

# ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

## CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMUNITY

### PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Roger Malonda Nyimi, Pastor

Fr. David M. Chiantella, Parochial Vicar

Deacon. Mike Sanchez

[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)

Max Van Hecke, Director of Music

[music@stlrnc.org](mailto:music@stlrnc.org)

Katja Mulligan, Faith Formation Assistant

[faithassistant@stlrnc.org](mailto:faithassistant@stlrnc.org)

Conor Mulligan & Nick Aremia, Youth Ministers

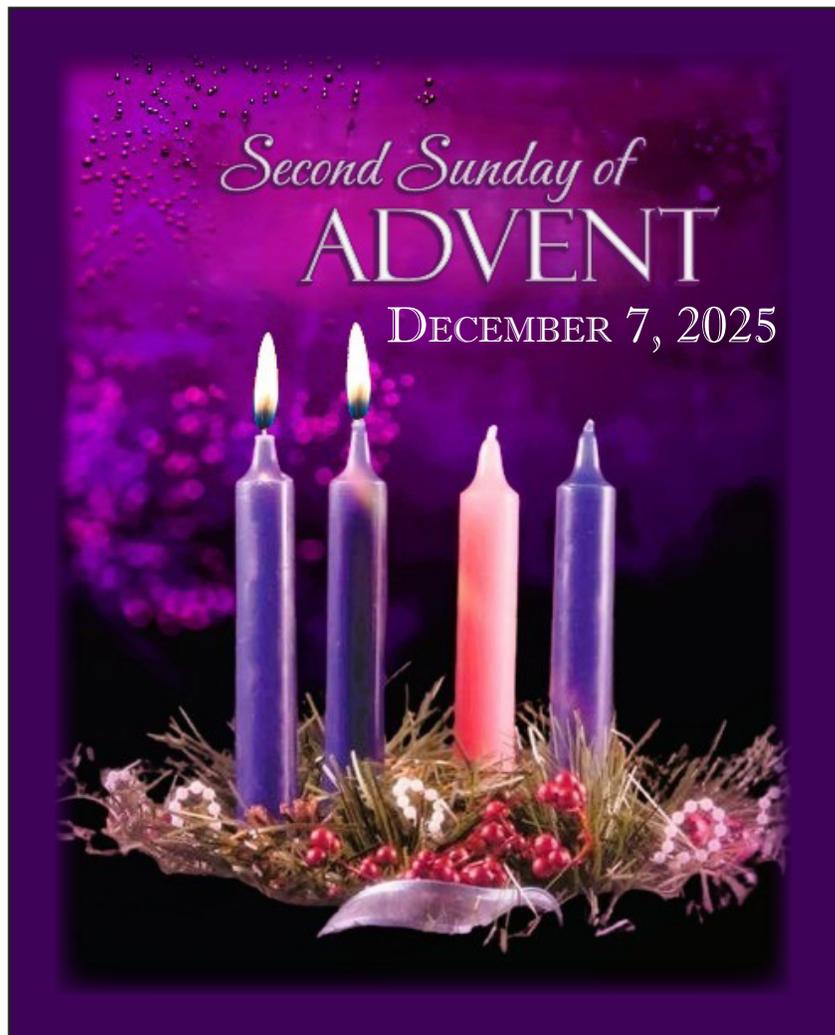
[youth.ministry@stlrnc.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stlrnc.org)

Erica Guzman, Bulletin & Website Editor

[communications@stlrnc.org](mailto:communications@stlrnc.org)

Bill Rodriguez, Facilities Manager

[facilities@stlrnc.org](mailto:facilities@stlrnc.org)



### *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

### *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 at 919-848-1533 for more information.

### *Sacrament of Anointing:*

Please call the Parish Office at 919-848-1533

### *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 at 919-848-1533 for additional information.

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

Phone: (919) 848-1533

Fax: (919) 848-0662



*St. Luke's Vision Statement: Joyfully living the Gospel through sacraments, service, and love.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 2025 *First Saturday St. Nicholas*

9:30 AM Mass Pro Populo  
 4:00 PM Reconciliation  
 5:30 PM †William Clark  
 by Friends

