DECEMBER 25, 2023 | MERRY CHRISTMAS





Catholic Parish–Huntsville, Alabama



Parish Center 220 Lincoln St.

Oldest Catholic Parish in North Alabama–Established 1861

Mass Schedule Weekday Mass

Weekday Hass Tuesday - Friday 8:00am Weekend Mass Saturday: 5:30pm Sunday: 8:00am & 11:00am Nursery provided next door in Trecy Hall for both Sunday Masses.

Confession

Tuesday - Friday 7:30am Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00pm Or by appointment

Holy Hour of Adoration & Benediction 1st Thursdays | 7:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Joy Thomas Nellissery, PhD frjoy@smvparish.org 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.com 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

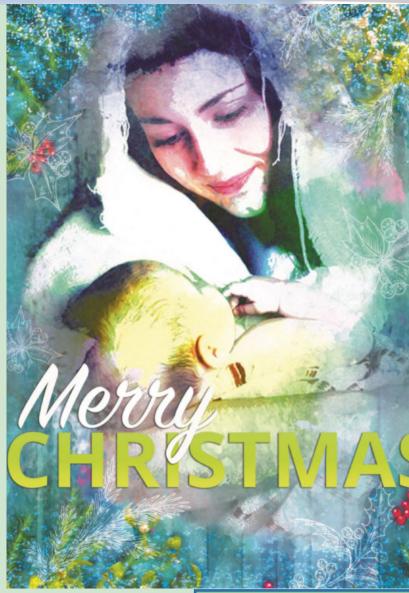
As the oldest Catholic community in northern Alabama, we welcome all to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, to love God, and follow Jesus Christ through faith, worship, and witness.

Office Hours

Mon-Thu 8:30am-3:30pm | Fri 8:30am-12:30pm After hours spiritual emergency: 256.384.3741

Contact Us

222 Jefferson St. N Huntsville, AL 35801 **256.536.6349** www.smvparish.com



Save the Date

Jan 1: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Jan 6: Ephiphany Party/Parish Dance

Entering from Washington Street **Parking Lot Gate Code 222**

Financial Contribution

Weekly Operating Expenses: \$14,470

December 10, 2023 Income:
Weekly Church Support\$ 17,363
Holy Family School\$ 130
JPII High School\$60
Thank you for your generosity and
continued support!
For information on how to donate online
see page 2 of the bulletin.

Prayer, Worship, Ministry

My dear Parish Family,

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Blessings

In this season of togetherness and considerateness, our parish family is grateful to you for all that you have done and doing for our church. Thank you. This year we were "Reimagining the Visitation;" through your leadership in various ministries and ongoing volunteer work, we accomplished a lot, thank you for your sacrifices and hard work.

Our common theme for 2024 is "Grow <u>your tent" (Isaiah 54:2). We have begun</u> the liturgical year meditating Jesus' question "Whom are you looking for" (Jn. 18:4). Let this year be a time of spiritual enlightenment and clarity of conscience.

Growing the tent includes strengthening our family memories. The next phase of our garden. I encourage you to participate and engrave your beloved family members' names and memorialize them in Holy Mary Prayer garden.

Thank you again for your support and involvement in building Visitation community. You have been a blessing to Visitation and to me personally. In this Christmas and New Year when you gather at your kitchen table please do know you are sitting at the extension of the Sacred Altar of Visitation. Thank you for the gift of your family. May the Holy Family bless and protect each and every one of you.

Gratefully yours,

Fr. Joy

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.

Sanctuary Lamp

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.

- Sun Mr. & Mrs. Cooper Lewis Mon Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Labera Tue Ms. Lois Lindsey
- Wed Mr. Michael Liston
- Thu Ms. Isabella Lopez
- Fri Mr. & Mrs. Ronan Lucey
- Sat Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Ludwig

Dec 24-Dec 31 For the intentions of: Sun Mrs. Mildred Lusk

WEEKLY READINGS & OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of December 24, 2023

Sun: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

Mon: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 The Nativity of the Lord

Tues: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22 St. Stephen, First Martyr

Wed: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Thurs: 1 Jn 1:5–2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Fri: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35 St. Thomas Becket, Bishop/Martyr Sat: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-4

Faith Formation

Wishing all our families a Blessed Christmas

and a Happy New Year!

Classes resume January 7th, 2024

Online Giving

Contributions can be made through our website: smvparish.org by selecting the secure "Donate" button located at the top of the page. Please call the office if you have questions or for more information.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers may be donated in memory or honor of a loved one or to mark a special occasion. Please contact the office for more information.





