm

Or by appointment

### Mass & Adoration

1st Fridays | 6:30pm

## Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Jose Raphy Ambooken

frjosea@gmail.com

**Deacon:** Dn. Jeff Montgomery

jeffmontgomery35758@gmail.com

**Director of Religious Education**

Jennifer Kilroy | jennifer.kilroy@gmail.com

**Bookkeeper**

Lynne Greco | finance@smvparish.org

**Office Manager**

Lois Lindsey | smvparish@smvparish.org

**Ministries Coordinator**

Cherie Miller | ministries.smv@gmail.com

## Sacraments

**Matrimony** | Contact the pastor at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date.

**Infant Baptism** | Class for parents, required only once; by appointment; before or after birth of baby.

**Anointing of the Sick** | First Friday after Mass or can be scheduled at anytime.

## Our Mission

As the oldest Catholic community in northern Alabama, we welcome all to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, to love God, and follow Jesus Christ through faith, worship, and witness.

## Office Hours

Mon—Thu 8:30am–3:30pm | Fri 8:30am–12:30pm

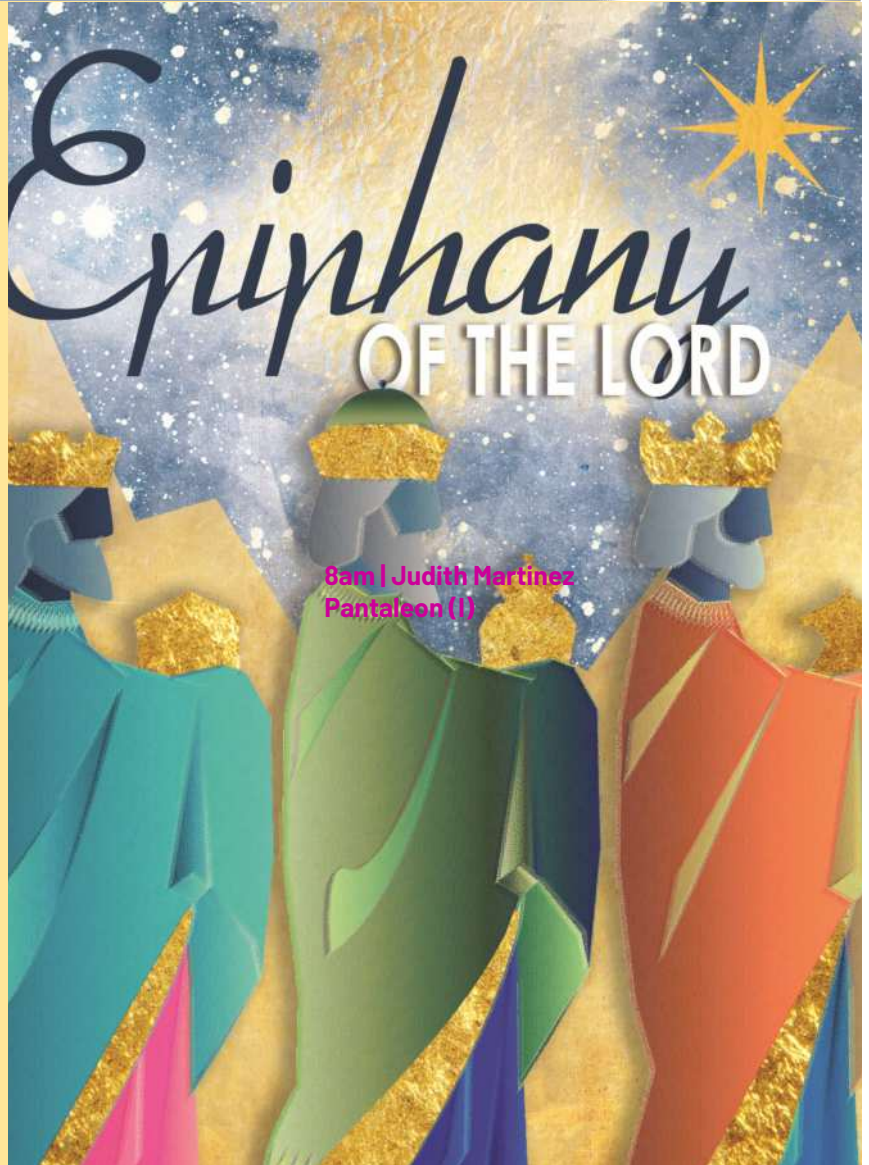
**After hours spiritual emergency: 256.384.8758**

## Contact Us

222 Jefferson St. N

Huntsville, AL 35801

**256.536.6349/www.smvparish.com**



Bar | Judith Martinez  
Pantaleon (I)

## Weekly Emails

are sent to registered parishioners every Wednesday listing upcoming events for the week and other announcements.

