

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 1ST 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

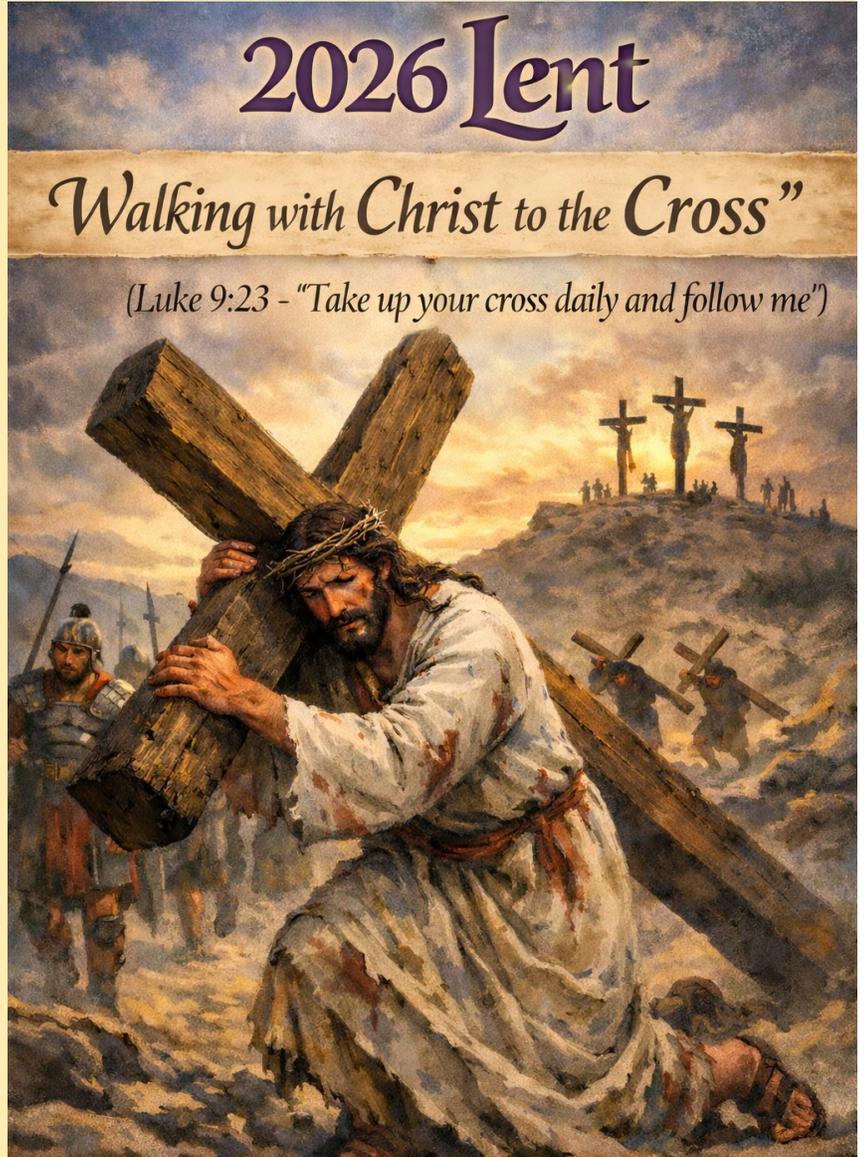
Mon-Thu 8:30am-3:30pm | Fri 8:30am-12:30pm

After hours spiritual emergency: 256.384.8758

Contact Us

222 Jefferson St. N
Huntsville, AL 35801

256.536.6349/www.smvparish.com



2026 Lent

Walking with Christ to the Cross

(Luke 9:23 - "Take up your cross daily and follow me")

Save the Date

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

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 followed by Stations of the Cross & Adoration

Financial Contributions

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

February 14/15, 2026

Weekly Church Support.....\$18,630
Holy Family.....\$270
JP II High School.....\$65

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,
 As we begin this sacred Season of Lent, I would like to thank each one of you for your faith-filled participation in our parish life. On Ash Wednesday, it was heartening to see so many of you present to mark the beginning of this holy season. Your willingness to observe the Church's call to fasting and abstinence was a powerful sign of commitment, reminding us that Lent is not merely a ritual, but a sincere turning of our hearts back to God.

Last Friday the 20th, many parishioners gathered for the Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic Adoration. Your prayerful presence transformed the church into a place of deep reflection and grace. I am pleased to announce that we will continue the 6:30 pm Mass every Friday throughout Lent. I warmly encourage you and your families to make these Fridays a regular part of your Lenten journey.

This year, our Lenten theme is "Walking with Christ to the Cross." Lent invites us to slow down, examine our lives, and walk intentionally with Jesus through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is a season of preparation—not only for Easter, but for a renewed way of living as disciples. I invite you to take this theme into your daily lives: in moments of sacrifice, in quiet prayer, and in loving service to others.

