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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.

Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Mother of Perpetual Help, today we face so many difficulties. Your picture tells us so much about you. It reminds us to reach out and help those in need. Help us understand that our lives belong to others as much as they belong to us.

Mother of Perpetual Help, you have been blessed and favored by God. You became not only the Mother of the Redeemer, but Mother of the redeemed as well. We come to you today as your loving children. Watch over us and take care of us. As you held the child Jesus in your loving arms, so take us in your arms. Be a mother ready at every moment to help us. For God who is mighty has done great things for you, and God's mercy is from age to age on those who love God. Intercede for us, dear Mother, in obtaining pardon for our sins, love for Jesus, final perseverance, and the grace always to call upon you, Mother of Perpetual Help.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

O Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke thy most powerful name, which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying. O purest Mary, O sweetest Mary, let thy name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, O Blessed Lady, to help me, whenever I call on thee; for, in all my temptations, in all my needs, I shall never cease to call on thee, ever repeating thy sacred name, Mary, Mary.

O what consolation, what sweetness, what confidence, what emotion, fill my soul when I utter thy sacred name, or even only think of thee. I thank the Lord for having given thee, for my good so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely uttering thy name. Let my love for thee prompt me ever to hail thee, Mother of Perpetual Help. *(Recite 3 Hail Mary's)*

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Catholics are encouraged to make a Spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion is the desiring of Jesus Christ to enter our heart when we are unable for various reasons to receive actual Holy Communion. Pope Francis has urged Catholics to perform Spiritual Communion during the COVID-19 pandemic. This practice was established in the Church for centuries and recommended by several saints.

Act of Spiritual Communion

St. Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Visit our website to sign up and to begin contributing automatically to our parish. Online Giving This convenient new system does not require you to contact your bank to sign up or to make changes. You can use any of your checking or savings accounts or debit or credit card, and the funds will be automatically transferred to our parish bank account. This system is more convenient for the parish than electronic checks from your bank. And it's convenient for you because you can make changes at any time. Go to our website or download the online giving app on your mobile device. **Contact *Judy Pukac* at 251-633-6762 x 203 with any questions.**

For the website go to www.oursaviorparish.org then click on the Online Giving link. It's quick and easy!

For the mobile app go to the App Store and search for Online Giving and register with Our Savior Catholic Church.

Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24th
5:00 p.m. & Midnight

Christmas Day
Saturday, December 25th 10:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family
Sunday, December 26th
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Friday, December 31st (Vigil) 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 1st 10:00 a.m.

Solemnity of the Epiphany
Sunday, January 2nd
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Have a Joyous Christmas & a Blessed New Year

www.PageBorders.net

OUR SAVIOR LIVE-STREAMING MASSES

We will be **live-streaming Daily Mass** on Tuesday-Friday at 8:30 a.m. and **Sunday Mass** at 11:00 a.m. on Facebook.

Two ways to view the Masses:

1) Go to our website ***www.oursaviorparish.org*** and then click on the Facebook logo at the top right corner and then click on videos to your left.
2) Log into Facebook and search for Our Savior Catholic Church. Please make sure you click on follow us on Facebook to get notices when a video is posted.

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
Daniel Driskell, Music Minister
Mary Marks, Office Manager
Judy Pukac, Accountant
Heide Sarubin, Office Assistant
Kim McDowell, Maintenance
Mary Anthony, Housekeeping

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

CONFESSIONS
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. - 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:
Liturgy: Fr. David Tokarz
Parish Life Activities: Dolores Hale
LAFF: Mary Anthony
Life & Justice: Ricarda Manning
Knights of Columbus: Michael Smitherman
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: Mary Berthiaume
Parish Council: Vicki Wakefield
Sister Parish Com.: Kathy Powell
Boy Scouts: Edward Nehls
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 the parish office (251-633-6762) 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
Closed daily for lunch 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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.

OUR SAVIOR CATHOLIC CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021

KOINONIA

In last weekend's homily I made observations about various key terms in our excerpt from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians (1:3-11, as I revised the Lectionary's "slice and dice"). One of those terms was *koinonia*, and I thought it deserved a more ample unpacking than I was able to do in the context of our Sunday Eucharist.

First, a fuller version of the quote I alluded to in the homily, about the weakness of "fellowship" as a translation: "Our common translation of this rich New Testament word is 'fellowship' but that overused and misused word probably will not carry the freight any more. For the church today to announce a meeting for the purpose of fellowship is in essence to promise all attending that there will be no serious business, no worship, no work. Given the degeneration of language, one has to say something different in order to mean the same thing" (Fred Craddock, *Interpretation: Philippians,* p 17).

