

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## 4th Sunday of Advent

December 22nd, 2024

### *Pastoral Staff*

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

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

12333 Bayleaf Church Road, Raleigh, NC 27614  
[www.stlukesraleigh.org](http://www.stlukesraleigh.org)

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

# MASS INTENTIONS



Watch our Live-Streamed Masses Here:  
[stlukesraleigh.org](http://stlukesraleigh.org)

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 *St. Peter Canisius*

5:30 PM Vigil Mass Pro Populo

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 *4th Sunday of Advent*

8:30 AM Mass Pro Populo

11:00 AM Mass Pro Populo

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 *St. John of Kanty*

No Daily Mass Pro Populo

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 *Christmas Eve*

5:30 PM Christmas Eve Pro Populo

9:00 PM Christmas Eve Pro Populo

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 *THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD*

8:30 AM Christmas Day Pro Populo

11:00 AM Christmas Day Pro Populo

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 *St. Stephen*

8:30 AM Special Intention in Thanksgiving  
By Lyra Pitstick

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 *St. John, Apostle and Evangelist*

8:30 AM + Pat McClary  
By Sisters In Christ

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 *The Holy Innocents*

5:30 PM Vigil Mass Pro Populo

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 *THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH*

8:30 AM Mass Pro Populo

11:00 AM Mass Pro Populo

## Parish Weekly Calendar

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 *St. Peter Canisius*

RECONCILIATION.....4:00 PM  
 ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....5:00 PM  
 VIGIL MASS.....5:30 PM

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 *4th Sunday of Advent*

ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
 MASSES.....8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

**BUILDING CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK DEC. 23 - JAN. 1**

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 *St. John of Kanty*

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

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 *Christmas Eve*

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS.....5:30 PM  
 CHOIR PRACTICE.....6:30 PM  
 CHORAL PRELUDE.....8:30 PM  
 CHRISTMAS EVE MASS.....9:00 PM

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 *THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD*

CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS.....8:30 AM  
 CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS.....11:00 AM

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 *St. Stephen*

MORNING MASS.....8:30 AM  
 G.I.F.T.S.....9:30 AM

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 *St. John, Apostle and Evangelist*

MORNING MASS.....8:30 AM  
 ADORATION.....9:00 AM  
 RECONCILIATION.....9:30 AM

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 *The Holy Innocents*

RECONCILIATION.....4:00 PM  
 ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....5:00 PM  
 VIGIL MASS.....5:30 PM

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 *THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH*

ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
 MASSES.....8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

## Adoration of the Eucharist:

Fridays 9 AM - 4 PM



Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all men.

-St. Ambrose of Milan

**Weekly Readings, December 22 - December 29**

**Sunday:** Mic 5: 1-4a/Ps 80 (79): 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 . III/Heb 10: 5-10/Lk 1: 39-45

**Monday:** Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24/Ps 25 (24): 4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14/Lk 1: 57-66

**Tuesday:** 2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89 (88): 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Lk 1: 67-79

**Wednesday (At the mass during the day):** Is 52: 7-10/Ps 98 (97): 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 . I/Heb 1: 1-6/Jn 1: 1-18

**Thursday:** Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59/Ps 31 (30): 3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17/Mt 10: 17-22

**Friday:** 1 Jn 1: 1-4/Ps 97 (96): 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20: 1a and 2-8

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1: 5-2:2/Ps 124 (123): 2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2: 13-18

**Next Sunday:** Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14/1Sm 1: 20-22, 24-28/Ps 128 (127): 1-2, 3, 4-5 . II/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2: 41-52



*4th Week of Advent*

**Mary's Corner**



*"There is no doubt whatever that all the praises we address to the Mother are also addressed to the Son and vice versa. We cannot do honour to the Son without at the same time giving glory to the Mother.*

*-St. Bernard*

**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](mailto: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	randygiggard@gmail.com
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	Dan Schubert	919-847-0282	dan.molly@att.net
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:**

Donald Albert, Stephen Frank, Katherine Fitzgerald, Teresa Green, 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.