## Financial Contributions

Weekly Operating Expenses: **\$17,325**

### December 13/14 & 20/21

Weekly Church Support.....	\$52,421
Holy Family.....	\$515
JPII High School.....	\$180
Building Fund (2nd Collection)	\$7202

**Thank you for your generosity and continued support!**

For information on how to donate online, see page 2 of the bulletin.

## PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Parish Family,

We find ourselves on the first weekend of a New Year—a beautiful and grace-filled moment to pause, reflect, and look ahead with hope. The New Year invites us to plan wisely, to set our hearts on what truly matters, and to learn from the blessings and challenges of the year gone by. Whatever the past year held for you—joys or struggles—let us entrust this New Year to the Lord and ask that it may be a year of growth, peace, and abundant blessings for you and your families.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who participated in the First Friday devotion on the 2nd. It was encouraging to see many of you come for the newly added evening Mass and to spend time with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. Your presence and devotion are signs of a living and prayerful parish. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless you for taking time to adore Him and seek His grace.

I also wish to share a personal word. By God's grace, I reached home safely after a long journey of nearly 26 hours. Thank you sincerely for your prayers during my travel—they truly sustained me. This Sunday, my home parish celebrates its Parish Feast Day, a joyful occasion for our community. Tomorrow, I will have the blessing of baptizing Elora, the daughter of my nephew, welcoming her into the family of God. Next Saturday, the 10th, I will officiate the wedding of my niece. These family celebrations remind me of the beauty of faith lived across generations.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord (Matthew 2:1-12). The Magi remind us that Christ is revealed to all nations and that we are called to seek Him, adore Him, and offer Him the gifts of our lives. With this celebration, we also conclude the Jubilee Year, thanking God for the graces received and carrying its spirit forward into our daily lives.

Though I am physically far away from you at this time, please know that you are very close to my heart and constantly in my prayers. If you have any needs, please feel free to contact the parish office. May the Lord bless you and keep you throughout this New Year.

With prayers and blessings,  
Fr Jose

**Parish Registration**—If you are 18 years of age or older, attend Visitation on a regular basis and have not registered, please register at the parish. The registration form is on our website or pick up a form on the buffet in the narthex. Any changes to your information can also be made on the form.

**Online Giving**—Contributions can be made through our website: [smvparish.com](http://smvparish.com) by selecting the secure "Donate" button located in the menu. For more information call the office at 256-536-6349.



## The Sanctuary Lamp

will burn each day for the intentions of one of our parish families. If possible, please stop by the church on your day and say a prayer.

**Jan 5-Jan 12** For the intentions of:

**Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Roberts  
**Mon** Mr. & Mrs. James Robinson  
**Tues** Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Rodrigues  
**Wed** Mr. & Mrs. Martez Rogers  
**Thurs** Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Romanoski  
**Fri** Mr. & Mrs. Philip Roth  
**Sat** Mr. & Mrs. Terry Roth  
**Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Roughneen

## Weekly Readings & Observances—Week of January 4

**Sun:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Mon:** 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**St. John Neumann, Bishop**

**Tues:** 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44 **St. André Bessette, Religious**

**Wed:** 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

**St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest**

**Thurs:** 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

**Fri:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

**Sat:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

## A Prayer for Safe Travels for Father Jose

Heavenly Father, we lift up Fr. Jose into Your loving care as he travels. Guide his steps and steady his path. Surround him with Your angels, shielding him from harm and leading him away from danger. Grant him peace of mind, strength in body, and joy in spirit, so that he may return to us renewed and ready to continue his holy work. May he draw ever closer to You, and may his travels be a witness to Your love and protection. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



## Faith Formation

Formation classes resume next Sunday, January 11th.

**Altar Flowers** may be donated in memory or honor of a loved one or to mark a special occasion. Contact the office for more information.

Thank you to all who donated for our beautiful Christmas flowers!



**For a list of our ministries visit our website at [www.smvparish.com](http://www.smvparish.com) or pick up a Guide to Ministries in the church narthex.**

**Prayer Requests** Jeannie Calvarese, Skye Grant, Darrel & Diane Kaiser, Pat Hicks, Holly Cooney, Noah Hebert, Theresa Marlowe, Sherry Goyer, Debbie Porges, Pam Hardy, George Bury, Joan Smith, Gerard Drumm, Linda Daniel, Terri Powers, Dana Hammer, Jim Bodine, Caroline Lindsey, Dev Flynn, and Anne Geist.

Have A Prayer Request Or Need A Pastoral Visit?  
Contact us for a prayer request 256.536.6349





The **Parish Pastoral Council** is accepting nominations for new members of the council. If you know of anyone (including yourself) who would make a good council member please fill out a nomination form. Forms are located in the back of the church. **Please return completed forms to the office or place in a contribution basket by January 11.**



**December 28, 2025**  
**Michael Thomas Lucey**  
**Roman Joseph Sauter**



All young adults are invited to a pancake brunch, hosted by the Young Professionals, **TODAY, January 4, 11 AM**, in Treacy Hall.