Our nursery for preschool-aged children is open during the 8 & 11am Masses. It is located next door to the church in Trecy Hall.

Prayer Requests Claudia McCoy, Liam Cook, Viola Cucullu, Anna Fowler, Jeannie Calvarese, Skye Grant, Darrel & Diane Kaiser, Lynn Schneider, Pat Hicks, Holly Cooney, Ben Geist, Marilyn Plonka, Jim Wall, Noah Hebert, Theresa Marlowe, Milton Mantler



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



News, Announcements, & Events

Father Joy,

Thank you for answering God's call to service. We are truly blessed! May God bless you and keep you on the 35th anniversary of your ordination.

December 29, 2023

Columbarium

Thank you to all who purchased niches during our presale.





Thank You

Thank you to Mary Frances Brosemer for making our beautiful Advent Wreath.

Thank you to our Flower Ministry, Building & Grounds, & all the volunteers who so beautifully decorated the church and the grounds for this Christmas Season. And to our choir who fills our sanctuary with beautiful songs of worship.

T**hank you** to all those who donated for flowers for Christmas and throughout the year. Your generosity is a blessing and is greatly appreciated.

An Important Reminder About Year-End Giving

If you plan to send your donation by mail, it must be postmarked by December 31, 2023, to count for 2023. Collections postmarked after December 31st won't be counted towards 2023 giving. Thank you for your support of our parish.

End of Year Giving Note

Current federal law allows tax-free charitable donations from your IRA. If you have an IRA and you're 70 1/2 years old, you can make a "tax-reducing" gift today through an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution. It helps you and it helps us! It can lower your taxable income, count towards your required minimum distribution*, and help further the work and mission of our parish. Your plan administrator will set this up for you and the amount that you specify will be transferred directly to our parish, either through a direct deposit or through a broker-issued bank check. Thank you to the parish families who have already selected this method of giving! Please call or email the Parish Finance Office, 256-536-6349 or finance@smvparish.org and we can help you get started.

*Be sure to consult with your tax or legal professional to learn how current IRS regulations apply to your situation.

Christmas Mass Schedule Christmas Eve: 4:30pm & Midnight Christmas Day: 10:00am Music begins 30 minutes before each Mass.



Nursery Open for Christmas Masses The nursery will be open Christmas Eve for the 4:30pm Mass and Christmas Day for the 10:00am Mass.

This Week's Schedule & Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 23 9:00am | Childrens' Music Rehearsal (TH&C) 5:30pm | Paul & Cyndi May & Family (I) 6:45 pm | Christmas Choir Practice

Sunday, December 24 8:00am | For the Parish 9:15am | Childrens' Music Rehearsal 11:00am | † Chad Wall Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution NO Adult/Youth Faith Formation or RCIA 4:30pm | For All the Children Midnight | For All the Parents

<u>Monday, December 25</u> 10:00am | For the Parish

Tuesday, December 26 No Mass Office Closed 6:00pm | Pickleball (PH) Wednesday, December 27 8:00am | † Dora Benavides 6:00pm | RC Flying Group (PH) Thursday, December 28 8:00am | † Janice Receveur Lindenmeyer 6:00-8:00pm | Pickleball (PH) Friday, December 29 8:00 am | Fr. Joy Thomas Nellissery 8:30am | Coffee Social (VH) Saturday, December 30 5:30pm | † Mary Winkelmann Sunday, December 31 8:00am | The Lindsey Children (I) 11:00am | For the Parish Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

NO Adult/Youth Faith Formation or RCIA

(0) Office, (TH) Trecy Hall, (PH) Parish Hall (VH) Visitation Hall (at courtyard ramp), (C) Church



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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS

In Memory

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Susan Shaw Agee Cynthia Akamune Delia L. Aleman Trinidad L. Aleman Bea & Charles Albright Josephine Amtenbrink Paul Amtenbrink Mr. & Mrs. H. Anderson **Monica Bannon Jack Bellamy James & Joyce Berdahl Theodore Blair** William Bolder, Sr. Frances & Dennis Bolt **Robert Joseph Bolton Jack Brantley** Nancy Brantley **Theresa Brewer Billy Catlett Delores Catlett Jim & Rex Catlett Marge Catlett Clotilde Chauca** Sam & Katherine Citrano **Bobby Cole** John Scott Cole Jr. Joseph & Caroline Cooney **Robert Crampton** Roger & Betty Crampton **Jim & Betty Cuff Dick & Simone Curtis JoAnn Davidson** John Davidson **Bob Davis Philip P. Donahue Duke Downard Anne Drury** Christopher Eimer Mr. & Mrs. Roland Eimer **Conway & Gloria Ellers** Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Esslinger, Jr. **Gilbert Fangman George Finckenor** Larry & Corinne Finckenor **Cathy Fortin George Geist Martha Geist** Mr. & Mrs. John Geist **Reaves Geist**

