



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 11, 2011



Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Liturgy Intentions for the Week

December 12th - December 18th

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- Monday
7:00 PM Charles Ficke by Bob & Joan Knobel
- Tuesday
9:00 AM Charles Ficke by the Knights of Columbus
- Wednesday
9:00 AM Msgr Keaney by the Knights of Columbus
- Thursday
No Liturgy
- Friday
9:00 AM Ray Craig by George & June Ritchie
- Saturday
5:30 PM Kathleen Oehl by Mike & Janet Oehl
- Sunday
9:00 AM Frank Bennett by his wife & family

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 — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

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 | Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712 |
| Tuesday | Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32 |
| Wednesday | Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23 |
| Thursday | Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30 |
| Friday | Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36 |
| Saturday | Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17 |
| Sunday | 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38 |

| Saints and Special Observances | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunday | Third Sunday of Advent |
| Monday | Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| Tuesday | St. Lucy |
| Wednesday | St. John of the Cross |

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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:

How am I faithfully awaiting the Lord's Nativity?

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Happenings for the Week

Monday—December 12

6:30 PM Respect Human Life Rosary

7:30 PM Parish Council meeting

Tuesday—December 13

8:30 AM Rosary for Life

9:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration commences

Wednesday—December 14

8:30 AM Rosary Prayer Group

8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration concludes

9:00 AM Women's Guild meeting & Brunch

Thursday—December 15

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday—December 16

8:30 AM Pro Life Rosary

Saturday—December 17

5:00 PM Pro Life Rosary

Sunday—December 18

8:30 AM Rosary for Lost Souls

10:00 AM St. Mildred Choir Concert and Brunch

Stewardship

November 26th & 27th: Offertory: \$ 5,087.25

Building Fund: \$ 637.00

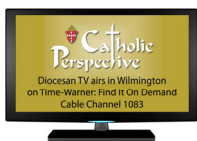
LaSalette Seminary Fund: \$ 1,700.81

Sincere thank you to Beth Wootten, Fred Lahey and Janet DiPaoli for their service.

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

INWARD PEACE

Acquire inward peace, and a multitude around you will find their salvation. —St. Seraphim



Catholic Perspective, the weekly Diocesan TV program airs on the Time-Warner Find It on Demand Channel, 1083 in Craven, New Hano-

ver, Brunswick, Onslow and Pender Counties, allowing viewers to watch at any time during the week. The program is also available on the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofraleigh.org.



Upcoming Meetings

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 **Home-school Mass** will be December 21st at 9:00 AM. All are invited to join us. Our home-school children will provide short presentations exhibiting some of their studies during or immediately following the Mass.



The 4th Degree Assembly **will not** hold a meeting during December. The next meeting for the Assembly is January 16th after the 6:30 PM Rosary and followed by the 7:00 PM Mass.

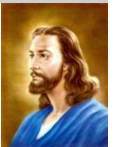
The Knights of Columbus will have their business meeting on January 2nd at 7:30 PM, **after** attending the 7:00PM Liturgy.

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.

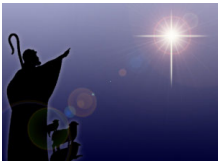
Please pray for those of our parish and the community who are ill or may be in distress as well as those deceased who may be in need of our prayers. If you would like to submit a name for special prayers, please contact the Prayer Chain **via Terri Speciale at 252.393.6678**. You may also email her at 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.



YOU are invited to our Annual Christmas Pageant, **TODAY**, 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!**



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 is **TODAY**, December 11th.



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

Thank You!

The Knights of Columbus Council #7024 would like to thank **ALL** who contributed to the successful Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mildred. A special thank you goes to the Hem of His Garment for their generous donation, to Del Monte foods for their donation and to **ALL** who worked to make this dinner a success!

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.



ELECTIONS

Four of the eight elected positions on the Parish Council will be open for election. The election will take place, **TODAY**, 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 are on display in the lobby 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.



Join us for the Sounds of Christmas - Music and Brunch, December 18th - immediately following the 9 am Mass. We will first enjoy the beautiful music of our Choir, who have all been practicing a great deal, and then enjoy a sit down brunch. If you are able, you are kindly requested to bring a brunch dish to share - muffins, quiche, donuts, your choice! Please just drop them off in the kitchen prior to Mass. THANKS SO MUCH! We hope to see you all there!



WATCH SPECIAL EWTN CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING!

Join ETWN Global Catholic Network in celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. ETWN is proud to bring you LIVE Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, DC as well as inspiring musical performances, animated features, specials for children and teens, and new holiday presentations the whole family will enjoy. Check your local listings for times and channels.



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.

Msgr. James P. Keaney was pastor at St. Mildred from 1980-1986. This was left out of the story in the NC Catholics magazine. He was also chaplain of the K of C here and in Raleigh when Pat was Grand Knight at St. Raphael's. When he left Raleigh the Council gave him a fishing rod plus supplies because of his love of fishing. He was a wonderful man and several of our parishioners, including myself, traveled north for his 50th Anniversary as a priest.

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.



