



4609 Martin Street South, Cropwell, AL 35054
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Rev. Michael F. Sexton, Pastor

Deacon Terrence Rumore

Deacon Serge Brazzolotto

Director of Religious Education
Music Director
Parish Secretary

Tammy Ingels
Charmaine Welch
Kathy Bryant

MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 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.

MONDAYS:

Miraculous Medal Novena following Rosary.

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY:

Novena To The Sacred Heart
of Jesus - before 9 a.m. Mass.
Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION:

Third Sunday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

August through May. Ages 3 yrs. through
High School.

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am



Second Sunday of
Advent

December 6, 2015

Welcoming a Year
of God's Mercy



Mass Intentions

Dec. 7– Dec. 13



Monday: Brenda Seward by Marcia & Jim Morteck †
Tuesday: Elizabeth Sutton by Paul & Parma Boyle †
Wednesday: Roger Frederickson by Paul & Parma Boyle †
Thursday: Patricia Williams by Paul & Jeanie Reid †
Friday: Paul Reid by Jeanie Reid
Saturday: Judy Martin by Sara Dean †
Sunday: Barbara McNamara by Marcia & Jim Morteck †

Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

Dianna Markevich, Anne Forister, Alice Reid,
Lexie Smith, Gene & Walton Smith, Daniel
Centilli, Hildie Bowman, Matt Joiner, Pat Rob-
erts, Mary Adams, Jay Benson, Jerry Noto, Judy
Dawley.

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
call Sharon Stice at 205-338-0207, or email:
cocoapuff@centurytel.net

Please note that names remain on the pray-
er list for 30 days and then are removed un-
less the Church Office is notified.

Weekly Readings December 7– December 13

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14;
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-
4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-
4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1,
9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4,
6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv
11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk
1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,
or any readings from
the Common of the
Blessed Virgin Mary,
nos. 707-712

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-
3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk
3:10-18

Today's Readings



First Reading — Stand on the heights,
Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they
are remembered by God. A merciful and just
God leads Israel in joy. (Baruch 5:1-9)

Psalm — The Lord has done great things for
us; we are filled with joy. (Psalm 126)

Second Reading — May your love increase in
knowledge to discern what is valuable that you
may be blameless for the day of Christ.
(Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11)

Gospel — John proclaims a baptism of repent-
ance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall
see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:1-6)

Pastor's Message

The Power of Love to Prevail ---Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Pope, observed: "The world has made it increasingly difficult to believe in love. Whoever has been betrayed or wounded once is afraid to love or be loved because that person knows how much it can hurt to discover oneself betrayed again. So the ranks of those unable to believe in the love of God increases more and more; indeed unable to believe in any love. Disenchantment and cynicism become the hallmarks of our popularized culture".

On this second Sunday of Advent the Scriptures reflect a God who loves us unflinching. He has become wedded to our flesh and will never leave us.

The prophet Baruch in the first reading (5:1-9) directs Jerusalem like a great mother to look to the east and see her children being gathered by God from east and west and coming home from exile. They rejoice that they are remembered by God.

Do we rejoice that we are remembered by God—loved by God? He is mindful of us. He holds us in existence. We long to be remembered by people we have known. How disappointed people are if we do not remember who they are. God always remembers. Love is like that.

In the Gospel reading, Luke introduces us to John the Baptist, the prophet of Advent. For Luke he is the bridge between the first epoch of history—the time of Israel, and the second epoch, the time of Jesus.

As herald of the new era John the Baptist pointed beyond himself to Jesus and prepared his contemporaries for the event that would forever change the course of their lives and their world. In Him the old and the new have dovetailed, calling people to conversion and forgiveness.

John quotes the words of the prophet Isaiah that ring in our ears like music. "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the winding ways shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth". You might even hear these words resounding in your local mall as Handel's Messiah fills the air. It does wonders for sales it seems.

What are the valleys of my emptiness that need filling? What are the mountains of my pride that need to be pulled down?

