

MARCH 15, 2026 | 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



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

Lenten Opportunities

Feb 24-Mar 27: Stations of the Cross Tues-Friday after the 8am Mass

Mar 15-17: Stations of the Cross at 6pm followed by our Parish Mission with Father Jose

Mar 21: Penance Service 10am-Noon

Fridays in Lent: Stations of the Cross following the 8am Mass
12:15pm Stations of the Cross

5pm Potluck Supper In Treacy Hall

6:30pm Mass, Stations, & Adoration

Financial Contributions

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

Mar 7/8

Weekly Church Support.....\$22,969

Holy Family.....\$190

JPII High School.....\$80

Building Fund 2nd Collection..\$4019

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,
Saturday, March 14, our town celebrated the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. When the parade reached our church, it was a beautiful moment to offer a prayer and blessing for everyone gathered. The spirit of joy and community present there reminded us of the faith and missionary zeal of Saint Patrick, who courageously shared the Gospel.

Our Parish Annual Retreat will take place on March 15, 16, and 17. Retreat days are a special opportunity during Lent to pause, pray, and renew our relationship with God.

As part of our Lenten preparation, we will have the Parish Penance Service on Saturday, March 21. The service will begin with a 30-minute prayer service at 10:00 a.m., followed by individual confessions. Five priests, including myself, will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent invites us to experience the mercy of God in a profound way, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity for spiritual renewal.

On Saturday afternoon, we will also conduct a training session for our 'to be sacristans'. On Holy Thursday, they will be formally commissioned for their service to the parish.

This week, March 19, we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph, the faithful guardian of the Holy Family. He is also my patron saint, and I humbly ask for your prayers on that day.

I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Fr. Bill, our former pastor. Though he is now retired, he generously assisted our parish by celebrating Mass whenever I was out of town. As he moves to the Mother House of the Salvatorian community, we thank him for his kindness and service. On behalf of our parish, we assure him of our prayers for his health and peace in this new chapter.

Finally, today we celebrate Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The Gospel from John reminds us of Jesus healing the man born blind. Christ opens our eyes so that we may see the light of faith and follow Him more closely.

May this Lenten season continue to deepen our faith as we walk with Christ toward the Cross — 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.

- Mar 15-22** For the intentions of:
- Sun** Ms. Jen Slack
 - Mon** Mr. William Smart, II
 - Tues** Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smith
 - Wed** Ms. Elizabeth Smith
 - Thurs** Ms. Heather Smith
 - Fri** Mr. & Mrs. Jason Smith
 - Sat** Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Smith
 - Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Michael Smith

Weekly Readings & Observances—Week of March 15, 2026

- Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 **4th Sunday of Lent**
- Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16 **St. Patrick, Bishop; St. Patrick's Day**
- Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30 **St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**
- Thursday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a **St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Pray with us!

Our 5th grade class asks that you join them this week in praying for the conversion of hearts and souls within our community.



St. Joseph Table

Place your bread underneath the statue of St. Joseph this weekend, March 14/15. The bread will be picked up on the 15th after the 11am Mass and given to the Food Pantry to distribute from noon until 1pm.



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.

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

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, Gerard Drumm, Linda Daniel, Terri Powers, Dana Hammer, Jim Bodine, Caroline Lindsey, Dev Flynn, Evan Shackelford, Timothy Payne, Buddy Rogers, Lisa Downard, and Seraphina Newquist.



