



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT TERCER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

AT

ST FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC PARISH OF LUMBERTON, NC

Sunday (December 17)

SATURDAY EVENING AT 5:00 PM: (+Nancy Walsh)

Misa 7:30 AM (+Gustavo Regino)

Mass 9:30 AM (+Diane Smith)

Misa 11:30 AM: (+Olegario Regino Trinidad)

1st Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

Ps Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

2nd 1 Thes 5:16-24

****** Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday (December 18)

Advent Weekday

Jer 23:5-8

Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19

****** Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday (December 19)

Advent Weekday

PENANCE SERVICE: 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Jud 13:2-7, 24-25a

Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17

****** Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday (December 20)

Advent Weekday

12:00 pm (+Augustine Venditti)

Is 7:10-14

Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

****** Lk 1:26-38

Thursday (December 21)

St Peter Canisius – priest & doctor of the Church; Patron Saint of the Catholic Press

12:00 pm (+Cileen A. Smith)

Zeph 3:14-18a

Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21

****** Lk 1:39-45

Friday (December 22)

Advent Weekday

12:00 pm- (+Mike Wadrose)

1 Sam 1:24-28

Ps 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd

****** Lk 1:46-56

Saturday (December 23)

St John of Kanty – priest; Patron Saint of Poland and Lithuania

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11

Ps 80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19

****** Mt 17:9a, 10-13

December 17 - 23, 2023

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Parish of
Lumberton, NC

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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.

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

[illegible]

**There will be NO Confession Saturday,
December 23, 2023**

[illegible]

NO habrá Confesión sábado, 23 de diciembre de 2023

[illegible]

Sunday's Reflection

Our waiting during this Advent season quickens with the appearance of John the Baptist in today's Gospel.

John was obviously a very charismatic person whose personality and message seem to have caught the attention of many. We are told that many people came to him to repent of their sins and be baptized. Some must

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have believed that he was the promised Messiah, even though we hear him deny it very clearly.

John could have become impressed with his own popularity, but he understood from the beginning that he had another mission. He was to testify to the Light who would come after him. With great simplicity and humility, he calls himself “a voice in the desert.” His message has an urgency about it: “Make straight the way of the Lord!” God is coming to his people, so make your hearts ready. What a wonderful example for anyone who ministers in the Church!

You and I carry on John's mission, and our message is the same: "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are not preparing for Jesus' coming as Redeemer as John was. Redemption has been accomplished once for all when Jesus died for our sins and rose to share with us his new life. We are preparing ourselves and our world to receive Jesus when he comes again in glory with salvation for his people.

St. Paul tells us how we are to live as we deliver our message: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in all circumstances give thanks.” Our message and the way we live become the same. Our role is to become more and more open to God’s working holiness in us and through us to others. God, who has called us to be holy, is trustworthy, as Paul tells us; therefore, he will do this great work in us.

As we continue our Advent waiting, may we listen carefully to John's message and make straight the way of the Lord through our daily efforts to rejoice, pray, and give thanks.

“Come, Lord Jesus; do not delay!”

www.oblates.org/sundays-salesian



Reflexión Semanal

En la lectura del Evangelio para el día de hoy hemos escuchado una reiteración de la predicación de San Juan Bautista que fue anunciada previamente en las lecturas de la semana pasada. En el Evangelio de hoy escuchamos de nuevo, una y otra vez, la afirmación clara, cierta y firme de que él no es el Mesías, él ofrece testimonio sobre la luz, pero él no es la luz misma.

Juan rechaza el título de Mesías, asegura que no es Elías, ni el profeta y nos dirige a Cristo. Este tema sale a relucir en la canción del ciervo hallada en la primera lectura de Isaías y tuvo una influencia enriquecedora en la Cristología del Nuevo Testamento y en el ministerio de Jesús.

