

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Nicolas Rapkoch, Administrator
(919) 861-4600

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Oguzie, C.S.Sp.
Parochial Vicar
(919) 861-4600

Jannine LeBlanc, Principal
(919) 861-4618, jleblanc@olls.org

Deacon Brad Magill
Business & Facilities Manager
(919) 861-4607, bmagill@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Deacon Byron Champagne
bchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Deacon Myles Charlesworth

Maria House, Sacramental Coordinator
(919) 861-4614, mhouse@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Melody Gerald, Receptionist
(919) 861-4600, mgerald@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Adrienne Magill, Communications Director
(919) 861-4613, amagill@olls.org

Austin Faur, Director of Youth Apostolate
(919) 861-4600, afaur@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Candace Sperati, Children's Faith Formation
(919) 861-4634, csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Financial Administrator
(919) 861-4609, finance@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Bernadett Horvath, Director of Music
(919) 861-4611, bhorvath@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Robin Biggie, Maintenance
(919) 861-4606, rbiggie@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Bulletin Editor
bulletin@ourladyoflourdescc.org

OLL Invitations Editor
invitations@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Parish Council
Chair: Darren Sessler
parishcouncil@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Nick Chiodo
Jeff Lineberry
Beth Murphy
Jason Pedone
Terry Bogan
Tom Enzweiler
Elizabeth Lehpamer
Audrey Frasca

Finance Council
Chair: Jason Sandner

Ed Fritsch
Tricia Patrick
Mike Thelen
Michael Cross

School Advisory
Chair: Reed Murphy
(919) 624-0298

Amy Dever
Austin Faur
Jannine LeBlanc
Chris Morse
Player Murray
Jennifer Paciariello

CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3 FIRST SATURDAY

8:30am - † Carlos Antonio Correa
5:00pm - † Nora Elchenko

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

9:00am - † Ed Macko
11:30am - Pro Populo
(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo
5:00pm - † Annette Lefebvre

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

8:30am - † Angel Emmanuel Anaya
& † J. Jesus Barragan Garcia

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

8:30am - † Leo Biggie, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30am - Mary Olivia Gerald (Birthday)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

8:30am - Bill Castonguay
(Español) 6:30pm - † Elpidio Simenez

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

8:30am -

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

8:30am - Kenneth Groves
5:00pm - Ann Suber

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00am -
11:30am -
(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo
5:00pm -

**Regular
Office Hours**

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4pm

Website

ourladyoflourdescc.org

Adoration Chapel
oll.weadorehim.com

OLL Flocknote

ollraleigh.flocknote.com

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Active members of our parish are identified by their generosity of time, talent and treasure.

THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

is to invite and lead all people to know and love Jesus Christ and to live their Catholic faith through word, sacrament, community, evangelization and service.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

Pro-Life Corner

"Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life. Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering. ... Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Calling All Our Young Parishioners!



NURSERY 8:45AM-10:15AM

Fallon Center, Room 202

The nursery provides a warm, nurturing environment where little ones can begin to explore their faith through age-appropriate activities, music, and play, helping them take their first steps in a lifelong journey with Christ.

CHILDRENS LITURGY OF THE WORD

CLOW brings the Liturgy of the Word to life through simple, meaningful, age-appropriate lessons that children can easily understand and connect with—while making friends and having fun.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You don't need to commit weekly or monthly—volunteer whenever it fits your schedule. No prep, no pressure! Come have fun with us, meet wonderful families, and enjoy being part of the faith journey of our amazing parish children.

To learn more, contact:
lauren.bambrick.davis@gmail.com

Thank You - Baby Bottle Update

Thanks to your generosity, we raised **\$8,751.03** for the Birthchoice Baby Bottle campaign.

Thank you to all our parishioners that contributed!



You still have time to drop off your bottle if you haven't turned it in yet; please see one of the ushers before or after Mass and they will place the baby bottle in the safe. We will have another update after the first of the year.

Thank you from the Respect Life Committee!

SANCTUARY CANDLES

A 14-day
**CHURCH SANCTUARY
CANDLE**
will burn
*for the repose of the
souls of all the faithful
departed*

A 14-day
**CHAPEL SANCTUARY
CANDLE**
will burn
*for the intentions of
Dennis & Linda
Redoblado*

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY DECEMBER 21 2025	BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
YTD OFFERTORY (7/1/25-12/21/25)	\$ 875,000	\$ 906,694	\$ 31,694

The National March for Life will be on January 23, 2026 in Washington, DC. Our bus will depart from Saint Raphael CC at 5:00 AM and return late the same day. You can join thousands at the National Mall for the concert, rally, great speakers, and march for the preborn children, and for all who still need your support for the Culture of Life in our State and Nation. The cost is \$100 per seat, and school-age children ride free with a parent or guardian.

