

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMUNITY

St. Luke's Vision Statement:

Joyfully living the Gospel through sacraments, service, and love.

Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday: 5:30 pm, Sunday: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Daily Mass Schedule: Tues. 5:30 pm, Wed. 12:00 pm, Thurs. 8:30 am, Fri. 8:30 am, First Sat. 9:30 am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday 9:30 - 10:00 am, Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00 pm, Or by appointment

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Bulletin Announcements: Due by Friday for the following Sunday bulletin: communications@stlrnc.org

Baptism: Parents must be active and registered in the parish for at least three months prior to the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. Please call the Parish Office 919-848-1533 for more information.

Sacrament of anointing: Conferred upon request prior to surgery or at any time of illness. Please call the Parish Office at 919-848-1533 to set up an appointment.

Marriage: Catholic parties should be registered and active parishioners for at least six months before the wedding to allow enough time in the formation of the sacrament. Please contact Barbara Bower at weddingcoordinator@stlrnc.org for additional information.

Sacrament of Holy Orders: If anyone is discerning a call to the priesthood, please contact the Parish Office 919-848-1533 for additional information.



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 3rd, 2024

Pastoral Staff

Fr. David M. Chiantella, Parochial Vicar
Dcn. Mike Sanchez, Parish Administrator
dcnmikes7@gmail.com
Peg Brizendine, Parish Secretary
secretary@stlrnc.org
Cyndy Aremia, Accountant
accountant@stlrnc.org
Lydia Tatum, Director of Religious Education
dre@stlrnc.org

Conor Mulligan & Nick Aremia, Youth Ministers
youth.ministry@stlrnc.org
Katja Mulligan, Faith Formation Assistant
faithassistant@stlrnc.org
Max Van Hecke, Director of Music
music@stlrnc.org
Alyssa Keister, Editor of Bulletin & Website
communications@stlrnc.org
Bill Rodriguez, Facilities Manager
facilities@stlrnc.org

12333 Bayleaf Church Road, Raleigh, NC 27614
www.stlukesraleigh.org

Phone: (919) 848-1533
Fax: (919) 848-0662

MASS INTENTIONS



Watch our Live-Streamed Masses Here:
stlukesraleigh.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 *All Souls' Day*

9:30 AM + Paul Lassell & family
 By Lyra Pitstick & family

5:30 PM Vigil Mass Pro Populo

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 *31st Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 AM Mass Pro Populo

11:00 AM Mass Pro Populo

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 *St. Charles Borromeo*

No Daily Mass Pro Populo

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

5:30 PM + Rodger Pitstick
 By Lyra Pitstick

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

12:00 PM + Lucy Winship
 By Gene & Cecile Hosey

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:30 AM + Vincent Kildosher
 By Boles family

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:30 AM + Mary Darwin
 By Boles family

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 *The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

5:30 PM Vigil Mass Pro Populo

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 AM Mass Pro Populo

11:00 AM Mass Pro Populo

Parish Weekly Calendar

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 *All Souls' Day*

JOURNEYMEN.....7:30 AM

MORNING MASS (ALL SOULS DAY).....9:30 AM

RECONCILIATION.....4:00 PM

ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....5:00 PM

VIGIL MASS.....5:30 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 *31st Sunday in Ordinary Time*

ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

MASSSES.....8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

CY1 AND CY2 (CONFIRMATION).....9:45 AM

SANCTI SIMUS (ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION).....9:45 AM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 *St. Charles Borromeo*

WALKING WITH PURPOSE.....9:00 AM

LEGION OF MARY.....6:30 PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

BIBLE STUDY.....9:15 AM

REGNUM CHRISTI (WOMEN).....9:30 AM

EVENING MASS.....5:30 PM

REGNUM CHRISTI (MEN).....6:30 PM

CHOIR PRACTICE.....6:30 PM

SCHOLA PRACTICE.....7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

CATHOLIC SCHOOLHOUSE.....8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

NOON MASS.....12:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD.....1:00 PM

OCIA.....6:30 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

MORNING MASS.....8:30 AM

G.I.F.T.S.....9:30 AM

LADIES BIBLE STUDY.....11:30 AM

WALKING WITH PURPOSE.....6:30 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ADORATION.....9:00 AM

FIRST FRIDAY SACRED HEART DEVOTION.....9:00 AM

RECONCILIATION.....9:30 AM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 *The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

VETERAN'S BREAKFAST - K OF C.....7:00 AM

RECONCILIATION.....4:00 PM

ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....5:00 PM

VIGIL MASS.....5:30 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

MASSSES.....8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP.....12:15 PM

**Adoration of
 the Eucharist:**

Fridays 9 AM - 4 PM

Attention:
 Bulletin announcements are due by Friday for
 the following Sunday bulletin.
 Thank you.