William Geist **Jane Gilmore Millard & Ruth Gorum** Mrs. Johnnie Hargrove **Betty Howse Jerry Howse** Mr. & Mrs. William Hurd Barbara Jacko **David Jasper** Marie Jasper Mr. & Mrs. J. Jett Mr. Ted Jett Felix Johnson, Jr. **Bradley E.Jones** Jess Jones Mr. & Mrs. Tolson Jones David Jordan Mrs. Priscilla K. John W. Kenney Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Kenney **Marianne Kershaw Krall Family** Louis Kubik **Chris Kulas** Anthony & Frances Kungis Mr. Robert L. Lauren Henri & Marie Leveque **Erma Dean Lewis** Sr. Janet Marie **Patrick McCoy Bernard McGuire Tyler McNally** Ardenia Noe Minnich **Jim Moore Moore & Lukovich Families** Mrs. Billie Musgrove Nicholas & Susan Naymik **Albert Nenninger Catherine Roling Nenninger Keavy Ruth Nenninger** Wallace NeSmith Mary J. Nichols Marv & Michael Nicolella **Steven Nicolella** Earl & Virginia Noe **Cathrine O'Loughlin** Joseph P. O'Loughlin **Joseph O'Loughlin**

Loretta O'Loughlin **O'Loughlin Family Eugene Parker Retta Pavne** Mr. & Mrs. Pearce Willard G. Preussel **Bonnie Robbins Rafferty Michael Reed Rafferty Roger Ramos Elizabeth Reed** Mr. James Robbins Mr. & Mrs. George M. Robinson **Dorothy Rogers** Mrs. Ann Rose **Ruffing & Vorsino Families** Mr. & Mrs. Lucas S. **Stefan Sakshang** Fr. Glen Sayers **Raymond H. & Lucy Schleeper** Syl Schneider Albert Schrenk **Thelma Schrenk** Mr. & Mrs. Willi Segewitz **D. Rov Shaffer** Paul & Millie Shaffer **Bud Shatzer** Shatzer Family Skip, Peg, & Maynard **Philip Smallwood Doug Smith Ron Smith** Violet E. Smith **Stanley Family Robert Z. Stepien** MaryAnn Stopczynski **Richard Stopczynski** Thomas Stramiello, Sr. **Marie Stramiello** Monica Lan Tan Ariel Teller Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Tenbrunsel Victor Thoen Sam & Carrie Tumminello J. C. & Irene Vandiver **Jim & Margaret Varner** Maxine Varner Antanas Venckus **Gerti Venckus Robert Wade**

George Wallschleager III Mittie T. Williams George Winghart Janet Winghart Nova & Joe Yeackle Cesar Yepes

In Honor

Bolton Family Bontemps Family Ann Geist Huppi Family Rod & Virginia Huppi Dolly Maxwell Mrs. Sandra Musgrove Fr. Joy Thomas Nellissery Vera Parker Preussel Family Sheer Family Mrs. Audrey Springer Andria Votovich

THANK YOU Parish Family

Because of our most generous SMV family, during this holiday season our Food Pantry was able to distribute 26 Thanksgiving food bags in addition to our regular weekly food distribution of 44 bags for a total of 70 bags—a record number!

And 70 people in 60 families were given gifts this Christmas season, including a comfy chair, a bicycle, and a vacuum cleaner! We were also able to give 70 \$25 gift cards.