So how should *koinonia* be translated for us? In the homily, I suggested perhaps "communion" (which our current *Roman Missal* uses) or "community." Both are better than "fellowship," but "communion" carries its own problems. It can too easily sound like the purpose of *koinonia* is simply to receive Communion at Mass (too subjective, too "me and Jesus," to be helpful). Although "community" is based on the same Latin words, it is a stronger choice.

Where the *Roman Missal* uses it is in the beginning of the Mass as one of the optional greetings of the presider to the congregation. It comes from II Corinthians 13:13—Paul's "sign-off" to that church. And it is the *koinonia* of the Holy Spirit he is invoking for them (and therefore for us). This is crucial, I think. What does it mean to have "community" with the Holy Spirit?

In the Upper Room on Easter night Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples to make them Apostles ("As the Father has sent me, so I send you"—John 20:19-23). It empowers them to be witnesses and to proclaim Jesus Risen, and it enables them to forgive sins. Luke offers a similar understanding through the end of the Third Gospel and the course of the Acts of the Apostles: the Holy Spirit will empower the believers from on high; the Spirit will come upon them at Pentecost; the Spirit will lead them step by step from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth. How is all this possible? It is by *koinonia* in the Spirit.

Here, then, is the bottom line: we are called to be community in the Spirit for the sake of evangelization, of testifying to the truth of the Gospel; to be active members of the Body of Christ; to be people of the Beatitudes, living witnesses to the reality of the Kingdom. We cannot do this alone! This is where any "me and Jesus" theology fails. We must come together in solidarity in order to be credible. This is why we cannot be satisfied with live-streamed Eucharist and on-line tithing; physical presence is critical because we need to be reminded that we are not alone. Together, we can accomplish things for the Kingdom that we cannot accomplish by ourselves.

We need to gather to be effective. We need to gather to remind others (and be reminded ourselves) that we are not isolated. "Isolated Christians are paralyzed Christians," an old Cursillo saying tells us. And we cannot afford to be paralyzed. We have work to do.

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
Marie Boyd
Keith Bumpers
Lisa Brazell
Annie Ruth Chappell
Mason Coker
Judy Courtney
Leah Dees
Michael Dees
Jesus Gallego
Manuela Golden
Mills Harris
Rose Marie Kervin
Monica Knight
Rady Laron
Myrtis Mooney
Louis Naman
Ashley Rickel
Vicki Scott
Jeb Shell
Kathy Sirak
Mary Ann Stanley
Joe Vegliacich

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Joan Fellrath 12/1/10
Tracy Hurley 12/1/10
Raymond Simons 12/1/13
Bob Mihalsky 12/2/18
Dawn Spevacek Roe 12/2/19
Rita Gump 12/3/11
Walter Neel, Jr. 12/3/07
Jacqueline Cannon 12/3/12
Mary McDonald 12/3/13
Larry Silva 12/3/2020
Jimmy M. Wall 12/4/14
Marcia Romanagno 12/6/18
Sean Frazier 12/8/15
Rev. Russell Biven 12/8/17
James Ritchie 12/8/19
John Duffy 12/10/15
James Van Hoosen 12/10/16
Daniel Stadam 12/11/07
Laura Noller 12/11/01
Barbara Rozyskie 12/11/09
Richard Wampler 12/11/18
Joseph Palughi, Jr. 12/12/14
Bimbi Stcherbachew 12/13/11
Maria, Le Thi Hoai 12/14/19
Sylvia Dodson 12/15/10
Mary Emmanuel 12/15/04
Lois Neno 12/15/13
Eloise Anderson 12/16/07
Mary Jane Gross 12/16/12
Maudie Thomas 12/17/12
John Scarangella 12/17/96
Kathy Ferniany 12/17/17
Mary Fayard Coogan 12/18/15
Jackie Gray 12/18/08
Jean Sweeney 12/18/11
John Romanos 12/20/06
John Verrett 12/20//07
Rose Fellrath 12/21/12
Lois Cosci 12/21/16
James Ferry 12/21/08
Marion Boyd 12/21/2020
Jean Wall Nash 12/21/2020
Madison Alford 12/22/14
Bill Nicholas 12/22/15
Amy Pounder Dean 12/23/14
Caroline Vanderbilt 12/23/19
Catherine Yusko 12/23/19
Luis Lizeras 12/24/11
Basil "Jack" Bean 12/24/13
George Murray 12/24/15
Mary Allenbach 12/25/18
Carol Bailey 12/25/2020
Jude David Delcambre 12/26/14
Eddie Randall 12/26/09
Alice Chappell 12/26/09
Jennifer Siggins 12/27/05
Richard Masse 12/28/11
Victor de la Paz Gapud 12/29/17
Dorothy Frost 12/31/14
Ruth Schaffer 12/31/17

Light Your Lamps (Luke 12.35)."

