

Our Lady, Help of Christians

Parish Newsletter & Announcements

O Mary, powerful virgin, thou art the mighty and glorious protector of the Church; thou art the marvelous help of Christians; thou art terrible as an army in battle array; thou alone hast destroyed every heresy in the whole world. In the midst of our anguish, our struggles and our distress defend us from the power of the enemy, and at the hour of our death receive our souls in paradise. Amen.

(Prayer to Our Lady, Help of Christians composed by St. John Bosco)

– Rogation Days –

The Liturgical Year offers two sets of days within the Church year that tie themselves to the natural world - the Ember Days (which are found seasonally on the calendar), and the Rogation Days (Rogation comes from the Latin word *Rogare* meaning “to ask”). The Rogation Days in the spring are considered the Minor Rogation days (having been set on the Church’s Calendar in the 5th century after a series of natural calamities) and are fixed on the three days preceding the Feast of the Ascension.

While the Ember Days are primarily joyful, asking and thanking God for an abundant harvest and for seasonal thanksgiving appropriate for a given set of Ember Days, the Rogation Days focus on asking God’s mercy and to avert the chastisements He may bring in the form of natural storms and calamities. While God’s creation and nature is beautiful, and we should appreciate and wonder at the order and majesty of it, it can also be mighty and terrible and an instrument of God’s perfect justice which He may use to warn or punish. The Bible reflects a number of storms, and natural calamities that God either directs or allows in order to act as an instrument of His Will. (Ex: Noah’s flood, the fire consuming Sodom and Gomorrah). With our modern comforts, it is sometimes easy to overlook the potential of natural calamities or feel insulated by technology, but the forces of nature will not be contained nor manipulated, and even in modern times we see examples of this power engulfing and crumbling our modern walls (hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, fires). During the Rogation Days, we ask for God to spare us from natural disasters. Anytime we ask something of God, it is appropriate to offer penances along with prayer, therefore the Rogation Days are characterized by a penitential nature (though there is no requirement to abstain or fast on Rogation days).

Arise O Lord, help us and redeem us for Thy name's sake. (Antiphon, Ps 43:26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Confraternity of Angelic Warfare. Having recently received the required facilities to confer the enrollment to those interested in joining the Confraternity of Angelic Warfare, Father Mackey will offer this enrollment twice this month following Mass - May 13 and May 31 (see calendar). Since we have added several new parishioners since our last sign up sheet was posted, a new sign up sheet will be available in the hall. Please sign up if you are interested in enrollment. For more information about this Confraternity please see this website: <http://www.angelicwarfareconfraternity.org/>

The May teen event will be a dance hosted by the Patterson family. The dance will be hosted outdoors at the Patterson home (1309 Ardmore Hwy, Taft, TN) on May 26 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm (with a rain date of June 2). The dance will offer clean music and lots of opportunity for fun, including learning a new line dance! This dance is open to all teenagers of the parish. Parents bringing teens are welcome to stay (and dance!). All are welcome to bring a snack or drink to share! Contact Barb Patterson for more information! (apatt4@aol.com)

Parish flag football game for all the young men of the parish - will be held on May 28th (with a rain date of June 11th), immediately following the 10:00 am Mass. Location: John Hunt Park (off Airport Rd). All interested young men and men of the parish are welcome to play. It’s a family day - so bring your entire family to cheer along! Plan to bring a picnic lunch with drinks and blankets or chairs. Footballs and flags will be provided. Referees will be on field. We hope to coordinate a soccer game soon which will be open to boys and girls. Barb Patterson and the Patterson family will be coordinating this event - please contact Barb with any questions! (apatt4@aol.com)

- HELP YOUR PARISH - OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

We are very blessed as a parish to be growing! Are you aware that our church is maintained, administered, cleaned, organized, decorated and gardened exclusively through volunteer efforts? There are many opportunities for you to help and join those efforts and your volunteering is so gratefully appreciated by your parish! The following are two ways you can serve your parish:

SUNDAY AFTER MASS CLEAN UP - Each Sunday, families enjoy gathering in the hall after Mass; there are often refreshments served. Each season Tina Kelley posts a new sign up sheet in the hall requesting volunteers to commit to a Sunday clean up following the 10:00 am Mass. Tina would be happy to provide a brief training for anyone that may not be familiar with the responsibilities during clean up. Please contact Tina Kelley (tmkelley98@gmail.com) for more details and please consider signing up for a clean up time following Sunday Mass. The summer sign up sheet is currently posted in the hall (on the counter), awaiting your consideration! Thank you!!

THE ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY of Our Lady, Help of Christians parish would like to invite all women of the parish to join in keeping house for Our Lord in imitation of Our Lady. This service society is dedicated to caring for the church building, all sewing and linen care for the parish, as well as various projects such as making and giving away brown scapulars, and raising funds for our seminarian project. This society also promotes devotion to Our Lady’s Holy Rosary. If you would be interested in more information or in joining the Altar & Rosary Society of Our Lady, Help of Christians parish, please contact Barb Patterson (apatt4@aol.com).

OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH INFORMATION

FATHER ALAN C. MACKEY, *pastor*
1201 KINGSBURY AVE.
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801

Parish website address: ourladyhelpofchristians-al.org
Parish email address: ourladyhoc@icloud.com
Parish phone: 256-801-9157 (use this number to contact Father)