

Our Lady, Help of Christians Parish Newsletter

1201 Kingsbury Ave., Huntsville, AL 35801

Father Alan C. Mackey, pastor

Parish website address: ourladyhelpofchristians-al.org

Parish email address: ourladyhoc@icloud.com

Parish phone number: 256-801-9157

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

MASS TIME CHANGES (EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY)

Please note the following time changes, effective June 1 - all other days retain their current Mass times and schedule:

- * **Wednesday** (time change: there will no longer be 9:00 am Mass on Wednesday) New time:
 - * Adoration at 4:30 pm
 - * Confessions at 4:30 pm
 - * Benediction at 5:15 pm
 - * Mass at 5:30 pm
- * **Thursday** (time change: there will no longer be 9:00 am Mass on Thursday) New time:
 - * Mass at 7:00 am

MASS CHANGES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

- * **June 24 - Nativity of St. John the Baptist** - High Mass at 5:30 pm (Adoration and Benediction preceding Mass)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- * **June 7 - Father will celebrate the external Solemnity of Corpus Christi.** There will be a Eucharistic procession following the 10:00 am Mass.
- * **June 17 - Father will resume the adult class** following the Wednesday evening Mass.
- * **June 27 - Ladies morning of reflection** following the 8:00 am Mass.
- * **June 28 - Bake Sale** following both the 8:00 am Mass and the 10:00 am Mass. The ladies of the Altar & Rosary Society will be donating a variety of baked goods for your consideration and Father Mackey asks that you donate generously to the upcoming bake sale! ALL proceeds will be given to the church building fund to finance upcoming building projects for the church.
- * **Confirmation Class 2015** - It's time to begin preparing for our next Confirmation class. All students grade 6+ who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please leave your name and email address with Jennifer Mackintosh. Father Mackey will provide an outline of upcoming classes and schedule soon. Bishop Baker will confirm students on October 25, the Feast of Christ the King.
- * **A friendly reminder regarding your church grounds** - please consider walking around the church grounds following receptions, pot-lucks, and donut Sundays to ensure that there is no remaining trash left around the . Though several trash cans have been provided outside, many times paper cups and trash is found in the flower beds, around the sign (at the corner of Girard/Kingsbury). If we all contribute a little time each time we're at church, gently reminding our children to throw trash away, we can maintain a welcoming appearance in the neighborhood and to other visitors.



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:

Adoration & Confessions - 4:30 pm
Benediction - 5:15 pm
Mass - 5:30 pm

Thursday:

Mass - 7:00 am

Friday:

Adoration & Confessions - 8:00 am
Benediction - 8:45 am
Mass - 9:00 am
First Friday - additional Mass at 7:00 am

Saturday:

Confessions - 7:30 - 7:50 am
Mass - 8:00 am

First Saturday:

Rosary & Meditation - 8:45 am

Holy Days of Obligation:

9:00 am & 5:30 pm (unless alternative times announced)

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.

A History of the Athanasian Creed

Compiled from various sources: *Catholic Encyclopedia*, *Imprimatur 1917*; *Lives of the Saints*, *Imprimatur 1955*; *Saint Andrew Daily Missal*, *Imprimatur 1945*; *Saint Athanasius: Defender of the Faith* (Michael Davies, 2001)

The Athanasian Creed is a rich and beautiful affirmation of the profound mystery of the Blessed Trinity. Most theologians and scholars agree that it was written around the 3rd or 4th century and though it beautifully reflects a forceful attentiveness to the same subject matter which St. Athanasius, the great doctor of the Church and defender of Orthodoxy spent his lifetime defending, there is some evidence that he was not the original author. There are two distinct reasons for this belief: (1) St. Athanasius was educated in and presided as Bishop over Alexandria (Egypt), an Eastern city, and as such he wrote in Greek. The Athanasian Creed was believed to have been composed in Latin so it was likely written by a Western author. (2) Historically, no early writers or contemporaries of St. Athanasius attribute the work to him, nor is the work attributed to any of the widely known Western Church leaders of the time. One theory proposes that the work was written by a bishop, possibly a contemporary of St. Athanasius, living through the same troubled period fraught with the heresy of Arianism, and as the Creed grew in popularity, it simply became associated with St. Athanasius because its wording so accurately reflected the teachings the great saint spent his life defending.

