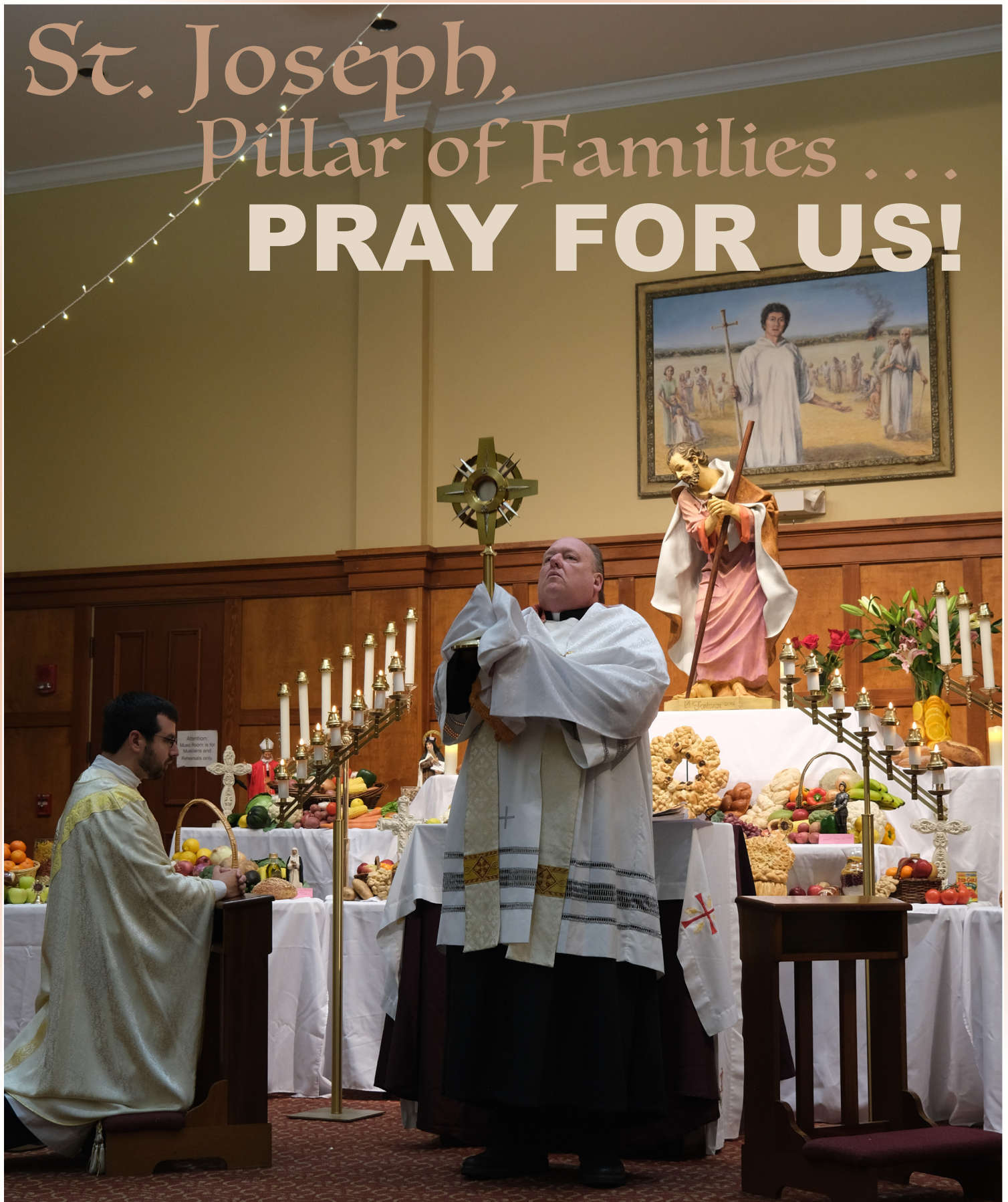


Footnotes

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC PARISH

APRIL 2021

St. Joseph,
Pillar of Families ...
PRAY FOR US!



EASTER IS A TIME OF RENEWAL & GROWTH



Fr. Steve, along with Archbishop Rodi, Fr. Gil and various priests of the Archdiocese of Mobile at the Dedication Mass for the new Rusty Cowles Field House.

by Fr. Steve Williams

We offer prayers of thanks as we begin to celebrate a beautiful Easter Season. We are making preparations to make our Easter Masses safe and joyful, as we were not able to gather last Easter. We thank God for the blessings He showers down on us year after year, particularly that we are able to gather in His presence in celebration of the Resurrection.

We are anticipating large crowds and are very grateful for all those planning to join us at the Sacred Triduum services. We are welcoming many friends and family into the fullness of the faith

at our Easter Vigil Mass. Please keep all those who will be baptized, confirmed and receive their first Holy Communion in your prayers continually.