**Repose of the Soul:**

Dave Knudson.

**Those Who Are Actively Serving In The Military:**

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



**DIOCESE OF RALEIGH**

**Office of the Bishop**

**7200 Stonehenge Drive Raleigh, NC 27613**

**984-900-3103**

Christmas 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is an exciting and glorious time in the Church as we await the birth of our Lord and reflect on the wonder of Jesus coming to us and living among us in human nature. It brings us great joy to celebrate and cherish the familiar traditions and memories of Christmas.

What a wonderful opportunity we have this year to reflect on the centennial of our diocese and how Jesus has made Himself ever present through the Eucharistic mystery and through the gift that each one of us is to the world. In the midst of these wonderful celebrations, I invite you to find time during this busy and joyous time to listen. What is the Holy Spirit asking of each of us? Perhaps the Spirit is calling us and challenging us like Jesus did to see the world in a new way and to do things in a different way than we are accustomed.

As we reflect on the history of our diocese, our own local Church here in eastern North Carolina, we may begin to better understand how God's plan affects not just each of us alone but our neighbors and future generations as well. So many before us have acknowledged that God entrusted them with a mission to love and to serve Him, our neighbors, creation, and ourselves.

This Christmas, as we give thanks to God for sending his Son to live among us, let us reflect on how we may continue to pass along what is good and how we may find new ways to share this beautiful legacy of love and gratitude.

Through the intercession of Mary our Mother and Saint Joseph, may their Son and our Lord Jesus help us to live as God's holy family at Christmas, into the New Year and throughout the next 100 years.

In the Love of Jesus,

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



# PARISH FINANCE REPORT

December 22, 2024

Our Parish Website:  
[www.stlukesraleigh.org](http://www.stlukesraleigh.org)

FY24-25 Weekly YOY					
November 371,205.08		November 371,939.86			
Current Year (FY 2025)		Prior Year (FY 2024)		Difference	
Dec-24	Total 2025	Dec-23	Total 2023	\$ YOY by WK	% YOY by WK
1st	23,530.35	3rd	17,388.03	6,142.32	35%
8th	16,839.00	10th	32,603.13	(15,764.13)	-48%
15th	0.00	17th	22,132.00	(22,132.00)	-100%
22nd	0.00	24th	26,901.26	(26,901.26)	-100%
Christmas 29th-31st	0.00	Christmas 31st	12,268.00	(12,268.00)	-100%
	0.00		17,070.56	(17,070.56)	-100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,369.35</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>128,362.98</b>	<b>(87,993.63)</b>	<b>-69%</b>
Thru Dec-24 411,574.43		Thru Dec-24 500,302.84		(88,728.41) -18%	

Budget Comparison		
Dec-24	Mo Budget	127,451.00
	Actual	40,369.35
	Over Under	(87,081.65)
	YTD Budget	496,748.00
	YTD Actual	411,574.43
	Over/Under	(85,173.57)
	Budget	-17.15%

## Offertory Counting Ministry

### Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for parishioners to join our count teams! Our volunteers in a teams of 3 or 4 sort, count, and record weekly offertory collections. The time commitment is small but the support to St. Luke's Parish and staff is Huge!

If you are called to help, please contact Cyndy Aremia by email :

[Accountant@stlrc.org](mailto:Accountant@stlrc.org) or call between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays: 919-848-1533.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of joining our team.



## Christmas Flowers for the Church

Donation Envelopes are available in the Gathering space.

## Online Giving

As schools have resumed, and we have settled back in our busy routines, the ability to support and participate online is more important than ever. That is why we offer Online Giving as an option to support our continued mission and ministries. Please visit our Parish website today: [stlukesraleigh.org](http://stlukesraleigh.org) (click on Give) to sign up and get started! Thank you!!