Francisco de Sales considera a Juan Bautista como uno de los grandes santos, porque su vida y misión no estaban enfocadas en acaparar la atención de las personas, sino en encaminarlas hacia otra persona. En su sermón para el Segundo Domingo de Adviento, el doctor del amor habla de Juan Bautista en los siguientes términos: “él no quería reunir discípulos para sí mismo, sino para su Maestro, a cuya escuela él los envía para que puedan recibir sus enseñanzas personalmente”. (“Los Sermones de San Francisco de Sales para el Adviento y la Navidad,” editados por Lewis S. Fiorelli OSFS)

Juana De Chantal habla sobre el ejemplo de humildad que debe ser Juan Bautista para nosotros. “yo diría que San Juan nunca hablo de forma más admirable que cuando se le pregunto quién era él, porque siempre refutaba los títulos que se le daban a través de una negativa humilde, y cuando fue obligado a responder positivamente él dijo que era solo una voz, fue casi como decir que él no era nada; la palabra en la verdad, algo digno de un profeta, y de los grandes entre ellos. [...]” (“Exhortación XV”, Santa. Juana, Frances Frèmyot De Chantal: Sus Exhortaciones, Conferencias e Instrucciones, Traducidas por Katherine Brègy)

En esta temporada santa de Esperanza y Expectativa, podemos enfocar nuestra atención en el modelo de Juan Bautista quien dedicó su vida a enseñar el camino para llegar a Cristo. En nuestra “peregrinación terrenal” matutina en camino a la plenitud del Reino, nuestra vida, y nuestra testificación de Cristo no debe tener como objetivo dirigir la atención de otros hacia nosotros, por el contrario, debe llevarnos y a los demás a conocer y a encontrar a Cristo. Igual que Juan, nosotros somos Sus mensajeros y embajadores.

En espíritu de humildad, reconocemos que Dios utiliza a cada uno de nosotros como Sus instrumentos para proclamar las Buenas Nuevas.

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

Important Upcoming Dates:

Penance Service (Servicio de Penitencia) –

- Tuesday, December 19th, 2023
 - 7:00 PM

Fourth of Advent Mass (holy day of obligation)

- Saturday, December 23rd, 2023
 - 5:00 PM – English
 - 7:00 PM – Spanish

Christmas Night Mass (holy day of obligation)

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

Christmas Day Mass (holy day of obligation)

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

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

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

PARISH FINANCIAL RECORD:

Second Sunday of Advent (December 9 - 10, 2023)

1st Collection:	\$ 3923.00
2nd Collection:	\$ 1127.22
Total	\$ 5050.22
[Last Year:	\$ 4,370.52]

Immaculate Conception

1 st Collection:	\$ 1,153.00
2 nd Collection:	\$ 190.00
Total:	\$ 1,343.00
[Last Year:	\$ 1,487.38]

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>

December 17 - 23, 2023

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!!!**



When there is a need or call to action, our parishioners really pull through! We originally received **91 pounds** of non-perishable items for the month of November, however, when we added the donations from our Thanksgiving Mass, an **additional 88 pounds** was collected, bringing our total up to **179 pounds!** 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

Cuando hay una necesidad o un llamado a actuar, ¡nuestros feligreses realmente salen adelante! Originalmente recibimos **91 libras** de artículos no perecederos para el mes de noviembre, sin embargo, cuando sumamos las donaciones de nuestra Misa de Acción de Gracias, se recaudaron **88 libras** adicionales,

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¡lo que eleva **el total a 179 libras!** 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.



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

December 17 - 24, 2023

James Fuller, Edwin Limonteco A., Guadalupe Solis Fierro, Marion Brown, Esmeralda de Jesus Gomez, Jasmine A. Estrada, Ian Evans, Joshua G Badillo-Torres, Kimberly Mesino Nieves, Chris Pittman, Celso Valdez, Norma Villanueva, Fredy Yepez, Demetrio Chavez-Ortiz, Iker Flores, Frank Kabiri



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

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

December 17 - 23, 2023



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.



Year B

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: 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.

The Catholic Center and all Parish Offices under the Diocese of Raleigh will be CLOSED the week of December 25 – 29, 2023.

