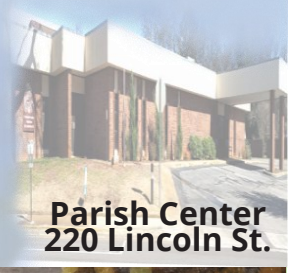
St. Mary of the Visitation

Catholic Parish—Huntsville, Alabama

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 & 12:30pm
Nursery provided next door in Visitation Hall for the 8:00am & 11:00am 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 | *smv.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

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

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

Save the Date

Aug 7: First Friday Masses
8:00am Mass followed by Anointing of the Sick
6:30pm Mass followed by Adoration
Aug 15-16: Catholic Daughters Bake Sale in Visitation Hall

Financial Contributions

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

July 18/19

Weekly Church Support.....$15,386
Holy Family.....$243
JPII High School.....$95

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

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

Prayer, Worship, Ministry

Pastor's Note

Dear Parish Family,

This weekend we celebrate the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In today's Gospel (Matthew 13:44-52), Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a treasure hidden in a field and to a pearl of great price. The person who discovers the treasure joyfully gives up everything to possess it. Through these simple yet profound parables, Jesus invites us to examine what we value most in our lives. We gladly make sacrifices for what we truly treasure. The question for each of us is: Is Christ and His Kingdom the greatest treasure of my life? When we discover the joy of living in friendship with Christ, every sacrifice becomes worthwhile, for nothing compares to the gift of eternal life.

Today the Church also observes the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to all grandparents and senior members of our parish. Your lives are a witness to faith, perseverance, love, and sacrifice. Much of what we enjoy today has been built upon your hard work, prayers, and countless sacrifices. Our families, our parish, and even our nation have been enriched because of your generosity. Thank you for handing on the faith to younger generations. May God bless you with good health, peace, and the comforting assurance of His abiding presence.

This week the Church celebrates several inspiring saints. On July 29, we honor Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, reminding us that every Christian life should beautifully balance prayer, hospitality, friendship, and loving service to the Lord. On July 31, we celebrate St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, whose spirituality continues to inspire countless people to "find God in all things." On August 1, we remember St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, theologian, and Doctor of the Church, renowned for his love of Christ, devotion to Our Lady, and compassionate pastoral care.

Family Tip # 10: Place a family Bible in a prominent place in your home—not as a decoration, but as a daily invitation to encounter God's Word. Read a few verses together each day, allowing the Scriptures to guide your family in faith, hope, and love.

May the Lord help us to treasure Him above all else and to live each day as faithful disciples.

God bless you all.

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.

Jul 26-Aug 2 For the intentions of:
Sun Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Barnes
Mon Ms. Debra Barry
Tues Mrs. Elizabeth Barry
Wed Ms. Callie Barthelemy
Thurs Mr. & Mrs. James Bartlett
Fri Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Bartnik
Sat Mr. & Mrs. William Baruzzini
Sun Mrs. Dina Bates

Readings —Week of July 26, 2026

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46
Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 14:1-12

Observances — Week of July 26, 2026

Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time; **Wednesday:** Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus; **Thursday:** St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church **Friday:** St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest; **Saturday:** St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Have you signed your kids up for classes yet?
This is the **LAST WEEKEND** to enroll students in PreK-12th Grade Faith Formation classes for the 2026-2027 school year! Visit the RE tab on the parish website to register

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.

Nursery Worker Needed (Paid Position) to care for children age 4 and under at our 8am Mass. If interested, email your resume to smvparish@smvparish.org.

In Memoriam

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter John McGraw, Sr.
Husband of Patti McGraw
Father of Peter McGraw, Jr. (Samantha), Andrew McGraw (Kelly), and Mary Rush (Chris)

Prayer Requests Dawn Drumm, Jennifer Michael, Jeannie Calvarese, Skye Grant, Darrel & Diane Kaiser, Pat Hicks, Holly Cooney, Noah Hebert, Theresa Marlowe, Sherry Goyer, Debbie Porges, Pam Hardy, Joan Smith, Linda Daniel, Terri Powers, Jim Bodine, Caroline Lindsey, Dev Flynn, Timothy Payne, Buddy Rogers, Seraphina Newquist, Paul Torrey, and Donald Roseman.