Beginning this Sunday, we are blessed to add an additional Sunday Mass at 12:30 pm. This new Mass is meant to accommodate our growing parish community and provide greater flexibility for families and individuals. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we expand our liturgical schedule.

Today, we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent, and we hear the Gospel account of Jesus' temptation in the desert (Gospel of Matthew 4:1-11). Jesus teaches us that temptation is overcome not by power, but by trust in God's word. As we walk with Christ to the Cross, may we rely on the same grace that sustained Him.

May this Lent be a time of true conversion for us all.

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 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.

Feb 22-Mar 1 For the intentions of:

- Sun** Mr. & Mrs. John Shade
- Mon** Ms. Kayla Sharbutt
- Tues** Ms. Mary Ann Shatzer
- Wed** Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Shaughnessy
- Thurs** Mr. & Mrs. Jack Shaw
- Fri** Mr. & Mrs. John Shearer
- Sat** Ms. Shelby Sheehan
- Sun** Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Shelton

Weekly Readings & Observances—Week of February 22

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11 **1st Sunday of Lent**

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46 **St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr**

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26 **St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church**

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-4

Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.
 ©LPi



Grades 4-8 will have class at the church next Sunday, 3/1!

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, and Lisa Downard.



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

Congratulations!

Amanda Katherine Malone & George Michael Kushner, Jr.

Married February 14, 2026

Thank you to the couple for donating their wedding flowers.

Prayer Ribbons, prepared by the Catholic Daughters, will be available along the railing at the front of the church all throughout Lent. All are invited this Lenten season to offer up a prayer as you tie a ribbon to the church railing. The Prayer Ribbons serve as a visual representation of our prayers and offerings and provide an opportunity for reflection as we prepare our hearts for the coming Easter season.



Potluck Suppers—Enjoy some Friday fellowship!

5:00pm on the Fridays in Lent in Treacy Hall. Bring a meat-free dish to eat & share. Stations of the Cross & Adoration will follow a 6:30pm Mass.



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 \$500 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 30th**. Notification will be made in May.

Please contact Erin Boles at erindacy@icloud.com or 256-603-6781 with any questions.

Easter Flower Offering

Our Easter Flower Memorial is a way to remember our deceased and to honor the living. Your donation supports our Easter decorating. Easter Flower envelopes are in your monthly packet and in the church. Please turn your envelope in by **March 14** for names to appear in the bulletin.

Young Professionals Brunch TODAY at 12pm in Treacy Hall.

Second Collection Today for Black and Indian Missions

Weekly Schedule & Intentions

PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES TO THIS SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 21

5:30pm | † Mark Corona

Sunday, February 22

8:00am | Marion Ruffing (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 | For the Parish

12:30pm | Eveie Peacock (I)

12pm | Young Professionals Brunch (TH)

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

Monday, February 23

3:30pm | Quilting Club (VH)

7:00pm | St. Jerome Book Club (VH)

Tuesday, February 24

8:00am | † Susan Ann Weschler

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, February 25

8:00am | Shelby Musgrove (I)

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

10am | Pray & Play erintownsend18@gmail.com

6pm | St. Lawrence Ministry (VH)

Thursday, February 26

8:00am | † Ray Looney

8:30am | Stations of the Cross

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

Friday, February 27

8:00am | † Louis Nosenzo, Sr.

8:30am | Stations of the Cross followed by a Coffee Social

12:15pm | Stations of the Cross

5:00pm | Potluck Supper (TH)

6:00pm | Homeschoolers Meeting (VH)

6:30pm | For the Parish

Mass followed by Stations of the Cross & Adoration

Saturday, February 28

5:30pm | For the Parish

Sunday, March 1

8:00am | Angie Clawson (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 | † Jerry Damson

12:30pm | Cherie Peacock (I)

Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution

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

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

WOMEN'S CURSILLO

... Looking to grow your faith and love of Jesus? The Cursillo Movement offers the method, tools and support needed to live a fuller, more vibrant Christian life. The next Women's weekend will be held March 12-15, 2026, at St. Bernard's Abbey in Cullman. For more information text

Linda Schaaf at 256-541-2687 or email her at LSchaaf325@gmail.com

The **Food Pantry** is needing the following items: pasta sauce; Chef Boyardee; Vienna sausages; canned chicken, tuna, or meat; canned fruit; peanut butter, jelly; rice mixes and cereal. Thank you for your continued support and donations.



Our **Church Directory** is available to view on your computer or smartphone! Instant Church Directory—the program we use to build our church directory—has a member website. You can access this website by scanning this QR code or following this link — <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com> Create your account by entering the primary email listed on your parish registration and following the directions on-screen.



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.

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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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