

Nativity of the Lord

“God has signified to us in so many ways and by so many means that God wills that all of us should be saved, that no one can claim to be ignorant of this fact. For this very purpose God made us “in his own image and likeness” by creation, and by the Incarnation God has made himself in our image and likeness, after which he suffered death in order to ransom and save us.” (Treatise on the Love of God, Book VIII, Chapter 4)

From the beginning of time God has desired that all of us come to know the truth and be saved. What is this truth? We are made in God’s image and likeness; we share in the very essence of God’s divine life; we are awash in God’s creative, redeeming and inspiring love; we are meant to grow this life and love here on earth; we are destined to experience that love and life forever in heaven.

Provided that we so choose.

Beyond the comforting images of the stable, the “star of wonder,” the magi, the shepherds and the angel choir, there is a hard and unavoidable truth: while God desires that we be saved, the decision to live in conformity with God’s desire is still ours to make. Francis de Sales observed: “All men are not saved, although the will that all should be saved still remains God’s true will, for God acts in us according to the condition of both divine and human nature. God’s goodness moves him to communicate liberally to us the help of his grace so that we may come to the joy of God’s glory, but our nature requires that God’s liberality should leave us at liberty to use it for our salvation or to neglect it to our damnation.” (Ibid)

This is not an attempt to rain on the parade of the Christmas promise of peace, reconciliation and joy. This is not meant as a wet blanket thrown over the time of year which Francis de Sales described as “dedicated to the sovereign mercy shown to us by the Son of God when he was born on earth for our salvation.” (Stopp, Selected Letters, p. 294) Simply put, Christmas is a time to ask myself the question: do I take the gift of Jesus Christ in my life as seriously as God does? Put another way, am I as interested in the eternal disposition of my soul as God is?

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God in the birth of the Messiah. Would that all the ends of the earth — including you and me in our own little corners of the world — would choose to accept it.

To say nothing of living it and sharing it.

Rev. Michael S. Murray, OSFS, is the Executive Director of the De Sales Spirituality Center.

Midnight Mass Music for the Liturgy:

Entrance: # 325 Go Tell It on the Mountain – vs. 1, 2 & 4

Gloria: # 47 Glory Be

Psalm: "Today is born our savior, Christ the Lord."

Gospel Acclamation: # 10 Alleluia (Celtic Mass)

Preparation: # 334 The First Nowell

Communion: # 312 Silent Night

321 Away in A Manger

Song of Praise: # 314 It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Recessional: # 318 Joy to the World - vs. 1 & 4

Other sung Mass parts are from Mass of Creation

Midnight Mass Readings

The Reading for tonight’s Mass are found in the **Glory & Praise** at number **743**

1st Reading ~ Isaiah 9:1 – 6

2nd Reading ~ Titus 2:11 – 14

Gospel Reading ~ Luke 2:1 – 14

Christmas Day Music for the Liturgy:

Entrance: # 311 O Come, All Ye Faithful- vs. 1, 3 & 4

Gloria: # 47 Glory Be

Psalm: "A Light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us." (chant)

Gospel Acclamation: #10 Alleluia (Celtic Mass)

Preparation: # 321 Away in A Manger

Communion: # 334 The First Nowell

Song of Praise: # 315 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Recessional: # 318 Joy to the World - vs. 1 & 4

Christmas Day Readings ~ 9:00 am Mass

The Reading for today’s Mass are found in the **Glory & Praise** at number **745**

1st Reading ~ Isaiah 52:7 – 10

2nd Reading ~ Hebrews 1:1 – 6

Gospel Reading ~ John 1:1 – 18 or 1:1 – 5, 9 – 14



Many Blessings and Peace This Holiday Season.

Wishing everyone receives the most precious gift of all, our Lord and Savior.

¡Feliz Navidad!

*Numerosas Bendiciones y Paz para estas Fiestas.
Deseando que todos reciban el mas preciado regalo,
Nuestro Señor y Redentor.*

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Today's selection from the Book of Sirach echoes the Commandment: "Honor your mother and father." The reading is telling us that true religion involves moral duties to others that evolve from one's moral duties to their parents. Our relationships with others - especially those with whom we share so much time and contact every day - are the primary expression of the disposition of our hearts, minds, affections and attitudes.

