

WHO ARE YOU?

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily: Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.*, Chapel
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m., Church
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.*, Church
* In-person & virtual

CONFESSION

Saturday, 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., Church
or by appointment

ADORATION

Thursday, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Chapel

PARISH CENTER OFFICE

5000 Southpark Drive
Durham, NC 27713

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday,
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
closed Friday

CONTACT US

Office: 919-544-7135
info@holysinfectchurch.org

VISIT US ONLINE

Go to holysinfectchurch.org
or scan the QR code below



OPEN HEARTS · OPEN HANDS · OPEN MINDS

TOGETHER, THROUGH THE GRACE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE "LIVE JESUS," REACHING OUT, EMBRACING ALL WITH COMPASSION, HUMILITY & GENTLENESS.

THOUGHTS FROM SALESIAN SPIRITUALITY

"Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset. Have patience with all things, But, first of all with yourself." - St. Francis de Sales



PARISH STAFF

<u>Title</u>	<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Direct Line</u>	<u>Email</u>
Pastor	Rev. Robert M. Rutledge, OSFS	919-973-0006	RRutledge@holysinfectchurch.org
Priest in Residence	Father Jack Kelly	919-544-7135	Jjkelly@holysinfectchurch.org
Director of Operations and Finance	John Martin	919-973-0017	JohnM@holysinfectchurch.org
Directors of Catechetical Leadership			
Families & Children	Michalene Sutton	919-973-0013	Msutton@holysinfectchurch.org
Youth & Adults	Amber Shastri	919-973-0012	AmberS@holysinfectchurch.org
Director of Liturgy & Music	Jeff Rice	919-925-3714	JeffR@holysinfectchurch.org
Liturgical Ministries Assistant	Leah Breindel	909-925-3714	LeahB@holysinfectchurch.org
Communications Coordinator	Stacy Paper	919-973-0010	StacyP@holysinfectchurch.org
Financial Services Administrator	Lea Chiquito	919-973-0009	LeaC@holysinfectchurch.org
Parish Services Assistant	Debbie Heuser	919-544-7135	DebbieH@holysinfectchurch.org
Pastor's Assistant	Karina Miranda	919-973-0008	KarinaM@holysinfectchurch.org
Pastoral Associate	Lynn Sale	919-973-0018	LynnS@holysinfectchurch.org
Deacon	Tom Hill	919-544-7135	Tomh@holysinfectchurch.org

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Rev. Robert M. Rutledge, OSFS, Pastor

Laura Terpack, Peter Barrett, Co-Chairmen,
holysinfectpfcchair@gmail.com

John Martin, Director of Operations and Finance

Kathy Auten, Bob Dieter, Mike Pearl, Bob Radcliffe

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rev. Robert M. Rutledge, OSFS, Pastor

Kim McAllister	Collin McKinney	Laura Terpack,
Bob Dieter	Carol Owen	ex-Officio
Lindsay Glenn	Julio Revueltas	Lynn Sale,
Matt Luedke	Mark Szczesiu	ex-Officio

Midge Bowers, Chair, midge2031@gmail.com

FIND IT ON THE WEB

Our parish website is your **primary** source for the most complete and up-to-date information about the parish. Visit holysinfectchurch.org for details on many topics, including:

- ✦ **Mass and Liturgy Times**
- ✦ **Office Hours and Contact Information**
- ✦ **Calendar of Events**, including event details
- ✦ **News** within the parish and around the diocese
- ✦ **Worship & Sacraments**, including sacramental prep information for Baptism, Reconciliation (Confession), Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders; **Vocations** for men and women; and **Funerals**
- ✦ **Faith & Learning** for adults, teens, and children;
- ✦ **Salesian spirituality and the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales**
- ✦ **Joining the parish**
- ✦ **Getting Involved**
- ✦ **Ministries & Groups**

