

DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



St. Mary of the Visitation

Catholic Parish—Huntsville, Alabama

Diocesan Pilgrimage Site for the Jubilee of Hope 2025

Oldest Catholic Parish in North Alabama—Established 1861



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

Third Sunday of ADVENT



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Save the Date

Dec 19: 6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration

Dec 24: Masses at 4:30pm, 7pm and Midnight (Lessons & Carols at 4pm & 11:30pm)

Dec 25: Mass at 10am

Jan 1: The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation—Mass at 6pm

Financial Contribution

Weekly Operating Expenses:

Due to an early bulletin submission financial contributions for December 6/7 will be included in the next bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity and continue support!

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

Prayer, Worship, Ministry

02

Dear Parish Family,

As we celebrate this Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing—my heart is filled with gratitude for the many signs of grace unfolding in our parish community. Today's Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11) invites us to reflect on John the Baptist's question to Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come?" Even as John waits in uncertainty, Jesus responds with signs of new life and hope. Advent calls us to look for these same signs of God's presence among us as we prepare for Christmas.

On the 11th, we held our Ministry Heads Meeting, and I want to express my sincere thanks to all who participated. The conversations were thoughtful, the planning was collaborative, and the enthusiasm for serving our parish was truly uplifting. Your dedication ensures that our ministries continue to be vibrant and life-giving.

On Saturday the 13th, we gathered for our Parish Penance Service. I am grateful to the priests who joined us to hear confessions and to all who came seeking God's mercy. The spirit of repentance and renewal was evident, and many expressed how deeply they felt the grace of spiritual awakening. Advent is a season of turning our hearts toward the Lord, and this communal moment of reconciliation was a beautiful step on our shared journey.

On Tuesday the 16th, I will be visiting our homebound parishioners and offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These dear members remain an important part of our parish family, even if they cannot be physically present with us. Please keep them in your prayers, and may our visits remind them of the love and unity we share in Christ.

As we light the rose candle today, may its gentle glow remind us that the Lord is near. Let us continue preparing our hearts for the joy of Christmas with hope, faith, and renewed commitment to the Gospel.

With prayers for a blessed Advent,

In Christ,
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 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.

Dec 14-Dec 21 For the intentions of:

Sun Ms. Ramona Ramos
Mon Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Raney
Tues Mr. Thomas Reboli
Wed Mr. & Mrs. James Reed
Thurs Mr. Troy Reed
Fri Mrs. Marilyn Rees
Sat Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Reeves
Sun Mr. Ryan Reid

Weekly Readings & Observances—Week of December 14

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

3rd Sunday of Advent

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38



Wanted: Youth ages 6-18 for the

2025 Christmas Eve Youth Choir



that will lead Lessons & Carols before the 4:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve

There will be four rehearsals*

Sat. 12/20
(9-11am)

Mon. 12/22
(9-11am)

Tues. 12/23
(9-11am)

Wed. 12/24
(9-11am)

*Attendance at all 4 rehearsals is recommended, but those who can only attend some of the rehearsals are still encouraged to participate.

Scan the QR code to sign up



For questions, contact Jackie Henderson
251-602-6963 or cjadk@aol.com

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.



For a list of our ministries visit our website at 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, Ann Geist, Gerard Drumm, Linda Daniel, Terri Powers, Dana Hammer, Jim Bodine, Caroline Lindsey, and Dev Flynn

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



UPCOMING ADVENT / CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES

FRIDAY, DEC 19 AT 6:30 PM
MASS FOLLOWED BY
ADORATION AND CONFESSION

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS EVE
4:30 PM; 7:00 PM SENSORY
FRIENDLY MASS; MIDNIGHT
(LESSONS AND CAROLS 30 MINUTES
BEFORE THE 4:30PM MASS &
THE MIDNIGHT MASS)

CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00AM
(LESSONS AND CAROLS 30 MINUTES
BEFORE THE MASS)

Dear God, bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates. Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts" and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted." You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart. Amen. ©LPI

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose
of the soul of
Robert (Bobby) Leslie, III
November 26, 2025

Newly Baptized

Bernadette Louise McCarron
12/6/2025
Lainey James Jensen
12/7/2025

Weekly Schedule & Intentions

PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
FOR UPDATES TO THIS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 13

5:30pm | † Manuel Corona

Sunday, December 14

8am | † Bud Shatzer

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)

11am | For the Parish

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

Monday, December 15

7pm | St. Jerome Book Club (VH)

Tuesday, December 16

8am | † Teresa Roling Wisler

Wednesday, December 17

8am | † Bea Albright

Thursday, December 18

8am | Emma Wilson (I)

6:00pm | Men of St. Joseph (HFR)

Friday, December 19

8am | Angelina Clawson (I)

8:30am | Coffee Social (VH)

6:30pm | For the Parish

7pm | Adoration

Saturday, December 20

5:30pm | For the Parish

Sunday, December 21

8am | Michael & Stephen Krall (I)

No Youth/Adult Faith Formation or
Nazareth House

9:30am | OCIA (TH)

11am | † Steve Montgomery

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

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

Veterans "Coming Home" Retreat: A day of spiritual reflection for adults

When: Saturday January 24, 2026, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Where: Holy Spirit Catholic Church Parish Life Center

Where do you go to unpack the duffle bag of experiences that were part of your military experience? All veterans, spouses and their adult family members are welcome for reflection on the gifts and burdens of having served. Whether you served in any of our military components: full time, national guard or reserves; whether you are currently serving, recently discharged or back in civilian life for many years, this is a day of healing, hope, and sharing with others who understand your story. Open to all faith traditions. There is no cost for attendees. Attendance is limited to 20. Contact the below for more information.

To Register use the QR Code or contact:

John Durant (256) 604-6030, johndurant8005@gmail.com

Deacon Lee Heckman (256) 714-7027, lee.g.heckman@gmail.com



Our Christmas Flower Memorial Offering

is a way to remember our deceased and to honor living individuals. Your donations to the Memorial supports our Christmas decorating. Special flower envelopes are in the pew holders and your monthly packet. Please turn in your Christmas Flower Offering no later than December 14 for names of your loved ones to appear in the Christmas bulletin. Please print names legibly.

The Food Pantry

Advent Giving Tree gifts are due today.
Thank you to all who have participated!



Memorial Brick Prayer Garden

We have 6 bricks still available. Once all the bricks are in place our Prayer Garden will be sealed. Thank you to all who have donated!

Weekly Emails

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

Monthly Newsletter

Please send announcements for next
month's newsletter to:
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

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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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mjones@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6570

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