

Holy Redeemer by the Sea Catholic Parish

Staffed by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

January 10, 2021

We are a diverse Catholic Community that welcomes our visitors, serves all God's Children, and gathers to worship with our Faith Community.

Welcome to Holy Redeemer by the Sea Parish Liturgy Schedule

Holy Redeemer by the Sea - Kitty Hawk (HR)
301 W. Kitty Hawk Road
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Saturday

Confession 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

(Inside worshipers limited to 225 & Inside Face Coverings Mandated)

Holy Trinity by the Sea Chapel - Nags Head (HT)
Milepost 16 at the Intersection of 12 & 158

Saturday Mass 7:30 pm (*Bilingual*)

Sunday Mass 11:00 am
(Inside worshipers limited to 60 & Inside Face Coverings Mandated)

All weekend Masses will be audio broadcast outside the Church for the overflow assembly. Communion will be distributed both inside and outside the building. (More information on the back page of the bulletin.)

Weekday Masses

Weekday Masses are celebrated at Holy Redeemer by the Sea Kitty Hawk at 9:00 am.

Confessions

Holy Redeemer by the Sea only

Saturday, 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Monday and Tuesday

10:30 AM—11:30 AM, by appointment (call the office at 252-261-4700)

As stated by Bishop Zarama, Diocese of Raleigh, all of the faithful continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation. While this dispensation is applicable to all, the elderly, those sick, those with pre-existing health conditions or other vulnerable people should especially continue to stay at home.

HOLY REDEEMER BY THE SEA
CATHOLIC CHURCH



(252) 261-4700

CONTACT INFORMATION

(252)-261-1405 fax

Emergencies/Emergencias:

(252) 261-4700 x 215

Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday
10am - 12pm

Email:

contact@obxcatholicparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/OBXCatholic.Parish/>



[OBXCatholic.Parish/](https://www.facebook.com/OBXCatholic.Parish/)

HOLY TRINITY BY THE SEA
CATHOLIC CHAPEL



www.obxcatholicparish.org

Parish Administration & Support

Pastor/Parroco:	Rev. Dr. William F. Walsh, osfs
Parochial Vicar:	Rev. John A. Hanley, osfs
Deacons:	Al Hallatt Wil Hollowell
Business Manager:	Tim Gregory
Executive Assistant:	Val Cummings
Financial Assistant:	Jane Parker
Bulletin Editor:	Marian Sciacchitano
Admin. Assistant:	Carol Gorman Patti Hess
Director, Religious Education:	Kerri Engley
Consultant, Religious Education:	Grace Ghirardi
Director, Youth Activities:	Connie Quattlebaum
Music:	John Buford, Kim Kalman
Building Council Chair:	Bill Farrell
Finance Council Chair:	Boyd Tolman
Liturgical Council Chair:	Jane Parker
Pastoral Council Chair:	Kris Felthousen
Stewardship Council Chair:	Frank & Marian Sciacchitano

Sacraments / Sacramentos

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Sacramento de la Reconciliación:
Holy Redeemer — Saturday, 4:00 pm or by appointment
4:00 los sábados, Santo Redentor

Ministry to the Sick

We are grateful to know if there is a person you feel should be on our bulletin prayer list, or who would benefit by a visit from a Eucharistic Minister or anointing by a priest. Please ask the individual to call our office @ (252) 261-4700 with that request, or, if he or she is unable to call, please ask the next of kin or an immediate family member to contact us. In emergencies, when our parish office is closed, please call @ (252) 261-4700 x 215.

Ministerio para los Enfermos

Estamos agradecidos de saber si hay una persona que usted siente que debe estar en nuestra lista de Oración de Boletines, o quién se beneficiaría con la visita de un Ministro Eucarístico o la unción de un Sacerdote. Por favor advise al individuo que llame a nuestra oficina @ (252) 261-4700 con esa solicitud, o, si él o ella esta incapaz de llamar, por favor pregunte a los familiares o una familia inmediata para contactarnos. En las emergencias, cuando nuestra Oficina Parroquial esta cerrado, por favor llame a través de @ (252) 261-4700 x 215.

For All Other Sacraments

Please call the Parish Sacramental Coordinator, Val Cummings, at 252-261-4700 or hlyrdmrwed@aol.com for information regarding all other Sacramental Programs.

