



**St. Mary of the Visitation
Catholic Community**

**222 Jefferson St., N
Huntsville, AL 35801**

Church Office 256.536.6349
Parish Center 256.536.6760
Fax 256.536.6349

Email
smvparish@smvparish.com
Website
www.smvparish.org

Liturgical Schedule

Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Weekday Mass
Tuesday — Friday 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday—Friday 7:30-8:00 AM
Immediately after Weekday Mass
Saturday 4:00—5:00 PM or
By appointment

Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Friday
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Parish Pastoral Council
2nd Tuesday of the month

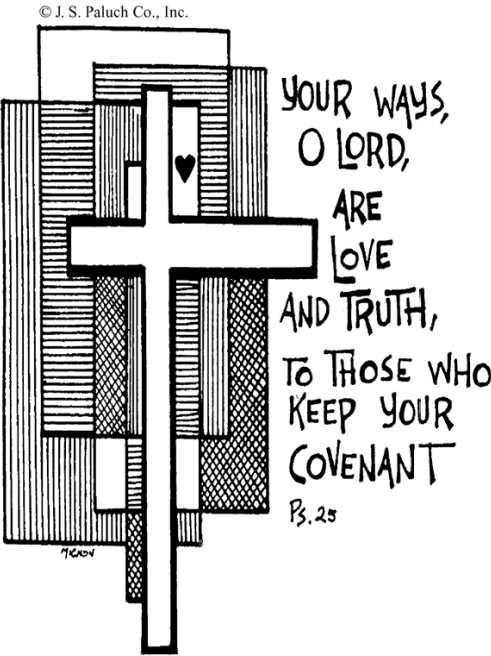
Visitation Parish Center
220 Lincoln Street NE

Faith Formation Programs
9:30 AM Sundays

Parking Lot Code: 222

**First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths.
— *Psalm 25:4*



Throughout history God has given His people signs. Our season of Lent offers us God's sign that it is time to stop the ordinary routines of our lives, create some desert space, and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. We are asked to unplug from our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness to clear the slate and take stock in who we have become. We are asked to remember the ancient sign of God's covenant with humanity in which He vowed to nurture, sustain, and protect the relationship He has with His people. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. Even though some good solid self-denial is the order of the day, greater happiness and wholeness will be the fruit of our labors. Pleasant journey through the desert!

**Join us for a
livestream Mass
every Sunday at 8:00 AM
and Tuesday-Friday at 8:00 AM**
[Facebook.com/smvparish](https://www.facebook.com/smvparish)

Recordings are on our YouTube
channel: **[YouTube.com/smvparish](https://www.youtube.com/smvparish)**

**Drive-thru
Holy Communion
every Sunday 12:15 PM-12:30 PM**

Enter the driveway from Jefferson
Street south of the church, receive
Holy Communion, then exit onto
Washington Street.

ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION CHURCH • HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

PARISH DIRECTORY

Administrator Rev. Joy Nellissery
frjoy@smvparish.org

After Hours Spiritual
Emergency 256.384.3741

Deacon Rev. Mr. James Bodine
deaconjim@wowway.net

Deacon Rev. Mr. Louis Citrano, SDS
256.881.0836

Religious Education Rita Matteson
rmatteson@smvparish.com or
256.536.6760

RCIA Coordinators Steve and Fran Vencus
svenckus1@verizon.net or 703.599.8528

Finance Manager Lynne Greco
finance@smvparish.org

Office Manager Cherie Miller
smvparish@smvparish.com

Maintenance Manager Robert Smith
rsmith@smvparish.com

Choir Director Janet Zajac

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Pastoral Council Chair John Nerger
pastoralcouncil@smvparish.org

Finance Council Chair Jim Wall

COMMITTEES

Parish Life Marian Kilgore & Bridget McGraw
256.651.1698 & 256.541.7084

Buildings & Grounds Manfred Segewitz

Liturgical Environment

Collection Counters Carolyn Hall

Ushers Robert Smith

Young Adults Group smvyoungadults@smvparish.org

LADIES' SODALITY

President Mary Davis

Vice President Rita Segewitz

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight Greg Brierly
KofC.Council.4080@gmail.com

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Holy Family Regional School 256.539.5221

St. John Paul II High School 256.430.1760

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

For Youth First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, there is a one year of formation immediately prior to the preparation for the sacraments. Contact the Religious Ed Office.

BAPTISM

Infants: Parents need to be registered members and attend a baptism class. Contact the Church Office to schedule a class and baptism. Godparents should attend a baptismal preparation class here or in their own parish.

Becoming Catholic — RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process through which people are welcomed and prepare for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Anyone wishing to join the Church or to complete one's initiation in the Church should contact the Church Office.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

High school youth prepare for the sacrament in a one and a half year program. Readiness for Confirmation depends upon the individual's desire for the sacrament and upon previous training.