### SUNDAY, DEC. 7, 2025 *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

8:30 AM Mass Pro Populo  
 11:00 AM †Mark Soisson  
 by Ann Soisson

### MONDAY, DEC. 8, 2025 *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:30 AM †Mary Ann DeRuntz  
 by Philip & Julia Gordon  
 7:00 PM Mass Pro Populo

### TUESDAY, DEC. 9, 2025 *St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin*

5:30 PM †Bill Schultz  
 by Randi Ostack

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10, 2025 *Our Lady of Loreto*

12:00 PM †Dave Knudson  
 by Tracy Knudson

### THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 2025 *St. Damasus I*

8:30 AM †Terry Miner  
 by Mike & Susan Young

### FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2025 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:30 AM Special Intention  
 by Mike & Susan Young

### SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 2025 *St. Lucy*

4:00 PM Reconciliation  
 5:30 PM Leann & Mike Jones  
 by Mike & Susan Young

### SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2025 *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

8:30 AM Mass Pro Populo  
 11:00 AM †John Arpa, Sr.  
 by Angie Arpa

## PARISH WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, DEC. 6, 2025 *First Saturday St. Nicholas*

FIRST SATURDAY MASS.....9:30 AM  
 RECONCILIATION.....4:00 PM  
 ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....5:00 PM  
 VIGIL MASS .....5:30 PM

### SUNDAY, DEC. 7, 2025 *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
 MASSES .....8:30 AM & 11:00 AM  
 CONFIRMATION PREP.....9:45 AM  
 ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION.....9:45 AM  
 YOUTH GROUP ADOPT-A-FAMILY (OFF-SITE)...12:15 PM

### MONDAY, DEC. 8, 2025 *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

MORNING MASS - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION..8:30 AM  
 SACRED MUSIC CONCERT.....4:00 PM  
 POTLUCK.....5:00 PM  
 HOLY HOUR.....5:30 PM  
 EVENING MASS - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION..7:00 PM

### TUESDAY, DEC. 9, 2025 *St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin*

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (TMBS)...9:15 AM  
 MAGNIFICAT PRAYER GROUP.....1:30 PM  
 EVENING MASS.....5:30 PM  
 CHOIR PRACTICE.....6:30 PM  
 SCHOLA PRACTICE.....7:30 PM

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10, 2025 *Our Lady of Loreto*

NOON MASS.....12:00 PM  
 WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD.....6:15 PM  
 OCIA.....6:30 PM

### THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 2025 *St. Damasus I*

MORNING MASS.....8:30 AM  
 GIFTS.....9:30 AM  
 ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE.....6:30 PM

### FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2025 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

MORNING MASS.....8:30 AM  
 ADORATION.....9:00 AM  
 RECONCILIATION.....9:30 AM  
 BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT..4:00 PM

### SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 2025 *St. Lucy*

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP.....7:30 AM  
 FIRST RECONCILIATION.....10:00 AM  
 RECONCILIATION.....4:00 PM  
 ROSARY BEFORE MASS.....5:00 PM  
 VIGIL MASS .....5:30 PM  
 YOUTH GROUP POTLUCK & WRAPPING PARTY.....6:30 PM

### SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2025 *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

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

ADORATION OF  
 THE EUCHARIST:

FRIDAYS 9AM - 4PM



## WEEKLY READINGS: DEC. 7-14

**Sunday 12/7:** Isa 11:1-10 / Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 / Rom 15:4-9 / Mt 3:1-12

**Monday 12/8:** Gen 3:9-15, 20 / Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 / Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday 12/9:** Is 40:1-11 / Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 / Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday 12/10:** Is 40:25-31 / Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 / Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday 12/11:** Is 41:13-20 / Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab / Mt 11:11-15

**Friday 12/12:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab / Jdth 13:18bcde, 19 / Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Saturday 12/13:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 / Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 / Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Next Sunday 12/14:** Isa 35:1-6a, 10 / Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 / Jm 5:7-10 / Mt 11:2-11



### Mary's Corner

*"By becoming the Mother of God, Mary was the means of the salvation of sinners. In the same way, sinners are saved by proclaiming her praises."*

- St. Anselm

### Please Pray For Our Family, Our Friends and Our Parish

If you'd like to add or remove a name from our prayer list, please email [communications@stlrc.org](mailto:communications@stlrc.org).

