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Have you considered mentioning Our Savior parish in your will? Please help us continue our ministry by remembering us in your will.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Life can be difficult at times and we all need prayer. If you wish to place someone on the prayer list, please contact Mary in the parish office. The only thing we ask of you is to please let us know if this person has either recovered, died or is no longer in need of further prayer. Contact parish office at office@oursaviorparish.org

THE FRASSATI SOCIETY OF MOBILE is a new young adults group (20's and 30's) that has been approved by Archbishop Rodi. The Society has four pillars: fellowship, spiritual formation, service, and recreation. The monthly "Frassati Nights" will be an opportunity for faith formation and fellowship with others. They meet the last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at Little Sisters of the Poor. Visit their website at www.frassatimobile.com for more information!

MEMORIAL BRICKS: We are ready to start a new section. If you have been thinking about ordering a brick for a friend or a loved one; you will find the forms on the table in the back of the church. Price is \$40 each or 3 for \$100. What a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or a friend. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Judy Pukac at 633-6762 x 203.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is an act of love. We need volunteers on Wednesday. If you can help, please contact Janet Broderick at janetb8757@hotmail.com or (251) 635-1644.

USHERS NEEDED: We are in need of ushers especially at our 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses, but we welcome volunteers at all Masses. An usher is the first person you see when entering the church as they greet you on your arrival and the last one you see as you leave. It is an awesome privilege to not only welcome people to the church, but being for others a representative of a welcoming and gracious God. For more information, please contact Bill Wakefield or the parish office at office@oursaviorparish.org

LINE DANCING is every Monday in Jennings Hall. Classes are from 6:30-8 pm. The cost is \$4 per person. Come join the fun!!

TAI CHI CLASS meets here every Monday at 10am in Jennings Hall. It is a low-impact; slow-motion exercise that is often described as "meditation in motion". Everyone is invited.

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE FORGIVENESS PRAYER

A weekly prayer group with the focus on Centering Prayer and the Forgiveness Prayer will meet on Tuesday at 10:30 am. in the Quiet Room area of the Church. For information call Alex - 251-422-0540 or Gloria - 251-648-6521.

SEARCH RETREATS are weekend experiences "for teens, by teens" and are the peer-to-peer retreat for high-school-age young people in the Archdiocese of Mobile. Search is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Mobile Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. On a Search Retreat, teens will experience a faith community, encounter Christ and his Church, and grow in their relationship with God and others. Search Retreat #22 is January 10-12 at Children's Harbor on Lake Martin in Alexander City. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.ArchMobYouth.org/Search>

Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m. & Midnight

Christmas Day
10:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
5:00 p.m. (Vigil) & 10:00 a.m.

Have a Blessed & Joyous Christmas

STAFF

Father David Tokarz, Pastor
Deacon Charles Kenny (retired)
Deacon Norman Gale
Deacon Jay Boyd
Deacon Francis Tran
Jan Murray, Religious Ed
Tina Lyons, Youth Minister
Dolores Hale, Ministry of Care
Juan Jose Gutierrez, Music Minister
Mary Marks, Office Manager
Judy Pukac, Accountant
Kim McDowell, Maintenance
Mary Anthony, Housekeeping

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Spanish Mass: 7 p.m. Sunday
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday-Friday
Holy Days: 7 p.m. Vigil & 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 4:00-4:30 p.m. & by appointment

CONTACT

Office: 251-633-6762
Fax: 251-633-7790
Website: www.oursaviorparish.org
Facebook: Our Savior Catholic Church
Email: office@oursaviorparish.org
Fr. David's email: djtokarz1950@gmail.com

CHURCH ADDRESS

1801 Cody Rd S, Mobile, AL 36695

Finance Council: Greg Carpenter
Liturgy: Fr. David Tokarz
Parish Life Activities: Dolores Hale
LAFF: Mary Anthony
Life & Justice: Ricarda Manning
Knights of Columbus: Mike Perry
Grand Knight, Council 11366
4th Degree, Knights of Columbus: Joe Behr
Faithful Navigator Assembly 2918
Ladies Auxiliary: Tina Lyons
Men of St. Joseph: Francis Tran
St Vincent de Paul: Christina Richie
Parish Council: Vicki Wakefield
Sister Parish Com.: Kathy Powell
Boy Scouts: James Alexander
Cub Scouts: Edward Nehls
Widows Web: Judy Adams

MOVING OR CHANGING ADDRESS

Please notify the parish office 251-633-6762

NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are interested in joining our parish family, please fill out a card on the table in the back of the church to the left as you enter or online at www.oursaviorparish.org

SACRAMENTAL GUIDELINES

Baptism of infants: If you are expecting a child or have recently had a child and want to prepare for baptism, please call Amy Walsh (251-605-8870) to schedule a preparation session.