Sign up or donate at
www.KofC9880.org/marchforlife
- This QR code will direct to the website.



Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat January 9-11, 2026

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat 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:
project.rachel@raldioc.org - (919) 852-1021
<http://rachelnc.org>

**Cost is \$350 for lodging, meals,
and all retreat materials.**

Discount of \$50 if you register before December 9th.

Spanish and English speakers are welcome.
If there is a financial burden, assistance is always available.

Please Pray
for our Sick,
Suffering &
Deployed

GARY ADLER
STEPHEN ADLER
KATHLEEN CHARLESWORTH
MYLES CHARLESWORTH
DANA CASH
ELEANORA CEFALU
ANDREW DILILLO
BARBARA GRANT
LOUISE GUYTON

CAPTAIN ZACHARY KOUSENS
MARIE LACH
JOHN LEAVY
LIZ LORSCHIEDER
BOB & JAN JOYCE
NORMA KLEITSCH
HELVI LARSON
EILEEN MACKO
KATIE & VINCE MARTINO

JULIA MEYERS
AL & CAROL MIGNACCI
TOM MITCHELL
DON MONROE
KATIE NOWAK
MARY REDMOND
DAN & KAREN RITCHIE
ED RIVEGLIA, JR.
JOELLE ROEHRL

JOHNNY GARCIA ROJAS
JANINE SEDORE
ALLISEN SCHULT
MARJORIE SHAUGHNESSY
ANNE SUBER
ANN SULLIVAN
NANCY URBEN
HARRY VINCENT
SHARON WILKINSON



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OUR PRE-K IS EXPANDING!



Play-based learning



Developmentally appropriate curriculum



Outdoor play

Our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing, and faith-based environment.

APPLY NOW



919.861.4610

WWW.OLLS.ORG



REQUEST A TOUR TODAY

Join Us for an In-Depth School Tour and Experience a Christ-Centered and Rigorous, Academic Education Like Never Before!



OLLS.ORG



As part of our seventh-grade theology class, students spend time in the Adoration Chapel to pray and reflect while learning about the Rosary. During this time, students will focus on the Sorrowful Mysteries, deepening their understanding of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice.

There they pray the Rosary, review its prayers and structure, and reflect quietly on its meaning. This experience is an opportunity for students to grow in faith, practice prayerful meditation, and strengthen their relationship with God.

At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, we spend our time educating the whole child, in mind, body, and spirit.

Request Your Tour





Understanding the Human Person

A Weekend Retreat Course for adults

Diocese of Raleigh Catholic Center, Raleigh, NC

February 13 & 14, 2026

Would you like to understand the truth about sexuality, love, marriage, parenting and family – and be able to express it to others? Hear from engaging, expert speakers and have your questions answered, participate in classroom activities with other students, and be spiritually enriched during a Holy Hour on Friday night.

Topics include:

St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body

The Roots of the Sexual Revolution

Fertility Appreciation

Male-female complementarity

Child development and the
importance of Family

Gender identity and gender confusion

The Course fee is \$150 & includes
12 hours of instruction, books,
Friday dinner and Saturday lunch.

Some scholarships are available.

\$25 early bird discount if
registered by January 1.



Questions?

Contact fhraleigh@gmail.com





Please join us for a



CLOW MINISTRY

social

FEB 6TH | AT 6:30 PM

Raleigh Country Club

Please join us for a fun painting night and
dinner with CLOW Ministry!

Open to all — bring a friend and enjoy a fun
evening together!

*Please RSVP using the link so we can plan
accordingly.*



It's Back!

