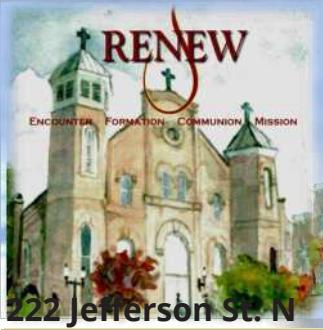


DECEMBER 28, 2025 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

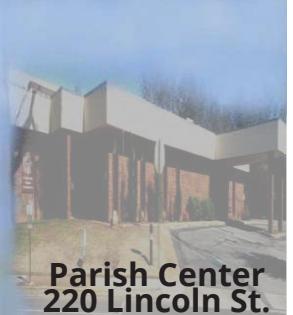


# St. Mary of the Visitation

## Catholic Parish—Huntsville, Alabama

*Diocesan Pilgrimage Site for the Jubilee of Hope 2025*

Oldest Catholic Parish in North Alabama—Established 1861



### 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](mailto:frjosea@gmail.com)

**Deacon:** Dn. Jeff Montgomery

[jeffmontgomery35758@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmontgomery35758@gmail.com)

### **Director of Religious Education**

Jennifer Kilroy | [jennifer.kilroy@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.kilroy@gmail.com)

### **Bookkeeper**

Lynne Greco | [finance@smvparish.org](mailto:finance@smvparish.org)

### **Office Manager**

Lois Lindsey | [smvparish@smvparish.org](mailto:smvparish@smvparish.org)

### **Ministries Coordinator**

Cherie Miller | [ministries.smv@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.smvparish.com)



## THE HOLY FAMILY

"Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt." - Mt 2:14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### Save the Date

**Jan 1:** The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation—Masses at 8am & 6pm

**Jan 4:** Conclusion of Jubilee Year after the 11 AM Mass

### Financial Contributions

Weekly Operating Expenses: **\$17,325**

Due to an early bulletin submission financial contributions for December 20/21 will be included in the next bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity and continue support!

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

# Prayer, Worship, Ministry

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## PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Parish Family,  
I hope you and your loved ones had a blessed and joyful Christmas. As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph today, I invite you to pause and reflect: did Jesus truly take birth in our life and in our family this Christmas? Beyond the lights, gifts, and gatherings, Christmas finds its deepest meaning when Christ is welcomed into our hearts, our homes, and our daily relationships. The Holy Family reminds us that holiness is lived in ordinary family life—with faith, love, patience, sacrifice, and trust in God.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents for our Christmas liturgies, decorations, music, hospitality, and many behind-the-scenes activities. Your generosity and dedication made our celebration of the Lord's birth prayerful and beautiful. May the Baby Jesus bless you and your families abundantly for all that you have done for our parish.

As this year comes to an end, we stand at a sacred threshold—looking back with gratitude and looking forward with hope. Let us thank God for the many blessings we received this past year and welcome the New Year with hearts open to God's grace. May the coming year be filled with faith, peace, healing, and renewed commitment to Christ.

Please note some important dates ahead. On Thursday, January 1, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. On Friday, January 2, the First Friday, we have added an evening Mass at 6:30 PM, followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

Next weekend, on January 4, the Feast of the Epiphany, we will conclude the Jubilee Year after the 8:00 AM Mass. Let us thank God that our diocese selected our church as one of the diocesan pilgrim sites. Many faithful visited our parish and received the Jubilee indulgence—what a beautiful grace for our community.

Finally, I will be on my annual vacation from January 1 to January 30, during which I will officiate a baptism and a wedding in my family. I kindly ask for your prayers. I will remain reachable by email. For any needs, please contact the parish office, who will keep me informed, or reach out to Deacon Jeff for any spiritual emergency.

May the Holy Family bless and protect your families today and always. Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year!

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.

**Dec 28–Jan 5** For the intentions of:

**Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ring

**Mon** Ms. Letitia Rios

**Tues** Ms. Michele Rivard

**Wed** Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Rivard

**Thurs** Mr. Ryan Riviere

**Fri** Mr. Andrew Robbins

**Sat** Mr. & Mrs. Steven Robbins

**Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Roberts

## Weekly Readings & Observances—Week of December 28

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

### The Holy Family

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18 **St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve**

Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 **Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace**

Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28 **Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34 **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

## A Prayer for Safe Travels for Father Jose

Lord, please send your angels to watch over Father Jose during his trip. Keep him safe from all harm and sheltered in Your loving arms. Guide his path and grant him wisdom and discernment as he journeys. Protect him from any danger or illness, and bring him home safely when the journey is complete.

Amen.