## End of Year

Please advise the office of any address or family status changes by emailing:  
[Accountant@stlrc.org](mailto:Accountant@stlrc.org)

# Faith Formation

## This Week in Faith Formation

Sunday, 12/22	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>	
Monday, 12/23	10:00a.m.	Magnificat Moms
Tuesday, 12/24	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
Wednesday, 12/25	<b>Solemnity: The Nativity of the Lord</b>	
Thursday, 12/26	<b>St. Stephen</b>	
Friday, 12/27		
Saturday, 12/28	<b>St. John the Apostle</b>	
Sunday, 12/29		

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

Thus says the Lord GOD:  
Lo, I am sending my messenger  
to prepare the way before me;  
And suddenly there will come to the temple  
the LORD whom you seek,  
And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire.  
Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

*Malachi 3:1*

### FAMILY ADVENT ACTIVITY WEEK FOUR

We have just three short days in this last week of Advent—three short days to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord once more at his birth. In these three days, many of us will be wrapping presents, baking, packing, driving long hours, and furiously cleaning our homes to welcome guests. What is meant to be a time of stillness and silence can easily become a time of frenetic activity if we forget to set the intention of preparing our hearts over preparing our homes.

During this Advent season, our mass readings have pointed us to the story of St. John the Baptist. He was the harbinger of the Messiah, preaching repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sin. We, too, are called to be like St. John the Baptist as we point others to Christ.

Take these last few days of Advent to make gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that share the good news that Christ is born. Make cards, bookmarks, cookies, or candy to share making sure to include a note about the real reason for this season. Share these with neighbors, mailmen, cashiers at the grocery store, and family. May we all be messengers preparing the way before the Lord.

**Sancti Simus**

**NO CLASSES NEXT WEEKEND!**

**Elementary Faith Formation**  
*Kindergarten-5th Grade*  
**Sundays at 9:45a.m.**

Register Online:  
[osvhub.com/stlukesraleigh/forms/2024-25--sancti-simus](https://osvhub.com/stlukesraleigh/forms/2024-25--sancti-simus)

**Elementary Sacrament Prep**  
*A Two Year Curriculum for First Holy Communion Preparation*  
**Sundays at 9:45a.m.**

Contact Lydia Tatum to register at [DRE@STLRNC.ORG](mailto:DRE@STLRNC.ORG)

**High School Sacrament Prep**  
*A Two Year Curriculum for Confirmation Preparation*  
**Sundays at 9:45a.m.**

Contact Lydia Tatum to register at [DRE@STLRNC.ORG](mailto:DRE@STLRNC.ORG)

**Lydia Tatum**

Director of Religious Education  
[DRE@STLRNC.ORG](mailto:DRE@STLRNC.ORG)

**Contact Us**

**Katja Mulligan**

Faith Formation Assistant  
[FaithAssistant@STLRNC.ORG](mailto:FaithAssistant@STLRNC.ORG)

# Faith Formation

## Adult Formation

### Walking With Purpose

Thursdays: *Opening Your Heart*  
(Women's Study)  
6:30p.m.-8:00p.m.

## OCIA

### Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Join us to learn more about Catholicism and  
entering full-communion with the Church.  
  
Wednesdays  
6:30p.m.-8:00p.m.

## Knights of Columbus

### Journeyman Into the Breach: The Rosary

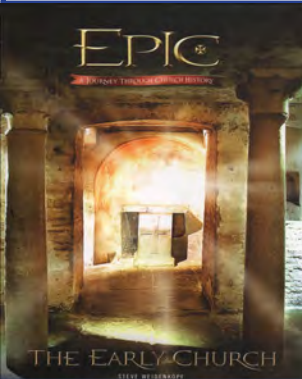
by Knights of Columbus  
(Men's Study)

1st and 3rd Saturdays  
7:30a.m.-9:00a.m.

