

THOUGHTS FROM SALESIAN SPIRITUALITY

"Fasting is not a virtue in itself, but only when accompanied by conditions that make it pleasing to God. We must fast with our whole heart, willingly, wholeheartedly, universally, and entirely." - St. Francis de Sales



Parish staff						
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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, Gerard Musante

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; 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; Monique Mueller; Nelida Muniz; Kathleen O'Donnell; Johnathan Palermo; Louise Peloquin; Marc Peloquin: Bill Perkins: Helen Pischak: Diane Curtis-Ratliff: 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 23RD, 2025

Mass Times & Intentions March 24th—March 30th

Monday, 9 am Tuesday, 9:00 am Tuesday, 6:30 pm 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 The Unborn

Alfonso Cinquemani † Lenten Penance Service

Peace in Ukraine Pat McGinn †

Donald Francis Waitt, Jr. † Vanessa Angel Estrada –

birthday

Sharon & Joe Thomas † Nicole Gafoor –birthday Audrey Gomes—birthday

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 Lk 4:24-30 **Tuesday** Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 11:14-23 **Friday** Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab Lk 18:9-14 **Sunday** Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7. 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



Stewardship of Treasure | July 1 - February 28

	Needed	Received	Difference
First Offertory	\$736,840	\$716,627	(\$20,213)
Christmas Offertory	\$26,000	\$27,482	\$1,482
Easter Offertory	\$0	\$178	\$178
Holy Day Collections	\$8,000	\$9,905	\$1,905
Maintenance Offertory	\$31,010	\$27,185	(\$3,825)
	\$801,850	\$781,377	(\$20,473)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 24 LRSS, 9:45 am

Mar 24 LRSS, 7 pm

Mar 25 Virtual Centering Prayer, 8 am Mar 25 Justice Garden Workday, 8 am Mar 25 Lenten Penance Service, 6:30 pm

Mar 25 Stephen Ministry Meeting, 6:30 pm

Mar 26 Knights Planning Meeting, 6:30 pm

Mar 27 Marian Prayer, 9:30 am

Mar 27 Eucharistic Adoration, 12 pm

Mar 28 Fish Fry @ Immaculate Conception, 4:30 pm

Mar 28 FYM Soup & Stations of the Cross, 5:30 pm

Mar 28 Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm

Mar 29 Justice Garden Workday, 9 am

Mar 29 First Aid Class by Duke UMS, 9:30 am Mar 29 CFC Music Ministry Fellowship, 1 pm

Mar 29 Servants of God Prayer Group, 3 pm

Mar 29 Reconciliation, 4 pm

Mar 30 Liturgical Commission Meeting, 10 am

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

DeSales Renovation TOWN HALL

Join us between Masses to learn more about the upcoming renovation.

This is a great opportunity to ask questions and help us plan for the future at Holy Infant.

MARCH 23RD, 10 AM



Faith Development

DirectorMichalene Sutton
919-973-0013
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Assistant Director
Anna Lee
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CRS STORY OF HOPE: GUATEMALA

Ana Belén and her husband, José, have four children and a baby on the way. They live in a small house in Santa María Chiquimula, Guatemala. Francisco, their 9-year-old son, says his neighborhood is, "a very happy place to live, but sometimes it's also very hard to live here." He is not wrong. In their community, malnutrition affects over half of the population mainly because people can't afford to put food on the table.

When Ana Belén went to the market, she could barely buy anything. The little money she had wasn't enough to buy even the basics. "Sometimes I would cry because I didn't have anything to give my children," she recalls.

Now the family participates in a Catholic Relief Services project that helps fight hunger in places where people don't have enough food. Through the project, Ana Belén goes every other week to her children's school to receive food such as corn, beans, rice, vegetable oil and eggs. "It made me happy when they started giving me eggs," she says.

Her children really like eggs, especially hard-boiled with beans, so they make sure to remind their mom when it's time to pick them up. Ana Belén's family now eats nutritious meals every day. She also makes sure to take her children for monthly health check-ups, as part of the project.

