



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, March 5, 2016

Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 6, 2016



Whoever is in Christ is
a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.
— 2 Corinthians 5:17



Welcoming a Year
of God's Mercy



Mass Intentions

March 7 – March 13



Monday: Frances Hand by Karen & Bob Hand †
Tuesday: John Crapet by Brenda & Jerry Kern †
Wednesday: Art Smith by the Brazzolottos †
Thursday: Joe Sachs by Terry & Rita Rumore †
Friday: Tom Scruggs by Gisela Scruggs †
Saturday: Trudi & Andy McClay by the Zielinskis †
Sunday: Mike Smith by Gene & Walton Smith

Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

Gene & Walton Smith, Matt Joiner, Pat Roberts,
Judy Dawley, Wayne Adams, Paul Boyle, Marie
Battaglia, Dennis Tyler, Phillip Thomaston, Doro-
thy DiMattia.

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 March 7—March 13

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Alternate readings (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Today's Readings



First Reading — God's people enter the promised land, observe the Passover, and eat of the produce of the land. (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a)

Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Psalm 34 or Psalm 23)

Second Reading — We are now ambassadors for Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21 or Ephesians 5:8-14)

Gospel — We must rejoice when our brother who was dead in sin repents and comes back to life. (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38])

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

Pastor's Message

The parable of the prodigal son in today's Gospel reading can appear to be a story of the younger son's waste of wealth and potential. But more importantly, it is a story of a father's love that is expressed in forgiveness and mercy.

A good son wouldn't ask for his inheritance while his father is alive. It would be an insult of the highest order. But this son asks and his father gives. He spends the money in a lavish and wasteful way in a distant country. Did he think that in this way no one would know of his wild ways?

When he loses everything and finds himself as a swine tender on a farm, he decides to go home with hat in hand and a humble apology. This is the moment of truth.

The father, who had never ceased grieving for his lost son, "Caught sight of him while he was still a long way off and was filled with compassion".

Rather than act as expected after insult and injury, the father welcomes the son home and completely restores him to his place in the family. Generosity runs in this family! A fine robe, a ring, and a fattened calf for a son who is an embarrassment.

Such a response is unthinkable to the hard-working, obedient elder son. Such a welcome for his younger brother stings his pride. He views this welcome as unjust and irrational. It doesn't make sense, he seems to say. Parables have a way of turning things upside down and thereby reveal something of God.

Once again during this Year of Mercy, we are faced with a father who should have been furious and hurt but instead filled with love and mercy for his wasteful son. He also shows mercy to the elder son by reminding him that the remainder of the family estate belongs to him—he's been denied nothing. The good son is appreciated for his goodness and the wild child is welcomed back with open arms. For Luke in his Gospel that's the way God is.

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading (2 Cor. 5:17-21) that, "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them".