Names are kept on the list for 3 weeks. Contact us to extend or update. 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
EMHC Ministry	Virginia Todd	Please Email	vtodd1789@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
Homebound	Parish Office	919-848-1533	Please Call
Hospital Ministry	Jeanne Rodriguez	919-434-5017	jeanner517@gmail.com
Nursing Home Ministry	Rick Beebe	919-418-0845	bbgunrtb@yahoo.com
Respect Life	OPEN	919-848-1533	Please Call

### 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 Library	Allison Coates	612-418-8201	Please Call
Wedding Coordinator	Barbara Bower	919-841-2202	weddingcoordinator@stlrc.org

### Evangelization

Legion of Mary	Tammy Huffman	919-744-6998	Please Call
OCIA Coordinator	Dcn. Mike Sanchez	Please Email	dcnmikes7@gmail.com

### Pastoral Council

Dave Olechovsky	stlukepc@gmail.com	919-621-1778
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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:

Carolyn Barbarito, Peter Le, Daniel Nisbeth, Joseph Rothengast Sr., Daniel Ritchie

### Rest of the Soul:

Edward Yatta, Douglas Wipperman, Tim White, William (Bill) Schultz, Walt Ostack, Terry Miner

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

Nathan Thomas, Brendon Burns, Bret Marrow, Brad Miller, Lane Wade, Madeline Chafin, Nico Muzo, James Boland, Caroline Todd, Isaac Cade

# Parish Finance Report

## December 7, 2025

FY25-26 Weekly YOY					
Oct-25		Oct-24			
299,580.54		296,282.12			
Current Year (FY 2025)		Prior Year (FY 2024)		Difference	
Nov-25	Total FY 2026	Nov-24	Total FY 2025	\$ YOY by WK	% YOY
2nd	17,161.88	3rd	20,745.63	(3,583.75)	-17%
9th	27,932.13	10th	14,790.95	13,141.18	89%
16th	13,775.79	17th	18,466.07	(4,690.28)	-25%
23rd	18,884.38	24th	18,357.60	526.78	3%
30th	0.00	25th-29th	2,562.71	(2,562.71)	-100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,754.18</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>74,922.96</b>	<b>2,831.22</b>	<b>4%</b>
Thru Nov-25		Thru Nov-24	371,205.08	6,129.64	2%

Budget Comparison		
	Mo Budget	83,967.17
Nov-25	Actual	77,754.18
	Over Under	(6,212.99)
	YTD Budget	419,835.85
	YTD Actual	377,334.72
	Over/Under	(42,501.13)
	Budget	-10.12%

### Upcoming Second Collections



**12/14/25**

Please put your donations in the basket when it is passed. Envelopes will be available in the gathering spaces. Thank you!

If you have moved recently, please let us know by emailing [secretary@stlrc.org](mailto:secretary@stlrc.org) so we can update your records.

Thank you!

**Our Church offers Online Giving as an additional option to support our ongoing mission, ministries, and programs. Your generosity and support make our church's work possible!**

**Make offertory donations and 2nd collections and other payments to our church via your mobile phone, smart device, or computer.**

**Set up your gift today or consider an additional gift via our Online Giving Link by visiting our website [stlukesraleigh.org](http://stlukesraleigh.org) (click on Give).**

**If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cyndy Aremia in the accounting office. 919-848-1533 or email: [accountant@stlrc.org](mailto:accountant@stlrc.org).**

**Thank you for your continued support!!**

### Offertory Counting Ministry

#### Volunteers Needed!

**Our volunteers record weekly offertory collections. The time commitment is small but the support to St. Luke's Parish and staff is HUGE! As the new year approaches, we are in need of at least 6 new volunteers.**

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.**

# At St. Luke's

## St. Luke's Saturday Morning Men's Group

Fall Sessions: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month through 12-13-2025

