

MARCH 22, 2026 | 5TH 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

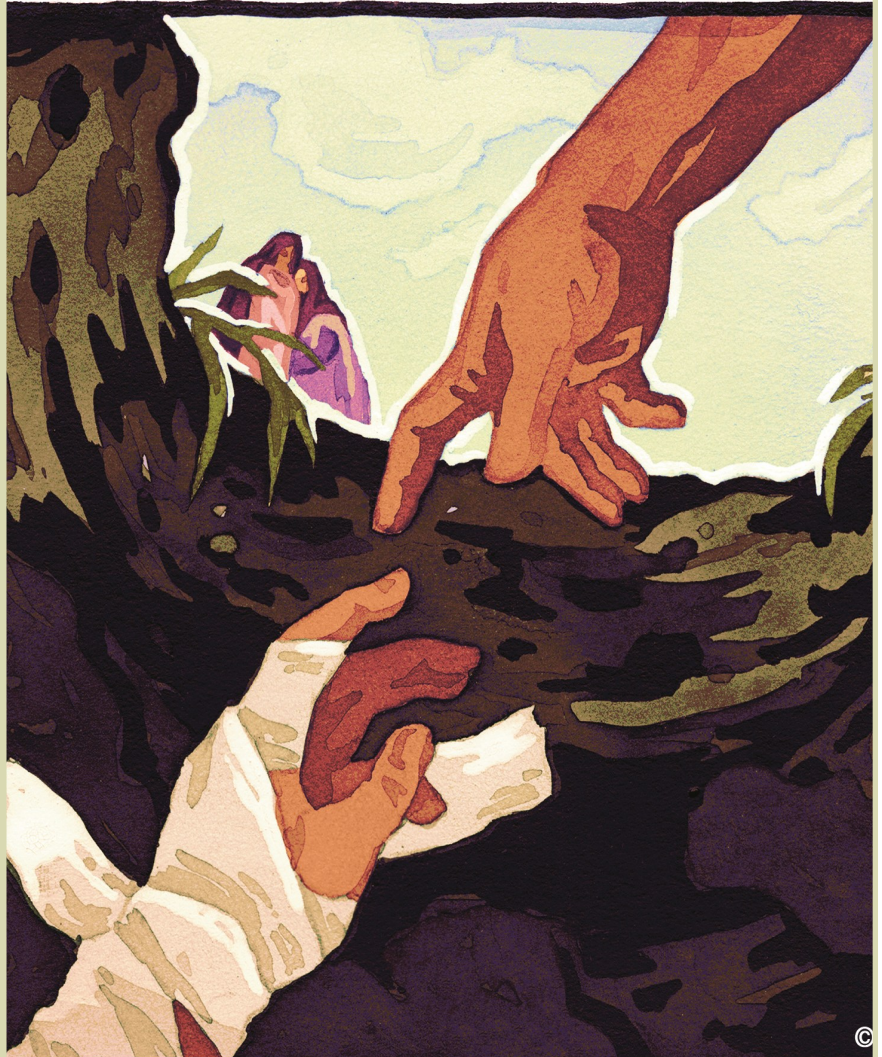
Mon-Thu 8:30am-3:30pm | Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

**After hours spiritual emergency: 256.384.8758**

### Contact Us

222 Jefferson St. N  
Huntsville, AL 35801

**256.536.6349/www.smvparish.com**



### 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 Lenten Opportunities see page 2.**

### Financial Contributions

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

#### Mar 14/15

Weekly Church Support.....\$16,508

Holy Family.....\$335

JPII High School.....\$10

Catholic Relief Services.....\$1264

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 in this holy season of Lent.

On the 15th, 16th, and 17th of this month, we were blessed to have our Parish Mission. While, for various reasons, the number of participants was smaller than expected, it was nonetheless a grace-filled time. Those who attended experienced it as a moment of genuine family renewal—an opportunity to slow down, reflect, pray together, and reconnect with the Lord. Let us continue to nurture that spirit of renewal in our homes and in our parish community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the priests who assisted us for the Penance Service on Saturday the 21st. Their generous availability made it possible for many to encounter God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us keep them in our prayers with gratitude.

