



Our Lady of the Lake

CATHOLIC CHURCH

4609 MARTIN STREET SOUTH
CROPWELL, ALABAMA 35054



Rev. William P. Lucas, Pastor

Deacon Terrence Rumore
Deacon Serge Brazzolotto
Deacon E. Lee Robinson

PARISH OFFICE | 205-525-5161

Fax 205-525-5162
Email parish@ollpellcity.com
Hours Monday-Thursday
9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Jim Mathis, *Director of Religious Education*
Charmaine Welch, *Music Director*
Shelly Hamman, *Parish Secretary*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Weekdays

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:00-4:45 p.m. or by appointment

MARRIAGES

Must be scheduled with the Priest
at least 6 months in advance.

MORNING ROSARY

8:30 a.m.
before Mass

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

Mondays following Mass

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY

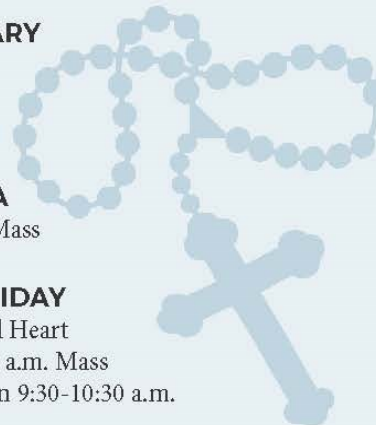
Novena to the Sacred Heart
of Jesus before 9:00 a.m. Mass
Eucharistic Adoration 9:30-10:30 a.m.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION

Third Sunday of every month 7:00 p.m.
Second Wednesday of every month | *Exposicion del
Santísimo el segundo Miércoles de cada mes* 7:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

August through May
Ages 3 years through High School



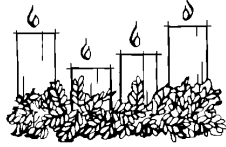
www.ollpellcity.com

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

Saturday December 16, 2023
Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023



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*I am the voice of the one crying out in the desert,
make straight the way of the Lord.*

-John 1:23



December 18 - December 24

- Monday:** Mari Culver by Walton Smith †
Jeff Bowman by Vickie Gavin
- Tuesday:** Mari Culver by Legion of Mary †
- Wednesday:** George Sobolowski
by Deacon Terry & Rita Rumore
- Thursday:** Bob Van Gundy by Deacon Terry & Rita Rumore †
- Friday:** Patti Benson by Shirley Skeivelas †
- Saturday:** Trudi & Andy McClay by the Zielinskis †
- Sunday:** Tom Welch by Charmaine Welch †
For the People

Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

Ron & Diana Markevich, Walton Smith,
Juanita Crowson, Toni James, Bob Walsh, Fred
Brown, Silvia Moten, Herb & Sherry Kuntz, Bill
& Loretta Frost, David & Audrey Springer,
Christine Jaks, Jeanie Reid, Ruth Stanley,
Janice Stella, Frank Troncalli, Angela Ledlow,
Michael Brayman, Lee Walsler, Geri Bunt,
Charles & Libby LaFleur, Marcia Morteck,
Benny Goodman, Margaret Banks, Jose Riveria,
Helen Turner, George & Pat Sobolowski, Jimmy
Hollis, William Konnor Stone, Pat Roberts, Bill
& Dee Watkins, Emily Bell Smith, Mary
LaFleur, Micky Zielinski, Jim Reilly, Connie
Parsons, Gayle Huff, Randy Gray, John
Caterinichia, Karen Hand

Please pray for all our loved ones who are ill and our shut-ins. To add a name, call the church office; or to add to the Prayer Hot Line please email Sharon Stice at sharonstice46@gmail.com or call 205-613-1053.

Weekly Readings December 18- December 24

- Monday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72;
Mt 1:18-25
- Tuesday:** Judges 13:2-7, 24-
25a; Ps 71; Lk 1:5-
25
- Wednesday:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps
24; Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday:** Sg of Sgs 2:8-14; Ps
33; Lk 1:39-45
- Friday:** 1 Sam 1:24-28; 1
Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7,
8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
- Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps
25; Lk 1:57-66
- Sunday:** 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12,
14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom
16:25-17; Lk 1:26-
38
- Th Nativity of the Lord:** Isaiah 9:1-6;
Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Today's Readings



First Reading — I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

JOY

The theme (candle) for the Third week of Advent is joy. The third Sunday of Advent is called *Guadete Sunday*, from the Latin word for *rejoice*. In Philippians we read, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near." (4, 4-5) Clergy may wear rose-colored vestments and the rose candle on the Advent wreath is lighted.

We rejoice because the Lord is near. Sin prevents us from experiencing the Lord's nearness. Again, Advent is a penitential season. Our repentance opens our minds to the presence of the Lord. Joy is one of the fruits of repentance.

