



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 27, 2011



Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. — Mark 13:33

Liturgy Intentions for the Week

November 28th - December 4th



BE
CONSTANTLY
ON THE
WATCH!

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- Monday
7:00 PM Intentions of Glenn & Beth Falcao by Father Don
- Tuesday
9:00 AM
- Wednesday
9:00 AM Joseph Marcellino by Jimmie and Terry
- Thursday
No Liturgy
- Friday
9:00 AM
- Saturday
5:30 PM Intentions of Glenn & Beth Falcao by Father Don
- Sunday
9:00 AM Intentions of Julia, Kevin & "Leo" Ganley by Fr. Don and Wojtek

PLEASE NOTE: If you are having a Mass said and would like to bring the gifts up for that Mass, please see an usher before Mass.

Today's Readings

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Readings for the Week

Monday	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday	Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Thursday	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday	First Sunday of Advent
Wednesday	St. Andrew
Friday	First Friday
Saturday	St. Francis Xavier First Saturday

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What righteous deeds would I be able to bring with me if Christ returned this week?

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Happenings for the Week

Monday—November 28

6:30 PM Respect Human Life Rosary
7:30 PM 4th Degree Assembly meeting

Tuesday—November 29

8:30 AM Rosary for Life
9:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration commences

Wednesday—November 30

8:30 AM Rosary Prayer Group
8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration concludes
6:30 PM Catechetical Institute Study

Thursday—December 1

5:00 PM Dinner Theater

First Friday—December 2

8:30 AM Pro Life Rosary
9:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration commences

First Saturday—December 3

8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration concludes
10:00 AM First Reconciliation
5:00 PM Pro Life Rosary
5:00 PM Women's Guild Christmas Boutique

Sunday—December 4

8:30 AM Rosary for Lost Souls
9:00 AM Women's Guild Christmas Boutique
10:00 AM Faith Formation K-5th Grade
11:15 AM Faith Formation 6th Grade-Confirmation

Stewardship

November 12th & 13th: Offertory: \$ 5,588.81
Building Fund: \$ 3,369.00

Sincere thank you to Joan McCrodden and Sheila & Greg Brodnick for their service.

Appreciation and gratitude to all our parishioners and visitors for their generosity to the church.

Food for Families

During the month of December the Knights of Columbus will be assisting the Parish Social Ministry with collection of nonperishable foods for the IOP Food Bank. Our goal is to collect over 2,000 lbs of nonperishable items to support local families after the Christmas Holidays. Donations will be accepted all five weekends in December. Collection boxes are located near the exits of the church. Please support the families in our community by bringing in your donations. The need is greater than ever this year.



Upcoming Meetings

The Knights of Columbus will have their business meeting on December 5th at 7:30 PM, **after** attending the 7:00PM Liturgy.

The next **Parish Council** meeting will be December 12th at 7:30 PM. All are welcome!



The next meeting for the **Women's Guild's** will be December 14th. There will be a Christmas Brunch after the 9:00 AM Mass at a local restaurant, where there will also be a brief meeting. Bring a friend along to share in the fun of this wonderful women's group!

The next **Homeschool** Mass will be December 14th at 9:00 AM. All are welcome!



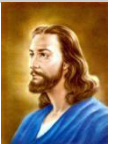
The next 4th Degree Assembly meeting will be held December 19th at 7:30 PM.

Music Ministry News - Anyone 6th grade to adult is invited to join in on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. We happily welcome all who enjoy praising through music.

Please pray for those of our parish and the community who are ill or may be in distress as well as those deceased who may be in need of our prayers. If you would like to submit a name for special prayers, please contact the Prayer Chain **via Terri Speciale at 252.393.6678**. You may also email her at terispeci@yahoo.com. If you would like to be a part of the Parish Prayer Chain, call Terri and she will add your name and phone number to the list.

Eucharistic Adoration

...takes place weekly starting at 9:30am on Tuesday and continuing until 8:30am on Wednesday. All are welcome. Come & spend some quiet time in the Lord's presence. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer or substitute for maintaining the vigil during Adoration, please call Don Keating at 252.393.6106.



In the 1680's Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, "I promise in the excessive mercy of my Heart that My all powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday in nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My displeasure nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in the last moment."

ATTENTION ALL FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS and any making their First Communion this school year! Your child's First Reconciliation will be December 3rd at 10 am. This will be in conjunction with the Parish Advent Reconciliation Service. Please be sure to note this change on your calendar.



Please join us Thursday, December 1st here at St. Mildred Catholic Church, for a Holiday Dinner Theatre, presented by Swansboro Middle School Chorus and Drama Club, with special guests - St. Mildred Choir, Directed by Kristen Viszneki. The event will begin at 5 pm and the show will end by 8 pm. Tickets may be purchased in advance (only, no tickets will be sold at the door, must have ticket to enter) for only \$10. The meal will be an antipasto appetizer, fresh garlic bread, authentic Italian meatballs and red sauce, with a variety of desserts.