The selection from the Letter to the Colossians confronts us with the gift - and the challenge - of creating that "space" we call "family," a space in which we first learn something of what it means to be sons and daughters of God. As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, we must clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Insofar as a holy life is not the same as a stress-free or trouble-free life (just look at the life, especially the very early life, of Jesus, Mary and Joseph), we all need to practice these virtues all the time with the hope of establishing, maintaining and strengthening family, especially - God forbid - when we ruffle, distract or disappoint one another.

Francis de Sales calls us to live a life of devotion in ways that fit the demands and responsibilities of the state and stage of life in which we find ourselves. What is a devout life? It is nothing more complicated (but more demanding) than doing what is right in the eyes of God, and in relation to one another, carefully, frequently and diligently. It is precisely in the vocation in which we find ourselves, especially in those roles so basic as mother, father, brother, sister, wife, husband, son or daughter that we must practice the devout life.

Francis de Sales tells us: "*The little, unattractive and hardly noticeable virtues which are required of us in our household, our place of work, among friends, with strangers, any time and all the time, these are the virtues for us*" (Introduction, Part III, Chapter 2). Of course, the most important practice is that of love, that which not only reconciles, but also purifies and, dare we say, even glorifies the best of human relationships. It is only in relationship with one another that the practice of the little, everyday virtues flowers into love, not only helping to create a better life here on earth, but also providing a foretaste of the eternal life promised to us in heaven.

Even as we celebrate the Feast of The Holy Family we realize that we actually know very little about the day-to-day give and take of the relationships among Jesus, Mary and Joseph: family life is, in so many ways, a skill. Considering Jesus' fidelity to and consistency in his pursuit of justice, peace, reconciliation and freedom, we can certainly sense where Jesus acquired as a child so many of the skills he would later require in his adult ministry.

After all, charity, peace, justice, forgiveness - like so many things - begin at home.

Rev. Michael S. Murray, OSFS, is the Executive Director of the De Sales Spirituality Center.

Music for Sunday's Liturgy:

Entrance: # 317 Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

Gloria: # 47 Glory Be

Psalm: "Blessed are they who fear the Lord and walk in his ways". (chant)

Gospel Acclamation: # 10 Alleluia (Celtic Mass)

Preparation: # 321 Away in A Manger

Communion: # 334 The First Nowell

337 What Child Is This?

Song of Praise: # 432 Sing of Mary

Recessional: # 318 Joy to the World - vs. 1 & 4

All other sung Mass parts are from Mass of Creation

Feast of the Holy Family

The Reading for today's Mass are found in the

Glory & Praise at number **746**

1st Reading ~ Sirach 3:2 - 7, 12 - 14

2nd Reading ~ Colossians 3:12 - 21 or 3:12 - 17

Gospel Reading ~Matthew 2:13 - 15, 19 - 23



January Calendar

- 1st **NO MASS** ~ New Years Day. It is **NOT A HOLY DAY**
- 2nd Sunday Mass ~ 9:00 am
- 2nd Misa en Español ~ 5:30 pm

Angel Tree 2010

"THANK YOU for honoring Christmas by giving to those in need! Our Lady of the Seas once again joined Hatteras Island churches, businesses and individuals to help more than 50 families enjoy a brighter Christmas. A special thanks for Megan Vayette who organized our shopping and distribution efforts, all while enjoying being a new mom."



A Very Special Request

Attendees please take your bulletin home with you or you may leave it in the vestibule when you leave after Mass. We greatly appreciated your cooperation with helping us keep the church clean.



Ruegue por: Please Remember: in your prayers all those on our **Parish Prayer List**, especially Richard Bacik, Robbie Bendula, Jim Benton, Jim & Linda Carolan, Stephen & Phyllis Dyer, Carrie Easley, Joe Gallagher, Keith Gardner, Delores Gilliken, Stephen Hissey, TQ Lewis, Grey McDowell, Donna Midgett, Elizabeth Moffit, Cliff Morrow, Ella Newmiller, Mackey Peele, Pat Rice, Ann Styron, Mary Van Severen, Megan Vayette, Kelly Willis, also the caregivers, homebound, hospitalized & those in special needs.

Please let Fr. Bob know when a parishioner or family member is in the hospital or homebound. He would appreciate the opportunity to visit and offer his services. Also if you would like a Eucharistic Minister to visit you at home during an illness or when unable to attend Mass, please call Fr. Bob 252-995-6613 or Anita 252-995-7892.