Para todos los demás Sacramentos

Por favor llame al Coordinadora Sacramental Parroquial, Val Cummings, @ 252-261-4700 o hlyrdmrwed@aol.com para obtener información sobre todos los demás Programas Sacramentales.

With the exception of the Anointing of the Sick and Graveside services, all Sacraments, Liturgies and other para-Liturgies take place inside the Church/Chapel Building.



Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 510
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510

FEAST OF FAITH

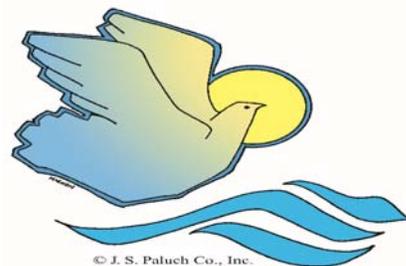
The Sign of the Cross

At the beginning of our prayer, we make the sign of the cross together. This sign, simple and powerful, operates on many levels. We trace the sign of the cross over our bodies, reminding ourselves that the cross of Christ has become our source of resurrection, life, and grace. With this sign, we also profess our faith in the Trinity: the presider does not say “in the *names*,” but “in the *name* of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”—three persons, one God. The sign of the cross is also a baptismal reminder, for every sign of the cross echoes the words spoken over us at our baptism, which marked our entry into the saving mystery of Christ. This many-layered sign is also our primary sign of blessing: the cross is traced over people, places, and things upon which we ask God to impart divine benediction.

In blessing ourselves with the sign of the cross at the beginning of Mass, we acknowledge the mystery that has gathered us together: that Christ, the crucified and risen One, is living, and that we are members of his Body. Our response, our Amen, is our *yes* to all this, our first profession of faith.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

He will baptize
with the
Holy Spirit



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SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time
begins
Wednesday: St. Hilary
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

REHEARSAL

Psalms are sung in the home and rehearsed in the streets.

—St. Ambrose

Faith Development

Recognizing that COVID is still prevalent, we are unable to provide a “traditional” Faith Formation environment for 2021. Since we want to ensure all students, Catechists and families are safe, we are going to try a “hybrid” approach to the 2021 Faith Formation program. Our approach will be made-up of some virtual class interactions via Zoom as well as “at-home” lessons as laid out by the Catechist relevant to each grade level that families can experience together. This approach allows you, the parent/guardian, to be your child’s primary catechist by participating in your child’s faith formation. For those in the Sacramental Years (those receiving Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation and are in the preparation Faith Formation years), we would like to have “in-person” classes, but recognize we are up against some barriers and are still assessing how to conduct these “in-person” classes. Until we have resolved this, we will follow the same “hybrid” approach mentioned above. We know this is a very unusual time and we appreciate your patience. Registration forms will be available within the next few weeks. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me at kbengley@gmail.com or call/text at (703)304-3683. Kerri Engley, Director, Religious Education

EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT AT 8:00 PM
THOUSANDS OF CATHOLIC TEENS
GATHER ONLINE FOR
PROJECT YOUTH MINISTRY LIVE
JOIN US AT: [HTTPS://PROJECTYM.COM/](https://projectym.com/)

Leadership Resources for Family Formation

Catechetical Leadership: On Family Faith Formation in the Parish at <https://douglasbeaumont.com/2019/01/08/on-family-faith-formation-in-the-parish/>

Pop-Up Catechesis with Joe Paprocki: Helping Parents with Faith Formation at Home at catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2020/08/helping-parents-with-faith-formation-at-home/

Family Retreat for First Communion Preparation at www.twentythirdpublications.com/wegatonefare.html

Low Gluten Hosts Available

We have low gluten hosts available for Communion at all Masses. If you need a low gluten host, please make the request to one of our Eucharist Ministers before Mass.