Confirmation, RCIA, First Eucharist: Jan Murray

251-633-6762 x 206 or re@oursaviorparish.org

Matrimony: Fr. David (six months before the wedding)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

School of Religion grades K - 12 meets Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Friday

OUR SAVIOR YOUTH GROUPS

Email: youth@oursaviorparish.org

Junior: 6th - 8th grades

Senior: 9th - 12th grades

PRAYER CHAIN

Parish Office office@oursaviorparish.org

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. followed by Novena



Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2019



GAUDETE SUNDAY

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!” (from Philippians 4:4). This is the original (Latin) Entrance Antiphon for the 3rd Sunday of Advent. It is the reason this Sunday is known as “Gaudete Sunday.” But why?

I’m reminded of a commercial. I can’t recall the product or service being promoted, but I cannot forget the image: a camel wandering through an office, asking folks to tell him what day it is—“C’mon, c’mon—what day is this? What day is this??” Finally, one exasperated woman mumbles, “It’s ‘Hump Day.’” “Woo hoo,” shouts the (one-humped) camel!

We all know about “Hump Day”—it’s the point when the work week has passed the mid-point; the weekend is now that much closer than it was on Monday—it’s downhill from here; the weekend is in sight.

“Gaudete Sunday” is the “Hump Day” of Advent—we’ve passed the mid-point, and Christmas is now much closer than when Advent began—it’s in sight. It’s a lived experience, if you like, of the words of St Paul from the 1st Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)—“You know the time... our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand” (Romans 13:11-12). It’s the beginning of the “Good News” of our salvation.

We have only a very few days left before the “Pre-Octave” of Christmas is upon us. Beginning on Tuesday, from the 17th through the 24th of December, we are in the home stretch. Liturgically, we celebrate this time with the “O Antiphons,” which make a part of Evening Prayer (the antiphon for the *Magnificat*) and daily Mass (the verse along with the Alleluia). They are the basis of the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” They are images from the prophets proclaiming the attributes and nearness of the Messiah. We can’t wait.

Sadly, this time is more typically a time of panic for folks who are trying to finish their Christmas shopping—this kind of frenetic and chaotic activity is not very conducive to reflection and quiet waiting! But can we take some time during these days to remember (as we’re often enough reminded) that Someone Else is “the reason for the season”? We even have billboards in town that wish people a “Merry CHRIST-mas”...

On a completely unrelated note (pun intended!), Monday is 16 December: the birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven. Perhaps you could celebrate by listening to a recording of his Symphony #9 (or at least singing the hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”—based on the melody of this symphony’s final movement). Ludwig was a cantankerous character, and not just because of the frustrations stemming from his deafness. He would be about as attractive a dinner-companion as (I think) would have been St John the Baptist. But they were both great, in their own ways and in their own gifts. William Butler Yeats once wrote, “The intellect of man is forced to choose perfection of the life, or of the work.” St John the Baptist chose the former; Beethoven embodied the latter.

Fr. David

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

“Our Savior parish is a Catholic community, fueled by the Eucharist and infused with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, committed to faith-filled worship, to outreach and welcoming for our brothers and sisters in need, to striving for Christian unity, to pursuing respect for the dignity of all human life, and to building the Kingdom of God on Cody Road and beyond.”

Please pray for those who are sick and suffering in our parish, in a special way...

