



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2011



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. — Mark 1:3

Liturgy Intentions for the Week December 5th - December 11th

Monday

7:00 PM J. J. Clarkin by Bob & Joan Knobel

Tuesday

9:00 AM John Bruno by his wife & family

Wednesday

9:00 AM Elizabeth Jean Harrison by Dee-Dee

Thursday

9:00 AM John & Mary Matza by Fr. Don

7:00 PM Intentions of Jeremy & Michelle Baran by Fr. Don

Friday

9:00 AM Pauline McGavisk by her family

Saturday

5:30 PM Pauline McGavisk by her family

Sunday

9:00 AM Intentions of Glenn & Beth Falcao by Father Don



John the Baptist
appeared in
the desert

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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 — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

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 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday	Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Friday	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent
Tuesday	St. Nicholas
Wednesday	St. Ambrose
Thursday	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday	St. Juan Diego

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What earthly undertakings do I need to set aside so that I can set out to meet God's Son?



Happenings for the Week

Monday—December 5

6:30 PM Respect Human Life Rosary
7:30 PM Knights of Columbus business meeting

Tuesday—December 6

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

Wednesday—December 7

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

Thursday—December 8

9:00 AM Mass
7:00 PM Mass

Friday—December 9

8:30 AM Pro Life Rosary

Saturday—December 10

5:00 PM Pro Life Rosary

Sunday—December 11

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
4:00 PM Christmas Pageant

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

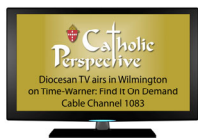
I am the Immaculate Conception. —Words of Our Lady to St. Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, 1858

Stewardship

November 19th & 20th: Offertory: \$ 5,627.75
Building Fund: \$ 779.00
Campaign for Human Development: \$1,665.00

Sincere thank you to Mary & Hans Van Welzen and Thora Keating for their service.

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



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 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 **Home-school Mass** will be December 14th 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.



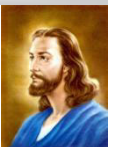
The 4th Degree Assembly **will not** hold a meeting during December. The next meeting for the Assembly is January 16th after the 6:30 PM Rosary and followed by the 7:00 PM Mass.

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.

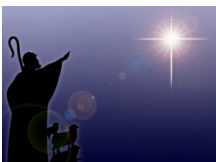
Eucharistic Adoration

...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.





The Women's Guild is sponsoring a Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale, **TODAY** after all masses. Stop by, browse and support these terrific women and all their ministries! All proceeds will go to our Guild projects: scholarships, vacation bible school, and our bereavement hospitality.



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!**



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.

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!



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.

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.



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!



Outreach to the Poor by the Diocese of Raleigh

In late 2009, through a gift to the Diocese that the Bishop designated for support for those impacted by the downturn in the economy, over \$190,000 was distributed for parishioners to provide assistance with rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, and transportation for those who were unemployed.

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.

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.



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.

Parish Social Ministry

What can St. Mildred do for its Parishioners? Info is available in the pamphlet rack located next to the Religious Education bulletin board. If you need more info please call the church office at 326-5589.

The Mission of St. Mildred Parish Social Ministry is to assist the parish community in exercising charity to others. The Church acts in the parish community to heighten awareness of our parishioners to the issues of the needy & provides services to fulfill unmet needs. The parish social outreach ministry services people through advocating for social & economic justice as well as addressing immediate needs with emergency resources or direct services.



Helping Hands, which is part of the Parish

Social Ministry, has a dedicated group of volunteers who are ready, willing & able to assist in numerous ways. Perhaps you need a ride to the doctor's, or maybe you know of someone who would benefit from a friendly chat. If you have recently had a setback in your health or been hospitalized please call & let us see if we can help make things a little easier.



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.

Fetal Development of "Jacob" - Week 36

Jacob weighs about 5 ½ pounds now. Jacob is really putting on baby fat, which will help keep him warm after birth. *I'm still eating leftovers from Thanksgiving.* The lungs are almost complete. You may be able to see Jacob's body parts as the uterine wall gets thinner – feet, head, and hands. Mom is looking for a pediatrician to examine the baby after birth. She's getting ready in case Jacob is ready.

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

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

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

From outer space, the United States must seem peculiarly aglow these nights: we have strung lights on every tree within reach. Sometimes, even tieltacks and earrings twinkle with "microlights." Clearly, something is afoot: there is a deep-down yearning for the world to change. Yet, John the Baptist would probably be unplugging most of these lights if he had the chance. In today's Gospel he turns people away from his baptism of repentance. "Give some evidence that you mean to reform!" he cries.

What meaning do our holiday lights convey for you? In the deep and dark countryside, a single candle glowing in a window can be seen for miles. It signals welcome and readiness; it is a beacon guiding strangers to the door, a token of a warm hearth, a loving embrace, a sign that those who have placed the candle are awake and waiting. This year, set the timers aside, and each night as you light the candles in your windows, pray: "May Christ find an eager welcome here. May this household be filled with the light of his word." One candle at a time, our faith community can reclaim the meaning of the lights of Advent hope. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles that one has overcome while trying to succeed.

—Booker T. Washington

GOD'S DELAY

In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?"

And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving *everyone* the chance to seek repentance.

God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "straight highway" for them across the desert.

We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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