With just four short weeks, Advent can seem to just fly by. So, we must make every day count to fully prepare for the Christ Child's arrival. As Jesus told His Disciples: "*Light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks* (Luke 12.35-36)." We too are called to be servants to help others get ready for Jesus's knock. Invite the inactive Catholics in your life to the Advent Masses and a glorious Christmas Mass. Let them know they are most welcome to again receive the healing Sacrament of Reconciliation that Jesus gives us as a most precious Christmas gift to prepare us to receive the Holy Eucharist. Invite them also to *Catholics Returning Home*, six short sessions that help them prepare to receive these sacraments in the true Christmas spirit. There are no fees and dress is casual. Yet, these informal sessions will help them keep their true Christmas lights burning bright all year. Our Savior Parish is sponsoring the Mobile Deanery's CRH sessions this Christmas season at Our Savior Parish starting **January 6, 2022 at 7 PM**. For more information and to register, call Eileen Rettig at 251661-8619.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- Sunday, December 19th 6:30 p.m. in Church

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Office Manager and Bookkeeper

Our Savior Parish is looking for a full-time office manager and part-time bookkeeper, available beginning Feb. 2022. Salary commensurate with background and experience. A Catholic in good standing is preferred for the position of office manager. If interested, please submit curriculum vitae and references to office@oursaviorparish.org. Interviews will begin in January.

MASS INTENTIONS OF THE WEEK

Saturday	**5:00 pm:**	George A. VanCourt, Jr. (d)
Sunday	**8:30 am:**	Arve Henriksen, Sr. (d)
	11:00 am:	People of the Parish
Tuesday	**8:30 am:**	Peter, Vinh Nguyen (d)
Wednesday	**8:30 am:**	Deacon Frank Adams (d)
Thursday	**8:30 am:**	James Ferry (d)
Friday	**8:30 am:**	Lothar Zenkert (d)

Advertiser of the Week

San Miguel Hacienda
Restaurante Tequila
880 Schillinger Rd. S.
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251-633-6122
251-633-6543 (Fax)
www.Sanmiguelrestaurante.com
Happy Hour: Monday – Friday
Food & Drink Specials
Wednesday: Fajita Night
Thursday: Margarita Night
Friday & Saturday: Live Music

PRAYER INTENTIONS POPE FRANCIS

Intention for Evangelization: – Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Sat.	**Reading 1:**	Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
	Gospel:	Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Sun.	**Reading 1:**	Zephaniah 3:14-18a (9C)
	Reading 2:	Philippians 4:4-7
	Gospel:	Luke 3:10-18
Mon.	**Reading 1:**	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a
	Gospel:	Matthew 21:23-27
Tues.	**Reading 1:**	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13
	Gospel:	Matthew 21:28-32
Wed.	**Reading 1:**	Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
	Gospel:	Luke 7:18b-23
Thurs.	**Reading 1:**	Isaiah 54:1-10
	Gospel:	Luke 7:24-30
Fri.	**Reading 1:**	Genesis 49:2, 8-10
	Gospel:	Matthew 1:1-17

MEETINGS OF THE WEEK

Saturday	Christmas Caroling/S'mores (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
Sunday	RE / AE Classes (9:45 a.m.)
Monday	Tai Chi (10:00 a.m.) Jennings Hall
	Line Dancing (6:15 p.m.) Jennings Hall
Tuesday	Men of St. Joseph (6:00 p.m.) Joseph Hall
Wednesday	Adoration (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
	Holy Hour & Novena (6:00 p.m.)
	Benediction (7:00 p.m.)
	Choir (7:00 p.m.)
Thursday	LAFF's (6:30 p.m.) Jennings Hall
Friday	Singing Needles (10:00 a.m.)

LAFF'S & LADIES AUXILIARY

Save the Date for Our Christmas Gathering
Thursday, December 16th Jennings Hall

Social 6:30pm Bingo 7pm ($5)

We are unable to play Dirty Santa this year but will still do a gift exchange. Please keep the gift around $15. The gift exchange is optional. Bring your favorite Holiday snack or dessert to share. Please **RSVP** to Tina or Mary A.

NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PREP classes meet this Sunday, December 12 and then will take a Christmas break. We will return on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year!

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONER:

Jonathan Schuler

SPECIAL COLLECTION this weekend for Retired Religious. Please be generous.

Anticipated Offering Income	**$**	**12,115**
Actual Offering Income	**$**	**15,644**
Anticipated Offering Income to date	**$**	**593,654**
Actual Offering Income to date	**$**	**571,866**
YTD Offering: Over (Under)	**$**	**(21,788)**
Budget Offering Year	**$**	**630,000**
Building Fund this week	**$**	**483**
Building Fund to date	**$**	**8,530**

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On **Dec 12** we will have a class on The Rosary. Classes resume **Jan 9, 2022,** and we will be reading and discussing Dr. Scott Hahn's *The Lamb's Supper* and the study guide for that book. For more information please contact Eileen Rettig at 251-661-8619 or emrettig@aol.com

ANGEL TREE for HOMEBOUND

Please drop off your donations by
Sunday, December 12th
They can be dropped off in the Church Office or placed around the Christmas Tree.