Safe Environment Victim Assistance Hotline

Call 866-535-SAFE

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND

During the General Intercessions at our weekend Masses, we remember all members of our parish and community who are homebound or suffering any illness. Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Jean Arlotta; Mary Anthony; Jo Augusta; Nancy Balding; Jeff Baker; Colette & Clayton Bean; Jerry DeBenedetto; Jennifer Bland; Margaret Burnett; Marcia Brown; Joanne Callahan; Maria Capone; Alice & Christos Chamis ; Albina & Chin Chua; Lillian Davids; Bea Davis; Jerry DeBenedetto; Rosemary Donohue; Eileen Dowling; Christine Drap; Irene Dunbar; Jason Ferrigan; Susan Fleming; Zosima Flores; Adela Florey; Dot & Jack Gregory; Marjorie Goode; Fran Hamacher; Mary Jane Haga; Mary Jane Harvey; Jane Helmer; Denise Herron; Dave Jognia; Bernadette Kilroy; Aileen Koch; Bill & Donna LaMountain; Alice Lefebvre; Walter Lupa; Peggy McIntyre; Maria Mitch; Monique Mueller; Nelida Muniz; Kathleen O'Donnell; Chris Ogonowski; Johnathan Palermo; Louise Peloquin; Bill Perkins; Rosalind Riggio; Nancy Rizzo; Shelia Rogers; Julia Schmidt; Tom Shreve; Betty Short; Kathy Smith; Bob Smith; Hugo Sotolongo; Corrine Stavely; Marisa Suarez; Maria Tadipa; Richard Thomas

If you or a loved one are hospitalized or homebound, contact the Parish Center.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**December 18th to December 24th***Masses are livestreamed & in person unless otherwise stated.*

Monday, 9 am	David Joseph Joel †
Tuesday, 9 am	Gerald "Jerry" Egan †
Tuesday, 7 pm	Advent Penance Service
Wednesday, 9 am	Julita Novio †
Thursday, 9 am	Jack Donovan †
Friday, 9 am	Heloisa & Marcus Nogueira (birthday)
Saturday, 9 am	Teofilo Bugayong †
*Saturday, 5:30 pm	Mary Kirlauski
*Sunday, 8:30 am	Pat Taylor (honor)
Sunday, 4 pm	John Spiridigliozzi †
Sunday, 7 pm	Sheri Lynn Applegate †
Sunday, 10 pm	Parishioners of Holy Infant

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday, Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17
 Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday, Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 1:26-38
Thursday, Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,
 20-21 Lk 1:39-45
Friday, 1 Sm 1:24-28 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abed
 Lk 1:46-56
Saturday, Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9,
 10 and 14 Lk 1:57-66
Sunday, 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

The Parish office will be closed
December 20th at noon for a staff meal
 and closed from **December 22nd** until
January 2nd for the holidays.

Stewardship of Treasure | July 1 - November 30

	Budgeted	Received	Difference
First Offertory	\$427,930	\$390,372	(\$37,558)
Christmas Offertory		\$150	\$150
Easter Offertory		\$323	\$323
Holy Day Collections	\$3,000	\$4,461	\$1,461
Maintenance Offertory	\$17,900	\$15,882	(\$2,018)
	\$448,830	\$411,188	(\$37,642)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are in person unless otherwise stated.
 Go to **HolyInfantChurch.org/calendar**
 for details on the following events:

Dec 19 Centering Prayer, 8 am
Dec 19 Justice Garden Workday, 9 am
Dec 19 Advent Penance Service, 7 pm
Dec 20 **Parish Office closed at NOON**
Dec 20 Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 5 pm
Dec 20 Adoration Holy Hour, 6 pm
Dec 20 Sung Evening Vespers, 6:30 pm
Dec 20 Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm
Dec 20 RCIA Inquiry Session, 7:30 pm
Dec 21 Marian Prayer, 9:30 am
Dec 21 Eucharistic Adoration, 12 pm
Dec 23 Justice Garden Workday, 9 am
Dec 23 Reconciliation, 4 pm

The parish library is open on Sundays from 8 am-4 pm

*Christmas Eve
 at Holy Infant*

DECEMBER 24TH
 MASS AT 4, 7 & 10 PM

DECEMBER 25TH AT 10AM
*Christmas Day
 Mass*

Faith Development

Families & Children

Michalene Sutton

919-973-0013

Msutton@holyninfantchurch.org

Youth & Adults

Amber Shastri

919-973-0012

AmberS@holyninfantchurch.org

ADVENT AMID THE GIFT WRAP

"Are you ready for Christmas?" asked a guy I see at the train station every day. I thought of the long list of gifts I still needed to buy and the calendar crammed with holiday events and parties, and I shook my head. "Hardly," I said, and we both laughed knowingly.