Having enough nutritious food is very important to help children grow healthy and gives them the energy they need to learn and play, just like Francisco, who loves playing ball with his cousins and at school.

FISH FRY DATES

Join the Knights of Columbus for Fish Fridays from 4:30 - 7 pm.

March 28th - Immaculate Conception April 4th - Holy Infant April 11th - Holy Infant

Each plate is \$15 and includes Fried Fish, French Fries, Macaroni & Cheese, Hush Puppies, Coleslaw and a Dessert.

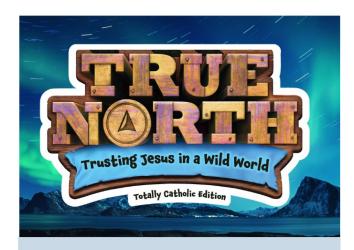
LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

FYM is hosting an upcoming service project at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, serve those in need, and spread love and kindness during this holy season.

Together, we can help fight hunger and support our neighbors in need.

Volunteers must sign up for the

1-3 pm slot on **April 1st** using the QR code.



We are so excited to have you at Vacation Bible Camp this summer, as we use Jesus as our true compass to journey through life!
Save the dates for VBC 2025: June
29th - July 2nd. Registration is now OPEN! Use the QR to register.

Ministries

Pastoral Associate
Lynn Sale



HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

Join UNC for an eye-opening discussion with experts and survivors of labor trafficking as they reveal the shocking reality of modern-day slavery. Learn how widespread this crime is and how the very products we buy may be linked to exploitation. Hear powerful firsthand accounts from survivors and discover how labor trafficking can happen to anyone. As one of the fastest-growing crimes in the world, it affects us all—but together, we can make a difference. This year's conference will empower you with the knowledge and tools to become an informed consumer and take action to help end labor trafficking in America. Use the QR code to learn more.

Thursday, March 27th • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. James A. Thomas Hall Upchurch Auditorium

RALEIGH RUN FOR LIFE

Join the Diocese of Raleigh for the 31st Annual Run for Life benefiting Birthchoice on **April 12th**. Don't miss out on a morning filled with fun, fellowship, music, a bounce house for the kids and prizes!

Cost is \$35.00 for the 5K and \$15.00 for the 1-Mile FunRun. Register using the QR code.



LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

As we journey through the Lenten season, it is a time for reflection, repentance, and renewal of our faith. It's not just about giving up luxuries but about seeking a true transformation of our hearts to align with God's will. One powerful way to facilitate this inner conversion is through the sacrament of confession.

Join us at Holy Infant Church for a special Lenten Penance Service on **March 25th** at 6:30 pm. This service offers us the chance to acknowledge our shortcomings, seek forgiveness, and receive spiritual healing. Let us come together as a community to support one another on this journey toward reconciliation and spiritual growth. May this Lenten season be a time of profound grace and renewal for all of us.



FILL THE TRUCK

Let's do our part to fill the truck again! Holy Infant will host a drive-through food drive in our church parking lot on Saturday, **April 5th** from 9 am to 1 pm to support the Durham Community Food Pantry. Please have your donations in bags ready for our volunteers to collect them to load in the truck.

Learn more by using the QR code.







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



Liturgy & Music

Director of Liturgy & MusicJeff Rice
JeffR@holyinfantchurch.org

CALLING OUR ELECT AND OURSELVES TO REPENTANCE

by Fr. Paul Turner

Tell people they will face a scrutiny before they can join your community, and they will probably say, "Thanks, but no thanks." Boldly, our Church expects not one but three scrutinies of the elect before their Baptism at Easter.

Scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance. When people from another spiritual background seek Baptism in the Catholic Church, they do so by stages. First, we accept them into the Order of Catechumens. Then as they complete their catechetical formation, we enroll them among the "elect," or those chosen for Baptism. This Rite of Election generally coincides with the beginning of Lent. Three times during Lent, the Church prays the scrutinies to encourage a spirit of repentance among those who seek a worthy celebration of Baptism.