In the Holy Family Room

**Beginning February 1, 2025**

**NO CLASSES THIS WEEK**



## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

### EPIC: The Early Church

January 21– April 1 with a semester break on 2/25

Discover the amazing story of the first 500 years of Church history - a time filled with saints, philosophers, theologians, emperors, and martyrs. This exciting study encourages people to grow closer to Christ through a deeper understanding of his Church.



Over the course of ten sessions, you will discover places and events that were a part of the early formation of the Church and gain a greater understanding her teachings. The study leader, Steve Weidenkopf, is widely recognized for his scholarship and articulation of the theology and players in the Early Church.



## Wednesdays in the Word

### 2025 Lenten Mission: The Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible

**NO HOMEWORK!!**

January 29-April 8 with a semester break on 3/5

In this incredibly important study delving into the Source and Summit of our faith, Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. "The Lamb of God", "The Bread of Life", "The Body and Blood of Christ" are phrases we know. Through this study, we will discover how Christ's Body and Blood are a wondrous part of God's plan for Salvation.



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION FORM

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 10, 2025**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study: EPIC: The Early Church Workbook: \$25.00 per participant**

# of workbooks: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SUBTOTAL

AND/OR

**2025 Lenten Mission: The Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible Workbook: \$25.00 per participant**

# of workbooks: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SUBTOTAL

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

**You may also order online and pay by credit card:** <https://www.osvhub.com/stlukesraleigh/forms/tmbs-spring2025> or  
<https://osvhub.com/stlukesraleigh/forms/wednesdaysintheword>



# Youth Ministry

**Youth Ministers: Conor Mulligan and Nick Aremia**

Contact Us: [Youth.Ministry@STLRNC.ORG](mailto:Youth.Ministry@STLRNC.ORG)

[www.stlukesraleigh.org/middle-school-youth-group](http://www.stlukesraleigh.org/middle-school-youth-group) or [www.stlukesraleigh.org/high-school-youth-group](http://www.stlukesraleigh.org/high-school-youth-group)

## St. Luke's Youth Group

**Carpe Diem**  
6th-8th Grade

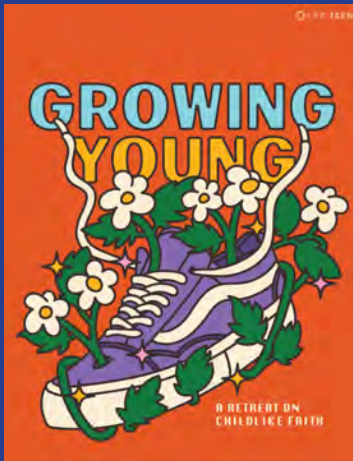
**Vita Nova**  
9th-12th Grade

### Next Youth Meeting

**Carpe Diem & Vita Nova** are on break until the New Year!

See you guys in 2025!

### 2025 Spring Retreat



**March 21-23, 2025**

Camp Rockfish  
Parkton, NC

**Cost: \$225/person**



All 9th-12th graders are invited to join us on retreat this spring as we gather to deepen our faith by "Growing Young" - seeking after a childlike faith as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

**Registration Deadline: January 12, 2025**

Register for Youth Group



Join our Email List



## Calendar of Events

<b>Sunday, 1/5</b>	12:15p.m.	YOUTH GROUP! <i>Theology of the Body Part 4</i>
<b>Sunday, 1/12</b>	12:15p.m.	YOUTH GROUP! <i>Theology of the Body Part 5</i>
<b>Sunday, 1/19</b>	---	<b>Long Weekend (MLK)</b> No Youth Group
<b>Saturday, 1/25</b>	6:30p.m.	<b>Parish Trivia Night</b>
<b>Sunday, 1/26</b>	9:45a.m. 12:15p.m.	Fundraiser: Coffee & Donuts Leaders' Meeting