On Wednesday the 25th, I will be visiting our homebound parishioners. They are very much a part of our parish family, even though they cannot be physically present with us. I kindly ask you to remember them in your prayers, that they may experience the Lord's comfort, strength, and peace.

We look forward with joy to Thursday the 26th, when our parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are honored to welcome Bishop Raica, who will confer the sacrament upon our candidates. Please keep all those to be confirmed in your prayers, that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen them. As our parish hall is currently under renovation, the reception will be held in a tent at the lower parking lot. I ask for your patience and cooperation in parking in the upper lot or in the newly added 33 parking spaces during this time.

On Saturday the 28th, we will have our parish pilgrimage to the Shrine in Hanceville. All are encouraged to participate in this beautiful spiritual journey.

Finally, on Wednesday the 25th, we celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord—a reminder of Mary's "yes" to God. May her example inspire our own faithful response.

With prayers and blessings,  
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. Michael Smith
  - Mon** Mr. & Mrs. Paul Smith
  - Tues** Mr. Samuel Songy
  - Wed** Mr. & Mrs. Guillermo Soto
  - Thurs** Mr. & Mrs. William Soutuyo
  - Fri** Mr. Richard Spera
  - Sat** Mr. & Mrs. Ray Springsteen
  - Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Springsteen

## Weekly Readings & Observances—Week of March 22, 2026

- Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45 **5th Sunday of Lent**
- Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11 St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
- Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- The Annunciation of the Lord**
- Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
- Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

## Faith Formation

### Pray with us!



Please pray for our Confirmation Students & OCIA Candidates who are preparing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church this Thursday

**PREK-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE WILL HAVE CLASS IN THE CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY, 3/29!**

## Our Nursery

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

## Lenten Opportunities

- Feb 24–Mar 27:** Stations of the Cross Tues–Friday after the 8am Mass
- Mar 28:** Hanceville Shrine Pilgrimage
- Fridays in Lent:** 12:15pm Stations of the Cross; 5pm Potluck Supper; 6:30pm Mass, Stations, & Adoration
- Mar 30 & Apr 1:** 8am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
- Mar 30, 31, & Apr 1:** 7:30pm Tenebrae
- Apr 2:** 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration
- Apr 3:** 6:30pm Divine Mercy Novena; 7pm Passion Liturgy
- Apr 4:** 7:30pm Divine Mercy Novena; 8pm Easter Vigil

**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, 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

March 15, 2026

Lucas Gabriel Angulo  
Jackson Everett Potwin  
Mable Jane von Spakovsky

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](mailto:mary_fitter@yahoo.com) or 808-489-5344**

### Weekly Schedule & Intentions

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

#### Saturday, March 21

**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**

1:00pm | Young Professionals Bible Study (VH)

**12:30pm | † Kenneth Huber**

#### Monday, March 23

3:30pm | Quilting Ministry (VH)

#### Tuesday, March 24

**8:00am | † Emma Pilgrim**

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

6:30pm | Pro-Life Ministry (TH)

#### Wednesday, March 25

**8:00am | Father Marcellus Moylan (I)**

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

10am | Pray & Play (TH)

6pm | St. Veronica Blanket Ministry (TH)

6pm | St. Lawrence Ministry (VH)

#### Thursday, March 26

**8:00am | George & Julia Multian (I)**

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

6pm | Confirmation Mass

#### Friday, March 27

**8:00am | Landon Boggs (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 & Adoration

#### Saturday, March 28

**5:30pm | † Mike Sorocak**

11:30am | Rocket City Regulators (TH)

#### 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**

**12:30pm | † Glenn Warren**

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

(C) Church, (HFR) Holy Family Room,

(O) Office, (TH) Treacy Hall, (VH) Visitation Hall



### Altar Servers Needed!

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

**Thank you** to our Ladies Sodality for planning our St. Joseph Table and to all who participated by bringing bread. Thank you also to our Food Pantry for distributing the bread to the needy in our community.



**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.**



**Thank you** to our parish volunteers who handed out sweets, drinks, and flyers to passersby at the St. Patrick's Day parade as the parade stopped here to receive a blessing from Fr. Jose and then continued on its journey!



### 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: jelly (any size containers); pasta sauce; canned fruit; and cereal. Thank you for your continued 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 this weekend 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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Moore**



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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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