Weekly Readings, November 3 - November 10

Sunday: Dt 6: 2-6/Ps 18 (17): 2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 . VI/Heb 7: 23-28/Mk 12: 28b-34

Monday: Phil 2: 1-4/Ps 131 (130): 1bcde, 2, 3/Lk 14: 12-14

Tuesday: Phil 2: 5-11/Ps 22 (21): 26b-27, 28-29ab, 30e, 31-32/Lk 14: 15-24

Wednesday: Phil 2: 12-18/Ps 27 (26): 1, 4, 13-14/Lk 14: 25-33

Thursday: Phil 3: 3-8a/Ps 105 (104): 2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 15: 1-10

Friday: Phil 3: 17- 4: 1/Ps 122 (21): 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 16: 1-8

Saturday: Ezek 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46 (45): 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 . VII/1 Cor 3: 9c-11, 16-17/ Jn 2: 13-22

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 17: 10-16/Ps 146 (145): 7, 8-9, 9-10 . VIII/Heb 9: 24-28/Mk 12: 38-44



Altar Flowers

In prayer for all those suffering in Western NC and the surrounding areas.

Donated By

Margaret Strong

Mary's Corner



"You are My Mother, the Mother of Mercy, and the consolation of the souls in Purgatory."

-St. Bridget

Please Pray For Our Family, Friends & Our Parish

If you would like to have someone's name added or removed from our prayer list, please email: communications@stlmc.org or contact the Parish Office.

Names will be kept on the list for 3 weeks. If they need to remain longer or if a name has been removed in error please contact the parish office. Thank you.

Liturgy & Prayer

Adoration	Mary Kate Travers	919-528-1068	mktravers@nc.rr.com
Altar Flowers	Carol Blando	919-427-3865	cbblando@gmail.com
Altar Linens	Joan Beebe	316-347-9060	arkg14@yahoo.com
Altar Preparers	Beverly Weiland	919-454-7136	baweiland@gmail.com
Altar Servers	David Sofra	919-847-9978	dsofra@bellsouth.net
Eucharistic Ministers	Virginia Todd	Please Email	vtodd1789@gmail.com
Family Rosary	Savage Family	919-431-9883	acatholicfamily8@gmail.com
Mass Coordinator	Randi Ostack	919-559-7745	rgo@nc.rr.com
Ministers of Hospitality	Luke Masinick	919-971-8155	luke.masinick@ushadvisors.com
Prayer Line	Teres Scofield	919-412-6542	teres.scofield@gmail.com
Readers	Jim Mooney	510-774-5613	mooney.james.e@gmail.com
Live Streaming	Joe Jacobs	919-400-6327	jjoe.ja@gmail.com

Outreach

Bereavement	Parish Office	919-848-1533	Please Call
Catholic Parish Outreach	Ken Low	919-397-4018	Please Call
G.I.F.T.S.	Peggy Miller	501-762-1635	peg.miller@outlook.com
Habitat for Humanity	Randy Giggard	919-637-1893	Please Call
Hospital Ministry	Winnie Lewis	919-263-8102	Please Call
Nursing Home Ministry	Rick Beebe	919-418-0845	bbgunrtb@yahoo.com
Reception Committee	Allison Agnelli	919-244-3149	agshag@gmail.com
Respect Life	Phyllis Gaukel	919-616-6427	phyllisrgaukel@gmail.com

Community Life & Facilities

God's Housekeepers	Diane Johnston	919-847-2488	CDJ8583@aol.com
Knights of Columbus	Rick Beebe	919-418-0845	bbgunrtb@yahoo.com
Parish Kitchen	Missy Savage	919-431-9883	acatholicfamily8@gmail.com
Parish Library	Allison Coates	612-418-8201	Please Call
Wedding Coordinator	Barbara Bower	919-841-2202	weddingcoordinator@stlmc.org