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

BLARNEY BASH

MAR
14
2026

6PM to
10:30PM

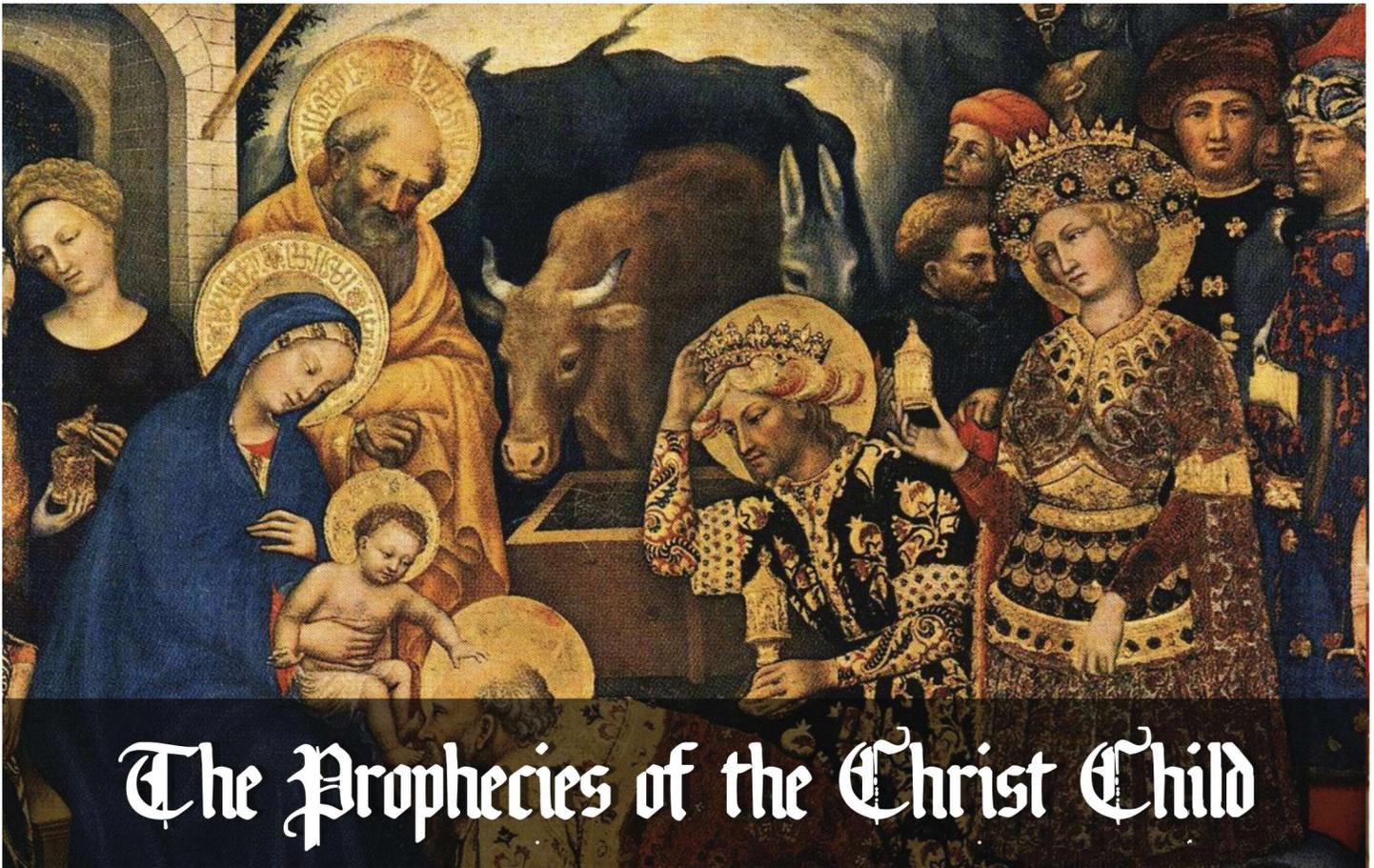
THE FALLON
CENTER

food,
IRISH MUSIC,
BEER & WINE
& IRISH
DANCERS



SAVE THE DATE!

More info coming soon!!



The Prophecies of the Christ Child

January 6 is the feast of the Magi, or Wise Men—the day that Gentiles first came into direct contact with God. Those first Gentiles were the Three Kings who brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and the symbolism in their gifts attests that they had an understanding of just Who this Child Jesus was: *gold* to show that He was a king; *frankincense* to honor Him as God; and *myrrh* to greet Him as mortal man.

But how did the Magi of the East know of His coming? Fulton Sheen explains in his masterpiece, *Life of Christ*, “Probably from the many prophecies circulated through the world by the Jews as well as through the prophecy made to the Gentiles by Daniel, centuries before His birth.”