The Scripture reminds us that God is generous, not because we deserve it, nor because we are faithful, or as a recognition that we are among the saints, but because we are loved. The Psalmist is right. We should "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord".

~~~~~

**A Grace-Filled Response:** We are hearing wonderful things are happening in the small group reflection sessions. The weeks of Lent are passing quickly. Thank you for being faithful to your group—you are a blessing to others.

**Communal Penance Service:** Mark your calendars for a special parish wide celebration of the Sacrament of Confession on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Jose will be with us to help.

Peace and Blessings,  
*Fr. Sexton*

## Calendar of Events March 6- March 13

### Sunday-March 6

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

\*RE 9:45 am/Lenten Pray/Fast/Give

\*Second Scrutiny 11:15 am

\*Reconciliation GR 7 & 8

\*Youth Mass 11:15 am

### Monday-March 7

#### **Masses 9 am**

\*Bridge

\*Legion of Mary

### Tuesday-March 8

#### **Mass 9 am**

\*RCIA 7 pm

### Wednesday-March 9

#### **Mass 7 pm**

\*Parish Council after Mass

### Thursday-March 10

#### **Mass 9 am**

\*Choir Practice 7 pm

### Friday-March 11

#### **Mass 9 am**

\*Fish Fry 5:00-6:30 pm

\*Stations of the Cross 7 pm

### Saturday-March 12

#### **Mass 5 pm**

\*Reconciliation 3:30-5:00 pm

\*Youth Bake Sale

### Sunday-March 13

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

\*RE 9:45 am/Lenten Pray/Fast/Give

\*Reconciliation GR 9-12

\*Pro Life Rosary/Spanish

\*Youth Bake Sale

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

**Last week**

|                    |                   |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                    | <b>Actual</b>     | <b>Budget</b>     |
| <b>*Offertory:</b> | <b>\$ 3363.15</b> | <b>\$ 5770.00</b> |

**Year-to-date**

|                    |                      |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>*Offertory:</b> | <b>\$ 221,455.31</b> | <b>\$ 201,950.00</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

*We're Missing You . . .*

**CATHOLICSCOMEHOME.ORG**

Do you know someone who has  
left the Faith?

Let's reach out to them during the  
Lenten season and send them  
a friendly note.

Cards and envelopes are available  
in both foyers.

Get one and send it.

Let them know how much you miss them.

Be a friend, Make a Friend in Christ.



**Community Holy Week Service**  
**Donations Needed**

Our Lady of the Lake will be responsible for providing  
**250 sandwiches** for the Community Holy Week Ser-  
vices to be held at Pell City United Methodist Church  
on **Wednesday, March 23rd**.

If you are able to **donate a loaf of regular bread**  
you may bring it to the Church kitchen on Tuesday,  
March 22nd. Donations of chicken salad, tuna salad, or  
p-nut butter and jelly are also most welcome.

**Volunteers** are also needed to prepare the sand-  
wiches on **Wednesday morning, March 23rd**.

We must deliver the sandwiches to the church by  
10:30 am on the 23rd.

Thanks to Karen Hand for leading this project!

For additional info please contact Karen:  
**205.405.1049.**



***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 – 355 cans**

**KOC Council 12270**

**Lenten Fish Fries**



**February 12 - March 18**

**5:00 to 6:30 p.m.**

**2-piece dinner \$8.00**

**1-piece dinner \$6.00**

**Child's plate \$3.00**

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring Len-  
ten fish fries each Friday evening during Lent.

**Serving will be from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. fol-  
lowed by Stations of the Cross.** The menu will  
consist of fried fish, baked fish, hush puppies,  
steamed vegetables, fries, and coleslaw.

**All proceeds will be used to fund the numer-  
ous charitable activities KOC supports.**



**Pro Life Corner**

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

**Ann's New Life Center**  
**is in need of large**  
**plastic totes/containers to**  
**store clothing, diapers etc.**  
**If you would like to donate**  
**please call Ann's at**  
**205.338.4580.**



## Announcements

### *Saints and Special Observances*

*Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent;  
Girl Scout Sunday*

*Monday: Ss. Perpetua and Felicity*

*Tuesday: St. John of God*

*Wednesday: St. Frances of Rome*

*Friday: Abstinence*



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### **EASTER BASKET PROJECT A PROGRAM OF THE HISPANIC COMMITTEE**

**WHAT:** Easter Basket Items and Assembly of Baskets for Distribution to Hispanic areas.

**WHERE:** Parish Hall, or give Baskets/Candy to Mari Culver, 205-525-0071

**WHEN:** **Collection: Feb. 21-March 13**  
**Assembly: Mar. 13 & 20**  
**Distribution:** After the 8:30 Mass on Palm Sunday, Mar.20.

**DETAILS:** Easter Baskets, BIBLE Coloring Books only, Crayons, Chocolate Rabbits, Assorted Easter Candy, small toys, and Cellophane Wrap. Rosaries and church information will be added to the baskets. We will be knocking on doors in Hispanic neighborhoods, and inviting them to our church.

**CONTACT: Mari Culver, 205-525-0071  
or 205-405-8130**