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Engaged Couples planning marriage need to discuss preparation arrangements with a priest at least six months prior to setting a wedding date.

ANOIDING OF THE SICK

Call the Church Office to request the sacrament.

FUNERALS

Please call the Church Office *before* contacting the funeral home to avoid scheduling conflicts. It is better that you are more prepared in making arrangements.

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are new to our parish, we wish you would register with us. Registration indicates your commitment of belonging. Registration cards are in the Church vestibule. Change of address, marital status or departure from the parish should be report to the Church office.

Those who need a gluten-free host should speak to the priest before Mass; and receive from the priest's line.

2021 PASTORAL COUNCIL

John Nerger-Chair	256.429.9442
LuAnn Poniatowski-Co Chair	256.426.8898
Stacy Lankford-Secretary	256.541.4865
Brittian Anderson	256.683.9211
Erich Finckenor	256.424.2439
John Jaap	256.797.5359
Dan Jett	256.603.8298
Jannon LaRue	256.653.0701
Brian Mitchell	256.714.8524
Sarah Rogers	256.426.7984

SECOND COLLECTIONS IN FEBRUARY 2/21—National Black and Indian Missions
2/28—Salvatorian Mission Warehouse

DATE	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	ALTAR SERVER
Sat. 2/27 5:30 PM	Steve Venckus	Dn. Jim Bodine	John Vandiver
Sun. 2/28 8:00 AM	Sabrina Stedman	Dn. Jim Bodine	Mary Addison Koshut
Sun. 2/28 11:00 AM	Cynthia Thoen	Dn. Jim Bodine	Burke Jones

Collection Counters 2/28
Josette Dant, Cindy Thoen,
Markus Segewitz, Jannon LaRue

Online Giving is Coming!
Watch for sign up information
coming soon.

Parish Ministries

Help us build and strengthen our parish community and the sense of belonging taken from us by the pandemic. If you have any suggestions for new ministries or are interested in starting or helping to start one, please contact the Parish Pastoral Council at pastoralcouncil@smvparish.org.

Bible Class

Wednesdays of Lent from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Parish Center. Must bring a bible and please wear a mask. Social distancing will be followed.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent at 12:15 PM and 7:00 PM
Eucharistic Adoration Friday 6:00-7:00 PM

Parish Vision and Mission Statement

What is St. Mary of the Visitation parish? Who are we? Why do we exist? What are our core values and foundations of our church? Send your suggestions for an update to the existing vision and mission statement on the back of the bulletin to the Parish Pastoral Council at pastoralcouncil@smvparish.org.

Mass Intentions Feb. 20—Feb. 28

Sat	5:30 PM	For the Parish
Sun	8:00 AM	†Mrs. Karen Eppard
	11:00 AM	†Simone Curtis
Mon	8:00 AM	NO MASS
Tue	8:00 AM	†Mr. David Pulte
Wed	8:00 AM	Su Young Marie Kim (I)
Thu	8:00 AM	†Mrs. Mary Nelliserry
Fri	8:00 AM	Mr. Danny Devaughn(I)
Sat	5:30 PM	†Bea & Charles Albright
Sun	8:00 AM	For the Parish
	11:00 AM	†Jim Rutherford

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MON 2/22 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
TUE 2/23 Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
WED 2/24 Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
THR 2/25 Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
FRI 2/26 Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
SAT 2/27 Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
SUN 2/28 Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/ Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God's covenant with Noah when he was delivered from the flood (Genesis 9:8-15).
Psalms — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).
Second Reading — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).
Gospel — This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:12-15).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for all those who are sick or recovering, our military and our first responders. May God bless all caregivers. Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks. Names may be submitted by email at smvparish@smvparish.com or by calling the office at 256.536.6349.

Jackie Hallows	Joanne Goodson	Barbara Patton
Jim Wall	Pless Knight	Chandler
Kelli Plattsmier	Al Schrenk	Mary Jo Knight
Lisa Fleming	Terry O'Reilly	Teresa Powers
Carl Ritz	Beth Bodine	Jim Shade
Phillip Chadwell	Mason	Rosie Wiethop
Meghan Kenny	Ann Anderson	Marlene Dunlop
Karen Brazier	Mary Langford	Angela Tucker
Cathy Kulas	Pat Hicks	
Nettie Johnson	James Foster	
Gordon Keene	Dora Benavides	

The Building & Grounds (B&G) Ministry Needs Your Help

Your participation and support for this ministry is greatly appreciated during these trying times. The B&G ministry provides Church, Parish Center, Rectory, etc. related maintenance and repair activities.