And it was not only the Jews and the Three Wise men who expected His coming. Sheen points to the pagan testimonies of ancient Romans who believed that “from Judea would come a great Master and Ruler of the world.” Sheen also accounts that China had the same expectation. From the *Annals of the Celestial Empire* he quotes: “In the 24th year of Tchao-Wang of the dynasty of the Tcheou, on the 8th day of the 4th moon, a light appeared in the Southwest which illumined the king’s palace. The monarch, struck by its splendor, interrogated the sages. They showed him books in which this prodigy signified the appearance of the Great Saint of the West whose religion was to be introduced into their country.”

He goes on: “The Greeks expected Him, for Aeschylus in his *Prometheus* six centuries before His coming, wrote, ‘Look not for any end, moreover, to this curse until God appears, to accept upon His Head the pangs of thy own sins vicarious.’”

Sheen notes that Cicero regarded the sayings of the ancient oracles and Sibyls about a “King whom we must recognize to be saved.” Virgil refers to the same ancient tradition when he mentions in *The Fourth Eclogue* “a chaste woman, smiling on her infant boy, with whom the iron age would pass away.” And the ancient Roman Suetonius who, 2000 years ago, speaks of the Romans being so fearful about “a king who would rule the world” that they ordered all children born that year to be killed—an order that was not fulfilled, except by Herod.

Not only were the Jews expecting the birth of a Great King, a Wise Man and a Savior, but Plato and Socrates also spoke of the Logos and the Universal Wise Man “yet to come.” Confucius spoke of the “Saint”; the Sibyls, of a “Universal King”; the Greek dramatist, Aeschylus, of “a savior and redeemer to unloose man from the ‘primal eldest curse.’”

Sheen rightly concludes, “What separates Christ from all men is that first He was expected; even the Gentiles had a longing for a deliverer, or redeemer. This fact alone distinguishes Him from all other religious leaders.” He alone came pre-announced—and Three Wise Men, for it was by wisdom that they recognized the star as the fulfillment of all the prophecies, followed it to the One whom they sought, and thus became the first of the Gentile Nations to adore Him.

Holy Family Perpetual Adoration Chapel invites you to come and visit the Christ Child on this day—and on all days—as the Magi did.

Located in the parish office building at Our Lady of Lourdes.

What Became of the Magi?

The *Historia Trium Regum*—or History of the Three Kings—by John of Hildesheim elaborates on Saint Matthew's gospel account. From this 14th century source comes the story of how they first saw the star which led them to Bethlehem on March 25, the day, and at the moment, that Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb. It took the Magi nine months and twelve days to reach Bethlehem, guided by the star. The star first led them to converge together to meet for the first time before they reached Jerusalem, where it disappeared—only to reappear when they left that city. It then led them together to the cave of Bethlehem.

Mary let each of them hold Jesus in his arms, and gave them pieces of His swaddling clothes as relics to bring back to their countries. The Magi returned to the East, and were later brought together again in Persia where they were baptized by Saint Thomas the Apostle, in the year 40. It was believed that all three were martyred for the Faith and are thus regarded as Saints: St. Gaspar, St. Melchior and St. Balthasar.

Their remains were first brought to Constantinople, and then to Milan, and in the twelfth century these relics were placed in the Cathedral of Cologne, in Germany, with reports of miracles of healings and conversions. They are still venerated in the Shrine of the Magi at the Cathedral of Cologne today, and Cologne's city coat of arms depicts the three crowns of the Kings whom its Cathedral enshrines.



The Epiphany of the Lord

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI

The Magi are the central personages in today's feast of Epiphany. They were pagans who did not know the true God of the Jews. Yet that true God revealed to them that the King he had promised the Jews had come. The expected Prince was born. They came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king—a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their past history, but utter indifference as regards the present and the future. These leaders knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, they must have realized that the Magi were very sure of the truth revealed to them—they would not have come such a long journey on a "fool's errand." In spite of that, the thought of going to Bethlehem with the Magi never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to Christ and in spite of his miracles, refused to admit his claim that he was not only the promised Messiah, but the true Son of God. These were the men who rejected him because he had mercy on sinners, and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their Messiah was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like Herod they ended with murder—the crucifixion of the "King of the Jews." The pagan king was not much worse than the indifferent Leaders of God's Chosen People.

We too know the true facts concerning Christ, his mission, and his present and future kingdom. Like the leaders of the Jews of his day, we also could become absorbed in the affairs of this life and the quest for wealth, pleasure and power. We could become so totally absorbed in such things as to have neither the interest nor the time to pay our respects to Christ or to welcome him into our homes and our hearts, as our true Lord. God forbid it should ever be thus with us. Rather let us resolve this morning to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer him all that we have and are. He will accept our offering and we will return by another way, wiser and better men.