### 2025 Youth Fundraiser Extended!!

All remaining inventory is on sale **online only**

#### **IN-STOCK**

##### **Pecans**

*Mammoth Pecan Halves, Cinnamon Glazed Pecans, Milk Chocolate Covered Pecans*

##### **Children's Socks**

*Three Wise Men, Nativity, Monstrance, and Christmas Sweater*

#### **POINSETTIAS & ADULT SOCKS—SOLD OUT**

**Ways to Order:** Online at <https://www.osvhub.com/stlukesraleigh/forms/pecan-poinsettia-fundraiser>



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# At St. Luke the Evangelist

FORMED®

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

Week of  
December 22, 2024

## The Story of Christmas | Benjamin Cello Christmas Special

In this special hour-long television event, Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas" by Brother Joseph and "The Shadow of His Wings" puppet theater. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-story-of-christmas-benjamin-cello-christmas-special>

## O Holy Night - Christmas with the Annie Moses Band

Experience the beauty of the Christmas season with the Annie Moses Band as the acclaimed classical crossover ensemble performs stunning arrangements of holiday favorites. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/o-holy-night-annie-moses-band>

## Mary's Labor: What Does Catholic Tradition Have to Say?

Join Dr. Scott Hefelfinger and Dr. Michael Barber as they explain the Catholic Church's understanding of Mary's labor and the birth of Jesus Christ. <https://watch.formed.org/videos/mary-s-labor-what-does-the-church-teach-catholic-commentary-on-the-chosen>

St. Luke's parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



## St. Luke the Evangelist Church Advent & Christmas Schedule

### DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Mass: 5:30 PM  
Christmas Eve Mass: 9:00 with choral prelude at 8:30 PM

### DECEMBER 25

Christmas morning Mass: 8:30 AM  
Christmas morning Mass: 11:00 AM

### DECEMBER 31

Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: 5:30 PM

### JANUARY 1:

Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: 9:30 AM

## Reflection on the 4th Sunday of Advent

On this final Sunday of Advent, the Gospel invites us to journey with Mary as she visits her cousin Elizabeth. In this profound moment recorded in Luke 1:39-45, we witness a meeting of extraordinary faith, hope, and joy.

Mary, the first disciple, teaches us to go "in haste" toward others. Even though she was carrying the Savior of the world within her, her first thought was not of herself but of serving Elizabeth. Her humility and selflessness remind us to make room for others, even when we are busy or burdened.

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, shows us how to recognize God's presence in others. Her joyful exclamation reveals the profound truth that Christ's coming changes everything—even before His birth, His presence brings joy and transformation.

As we prepare for Christmas, this passage invites us to consider our own hearts. Do we approach the Lord with the same faith and trust as Mary? Do we recognize His presence in those around us, as Elizabeth did? Do we leap for joy at the nearness of our Savior, like the unborn John the Baptist?

The 4th Sunday of Advent calls us to embrace the joy and hope of this holy season. As we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath, let us pray for the grace to welcome Christ into our hearts and lives with faith and love.

- Fr. Joe Connelly, Copyright 2024 Guardian Angels Catholic Church

## Advent Giving Tree

December 1 -  
December 25

Please select a gift tag from the tree and return it with your unwrapped gift.

Thank you! These gifts help support those in need in our community.



## Assisted Listening Devices:

As part of our continued effort to make sure everyone has a good listening experience during Mass we wanted to make you aware that we now have several new Assisted Listening Devices. **They are very easy to use.** You basically put the earpiece on your ear, turn the little device on, and adjust the volume to your liking. Several parishioners have also found that their personal earbuds plug into the devices and work really well. **They are available at each Mass by simply asking one of our Ministers of Hospitality to get one for you.** We have had several parishioners test these, including some of our seniors. They tell us that the earpieces provide excellent enhanced sound. **Please let us know if you would like to try one!**

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

Written and illustrated by John Sheppard

After returning from 8 years "in disgrace" to Cracow, St. John of Kanty had a distinguished career as a professor of sacred Scripture.

He socialized with nobility yet always helped those in need.