Evangelization

Legion of Mary	TBD	919-744-6998	Please Call
RCIA Coordinator	Mike Sanchez	Please Email	dcnmikes7@gmail.com

Pastoral Council

Dave Olechovsky	stlukepc@gmail.com	919-420-7410
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Finance Council

Andy Kleitsch	akleitsch@gmail.com	919-274-9766
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REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Those Who Are Sick:

Michael Boyle, Dan Ritchie, Bill Shultz, Jeanette Shultz, Michele Wallace, Benjamin Fitzharris, Patrick Newman, Letty Phillips, Martha Sinclair, Ashleigh Lucas, Peggy Kearney, John Loeffler, Joy Boyette, Mary Prevatt, Gretchel Leathers, Barbara Lucas, Barbara Osolinski, Christine Constable, Joan Morris, Anna Weiss, Dorothy Kanop, Milo Orzol, Kathleen Pitz, Barry Herchenrober, Peter Kraehenbuehl, Agnes Synowiez, Walt Ostack, Bill Wolf.

Rest of the Soul:

Robert Merz.

Those Who Are Actively Serving In The Military:

Bret Marrow, Lt. Colonel Brad Miller, Lane Wade, Madeline Chafin, Nico Muzo, James Boland, Caroline Todd.

Sancti Simus I Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45 am

Elementary (K-5) Faith Formation focused on raising a holy generation who desires to be saints together

Open Registration—online or in-person
osvhub.com/stlukesraleigh/forms/2024-25--sancti-simus

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, 11/3	Lesson 8
Sunday, 11/10	No Faith Formation
Sunday, 11/17	Lesson 9

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (formerly RCIA)

If you are (or someone you know is) seeking to learn more about Catholicism or to enter the Church, welcome!

Contact:

Lydia Tatum (DRE@STLRNC.org) or
 Cecile Hosey (cawalc@gmail.com) - **Inquiry**

Upcoming Dates:

Wed. 11/6	Meeting
Wed. 11/13	Meeting
Wed. 11/20	Meeting

Confirmation I Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45 am

Sacrament Preparation for high schoolers who desire to complete their Christian initiation into the Catholic Church
Years 1 & 2 meet together.

Must attend Sacrament Family Meeting to register!

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, 11/3	Mary & Virtue
Sunday, 11/10	No Faith Formation
Sunday, 11/17	Rosary

Community of Young Catholics

Catholic young adults in their 20s and 30s who desire meaningful, Christ-centered friendships

Upcoming Dates:

November	TBD
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To stay updated on events, please join our GroupMe: **St. Luke's CYC.**

Adult Bible Studies

Please continue checking for other 2024-2025 opportunities!

Opportunities for men and women to grow in Christian maturity through ongoing conversion to Jesus, active membership in Christian community, and preparation to be Christ's missionaries to the world

walking with purpose

Enabling women to know Christ personally through Scripture

Living in the Father's Love
 Mondays from 9-10:30am
Opening Your Heart
 Thursdays from 6:30-8pm

Upcoming Dates:

Session	Mon.	Thurs.
5	11/4	10/31
6	11/11	11/7
7	-	11/14

There's always an open chair for you!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tues. mornings from 9:15-11am in the Holy Family Room

The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, 11/5	Session 7
Tuesday, 11/12	Session 8
Tuesday, 11/19	Session 9

Wednesdays in the WORD

Wed. evenings from 6:30-8pm

Join us for two studies this fall—See the next page for more details.

The Hidden King: The Jewish Roots of St. Joseph

Upcoming Dates:

Wed. 11/6	Session 2
Wed. 11/13	Session 3

JOURNEYMEN | INTO THE BREACH PT 3

Strengthening men as disciples of Christ through prayer, spiritual formation, and brotherhood
 1st/3rd Sat. mornings from 7:30-9am in the Holy Family Room

Upcoming Dates:

Sat. 11/16	Creating a Legacy of Faith
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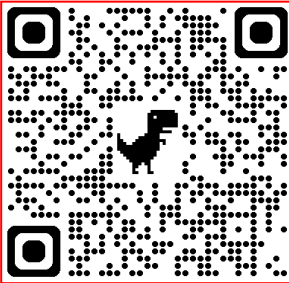
Lydia Tatum

Director of Religious Education
DRE@STLRNC.org

CONTACT US!