*Welcome to our visitors.
We are glad you could join us.*

Mass Intentions Holy Redeemer by the Sea Catholic Parish

Monday — January 11, 2021

9:00 am Mass for † Anthony Zinghini at HR

Tuesday — January 12, 2021

9:00 am Mass for † Mark S. Fretwell at HR

Wednesday — January 13, 2021

9:00 am Mass for † David Moody at HR

10:30 am Parish Office closed (staff meeting)

Thursday — January 14, 2021

9:00 am Mass for † Barbara Hendricks at HR

Friday — January 15, 2021

9:00 am Mass for † Paul Hall at HR

Saturday — January 16, 2021

4:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation at HR

5:00 pm Mass for † David Moody at HR
Celebrant: Fr. John Hanley, ofs

7:30 pm Mass for the People of the Parish
(Living and Deceased) (Bilingual) at HT

Celebrant: Fr. Bill Walsh, ofs

Sunday — January 17, 2021

9:00 am Mass for † Suzi Harman at HR

Celebrant: Fr. Bill Walsh, ofs

11:00 am Mass for † Paul Gitto at HT

Celebrant: Fr. John Hanley, ofs

3:00 pm Divine Mercy at HR



*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **Barbara Hendricks** and the Gospel Candle burns this week in memory of **Anthony Zinghini**.*

Healing Mass

The next Healing Mass, where the Sacrament of the Sick is administered, will be celebrated **Wednesday, February 3, 2021** at Holy Redeemer.

Divine Mercy Devotion

Everyone is invited to participate in the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer at Holy Redeemer on Sundays at 3:00 pm. Those who participate in this devotion have experienced the power of prayer and God's Mercy. Please contact Marcy Martin at 252.261.7946 if you would like us to pray for a loved one or you wish to have a Special Intention included in the Intentions Journal. If you would like to pray the Divine Mercy at home, please visit: www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet

The Baptism of the Lord January 10, 2021

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!
— Isaiah 55:1

Stewardship - A Way of Life

Reflecting on God's Word

This is one of the key moments in the life of Jesus. Up north in his hometown of Nazareth he must have heard about John. At some point an inner voice must have said, "Go south, go to the desert. Go listen to this preacher John."

When he came to the desert, he may have stood in a long line before that moment came when he entered the water and John baptized him. Mark gives us only a brief account of their meeting, but does present John as expecting someone mightier than he who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

It is this same Holy Spirit who came down on Jesus as he was coming out of the water. At that moment, the heavens were torn open, heaven reached down to touch the Galilean, and the Spirit descended like a dove. Have you ever seen a gull descend to snatch a fish or a hawk swoop down to seize its prey? By contrast, the image of a descending dove is one of beauty and grace, of gentle alighting.

The words do not announce Jesus to others, as in Matthew's account, but they are spoken only to him: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (1:11), echoing the words the Lord speaks in the first song of the Servant in the book of Isaiah.

The descent of the dove did not mean an easy life for Jesus, but God had penetrated his being in a way that would then drive him into the desert to begin his mission of confronting the powers of sin and death. This gentle dove came—and continues to come—with a mighty power.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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We encourage you to sign up or continue your regular offertory online at: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1312> or mail your offertory envelopes [checks only] to:

**Holy Redeemer by the Sea Church
P.O. Box 510
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510**

Thank you.

Living God's Word

At baptism, the Spirit came upon you in the presence of the Christian community, claiming you in Jesus' name, and God said, "You are my beloved son/daughter." Spend some time praying over these words. What do you say to God in return? How does it affect what you do in life?

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Please pray for the sick especially Bailey Miller, Chloe Ingram, Richard Haims, Michael & Helene Schaefer, Donna Precord, Nonia Gay Jones, Tom DeSocio, Audrey Meekins, Kim Dixon, Sean Rolleri, Debbie Miley, Carol Waters, Stephen Yaciuk, Gloria Malinowski, Carol

McCombs, Louann Mast, Fran Montgomery, John & Brenda Hughes, Pete Godbey, George Kowal, Anna Mae Rosendale, Dayna DeNolfi, Tricia Lawrenson, Patricia Maier, Carol Meekins, Russ Whaley, Angela Wamp, Jane Trout, Patti Brown, Bonna Meadows, Gail Higgins, Makenna Day, Liam Bane, Victoria Hively, Vanessa McLane, Kevin McGrath, John Lutolf, Angela Conforti, Nessa Vayette, Megan Vayette, Marilyn Canning, Barbara Creef Preiser, Linda Foster, John Hughes, Dick Staib, Neil Bane, Kaelin Funaiock, Mary Doyle, John Walsh, Nick Parisi, Luis Rodrigues, Michael Norrell, Agnes Lilly, Carol Facci, Lee Baronet, Kenny Meekins, Emma Meekins, Dick Sulik, Tony Sawyer, Gerry Bedrin, Doris Bryant, Gloria White, Maureen Anderson, Earlene Sawyer. *Names will be kept on the prayer list for 1 month from the time they are requested.*

Holy Redeemer by the Sea Catholic Parish welcomes Aurora & Doug Rossie of Kitty

Hawk to our parish family. If you are new to the area and wish to register, forms may be obtained from the bulletin board in the Parish Gathering Space or from the parish office. You may register on our website:

www.obxcatholicparish.org.