We Take Request ~ Book of Prayer Intentions



Our church family can now make prayer requests by way of our Book of Prayer Intentions, which is provided specifically for that purpose. The dark blue book is in back of the nave near the baptismal font. Just write your intentions in it, and they will be remembered during the Prayer of the Faithful at our Sunday Masses. *“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving make your requests known to God.” -Philippians 4:6*



“Almighty God, we stand before You, asking for Your divine mercy and protection. Embrace with Your invincible amour our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them the courage and strength against all enemies, both spiritual and physical, and hasten their safe journey back to their homes and families. Amen.” *Please, also remember those killed or wounded and their families, friends and acquaintances.*



Visitors ~ our pews have envelopes in the pockets for your convenience , which you may take with you and mail back to us. Please mark the box if the donation should be for Parish Needs or Debt Reduction. Thank you for being with us.



Food coupons for the Military

Any manufactures' coupons from the Sunday paper can be sent to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. This will help our military families overseas with living expenses. We would appreciate any help from our community family by cutting out coupons you don't use and place them in the basket in the vestibule. GaeAnn Gessner will take on the task of mailing them out weekly.

If our visitors are interested in helping, the address is:
N.M.C.R.S.
875 N. Randolph Street
Suite 225
Arlington, VA 22203.
Thank you for your support.

Raffle Winners

Annie Brennan ~ 7 Day Cruise to the Caribbean
Coral Dickens ~ 2 Kayak trips and 1 Parasail ride
Joe Kelly ~ Two day stay at the Comfort Inn in Buxton
Mike Lacey ~ \$50.00 Gift Certificate to the Askins Creek BP in Avon
Bjerstedt ~ \$50.00 Gift Certificate to the Askins Creek BP in Avon
J. Fabula ~ A weeks stay in an ocean front home in Frisco
Mary Thompson ~ Gift Certificate for Conner's Market
John Dougharty ~ \$50.00 Gift Certificate to The Inn on The Pamlico Sound, Buxton.
Steve Newkirk ~ Dinner for 6 prepared by Father Bob at his house.
Joan Hresko ~ A Picture Donated by Local artist Raphael Robinson
Pat Dalbo ~ Garmin GMR 21/41 closed array radar and GPS Map400 with 10-inch screen. All connections and manuals included.
Mike Klein ~ Rod & Reel ~ Ocean Master OM60 spinning reel 4.6:1 ratio mated to a OM20STB 7-foot Med/Heavy rod.
Chandler Johnson ~ Rod & Reel ~ Ocean Master OM80 spinning reel 4.6:1 ratio mated to a OM20STB 7-foot Med/Heavy rod.
Margarite O'Donald ~ Rod & Reel ~ Okuma Titus TG 15 II Reel w/cover mated to Custom Powerstick 6-foot 20 – 40 pound line with roller tip.
M. White ~ Rod & Reel ~ Okuma Titus TG 15 II Reel w/cover mated to Custom Powerstick 6-foot 20 – 40 pound line with roller tip.
Erin Carter ~ Rod & Reel ~ Okuma Titus TG 15 II Reel w/cover mated to Custom Powerstick 6-foot 20 – 40 pound line with roller tip.
Coyle ~ Penn International 50W Reel
Chris Lynch ~ Penn International 50W Reel
J. Lynch ~ \$100.00 Gift Certificate to Home Port Gifts, Rodanthe
Croushort ~ \$ 50.00 Gift Certificate from B&S, Bathing Suits in Hatteras Landing
Rachael Pall ~ Fine art print of this beautiful church, numbered and sign by local artist Linda Browning
Mary Clark ~ A fishing trip to the Gulf Stream on the Miss Hatteras for one.
Deb Schaible ~ A ½ day fishing trip inshore with Ken Dempsey Guide Service worth \$300.00
Patricia Kendrick ~ North Carolina Basket from Robertson General Store in Hatteras
Gloria Epp ~ A White-Dove Release from Hatteras Doves (\$375.00 value) for your Hatteras Island celebration.
Lisa Prestipino ~ REAL Kites 5 DVD Series & a Slingshot Trainer Kite worth \$300.00

A Very Special Thank You....

The parish would like to thank ALL who participate in the raffle. As of 11/29/10 the raffle made approximately \$14,500.00. Excellent job to all the volunteers and, special recognition to Bill Vancura for his dedication on getting the prizes and setting up the raffle.

17th Annual Island Wide Food Drive –

WE NEED YOU!!