Joy is different from happiness. I can experience happiness because I am on vacation. That happiness ends when I have to return to work. I can feel happy when my sports team wins. But that happiness ends when there is another competition. Joy is not dependent on my circumstances. It endures no matter how my environment changes.

The source of our joy is the belief that Jesus Christ is on our side. He wants to save us if we want to be saved. As the angel Gabriel said to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Gospel of Luke, "Nothing will be impossible for God." Whatever shape our world is in, God will renew it through His Son.

The Third Sunday of Advent and the rose candle signal a one-day break from the penance of the season. We can relax. We can rejoice because Jesus Christ has won the victory over sin and death. Jesus Christ is "Immanuel", God with us. He came once to die, rise, and ascend to the Father. He will come again to renew our world in God's image. That indeed is a reason to rejoice.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Because December 25th falls on a Monday this year, there is an unusual situation for attending Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas).

Because both are Holy Days of Obligation, it is necessary to attend Mass **twice** that weekend.

For the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Faithful can go to *any* Mass between 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 23rd and 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th.

For Christmas, the Faithful can attend *any* Mass between 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th and 11:59 p.m. on Monday, December 25th.

At Our Lady of the Lake, you can fulfill your obligation in the following ways:

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, December 23rd at 5:00 pm.

Sunday, December 24th at 8:30 or 11:15 a.m. **or** 4:30 or 8:30 p.m.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas):

Sunday, December 24th at 4:30 or 8:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

If you are travelling, check with the local diocese as far as what they require to fulfill your obligation. It may be different than the Diocese of Birmingham.

Sorry, you cannot fulfill two obligations at one Mass. You are obligated to attend Mass twice. I promise Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will last less than one hour.

Father Bill Lucas

Surfsiders



The Surfsiders will have their monthly meeting Wednesday, December 20th at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. This includes a potluck lunch, games and fellowship. All seniors are invited!

Offertory Collection

July 2023 — June 2024

	Actual	Needed weekly
December 10 Offertory	\$6,853	\$7,264
Year to Date	\$169,358	\$174,336

Building Fund Collection

July 2023 — June 2024

	Actual	Needed Monthly
Building Fund— Month of November	\$6,033	\$2,720
Year to Date	\$23,815	\$14,960



Chair: Brenda Rochford
edenrochford@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: Jorge Solis
Jorge.Solis@butlersnow.com

Secretary: Debbie Gossett
debbiegossett@msn.com

Jeff Reach: jreach@protonmail.com

Bernie Funderburg: boxacarbern1@aol.com

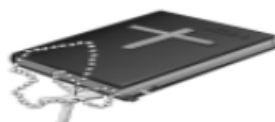
Mary Burns: angels4maryb@gmail.com

Paul Thomas: paulcthomas3@gmail.com

Allen Ross: allentross5555@gmail.com

Meagan Price: meaganfprice@gmail.com

Council meetings are open to all parishioners, and are typically on the third Wed. of the month after Mass.



Men's Bible Study

Reminder for those who signed up for the Knights of Columbus Bible Study. The first session will be Sunday, January 7th at 9:45 am in the Parish Hall Conference Room. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.



Advent Wreath Candle Lighters Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23, 2023
5:00 pm Mass— Bob & Candy Nicholas

Sunday, December 24 2023
8:30 am Mass— Jim & Julie Mathis
11:15 am Mass— Michael Poteracki Family



Christmas Choir Practice

December 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

Any questions, please contact Charmaine Welch at 205-913-4967.

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please pick up your offertory envelopes for calendar year 2024 in the Parish Hall. If you do not see yours, please call the office at 205-525-5161.

The 2024 Calendars are here! Please take one located in each foyer of the church.

Communal Penance Service

The parish communal penance service for Advent will be held on **Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm.** Father Bill and Father Sexton will both be available for confessions. This is a good way to prepare for the Christmas season!

Pro Life Corner

Ann's New Life Pregnancy Medical Center



Wish List
Size 4 Diapers
Size 6 Diapers

3440 Martin Street South, Suite 1, Cropwell, AL 35054
Hours of Operation: Tuesday 9:00-5:00
Wednesday/Thursday 9:00-4:00

Assignments

December 23, 2023 - December 25, 2023

SATURDAY MASS

12/23/2023 5:00 PM

Greeters: Paige Everett, Allen Ross
Lectors: Buddy Spradley, Allen Ross
Ministers: Martha Hayes, Edgar Solis
Altar Servers: Roger Carreker, John Bryant
Ushers: Bob Nicholas, Jay Benson

SUNDAY MASS

12/24/2023 8:30 AM

Greeters: The Thomastons, Bill Bethell
Lectors: Teri Gagliano, Jane Snider
Ministers: Anita Allor, Brenda Rochford
Ronni & Paul Thomas
Altar Servers: Buddy Adamson, Jeff Reach
Ushers: Michael Gagliano, Matt Allor, Dennis Veigl, Phillip Thomaston