La Parroquia Católica de Santo Redentor les da la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros de nuestra familia parroquial. Las inscripciones se encuentran en la parte de atrás de la iglesia.

THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

When new sod is put in, it needs constant saturation with water. Landscapers say that this "knits" the sod to the soil. The same when a branch is grafted onto a tree: the poultice that joins them at the splice must be kept wet at all times. Water is the stuff that binds the very cells of our bodies together. No wonder religions throughout all times and cultures have used it so prominently. When Jesus stepped into the Jordan for baptism, he "knit" himself to what had come before him. By going to the Jordan, he made himself one with the people of Israel who had crossed it into their Promised Land. With John the Baptist, Christ wove himself into the prophetic tradition that heralded the coming reign of God. He had become fully human in the waters of Mary's womb, and by partaking in the rite of the baptism of repentance, Jesus identified himself with our sinful, frail humanity. It is through the waters of baptism that Christ continues to graft new members onto his Body, the Church; through these waters we are cleansed from sin and filled with the promise of grace, given our destiny for eternal life. For us, as for Jesus, it is also the waters of baptism that inaugurate our mission to proclaim the Good News.

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Ruthie's Kitchen

A huge THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of you for helping with Holy Redeemer's day at Ruthie's Kitchen. We served 65 dinners that were overflowing with plenty of yummy food. God Bless you. Lori Watkins, Ministry Leader

Creative Choices Pregnancy Resource

Center: The Creative Choices Pregnancy Resource Center's (CCPRC) mission is to support women in our local community with educational and material assistance during a pregnancy. For more information about the Creative Choices Pregnancy Resource Center needs, please visit: <http://creativechoicesprc.com/>

Help Wanted: The Creative Choices Thrift Store is in need of volunteers. Applications can be picked up at the Creative Choices Pregnancy Resource Center Monday through Friday from 10:00 am — 2:00 pm at 4711 S. Croatan Hwy, Nags Head.

Please Note: The thrift store has moved directly across the street from Holy Trinity in Nags Head.

OBX Room In The Inn

OBX Room In The Inn continues to provide overnight accommodations, dinner, breakfast and a take-away bag lunch for the homeless in our area. Additional expenses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have prompted them to make a special plea for monetary and volunteer help. Donations may be mailed to OBX Room in the Inn, P. O. Box 1354, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948. For questions or to contact the Outer Banks Room in the Inn, call 252-255-1133 or visit obxroomintheinn.org

Beach Food Pantry

If you would like to leave food donations, Holy Redeemer is a drop off location. The church is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Please visit the Pantry's website for additional information at beachfoodpantry.org (No clothing, please)

Wednesdays @ 1 Series

If you have missed any of the Wednesdays @ 1 series, you can view them at <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/faith-formation/wednesdays1-archives>.

Save the Date

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is Tuesday, February 2 and Wednesday, February 3 in the parish hall at Holy Redeemer.
Appointment only.

End of Life Initiatives

Advance Directive Document

The Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, in consultation with experts in Catholic bioethics and law, has created an Advance Directive Document. We offer you this document, which is designed for the state of North Carolina, to assist you in ensuring that your care and treatment is consistent with the Catholic faith and your wishes. For more information please visit: <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/human-life-and-dignity/end-life-initiatives>

Project Rachel Retreat: A Journey of Post-Abortion Healing

If you are suffering from the effects of an abortion, we want you to know that there is help and there is hope. The weekend retreat is an opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion in a supportive and confidential environment. Through prayer, discussion, and Living Scripture exercises, participants are able to make their way through the critical steps of post-abortion healing. The sacrament of Reconciliation is available to offer the powerful and loving embrace of Christ, and the retreat concludes with a memorial service and a Mass of Resurrection. If you would like information about our next healing retreat, please call 919-852-1021 or visit project.rachel@raldioc.org. All contacts are kept strictly confidential.

