



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

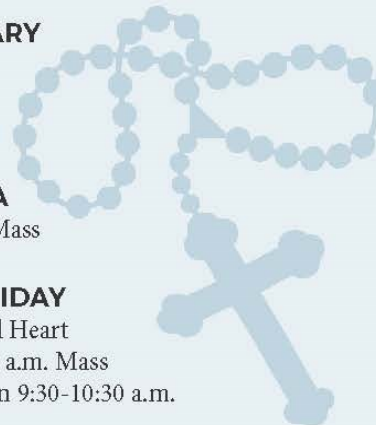
Novena to the Sacred Heart
of Jesus before 9:00 a.m. Mass
Eucharistic Adoration 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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 23, 2023
Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023

*Hail, full of grace! The Lord is
with you.*

-Luke 1:26-28



December 25 - December 31

- Monday:** Mari Culver by Pat & Brenda Monte †
- Tuesday:** Tom Welch by Shirly Skeivelas †
- Wednesday:** Micky Zielinski by Deacon Terry & Rita Rumore
- Thursday:** Jared Musgrove by David & Audrey Springer
- Friday:** Jim Reilly by Deacon Terry & Rita Rumore
- Saturday:** Paul & Jeanie Reid by Susan Moseley
- Sunday:** Deceased Members of KOC Council #12270 †
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 Mortek,
Benny Goodman, Margaret Banks, Jose Rivera,
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 25- December 31

- Monday:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
- Tuesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97; Jn 20:1a & 2-8
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124; Mt 2:13-18
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96; Lk 2:22-35
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96; Lk 2:36-40
- Sunday:** Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40
- Solemnity of Mary:** Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Today's Readings



First Reading — Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29).

Second Reading — To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

LOVE

The theme (candle) for the fourth week of Advent is love. This year, the fourth week of Advent lasts only for one day, but maybe that's enough.

The Christian word for love is *agape*. This is the Greek word for self-sacrificing love. At the last Supper, Jesus told His disciples, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15, 13) The next day He laid down His life for His friends and His enemies.

The Christian symbol for love is the crucifix. Jesus gave us an example of the greatest love by offering His death in place of ours. "God proves his love for us that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5, 8) Jesus Christ's example is meant to be imitated rather than admired. For generations, Christians have imitated Jesus and offered their lives for Him.

The Latin word for love is *caritas*. The usual English translation is *charity*. To practice charity is to be an instrument of God's love for another person. God loves others through us. Though we may make donations to charities during December, as Christians we are called to be instruments of God's love every day. There is no monetary cost. It is a gift of self, which is much more costly.

The birth of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate during the Christmas season, is an act of love. Jesus emptied Himself of His divinity and took on our humanity, with all its limitations. He could have been rich, but He chose to be poor. He could have been powerful, but He chose to be weak. "Coming in human likeness; and found in human appearance, he humbled himself." (Philippians 2, 7-8)

Our hope, peace, and joy are found in the self-sacrificing love of Jesus Christ for us. Merry Christmas.

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



Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Masses

**Sunday, December 31,
5:00 PM**

**Sunday, January 1,
9:00 AM**

**(not a Holy Day of Obligation this
year)**

Offertory Collection

July 2023 — June 2024

Actual

Needed
weekly

No Offertory
reporting this
week



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.**

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 Church Calendars are
here! Please take one when you
leave Mass. They are located in
each foyer of the church.**



eGiving with Faith Direct

**Faith Direct enables parishioners to
make contributions even when you
can't make it to church. Through
either direct debit from your
checking/savings account or
through your credit/debit card, you
can apply the convenience of online
banking to your parish offerings in
much the same way as you do for
other expenses. You may enroll by
visiting our website, or logging in
directly to faith.direct/AL1065. You
may also call Faith Direct at 866-
507-8757.**

Reminder that the Parish Office will be closed for the Holidays on the following days:

Monday, December 25, 2023
Tuesday, December 26, 2023
Monday, January 1, 2023

SILENCE BEFORE AND AFTER MASS

The 15 minutes before Mass and the 15 minutes following Mass are used by some people as a time for prayerful preparation and thanksgiving. That is why we try to maintain a "reverential silence" in the church during those times. Fellowship is also a part of our faith, but the place for that is in the foyers of the church or outside. Please try to be respectful of the needs of others and maintain a reverential silence in the church before and after Mass.