We also will bless and light a new Pascal Candle at the Vigil. The Pascal candle is used at baptisms and funerals all throughout the year; it represents the "Light of Christ" — just like Christ, the candle is "spent" for our spiritual lives. This year's Pascal Candle is unique in honoring St. Joseph in the Year of St. Joseph, as declared by Pope Francis. Be sure to take a look at the Pascal Candle as well as the altar candles which match it.

MAY 2021
Treasures
Monthly Luncheon
MONDAY | MAY 3RD | 11:30 AM
Monthly Group Trip
New Orleans Cooking School | May 11th
Luncheon will include Roast, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, and dessert.
Tables will be available in the St. Lawrence Room and on the patio. Social distancing will be practiced.

WELCOME
NEW
PARISHIONERS!
DAN & ALTA CRANE
JOHN B. DWYER
DANNY & ANSLEY ENGER
WITH EMILY ANNE
JOHN & SARAH MICHAEL
WITH CHARLOTTE AND EVELYN
"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM MEEK AND HUMBLE OF HEART; AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOURSELVES. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN LIGHT."
-MATTHEW 11:28-30

ROOTED in mercy

a women's lenten retreat



Afton Sylvester opens up the retreat with introductions and prayer.

"The retreat has been amazing. We have met new people and made new friends. I think session three's talk about forgiveness was the best one. When you truly forgive, you become less burdened. You develop a sense of freedom. And I think when you are forgiven, the same thing happens. Forgiveness leads us to grace."

-Babette Authement

Rooted in Mercy: A Women's Retreat Series was a beautiful experience for participants during this Lenten season. Retreatants were able to delve into some of the most beautiful aspects of God's mercy, and how it pertains to our lives. Insight was found through Jacques Phillip's book "Real Mercy", as they explored the depths of mercy through Mary, the gateway of God's mercy; how to be merciful to ourselves and those around us; and how mercy coincides with trust in our Heavenly Father. The retreat core team prays that the fruits of this event will have a lasting impression on retreatants and their families and helps forge a strong community of women in our parish. Be on the lookout for future spiritual opportunities at St. Lawrence!

"During week one, we were asked why we decided to attend this retreat. At the time, I did not have an answer. It was something that I decided to try after it was recommended to me. This retreat has given me the opportunity to explore parts of my faith I wouldn't have sought to explore on my own. I have been able to connect with new people and discuss my thoughts in a safe and welcoming environment. I leave each week with a newfound fire lit inside me and know this is the journey I was meant to take this Lenten season."

-Sarah Christensen



Beth, Kathleen, and their mother Liz participated in the guided Divine Mercy meditative paint activity together.

A TIME TO BE THANKFUL AND GENEROUS

FRUITFUL BOUNTY OF THANKSGIVING AT ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR

The blessing of the St. Joseph Altar was a special experience for our parish during this Lenten season. We were able to gather together as a community of faith before the Blessed Sacrament to celebrate St. Joseph's Feast and to offer our petitions and prayers of thanksgiving for St. Joseph's intercession in our lives. We were so overwhelmed with generous donations of fresh fruits and vegetables from parishioners that we were able to fill 20 baskets of fresh food items and many boxes worth of dried goods. St. Vincent de Paul delivered the baskets of fresh food to needy families in our community, and the canned goods were sent to the food pantry to be handed out during the Easter Season. Thank you all again for your generosity.



St. Vincent de Paul sorted the food on Sunday to distribute all the fresh food and more to the poor.



It is a loved tradition to have breads made in the design of tools from Saint Joseph's toolbox. Thank you Peggy poser for making these beautiful breads for the altar.



The abundance of fresh food and donations from the parish was overwhelming, and we are very grateful.



Joan Cowles and Bev Leffler admired the various relics adorning the St. Joseph Altar.



Miriam and Elijah Sylvester learn about the St. Joseph Altar from their mother.



We were blessed to have first class relics of St. Joan of Arc, St. Matthew, St. Elizabeth and Seton, and many more present on the altar.

EASTER

GOODY BAG PICK UP!

CHILDREN'S GOODY BAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP ON THE ST. LAWRENCE PATIO
After Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday

We pray for our fellow parishioners who have entered into eternal rest:

DON BROWN

BERNARD DOMNING

JOHN GAMMER

GEORGE PRUDHOMME

CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD TO FR. GIL

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARDED FOR CHARACTER, COMMUNITY, KNOWLEDGE, SERVICE AND FAITH



On February 23rd Corpus Christi Catholic School honored Fr. Gil Pierre as their 2021 NCEA Distinguished Graduate. Fr. Gil graduated from Corpus Christi with the Class of 2006. This award is given to an alumni member who has made a significant contribution to the Catholic Church which also reflects on the formation and upbringing at that Catholic Elementary School. The defining tenants of the recipient are character, community, knowledge, service, and faith. We all know Fr. Gil to embody these tenants and to put his vocation and the people of God first. In addition to receiving the award, he celebrated school Mass and visited with many family, friends and teachers afterwards.