12/24/2023 11:15 AM

Greeters: Grace Troncalli, Shirley Skeivelas
Lectors: Larry Foltz, Stephanie Fischer
Ministers: Gloria Raynor, Chris Gallegly
Altar Servers: Jhon Paul & Natalie Rodgers
Ushers: Chris Gallegly, Lexie Smith, Danny Smith, Jeff Smith

Christmas Eve

12/24/2023 4:30 PM

Greeters: Crapet/Freeman/Landman/Price
Lectors: Robert Lewis, Bernie Funderburg
Ministers: Michael Poteracki, Sonya Lewis
Teri Gagliano, Jane Snider
Altar Servers: TBD
Ushers: Michael Gagliano, Bart Perry, Phillip Thomaston, Matt Allor

Christmas Eve

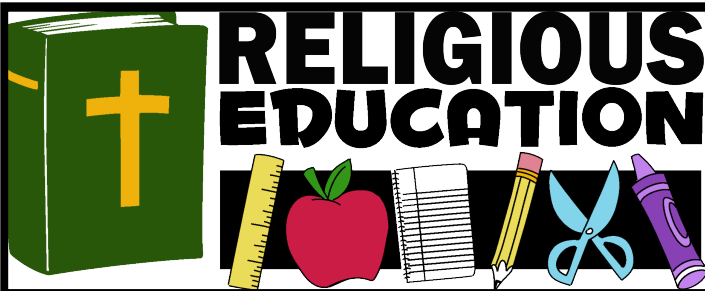
12/24/2023 8:30 PM

Greeters: The Veigls, Diana Stephens
Lectors: Susan Moseley, Mary Burns
Ministers: Jorge Solis, Sophie Alvarez
Altar Servers: Marty Poteracki, James Raynor
Ushers: Chris Gallegly, Bob Nicholas, Andy Payant, Jay Benson

Christmas Day

12/25/2023 9:00 AM

Greeters: Gagliano, /Thomas/Sadler
Lectors: Karen Reese, Doug Ross
Ministers: Anita Allor, Ronni Thomas
Altar Servers: Stephen Reese, Otto Mueller
Ushers: Karen Hand, TBD



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Looking Ahead:

December 13– Youth Group–

5:30 PM

December 17– RE– 9:45 AM;

Confirmation Class Confessions–

9:45 AM

December 24– No RE

December 31– No RE



Join us for Youth Group!

Every other Wednesday evening

Join us for food, fellowship and fun as we grow closer to each other and our Lord!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFESSION

As we approach Christmas, Father Bill will be available for confessions at additional times:

- Monday, December 18th after the 9:00 am Mass.
- Wednesday, December 20th –Communal Penance Service -7:00 pm.
- Friday, December 22nd after the 9:00 am Mass.
- Sunday, December 24th- between the 8:30 and 11:15 am Masses.

He is always available by appointment at 205-525-5161.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES UPDATE

As of December 7th, our parish total of pledges and donations to Catholic Charities and Communities stands at \$65,390.29! (Our goal was \$60,000) There were 119 participants, which represents more than 1/3 of our registered parish families! (337)

There is still time to pledge or donate. Any donations made before 2024 can be credited to your 2023 charitable contributions. You can contribute by going to the Diocese of Birmingham website at bhmdiocese.org and clicking on the link for Catholic Charities and Communities or call 205-838-8309.

END-OF-THE-YEAR GIVING

For your contribution to count for the 2023 calendar year, it must be received by December 31st. Contributions received after that date will not appear on your 2023 parish contribution statement.

As you consider your end of year giving, please keep in mind the **Our Lady of the Lake Social Concerns fund** which not only provides Thanksgiving food boxes and Christmas presents for children, but also helps with the basic needs in our community, particularly utility assistance.

Calendar for Dec 17, 2023—Dec 25, 2023

Sunday— December 17

Masses— 8:30 & 11:15 am
RE-9:45 am

Confessions-Confirmation Class-9:45 am
Pell City HS Christmas Concert-6:00 pm

Monday—December 18

Mass 9:00 am

Confessions after Mass

Tuesday— December 19

Mass 9:00 am

Bible Study— 9:45 am

RCIA 7:00 pm

Wednesday—December 20

Surfsiders— 10:00 am

Communal Penance Service— 7:00 pm

Thursday— December 21

Mass-9:00 am

Choir Practice— 6:00 pm

Legion of Mary— 7:00 pm

Friday— December 22

Mass— 9:00 am

Confessions after Mass

Saturday — December 23

Confessions 4:00-4:45 pm

Mass— 5:00 pm

Sunday— December 24- Christmas Eve

Masses— 8:30 & 11:15 am

Confessions between morning Masses
Christmas Eve Masses-4:30 pm & 8:30 pm
(Carols 1/2 hour before each Mass)

Monday—December 25— Christmas Day

Mass 9:00 am

Parish Office Closed