Whether the Creed was authored by St. Athanasius or not, it was most certainly influenced by the great saint, and has been approved by the Church to convey the fundamental doctrinal truths of the Most Blessed Trinity, focusing primarily on two truths: the Trinity and the Incarnation. It was fixed in the Traditional Divine Office as part of the prayers of Prime for the Feast of the Blessed Trinity. Prior to 1960 the Athanasian Creed was recited almost every Sunday after Epiphany but by the time the 1962 Missal was issued, the Athanasian Creed was recited only after Mass on Trinity Sunday.

No history of the Athanasian Creed with its many affirmations supporting the foundational doctrine of the Blessed Trinity would be complete without a brief history of the saint to whom the Creed is ascribed: St. Athanasius, Doctor of the Church.

...

Athanasius was born in Alexandria, Egypt in the year 296 to Christian parents. He was educated under Alexander, who later became Patriarch of the city of Alexandria, and in 313 spent some time in retreat with St. Anthony the hermit. In the year 318, Athanasius was ordained a deacon of Alexandria, while at the very same time an ambitious priest by the name of Arius began preaching a heresy denying Christ's divinity. In this heresy, commonly referred to as Arianism, Arius preached that Christ was a *creature*, just like the rest of us, who simply enjoyed higher grace than others, denying the Mystery and foundational truth which we as Catholics accept as the Mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity: Three Persons, One God.

This heresy can probably be best understood as an attempt to strip the mystery from the Blessed Trinity in seeking to understand the relationship of Christ to God, and it was to be Athanasius' lifelong fight. Three years after Arius first began to teach in heresy, Alexander, the Patriarch of Alexandria, excommunicated Arius in an attempt to squelch the erroneous and dangerous teaching. Arius left Alexandria, but returned two years later more emboldened than before, continuing to spread heretical ideas.

Because the Arian heresy continued to spread throughout the Eastern and Western Church, influencing many Bishops, the Council of Nicea was called in 325. St. Athanasius attended the council (as a secretary to Alexander, the Patriarch) and was instrumental in the council workings and the writing that came out of the Council. The group of bishops at the Council condemned Arius and his erroneous and heretical ideas, proclaiming that Jesus was the Son, *consubstantial with the Father*. In 326, just a year after the Council of Nicea, and shortly after Patriarch Alexander's death, Athanasius was unanimously elected Patriarch of Alexandria. Sadly, the Arian heresy would continue to plague the Church for centuries following the Nicean Council, but St. Athanasius fiercely defended the Church and Her teachings throughout his episcopate. Because of his unwavering defense of Christ's Divinity, Athanasius suffered extensively, being exiled five times (for a total of 17 years) during his episcopate. He was first exiled when he refused Emperor Constantine's order to admit the heretic Arius to Holy Communion. St. Athanasius died peacefully in the year 373.

GOD RAISED UP ST. ATHANASIUS, "HE FILLS HIM WITH THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM" (INTROIT),

AND "ANOINTS HIM AS BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA," (OFFERTORY)

FOR AS AN ATHLETE OF CHRIST, HE HAD TO PREACH THE MASTER'S TRUTH, AT THE PRICE OF INNUMERABLE SACRIFICES.

(Mass of St. Athanasius, Bishop, Confessor and Doctor, May 2)

A Virtue for Every Month :: June :: Obedience

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

All things whatsoever that they command you, observe and do. MATTHEW 23:3

ST. MARY MARGARET DE' PAZZI

A little drop of simple obedience is worth a million times more than a whole vase full of the choicest contemplations.

ST. TERESA

The devil, seeing that there is no shorter road to the summit of perfection than that of obedience, artfully insinuates many repugnances and difficulties under color of good, to prevent us from following it.

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.