Opportunities for Confession

In addition to Saturday at Holy Redeemer Church from 4:00—4:30 pm, confession is also available by appointment from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM every Monday and Tuesday. Please call the parish office, 252.261.4700, for an appointment which will be scheduled in 15 minute intervals. Please respect this time frame out of consideration for others waiting for the Sacrament. If you have questions, please contact Val Cummings at hlyrdmrwed@aol.com

Diocese of Raleigh

2020? I Thought You Left Town!

by Dr. John Pendergrass, Director of Child and Youth Protection

You can read this interesting article at www.dioceseofraleigh.org

Receive the Bulletin by Email

If you would like to receive our parish bulletin via email, simply use this web address: <https://www.jspaluch.com/BulletinSubscribe.aspx> and follow the directions. If you have questions, please contact Marian Sciacchitano at sciacch@yahoo.com

The parish office is closed Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

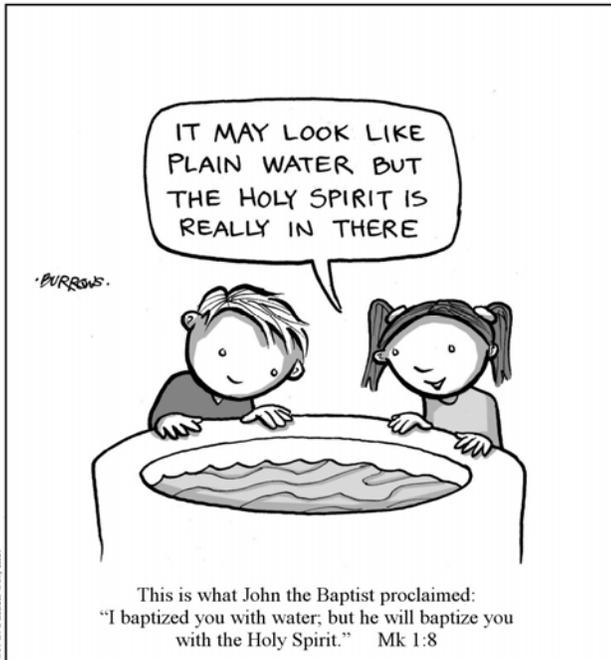
Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10;
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42
Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17

Ministries to the Sick

The compassion and caring of the parishioners of Holy Redeemer by the Sea for the sick and homebound are truly a work of mercy. We are grateful to know if there is a person you feel should be on our bulletin prayer list, or who would benefit by a visit from a Eucharistic Minister or anointing by a priest. Please ask the individual to call our office (252) 261-4700 with that request, or, if he or she is unable to call, please ask the next of kin or an immediate family member to contact us. The Sacrament of the Sick is available to all in need of healing. **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT** until death is imminent to offer your loved one this grace.

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



Scripture from the New American Standard Bible © (NASB), © by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

**** Diocese of Raleigh Parishes
Online Masses**

Below are some links to online Masses and prayers:

- Holy Redeemer by the Sea - On YouTube, Sunday, 9:00 am.**
 - St. Mary Magdalene, Apex – On YouTube, Sunday, 10:45 a.m.**
 - St. Anthony of Padua, Southern Pines – On Facebook, Monday-Thursday, 12:00 p.m.**
 - St. Michael The Archangel, Cary – On Livestream: Daily Mass, 8:30 a.m. and Sunday Mass, 10:30 a.m.**
 - Duke Catholic Center – On YouTube, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.**
 - St. Ann, Clayton – On YouTube, Sunday, 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**
 - Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh - Homilies only**
 - St. Francis of Assisi, Raleigh - On Facebook, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.**
 - Immaculate Conception, Durham - On Facebook, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.**
 - St. Thomas More, Chapel Hill - On Facebook, Daily Mass, Wednesday, 12:15 a.m.**
 - St. Raphael the Archangel, Raleigh - On Facebook, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.**
 - St. Charles, Ahoski - On Facebook, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.**
 - St. Raphael the Archangel, Raleigh, en Facebook, Domingo a las 2:00 p.m.**
 - St. Ann Clayton, en YouTube, Sábado a las 7 p.m.**
 - Immaculate Conception, Durham - En Facebook, Domingo a las 10:30 a.m.**
 - St. Thomas More, Chapel Hill - en Facebook, Misa diaria, Jueves a las 6:00 p.m.; Misa dominical a las 1:30 p.m.**
 - St. Michael the Archangel, Cary - en Livestream, Domingo a las 2:15 p.m.**
 - St. Charles, Ahoski - en Facebook, Sábado a las 7:00 p.m.**
 - Catholic TV Domingo a las 8:00 a.m.; 5:30 p.m. y 10:00 p.m.**
 - EWTN Domingo a las 8:00 a.m. y 4:00 p.m.**
- Por favor continúe orando por las personas que han sido afectadas por el virus: los enfermos, los profesionales de la salud y de la salud pública que se ocupan de los enfermos y trabajan para contener el virus, los afectados económicamente y todos nosotros mientras lidiamos con esta situación.

