

THOUGHTS FROM SALESIAN SPIRITUALITY

"Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset." - St. Francis de Sales



Parish staff				
<u>Title</u>	Staff Member	<u>Direct Line</u>	<u>Email</u>	
Pastor	Rev. Robert M. Rutledge, OSFS	919-973-0006	RRutledge@holyinfantchurch.org	
Director of Operations and Finance	John Martin	919-973-0017	JohnM@holyinfantchurch.org	
Director of Catechetical Leadership	Michalene Sutton	919-973-0013	Msutton@holyinfantchurch.org	
Assistant Director of Catechetical Leadership	Anna Lee	919-973-0012	ALee@holyinfantchurch.org	
Director of Liturgy & Music	Jeff Rice	919-925-3714	JeffR@holyinfantchurch.org	
Liturgical Ministries Assistant	Leah Breindel	919-925-3714	LeahB@holyinfantchurch.org	
Communications Coordinator	Stacy Paper	919-973-0010	StacyP@holyinfantchurch.org	
Financial Services Administrator	Amy Locke	919-973-0009	AmyL@holyinfantchurch.org	
Parish Services Assistant	Brandi Rhew	919-544-7135	BrandiR@holyinfantchurch.org	
Pastor's Assistant	Karina Miranda	919-973-0008	KarinaM@holyinfantchurch.org	
Pastoral Associate	Lynn Sale	919-973-0018	LynnS@holyinfantchurch.org	
Deacon	Tom Hill	919-544-7135	Tomh@holyinfantchurch.org	

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Rev. Robert M. Rutledge, OSFS, Pastor

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

John Martin, Director of Operations and Finance

Norberto Quezada, Bob Dieter, Mike Pearl, Bob Radcliffe

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

Rev. Robert M. Rutledge, OSFS, Pastor Midge Bowers, Chair, midge2031@gmail.com

FIND IT ON THE WEB

Our parish website is your <u>primary</u> source for the most complete and up-to-date information about the parish. Visit holyinfantchurch.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; becoming Catholic; Catholic schools
- 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 Agusta; Nancy Balding; Jeff Baker; Colette & Clayton Bean; Jerry DeBenedetto; Jennifer Bland: Margaret Burnett: Marcia Brown: Maria Capone: Alice & Christos Chamis ; Albina & Chin Chua; Eva Crowley; Lillian Davids; Bea Davis; Rosemary Donohue; Eileen Dowling; Christine Drap; Jason Ferrigan; Adela Florey; Dot Gregory; Marjorie Goode; Mary Jane Haga; Mary Jane Harvey; Jane Helmer: Denise Herron: Ruth & Kenneth Jones: Aileen Koch: Donna LaMountain: Alice Lefebvre: Peggy McIntvre: Terry Mercaldo: Monigue Mueller: Nelida Muniz: Kathleen O'Donnell; Johnathan Palermo; Louise Peloquin; Bill Perkins; Helen Pischak; Rosalind Riggio; Nancy Rizzo; Shelia Rogers; Julia Schmidt; Susan Sheehan; Tom Shreve; Betty Short; Bob Smith; Hugo Sotolongo; Corrine Stavely; Katherine Strubing; Marisa Suarez: Mary Sunderland: Richard Thomas: Angel **David Torres**

Mass Times & Intentions January 20th—January 26th

Monday, 9 am Tuesday, 9:00 am Wednesday, 9:00 am Thursday, 9:00am

Friday, 9:00 am Saturday, 9:00 am Saturday, 5:30 pm Sunday, 8:30 am Sunday, 11:30 am No Mass

Deloris Saller † Samuel Galindo (birthday)

Rolando Tinio † Millie Maksim †

Ronald Baptista (birthday)

The Basile Family †
Sean Fitzgerald (birthday)

Candidates for Confirmation

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday Heb 5:1-10 Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 Mk 2:18-22 **Tuesday** Heb 6:10-20 Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c Mk 2:23-28 **Wednesday** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17 Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 Mk 3:1-6 **Thursday** Heb 7:25—8:6 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 Mk 3:7-12