Bill Barber	Manuela Golden	Jeb Shell
Joyce Bills	Rose Marie Kernin	Kathy Sirak
Keith Bumpers	Monica Knight	Mary Ann Stanley
Lisa Brazell	Rady Laron	Joe Vegliacich
Annie Ruth Chappell	Mary Lozano	Bradley Wells
Mason Coker	Myrtis Mooney	Elaine Zoller
Judy Courtney	Marsha Naman	
Leah Dees	Michael Nelson	
Michael Dees	Ashley Rickel	
Jesus Gallego	Vicki Scott	

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Joan Fellrath 12/1/10	Maudie Thomas 12/17/12
Tracy Hurlley 12/1/10	John Scarangella 12/17/96
Raymond Simons 12/1/13	Kathy Ferniany 12/17/17
Bob Mihalsky 12/2/18	Mary Fayard Coogan 12/18/15
Dawn Spevacek Roe 12/2/19	Jackie Gray 12/18/08
Rita Gump 12/3/11	Jean Sweeney 12/18/11
Walter Neel, Jr. 12/3/07	John Romanos 12/20/06
Jacqueline Cannon 12/3/12	John Verrett 12/20/07
Mary McDonald 12/3/13	Rose Fellrath 12/21/12
Jimmy M. Wall 12/4/14	Lois Cosci 12/21/16
Marcia Romanagno 12/6/18	James Ferry 12/21/08
Sean Frazier 12/8/15	Madison Alford 12/22/14
Rev. Russell Biven 12/8/17	Bill Nicholas 12/22/15
James Ritchie 12/8/19	Amy Pounder Dean 12/23/14
John Duffy 12/10/15	Luis Lizeras 12/24/11
James Van Hoosen 12/10/16	Basil "Jack" Bean 12/24/13
Daniel Stadam 12/11/07	George Murray 12/24/15
Laura Noller 12/11/01	Mary Allenbach 12/25/18
Barbara Rozyskie 12/11/09	Jude David Delcambre 12/26/14
Richard Wampler 12/11/18	Eddie Randall 12/26/09
Joseph Palughi, Jr. 12/12/14	Alice Chappell 12/26/09
Bimbi Stcherbachew 12/13/11	Jennifer Siggins 12/27/05
Sylvia Dodson 12/15/10	Richard Masse 12/28/11
Mary Emmanuel 12/15/04	Victor de la Paz Gapud 12/29/17
Lois Neno 12/15/13	Dorothy Frost 12/31/14
Eloise Anderson 12/16/07	Ruth Schaffer 12/31/17
Mary Jane Gross 12/16/12	

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Sunday	RE (9:45 a.m.) AE (9:45 a.m.) St Vincent de Paul mtg (9:45 a.m.)
Monday	Tai Chi (10:00 a.m.) Line Dancing (6:30 p.m.)
Tuesday	Centering Prayer (10:30 a.m.) Handmade Hugs (1:00 p.m.) Men of St. Joseph (6:00 p.m.)
Wednesday	Adoration (9 am) Bible Sharing (9:30 a.m.) Holy Hour & Novena (6:15 p.m.) Scouts (6:30 p.m.) Choir (7:00 p.m.)
Thursday	LAFF's (6:30 p.m.)
Friday	Singing Needles (10:30 a.m.)

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE will be celebrated on **Sunday, December 15th** with rosary at 4:30 pm, Songs of Joy at 5:30 p.m., and Mass at 6:00 p.m. followed by a dinner in Jennings Hall.

GOODWILL EASTER SEALS GOOD SAMARITAN DONATION PROGRAM

Are you thinking about donating your unused items to Goodwill before the end of the tax year? Please pick up one of the **YELLOW DONATION FORMS** in the back of the church and turn it in to Goodwill when you make your donations. By turning in the yellow form with your donations you will be helping Our Savior and St. Vincent de Paul Society to receive \$5 gift certificates. Any questions, please contact Hank Toth from the St. Vincent de Paul Society or Tina Lyons in the office. **THANK YOU ALL** for participating in this worthy Program to benefit our Friends in Need.

PRAY for James Ritchie who died December 8th. He was the husband of Nidya Ritchie. May he rest in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

Saturday	5:00 p.m.: People of the Parish
Sunday	8:30 a.m.: James Ferry (d) 11:00 a.m.: Thomas & Angela Klinar (d)
Tuesday	8:30 a.m.: Belt Reed Family (l)
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.: Mary Alice Lloyd (d)
Thursday	8:30 a.m.: Ben Hacker (d)
Friday	8:30 a.m.: Dawn Spevacek Roe (d)