**** All information was accurate at the time of publication but is subject to change. Please check local listings.**

AN ANCIENT BAPTISTERY

One of the most ancient and enduring sites for baptism in Rome is the church of San Giovanni in Fonte. This church is in fact a baptistery, and houses the font for the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of Rome. The Emperor Constantine sponsored its construction in the year 315, and it is therefore the oldest baptistery in the world. It is the model for nearly all later baptisteries, including perhaps the font in your own parish church.

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

Bulletin Notices: Please email your information to Marian Sciacchitano at sciacch@yahoo.com. Deadline for the bulletin is **noon** Wednesday of the previous week.



OBLATES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
Wilmington-Philadelphia Province

DeSales Spirituality Services

Salesian Sunday Reflection

Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

Today we complete the Church's celebration of the unbelievable good news that God has fulfilled his promise to be Emmanuel - God with his people.

As we hear Mark recount the baptism of Jesus, heaven and earth are joined together as the Spirit descends on Jesus and we hear the Father's voice announce Jesus' true identity: "This is my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

To help us understand the full meaning of the Father's words, we have also heard the words of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus fulfills his prophecy: He is the Servant, the Chosen One, on whom the Father's favor rests. The Spirit of the Lord is upon him, and he will bring forth God's justice to the entire world. The wonder of this revelation is that he will bring about this justice with meekness and gentleness, especially toward the downtrodden.

That is the message we have received and the challenge we are offered by our baptism. Because Jesus wants us to share his very life, the Spirit of God has descended on us and dwells in us, and the Father speaks the same wonderful words to us that he spoke to Jesus: "You are my beloved son or daughter, with you I am well pleased."

Our Father has grasped us by the hand, and he wants us to be the living signs of his continuing care for all his people, especially the downtrodden.

Our Father wants to remind us at the beginning of each day: "You are my beloved son or daughter; with you I am well pleased." If we take the time to listen to his words each morning, they offer us direction for our day.

God's loving word must be an uplifting start to our day! Let us take the time to listen.



The Power of a Nativity Scene

While Saint Francis did not invent the nativity scene or Christmas crèche, he did popularize it, and as a Franciscan I have a strong attachment to what this very familiar scene represents. For St. Francis, recreating the narrative of the second chapter of St. Luke's gospel, physically with adults taking on roles, was a witness to the truth that God becoming one like us, a human being, is more than a theological

statement. To truly understand what this witness means, we need to understand the pull, the attraction, which a Christmas crèche plays upon us.

A cherished tradition, as Pope Francis has called it, a family's nativity scene becomes a very personal and very particular expression of familial faith. The necessary symbol of the crèche – when it appears in the home, who is tasked with setting it up, where it is set up, and what figures are placed within it – becomes an indispensable element for embracing the fullness, which the birth of our Savior offers us.

The nativity scene is something unique because, without us realizing it, these cherished scenes reveal the striking paradox of God, which Christmas proclaims. God, who is Most High, Omnipotent, Powerful and Distant, comes to earth, not merely to tarry a while until he gets bored and then return to heaven, where God belongs. No, this God, who is Emmanuel, God-with-us, wraps himself in who and what we are – in what we experience, our struggles, our joys, our anxieties, our accomplishments.

God appears in weakness and vulnerability to take away our fear of God. God does this to be the one who is approachable, as God always takes the initiative. All this is fitting because of God's passionate, earnest, never-ending desire to be Emmanuel – God-with-us. Our affirming of this desire is what leads to the nativity scene, which reveals how much God will not let anything stand in the way of being with us, of sharing our very life. In this way a Christmas crèche is more than a symbol, but the reality of who Emmanuel is.