St. Julian of Norwich says it so nicely: "Because of the actions of Jesus we have received the cloak of Christ that envelops us with endless love. Dressed with Christ we are also blessed with a dignity and grace that we are to preserve and protect not only for ourselves but for all others who are likewise clothed and blessed and graced".

~~~~~  
**Parish Christmas Dinner:** Next Sunday at 4:00 pm. There is a place reserved for you. Bring your family. Our Parish family celebrates the goodness of life.

Peace and Blessings,

*Fr. Sexton*

## Calendar of Events Dec. 6- Dec. 13



### 2nd Sunday of Advent

#### **Sunday-Dec. 6**

##### **Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am**

- \* RE 9:45 am
- \* NO Youth Mass today
- \* Adult Ed 9:45 am
- \* Shoebox Project begins
- \* Reconciliation 6,7,8

#### **Monday-Dec. 7**

##### **Masses 9 am**

- \* Bridge
- \* Legion of Mary
- \* Parent Mtg. for 1st Reconciliation 7pm

#### **Tuesday-Dec. 8**

##### **Mass 9 am & 7 pm**

##### **Holy Day**

##### **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

- \* NO RCIA

#### **Wednesday-Dec. 9**

##### **Mass 7 pm**

#### **Thursday-Dec. 10**

##### **Mass 9 am**

#### **Friday-Dec. 11**

##### **Mass 9 am**

#### **Saturday-Dec. 12**

##### **Mass 5 pm**

##### **Reconciliation 3:30- 5:00 pm**

##### **Feast Day Our Lady of Guadalupe**



### 3rd Sunday of Advent

#### **Sunday-Dec. 13**

##### **Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am**

- \* RE 9:45 am/Shoebox Project Ends
- \* NO Youth Mtgs.
- \* Pro Life Rosary/English
- \* Reconciliation High School
- \* Guadalupe Mass 11:15 am
- \* Legion of Mary Prayers after 11:15 Mass
- \* **Parish Christmas Party & Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe- Celebrations 4 pm**

**FINANCE NEWS**  
**July 2015-June 2016**

Last week

|             |               |               |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
|             | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Budget</b> |
| *Offertory: | \$ 3683.81    | \$ 5770.00    |

Year-to-date

|             |               |               |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| *Offertory: | \$ 126,266.22 | \$ 126,940.00 |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|



If you would like to help a needy family this year, please choose an angel from the tree and purchase the item hoped for.

**All gifts need to be returned (unwrapped please) by December 13th.**

If you would like to help sort the gifts, please call **Martha Hayes: 205. 884.1913** or **Sharon Stice: 205.338.0207**. Distribution of gifts will be December 20th, following the 11:15 Mass.

**2016 Offertory envelopes are available for pickup in the Church Hall. If yours is not there please call the office:205.525.5161.**



**Annual Parish Christmas Dinner & Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration**



**Date: December 13th**  
**Time: 4:00 pm**  
**Place: Celebrations**

Please join your Parish family for Faith, Food and Friendship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Sign up sheets are in the foyers to bring a dish or assist with set up or clean up.

**For more info please call Karen Hand: 205-338-9737.**



*The Love Pantry*

The Love Pantry has requested that we bring cans of soup each week to help meet the needs of our Community.

**Total cans last week – 46 cans**

*Saints and Special Observances*

- Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent; Hanukkah begins*
- Monday: St. Ambrose; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*
- Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- Wednesday: St. Juan Diego*
- Friday: St. Damasus I*
- Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe*



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**Pro Life Corner**

**Our Lady of the Lake Spiritual Adoption Program**

**Month 7**

Thank you for praying for me. I am 7 months old now. I am growing every day. I'm between 14 and 17 inches long and weigh about 4 ½ pounds. I move around a lot, but it's getting crowded in here! Sometimes I even get hiccups! I can hear and recognize my mother's voice.

A Reminder:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion

Please remember to pray daily for your Spiritual Adopted Baby and the baby's mother and father.



## Announcements

### Advent Wreath Candle Lighters



### Second Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 5th**  
5 pm Mass - [Lance & Janice Stella](#)

**Sunday, December 6th**  
8:30 am Mass -  
Rosemary [Mateer & Jimillia Sayles](#)  
11:15 am Mass - Raynor Family

### Third Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 12th**  
5 pm Mass - [Parma & Paul Boyle](#)

**Sunday, December 13th**  
8:30 am Mass - [Freeman/Crapet Family](#)  
11:15 am Mass - [Ashlyn & Tom Zopfi](#)

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 19th**  
5 pm Mass - [Bob & Karen Hand](#)

**Sunday, December 20th**  
8:30 am Mass - [Tony Hollis](#)  
11:15 am Mass - [Krantz Family](#)

## Assignment List Dec. 9- Dec. 13

**WEDNESDAY MASS 12/9/2015**  
**7:00 PM**

Altar Servers \*

Lectors Charmaine Welch

**SATURDAY MASS 12/12/2015**  
**5:00 pm**

Altar Servers Jim Gorman, Larry Reese  
Greeters Bill/Loretta Frost, Tammy McRae  
Lectors Ron & Micky Zielinski  