Each year the community gathers in the traditional harvest time to collect items for our Island Food Pantry as we face winter slowdowns. The ongoing and seasonal needs of our Food Pantry continue to exceed previous years.

A list of suggested items is available in the foyer. Please consider purchasing items that make full meals (e.g., peanut butter & jelly, pasta and sauce, etc).

If you are “shopping” at home, check expiration dates on donated items. Please keep in mind that standard sizes are easier to distribute than “family size” packages.

Now until December 31, you may drop off at any of the locations below.

Our Lady of the Seas Social Hall is a year-round drop off location for the Island Food Pantry. The 24 hour drop-off box is located on the porch.

- **Hatteras Realty** in Hatteras Village, Avon, and Waves (Daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- **Frisco Shopping Center** in Frisco (Daily 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.)
- **Outer Beaches Realty** in Hatteras Village, Avon, and Waves (Daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- **Surf-or-Sound Realty** in Avon and Salvo (Daily 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 a.m.)
- **Hatteras Island Family Medicine** - Frisco (Monday -Thursday, 8-12 noon and 1-4:30)
- **Dancing Turtle Coffee Shop** – Hatteras (daily 7-5)

If you don't have time to shop, tax deductible monetary gifts are appreciated. Make checks payable to United Methodist Men and mail to Hatteras Island Food Pantry, PO Box 1591, Buxton, NC 27920.

Items Commonly Needed by the Food Pantry

- Basic foodstuffs – flour, sugar, coffee, tea, rice, pasta, cooking oil
- Canned vegetables – beets, tomatoes and greens are local favorites
- Peanut butter and dried beans
- Cereals – both hot and cold, including oatmeal and grits
- Personal care items – toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors
- Cleaning products, including dish and laundry detergent
- Paper products
- Pet Foods

Thank you for your generosity!

Save the Date! The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, invites you to join him on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception April 2, 2011. For more information contact your parish promoter or visit the Diocesan website: www.dioceseofraleigh.org.

WASHINGTON MARCH FOR LIFE - The Raleigh Respect Life Group is reserving buses for the Annual

March for Life on Monday, January 24, 2011. The cost of the trip is \$45.00 per person. Make your reservation through email address: blk4jmj@gmail.com To guarantee your seat, reservations and payments are due no later than Wednesday, December 15, 2010. Reservations after December 15 will be put on a waiting list. If you have any questions, please call Raleigh Deanery Bus Coordinators: Kathy Klein at 815-1369 or Bob Klein at 815-3237. **Other Deaneries:** Buses are also being chartered from some individual parishes, check the bulletin announcement in your local parish for information or contact Kathy to find the bus coordinator most convenient to your parish.

Young Adult Mission Trip to Honduras We are still seeking a medical physician. Young adults 21-39 with no previous mission experience are especially encouraged to apply. Limited financial assistance is available for first-time young adult mission team members. The date of the trip is March 12-19, 2011. For more information, contact Trip Coordinator, Harriet Johnson (harriet@nc.rr.com) or Robert Jones (Rob.Jones@raldioc.org) with the Office of Evangelization - 919-821-9740). Visit the diocesan website to download an application or learn more about the trip:

www.dioceseofraleigh.org/how/youngadult/missiontrip/



Bishop Burbidge on Twitter – Bishop Burbidge is now posting regular reflections, news and updates on Twitter. You are invited to follow him @bishopburbidge. Non-Twitter subscribers may receive the Bishop's tweets by cell phone text message (SMS) by texting **follow BishopBurbidge to 40404**. While the service is free, accessing it through SMS may incur phone service provider fees. Please check with your provider.



Fan the Diocese of Raleigh
The Diocese is now on Facebook! Through this new form of communication, the Diocesan Facebook page is intended to share stories, photos and videos from across Eastern North Carolina. Also, the Diocesan website, www.dioceseofraleigh.org, now allows you to share news stories to your personal Facebook and Twitter pages and to easily email and print news stories.

Get Ignited! 9th Annual IGNITED BY TRUTH



Catholic Conference supported by the Diocese of Raleigh, February 25-26, 2011 at the NC State Fairgrounds. FREE Friday workshop “Discover the Catholic Church” 7-9:30pm. Full program Saturday 8:30am-6:30pm featuring Matthew Kelly, Dr. Brant Pitre, and more! Lunch is included! Early registration discounts through Feb 6. **Gift Certificates are available!** Visit www.IgnitedByTruth.com for complete details.