If you are willing, and able, we urge you to consider joining us. For more information, contact Manfred Segewitz by email-manfseg@gmail.com or phone-256.527.2278 (Cell), 256.539.6321(Home). You can also leave your name/number at the Church Office-256.536.6349.



Sign up at Go.VirtualCatholicConference.com/

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO
LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE
PRESENTED BY JONATHAN TEIXEIRA FOR THE FOCUS BLOG



FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

ABSTINENCE



CATHOLICS 14+
ARE OBLIGED TO PRACTICE ABSTINENCE



CATHOLICS 18-59
ARE OBLIGED TO FAST



THOSE OUTSIDE THE AGE LIMITS
and those whose state in life (e.g. pregnant women, manual laborers, those who are ill) may be excused from the requirements of fasting and abstinence, but are encouraged to take up some other form of penitence or acts of charity or piety.

North Huntsville Catholic Youth Group

The Catholic churches of north Huntsville are coming together to form a group for teens in 7th grade—12th grade.

Join us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship!!

Sunday, February 28 5:30-7:30 PM at the Parish Center

Wear a mask & bring a friend to enjoy games, activities, and draw closer to God. RSVP and if you forget—come anyway.

RSVP by Friday, February 26 to
Jamie.m.stewart.122@gmail.com

****Parents: Come inside to check-in teen for first meeting.****



Lenten Fish Fry

Friday March 5th
5:00—7:00 PM or
UNTIL WE RUN OUT

\$10.00 per plate
Includes Fish, Fries, Cornbread,
Cole Slaw & Dessert

Drive thru pick up only
at the Parish Center
220 Lincoln St.

**“TOGETHER IN FAITH”
BUILDING CAMPAIGN****PLEDGE
DRIVE
\$4,000,000**

If you are new to our parish,
Envelopes with Brochures and Pledge cards
are located in the Church vestibule.
If you would like to make a donation,
visit our website: smvbuidls.org.

Thank you for your financial support.

When making donations to the Building Campaign
use a separate check from your church support.
These funds are deposited and accounted for
in its own checking account.

As of December, 2020
87 Pledges received
75 Pledges : \$448,228.00

Accumulated Funds

12/31/2020 \$494,606.00

**The Deacon's Corner**

By Deacon Louis Citrano

Question: In none of the four Gospels does the Blessed Mother visit Jesus' tomb on Easter morning. Why is this? Was it a Jewish custom that the mother not go to the tomb?

Answer: I first want to offer my thoughts on why Mary did not go to the tomb of Jesus on the day of his Resurrection. Mary was Jesus' most faithful follower, she believed and lived every word he spoke. When he said he would rise on the third day, he meant it. If Mary had gone to the tomb, she would have been disappointed because he was not there. By her going to his tomb, this would indicate that Mary would have somewhat doubted what Jesus proclaimed. It would also indicate her lack of faith in her son. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb to finish anointing the body, which was a Jewish custom, she too was disappointed that Jesus was not there and even all those that went to the tomb. If they would have had faith in Jesus they would have known he would not be there. Next, one would have to ask the question being Jesus was not at the tomb, where was he? With Mary his Mother? I would venture to say that Jesus had arranged to go to his Mother first after he rose.

To be continued...

Next week in The Deacon's Corner, I will share an excerpt from St. Pope John Paul II's General Audience Message from May 1997 on Mary and her absence from Jesus' tomb.

Drop your questions in the collection basket or email the church office—smvparish@smvparish.com. Please include your name and phone number. Your name and number will not appear in the bulletin, this is only for Deacon Louis to contact you if he has a question about your question.

THANK YOU'S ARE NOT ENOUGH

to convey our sincere appreciation to
Father John Fallon and the Prince of Peace
Catholic Church in Hoover, AL for graciously
allowing their staff the time to set up the
equipment and train our Parish in livestreaming so
that all may participate in the Holy Mass.

The livestream could not be possible without the
generous donations from three of our parish
families. Together \$2500.00 was donated and
\$1945.00 has been used to date.

The training and donations have allowed us to
livestream all the daily Masses and the 8:00 AM
Mass every Sunday since January 17, 2021,
including the funeral Mass for a dearly-departed
parishioner so family and friends that could not
attend in person were able to participate
in the Mass.

THANK YOU!

