

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Parish of Lumberton, NC

2000 Elizabethtown Rd [PO Box 2249]
Lumberton, NC 28358

Tel: 910 – 739 – 4723 Email: office@stfrancisdesalescatholic.org
Fax: 910 – 739 – 5543 Website: www.stfrancisdesalescatholic.org

Readings & Masses for the Week

Saturday (December 23)

Fourth of Advent

MASS 5:00 PM (+William Whitaker)
MISA 7:00 PM (+Incencio Sanchez Ramirez)

1st 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29
2nd Rom 16:25-27 ****Lk** 1:26-38

Sunday (December 24)

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Mass 5:00 PM (+Margaret Richardson)
Misa 7:00 PM: (+Juan Jorge Garcia)

1st Is 9:1-6 **Ps** 96:1-3, 11-13
2nd Ti 2:11-14 ****Lk** 2:1-14

Monday (December 25)

CHRISTMAS DAY

MASS 9:30 AM (+Doris Whitaker)
MISA 11:30 AM (+Maria de Jesus Vail)

1st Is 52:7-10 **Ps** 98:1-6
2nd Heb 1:1-6 ****Jn** 1:1-18

Tuesday (December 26)

St Stephen – first martyr; Patron Saint of deacons & stonemasons

1st Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 **Ps** 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17
****Mt** 10:17-22

Wednesday (December 27)

St John – apostle & evangelist; Patron Saint of MANY different subjects, including Builders, Tailors, Printers, Baptism, Conversion to faith, friendship, loyalty...

12:00 pm (+Anna Galloway)
1st 1 Jn 1:1-4 **Ps** 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 ****Jn** 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday (December 28)

The Holy Innocents – martyrs; the children that were killed by King Herod

12:00 pm (+Alfred & Irmgard Saremba)
1st 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 **Ps** 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 ****Mt** 2:13-18

Friday (December 29)

St Thomas Becket – martyr; Patron Saint of secular clergy, England, lawyers, the Priesthood

12:00 pm (+Pedro Aguilar Sanchez)
1st 1 Jn 2:3-11 **Ps** 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 ****Lk** 2:22-35

Saturday (December 30)

Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity

1st 1 Jn 2:12-17 **Ps** 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 ****Lk** 2:36-40



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Office Hours (horarios del oficina)

Bilingual Hours in Blue (Horas bilingües en azul)

Monday (Lunes): CLOSED

Tuesday (Martes): 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Wednesday (Miércoles): TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Thursday (Jueves): 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Friday (Viernes): 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MASS TIMES (HORARIOS DE MISA)

**Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (miercoles, jueves
y viernes): 12:00 PM**

Saturday (sábado): 5:00 PM [English]

**Sunday (domingo): 9:30 AM [English]
7:30 AM y 11:30 AM [Español]**

**Please call the office for Sacraments & Social Hall
Rentals, as they are by appointment ONLY.**

**Llame a la oficina de Sacramentos y Renta de Salón
Social, ya que son SOLO con cita previa.**

CONFESSION (CONFESIÓN)

Confession is every **Saturday** from **3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**,
or by appointment with the Priest.

****We cannot guarantee the Sacrament of
Reconciliation if you do not have an appointment.****

**La confesión es todos los sábados de 3:00 PM a 4:30
PM, o con cita previa con el sacerdote.**

****No podemos garantizar el Sacramento de la
Reconciliación si no tienes cita previa.****

Sunday's Reflection

We have just heard the angel Gabriel announce God's plan for the salvation of his people. It's a story that is very familiar to all of us. Sometimes that makes it difficult to

hear the wonder of it. Through Gabriel, God is asking a young woman to consent to be the mother of the Son of God who wanted to come among us and share our human nature.

The fulfillment of God's plan of salvation hangs on her response. With great humility, Mary says "May it be done to me according to your word." Now the history of God's love for his people can culminate in the Incarnation – Jesus becomes human like us.