The Search-Episode #7

Saturday, December 13, 7:30 AM - 9AM



*Why a Church? It's like asking, 'why do I follow Christ?' Good question for yourself and fellow men of St. Luke's Parish who also strive for perfect holiness!*

Come and experience the impact of the Holy Spirit during our gathering!  
Contact Grand Knight Rick at (919) 418-0845 or [stlukegk12455@gmail.com](mailto:stlukegk12455@gmail.com)

*A time for fellowship... A time for discussion...*

*A time to Seek and Find God in our lives!*

## Catholic Parish Outreach featured on Good Morning America!



Scan the QR code to watch:

### **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME... AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!**

A committed group St. Luke's parishioners volunteer at CPO on various days of the week so that CPO could provide food to more than **130,000 people in the last year**. They participate in a variety of jobs while volunteering such as interviewing clients, packing bags of food, assembling clients' grocery orders, handing out food to clients, unloading trucks and helping with distribution of children's clothing.

**Please consider joining the group!** If you can't be available every week, consider volunteering one day per month or to be an occasional substitute! **CPO is now open every Saturday**, providing volunteer opportunities for those who work full-time during the week.

If you have questions about volunteering at CPO, please contact Ken Low at 919-397-4018.

To volunteer your time at CPO, email [CpoVolCoordinator@ccharities.org](mailto:CpoVolCoordinator@ccharities.org). For more information about CPO volunteering opportunities, you can access their website at [ccharitiesdor.org](http://ccharitiesdor.org).



The Knights of Columbus have a few large outdoor Nativities still available for purchase.

Handcrafted by St. Luke parishioners, these painted wood Nativities will help you share the true meaning of Christmas in your neighborhood.

Delivery will be arranged.

Contact Keith Kosinski at [keithkosinski@gmail.com](mailto:keithkosinski@gmail.com) or call 919-622-0585

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The next litter sweep on Six Forks Road will be Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

Please meet in front of the church any time between 8 and 9 AM for an assignment.

For more information, call Dave, 919-793-4896.

## ADVENT GIVING TREE

NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> - DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

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.

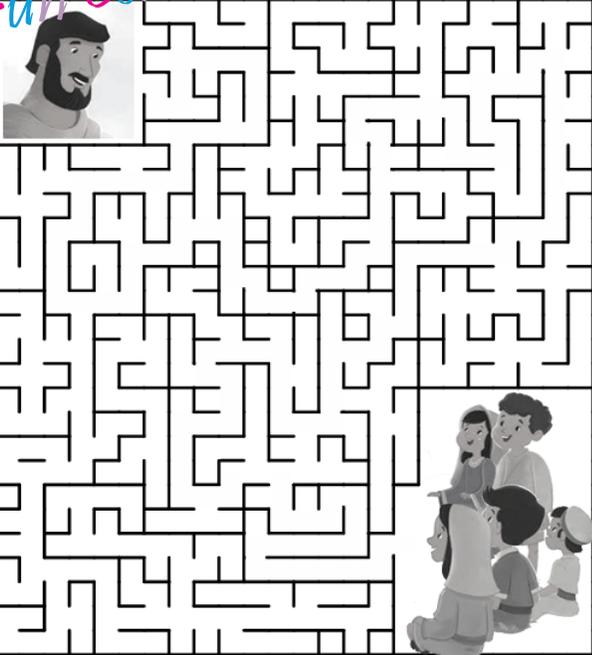


## ST. LUKE'S

Family Fun Corner

### Jesus and the Children Maze

Help connect Jesus and the children.



## Altar Server Ministry

Altar Serving is an important liturgical ministry in our parish. Altar servers have special tasks to perform during liturgies, especially the Eucharist (Mass), which is the central worship we give to God. As an altar server, one serves in the following ways:

- Serving the parish family by helping everyone worship and celebrate the best way possible
- Serving God through worship and prayer
- Serving the priest by helping him preside over the liturgy

Altar servers serve at weekend masses, Holy Day masses, liturgies during Holy Week and Christmas, and at wedding and funeral masses. Altar serving is a very important ministry in the Catholic Church. Participation in this ministry brings additional heavenly graces to the altar server.