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/ Mary's Shelter for Women. Suggested items are diapers, baby wipes, diaper bags, baby shampoo, baby wash, baby lotion, baby oil, wash clothes, towels, baby clothes (sizes preemie to 3T), infant & toddler picture or story books, and books for new moms.

REVERSE ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

Our Savior Youth is hosting an ADVENT Food Drive to help those in need of a little extra this year. So many people have been affected by loss of jobs and we want to make sure they have a little something during the Christmas Season. We ask that each day you add an item to your box and return it to Our Savior by **December 18th** so we can deliver in time for Christmas. All food items will support our St Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and St James. Please check out this week's Constant Contact for more information. If you would like us to purchase your food basket donation, you can go to online giving and click on Advent Food Drive.

November 28th-box of cereal
November 29th-peanut butter
November 30th-stuffing mix
December 1st-boxed potatoes
December 2nd-mac & cheese
December 3rd-canned fruit
December 4th-canned tomatoes
December 5th-canned tuna
December 6th-dessert mix
December 7th-applesauce
December 8th-canned sweet potatoes
December 9th-cranberry sauce
December 10th-canned beans
December 11th-box of crackers
December 12th-rice
December 13th- oatmeal
December 14th-pasta
December 15th-spaghetti sauce
December 16th- 2 cans of soup
December 17th- 2 cans of veggies

2022 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES will be mailed directly to your home this year. If you do not receive your church envelopes by January 2022, please contact the parish office.

POINSETTIAS may be donated in memory or in honor of a loved one. There will be envelopes on the table in the back of the church for you to write your name, the name of your loved one, and the amount of your donation. Please drop the completed envelope in the collection basket.

"Let us love God, but with the strength of our arms, in the sweat of our brow." — St. Vincent de Paul

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES/EVENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUTH MINISTRY!

Everyone is invited to join us on Saturday, December 11th from 6:30-8pm. We will gather for Christmas Caroling, S'mores & Hot Chocolate around the fire! Christmas Carols will be led by Daniel Driskell. Don't forget to bring a chair and dress warm. We will be set up on the Northside of the activities building and the Hot Chocolate Station will be in Joseph Hall. Please enter from the Northside entrance (old preschool entrance) all other doors will be locked. Please let Ms. Tina know if you can join us.

✚✚✚✚

Thank you to everyone who participated in Finding the Treasure in Christmas, Family Advent Traditions for kids of all ages! Ms. Jan best described our Manger project, and I would like to share it with you. It only gets straw when you do a good deed. The Holy Family travels through the house (kind of a Catholic Elf on the Shelf variation?) and reaches the stable just in time for Christmas morning. ❤️

✚✚✚✚

Santa's Workshop will be open until the weekend of 12/12/21. If you're interested in shopping, please let me know and I'll open it up for you. All proceeds support our youth.

✚✚✚✚

Youth group is open to all youth in the 2nd through 5th grade and their families along with Middle School Youth 6th-8th grade & High School Youth 9th-12th grade. Parents and Youth, if you would like to be added to the email/constant contact list so you can receive updates please send your email to youth@oursaviorparish.org.

KNIGHT'S KORNER

For those that didn't watch the drawing on Tina's live feed, 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 a total of 240 tickets out of the possible 300 we tried to sell. That means we still all had a good chance to win, but most of us didn't.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we did not have our Parish Appreciation Dinner this year. Normally we like to have a dinner at the end of the raffle to thank our parish family and those others that helped us, but we could not this year.

Over the year we used the proceeds from the raffle to fund worthwhile causes. Here is a short list of some of the beneficiaries of your generosity.

- $300 for Rosary rings and Keep Christ in Christmas magnates
- $500 each to three seminarians
- $500 to help with the cost of mailing the Boxes of Joy
- $1000 donation to the church toward dishes
- $1000 to L'ARCH through the "Tootsie Roll" Drive

The winners of the regular drawing were:

$25 – Kelly Piccini
$50 – Liz Russell
$100 – Heide Sarubin

The winner of the big drawing for $1000 was:

Beverly Crews

Thank you for your participation. As you can see, any profits that we received are going to help worthy causes. So, in the end, we are all winners. We will probably start selling tickets soon for next year so keep a look-out.

God Bless you all.
Our Savior Knights of Columbus

ATTENTION MINISTERS: sign-up sheets for the Christmas and New Year's Day Masses are on the table in the back of the church. Thank you for your help.

"A word or a smile is often enough to put fresh life in a despondent soul." —St. Therese of Lisieux