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



Newly Baptized
James Anthony Parker
March 8, 2026

Our Parish Mission with Fr. Jose starts today, March 15 and continues through March 17 starting each evening at 6pm with Stations of the Cross

We are excited to announce the launch of a **Prolife Ministry** group, dedicated to protecting and celebrating the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. Guided by our faith, we seek to serve our community through prayer, education, and support for those in need. Our first meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 24, at 6:30pm in Treacy Hall.**

For more information, please contact **Mary Fitter: mary_fitter@yahoo.com or 808-489-5344**

Applications for our annual **Parish Education Award** are now available. Details and entry forms are in the narthex. Submit entry form, brief autobiography, essay or audio file and letter of recommendation to the parish office by **March 30**. Notification will be made in May. **Contact is Erin Boles at erindacy@icloud.com or 256-603-6781.**

Potluck Suppers—Enjoy some Friday fellowship!
5:00pm on the Fridays in Lent in Treacy Hall. Bring a meat-free dish to eat & share. Mass at 6:30pm followed by Stations of the Cross and Adoration.

In Memoriam

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kenneth Huber
February 27, 2026
father of Sally Park (Jed)

Women's Ministry – An Evening of Lenten Reflection

All ladies of the parish are invited to an evening of reflection to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter. We will have an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of this sacred time and deepen our faith through prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Our theme for this evening is **Hearing God's Voice: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.** Join us Thursday, March 19 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Fr. Treacy Hall. Christina Semmens will lead us into a deeper and more meaningful season for Easter. She is the author of the book, *Say Yes: Discovering Purpose, Peace and Abundance in Daily Life*, has a Masters of Arts degrees in both History and Theology, and is a leadership and personal development coach, speaker, retreat leader, spiritual mentor, host of the *Say Yes to Holiness* and *Catholic Leadership Puzzle* podcasts, and contributing writer to the online blogs *Women of the New Evangelization (WINE)* and *Catholic365*. **Please RSVP to Liz Montgomery at 281-705-6697 elizabeth35758@gmail.com so we can get a headcount.**

Altar Servers Needed!

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Karen Vandiver at j.vandiver@mchsi.com

Weekly Schedule & Intentions

PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES TO THIS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 14

5:30pm | † **Bea & Charles Albright**

Sunday, March 15

8:00am | **Newquist Family (I)**

9:30am | OCIA (TH)

11:00am | **For the Parish**

11:00am | Young Professionals Brunch (TH)

12:30pm | † **James & Margaret Varner**

6:00pm | Stations of the Cross followed by our Parish Mission with Fr. Jose

Monday, March 16

6:00pm | Stations of the Cross followed by our Parish Mission with Fr. Jose

Tuesday, March 17

8:00am | **Father Joy Nellisery (I)**

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

6:00pm | Stations of the Cross followed by our Parish Mission with Fr. Jose

Wednesday, March 18

8:00am | **Father Joy Nellisery (I)**

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

6:30pm | St. Michael Ministry (VH)

Thursday, March 19

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

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

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

6:00pm | Women's Ministry (TH)

Friday, March 20

8:00am | **Lois Lindsey (I)**

Mass followed by Stations of the Cross, and a Coffee Social

12:15pm | Stations of the Cross

5:00pm | Potluck Supper (TH)

6:30pm | **For the Parish**

Mass followed by Stations of the Cross & Adoration

Saturday, March 21

10am-Noon | Penance Service

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

Sunday, March 22

8:00am | **Sabrina Stedman (I)**

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 | † **Joseph Critchley**

12:30pm | † **Kenneth Huber**

Noon-1:00pm | **Food Distribution**

(C) Church, (HFR) Holy Family Room, (O) Office, (TH) Treacy Hall, (VH) Visitation Hall

The **Food Pantry** is needing the following items: Chef Boyardee; canned chicken, meat, or tuna; cereal (any size); jelly; and canned fruit. Thank you for your continued generous donations.

Scan the QR code to see our Amazon Wish List.

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



Prayer Ribbons

Offer up a prayer as you tie a ribbon to the church railing this Lenten season.



Easter Flower Offering

Please turn your envelope in by **March 22** for names to appear in the bulletin.



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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announcements & information for
all the area parishes.

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Cristina von Spakovsky, MA, ALC, NCC
Therapist at Catholic Family Services
cvspakovsky@bhmdiocese.org
256-536-0073



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