

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 12, 2015

Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 13, 2015

Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am



*Third Sunday of
Advent
December 13, 2015*

*Welcoming a Year
of God's Mercy*



Mass Intentions

Dec. 14– Dec. 20



Monday: Our Lady's Intentions

Tuesday: Dean Family *by Sara Dean*

Wednesday: Casey Family *by Sara Dean*

Thursday: Westbrook Family *by Sara Dean*

Friday: Alice Reid *by Paul & Jeanie Reid*

Saturday: Sara Dean *by Sara Dean*

Sunday: Leo Tomaszewski *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 14– December 20

Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1- 4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18- 25
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16- 17; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5 -10; Lk 1:39-45

Today's Readings



First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior. (Zephaniah 3:14-18a)

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12)

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely. (Luke 3:10-18)

Pastor's Message

“Rejoice in the Lord Always. I say it again: Rejoice! The Lord himself is near”, so writes Paul today in the second reading. (Philippians 4:4-7)

The prophet Zephaniah, writing seven centuries before Christ came, is equally exuberant. Who is this God who dances and shouts for joy over us as people do at festivals? What is the reason for all this joy? Zephaniah answers: “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty Saviour”.

This Sunday in Advent is known by its Latin title as “Gaudete Sunday”. Gaudium is the Latin word for Joy, hence Pope Francis titled his Encyclical letter, “The Joy of the Gospel”. The rose candle lighted today on the Advent wreath is a symbol of Joy.

John the Baptist in the reading from Luke (3:10-18) reminds us that joy is tied to a generous spirit and a sense of compassion. It does not come from a bottle or self-medication.

John tells us things we already know but seldom attend to. No one has to tell a tax collector that he would feel a lot less like a louse if he stopped burdening his already burdened customers.

No one has to tell soldiers that they would be more comfortable with their uniform if they didn't bully people or brutalize the weak.

And people are quite aware that they would feel better after feeding the hungry and giving someone the shirt off their back.

Our lack of generosity is our lack of joy. There is a hard edge to this time of year even as scenes of joy bubble up here and there. Bells that ring; family members coming home; Christmas cards across the miles; lights in lawns and trees. Beneath it all is the grinding poverty and the pain of broken homes and broken hearts. We do well to heed the haunting question repeated three times in today's Gospel: “What should we do”.

An old rabbinic story goes something like this: Rabbi Joshua Ben Levi talked to the prophet Elijah as God's Rabbis were once wont to do. “Where”, Rabbi Joshua asked, “Shall I find the Messiah”. “At the gate of the city”, Elijah replied. Rabbi Joshua asked: “How shall I recognize him?” Elijah responded: “He sits among the lepers”. “Among the lepers!”, cried Rabbi Joshua, “What is he doing there?”. Elijah answered: “He changes their bandages. He changes them one by one”.

Parish Dinner Today at 4:00 pm: Our annual get-together for a festive meal. An occasion for joy and family fun. Be sure to come and bring the family. A salad or a dessert to share would be helpful too or a helping hand with set up and clean up.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation this week in a year of Mercy: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. Also Wednesday evening a parish-wide celebration of the Sacrament at 7:00 p.m. Experience the Joy of Forgiveness anew.

Peace and Blessings,
Fr. Sexton

Calendar of Events Dec. 13- Dec. 20

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**

Monday-Dec. 14

Masses 9 am

*Bridge

*Legion of Mary

*Reconciliation after 9am Mass

*Deacon Terry's birthday

Tuesday-Dec. 15

Mass 9 am

*RCIA 7 pm

*Reconciliation after 9am Mass

Wednesday-Dec. 16

Mass 9 am

*Reconciliation after 9:00 am Mass

***Penitential Service 7 pm -2 priests**

*Surfsiders 10am

*SR Youth 5:30 pm

*No Parish Council

Thursday-Dec. 17

Mass 9 am

*Reconciliation after 9am Mass

*Choir Practice 7 pm

Friday-Dec. 18

Mass 9 am

*Reconciliation after the 9am Mass

*Fr. Sexton's birthday

Saturday-Dec. 19

Mass 5 pm

Reconciliation 3:30– 5:00 pm

*Church Cleaning 10 am

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday-Dec. 20

Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am

*RE 9:45 am

*SR Youth Social 5 pm

*Praise & Worship 6:30 pm

*Holy Hour 7 pm

*Reconciliation 3,4,5

FINANCE NEWS
July 2015-June 2016

Last week

	Actual	Budget
*Offertory:	\$ 11,878.87	\$ 5770.00

Year-to-date

*Offertory:	\$ 138,145.09	\$ 132,710.00
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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.

Thank You from the Social Concerns Committee.