Katja Mulligan

Faith Formation Assistant
FaithAssistant@STLRNC.org

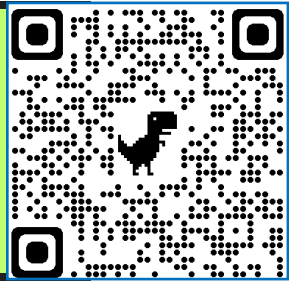


YOUTH GROUP (6TH-12TH)

← **Join for Free!** | **Signup for Our Email List** →

Questions? Contact our Youth Ministers
Conor Mulligan & Nick Aremia @ Youth.Ministry@STLRNC.org

NEXT MEETING: 11/10, 12:15-2:30pm



PECAN & POINSETTIA & SOCKS!
YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

Funds raised through this sale will go towards St. Luke's Faith Formation & Youth Ministry.

Pre-sales begin 11/9
In-Person Sales begin 11/23 & 11/24 after Masses

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

MAIN CAMPUS 2 

JULY 11-13, 2025

Inviting high-schoolers into a life-changing encounter with Christ!

Registration Opens November 1st!

Registration Deadline December 1st!

LOCATION:
Franciscan University of Steubenville

Contact Youth Ministry (Conor and Nick) at Youth.Ministry@STLRNC.org for more information about attending with your high school Youth Group!



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!!

11/23 & 24
Youth Fundraiser Begins

Sun. 11/24
Family Advent Activity
- Ornaments -
{9:45-10:45am}

Sun. 12/1
OCIA Rites of Acceptance & Welcoming
{At the 11am Mass}

Registration Form—Wednesdays in the WORD (WITW)

Advent 2024 Study—Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary with Dr. Brant Pitre
12/4 & 12/11 | 6:30-8pm | St. Maria Goretti Room

This study follows our well-received "VBS for Adults" format—No Homework!!

How many times have you been asked: "Why do Catholics say that Mary was sinless, when the Bible says that 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'?" And: "How can you believe that Mary was assumed into heaven when the Bible says nothing about it?" Or: "Why do Catholics give Mary so much honor?"

In this study, "Dr. Brant Pitre shines the light of the Old Testament on Mary, the mother of Jesus. He shows how three ancient Jewish images help us to understand Catholic beliefs about Mary: The New Eve ... The New Ark of the Covenant ... The New Queen Mother ..." You will understand the "biblical roots of Catholic beliefs about Mary, the Mother of God". If you "want to understand what the Bible teaches about the Virgin from Nazareth", then please join us in this 2-session study.

The DEADLINE for registering is 12pm on Monday, November 11, 2024.

Study Questions: *Diane Johnston (CDJ8583@aol.com)* | **General questions:** *Katja Mulligan (FaithAssistant@STLRNC.org)*

You may also order online and pay by credit card: <https://osvhub.com/stlukesraleigh/forms/wednesdaysintheword>

Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary Workbook: \$20.00 per participant

of workbooks: _____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____ TOTAL

Payment: Check number: _____ Cash: _____

Please make checks payable to: "St. Luke Catholic Church" with WITW in the memo line.

Payments may be placed in the Copy Room's wooden cubby labeled KATJA--FAITH ASST.,

or they may be mailed to: St. Luke Catholic Church, Attn: Katja Mulligan, 12333 Bayleaf Church Road, Raleigh, NC 27614

At St. Luke the Evangelist

PARISH FINANCE REPORT

November 3, 2024

Our Parish Website:
www.stlukesraleigh.org

Budget Comparison

	Mo Budget	100,710.00
	Actual	63,377.90
	Over Under	(37,332.10)
Oct-24	YTD Budget	292,455.00
	YTD Actual	288,633.71
	Over/Under	(3,821.29)

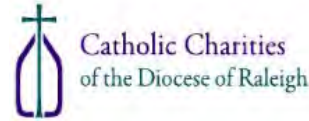
Budget -1.31%

All Souls'
Day



All Soul's Day envelopes are available in the upper and lower gathering spaces.

During the entire month of November, your envelopes will be kept on the Altar in memory of your loved ones.



Hurricane Helene Donation Drive Suspended.