Friday Heb 8:6-13 Ps 85:8, 10, 11-12, 13-14 Mk 3:13-19 **Saturday** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Mk 16:15-18

Sunday Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 1 Cor 12:12-30 Cor 12:4-11 Jn 2:1-11

WAYS TO GIVE ONLINE Visit our website using the QR code MAIL 5000 Southpark Drive Durham, NC 27713 WAYS TO GIVE Use an envelope & the donation basket

Stewardship of Treasure | July 1 - December 31

	Needed	Received	Difference
First Offertory	\$554,810	\$533,171	(\$21,639)
Christmas Offertory	\$25,000	\$26,997	\$1,997
Easter Offertory	\$0	\$25	\$25
Holy Day Collections	\$6,000	\$6,733	\$733
Maintenance Offertory	\$23,310	\$20,220	(\$3,090)
	\$609,120	\$587,146	(\$21,974)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 20 Parish Office Closed

Jan 20 PPC Meeting, 6:30 pm

Jan 20 Walking with Purpose Bible Study, 7 pm

Jan 21 Virtual Centering Prayer, 8 am Jan 21 Justice Garden Workday, 9 am

Jan 22 Family Formation Catechist's Meeting, 6:30 pm

Jan 22 Peace, Justice & Human Concerns, 9 am

Jan 23 Marian Prayer, 9:30 am

Jan 23 Eucharistic Adoration, 12 pm

Jan 23 FYM Team Meeting, 6:30 pm

Jan 24 Diocese of Raleigh OCIA Training, 9 am

Jan 25 Parish Leadership Summit, 9 am

Jan 25 Justice Garden Workday, 9 am

Jan 25 Servants of God Prayer Group, 3 pm

Jan 25 Reconciliation, 4 pm

Jan 26 KofC Pancake Breakfast, 9 am

Jan 26 Sacrament Preparation Workshop, 9:45 am

Jan 26 Children's Choir, 10:15 am

Jan 26 Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor Lunch Session, 11:30 am

Jan 26 Girl Scouts Meeting, 2 pm

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

Altar Flowers in memory of Pat McGinn



Faith Development

Director of Catechetical Leadership Michalene Sutton 919-973-0013 Msutton@holyinfantchurch.org

Assistant Director Anna Lee 919-973-0012 Alee@holyinfantchurch.org

2 TONS OF FRESH PRODUCE DONATED BY HOLY INFANT JUSTICE GARDEN

This past year, 2024, the Holy Infant Food Justice Garden donated **4,094 lbs of produce**, or about 2 tons, to the various food pantries in the city of Durham. These pantries include Durham Food Pantry, the Parktown Food Hub, and other neighborhoods in need of fresh produce. About 650 lbs of **produce** came from donations from Holy Infant parishioners from their own gardens.

Volunteers continue to plant and harvest even during the winter months with vegetables like turnip greens, lettuce, carrots, and other winter crops.

If you or your family or friends can come and help us out, we need more volunteers on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9-11 am. We would love to have you. For more information, you can call or text Bobbi Gallagher at 919-225-2457.





Holy Infant's Justice Garden beds are ready for 2025!

SIP & PAINT WITH BR. MICKEY

Join us for a guided painting class while sipping on your favorite beverage with Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS, on February 21st at 7 pm. The cost per ticket is \$15 and includes all needed art supplies and hors d'oeuvres. This event is BYOB.

The deadline to purchase tickets is February 17th. Use the QR to purchase tickets.



KNIGHTS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On **January 26th** the Knights of Columbus will host a pancake breakfast from 9 am-1 pm in the DeSales Center. Each plate is \$10 featuring pancakes, sausage links, fruit salad, grits, and eggs. Coffee & lemonade will be available to drink. Tickets are available for purchase the day of at the door.