On my train ride downtown I turned off my iPod and let my mind ponder that question a little deeper. "Am I ready for Christmas?" This time I thought about the meaning of the holiday—the Son of God coming to earth to dwell among us and show us the way to eternal life. Again I shook my head and murmured to myself, "Hardly."

It was then that I vowed to take advantage of every opportunity to prepare my heart for the coming of the Christ Child into the world—the world you and I live in.

What I discovered was that if we know what we're preparing for, everything we encounter on the way to Christmas can prepare us for the coming of Christ, not only in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago but also into our homes, our families, our workplaces, and our communities. The usual December distractions can instead become holy moments when we find the Christ Child in our midst.

Having the right attitude and perspective on the season will help you and your family avoid the excesses that make certain Christmas preparations frantic, yet draining and disappointing. As theologian John Shea says, "The task seems to be the delicate one of learning to make the customs and traditions of Christmas serve the Spirit."

Take a look at some of December's demanding activities with new eyes, eyes that fully expect to find God in every moment of this season of hope.

-Tom McGrath



WEEKLY PODCAST

This week Michalene and Jeff visit Bishop Louis in his office in Raleigh for a wide-ranging discussion of his path to becoming bishop, and his vision for the work of the Church in our diocese.



JANUARY BOOK STUDY

Many of us struggle to understand and receive food as a natural gift from God. Some of us eat too much food. Or we eat too little. Often, we eat without gratitude, without charity, without respect. But, with a sacramental worldview, the supernatural gift of God's grace can transform and heal us through the food we make, eat, and share.

The study will begin on **January 6th** and run until Mardi Gras on February 13th. Use the QR code to register.

SEEKING CATECHISTS

As you reflect on 2023, please consider if you have the desire to share God's love with our high school-aged teens in 2024.

Please contact Amber at the email address above for more information about TYM and joining our team of catechists.

Ministries

Pastoral Associate

Lynn Sale

lynns@holynfantchurch.org



CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

You are invited to join the new diocesan NC Catholics Caring for Our Common Home. Pope Francis reminds us that: "The environment is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.... We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world."

Raleigh Diocese parishioners have heard the pope's message and responded to his call by forming North Carolina Catholics Caring for our Common Home (NCCCCH). Our mission is to inspire and mobilize the Catholic community to care for our common home and achieve climate and ecological justice with the urgency the times require. Our members work within their parishes, deaneries, and with other groups throughout the Raleigh diocese to promote and engage in an integral ecological approach that recognizes everything is connected.

To join, please contact Deacon Joshua Klickman at: Deacon.Joshua.Klickman@DeaconsDOR.org.

JOIN THE PARISH FOR WEEKLY VESPERS DURING ADVENT

All are invited during the Advent season each Wednesday to pray the evening liturgy of the church, Vespers, with simple chants and music that all can join in singing.

Each Wednesday of Advent from 6:30-7 pm

THANK YOU FOR GIVING

This year's Share Your Christmas was a great success. Thank you to everyone who supported and contributed towards this beautiful service event. We are incredibly impressed by the giving hearts of our parishioners!



**CHECK OUT OUR PARISH CALENDAR FOR MORE
UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOLY INFANT**



“O” ANTIPHONS

Yes, you read the title right. That’s “O” the letter of the alphabet that most reminds us of breakfast cereal, tires, doughnuts, hula-hoops, no-hitters, and Advent. In many parishes, “O” is the first word said in the new Church year. Actually, we sing it in Advent’s most popular song, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” It announces the season that anticipates the coming of Christ at Christmas. This hymn, which tells us Advent is starting, used to announce that Advent was ending. The last eight days of Advent form a little “season” all by themselves.