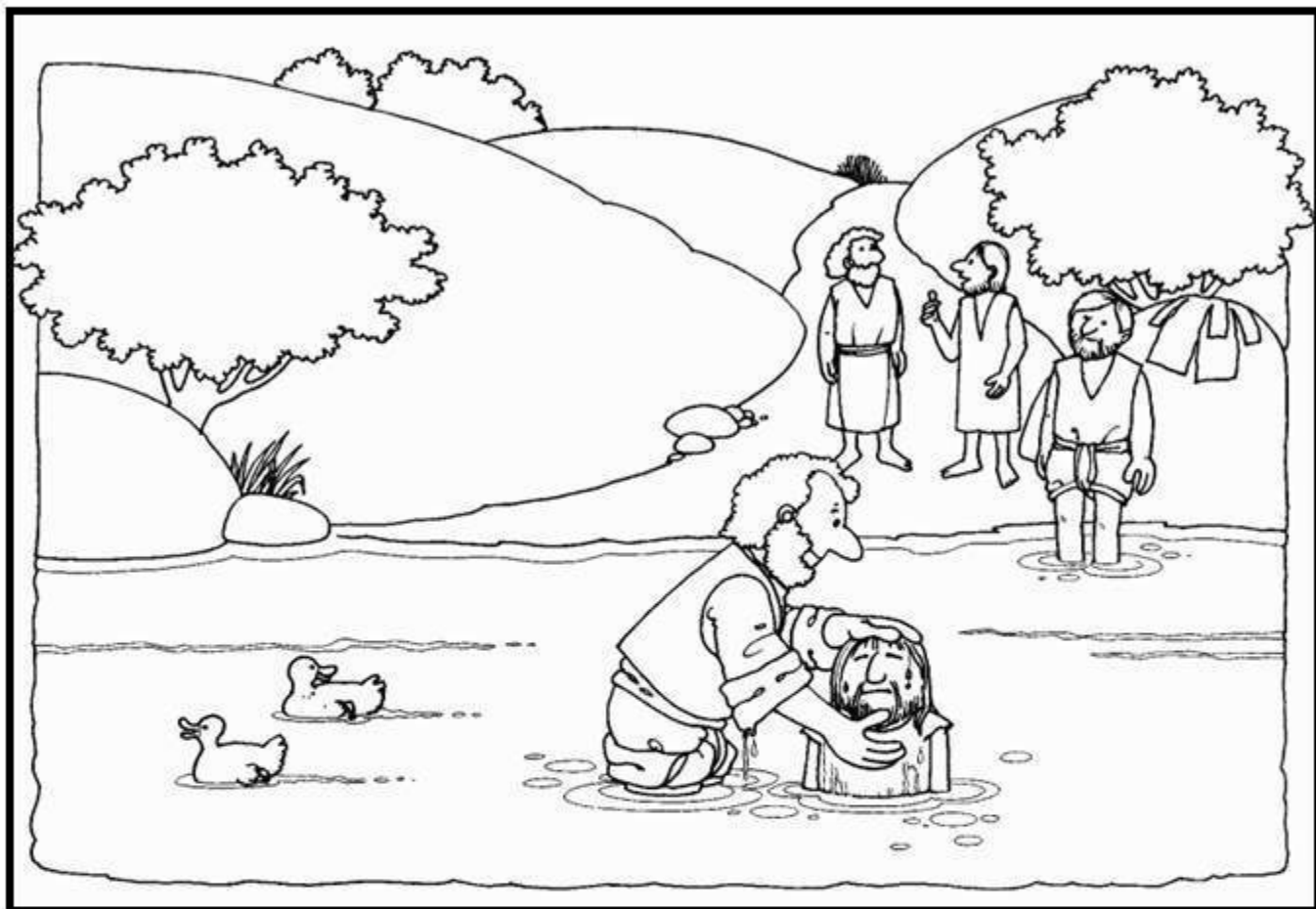
We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas!

El Centro Católico y todas las oficinas parroquiales de la Diócesis de Raleigh estarán CERRADOS la semana del 25 al 29 de diciembre de 2023.

¡Les deseamos a todos una muy bendecida Navidad!

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

"Prepare a way to God" – Gaudete Sunday



Read John 1:19-28 as you light the 3rd (pink) candle on your Advent wreath and learn how John the Baptist was helping people prepare for Jesus.