LITTLE ROCK BIBLE STUDY

In Scripture we encounter God and come to know God's people. Women in the Old Testament, Part One, takes you on a journey through Israel's beginnings, Israel's captivity and freedom, and Israel's tribal period from the perspective of the earliest women of salvation history, such as Sarah, Deborah, and Ruth.

This class will meet weekly January 27th through March 24th.

Registration is required - use the QR code above. Materials fees for this study are \$30. Materials can be picked up at the Welcome Desk after Masses on January 18th and 19th.



VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR

Join Fr Michael Schuetz, Director of Vocations, at a special Holy Hour to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life from the men and women of our diocese. We know that God is calling more men and women to these vocations. The Holy Hour will be hosted at St. Thomas More in Chapel Hill on **February 7th** from 7-8pm It is a great way for us to pray for these men and women that they will have the strength to respond courageously to God's invitation to serve our church as priests and religious.

Ministries

Pastoral Associate

Lynn Sale lynns@holyinfantchurch.org

A SEASON TO HELP HURTING PEOPLE

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience winters in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support.

When you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis. To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, contact Lynn Sale. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

BREAD FOR THE WORLD CONVENTION

The Bread for the World North Carolina state convention is scheduled for **January 25th.** It will be held at Highland United Methodist Church in Raleigh from 9 am-2 pm. President, Rev. Eugene Cho, and others will speak about food insecurity and BFW's 2025 Nourish Our Future advocacy campaign. A \$20.00 donation is suggested to cover lunch and materials. Use the QR code to register.

HEART HEALTH CHALLENGE

Heart disease remains the number one killer in the United States. Challenge yourself to heart-healthy habits by participating in Durham County Public Health challenge

February 1-28. Register by January 25th!

ELISABETH VON TRAPP IN CONCERT

For Elisabeth Von Trapp, "the sounds of music" are part of her earliest memories. Elisabeth is the granddaughter of the legendary Maria and Baron Von Trapp, whose story inspired The Sound of Music. Singing professionally since childhood, Elisabeth has enthralled audiences from European cathedrals to the Kennedy Center. See Elisabeth LIVE at Holy Infant on **February 1st** at 7 pm in the church.

While a ticket is not required to attend this concert, there will be a goodwill collection.

MEN MATTER - PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES

PSS is hosting a workshop, "Men Matter," on Tuesday, January 28th at Bethel Christian Center in Durham at 6:30pm. PSS Men's Services Director, Lans Jones, will discuss the vital role men play in pregnancy decisions & encourage men who are carrying pain from an abortion experience to participate in their own recovery process. Please RSVP to Lakeisha at lakeisha@pregnancysupportservices.org or 919-321-0631.

FEBRUARY BLOOD DRIVE

Holy Infant is excited to announce our upcoming blood drive on **February 8th**, from 8 am to 2 pm at the DeSales Center. This event is a crucial opportunity to give back to the community and save lives. To ensure a smooth process, we ask all participants to register ahead of time. Registering in advance allows us to organize the necessary staff and resources to make this event a success.





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



Liturgy & Music

Director of Liturgy & MusicJeff Rice
JeffR@holyinfantchurch.org

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

You might be thinking there sure does seem to be more people at Mass these days? It's not an illusion! Thanks to our Greeters who count attendance for us at every weekend and holy day Mass, we can see exactly how much we're growing in numbers.

On any given weekend, we now almost always see at least 900 folks in attendance, and often approach or go over 1000, which is about 100 more per week than just a year ago, and about 200 more per week than two years ago.

For our four Christmas liturgies in 2022 the combined attendance was about 1200, and in 2023 it grew to over 1300. However, in 2024 we saw over 1800 in attendance for the same four liturgies!

This is wonderful news, but we all know growth can cause some challenges. Here are a few things you can do to help.