OUR MINISTRIES: INVOLVE

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St. Mary of the Visitation Leadership Team

Pastor

Rev. Joy Thomas Nellissery, PHD, frjoy@smvparish.org **Finance Council Chair** Ben Boles | bolesty@gmail.com | 256-651-5690 **Pastoral Council Chair** Brian Mitchell | pastoralcouncil@smvparish.org **Liturgy Council Chair** Jackie Henderson | cjadk@aol.com

Formation Commission Chair

Mike Janssen | mjj032753@gmail.com | 256-603-0634 **Hospitality Commission Chair** Ed Poniatowski | skibert@aol.com | 256-426-8874 **Prayer Commission Chair** Connie Eimer | ronandcon2u@comcast.net **Service Commission Chair** Manfred Segewitz | manfseg@gmail.com | 256-527-2278

St. Mary of the Visitation Ministries

Formation Commission

Baptism Prep Class Evelyn Jaap evelyn.jaap@gmail.com | 256-536-4156 Becoming Catholic Mike Janssen mjj032753@gmail.com | 256-603-0634 Bible Study Diane Sachs diane.h.sachs@gmail.com | 703-932-3983 Catholic Book Club LuAnn Poniatowski mna-mna@comcast.net Expecting Mothers Ministry Amanda Freiburger amanda.freiburger@gmail.com | 256-585-7144 Faith Formation Adult (PC) Evelyn Jaap evelyn.jaap@gmail.com | 256-536-4156 Faith Formation Adult (VH) Mike Janssen mjj032753@gmail.com | 256-603-0634 High School Apologetics Jennifer Kilroy jenniferkilroy@gmail.com Into the Deep Jeff Montgomery deaconjeff@smvparish.org | 281-787-2424 Ladies Sodality Mary Davis charleyslucy@gmail.com | 256-881-3152 Life in Faith (LIF) Mike Janssen mjj032753@gmail.com | 256-603-0634 Nazareth House Judith Gregory jagregory59@gmail.com North Huntsville Catholic Youth Group Misty McGriff | misty.mcgriff@gmail.com | 256-221-3052 Parish Faith Formation (Sunday School) Jennifer Kilroy | jenniferkilroy@gmail.com Pray & Play Erin Townsend erin.townsend18@gmail.com | 815-347-4880 **Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** Steve Venckus | svenckus1@verizon.net | 703-599-8528 Women's Group Liz Montgomery elizabeth35758@gmail.com | 281-705-6697 Young Professionals Ronan Lucey

smvyoungadults@smvparish.org

Prayer Commission

Altar Flower Ministry Greg Jones | mistertolson@gmail.com | 256-651-2505 Altar Servers Karen Vandiver | jcvandiver@ieee.org **Altar Linen Ministry** Nancy Downard | nancydownard64@gmail.com **Blessed Mother Grotto Flowers** Karen Vandiver | jcvandiver@leee.org **Candle Light (Devotional) Ministry** Ron Eimer | ronandcon2u@comcast.net **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** Billy Wilson | billyraywilson@gmail.com | 256-508-6079 Marv's Hand Cristina Benzenhafer | 256-652-9362 **Ministry of the Word (Lectors)** Erin Boles | erindacy@icloud.com | 256-603-6781 **Music Ministry** LoraLee Fontenot | lcculber@gmail.com Jackie Henderson | cjadk@aol.com **Prayer Warriors** SMV Office | smvparish@smvparish.com | 256-536-6349 **Rosary Prayer Group** Karen Vandiver | jcvandiver@ieee.org **Rosary Making Ministry** Jed Park | jedpark66@gmail.com Sacristan Ministry Connie Eimer | ronandcon2u@comcast.net Ushers Robert Smith | Estate60@outlook.com

National Organizations

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Denise George | 337-401-1855 Knights of Columbus #4080 Patrick Davis | 610-322-0857

Service Commission

55 +Cherie Miller | miller.cherie@yahoo.com | 256.651.6492 Arts & Environment Mary Frances Brosemer | brosemer@bellsouth.net 256-852-3614 **Buildings & Grounds** Manfred Segewitz | manfseg@gmail.com 256-527-2278 **Collection Counters** Carolyn Hall | hallcarolyn52@gmail.com | 256-714-5958 **Columbarium** Greg Skupien | ggskupien@gmail.com **Eucharistic Ministers for Sick & Shut-ins** Liz Montgomery | elizabeth35758@gmail.com 281-705-6697 **Garden & Plants** Rita Segewitz | 256-539-6321 **Meals on Wheels** smvparish@smvparish.com | 256-536-6349 Mental Health Birthdays Evelyn Jaap | evelyn.jaap@gmail.com | 256-536-4156 Newsletter

visitationnews@gmail.com St. Michael's Ministry Ed Poniatowski | skibert@aol.com | 256-426-8874 Wedding Coordinator Debbie Jones | jones.deboraha@gmail.com