The Love Pantry

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

Goal -100 cans/week.

Total cans last week – 73 cans

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. John of the Cross



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REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

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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!

Please bring a dish to share and assist with set up or clean up.

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



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



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](#)

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



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!

Assignment List Dec. 16- Dec. 20

WEDNESDAY MASS 12/16/2015
7:00 PM

Altar Servers *

Lectors [Bernie Funderburg](#)

SATURDAY MASS 12/19/2015
5:00 pm

Altar Servers [James Raynor](#) [Stephen Reese](#)
Greeters [Connie Hertrich](#), [Janice Stella](#)
Lectors [Marguerite Gorman](#), [Sonia Dale](#)
Ministers [Deacon](#), [Connie Hertrich](#), [Parma Boyle](#)
Ushers [Cecil Rodgers](#), [Jim Dale](#), [Jim Gorman](#), [Bob Nicholas](#)

4th Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY MASS 12/20/2015
8:30 AM

Altar Servers [Sophie Poteracki](#), [Natalie Newcomb](#),
[Bailey Nail](#), [Jacob Wiley](#)
Greeters [Mike/Kitty Gordon](#), [Joe/Ruth Stanley](#)
Lectors [Bart Perry](#), [Gail Perry](#)
Ministers [Deacon](#), [Chris Gallegly](#), [Rosemary Mateer](#), [Janice Stella](#), [Tommie Ann Johnson](#)
Ushers [Michael Gagliano](#), [Chris Gallegly](#),
[Belia Solis](#), [Edith Pavez](#)

11:15 AM

Altar Servers [Sawyer Stice](#), [James Lewis](#), [Payton Forman](#), [John Himmler](#)
Greeters [Lydia Jimenez](#), [Katie Boyle](#)
Lectors [Tony Hollis](#), [Larry Foltz](#)
Ministers [Deacon](#), [Sarah Brazzolotto](#), [Maria Jimenez](#), [Jim Morteck](#), [Marcia Morteck](#)
Ushers [Don Frederick](#), [Larry Foltz](#), [Gloria Raynor](#), [Jeanne Macon](#)

If you cannot keep your assignment

PLEASE find a substitute.

RELIGIOUS Education

Gaudete Week

Our week begins with "Gaudete Sunday." *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, "The Lord is near." This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose-colored, and the rose-colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year—this year, in 2015, it is Thursday of the Third Week of Advent. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophecies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Preparing our Hearts and asking for Grace

We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand. And so we consciously ask:

*Prepare our hearts
and remove the sadness
that hinders us from feeling
the joy and hope
which his presence
will bestow.*

Each morning this week, in that brief moment we are becoming accustomed to, we want to light a *third* inner candle. Three candles, going from expectation, to longing, to joy. They represent our inner preparation, or inner *perspective*. In this world of "conflict and division," "greed and lust for power," we begin each day this week with a sense of liberating joy. Perhaps we can pause, breathe deeply and say,

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my savior."*

[Creighton U. Online Ministries](#)

Radiating HIS Love
by learning and living our Catholic Faith.



The Third Week of Advent



**ADVENT is a journey
towards BETHLEHEM.
May we LET ourselves be DRAWN
by the LIGHT of GOD made MAN.**

- POPE FRANCIS

M.Y.C. MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- December 13 Religious Education 9:45am
- December 13 Shoebox Project Ends
- December 13 High School Reconciliation
- December 16 Sr. Youth at 5:30 pm
- December 19 Cleaning of the Church
- December 20 Religious Education 9:45am
- December 20 Sr. Youth Social Hr. 5:00pm
Praise & Worship at 6:30pm
- December 20 7:00pm Adoration
of the Blessed Sacrament



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.

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

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.

The Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe is considered the patroness of the Americas and the prolife movement. She appeared to Juan Diego (an Indian convert) five times in 1531 in Tepeyac Hill. During her apparitions, she requested that a shrine be built in there where she could demonstrate her love, her compassion and her protection.

The image is considered miraculous because it has not disintegrated in over 500 years. Also, in her eyes you can see the image of Juan Diego and the Bishop when Juan Diego opened his tilma in front of the Bishop and the image appeared on it.

The Sacred Image is a picture writing, every detail is symbolic. She is wearing the colors of the Aztec royalty, the cross of the Missionaries around her neck, she is wearing her hair as an unmarried woman but it has a maternity belt and the four petal flower which symbolized life; the stars on her mantle are in the same position as the stars in the sky on December 12, 1531; the flowers of her dress match the topography of the Mexican mounts where she appeared.

Within 10 years of her apparition, over 8 million native people converted to Christianity and human sacrifice to Aztec gods completely stopped.

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Council 12270



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