Thanks to the generous response, the Diocese of Charlotte has indicated that they have received sufficient donations of goods to meet current needs. As the situation progresses, they may perhaps solicit donations of different items in the future; however, they are **no longer accepting donations of goods** at this time.

Catholic Parish Outreach

The number of clients served by CPO in the past year has **increased by 40%**

St. Luke the Evangelist Feed-A-Family Food Drive

TODAY, NOV. 2nd & 3rd: Grocery bags with shopping lists will be handed out after all Masses.

NEXT WEEKEND, Nov. 9th & 10th: Food will be collected before and after all Masses in the church parking lot.

No time for shopping? Make your check payable to Catholic Parish Outreach, and give it to a volunteer at the CPO truck during the food drive. Thanks to food donations & CPO's volume buying power, a *donation of \$55 feeds a family for one week*.

- CPO is the largest food pantry in the Triangle
- Clients are eligible to receive a week's worth of groceries every 30 days
- 70% of CPO's food is donated
- CPO has been serving those in need for the last 46 years
- CPO met these needs with 4 staff people and many dedicated volunteers



What is BirthChoice?

Birthchoice is a precious pro-life pregnancy center in Raleigh within walking distance from an abortion clinic.

Help give these mothers hope to walk away from abortion and walk towards a place of *love & life for mother & child*.



"In you the orphan finds mercy."

Hosea 14:3b



Birthchoice Baby Bottle

3 ways to donate!
See insert in the bottle for info
Drop off bottles by 11/3 at the Respect Life table.

40 Days for Life
St. Lukes @ Drake Cir.

Sat. Nov. 2nd
All Souls Day

These Babies
Need You

Sign UP! Show UP!



THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND.

Week of November 3, 2024

How to Win an Argument Without Losing a Soul by Matt Fradd

Whether you're arguing with family members or Facebook friends, skeptical co-workers in the office or pushy proselytizers at your front door, it helps to have not only the facts but the skills for presenting your points forcefully and well. In *How to Win an Argument Without Losing a Soul*, Matt Fradd equips you with the powers of argumentation you need to be an effective debater and the right attitude for doing it with charity, humility, and patience. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/how-to-win-an-argument-without-losing-a-soul-by-matt-fradd>

The Problem of Evil with Jimmy Akin

If God is all-good and all-powerful, then why is there evil? In *The Problem of Evil*, Jimmy Akin tackles this most difficult of apologetics questions. He builds a biblical and philosophical case for understanding how God's perfections are not disproved by the existence of evil, but in fact allow for a world in which pain and sin may be mysteriously ordered by Providence towards a greater good. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-problem-of-evil-with-jimmy-akin>



Knights of Columbus Veterans Day Breakfast

The Saint Francis of Assisi Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus are honored to host an Appreciation Breakfast for Veterans and their Families who are Parishioners of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, St. Bernadette Parish, St. Raphael Parish, and St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church.

This year's event is being conducted on **Saturday, 9 November 2024**, in collaboration with the Saint Luke Council, Knights of Columbus, at St. Luke's Parish Hall, 12333 Bayleaf Church Road, Raleigh, NC. There is no charge for this event, which will start at 9 am and conclude by 11:30 am.

Our guest speaker will be Father Tom Simisky, S.J., Pastor of St. Raphael Parish. Father Tom will speak about his experiences as a United States Marine and his calling to serve as a Jesuit Priest.

Please sign up using this link, or the QR code shown. There is no charge for this event. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A4AF22ABFCCE9-52417025-veterans#/>



At St. Luke the Evangelist



TREASURES OF THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



How blessed we are in this moment to pause and remember a century of our diocese growing in the body of Christ. The 100th anniversary of the Catholic faith being lived and proclaimed in Eastern North Carolina is reason to celebrate!

During our centennial year, I have encouraged my brother priests to rededicate ourselves to the missionary spirit of Catholicism in North Carolina. As Pope Francis reminds us, we are continually asked *"to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy."*

This book is a small way that we can give thanks to God for the precious gift of our faith and, in a special way, for the blessings He has bestowed upon us throughout these 100 years. While it is impossible to capture all of the hard work and beautiful fruits of our faith in our diocese, I feel blessed to be a part of this milestone, to share this history with you, and to renew our faith and evangelization to help us in our next century.