Hospitality Commission

Ambassadors Kathy Nerger kathenerger@protonmail.com| 256-617-4203 Donut Sunday Donna Winghart | 256-653-3636 Food Pantry Martha Jordan | marthaannjordan@gmail.com Friday Morning Coffee Social | Hilda Gabrys rhgabrys@att.net **Hospitality Tent** Jerry & Renee Wilson | sportnstitch@gmail.com Nicodemus Ministry (Funeral assistance) Renee Wilson | sportnstitch@gmail.com St. Lawrence Ministry (Social Committee) Ed Poniatowski | skibert@aol.com | 256-426-8874

2023 VISITATION FAMILY



Felicity Grace Merritt Mia Marie Fenuccio Ansgar Gregory Newguist Patricia Grace Gonzalez Samuel Taylor Hammitte, Jr. **David Fletcher Dotson** Autumn Rose Preussel Caium Joel Avatar Madison Ariadne Valencia Hazel Mae Talley Lucille Fay Ondeck **Esther Eleanore Ondeck** Margaret McQuillan Ondeck Winston Julius Beavers Lola Marija Boskovic Colton Kenneth Robert Park Lennon Marie Cantin **Raquelle Marie Fontenot** Verity Marie Cadotte William Walker Lewis **Raizel Gonzales Medallo** Harper Grace French Iris Jean Roth Austin Kyle Fugit Zara Rose Lassus Audrey Magdalena Wilson Mia Juliette Berru



Gabriel Rios Carrillo Thomas Michael Custodio Aubrey Ellen Dithmer Burke Hamilton Jones Thomas Christian Kruza George Daniel Mullins Mark Alexander Olin Victoria Grace Quintero Abigail Ann Smith Julia Therese Wiethop Anthony Matteo Fenuccio

Celebration of Marriage

Colin Michael Maxwell & Stephanie Therese Cashin Nathan Kelley Strouth & Sydney Leigh Pfankuch Mitchell Louis McFeely & Madison Marie Guilbert Turner Payne Howie & Rebecca Ann Johnson Trevor Allen Kelly & Morgan Catherine Wall Matthew Mancina Sauter & Olivia Heston Hooper Jacob Ryan Treinen & Payton Alexa Winghart Michael King Paludan & Audrey Ruth Hazelwood William Michael McAteer & Amy Marie Rapp Graham Robert Childree & Kathleen Michelle Penney Ronan Matthew Lucey & Courtney Diane Gallen **Drew Alexander Ferrell & Tracy Elaine Hutchings** Theodore Cosgrove & Christina Marie Tygielski Benjamin Kai Jones & Olivia Sinclair Russell Matthew Steven Smith & Elizabeth Ann Schweers Joshua Taylor Freund & Lydia Grace Rotenberger Nicholas Andrew Eheart & Sophia LaRosa Henderson Jeffrey Richard Winghart & Jessica Taylor Berube

RECEIVED INTO FULL COMMUNION

Claire Rita Hussey Byer Adam Michael Cole Asa Nicole Common Trevor Allen Kelly William Bradley Knight William Jasper Knight Pamela Carole Knight Sophia Bradley Knight Jama Lynn Nickles Michael King Paludan Cole Wesley Sargent

Juliana Lynn Zingarelli John Edward Zingarelli Michael Ardel Imhoff Max Austin Castelli Wendell Bryan Miller, Jr. Mira Kruja Christopher Lee Shearburn Jonathan Rickey Harrison Skylar Cane Overby Joseph Nicholas Lanza III Nicholas Andrew Eheart

Ottavio Alberto Fassina Catherine Marie Chambers Fortin Iris Ruth Osinski Patrick Vincent McCoy James Donald Cuff Babetta Marie Haney Cuff Fay Walker O'Reilly Christopher Joseph Eimer Thomas John Stramiello, Sr. Albert Lee Rich



2023 PARISH EVENTS



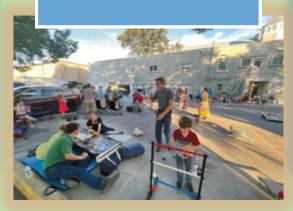
MARDI GRAS



SUNSET SOCIAL



ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE BLESSING



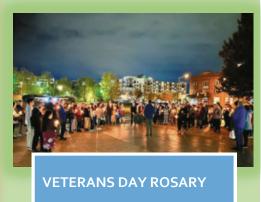


PARISH PICNIC



SUNSET SOCIAL







ACTIVITY



CHRISTMAS DINNER



