

MARCH 29, 2026 | PALM SUNDAY



# 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**



### Save the Date

**April 26**—Parish Hall Dedication after the 8am Mass. Open house until 10:45.

**May 2**—Nite at the Races at the Parish Hall

**May 17**—Parish Picnic at the Parish Hall

**For Holy Week Schedule see page 3.**

### Financial Contributions

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

#### Mar 21/22

Weekly Church Support.....\$17,278  
Holy Family.....\$870  
JP II High School.....\$125

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

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

## Pastor's Note

Dear Parish Family,

Grace and peace to you as we enter into the most sacred days of our liturgical year.

This past week has been filled with many moments of grace and blessing. On Wednesday the 25th, I had the privilege of visiting our homebound parishioners. It was a deeply moving and humbling experience to encounter their faith, patience, and quiet strength. They remain a vital part of our parish, and I thank them for their prayers and witness.

On Thursday the 26th, we celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all those who were confirmed. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen you in your Christian journey. A special word of gratitude goes to Jennifer Kilroy, our Director of Religious Education, and the entire team who worked diligently behind the scenes to prepare our candidates so beautifully.

Friday the 27th marked the final Friday of Lent with our evening Mass. It has been encouraging to see the faithful participation throughout this season. Due to its spiritual value, we plan to continue this evening Mass during the upcoming Advent season as well.

On Saturday the 28th, our parish pilgrimage to the Shrine proved to be a fruitful and grace-filled experience. Spending the day in prayer and reflection brought about a sense of spiritual renewal and awakening for many.

Today, we celebrate Palm Sunday, marking the beginning of Holy Week. As we walk with Christ through His Passion, let us open our hearts more deeply to His love and sacrifice.

From Monday the 30th through Wednesday the 1st, we will have the Tenebrae Prayer at 7:30 PM. This is a profound and prayerful experience of silent meditation. I warmly encourage everyone to participate, while kindly requesting that small children not be brought, in order to preserve the reflective silence.

On Tuesday the 31st, I will be attending the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Birmingham. Please keep our Bishop and all priests in your prayers. There will be no Mass in our parish that day.

Kindly refer to the bulletin for the full Holy Week schedule.

May this Holy Week draw us closer to 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](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.

- Mar 22-29** For the intentions of:
- Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Springsteen
  - Mon** Ms. Justine St. Louis
  - Tues** Mr. Daniel Stadler
  - Wed** Mrs. Mary Stanley
  - Thurs** Ms. Sabrina Stedman
  - Fri** Mr. & Mrs. Matt Stephan
  - Sat** Mr. & Mrs. James Stepien
  - Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Jay Stinson

## Weekly Readings & Observances—Week of March 29, 2026

**Sun:** Mt 21:1-11(37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54 **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins**

**Mon:** Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

**Tues:** Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wed:** Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25 **April Fools' Day**

**Thurs:** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

### Holy Thursday

**Fri:** Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2 & 6, 12-13, 15-17 & 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42

### Good Friday

**Sat: Easter Vigil:** Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15-15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10 **Holy Saturday**

**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.

## Faith Formation

### Pray with us!

Our 2nd grade class asks that we join them this week in praying that victims of war around the world and those forced to fight in war will remain safe and find peace.



**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, Timothy Payne, Buddy Rogers, Lisa Downard, Seraphina Newquist, and Paul Torrey.



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

**Blessing for Holy Week** –Be with us this week, Lord, journeying closer and closer to Your pierced and Sacred Heart. Immerse us in Your intense and undying love. Help us to encounter Your passion in new ways that inform, surprise, and inspire us. Amen. ©LPi

## Holy Week

**Mar 30 & Apr 1:** 8am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross (No Mass or Communion Service on 3/31–Fr. Jose & Deacon Jeff will be at the annual diocesan Chrism Mass in Birmingham)

**Mar 30, 31, & Apr 1:** 7:30pm Tenebrae

**Apr 2, Holy Thursday:** 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration

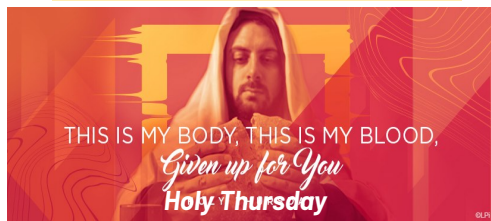
**Apr 3, Good Friday:** 6:30pm Divine Mercy Novena; 7pm Passion Liturgy

**Apr 4, Holy Saturday:** 7:30pm Divine Mercy Novena; 8pm Easter Vigil

\*\*\*\*\*

**Apr 5, Easter Sunday:** 7:30am Divine Mercy Novena; Masses at 8am, 11am, and 12:30pm

Tenebrae means shadows or darkness and is celebrated as the light fades on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Great Wednesday evening, as we prepare for the Triduum.



## Altar Servers Needed!

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Karen Vandiver at [j.vandiver@mchsi.com](mailto:j.vandiver@mchsi.com)

**Parish Education Award:** 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 **\$2500** 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.** 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.

## Gazebo Volunteers Needed

One Mass once/twice a month. 8am & 11am Masses only...



please contact Patrick Davis 610-322-0857 or [tpatrickdavis81@gmail.com](mailto:tpatrickdavis81@gmail.com).

Or sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FA9AC22A1FBC25-62923671-gazebo>

The **Food Pantry** is needing the following items: Vienna sausages; Chef Boyardee; canned meat, chicken; pasta; pasta sauce; soups; jelly ; canned fruit; and cereal (any size).

Thank you for all your generous donations.

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

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



## Weekly Schedule & Intentions

PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES TO THIS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, March 28**

**5:30pm | † Mike Sorocak**

**Sunday, March 29**

**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 | † Shirley Wall**

1pm | Young Professionals Bible Study (VH)

5:30pm | OCIA (TH)

**12:30pm | † Glenn Warren**

**Monday, March 30**

**8:00am | † Jess Jones**

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

**7:30pm | Tenebrae**

**Tuesday, March 31**

No Mass or Communion Service—Fr. Jose & Dcn Jeff will be at the annual diocesan Chrism Mass in Birmingham

**7:30pm | Tenebrae**

**Wednesday, April 1**

**8:00am | † Manuel Corona**

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

**7:30pm | Tenebrae**

**Thursday, April 2**

**6pm | For the Parish**

**Friday, April 3**

6:30pm Divine Mercy Novena

7:00pm Passion Liturgy

**Saturday, April 4**

7:30pm | Divine Mercy Novena

**8:00pm | OCIA Candidates**

**Sunday, April 5**

7:30am | Divine Mercy Novena

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

**11:00am | † Jerry Damson**

**12:30pm | † Dwain & Vera Lindsey**

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

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

**Thank You!** The grand total for our 2026 Baby Bottle Boomerang drive was \$3565.90. The Catholic Daughters are so thankful for the generous support from our parishioners!

**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.

VISIT - Facebook.com/HuntsvilleCatholics

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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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