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

Car Blessings –Following all Masses this weekend (July 25-26), Fr. Jose will come to the parking lots to bless your vehicles. After greeting everyone in the church, he will first go to the lower parking lot and then to the rear parking lot. We will begin with a common prayer, after which he will come to each vehicle individually to sprinkle it with holy water and offer a personal blessing. Please wait with your vehicle until the blessing begins. Let us baptize our vehicles. May the Lord protect you and all who travel with you throughout the year.

The **Catholic Center of Concern** is hosting its annual **Back-to-School Drive** through July 31. They are collecting new socks and underwear for school age children to be distributed free of charge to families in our community. Donations can be dropped off at the Center at 1010 Church St., NW, Huntsville, Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm.

The **Food Pantry** is requesting the following items to help fill our shelves: jelly; canned fruit; soups; canned chicken, or meat; Vienna sausages; gravy or gravy mixes; peanut butter; mac and cheese; Chef Boyardee. Also requesting any grocery size paper bags for this week only. Thank you for your continued support and donations.

Scan the QR code to see our Amazon Wish List. Or type: https://linktr.ee/smvpantry

Cursillo Weekends for Men and Women

will be held at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, AL.
-Men's Cursillo Weekend: August 13-16, 2026
-Women's Cursillo Weekend: April 8-11, 2027
If you have been considering Cursillo as the next step in your spiritual journey, now is the time! Contact Linda Schaaf at lschaaf325@gmail.com
The Cursillo Movement is a recognized charism of the Catholic Church founded on small friendship groups.

OCIA
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
A Journey of Faith

Are you ready to make a journey of faith? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), formerly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), is the Catholic Church's process for welcoming new members and guiding them through the journey of conversion and initiation into the Catholic faith. It's a gradual process of learning, prayer, and spiritual formation designed for adults. ***We will have a Meet & Greet on Sunday, August 16 at 9:30 am in Trecy Hall. OCIA class starts Sunday, August 23 for the Sunday session at 9:30 am in the Fr. Trecy Hall. And the Wednesday session starts August 26 at 6:00 pm in Trecy Hall.***

Registration is open now for:

- Anyone who has never been baptized and/or expressed an interest in becoming Catholic.
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

Anyone who has been baptized in another denomination but is interested in learning about the Catholic faith.

Registration forms are located in the back of the church or on the church's website under "Becoming Catholic". Submit completed forms to the church office or to Deacon Jeff. If you have questions, please contact Deacon Jeff or Liz Montgomery at smvparish.ocia@gmail.com. We look forward to helping you on your journey of faith.

Weekly Schedule & Intentions

PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR UPDATES TO THIS SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 25
5:30pm | † Bea & Charles Albright
Vehicle Blessings after Mass
Sunday, July 26
8:00am | † Jeffery Skupien
11:00am | For the Parish
12:30pm | Rebecca Greco (I)
Vehicle Blessings after each Mass
Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution
Monday, July 27
3:30pm | Quilting Ministry (VH)
Tuesday, July 28
8:00am | Pilar Delany (I)
6:30pm | Pro-Life Ministry (TH)
Wednesday, July 29
8:00am | For our Lector Ministry
Thursday, July 30
8am | For our Nicodemus Ministry
6:00pm | Men of St. Joseph (HFR)
Friday, July 31
8:00am | † Rich Monzingo
8:30am | Coffee Social (VH)
Saturday, August 1
5:30pm | For our Faith Formation Ministry
Sunday, August 2
8:00am | † Fr. Gary Lord
11:00am | For the Nazareth House Ministry
12:30pm | For the Parish
Noon-1:00pm | Food Distribution
(C) Church, (HFR) Holy Family Room, (O) Office, (PH) Parish Hall, (TH) Trecy Hall, (VH) Visitation Hall

Second Collection TODAY

St. John Vianney
Seminarian Education Fund

Weekly Emails are sent to registered parishioners every Wednesday listing upcoming events for the week and other announcements. If you are not receiving the email and would like to please contact the office at smvparish@smvparish.org.

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

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