Although scrutinies have returned fairly recently to Catholic parishes, they originated early in Church history. St. Ambrose and St. Augustine celebrated them in the fourth and fifth centuries to mark the spiritual progress of the catechumens. The moral preparation of catechumens included prayers of exorcism to drive out the spirit of evil, which kept them from embracing Christ as their light. In the scrutinies, the Church discerned if those exorcisms had achieved their effect. Catechumens entered the church, stood barefoot on goatskin, and renounced evil influences all night. Those unworthy of Baptism had to wait another year for Easter to roll around again.

Today's scrutinies seem less intense. They still include an exorcism, in which the priest or deacon prays that the spirit of good may replace the spirit of evil. Their purpose is not so much to examine the candidates' mental readiness, but their spiritual readiness. Scrutinies offer the catechumens the support they need to approach the

waters of Baptism worthily.

For those who are already baptized, the scrutinies invite us to embrace the same spirit of self-searching and repentance. At Easter, we renew our Baptismal promises as we see the catechumens baptized. Therefore, during Lent we renew our repentance as we see the elect scrutinized. The scrutinies remind us of the seriousness of our Christian life and inspire us to turn from evil and pursue good. They enliven our recommitment to Christ at Easter.

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WEEKLY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

5:30 & 11:30 Masses

Exodus 3:1–8a, 13–15 Psalm 103 1 Corinthians 10:1–6, 10-12 Luke 13:1–9

Looking at this Jubilee Year of Hope from God's perspective, what can I do during the week ahead to justify God's hope in me?

8:30 Mass with First Scrutiny

Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

When do I get the feeling that my spiritual well has run dry? How do I reinvigorate myself spiritually?

Next weekend we celebrate the Fourth "Laetare" Sunday of Lent, approximating the halfway point through Lent, for a day changing the liturgical color from purple to rose with hopeful rejoicing and anticipation of the Easter to come.

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales



LENTEN CHALLENGE

Lent is a very special time in the Church year. It is a time when we are invited to "go the extra mile." Traditionally, our Lenten practices include prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

These words of Jesus Christ, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me," urge me to consider this Scriptural quote as one that invites me to reflect on the third Lenten practice, almsgiving.

Let's broaden the meaning of almsgiving – we usually interpret almsgiving as giving a little more money in the weekly collection basket. The collection is often designated for church projects, repairs, or other parish activities. It is a good way to share with others.

Perhaps we give a handout to someone whom we find begging on the downtown street. But it is even more than that! That handout is generous, and surely it helps that person, especially if it is accompanied by love, by a smile, and kind words, doing it in Jesus' name!

Recently, a media clip entitled "Fabiosa Digest" appeared on my Facebook app. One clip after another depicts situations in which the "star" shows ordinary ways to interact lovingly. They are ordinary people caught in ordinary situations and who demonstrate that kindness matters. It would be wonderful to have a camera and the time to capture these hidden acts on video!

If we look back at some moments in our day – was there someone who needed a smile, a helping hand, or a kind word? That calls for almsgiving. Perhaps you are in the elevator at work with a colleague who you rarely have a cause or the desire for interaction. How can you go the extra mile, deepen your heartfelt outreach? Perhaps you could inquire about their day, or their family. Go beyond the weather. Give them a listening ear and words of encouragement.

St. Francis de Sales graced us with his usual practical wisdom which can inspire our depth of almsgiving this Lent: "It is love that gives value to all our works; it is not by the greatness or multiplicity of our works that we please God, but by the love with which we do them."

He gave us a Lenten challenge: "The measure of love is to love without measure." Let's not measure our almsgiving this Lent. As you run the race, be the champion, run the fastest, win that race, and share God's love with those you meet, those who could be overlooked without this focus for your Lent.

-Sister Antoine Therese, IHM