Advertiser of the Week

PRAYER INTENTIONS POPE FRANCIS

Universal: The Future of the Very Young
That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Sat.	Reading 1: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 Gospel: Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Sun.	Reading 1: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 (7A) Reading 2: James 5:7-10 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
Mon.	Reading 1: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27
Tues.	Reading 1: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17
Wed.	Reading 1: Jeremiah 23:5-8 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
Thurs.	Reading 1: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Gospel: Luke 1:5-25
Fri.	Reading 1: Isaiah 7:10-14 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



KNIGHT'S KORNER



What an awesome appreciation dinner this past Saturday night. It was truly a fun experience with great food and fellowship. The attendance was better than expected and great to see. What a great parish we have here at Our Savior with some great people. Many thanks go to all the volunteers who put this event on. We are blessed to have so many talented people around. Congratulations to all the raffle winners of the night as well as those throughout the year. We would also like to thank the representatives from the L'Arche community who attended and were presented with a check from the proceeds of our Tootsie Roll Drive. We use the proceeds from the raffle drawings for charitable causes such as supporting designated seminarians in our Archdiocese.
Vivat Jesus!

We had our last drawing for this year. We promised to keep you informed of the winners along the way so here we are. We sold 239 tickets out of the possible 300 we tried to sell. That means we still all had a pretty good chance to win, but most of us didn't. We had our last drawing at our Parish Appreciation Dinner on Saturday the 7th. We like to have a dinner at the end of the raffle to thank our parish family and those others that helped us. We had a very good pasta dinner with fellowship. A good time was had by all.

THE WINNERS OF THE REGULAR DRAWING WERE:
\$25 – Barry Triche
\$50 – The Youth Group (Ticket donated)
\$100 – J.J. McCaffrey

THE WINNER OF THE BIG DRAWING FOR \$1000 WAS:
Drum Roll PleaseElvia Wilson

Thank you for your participation. Any profits that we received will be going to help worthy causes. So in the end, we are all winners. Our plan is for us to be doing this again next year. The first drawing will be in April so make sure you see a knight and get your tickets before then.

God Bless you all.
Our Savior Knights of Columbus

Anticipated Offering Income	\$	12,115
Actual Offering Income	\$	11,669
Anticipated Offering Income to date	\$	593,654
Actual Offering Income to date	\$	590,940
YTD Offering: Over (Under)	\$	(2,714)
Budget Offering Year	\$	630,000
Building Fund this week	\$	120
Building Fund to date	\$	7,696
Retired Religious	\$	2,721

NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Religious education classes: Sunday, December 15 is the last class for this semester. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2020! Sunday religious education classes resume at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 12, 2020.

Congratulations to Luke Eubanks, Winston Henriksen, Jayli Lynde and Aiden Recille who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last Thursday. We are so proud of you! A big THANK YOU to Danielle Parker and Autumn Demeranville for preparing them so well. Of course, thank you to Fr David for making it all possible and to our children's families for supporting them.

SING PRAISES TO THE NEWBORN KING!

All children and youth in grades K-12 are invited to join us for the Our Savior Catholic Church Children's Choir. No experience is needed to sing, but instrumentalists are required to have at least one year on their instrument. Practices will be held in the sanctuary from 2:00 – 4:00 pm on Sunday afternoons through Christmas (December 15th, and 22nd - party), and students will lead a small concert at 4:30 ahead of 5:00 Christmas Eve Mass. Not only is the Children's Choir a great way for your family to serve this Advent, but we have lots of fun! Please join us if you can make at least 2 rehearsals, and call or text Amy Driskell at (251) 458-5341 if you have any questions.

GIFTS TO CELEBRATE BABY JESUS' BIRTHDAY are to be brought to the 5pm Children's Christmas Eve Mass. The children will process to the Nativity to lay their gifts before the manger. All presents should be for newborns to 6 months old, and will be given to 2-B Choices for Women. Suggested items are diapers, baby wipes, diaper bags, baby shampoo, baby wash, baby lotion, baby oil, strollers, wash clothes, towels, baby clothes (sizes preemie to 3T), infant & toddler picture or story books, and books for new moms.