Please see Kristen or Francine for tickets, or call 910-326-5589.



The Women's Guild is sponsoring a Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale on Dec. 3rd and 4th after all masses.

We are hoping our St. Mildred's Santa elves that sew, do crafts or bake are busy making things for our Christmas Boutique including items for children to buy. Leave your Christmas Boutique items in the basket at the side door entrance. Baked goods may be delivered on December 2nd, 9:30 - 12:00.

All proceeds will go to our Guild projects: scholarships, vacation bible school, and our bereavement hospitality. Call Andi for more information 252-354-1105.



Christmas YOU are invited to our Annual Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 11th at 4 pm. Sit back and enjoy as our kids and parents of our Faith Formation Program, retell the story of Christmas, sing songs, tell a story or two and make you chuckle! This year our music will be LIVE! Provided by our own St. Mildred Choir. Christmas goodies will be available for a nibble or two!

Best of all...its **FREE!**



ELECTIONS

Four of the eight elected positions on the Parish Council will be open for election. The election will take place on December 10th & 11th. The following people have been nominated:

Chip DePaoli	Mike DiMaria
Joanne Flexer	Susan Gasperson
Bill Graham	Steve Grass
Gary Harrison	Lisa Scudder
Sean Scully	

The biography of each candidate will be on display in the lobby starting November 26th & 27th in order to assist the parishioners in deciding their vote. Ballots will be distributed by the Ushers before each Mass and there will be Ballot boxes in the vestibule to place your vote afterwards. All parishioners will be able to vote for up to four candidates.



Outreach to the Poor by the Diocese of Raleigh

Since January 2010, the Diocese of Raleigh, through the generosity of its parishioners, has contributed over \$1million for disaster relief efforts in North Carolina and across the world.



A very heartfelt thanks is extended to the following individuals for helping with the grounds cleanup on October 29th. They braved the cold and eventual rain to trim hedges, sweep and clean the parking lots, prune and clean up the entrance islands, edge the back sidewalks, wash outside windows and cleanup the area circle with the Virgin Mary and planted flowers.

First - our **WONDERFUL** Confirmation Catechists - Jenna Wilson, Trina Wilson (and the great hot cocoa they brought!), and Jennifer Flahey and 3 Confirmation students - Joe Gould, Helena Cortez and Sean Verhoff.

A special thanks is also extended to parents Linda Gould and Steve Verhoff (who has been trimming the hedges manually!).

Pre Confirmation students Steve Stump and Robert Gasperson and a special thanks to his parents Susan and Robert Gasperson, Sr., and lastly, but not least, Roni and dad Robert Sabisch. A special thanks is extended to our Youth Group for their donation of the pansies that have been planted around St. Mary. You all did such a beautiful job & it certainly shows!



The Women's Guild would like to invite you to our Christmas Brunch at Duck's Restaurant in Swansboro, after the 9:00 Mass on Wednesday, December 14th. The menu selection form is located in an envelope on the Women's Guild bulletin board at the side church entrance. Please leave your form and a check for \$12.

Looking forward to having you join us to celebrate the Christmas season.

YOU'RE INVITED!! To a Christmas Party, Friday, December 16th in the Parish Center. Tickets are \$20/person, sold in advance after all the Masses. Price includes, appetizers, catered dinner, beverages, DJ, and fellowship. Deadline to purchase tickets will be December 11th.



For info contact Dan Shipko at (910) 326-2124 or dan.shipko@gmail.com.

**The Two Feet of Love In Action:
Social Justice and Charitable Works
Foot # 1 Social Justice**

We must address root causes of injustice and change unjust structures. Examples: On average it cost \$25,083/year for a low-income family of four in the U.S. to cover basic housing, utilities, transportation, food, health care, and child care. An adult who works 40 hours a week at minimum wage will make only \$15,080. annually. Children who have access to full-time pre school are much more likely to have higher incomes, education levels, and socioeconomic status and are less likely to abuse drugs, be involved in criminal activities, and lack healthcare-25 years later. Full-time pre school averages \$8,700 annually per child, therefore unaffordable to many low income families.

Foot # 2 Charitable Works

The 2nd foot of love in action
Meet basic needs and aid individuals: We step with the Charitable Works Foot when we work to aid or assist others both locally and globally to meet their immediate short-term needs. Examples include engaging in direct service or providing food, clothing, shelter, or monetary assistance helping those in need.

WASHINGTON MARCH FOR LIFE - The Raleigh Respect Life Group is reserving buses for the Annual March for Life on Monday, January 23, 2012. The cost of the day trip is \$50.00 per person. This year we are offering an overnight trip, one bus will leave for DC on Sunday, January 22 and return on Monday, January 23. Price per person for the overnight trip is \$72.20. Price includes hotel, light breakfast on Monday and round trip bus ticket. (hotel rate is based on 4 occupants/per room). Make your reservation through email address: blk4jimi@gmail.com. To guarantee your seat, reservations and payments are due no later than Monday, December 5, 2011. Reservations after December 5 will be put on a waiting list. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Klein at 815-1369 or Bob Klein at 815-3237.