As the Church prepares for the birthday of Christ, the liturgy gets more intense. At daily Mass, the Gospels relate the events leading up to the first Christmas. At Evening Prayer, we have a special series of antiphons that beckon the Messiah to come. Each night gives him a new name, drawn from the Old Testament. “O Wisdom,” “O Sacred Lord,” “O Flower of Jesse’s Stem,” “O Key of David,” “O Radiant Dawn,” “O King of All Nations,” and the greatest of them all, “O Emmanuel,” a name that means “God is with us.” For reasons that will be immediately obvious, we call that group of refrains the O Antiphons, a hallmark of Advent, and a collection of music our church has treasured for many generations.

By the Middle Ages, those seven antiphons got strung together into a popular hymn. The last one became verse one, and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” was born. Thus, the antiphon originally established for the last evening before Christmas Eve is now often sung to begin Advent. That “O,” of course, simply tells us that we’re talking to someone. It’s like saying, “Hey, you.” Only more politely. But “O” reminds us of much more. It makes us think of something having no beginning and no end. Like love or an Advent wreath. It resembles the shape of our mouth and the sound we make when we face a mystery we cannot fully comprehend.

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11 I rejoice heartily in the Lord.

Luke 1 “My soul rejoices in my God.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 May you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:6–8, 19–28 There is one among you whom you do not recognize.

On Gaudete Sunday a theme of joy runs through our readings. Isaiah, returning to the promised land after years of exile, describes the wonders God will accomplish. In the psalm, we sing that our souls rejoice in our God. Paul closes his letter to the Thessalonians by reminding them to rejoice always.

Finally, we hear John the Baptist testify that he is not worthy to even untie the sandal strap of the One who is coming, the light, the Christ. May the joy we hear in God’s word rub off on us. How can I recognize and then bear witness to the light that comes from God?



SING IT AGAIN, SAM

This weekend we sang “The King Shall Come” by Trevor Thomson Use the QR code above to listen and sing it again.

Next weekend we celebrate the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** when we begin to turn the corner from anticipating the coming of Christ to realizing his coming to our world in the form of an infant; a small babe lying in a manger, sent to heal the world and bring us comfort and joy.

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

LOVE OF GOD

Love of God has never been easy for me. During formation and my early priesthood, I often felt like an imposter. I kept thinking I should be feeling more or doing more. People talked about being on fire and I would have settled for a slow burn. In addition to that, I was supposed to be formed in the tradition of Francis de Sales who wrote the book on loving God. His other classic is actually called the Treatise on the Love of God. When asked if I had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I would often think, "Well, I have a working relationship with Jesus Christ."

I have been trained to bring all things to prayer. So I did just that. I would often pray, "God, I don't know how to love You. I don't know what it means." Response - Silence. I was also trained to be persistent. I prayed with frustration, "Lord, I find it natural to love the people You send into my life, but I do not know how to love You. I love people, I don't know how to love You." Only once have I heard something back in prayer with this clarity, "Joe, they are not two different things."

Last Sunday's Gospel from Matthew has a similar insight when we hear, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for Me" (Matt. 25:40). I think Matthew's Gospel has the best response to my question, "Lord, how do I love you?" The Lord responds back with clarity, "love your neighbor."

The Constitutions for the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales have a similar insight. Loving God and loving neighbor are not separate. Our founder, Blessed Louis Brisson, is quoted saying:

"We must start with this principle of our holy Founder, St. Francis de Sales, namely that there is always in our neighbor something of God, and consequently, something lovable. If you do not see your neighbor in a good light, it is because your look is fascinated with your own excellence, which impedes you from seeing the reality around you... namely, God in your neighbor."

My new spiritual practice is to ask God and the people in my life the same question, "How can I love you today?" Then, I listen.

May God be Praised!

-Fr. Joe Newman, OSFS
Provincial
Toledo- Detroit Province



*How can I
love you today?*