

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# 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**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# HE WENT UP THE MOUNTAIN AND BEGAN TO TEACH.

— MATTHEW 5:1 —



### Our Nursery

for preschool-aged children is open in Visitation Hall (at the ramp) during the 8 & 11am Masses.

### Monthly Newsletter

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

### Financial Contributions

Weekly Operating Expenses: **\$20,119**

#### January 17/18 & 24/25

Weekly Church Support.....\$36,405

Holy Family..... \$611

JPII High School..... \$40

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

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

## Bless Us, Lord

Jesus, You are good and gracious, every moment of every day. You invite us to be meek, merciful, clean of heart, peace-makers. Give us the grace to seek these virtues, and to seek You. May Your blessing accompany us on our way. Amen.

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## Countercultural Then and Now

Sometimes I wonder what this world will look like when my children get to be my age. Everything seems to be changing so rapidly and much of that change doesn't seem to be for the good. I do think in some ways the Church is experiencing resurgence and a strengthening, but it will have to be in the face of an increasing culture of atheism and selfishness.

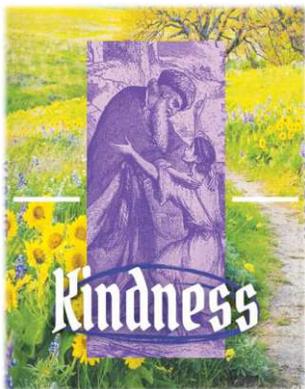
Of course, I bet my parents wondered the same thing when I was a child. As much as things change, they remain the same. When Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount, I would guess some parents there were having the same kind of worries. But Jesus proposed a way of life in the beatitudes that was countercultural then and is countercultural now.

In his book, *Life of Christ*, Fulton Sheen said this: "The Sermon on the Mount is so much at variance with all that our world holds dear that the world will crucify anyone who tries to live up to its values." Living a stewardship way of life means bringing the beatitudes into our daily lives in a profound way. However, it also means living in a way that others may not understand or they may even turn away from us because of it. But with the reward in the end being the kingdom of heaven, the choice is really a matter of life and death, eternally speaking.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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## Virtues, Explained!



Also known as benevolence or beneficence and derived from the theological virtue of charity, kindness is a way of seeing others through the eyes of God, who has adopted us as His own.

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**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.

**Feb 1-Feb 8** For the intentions of:

- Sun** Mr. & Mrs. William Schilleci
- Mon** Mr. Michael Schleider
- Tues** Mr. Daniel Schleitwiler
- Wed** Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Schmidt
- Thurs** Mr. & Mrs. Philip Schneider
- Fri** Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Schneider
- Sat** Mr. & Mrs. Zachary Scholtan
- Sun** Drs. Martin & Caroline Schreeder

## Weekly Readings & Observances—Week of February 1

**Sunday:** Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

### 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

### The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

### St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

**Wednesday:** 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

### St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

**Friday:** Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29

### St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

## A Welcome Back Prayer for Father Jose

Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and joy as we welcome back Fr. Jose. Thank You for guiding, protecting, and refreshing him during his time away.

Lord, bless his hands as he serves, and his spirit as he leads. Fill him with Your wisdom, peace, and courage for the journey ahead. May our church family walk in unity, love, and faith as we continue to grow together in Your purpose. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Faith Formation

## Pray with us!



Our PreK-Kindergarten class asks us to pray this week that we all follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, by going to church, reading the Bible, praying, and helping others.



Our Altar Flowers were donated by Justina Caldas in memory of Jacki Ann Reynolds

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, Anne Geist, Evan Shackelford and Timothy Payne.

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





**Choir Help Wanted!** Our Sunday 11:00 AM Mass needs volunteers! Practices are bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM. **Contact: Rebecca Whited at [rebecca.whited@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.whited@gmail.com) for more information.**

**Sacristan Ministry** – If you are interested in serving your parish in a humble and “behind the scenes” ministry, then the Sacristan Ministry is for you. Sacristans are entrusted with beautiful and sacred objects that are used and carried out before Mass and then returned to the Sacristy after the Mass. We arrive at least 30 minutes before Mass to ensure everything is ready.

**If you are a Confirmed Catholic over the age of 18 and interested in learning more about becoming a Sacristan, please contact Connie Eimer at [stockfan\\_00@yahoo.com](mailto:stockfan_00@yahoo.com)**

### Women’s Ministry: Historical Tour and Wine & Cheese Social

Ladies of the parish, you are invited to join us for a unique experience as part of our Women’s Ministry. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, February 19th, at 6:00 pm**, when we embark on a historical tour of St. Mary of the Visitation Church, followed by a Wine & Cheese Social. Parishioner Mikel Petty will guide us on this journey, offering an insightful and in-depth exploration of the church’s rich beginnings, its beautiful architectural details, and the significance it holds within our community’s history. As a cherished landmark in Huntsville, St. Mary of the Visitation Church stands as a testament to our Catholic heritage, and it is also proudly listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Please gather in the narthex of the church to begin the tour at 6:00 pm. **For more information, please contact Liz Montgomery at [elizabeth35758@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth35758@gmail.com).**

### First Friday Masses—February 6

8:00am followed by Anointing  
Join us afterwards for a lite breakfast and fellowship in Visitation Hall.

6:30pm followed by Adoration & Confession

### Baby Bottle Boomerang

concludes this weekend. Please return your filled bottles to the purple boxes in the narthex and at the side door. Thank you for your generosity and support of life!

**Attention all graduating high school seniors, college students, community college students or those enrolled in technical school! Applications for our annual Parish Education Award of \$500 are now available. Details and entry forms are available in the narthex. Submit entry form, brief autobiography, essay or audio file and letter of recommendation to the parish office by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Notification will be made in May. Please contact Erin Boles at [erindacy@icloud.com](mailto:erindacy@icloud.com) or 256-603-6781 with any questions.**

The **Food Pantry** is needing the following items: peanut butter, jelly; fruit cups; canned fruit. Thank you so much for your continued donations.

**Scan the QR code to see our Pantry’s Amazon Wish List.**

**Or type in: <https://linktr.ee/smvpantry>**



Our **Church Directory** is available to view on your computer or smartphone! Instant Church Directory—the program we use to build our church directory—has a member website. You can access this website by scanning this QR code or following this link – <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com> Create your account by entering the primary email listed on your parish registration and following the directions on-screen.



### Weekly Schedule & Intentions

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

#### Saturday, January 31

**5:30pm | † Jacki Ann Reynolds**

#### Sunday, February 1

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

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 | † Mike Zenone**

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

#### Monday, February 2

7:00pm | St. Jerome Book Club (VH)

#### Tuesday, February 3

8:00am | † **Patrick McCauley**

6:00pm | Finance Council (O)

6:00pm | Catholic Daughters (TH)

#### Wednesday, February 4

8:00am | † **David Cole**

#### Thursday, February 5

8:00am | † **Maxine Benefield**

8:30am | Ladies Sodality (TH)

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

#### Friday, February 6

**8:00am | † Mike Zenone** (Mass followed by Anointing)

8:30am | First Friday Lite Breakfast (VH)

**6:30pm | † Dr. Keith Cox** (Mass followed by Adoration & Confession)

#### Saturday, February 7

**5:30pm | † Marianne Kershaw**

#### Sunday, February 8

**8:00am | † Arthur & Dorothy Davis**

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 | For the Parish**

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)

**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**

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**Cristina von Spakovsky, MA, ALC, NCC**  
Therapist at Catholic Family Services  
cvspakovsky@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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