First, scooch over and in! The seating capacity of the church is around 600, but once we get to 350 we start to see folks standing or remaining in the narthex. Just like on an airplane, I know you want your aisle seat with the empty middle seat, but the reality is we have long rows of pews and there are often lots of spaces in the middle that are unused. At the more crowded Masses, as things fill up, please consider moving into the middle and closer to your neighbors to open up space on the ends for those still looking for seats. It's like my favorite spiritual says, there's plenty good room, so choose your seat and sit down, but please slide to the middle to accommodate others as needed!

Second, let's maintain that Holy Infant charism of radical hospitality, and make everyone feel welcome and at home. I have heard so many stories of parishioners reaching out to help a first-time guest feel comfortable

that led to that guest becoming a new member. Keep up the openness, the smiles, and the friendliness that makes Holy Infant so special.

Third, consider serving on the weekend if you aren't already. We can always use more Greeters, Ministers of Holy Communion, Hosts, Altars Servers, and Streamt Team members (not to mention music ministers!). You're already here!

As we continue to be blessed by more faithful coming together to celebrate the Eucharist, let's be vigilant about maintaining our parish culture of hospitality and active participation in ministry.



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Isaiah 62:1–5 All shall behold your vindication.
Psalm 96 "Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations."
1 Corinthians 12:4–11 The Spirit distributes gifts to each person.

John 2:1–11 Jesus transforms water into wine.

In today's first reading, Isaiah celebrates a transformed Jerusalem; what had been forsaken and desolate is now delightful and—foreshadowing the Gospel—espoused. Paul tells the Corinthians that the Holy Spirit transforms each and every one of them, though in different ways. May we never overlook God's power to transform our lives.

Name one spiritual gift that I can identify in myself. How can I use that gift in service of the Lord?

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

A BLESSING TO ONE ANOTHER

At the beginning of the baptism ceremony, the priest or deacon traces the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baby and then invites the parents and godparents to do the same. Then the minister says, "My child, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In His name, I claim you for Christ, our Savior, by the sign of His cross." This is a symbolic marking that signifies the child belongs to Jesus and the Church.

My youngest sister, Maureen, was born when I was a sophomore in high school. I remember the day of her baptism, when our parish priest followed this ancient ritual. He invited my parents and Maureen's godparents to sign her with the

cross, but he also invited me and my other sisters to make the sign on her forehead.

He said that just as Maureen was a blessing to our family, so we would be a blessing to her. He said we should show this by making the sign of the cross on her forehead and blessing her and suggested we continue to give Maureen a blessing every day, not just her baptism day.

This was the first time I ever heard of people other than priests giving a blessing. I remember a few days after the ceremony I talked to one of the Oblate priests at school. When I asked him about a layperson "blessing" something or someone, he explained that this was done all the time. He talked about the blessing of parents when they hug a child or a husband kissing a wife. He reminded me that ordinary people are always asked to give a blessing when they pray grace before a meal.

As I thought about these examples, I remembered instances in my own life where my family would offer a blessing. When my mother told me and my sisters "Goodnight and God bless you" as she sent us off to bed, she was offering a blessing. When my aunt put holy water on the foreheads of her children whenever they left the house, she too, was blessing her family.

Confident that I was not overstepping any church rules or regulations, I began to make the sign of the cross on the forehead of my baby sister as I went to bed each night. I continued this practice until I went into the seminary. Today, as a priest, I am privileged to mark many people with the sign of the cross: babies, students, parishioners, the sick, the dying, and even those who have passed away. I can bless my family and friends both formally and informally.

I know that I am blessed when I offer a simple prayer. I am awed at the chance to call to mind God's presence and ask God to watch over someone.

The greatest blessings are the informal ones I still witness: a family at prayer in a restaurant, a mother caressing a sick child, a grandson wrapping his arms around his grandfather in the waiting room, a husband touching the hand of his deceased wife in a coffin.

As the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord this weekend, my hope is that we recognize that we are all called to be a blessing and to give blessings to one another.

-Fr. Jack Kolodziej, OSFS