Please join us for a retreat on March 16th - 18th at Casa Maria Sister Servants of the Eternal Word Convent in Birmingham, Alabama. (departure March 15th)
The topic will be: Prayer in the School of Pope Benedict XVI, presented by Father Roger Landry. The cost for the retreat will be \$160 per person, or \$270 for double occupancy (friends can be considered double occupancy). There will be an additional cost for transportation (vans), which will be determined at the end of January, based on attendee number. Casa Maria is only minutes from EWTN Studios and we do plan on attending Mass on the first day there, as well as visit their wonderful gift store. Check out Casa Maria's website at <http://www.sisterservants.org/index.php>. Casa Maria also has a wonderful gift store, as well as beautiful and peaceful grounds. The first 60 people registered for the retreat (including non-St. Mildred people), will be able to stay at the retreat center, with meals included at no additional cost. Space is limited, so kindly let us know by January 8th, if you are interested. We will also need a \$50 deposit by this date, checks made out to Casa Maria. Please contact Anne Jelinek at 252-764-2351 or Francine Sabisch at 910-326-5589. Casa Maria is the new home of our very own, Sister Victoria. Go to: <http://www.sisterservants.org/content/visitCasaMaria.php> for a video of Casa Maria.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE PRAYERS AT MASS?

At Masses today, Catholic parishes in the United States are for the first time in about forty years using a new English translation of all the prayers. These prayers are found in *The Roman Missal*, the large book that we are accustomed to seeing the priest use at our Eucharistic liturgies. In the early part of this century, the late Blessed Pope John Paul II called for the original Latin Missal (the official prayer book for Mass for the entire Catholic Church worldwide) to be re-translated into the various languages prayed throughout the world. In particular, he and other Church leaders felt that the English translation could be improved. He called for new translations that would be much more like the Latin texts upon which they are based, so that all Catholics throughout the world would become more closely united by praying translations that were closer to the original. The words that we pray at Mass express our beliefs; it is important that the translations capture and express these beliefs clearly. The translation process has come to a culmination now, and today we begin using this new translation at Mass. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Need a Ride

St. Mildred's Women's Guild would like to offer anyone who needs a ride to church

for the celebration of the Liturgy on Saturday evening for the 5:30 PM or Sunday morning for the 9:00 AM. For more information Donna Szeba at 252-725-4486 or sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

With the clocks being turned back soon, it maybe too dark for some to drive to Mass at 5:30 and some may need a little help to go to the earlier Mass at 9:00 AM.

Fetal Development of "Jacob" - Week 35

Jacob's immune system is really beefing up. Jacob will be ready to fight infections and illnesses right after birth. The amniotic fluid has reached its peak so Jacob has lots of padding. Jacob's skull is pliable and soft, ready for delivery. *I'm going to decide when I will be born.* Mom feels she has to go to the restroom frequently – the pressure is on. *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation...all things were created through him and for him."* (Colossians 1:15-16)

Go GREEN. . . Read this online at stmildred.info

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Long ago in northern Europe, the growing dark and winter weather in Advent forced people to remove the wheels from their carts and replace them with snow runners. The wheels were hung high in the rafters of the house, fitted out with lanterns, and wound tightly with evergreen boughs. The first wreaths were windows into heaven, a source of light, a comforting sign of the victory of the light of Christ over our world's dark wildernesses, its mountainous obstacles, its valleys of need.

The Advent wreath started in the home, and only later appeared in church. Its four candles represent the four Sundays of our journey: typically three purple, one rose. Why not set a wreath in your own home as a place for Advent prayer? Don't let a shortage of purple candles discourage you: some use a deep blue, others have white candles and weave blue and purple flowers, seashells, and pine cones into the green. When the sun sets tonight, light a single candle, sing a verse of a well-loved Advent hymn, and name a mountain to be leveled, a valley to be filled. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

The Catholic Poland - 12 day Tour (May 10-21, 2012)

will be directed by our Pastoral Associate, Wojciech. Join us for a wonderful experience of the Catholic culture of Poland and visit places of great religious and historical significance. Please contact Wojciech at: 910-340-2300 for more information.

MARK'S JESUS

Mark's Gospel is the shortest and tersest of all four. The discourses of Jesus tend to be terser as well. Mark's portrayal of Jesus has none of the poetry of the Sermon on the Mount or the Sermon on the Plain as in Matthew or Luke, nor the extensive, reflective "I Am" discourses as in John. Mark's Jesus "cuts to the chase," we would say today. This is reflected quite well in today's passage.

It is no accident that the dialogue of Jesus at this point in the Gospel according to Mark—the concluding words about the end of the world—immediately before his passion, is riddled with exclamation points and an overall sense of urgency.

We would do well to re-tool our own way of living this Advent, for we live in a world urgently in need of hearing the message of Jesus proclaimed. It's time for us to "wake up!" and get out into the world to do

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