The story in today's gospel also offers us an opportunity to reflect on how we choose to respond to the unexpected happenings in our life. Some of us find ourselves carrying a burden of suffering that isn't light, or we must look on helplessly while someone we love suffers, or we have become very dependent on others for things we want to do. Some of us may find ourselves saying: "Lord, why me? What did I do to deserve this?"

Perhaps we can learn something from Mary's response to the angel's unexpected message. She asked a humble and honest question. She asked Gabriel to help her to understand what God was doing. "Lord, help me to understand what you want of me right now."

It's interesting to note that Gabriel's response didn't really give her a clear and detailed answer to her question. Gabriel's response called Mary to have faith in God and trust in God's provident goodness. Because Mary trusted God's love for his people and for her, she was able to trust Gabriel's words to her in humble faith. She offered herself in humble obedience to all that God would choose to do with her: "May it be done to me according to your word."

Even if we humbly ask God to help us understand how he is working in us, we may not get a clear and detailed answer to our question. Whatever answer we do get will call us to trust in God's love for us. We will hear God tell us: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; trust me."

May each of us have the faith and courage to respond to God as Mary did: "May it be done to me according to your word."

www.oblates.org/sundays-salesian



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Reflexión Semanal

En Dios los Ama, Como Vivir el Evangelio por San Francisco de Sales, el autor Eunan McDonnell, SDB, nos dice "...Jesús elogia a los pobres de espíritu. El recomienda que adoptemos una actitud similar a la de los niños cuando nos dirigimos a Dios, nuestro Padre, y que abramos nuestro corazón al recibimiento de la fe. Lo que necesitamos es ser simples como los niños, ya que ellos saben decir que 'sí'. Esta es la actitud adoptada por María y reflejada en su respuesta al ángel cuando le dice 'Hágase en mí según tu palabra'. De esta forma ella demuestra que su vida se basa en la premisa 'no pidas nada y no te niegues a nada'. Ella está dispuesta a recibir lo que Dios desea darle, su amor". (paginas. 130-131)

Son palabras que suenan simples, pero ese "sí" dicho de forma casi infantil por María no es nada simple. Es un llamado para ella, y para cada uno de nosotros a que adoptemos a María como nuestro modelo a seguir. Para que confiemos por encima de cualquier cosa en el amor y la misericordia de nuestro Padre. Es un sí que nos invita a reflexionar y a interiorizar 'en lo profundo de nuestro corazón' esa verdad que ya conocemos, que Dios verdaderamente nos ama y que desea que abramos nuestro corazón para llenarlo con su amor. Como requerimiento para abrir nuestro corazón, debemos antes despojarnos, dejar atrás todo aquello que ya ocupa un lugar en nosotros y así dejar el campo abierto a la presencia de Dios. McDonnell escribe: "Lo que se requiere es un despojo total, y este es posible a través de los anawim a quienes María pertenece. Una dependencia total y absoluta en Dios. Un corazón limpio, despojado de todo lo innecesario para que así Dios pueda regarlo y cultivarlo con su abundancia. María, y todos aquellos que logran seguir su ejemplo y despojarse de todo, jamás impondrán barreras a la generosidad de Dios quien ama dar a los demás. Siendo pobre de espíritu, ella ofrece un espacio vacío, un espacio preparado para que pueda ser habitado por Dios". (Ibid)

Es en estas cosas que hallamos el sentido del Adviento, de este tiempo donde esperamos pacientemente y con la mente y el Corazón abiertos la palabra de Dios y a que esta "se haga en nosotros". Francisco de Sales se refiere a María, como "la estrella al amanecer que nos trae las buenas nuevas del adviento del verdadero sol". (Oeuvres IX:5)

María vive en su adviento. Nosotros esperamos con María.

www.oblates.org/sundays-salesian-spanish

Christmas Play & Carols

We invite everyone to join us on December 24th, at 4:00 PM, for our annual Christmas Play and Carols. This year it will be held in the Social Hall and has been organized, written, AND directed by 17-year old SFDS parishioner Jose Ortiz Rojas. The children of our Church have been meeting for several weeks and working hard in

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preparation for this event. Please come support our youth, as they are the future of our Church!