Any boy or girl in the 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade who has received their First Communion and shows an interest and willingness to serve at the Altar is eligible to participate in the St. Luke Altar Server Ministry. Training is provided to new altar servers before they are scheduled to serve for the first time.

If you are interested in joining St. Luke's Altar Server Ministry, please contact Mr. David Sofra at (919) 847-9978 or [dsofra@bellsouth.net](mailto:dsofra@bellsouth.net).

# At St. Luke's



## Children & Youth Religious Education

*Elementary Catechesis & Sacrament Prep*

*Sundays at 9:45a.m.*

**Calendars:** [www.stlukesraleigh.org/elementary-faith-formation](http://www.stlukesraleigh.org/elementary-faith-formation)

*Teen Confirmation Prep*

*Sundays at 9:45a.m.*

**Calendar:** [www.stlukesraleigh.org/youth-confirmation](http://www.stlukesraleigh.org/youth-confirmation)

## Adult Religious Education

### Current Studies

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

*The Case for Jesus*

**Wednesdays in the Word**

*EPIC: The Protestant Reformation & Counter Reformation*

**Knights of Columbus Saturday Men's Group**

*The Search*

*\*All Fall Studies are Underway.*

*For more information on how to join upcoming studies, please contact Director of Religious Education, Lydia Tatum at [dre@stlinc.org](mailto:dre@stlinc.org).*

## Upcoming Youth Activities

### December 6 & 7

*Pecan & Poinsettia Sales after ALL Weekend Masses*  
**YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

### Sunday, December 7

*Adopt-a-Family Shopping*  
2:00-3:00p.m. at Six Forks Station  
Target

### Saturday, December 13

*Adopt-a-Family Wrapping Party & Christmas Potluck*  
6:30-10:00p.m.

## Youth Pecan & Poinsettia Fundraiser

### ONLINE SALES BEGIN 11/8

Follow This QR CODE —>



### IN-PERSON SALES

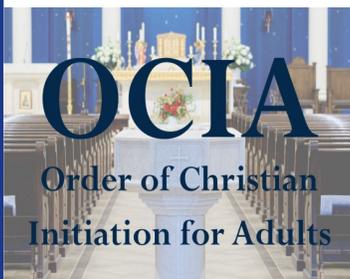
December 6 & 7 After All Masses

#### PECAN MENU:

- Mammoth Shelled Pecan Halves,
- Milk Chocolate Covered Pecans,
- Cinnamon Glazed Pecans,
- Glazed Pecans,
- Milk Chocolate Caramel Pecan Clusters

#### POINSETTIA MENU:

- 6.5" pot with 4-6 blooms, available in RED only (*This is the size we've sold in past years. Same price, too!*)
- 8" pot with 9-12 blooms, available in RED, WHITE, and RED GLITTER



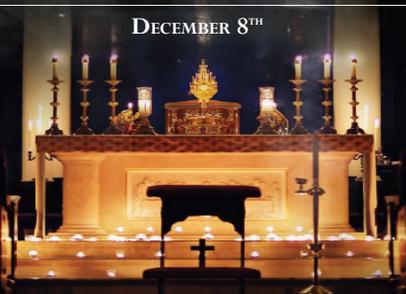
## Order of Christian Initiation for Adults Classes Underway!

Wednesdays—6:30p.m.-8:00p.m.

Interested in Learning more about the Catholic faith?

**Inquiry:** [Cecile Hosey cawalc@gmail.com](mailto:Cecile_Hosey_cawalc@gmail.com)

# At St. Luke's

  
**FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
 DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

**Sacred Music,  
Soup Supper, & Benediction**

**8:30 AM - Morning Mass - Immaculate Conception**  
**4:00 PM - Sacred Music Concert (Church)**  
**5:00 PM - Potluck (Parish Hall)**  
**5:30-6:30 PM - Holy Hour (Church)**  
**7:00 PM - Evening Mass - Immaculate Conception**



At St Luke's, we are blessed and privileged to have Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, Adoration, and Benediction every Friday. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed after 8:30 Mass with Adoration available all day until Benediction at 4pm. Every hour has

2 committed adorers in addition to our many weekly visitors. At the moment, St Luke's has an "open" hour, meaning that one adorer has left an "open" spot. Please prayerfully consider taking up this hour to offer Adoration to our Lord. It is a wonderful time to sit quietly with Him. To read spiritual works. To pray. To reflect. To listen.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Mary Kate Travers at (mktravers@nc.rr.com) or (914) 548-1614.