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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.

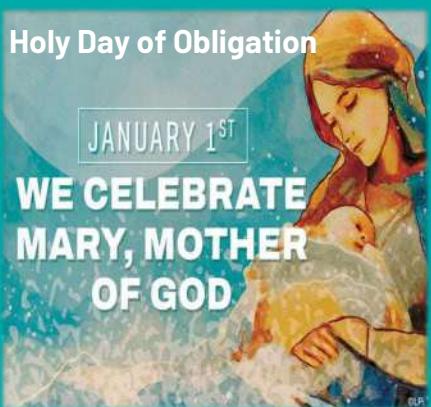
## Prayer Requests

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, Ann Geist, Gerard Drumm, Linda Daniel, Terri Powers, Dana Hammer, Jim Bodine, Caroline Lindsey, and Dev Flynn

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



## Holy Day of Obligation



Masses at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

**Artificial Christmas Trees** – The Knights of Columbus are accepting donations of any size artificial tree or garland, lights functioning or not. Drop off at the red shed in the Parish Hall parking lot any day between Dec 29 thru Jan 15. We are getting an early start on our 2026 Christmas with St. Nick / Santa Claus event!

**Baby Bottle Boomerang** to be hosted by the Catholic Daughters to benefit the Huntsville Pregnancy Resource Center. Empty bottles will be distributed after weekend Masses on January 3-4 and January 10-11. Please return filled bottles after any weekend Mass throughout January. Thank you for your generosity and support of life!



## Women's Ministry

All ladies of the parish are invited to the Women's Ministry meeting on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026** to hear Guest Speaker, Karin Beck, a professional organizer with Karin's Clutter Control. Karin is passionate about organizing and decluttering homes and businesses. She will share her faith-filled story of how she started her professional organizing business. Karin loves repurposing items, creating designated spaces, and maintaining order. She will offer helpful tips on how she assists families in bringing order to their homes through decluttering, repurposing, and organizing. **Join us at 6:30 pm in the Fr. Trey Hall.**



For more information, contact  
Liz Montgomery at  
281-705-6697 or  
elizabeth35758@gmail.com.



55+



Come enjoy a little Winter Wonderland  
Friday, January 16, 5:00 pm  
Fr. Trey Hall  
Soup and Salad Potluck  
Please bring your favorite soup, salad, or dessert to share.  
Drinks provided.



**The Food Pantry** would like to recognize the following donors for their very generous "food drive" donations to our pantry: The Avenue, Burn Boot Camp of Jones Valley, and Primrose Day Care Centers of Madison. Thank you so much!

The food pantry is requesting the following items for this coming week: peanut butter or cheese crackers; and jelly. Have a safe and Happy New Year everyone.

## Newly Baptized

John Thomas Carter  
December 17, 2026  
Jack Matthew Klug  
December 21, 2026

## First Friday Masses

January 2  
8:00 AM followed by Anointing  
Join us afterwards for a lite breakfast and fellowship in Visitation Hall.  
6:30 PM followed by Adoration & Confession

## Weekly Schedule & Intentions

PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES TO THIS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 27

**5:30pm | † Abbott Marcus Voss**

Sunday, December 28

**8am | For the Parish**

No Youth/Adult Faith Formation, OCIA, or Nazareth House

**11am | † Donald & Barbara Ann Davis**

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

Tuesday, December 30

**8am | Fr. Joy Nellierry (I)**

Wednesday, December 31

**8:00am | † Renee Stanley**

Thursday, January 1

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

**6:00pm | Fr. Jose Ambooken (I)**

Friday, January 2

**8:00am | † Robert Smith**

First Friday Lite Breakfast (VH)

**6:30pm | Sue Rebits (I)**

Saturday, January 3

**5:30pm | † Steve Montgomery**

Sunday, January 4

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

Conclusion of Jubilee year after 8am Mass  
No Youth/Adult Faith Formation or Nazareth House

9:30am | OCIA (TH)

**11:00am | † Ann Mitchell**

11:00am | Young Professionals Brunch (TH)

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

**(C) Church, (HFR) Holy Family Room, (O) Office, (PH) Parish Hall, (TH) Trey Hall, (VH) Visitation Hall (at courtyard ramp)**

The **Parish Pastoral Council** is accepting nominations for new members of the council. If you know of anyone (including yourself) who would make a good council member please fill out a nomination form. Forms are located in the back of the church. Please return completed forms to the office or place in a contribution basket by January 11.



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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Therapist at Catholic Family Services  
[cspakovsky@bhmdiocese.org](mailto:cspakovsky@bhmdiocese.org)  
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