And so, the depiction of the nativity scene with its hosts of characters, some intent on observing what they discover in the stable; others drawn only by curiosity; and still others seeming to go about their daily work unaware of how the course of human history has changed forever, represents the spectrum of humanity's response to God's great act of selfless compassion. We gaze upon these figures from the familiarity and comfort of our home lives to see ourselves reflected in their images, the gambit of a lifetime of responses to God's invitation to share life with him as he shares his life with us.

There is much this year as we entered into Christmas that might work against the powerful symbol of the nativity scene. A pandemic, social and political unrest, pain and suffering, feeling that God cannot be bothered, that we are just an insignificant speck in the cosmos and that it does not matter that we exist at all. Yet if we allow ourselves to be drawn into the nativity scene, we find that it dares to contradict all these ideas in a profound way. It reveals not only that we do matter, but also how much we matter to God. We discover the God who comes to us in a baby born in the City of David, and how much human kindness and compassion are inspired by a greater kindness and compassion, which come from a God who takes on vulnerability and says that this is the only way to glory.

Rev. Dr. James G Sabak, Director of Divine Worship

Diocese of Raleigh

Diocesan Mass for Life

Come and join us on January 16, 2021, at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral as we pray and proclaim the dignity of human life. The Rosary begins at 10:30; Mass with the bishop starts at 11:00.

“A great prayer for life urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world...let us therefore discover anew the humility and the courage to pray and fast so that the power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many...the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life.” (Pope St John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae 100)



Parish Artist

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That is the best way to thank them for your bulletin.

Contact: Patrick Falco at 910-200-8383 or falco@JSPaluch.com

Proclaim the Good News! We Have Resumed Indoor Worship

We are pleased to welcome you back into the Church and Chapel buildings to celebrate Mass together. Our weekend Liturgies will follow the offseason schedule: Saturday 5:00 PM @ Holy Redeemer, 7:30 PM @ Holy Trinity (Bilingual) and Sunday 9:00 AM @ Holy Redeemer and 11:00 AM @ Holy Trinity. **The following precautions will be in place:**

- **Attendance limited to 225** inside Holy Redeemer and 60 inside Holy Trinity. Attendance will be on a first come, first served basis. The audio Mass will continue to be broadcast outside of the building for those who do not wish to enter or do not have a mask. **We will continue to livestream the 9:00 AM Mass as long as we have the resources to do so.**

- **Entry will be through** one attended front door only; exit will be through the rear doors.

- **ALL inside attendees MUST** wear a face covering over the nose and mouth. This is for the protection of the entire worshipping community in the event that someone present tests positive at a later date.

- **Seating will be permitted in EVERY OTHER ROW.** Within each row, parties are asked to social distance at least 6 feet apart.

- **In order to minimize the time** we are seated indoors, Mass will be celebrated in an abbreviated form, with limited singing. There will be no hymnals or prayer cards available. Here is a link to a website with the Order of the Mass, should you wish to access it on your phone or print it in whole or in part for your personal use.

<https://www.universalis.com/static/mass/orderofmass.htm>

Please take any printed materials you bring away with you.

- There will be no Collection or Offertory Procession. If you wish to make a donation, please place your offertory in the designated receptacles.

- Communion will be distributed as host only after the final blessing both inside and outside of the building. After receiving Communion (in your hand only, please) depart the building through the designated doors.

- The restrooms will be available, with sufficient supplies for handwashing.

- The building will be sanitized using an approved disinfectant, and the restrooms cleaned and sanitized after each Mass. You are encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer for personal use as needed.

- Weekday Masses have resumed. All Weekday Masses will take place at Holy Redeemer by the Sea in Kitty Hawk at 9:00 AM, Monday through Friday. Since our Bishop has dispensed us from the obligation to attend weekend Mass, some may find attendance at weekday Mass more feasible.

However, keep this in mind:

As stated by Bishop Zarama, Diocese of Raleigh, all of the faithful continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation. While this dispensation is applicable to all, the elderly, those sick, those with pre-existing health conditions or other vulnerable people should especially continue to stay at home.

Message Page

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