

Our Lady, Help of Christians Parish Newsletter

1201 Kingsbury Ave., Huntsville, AL 35801

Father Alan C. Mackey, pastor

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To request sacraments or in case of emergency, contact Father Mackey: 256-479-5322



Mass Schedule

Sunday:

Low Mass - 8:00 am

Confessions - 9:00 am

Rosary - 9:30 am

High Mass - 10:00 am

Monday:

Mass - 7:00 am

Confessions - After Mass

Tuesday:

Mass - 7:00 am

Confessions - After Mass

Wednesday:

Confessions - 8:15 - 8:45 am

Mass - 9:00 am

Thursday:

Adoration & Confessions - 8:00 am

Benediction - 8:45 am

Mass - 9:00 am

Friday:

Adoration & Confessions - 8:00 am

Benediction - 8:45 am

Mass - 9:00 am

First Friday:

Mass - 7:00 am

Mass - 9:00 am

Saturday:

Confessions - 7:30 - 7:50 am

Mass - 8:00 am

First Saturday:

Rosary & Meditation - 8:45 am

Holy Days of Obligation:

10:00 am & 5:30 pm (unless alternative times announced)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

* April 2 - Holy Thursday:

* Mass: 5:30 pm

* Adoration: 6:30 pm (immediately following Mass) - Midnight, April 3, Good Friday (An Adoration sign up sheet is posted in St. Therese Hall. Please note: per Father Mackey's request: a maximum number of 6 persons in the Adoration Chapel at one time.)

* April 3 - Good Friday:

* Stations of the Cross and meditation on the Seven Last Words of Jesus: 12:00 Noon

* Confessions: 1:00 - 2:15 pm (Please note: confessions will stop promptly at 2:15)

* Good Friday Service: 3:00 pm

* Confessions: 4:30 - 5:30 pm

* April 4 - Holy Saturday:

* Confessions: 10:00 - 11:00 am

* Easter Vigil Mass: 7:30 - (approximately) 9:30 pm **PLEASE NOTE** Attending Easter Vigil Mass does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation

* April 5 - Easter Sunday: Normal Schedule

* Low Mass: 8:00 am

* Confessions: 9:00 - 9:45 am

* Rosary: 9:30 am

* High Mass: 10:00 am

MASS TIME CHANGES OR ADDITIONS FOR APRIL

* April 6 - No Mass

* April 28 - No Mass

* April 29 - No Mass

* April 30 - Mass at 5:30 pm - There will be no Adoration or Benediction preceding Mass.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* April 10 - Little Flowers Girls club meets after Mass

* April 15 - Adult Education class at 5:30 pm; Confessions preceding class at 5:00 pm

* April 22 - Men's Prayer Group at 5:30; Confessions preceding at 5:00 pm

* April 25 - Ladies morning of reflection immediately following 8:00 am Mass

* Donations for Easter Lilies gratefully accepted - suggested donation \$10. A basket with envelopes is available on the table in the hall. (Easter Lilies for the Easter altar will be purchased through a wholesale distributor; not Home Depot)

Prayer to Our Lady, Help of Christians

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.

MANNER OF CONTEMPLATING CHRIST'S BITTER PASSION

Source: excerpted from *The Church's Year*, p. 241, Rev. Fr. Leonard Goffine, *Imprimatur* 1874

"Whence does it come," writes St. Alphonsus Liguori, "that so many of the faithful look with so much indifference at Christ on the cross? They generally assist during Holy Week at the commemoration of his death without any feeling of gratitude or compassion, as if it were a fable or an event in which they had no interest. Know they not, or believe they not what the gospel relates of Christ's Passion? Indeed they know it, believe it, but do not think of it. It is impossible that he who believes and meditates, should fail to become burning with love for God who suffers and dies for love of him." But why, we may ask here, are there so many who draw so little benefit even from the contemplation of the passion and death of Jesus? Because they fail to consider and imitate the example which Christ gives in His sufferings.

"The cross of Christ," says St. Augustine, "is not only a bed of death, but a pulpit of instruction." It should now be our special aim to meditate upon the passion of Christ, and to imitate those virtues which shone forth so pre-eminently in His passion and death.

We must endeavor to derive from the meditation on the mysteries of the passion and death of Christ this effect, that we may imitate His virtues, and this by slowly and attentively considering each virtue by itself, exercising ourselves in forming a very great desire for it in our hearts, making a firm resolution to practice it in words and works, and also to conceive a holy aversion and horror of the opposite vice; for instance, when contemplating Christ's condemnation to the death of the cross by Pilate, consider the humility of Jesus Christ, who being God, as humble as He was innocent, voluntarily submitted and silently accepted the unjust sentence and the ignominious death. Here you will see from the example given by Jesus, how you should despise yourself, patiently bear all evil, unjust judgment, and detraction, and even seek them with joy as giving you occasion to resemble Him. To produce these necessary effects and resolutions, you should at each mystery contemplate the following:

- **Who is it that suffers?** The most innocent, the holiest, the most loving, the only-begotten Son of the Almighty Father, the Lord of heaven and earth.
- **What pains and torments, exterior and interior, does He suffer?**
- **In what manner does He suffer, with what patience, humility, meekness and love, does He bear all ignominy and outrage?**
- **For whom does He suffer?** For all men, for His enemies and His executioners.
- **By whom does He suffer?** By Jews, heathens, by soldiers and tyrants, by the devil and all impious children of the world to the end of time, and all who were then united in spirit with His enemies.
- **Why does He suffer?** To make reparation for all the sins of the whole world, to satisfy the justice of God, to reconcile the Heavenly Father, to open heaven, to give us His infinite merits that we may from them have the strength to follow the way to heaven.

"I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE, THAT AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU, SO DO YOU ALSO."

A Virtue for Every Month :: April :: Patience

Source: *A Year With the Saints: A Virtue for Every Month of the Year*; *Imprimatur* 1891

Fr. M. d'Avila

One "Thanks be to God," or one "Blessed be God," in adversity, is worth more than a thousand thanksgivings in prosperity.

St. Francis de Sales

Kiss frequently the crosses which the Lord sends you, and with all your heart, without regarding of what sort they may be; for the more vile and mean they are, the more they deserve their name. The merit of crosses does not consist of their weight, but in the manner in which they are borne. It may show much greater virtue to bear a cross of straw than a very hard and heavy one, because the light ones are also the most hidden and contemned, and therefore least comfortable to our inclination, which always seeks what is showy.

St. Theresa

Observe that we gain more in a single day by trials which come to us from God and our neighbor, than we would in ten years by penances and other exercises, which we take up of ourselves.

Thomas a' Kempis

He has not true patience who is willing to suffer only what he pleases, and from whom he pleases. The truly patient man does not regard the length nor the kind of his sufferings, not yet the person who makes him suffer - whether he be a superior, an equal, or an inferior; whether he be a holy man or ill-disposed and dishonorable. His only aim is to suffer.

Parish Notes

Interested in joining the parish - Please submit a Membership Form to the office. Forms can be found on the informational table in the hall.

For weddings and funerals - Members of the parish should contact Father Mackey directly.

Funerals: Please contact Father Mackey before coordinating with a funeral home.

Weddings: Contact Father Mackey at least 6 months prior to a projected wedding date.

Communion for the sick: Contact Father Mackey if you would like him to bring Holy Communion to you or a loved one.