Father Bill

Mass at St Vincent's Chapel

Wednesday morning Mass is held at St. Vincent's Hospital St. Clair. at **8:30 am**. The Mass is held in the chapel on the first floor. It is held every Wednesday, as long as Father Sexton or Father Bill are available.



PRO LIFE CORNER

Mark your calendars for the Baby Bottle drive which will start the weekend of January 27th and the Shower of Blessings on February 25th!

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 27, 2023 - January 1, 2024

WEDNESDAY MASS

12/27/2023 7:00 PM

Lector: Susan Moseley
Ministers: Deacon

SATURDAY MASS

12/30/2023 5:00 PM

Greeters: Dawn Adamson, J&J Mathis
Lectors: Patricia Blum, Susan Moseley
Ministers: Parma Boyle, Tom Graffo
Altar Servers: Andy Payant, Tom Michaels
Ushers: Karen Hand, Sam Marston

SUNDAY MASS

12/31/2023 8:30 AM

Greeters: Alexis Allor, Poteracki/Alvarez
Lectors: Jorge Solis, Carl Rochford
Ministers: Sammy Schalaci, Stephen Reese
Larry Reese, Tom Graffo
Altar Servers: Dennis Veigl, David Hogan
Ushers: Phillip Thomaston, Bart Perry
Bit Thomaston, Belia Solis

12/31/2023 11:15 AM

Greeters: R&C Betz, Patrick Cowart/Patsy L.
Lectors: Gloria Raynor Michael Poteracki
Ministers: Chris Gallegly, Martha Hayes
Altar Servers: Jhon Paul Rodgers,
Ethan Myers, Kalli Reach
Ushers: Chris Gallegly, Lexie Smith
Danny Smith, Jeff Smith

Solemnity of Mary

12/31/2023 5:00 PM

Greeters: Shirley Skeivelas, Shelly Hamman
Lectors: Martha Hayes, Miranda Bryant
Ministers: Deacon, Susan Moseley, 1 volunteer
Altar Servers: Jeff Reach, Tom Graffo
Ushers: Phillip Thomaston, Andy Payant
Jim Mathis, Bill Bethell

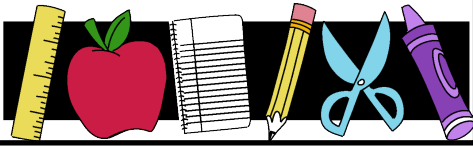
MONDAY MASS-Solemnity of Mary

1/1/2024 9:00 AM

Greeters: Allen Ross, Karen Hand
Lectors: Mary Adams
Ministers: Deacon, Susan Moseley, 1 volunteer
Altar Servers: Deacon
Ushers: Karen Hand, Jim Gorman



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Looking Ahead:

December 24– No RE

December 31– No RE

January 7- RE-9:45 AM

January 10– Youth Group-5:30 PM

January 14– No RE- Martin Luther King Day

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!*

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Access the Catholic Faith ONLINE
and ON DEMAND for FREE with our
Parish code:

JRQNH8



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.



The Christian Love Pantry

The Christian Love Pantry is helping the poor in the St. Clair County area. To assist them we are collecting canned soup at the church. You can leave donations in either vestibule.

There is also a box for cash donations in each vestibule. If you prefer, you may drop your donation at the parish office during normal office hours.

Goal –400 cans/month

Total to date for December 2023 – 138 cans

Please consider donating \$1 per week

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



**Bible
STUDY
Join us!**

Our Lady of the Lake Bible Study

Please join us for a special Bible Study every Tuesday morning at 9:45 am in the Parish Hall.

We are currently studying the Book of Isaiah.

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 24, 2023—Jan 1, 2024

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

Tuesday– December 26

Mass 9:00 am
Bible Study– 9:45 am
Parish Office Closed

Wednesday–December 27

Mass– 7:00 pm

Thursday– December 28

Mass– 9:00 am
Legion of Mary– 7:00 pm

Friday– December 29

Mass– 9:00 am

Saturday – December 30

Confessions 4:00– 4:45 pm
Mass– 5:00 pm

Sunday– December 31

KOC Mass– 8:30 am
Mass– 11:15 am
Solemnity of Mary Mass– 5:00 pm

Monday–January 1– New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary Mass 9:00 am
(not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)
Parish Office Closed