**FEBRUARY IS
FOOD DRIVE
MONTH**

Items needed:
Peanut Butter, Jelly,
Mashed Potatoes

Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 4,305.94
Weekly Church Support Feb. 13/14	\$ 7,999.00
Community Free Dental Clinic	\$ 75.00
St. JP II Catholic High School	\$ 30.00
Holy Family School	\$ 45.00
Salvatorian Mission Warehouse	\$ 20.00
Church in Latin America	\$ 25.00
Initial Offering	\$ 10.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 20.00
Special Repair Projects	\$ 30.00

First Sunday of Lent

Lectionary: 23

First reading: Genesis 9:8—15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:
“See, I am now establishing my covenant with
you and your descendants after you and with
every living creature that was with you: all the
birds, and the various tame and wild animals
that were with you and came out of the ark. I
will establish my covenant with you, that never
again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by
the waters of a flood; there shall not be another
flood to devastate the earth.” God added: “This
is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come,
of the covenant between me and you and every
living creature with you: I set my bow in the
clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant
between me and the earth. When I bring clouds
over the earth, and the bow appears in the
clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made
between me and you and all living beings, so
that the waters shall never again become a flood
to destroy all mortal beings.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those
who keep your covenant.

**Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.

**Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

**Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.**

Good and upright is the LORD,
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and he teaches the humble his way.

**Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.**

Second reading: 1 Peter 3:18—22

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the
righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he
might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh,
he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also
went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had
once been disobedient while God patiently
waited in the days of Noah during the building
of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all,
were saved through water. This prefigured
baptism, which saves you now. It is not a
removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to
God for a clear conscience, through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into
heaven and is at the right hand of God, with
angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 1:12—15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2021

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem” (Mt 20:18).
Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love.

The Lenten message from Pope Francis can be found here:
<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/02/12/210212a.html>

“The best way to show my gratitude to God is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy.” - St. Theresa of Calcutta

First Week of Lent—GRATITUDE

This week’s readings from our Lenten Journey:”return” Meditation Guide focus on GRATITUDE. Here are some simple ways to become more grateful:

1. **Keep a Gratitude Journal**—Establish a daily practice in which you remind yourself of the gifts, grace, benefits, and good things you enjoy.
2. **Go Through the Motions**—Grateful motions include smiling, saying thank you, and writing letters of gratitude.
3. **Remember the Bad**—To be grateful it is helpful to remember the hard times that you once experienced. When you remember how difficult life used to be and how far you have come, you set up an explicit contrast in your mind, and this contrast is fertile ground for gratefulness.
4. **Come to Your Senses**—Through our senses—the ability to touch, see, smell, taste, and hear—we gain an appreciation of what it means to be human and of what an incredible miracle it is to be alive.
5. **Watch Your Language**—Grateful people have a particular linguistic style that uses the language of gifts, givers, blessings, blessed, fortune, fortunate, and abundance. In gratitude, you should not focus on how inherently good you are, but rather on the inherently good things that others have done on your behalf.
6. **Use Visual Reminders**—Because the two primary obstacles to gratefulness are forgetfulness and a lack of mindful awareness, visual reminders can serve as cues to trigger thoughts of gratitude. Often times, the best visual reminders are other people.
7. **Share Your Gratitude with Others**—Expressing gratitude can strengthen relationships. So the next time your partner, friend or family member does something you appreciate, be sure to let them know.

Vision
In the image of Jesus the “cornerstone,”
St. Mary of the Visitation Church was formed with the “living stones” of Catholic Faith in North Alabama. Building on our historic past, yet set amid space age technology, we continue to be pioneers of faith by reaching out and ministering to the needs of others in the spirit of Mary and Elizabeth of the Visitation scriptural account.

“The gift you have received, give as a gift.”
Matthew 10:8

Mission Proclamation

Mission
We believe God calls us into a life of faith, hope, and charity. We accept this call to life through our baptism and your grace to form a community to hear and witness the Good News, to celebrate our faith through prayer and sacrament, to sustain this community through friendship and service, to encourage lifelong spiritual growth through Christian formation.

Sharing our material and spiritual blessings with all who need to hear God’s invitation to love, We embrace the gospel charge to make disciples and strive to be more Christ-like.
To live this life of love and justice, we commit our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

We, the people of St. Mary of the Visitation, strive to fulfill this mission through the guidance and grace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE ADVERTISERS; THEY MAKE THIS BULLETIN POSSIBLE.

Church history book <i>A Mighty Fortress of Faith</i> Available at Neighborhood Card and Gift 801 Holmes Ave. NE Huntsville Or Shaver’s Books 315 Jefferson St. \$50.00 (All Proceeds go to the church) Or call Pat Tumminello (256) 534-1480				Wolf’s Home Services Dan Kahle Quality home repair and remodeling services (256) 714-9543 <i>Parishioner recommended.</i>
		JERRY DAMSON H HONDA A ACURA <i>In our 60th year of Savings, Service, and Satisfaction!</i> DAMSON.COM		NEVER FAIL NOVENA May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer nine (9) times a day. By the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail.

Thank you to all our current advertisers. We are looking for advertisers to cover some of our printing costs. If you are interested in advertising in our bulletin, please call the Office at 536-6349 ext. 10 and talk to Cherie for more information. Thank you.