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# Adopt-A-Family Wrapping Party & Potluck

December 14th, 2024





# Around the Diocese

## Annual Celebration of the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 20, 2025  
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM

You are invited to the diocesan celebration of the annual Mass commemorating the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., promoting justice for social issues. The event is open to the public.

“MISSION POSSIBLE: Protecting Freedom, Justice and Democracy!”

Celebrant: Most Reverend Luis Rafael Zarama

Homilist: Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., Archbishop Emeritus of Louisville

Archbishop Kurtz has served on many boards including as President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). For more information, visit [dioceseofraleigh.org](http://dioceseofraleigh.org).

**RESPECT LIFE**

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation...”  
~ Pope Francis

**QUESTIONS?**  
Please contact diocesan Coordinator for Human Life and Dignity (HLD):  
Deacon Josh Klickman | (919) 632-7379 | [Joshua.Klickman@raldioc.org](mailto:Joshua.Klickman@raldioc.org)

CATHOLIC DIOCESE of RALEIGH

## 2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

Parishes are encouraged to send travel plans to the diocesan Human Life and Dignity (HLD) Coordinator, especially if they have space for additional pilgrims.

### JANUARY 18 RALEIGH, N.C.

Raleigh Mass for Life | 11:00 am | Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral  
(EVENTS ARE BILINGUAL, ENGLISH AND SPANISH. ROSARY BEGINS 10:30 AM)

### JANUARY 23 WASHINGTON, D.C.

National Prayer Vigil Mass | 5:00 pm  
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

(BISHOP LUIS, PRIESTS, AND DEACONS FROM NC WILL CONCELEBRATE AND ATTEND)



SCAN HERE FOR DETAILS

### JANUARY 24 WASHINGTON, D.C.

Closing Mass | 8:00 am  
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Life Fest | 7:30 - 10:30 am  
(DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 AM)  
D.C. Armory, Washington, D.C.

Concert + Rally | 11:00 am  
National March for Life | 1:00 pm



SCAN HERE FOR DETAILS



SCAN HERE FOR DETAILS, LOCATION

## March for Life Bus Trip

**Time to sign up for the bus trip to the National March for Life** - The National March for Life will be on **January 24, 2025** in Washington, DC. 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. The bus will leave from St. Raphaels Catholic Church and return the same day.

Can't make it? Then please sponsor a trip for some of these kids. Sign up or donate at [www.KofC9880.org/marchforlife](http://www.KofC9880.org/marchforlife) - This QR code will directly go to the website.



**ARE YOU CHARGING YOUR PHONE MORE THAN YOUR MARRIAGE? IF YOUR PHONE GETS MORE TIME RECHARGING THAN YOUR SPOUSE, YOUR MARRIAGE IS SUFFERING.**

**Marriage Help** – For over 40 years, Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too, or a hurting couple you might know.

For confidential information about the program or to register for the upcoming January 24-26th weekend in Charlotte area, call Bill and Lyn Folsom at 727-343-6701 or email: [3062R@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3062R@helpourmarriage.org) or visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)

Following weekend in NC will be on July 18-20, 2025 in Spanish at St Luke Catholic Church, Raleigh

**Wedding ANNIVERSARY of Mass**

THE ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS CELEBRATION HAS BEEN MOVED TO FEBRUARY TO ALIGN WITH THE CATHOLIC NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

To request a wedding anniversary certificate, please use the QR code or call 984-900-3184

SCAN THE CODE TO REGISTER

February 8, 2025, 10 a.m.  
HOLY NAME OF JESUS CATHEDRAL

## 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](mailto:project.rachel@raldioc.org) or call (919) 852-1021. The website is: [rachelnc.org](http://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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**Prayer after an election, from the US Bishops**

God of all nations,

Father of the human family, we give you thanks for the freedom we exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in these United States of America.

We ask for your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world.

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants, those who will serve us as president, as legislators and judges, those in the military and law enforcement. Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst.

Amen.

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**for Ladies, Gentlemen, and Children**  
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