Important Upcoming Mass Times

Christmas Night Mass

- Sunday, December 24th, 2023
 - 5:00 PM – English
 - 8:30 PM – Spanish

Christmas Day Mass

- Monday, December 25th, 2023
 - 9:30 AM – English
 - 11:30 AM – Spanish

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- Saturday, December 30th, 2023
 - 5:00 PM – English
- Sunday, December 31st, 2023
 - 7:30 AM – Spanish
 - 9:30 AM – English
 - 11:30 AM – Spanish

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

- January 1st, 2024
 - 9:30 AM – Bilingual

This bilingual Mass will close with Adoration.
Esta Misa bilingüe cerrará con Adoración

PARISH FINANCIAL RECORD:

Third Sunday of Advent

(December 17 - 23, 2023)

1st Collection:	\$ 4904.00
2nd Collection:	\$ 724.00
Total	\$ 5628.00
[Last Year:	\$ 4,337.00]

Our Lady of Guadalupe

1st Collection:	\$ 1,144.00
2nd Collection:	\$ 250.00
Total:	\$ 1,394.00
[Last Year:	\$ 1,867.15]

We thank you all for your contributions. Please, remember to send your offertory envelope weekly or monthly or give online. Les agradecemos a todos por sus contribuciones. Por favor, recuerde enviar su sobre de ofertorio semanal o mensualmente o dar en línea

<http://www.stfrancisdesalescatholic.org/online-giving.html>

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FIFTH ANNUAL



ESSAY CONTEST

Our Parish has been invited to participate in "Christ Is Alive! National Essay Contest". The contest is open to children in grades 3 through 8 who are enrolled in a Catholic school or in a parish religious education program (like Faith Formation). Two winners will be selected in each grade from across the United States.

This year's topic: **Describe a moment when you felt close to God in the past year.**

(For example, it could have been when you were praying, on a retreat or at Mass. Or it could have been in an answer to one of your prayers, on in the mercy or kindness of someone you know.

God is at work in the world all the time. He is close to his people in their daily lives, in all their joys and sorrows. He comforts us, heals us and helps us. That's the good news: God is with us! For this essay, think of a time when you felt God was with you and write about it.)

If you would like to download the information packet, list of rules, or read previous winners' entries, visit www.comcenter.com/christisalive. The Parish office will be happy to print the information if needed. **GOOD LUCK!!!**



For the month of December, so far we have collected **99 lbs** of nonperishable items. All items were brought to the Christian Care Center right here in Lumberton, to help those in our local area who are less fortunate. **Thank you all** for your support and generosity! As a reminder, there are Donation Boxes by the main entrance of the Church, and in the Gift Shop.



MINISTERIO SOCIAL

Para el mes de diciembre hasta el momento hemos recolectado **99 libras** de artículos no perecederos. Todos los artículos fueron llevados al Christian Care Center aquí en Lumberton, para ayudar a aquellos en nuestra área local que son menos afortunados. ¡Gracias a todos por su apoyo y generosidad! Como recordatorio, hay cajas de donaciones junto a la entrada principal de la Iglesia y en la tienda de regalos.

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to everyone celebrating their birthday this week! (¡Feliz cumpleaños a todos ustedes que celebran sus cumpleaños esta semana!)