ABOVE: Fr. Gil receives his distinguished graduate award from Fr. Zoghby, Kristy Martin, and Fr. Boudreaux.

LEFT: Many of Fr. Gil's family were able to attend, with joy and appreciation for Fr. Gil's contributions to our Catholic community.



PHOTO TOP: Fr. Gil celebrated School Mass at Corpus Christi before receiving the Distinguished Graduate Award.

PHOTO ABOVE: The second grade class lift up their hearts and hands during the Our Father as they attend Mass.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

ABOUT ANNULMENTS?

Lent is a good time to consider what barriers may prevent us from receiving the sacraments of the Church.

Those who have suffered a divorce may feel stranded, lost, afraid or unsure how to proceed. A special invitation is thus extended to learn more about the Church's teaching on marriage, divorce and annulments.

A series of Q&A's has been made available to help take a closer look into the annulment process, clarify misunderstandings and to assist in removing barriers from receiving the Church's sacraments.



visit www.stlawrencefamilyministry.com/annulments or contact Lise Galle at family@stlawrencefairhope.com or 251-517-5294



CATHOLIC YOUTH ON A QUEST

PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT THROUGH RETREAT AT SACRED HEART

Over seventy middle school youth gathered at Sacred Heart to enjoy a beautiful day full of fun, friends, and praise.



The annual QUEST retreat at Sacred Heart chapel was a huge success this year! Students began arriving bright and early on the morning of March 13th, and although the day began with some fog, it turned into a perfectly sunny spring day. Most of the retreat took place outside on the grass, so we could not have asked for better weather.

A large number of students attended this year from both Christ the King and St. Lawrence's Edge programs - 73 in total, ranging from 6th to 8th grade. Upon arrival, they were sorted into small groups of ten and spent the day playing games, listening to talks, and praying as a group. This gave the students the opportunity to get to know other Catholic youth living in Baldwin County and maybe make some new friends! We have several examples in both of our youth ministry programs at St. Lawrence of lifelong friendships that began with a small group on a retreat. We always get excited to see how the Lord works through these new relationships.

The model for QUEST was developed several years ago specifically for middle school youth, and is designed around an acronym that represents a spiritual journey for a young person: Questioning, Understanding, Evangelization, Service, and Trust. Young Catholic adults who are knowledgeable and devout were selected to give a talk inside Sacred Heart, and this year the talks were especially well-received. We hope that the seeds of a lifelong faith were planted in the hearts of the students who listened!

As always, the retreat included Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a special vigil Mass for the students and their families. These are the two most important parts of connecting the content of a retreat with the goal that we all have in mind as Catholics, which is to be holy. Many of the students had never been to Adoration with worship music before, and likewise many of them had never been to Mass on the bay, but everyone who attended seemed to have a positive experience.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this retreat possible. We are very excited to find out what QUEST will be like next year!

In Christ,
Stephen Sylvester





ALTAR SERVER TRAINING
with Fr. Steve

If your son or daughter is a rising 4th grader or older, he or she can become an altar server!

SUNDAY, APRIL 11
AFTER 9AM MASS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO REGISTER
251-928-5931 x 112



DEDICATION OF NEW FIELD HOUSE

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S NEW FIELD HOUSE DEDICATED TO PARISHIONER RUSTY COWLES

On Wednesday, February 24th, Archbishop Rodi was joined by Baldwin County priests to dedicate and bless the new Rusty Cowles Athletic Field House at St. Michael Catholic High School. The Field House is part of a multiphase plan to open full athletic fields and facilities on the St. Michael campus. Archbishop Rodi offered Mass beforehand and then proceeded to lead a blessing and dedication of the facility and equipment.

The field house was named in honor of our very own Rusty Cowles who passed away in 2016. Rusty would have been an incoming freshman at St. Michael next year, a part of the class of 2025. Rusty's family was also present to unveil the plaque honoring him. We will strive to remember Rusty and honor him with our effort, pride and tenacity in the name of God, team and community. Please keep the students, staff and all St. Michael families in your prayers. Go Cardinals!



Top: Joan, Gary, Terri, Margurite and Edward Cowles stand with Fr. Steve and Fr. Gil in front of Rusty's photo in the Field House.

Right: Archbishop Rodi prays in front of the crucifix donated by St. Lawrence, which hangs above a photo of Rusty Cowles.