**Annual Respect Life Mass and Witness for Life Saturday, January 17** Respect Life Mass 9:00 AM · Cathedral of St. Paul 2120 3rd Ave. N, Birmingham, AL Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life Immediately following the Mass 10:45 AM · Planned Parenthood 1019 1st Ave. North, Birmingham [www.BirminghamMarchforLife.com](http://www.BirminghamMarchforLife.com) Facebook: Birmingham Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life 205-447-8796

## Weekly Schedule & Intentions

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES TO THIS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, January 3**

**5:30pm | † Steve Montgomery**

**Sunday, January 4**

**8:00am | For the Parish**

Conclusion of Jubilee year after 8am Mass  
No Youth/Adult Faith Formation or Nazareth House

9:30am | OCIA (TH)

**11:00am | † Ann Mitchell**

11:00am | Young Professionals Brunch (TH)

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

**Monday, January 5**

7pm | St. Jerome Book Club (VH)

**Tuesday, January 6**

8am | Communion Service

6pm | Catholic Daughters (TH)

6pm | Finance Council (O)

**Wednesday, January 7**

8am | Communion Service

**Thursday, January 8**

8am | Communion Service

6pm | Men of St. Joseph (HFR)

6:30pm | St. Raphael Ministry (TH)

**Friday, January 9**

8am | Communion Service

8:30am | Coffee Social (VH)

6pm | The Light Ahead (TH)

**Saturday, January 10**

**5:30pm | For the Parish**

11am | Rocket City Regulators (HFR)

**Sunday, January 11**

**8:00am | † Carolyn Baxter**

9:30am | Youth Faith Formation (PH)

9:30am | Confirmation Class (VH)

9:30am | HSA (Bridal Suite)

9:30am | Adult Faith Formation (HFR)

9:30am | OCIA (TH)

11:00am | Nazareth House (HFR)

**11:00am | † Lisa Mitchell**

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

(C) Church, (HFR) Holy Family Room,  
(O) Office, (PH) Parish Hall, (TH) Treacy Hall,  
(VH) Visitation Hall (at courtyard ramp)

**Artificial Christmas Trees** — The Knights of Columbus are accepting donations of any size artificial tree or garland, lights functioning or not. Drop off at the red shed in the Parish Hall parking lot any day between Dec 29 thru Jan 15. We are getting an early start on our 2026 Christmas with St. Nick / Santa Claus event!

**Baby Bottle Boomerang** to be hosted by the Catholic Daughters to benefit the Huntsville Pregnancy Resource Center. Empty bottles will be distributed after Masses this weekend and next. Please return filled bottles after any weekend Mass throughout January. Thank you for your generosity and support of life!



## Women's Ministry

All ladies of the parish are invited to the Women's Ministry meeting on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026** to hear Guest Speaker, Karin Beck, a professional organizer with Karin's Clutter Control. Karin is passionate about organizing and decluttering homes and businesses. She will share her faith-filled story of how she started her professional organizing business. Karin loves repurposing items, creating designated spaces, and maintaining order. She will offer helpful tips on how she assists families in bringing order to their homes through decluttering, repurposing, and organizing. **Join us at 6:30 pm in the Fr. Treacy Hall.** For more information, contact Liz Montgomery at 281-705-6697 or [elizabeth35758@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth35758@gmail.com).



**55+**  
**Come enjoy a little Winter Wonderland**  
**Friday, January 16, 5:00 pm**  
**Fr. Treacy Hall**  
**Soup and Salad Potluck**  
**Please bring your favorite soup, salad, or dessert to share.**  
**Drinks provided.**



**The Food Pantry Ministry** hopes all of our parishioners had a safe and happy New Year's Day and we pray you are blessed throughout the year.



We are not requesting items this week.  
Thank you all for your generous donations!



## Monthly Newsletter

**Please send announcements for next month's newsletter to:**  
**[visitationnews@gmail.com](mailto:visitationnews@gmail.com) by the 15th of each month.**

**Active membership at the Visitation is usually determined by: registration at the parish for at least six months; attendance at Mass every weekend; use of your financial stewardship envelopes or enrollment in On-line Giving or active involvement in parish ministries. Active membership status is required to serve on Parish Councils, as Commission Chairs, or to have parishioner status at local Catholic Schools.**

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In memory of  
**Don & Spence Moore**

**Huntsville Area Catholics**  
If you're looking for schedules, announcements & information for all the area parishes.  
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**Cristina von Spakovsky, MA, ALC, NCC**  
Therapist at Catholic Family Services  
cvpakovsky@bhmdiocese.org  
256-536-0073  
Therapist at CFS working with ages 5 and older who are struggling with any of life's difficulties. Contact me today if you are looking for healing and support!

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