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Jim Riddell, Concepcion Roblero Montiel, Alma J. Britt Stanton, Mary Hammonds, Nayeli Perez-Sanchez, Kim Powers, Renee Rossi, David Sozanski, Sonia Loreno, Marie Franchesca Bragais, Michael Beeler, Anadelay Alegria, Layna Bass, Maria Rocio Gabriel-Regino



Prayer Requests

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners (Se solicitan sus oraciones para la siguiente lista de feligreses):

Tony Blackwell, David & Rhonda Martin, Sandra Rodríguez, Noelia Powell, Dr. Jerry Devine, Renete Cortez, Lupita Flores Castellano, Fabien, Janet Hester, Mitchell Pittman, Joseph & Shelby Young, The Brown Family (Erin, Adam, Marion, Delano), Cathy Cartrette, Doris Schneider, Antonio Lorenzo, Gloria Lucente, Family of Juanita Chavis, Doris Warwick, Carol Walters, Carolyn Wilkerson, Fred Dana, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, the Cáceres family, Antonio, Michelle White, Joan Van Huesen Jean Johnson, Family of Jim & Marie Davis (Anne Brunet, Amber Lewis), Eileen Sampson, Carey Hunt, Lenwood Rich, Amanda & Mark Buxton, Joel Rivera

Sick and Homebound:

Victor & Claire Dorais, Robert Barnhill, Robin Barnhill, Richard Geibert, Lydia Yarborough, Carolyn & Richard Onorato, Howard & Nellie Canady, Josette Terry, Gladys Ortiz, Peggy Malinsky, Lorraine Sinclair, Tom Jacoby, Jan Henderson, Cara Hunt, Betty Potter, Elisabeth Oxendine

Nursing Homes:

Wesley Pines - Mary Hammonds, Therese Morel

Recently Deceased: +Judy Whritenour

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CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of RALEIGH

Leading & Loving

St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Parish in Raleigh will host Family Honor's truly unique program, Leading & Loving, for parents of young children, newborn through 5th grade. Parents will be empowered to be strong role models in teaching their children the answers to life's most important questions, like "Who am I?" and "What is my life for?" We will discuss ideas on being a good role model, look at how the virtue of chastity is developed in our children, and help parents answer some of their children's challenging questions – all while cultivating Catholic virtues and values. Leading & Loving will be presented on three consecutive Sundays (January 7th, 14th and 21st) from noon to 2 pm. Registration is \$15 per person. Lunch and childcare is included. Space is limited so register online now at www.signupgenius.com/go/LeadingLoving. Questions? Contact Mary Beth Phillips at fhraleigh@gmail.com.

14th Annual Catholic Men's Conference of the Carolinas

The Catholic Men's Conference of the Carolinas, which has been a staple to Catholic men of the Carolinas, is now moving into its fourteenth year of conferences with its next event scheduled for February 10, 2024, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 1400 Suther Rd, Charlotte, NC 28213. For the first time in its history, Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama from the Diocese of Raleigh will be present to celebrate Mass, with keynote speaker Jesse Romero along with a great line up of others. Tickets are on sale now at www.catholicmenofthecarolinas.org. Cost: \$40 General Admission; \$35 Knights of Columbus; \$20 Virtual.

Abortion healing retreat

Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat

January 5-7, 2024

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat January 5-7, 2024, in the Raleigh area. The weekend retreat is strictly confidential, for both women and men and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. For more information or to register for the retreat, contact Project Rachel at:

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project.rachel@raldioc.org or call (919) 852-1021. The website is: rachelinc.org. Cost is \$200 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Discount of \$50 for early registration. If there is a financial burden, assistance is available.



Annual Celebration of the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

You are invited to the diocesan celebration of the annual Mass commemorating the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., promoting justice for social issues. The event is open to the public.

Date: Jan. 15, 2024

Time: 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, 715 Nazareth St., Raleigh NC 27606

"LIVING THE DREAM: IT STARTS WITH ME – SPREADING HOPE, COURAGE AND UNITY!"

Celebrant: Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama

Homilist: Reverend Roy A. Lee, Ph. D., Archdiocese of Atlanta

Please bring disposable diapers, in the original, unopened packaging, for the service project benefitting Catholic Charities.



Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy, and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based and Catholic but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. For more information about our upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program in Raleigh on March 8-10, 2024: email retrouvail Raleigh@gmail.com, call 567-225-6115, or visit <http://bit.ly/41sFcW6> or helpourmarriage.org.