The following pages show some of the vitality of faith in both our lay ministry communities and also in the religious communities, both men and women, that have been so indispensable to the Church in North Carolina during this past century. I hope this effort will in some small way help to honor all those who built, both in stone and in spirit, the foundations of our Church and those who continue to strengthen and sustain its work in our diocese. I also offer sincere thanks to my current brother priests and to all of you for the countless ways you support and assist them in growing and sharing our beautiful Catholic faith.

This gift is one that we must continue to share, like those missionaries before us. As we celebrate this anniversary and the beauty of our great diocese, let us do as Jesus commands to, *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

Under the patronage of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception may our Lord Jesus continue to bless and protect us always.

In Christ,

† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L., Bishop of Raleigh

Description: soft cover - glossy paper - 332 pages format: 9.65 " x 11.81" - full color throughout

ORDER FORM

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Phone:

1 BOOK PER FAMILY | TOTAL = \$35.00

Please return this form with your payment to:

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church
12333 Bayleaf Church Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27614

Around the Diocese



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of RALEIGH

Centennial Mass of the Faithful

The Centennial Mass of the Faithful being celebrated at **Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral** on **Friday, November 8th** will be livestreamed. The livestream link is available on our website at stlukesraleigh.org.

New Year's Retreat

Jesus used questions to promote healing, forgive the past, repair brokenness, and instill hope. The retreat, "Questions Jesus Asks You for the New Year", will invite you to answer the same life-altering questions. There will be five engaging reflections, Mass, confession, Matins, Vespers, and Adoration. Plus, plenty of time to reflect upon the New Year in our sacred spaces while enjoying the fireplace in our lounge or exploring the beautiful grounds of the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. Two nights, **December 30-January 1**. As a special treat, there will be a New Year's Eve banquet with traditional festivities.

The last two years have sold out, so register now at www.catholicconference.org/new-years. For more information, email info@catholicconference.org or call (828) 327 7441.

Prayer Service for Peace in the Holy Land

Christians, Jews, and Muslims look to the Holy Land as a place of sacred events, holy sites, and profound hopes. Yet the prevailing image of Israel and Palestine today is one of violence, injustice, and deep suffering. In response, Catholics in the United States are joining with people of other faiths to pray and to work for a just peace in the region, one in which human dignity is protected, peoples are reconciled, and peace prevails.

A prayer service for peace in the Holy Land, requested by parishioners from around the diocese and organized by the Diocesan Human Life and Dignity ministry, will be held at St. Michael the Archangel, Cary, on November 15, 2024, from 7-8 p.m. All are welcome to attend; contact Deacon.Joshua.Klickman@deaconsdor.org or call/text 919-632-7379 for more information. Please keep this effort in your prayers.



project rachel

Post-abortion Healing Retreat

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat

- January 10-12, 2025, 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, contact Project Rachel at: project.rachel@raldioc.org or call (919) 852-1021. The website is: rachelnc.org. Cost is \$200 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Discount of \$50 for early registration. If there is a financial burden, assistance is available.



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 www.westgatedodgeram.com

Tommy Savage
 Sales and Leasing Associate
 (919) 880-0042
 Tommy.savage@icloud.com




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for Ladies, Gentlemen, and Children
 Contact May via (919) 607-6332 for an appointment
 4905-109 Green Rd. - Raleigh, NC 27616

Vote: A Privilege, A Right and An Obligation

"I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles, in opposition to the teaching that you learned: avoid them. For such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent". Romans 16: 17-18

Catholics have a moral obligation to promote the common good through the exercise of their voting privileges (CCC 2240).

While there are many moral issues to consider, there are those on which all others depend:

- ✓ Issues that adversely affect the dignity of life, including abortion and euthanasia, are fundamental and demand serious consideration
- ✓ The First Amendment of the Constitution protects religious liberty, however we are witnessing increasing erosion of this protection.

The citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel. Refusing obedience to civil authorities, when their demands are contrary to those of an upright conscience, finds its justification in the distinction between serving God and serving the political community. "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."¹ "We must obey God rather than men."² (CCC 2242)

"A well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law that contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals." - (CPL)

Sources:
 CCC: Catechism of the Catholic Church
 USCCB: "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship", USCCB Publication No. 7-342, 2012
 CPL: Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, Doctrinal Notes on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life
 1 Mt 22:21
 2 Acts 5:29.

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome - for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us - this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: USCCB.org

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