Archbishop Rodi celebrated Mass with Fr. Steve, Fr. Gil, Msgr. Bill Skoneki and Fr. Napolitano concelebrating.



The new Rusty Cowles Athletic Field House has ample space, locker rooms and excellent equipment to help our student athletes prepare for competition.

ST. MICHAEL'S NEW SOFTBALL TEAM

OUR LOCAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUES TO BE BLESSED WITH EXPANSION AND GROWTH



Fr. Steve was able to participate in another St. Michael milestone as the softball team hosted their first game in program history! We are thrilled that St. Michael has been able to grow and expand their sports programs, course offerings, and facilities throughout its short five year history. Fr. Steve

attended the first game and led the team in a prayer to mark the moment, giving thanks to God for his gifts and blessings. Fr. Steve also delivered the game ball for the first pitch! Please continue to pray for the young people of our Church and community.



CAMPAIGN TO END ABORTION CONTINUES

PEACEFUL PRAYER COMMITMENTS BOTH AT HOME AND ON SIDEWALK OUTSIDE PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Our “Love for Life” was evident at St. Lawrence as parishioners of all ages signed the big hearts in the vestibule to show their commitment to pray for an end to abortion.

One of the main focuses during the campaign is to participate in a peaceful prayer vigil on the sidewalk outside of Planned Parenthood in Mobile. What an inspiring sight to see three generations praying together on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood - Robyn Farrell (mom), Jessica Zdyb (daughter), and Maddie Farrell (granddaughter). It was a beautiful witness to their commitment to life. Many thanks to those who choose to answer this calling.

The generosity of our parishioners is once again amazing! We had a plethora of baby items donated to support two of our pregnancy centers in the area. Women’s Health Center in Spanish Fort and To Be in Robertsdale were thrilled to receive such an outpouring of kindness. Because of your support, the baby shower was a huge success!

A new component was added during this campaign by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) - Walking with Moms in Need. It is a year of service where Catholic parishes and communities “walk in the shoes” of local pregnant and parenting women in need. Learn more at www.walkingwithmoms.com.

Also, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has a website where you can receive legislation alerts. Visit prolife@usccb.org and keep up to date with current issues. Look under the tab “Issues & Actions”. This is a valuable resource.

During the campaign, we were very blessed to be able to participate in an Holy Hour which consisted of Adoration, Confession and spiritual music. Another reminder that our Lord is ever present and available to us.

One of the highlights of the campaign was to take part in the outside Mass that Father Steve offered across the street from Planned Parenthood. This is for the early risers because it begins at 7:15 am. It is a very solemn but uplifting experience, and we are very thankful to Father Steve for always volunteering.

If you are interested in learning more about what we do at St. Lawrence for the Pro-life movement or want to help plan events, please contact Lisa Word at 404-307-1355. We are always looking for new ideas.

Thank you for all who participated in whatever way you could to support our campaign. Our next campaign will be in the Fall. Until then, you can pray on the sidewalk at Planned Parenthood, any day or time.

“Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception. Christ is with you: be not afraid.”
~St. Pope John Paul II



Showing their support of Love for Life, John & Cheryl Korte sign the hearts to pledge they will pray to end abortion.



2021 RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION



St. Lawrence catechumens, candidates, and confirmandi made their way to the Cathedral-Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Downtown Mobile on Sunday, February 28th to participate in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion ceremonies with Archbishop Rodi. This liturgy is a special celebration for all those preparing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion at the Easter Vigil Mass. Please pray for all those who are preparing to enter into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Left: Archbishop Rodi speaks to all who attended about our Catholic Sacraments and the upcoming Easter Vigil.

Thank you to The Catholic Week for Rite of Election photos.

PRAY FOR

ST. LAWRENCE CATECHUMENS, CANDIDATES, & CONFIRMANDI

WE HAVE SMALL PRAYER CARDS AVAILABLE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH THAT FEATURE THOSE ENTERING THE FULLNESS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH THIS EASTER. TAKE ONE OR MORE HOME AND JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THEM!



ST. LAWRENCE CATECHUMENS, CANDIDATES & CONFIRMANDI

- Wanda Herrington
- Gary Herrington
- Pat Williamson
- Lauran Moran
- Deen Bosso
- Brittney Rogers
- Ethan Hunt
- Brittian Cryar
- JaHaven Williams
- David Rogers
- Stephanie Williamson
- Brian Huckle



Brittney Rogers



Deen Bosso



Ellie Guepet



Pat Williamson



David Rogers



Brittian Cryar

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Fairhope, AL 36532

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EASTER SCHEDULE 2021

Thursday, April 1st

LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

7:00 PM

Friday, April 2nd

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 3:00 PM
LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 3rd

CONFESSIONS 12:00 PM
EASTER VIGIL MASS 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 4th

EASTER SUNDAY MASS
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