Outreach to the Poor by the Diocese of Raleigh

Through the regular national Church collections taken in parishes in the Diocese of Raleigh, the Diocese annually provides over \$250,000 for Operation Rice Bowl (which provides funding for anti-hunger projects internationally and which is also used for local anti-poverty programs in North Carolina), Catholic Relief Services (the international relief organization of the US Bishops), and the Catholic Campaign For Human Development (the domestic anti-poverty program of the US Bishops), over \$200,000 for the Retirement Fund for Religious (which provides care in retirement for those in religious orders who have ministered in the Church), and over \$725,000 for nine other collections for local, national, and international Church causes.



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.



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: blk4jmi@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.



The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Is Jesus the Shepherd in our marriage? Do we know what He asks of us in our Sacrament of Marriage? The next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends** are Feb 3-5, 2012 in Charlotte, NC and Apr 27-29, 2012 in Greensboro, NC. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: <http://NCMarriageDiscovery.org> or contact William & Elizabeth Nickles at applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org or 704-469-3866.

PROPER UNDERTAKING

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.

—Georg C. Lichtenberg

Fetal Development of "Jacob" - Week 37

Jacob is absorbing about a gallon of amniotic fluid per day. He is now receiving valuable antibodies from Mom to fight off infections. Fat is deposited in Jacob's cheeks this week, and the muscles that help Jacob such as helping to fill Jacob's little face. Jacob is about 6 pounds and over 20 inches in length. *I'm a little plump, but I'm ready for my first picture.* Mom is probably seeing the doctor every week and should take a Group B Strep test. *"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God."* (Romans 15:7)

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

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today there is an abrupt shift in the season of Advent. From here on the tone is more joyful and expectant and the tug of the Christmas message is irresistible. At daily Mass tomorrow we begin to unfold the story of Jesus' birth. Who can resist the beauty of the first reading today—deserts aflame with flowers, arthritics set to dancing, the tone-deaf singing hymns? So we don't miss the change, the parish may take rose-colored vestments out of mothballs, we may light rose-colored candles on the wreath, or fill in our wreaths with desert flowers, pink seashells, seed pods, cones and berries. The seeds of God's kingdom have been sown in us. In these shining days of Advent they are sprouting in many ways. How do we bring the promise to light? This is the week to prepare gifts for the poor. It is the week to invite a lonely neighbor to your Christmas dinner, the week to write a note forgiving a lost friend, the week to shatter a family grudge so that even in the desert places of your heart, Christ's life may blossom.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



JOHN THE BAPTIST

At a school open house a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. "Oh, Bill, I'd like you to meet Johnny's father. And over here, this is Marie's mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen's soccer team."

With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: "I'm Ellen's Dad."

It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles.

John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen.

John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.

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P A R I S H D I R E C T O R Y

Accountants
Diane Scarborough
(910)326-5589

Altar Server Trainers
David & Carol Cafrelli
(252)354-2101

Bereavement Hospitality
Joan Knobel. .(252) 393-8101
O'Celia Riley. .(252) 393-7998
Phyllis Nastasi.(252) 393-2135

Bulletin Editor
Vicky Stump...(910) 325-3638
Email: smbuletin@centurylink.net
Bulletin Advertising
J.S. Paluch Co. Inc: 1-800-432-3240

Parish Outreach Ministries
Dolph Bomba. . .(252) 354-2762
Dorothy Bernard..(252) 354-9223

Cemeteries
Evelyn McLoughlin
(252) 354-4852

Eucharistic Adoration
Don Keating
(252) 393-6106

Funeral Planning
Rosemary Boutwell. . .(910) 326-4788
Sophie Martin.(252) 354-5260

Grounds
Knights of
Columbus

Helping Hands
Carolyn Peduzzi. .(910) 326-7502
Cherie Shell.(252) 764-3011

Hispanic Ministry
Jilma Reilly
(252) 393-7650

Knights of Columbus
Wayne Crump. . .(910) 787-2769

**Faith Formation (CCD) &
Altar Server Scheduling**
Francine Sabisch. . .(910) 326-5589
Email: stmildrededu@embarqmail.com

Liturgy Committee & Lay Ministry Scheduling
Margaret Hughes. . .(910) 326-1616
Email: mahughes@embarqmail.com

Music
Kristen Viszneki. .(252) 354-3429
Fred Smith.(910) 346-9787
Elaine Keating. . .(252) 393-6106
Laura LeBlanc. . .(910) 326-4480

Maintenance
George Turner
(910) 326-4203

Outside Publicity
Kathy Mueller. . .(910) 325-1394
Email: jkmueller888@earthlink.net

**Parish Records/
Webmaster**
John Laursen
(910) 326-1742

Prayer Chain
Terri Speciale. . .(252) 393-6678
terispeci@yahoo.com

Pro-Life
Janet Oehl
(252) 764-2797

Welcoming
Dorothy Bernard
(252) 354-9223

Women's Guild
Donna Szeba. . .(252) 725-4486
Donna@swansboroportrealty.com

Youth & Adult Choir
Kristen Viszneki
(910) 326-5589

Youth Ministries
Vicky Stump. . . (910) 325-3638
Email: youthgroup@centurylink.net