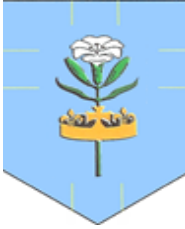


***SAINTS MARY AND EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH***  
***611 N Main St - Roxboro NC 27573***



**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Saints Mary and Edward Catholic Church**  
**is a multi-cultural parish devoted to answering**  
**the call of our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**To proclaim the Gospel**  
**To nurture our faith community**  
**To foster unity to the midst of our diversity**  
**To serve each other and the greater community**  
**Be an active member of our Parish.**

**Pastor: Father William H. Rodriguez**

**[frwhrodriguez@yahoo.com](mailto:frwhrodriguez@yahoo.com)**

**Office: 336-599-4122**

**Fax: 336-598-0412**

**Email: [maryandedwardnc@yahoo.com](mailto:maryandedwardnc@yahoo.com)**

**Webpage: [www.stmaryandedward.org](http://www.stmaryandedward.org)**

**Director of Religious Education**

**Rosita Romero: [rosiesro@hotmail.com](mailto:rosiesro@hotmail.com)**

**Mass Schedule**

**Wednesday – 7:00pm Spanish**

**First Wednesday – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass**

**Thursday – 9:30am English**

**Friday – 9:30am English**

**First Friday: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 930am Mass**

**Saturday – 5pm - English**

**Sunday -10am - English**

**Sunday – 12:00pm – Spanish**

**Confessions: Saturday at 4pm or by appointment**



***THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD***



**Oh God,**  
**who gladden us year by year as we wait**  
**in hope for our redemption, grant that,**  
**just as we joyful welcome**  
**your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer,**  
**we may also merit to face him confidently**  
**when he comes again as our judge.**  
**Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the**  
**Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.**  
**Amen**

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 24, 2023

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

## *From the Padre's Desk:*

Dear brothers and sisters:

Christmas means "Nativity, Birth" ¿Of whom? – Of the Son of God. Ever since this great event of grace, we can speak about three other births in our life: the birth to the faith, through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation; the birth to an Eternal and Definitive Life, to an endless Christmas, and with our death; and, to help others "to born again" every time that we make possible for them to find the light, hope, and vital and fraternal sense, especially for those around us that need the most. Let's not stay in a superficial, folkloric, or commercial Christmas.

Next to the crib of the Child-God, let's meditate and be thankful for the great Mystery of Love of an eternal and infinite God who became flesh of our flesh, time of our time, dust of our dust...And, at the same time, let's recognize that "we all are the flesh of Jesus Christ". Christmas also means solidarity and fraternity; my blessings to all of you and to your families during this Christmas Season and especially to all who are suffering from illnesses or from any other need.

*In Christ,  
Father William*

**FAITH FORMATION:** Every Sunday at 11am  
**ADORATION:** First Wednesday after 7pm mass, Spanish  
**FIRST FRIDAY:** January 5, 2023  
**ENGLISH CHOIR PRACTICE:** Wednesday, 7pm, Church  
**SPANISH CHOIR PRACTICE:** Thursday-7pm, Price building  
**PARISH COUNCIL:** To be announced.  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** January 10, 2024, 10am  
**EMMAUS WOMEN:** Every Tuesday at 7pm, Price building  
**EMMAUS MEN:** Every Monday at 7pm, Price building  
**LITURGY COMMITTEE:** To be announced.

**Donate online:** Go to [tostmaryandedward.org](http://tostmaryandedward.org); click Donation you will see different options: Weekly Collection, Second Collection, New Church; choose the one that you would like to use and fill out the form. You will receive confirmation of your donation in your personal email. Please make sure you add your email address on the application.  
**To send your donations by mail:**  
Ss Mary and Edward Catholic Church, 611 N Main St, Roxboro, NC 27573.

To provide the Sanctuary Lamp that burns before the Blessed Sacrament (Suggested offering is \$50.00), or to provide the parish with altar bread and wine used at the Mass (Suggested offering is \$75.00). Please call the Parish office 336-599-4122. Or send an email to: [maryandedwardnc@yahoo.com](mailto:maryandedwardnc@yahoo.com)

**PRAYER:** For our Church, for Pope Francis, for Bishop Luis Rafael and all our leaders; let's pray for the Holy Father's intentions that the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation between individuals and peoples may be understood and that through her testimony the Church may spread Christ's love, the source of new humanity.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** Father, in your plan for our salvation you Shepherd for your people. Fill your Church with the spirit of continual love. Give us more priests, worthy ministers for your altar and ardent but gentle servants of the Gospel. Grant us an increase in vocations to the religious life. May more of your people respond to your call in a spirit of joyful generosity, may they serve your people in love by following in the footsteps of Christ, your Son, and provide by their way of life a convincing sign of your kingdom. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.; Mary, Mother of the Church, Pray for us.

### PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Gloria Wiener, Bobby Rigsby, Charles Rigsbee, Julian Alexander, Leila Currier, John and Anita Swanik, Annie O'Connor, Claire Clements, Eliza Spoto, Joan DesRoches, Eduardo Sanchez Bueno, Cindy Ceballos, Martin Rico, Omar Gutierrez, Jimmy Bowes, Wayne Lundby, Nancy Conner, Gloria Carranza, Omar Martinez, Maria Elizabeth Ramirez, Sara Guadalupe Ramirez, Pedro Darel, Matilde Perez Garcia, Julia Lozano, Every Roster, Carmen Alvarez, Martin Cervantes, Carolina Flores, Veronica Rodriguez, Barbara Bradley, Betty and Douglas Bradley, Cristina Otwell, Catalina Ibarra Guzman, Pedro Martinez, Emanuel Franco Garibaldi, Estefania Saenz, Francy Benson.

*Dear Lord, I come before you today in need of your healing hand. In you all things are possible. Hold my heart within yours, and renew my mind, body, and soul.*

*Amen*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OUR PARISH [www.stmaryandedward.org](http://www.stmaryandedward.org)

**SECOND COLLECTION:** The second collection for December 23 and 24 is for the Debt Reduction Collection.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION:** For Monday, December 25 is the Christmas Offering. Thank you for your generosity.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** Sunday, December 24 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and also Christmas Eve. Mass will be celebrated at 10am and 12pm in the Price building and at 10pm in the Small Church. Please join us to sing the carols at 9:30pm.

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS):** Monday, December 25, Christmas, Mass will be celebrated at 10am in English and 12pm in Spanish.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** To our Catechists, students, parents and to our Hispanic Choir for their commitment and support. The Christmas play was a beautiful demonstration of faith and love dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ. May Baby Jesus continue guiding us in our journey of faith. Thanks to all who were present and to our Pastor Father William.

**RAFFLE:** The group of Emmaus will continue selling tickets for a raffle after each Mass. The cost per ticket is \$120. Last raffle: December 25: Prize \$4,000

**FAITH FORMATION:** No Faith Formation classes December 24 and December 31. Students will return to class Sunday, January 7, 2024. Have a Merry Christmas and a New Year full of blessings.

**ANGEL TREE:** All families that registered their children for the angel tree can pick up the gifts after Mass. Have a Merry and Holy Christmas.

**DEVOTION TO THE HOLY ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY:** A group of ladies would like to invite all the parishioners to join them in the small Church every Wednesday at 7pm to pray the rosary and Divine Mercy in English.

**IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE PARISH:** Welcome! Introduce yourself to Fr. William and fill out a registration card.

**CALENDARS:** Bilingual Calendars for the year 2024 are ready at the back of the Church.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** for the year 2024 are at the back of the Church. If you would like to begin using envelopes, please take an unmarked box and fill in the information form on the clipboard. Thank you.

### NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

#### 2024 Diocesan Mass for Life in Raleigh, NC

The 2024 Diocesan Mass for Life (Bilingual) will be held Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, 715 Nazareth St., Raleigh, NC. Rosary begins at 10:30 a.m., Mass with Bishop Luis Zarama starts at 11:00 a.m. (The NC March for Life has been moved to May 18, 2024.)

#### North Carolina Mass for Life in Washington, DC

The North Carolina Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, will be held Jan. 19, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. The National March for Life begins at 1 p.m.

## *Eucharistic Revival*

**WE are in a REVIVAL. Please pray at home and attend Mass.**

**Jesus, living in the Eucharist, come and live in me,**

**Jesus, healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me,**

**Jesus, sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me,**

**Jesus, rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me,**

**Jesus, loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me.**

**ALSO PLEASE PRAY for all those who, for the first time, are missing a loved one this Advent and Christmas. Though we are joyful that they are in heaven, we still miss having their hand to hold.**

## *CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE*

**Sunday, December 17**

**Christmas Play**

**11am – Price building**

**Tuesday, December 19**

**Advent Reconciliation Service**

**7pm – Price building**

**Saturday, December 23**

**5pm Mass – English**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**Price Building**

**10am Mass – English**

**12pm Mass – Spanish**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**Small Church**

**9:30pm “Christmas Carols”**

**10:00pm - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
at the Vigil Mass**

**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**10am Christmas Mass in English**

**12pm Christmas Mass in Spanish**

**Saturday, December 30**

**5pm Mass - English**

**Sunday, December 31**

**10am Mass in English**

**12m Mass in Spanish**

**Monday, January 1, 2024**

**Solemnity of Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God**

**No Mass**

**This year, the obligation to attend Mass on this  
date is abrogated.  
(Liturgical Calendar 2024)**

**Monthly Budget \$ 9.500**

**12/17/2023**

**Offertory: \$2,215**

**Maintenance and Repair: \$668**

**New Church: \$225**

**Winner of the Raffle donation:  
\$1,000**

**Poinsettias: \$54**

**Other donations: \$11,100**

### **DAILY READINGS:**

**Monday: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18**

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

**Wednesday: 1Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12  
Jn 20:1a and 2-8**

**Thursday: 1Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18**

**Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35**

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

**Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3**

**Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9**

**Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

**Lk 2:22-40**