FREE HOME REPAIRS – 2020

Catholic Social Services of Mobile will host 40 seminarians from St. John Vianney Seminary during mid-January to provide home repairs, free of charge, to elderly and disabled homeowners in Mobile County. For 10 years, the seminarians have spent several days of their winter break helping CSS make minor repairs such as painting, caulking, replacing wood/siding, floor repair, replacing doors and windows, and major yard clean-up. All referrals will be contacted for an assessment of need by our Case Manager and the Home Repair Coordinator. To make a referral, please contact Marilyn King at 434-1550 or by email at mdking@mobarch.org

ANGEL TREE FOR HOMEBOUND AND NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

will in the back of the church this weekend. Please take a Christmas ornament from the tree which will list items for our homebound and nursing home residents. Elderly gifts should be placed in a Christmas gift bag **not** wrapped. Please return all gifts no later than **Sunday, December 15th**.

POINSETTIAS may be donated in the name of your loved ones. There is a list and envelopes on the table at the back of the church. Please write your name on the envelope along with your donation, and drop it in the basket.

ATTENTION ALL MINISTERS: The sign-up sheets for Christmas, and Mary, Mother of God Masses are on the table in the back of the church.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES/EVENTS

ALIVE IN YOU UPDATES

Just a reminder if you haven't already sent in your original \$100 deposit please do so as soon as possible. Your next payment will be due by January 15th \$ 120.

If you still need any **PRIESTER'S PECANS** I just put them on sale, we still have a few more to sell, Remember they make great Hostess & Teacher Gifts.

UPCOMING MEETINGS /EVENTS:

January 2020 – Souper Bowl of Caring (looking for some new ideas for this event)

Youth group is open to all Middle School Youth Group 6th-8th grade & High School Youth Group 9th-12th grade. Please bring a snack or drink to share with the group at our gatherings. Please contact Ms. Tina at youth@oursaviorparish.org or 251-633-6762 x 205, if you have any questions.

PRIESTER'S PECANS SALE!

Our Savior Youth will be selling Priestler's Pecans as a fundraiser to help Our Youth attend their Annual Summer Service Camp with Alive in You. Thank You to everyone who has supported us with Our Priestler's Pecan Fundraiser. We still have a few items left to sell. They make great hostess gifts and teacher gifts. 1 lb. bags of Pecan Halves and Honey Glazed Pecan Halves for \$16.50 each or 2/ \$29 1 lb. bags of Praline & Milk Chocolate Pecan Halves for \$11 each or 2/ \$18 1 lb. Bags of Snack Mixes- Roasted & Salted Nut Mix, Blueberry Nut Crunch and Health Nut for \$12 each or 2/ \$20 or 3/ \$ 17 Gift Tins – Classic Cheese Straws \$17 Now \$14 New this year 1 lb. bag of Roasted Peanuts \$5.50 each or 2/ \$9 or 3/ \$ 7 Last but not least our Pecan Pies- 9" Chocolate Pecan Pie \$14 Now \$11 3" Mini Old-Fashion Pecan Pies \$2 each or Now 4/\$5 Thank You for your **SUPPORT!**

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION only one session before we break for Christmas. We continue with Chapter 3 of Edward Sri's *Dawn of the Messiah* on Sunday, December 15. Join us in the parish library between the Masses for doughnuts, coffee and discussion. For more information contact Eileen Rettig at 661-8619 or emret-tig@aol.com.

LAFF'S & LADIES AUXILIARY

Save the Date for Our Christmas Gathering **Thursday, December 19, 2019 Jennings Hall 6pm – 9pm** Please bring a wrapped gift (\$20) for our gift exchange and 3 dozen cookies for our cookie exchange if you would like to take part. Don't forget to bring a tray or basket to put your cookies in so you will have something to take then home in. We will supply the main dish for dinner, please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with the group. 6-6:30 Social --- 6:30 –7:30 Dinner --- 7:30 – 9 Dirty Santa & Our Cookie Exchange

CONGRATULATIONS to our newly baptized member: **Wyatt Vu Hinman** (parents: Kenneth & Nikki Hinman). We welcome you to our parish family.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME If you have friends or family who were baptized Catholic but not receiving the sacraments regularly, now is the time to invite them home to stay. Our Savior is having a free and informal six week series that meets once a week starting **Thursday, January 9th to February 13th at 7:00 p.m.** There is no fee, dress code or obligation to participate. To sign up or for more information call Judy Pukac at 251-648-3024.

NO ADORATION on Wednesday, December 25th.

"Occupy your mind with good thoughts, or the enemy will fill them with bad ones. Unoccupied, they cannot be."

– St. Thomas More