  
**FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
 DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

## Around the Diocese

During this holy season of Advent, we are invited to prepare our hearts through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Take this opportunity to return to the Lord and receive His healing grace and peace in the mercy of the Lord.

### Raleigh Deanery Advent Penance Services



**December 9 | 11 am**  
Our Lady of Lourdes - Raleigh  
English & Spanish

**December 9 | 7 pm**  
St. Bernadette - Fuquay-Varina  
English & Spanish

**December 10 | 7 pm**  
St. Catherine of Siena - Wake Forest  
English & Spanish

**December 11 | 10 am**  
St. Catherine of Siena - Wake Forest  
English & Spanish

**December 11 | 6:30 pm**  
St. Lukes - Raleigh  
English

**December 16 | 10:30 am**  
St. Bernadette - Fuquay-Varina  
English & Spanish

**December 16 | 7 pm**  
Holy Name of Jesus, St. Joseph, St. Mary,  
& NGSU - Raleigh  
English & Spanish

**December 17 | 7 pm**  
St. Raphael - Raleigh  
English & Spanish

**December 18 | 10 am**  
St. Michael - Cary  
English & Spanish



The Feast of  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

### Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, mystical rose, make intercession for Holy Church, protect the Sovereign Pontiff, help all those who invoke thee in their necessities, and since thou art the ever Virgin Mary and Mother of the true God, obtain for us from thy most holy Son the grace of keeping our faith, sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life, burning charity and the precious gift of final perseverance. Amen.



### Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat (January 9-11, 2026)

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 9-11, 2026, 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 \$350 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Discount of \$50 if you register before December, 9<sup>th</sup>. Spanish and English speakers are welcome. If there is a financial burden, assistance is always available.



### Sandra Jean LaBarbera

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(919) 880-0042

Tommy.savage@icloud.com



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Thomas O'Brien  
(Vacation Consultant)

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M: (919) 757 5891

Email: tobrien@expediacruz.com

www.expediacruz.com/en-US/ThomasOBrien



### From Pope Benedict XVI, Saint Peter's Square, Second Sunday of Advent, 4 December 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this season of Advent, while the Ecclesial Community is preparing for and celebrating the great mystery of the Incarnation, it is invited to rediscover and deepen its own personal relationship with God. The Latin word "adventus" refers to the coming of Christ and brings to the fore God's movement towards humanity, to which each is called to respond with openness, expectation, seeking and attachment. And as God is sovereignly free in revealing and giving himself because he is motivated solely by love, so the human person is also free in giving his or her own, even dutiful, assent: God expects a response of love.

In these days, the liturgy presents to us as a perfect model of this response the Virgin Mary, whom this 8 December we will contemplate in the mystery of the Immaculate Conception. The Virgin is the One who continues to listen, always ready to do the Lord's will; she is an example for the believer who lives in search of God...

"It is in accordance with their dignity that all men, because they are persons, that is, beings endowed with reason and free will..., are both impelled by their nature and bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth, especially religious truth" (Dignitatis Humanae, no. 2)...

Religious liberty is indeed very far from being effectively guaranteed everywhere: in certain cases it is denied for religious or ideological reasons; at other times, although it may be recognizable on paper, it is hindered in effect by political power or, more cunningly, by the cultural predominance of agnosticism and relativism.

Let us pray that all human beings may completely fulfill the religious vocation they bear engraved in their being. May Mary help us to recognize in the face of the Child of Bethlehem, conceived in her virginal womb, the divine Redeemer who came into the world to reveal to us the authentic face of God.

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