## *Assignment List March 9- March 13*

**WEDNESDAY MASS** **3/9/2016**  
**7:00 PM**

Altar Servers  
Lectors Terri Brown

**SATURDAY MASS** **3/12/2016**  
**5:00 pm**

Altar Servers Mike Gagliano, Tom Graffo  
Greeters Gloria/Jim Albright, Karen Hand  
Lectors Connie Luter, Marguerite Gorman  
Ministers Jim Dale, Sonia Dale, Parma Boyle  
Ushers Cecil Rodgers, Bob Hand, Karen Hand, Clayton Martin

**SUNDAY MASS** **3/13/2016**  
**8:30 AM**

Altar Servers Andrew Thomaston, Will Thomaston, Danielle McKinney, Brennan Cardenas  
Greeters Crapet/Freeman, Anna Emerick  
Lectors Karen Hand, Teri Gagliano  
Ministers Deacon, Ken Otto Edie Otto, Stephen Reese, Andrew Reese  
Ushers Michael Gagliano, Dennis Veigl, Joaquina Reyes, Joe Yester

**11:15 AM**

Altar Servers Ryan Murphree, James Lewis, John Himmler, Troy Rosato  
Greeters Lydia Jimenez, Mattie Osborne  
Lectors John Stice, Rose Ballard  
Ministers Deacon, Sarah Brazzolotto, Chris Gallegly, Ronnie & Jennifer Sellers  
Ushers Don Frederick, Larry Foltz, Gloria Raynor, Jeanne Macon

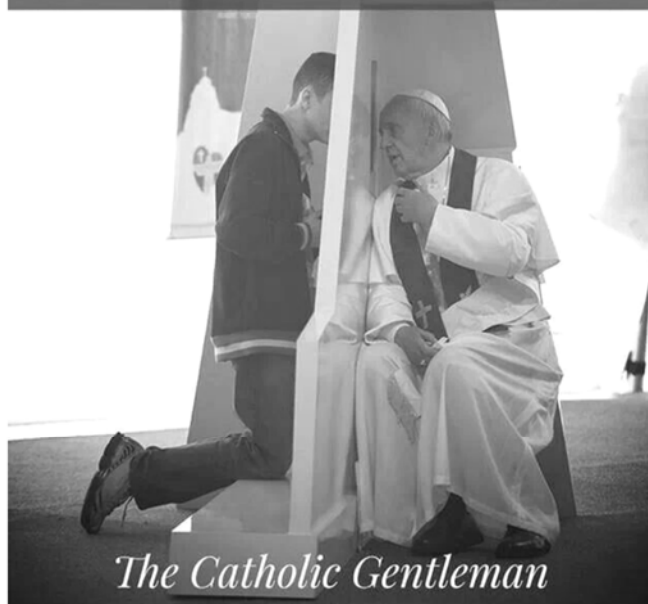
**If you cannot keep your assignment**

**PLEASE find a substitute.**

**Radiating HIS Merciful Love  
by learning and living  
our Catholic Faith.**

God never tires of  
forgiving us; we are  
the ones who tire of  
seeking his mercy.

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*



*The Catholic Gentleman*



PRAY



FAST



GIVE



## Sr. Youth Group Bake Sale

**March 12th -13th after Mass**

*Please sign up in the North Foyer  
to donate Baked Goods!*

*All proceeds will benefit the  
Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Fund.*

## M.Y.C. MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 6** Religious Education 9:45am \* Reconciliation 7th & 8th Grades  
**March 12** **Annual Church Cleanup for Easter on Saturday, March 12 from 10:00am-12noon**  
**March 13** Religious Education 9:45am \* Reconciliation High School  
**March 19** Feast of St. Joseph 9:00am Mass



### 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  
Contact Peter Boyle 613-5435



## HELP Jesus IN DISGUISE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February 24, 2016

The Catholic Relief Services Collection for our diocese is coming the weekend of March 5 & 6, 2016. This collection funds six Catholic agencies that work to serve Jesus in the disguise of our suffering brothers and sisters around the world. These agencies provide a broad range of services, including advocating for immigrants, providing humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters, resettling displaced individuals, and working for increased peace in our world. Your support of this collection is an opportunity to **help Jesus in disguise**.

In 2005, in war-torn Afghanistan, Aazar\* and Ali\* lost their family due to their father's political affiliations. The boys, ten and eight years old, fled to Pakistan, looking for safety amid the many threats to their lives. Shortly after they arrived in Quetta, Pakistan, they were separated, and despite days of searching, Aazar could not find his younger brother. Continuing to receive threats, Aazar was forced to keep moving, making his way through Pakistan and Iraq, and finally reaching an orphanage in Turkey, where he was granted refugee status. In 2012, he received a referral to be placed in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program, bringing him to the United States.

Once here in the United States, Aazar reached out to the BBC, which held a nightly radio program broadcast in the Middle East to find missing persons, for help in finding Ali. Within one week, his brother was found alive in Pakistan, having lived with a family for the past seven years. However, he had been residing as a domestic helper and so did not attend school, nor did he have any friends. The USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) program began working with agencies in the United States and Nepal and with the United Nations to reunite the brothers, and ultimately, Ali was also referred to the USCCB URM program. After nine years of separation, the brothers were once again reunited and could begin to resettle and reconnect as family.

MRS is one of the six worldwide Catholic relief agencies funded by The Catholic Relief Services Collection. These agencies work to provide food, water, disaster relief, and other vital assistance to Jesus in the disguise of suffering people each day.

Please be generous in The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support truly makes a difference.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D.  
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama

For more information on the Catholic Relief Services Collection and the organizations it supports, please visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) (search "Catholic Relief Services Collection").

*\*Names changed to protect children's identities.*

Knights of Columbus  
Council 12270



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