Ministers Parma Boyle, Gloria Albright, Tiffany Rochford  
Ushers Cecil Rodgers, Bob Hand, Karen Hand, Bob Nicholas

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

**SUNDAY MASS 12/13/2015**  
**8:30 AM**

Altar Servers Andrew Thomaston, Jimillia Sayles, Will Thomaston, Matt Frey  
Greeters Crapet/Freeman, Anna Emerick  
Lectors Bernie Funderburg, Carey Monistere  
Ministers Deacon, Michael & Teri Gagliano, Ronni Gagliano, Carly Gagliano  
Ushers Michael Gagliano, Chris Gallegly, Joe Stanley, Ruth Stanley

**11:15 AM**

Altar Servers Paul Boyle, Ryan Murphree, Katie Boyle, Travis Cooley  
Greeters Lydia Jimenez, Mattie Osborne  
Lectors Robert Lewis, Mary Adams  
Ministers Deacon, Ken Otto, Edie Otto, Terri Brown, Lee Walser  
Ushers Don Frederick, Brian Young, Ron Sellers, Jennifer Sellers

**If you cannot keep your assignment**

**PLEASE find a substitute.**



**The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic church will meet on Saturday, December 19th at 10am in the church. Please come and join us for Adoration, the Rosary, Benediction and Mass. What a wonderful opportunity for prayer during this Holy Advent Season. For more information call Angela Kolar at 991-9554. Padre Pio-Pray for us!**



Radiating HIS Love  
by learning and living our Catholic Faith.

An Excerpt from  
**Prepare Ye the Way:**  
**Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
by Marcellino D’Ambrosio, Ph.D.



“Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. For someone even bigger than Santa Claus is coming to town.

The human race has been waiting a long time for His next and final visit. Actually, it waited a long time for the first visit. Things had gone awry quite early in the history of the human race. We went from Paradise to misery in the blink of an eye, but found there was no way to get back into the garden. Only God could turn things around, but He was a long time coming.”...

“For the Messiah, the Good Shepherd to come, the way must be leveled and straightened. The heights blocking his approach were mountains of pride. The sin of pride exalts itself higher than God, erecting a barrier against him. It is characterized by know-it-all-ness and smug self-sufficiency. The tower of Babel is a great example of pride’s futile loftiness. But how about the valleys that must be filled in? Philosophers and theologians define evil as the privation of good, the lack of something that ought to be there. Lack of faith is a sin. Lack of prayerfulness is a sin. Lack of charity is a sin. These are all sins of omission, and these gaping holes need to be filled in to make a highway for our God.

In his fabulous space trilogy, CS Lewis calls Satan “the Bent One.” Because the nature of the deceiver is to take great blessings from God and twist them, misdirect them, so that they become curses. With a little twist, abundance becomes greed, marital love becomes lust, and piety becomes self-righteous hypocrisy. In Advent, these crooked ways must be made straight.”

The Crossroads Initiative website is a ministry of Dr. D’Ambrosio.  
[www.CrossroadsInitiative.com](http://www.CrossroadsInitiative.com)

**M.Y.C. MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- December 6 Religious Education 9:45am
- December 6 Shoebox Project begins
- December 6 NO YOUTH MASS
- December 6 ADULT ED at 9:45 am
- December 6 Reconciliation 6th,7th,&8th
- December 8 *Feast of the Immaculate Conception & The Jubilee Year of Mercy begins*
- December 9 Feast of St. Juan Diego
- December 12 *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*
- December 13 Religious Education 9:45am
- December 13 Shoebox Project Ends
- December 13 High School Reconciliation
- December 14 Feast of St. John of the Cross

*“The birth of Christ is the central event in the history of the earth -- the very thing the whole story has been about.”*  
— C.S. Lewis



**Little Ones in Christ**  
Grades Pre K—Grade 2  
Joanna Murphree at 473-1444.

**Junior Youth (Grades 3-6)**  
Every 2nd Sunday from 5-7pm  
Contact Isabel at 753-9820.

**Senior Youth (Grades 7-12)**  
1st & 3rd Wednesdays—Sr. Youth Meetings  
& Every 3rd Sunday—Social Night  
**Food, Fun, and Faith!**  
Contact Peter Boyle 613-5435



*Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration & Christmas Party*

**Celebrando a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**  
**Sunday, Dec. 13th, 11:15 am**  
 Domingo 13 de diciembre, 11:15 am

**Novenario empieza Dic. 4 @ 6:00 pm**

**Our Lady of the Lake Church**  
**Highway 231 S, Pell City, Alabama**

**Habr  comida para todos despu s de la Misa a Celebrations.**

**Please sign up to help or Bring a dish.**  
 Informes con: Mari: 525-0071

**Everyone is invited to pray the Legion prayers and rosary after the 11:15 Mass.**

**Luncheon served at 4:00 pm**  
**Celebrations**  
**3005 Martin Street S**  
**(Hwy 231S)**  
**Cropwell, AL 35054**

"We are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it..."



Pope Francis

The effort is simple, but the results are deeply rewarding.

If you are interested in working on recycling in our Parish, please contact Marguerite Gorman: 205-746-4912 or [Margog55@gmail.com](mailto:Margog55@gmail.com)

**Immaculate Conception**



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