



GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

5050 Oak Street
Hope Mills, NC 28348
(910) 425-1590
gdshprd81@gmail.com



Office Hours: Mon—Fri 9am to 4pm
www.good-shepherd-church.org
www.facebook.com/GSCatholicChurchHopeMills

PARISH CONTACTS:

Pastor

Rev. Arul Yagappan, MSFS
father.arul.gscc@gmail.com
910-425-1590, ext. 204

Director of Faith Formation

Jan Carnahan
gsccdre@gmail.com
910-425-1590, ext. 200

Parish Pastoral Council

Joe Bierkorte, Chairperson
postalbernie@yahoo.com

Office Manager

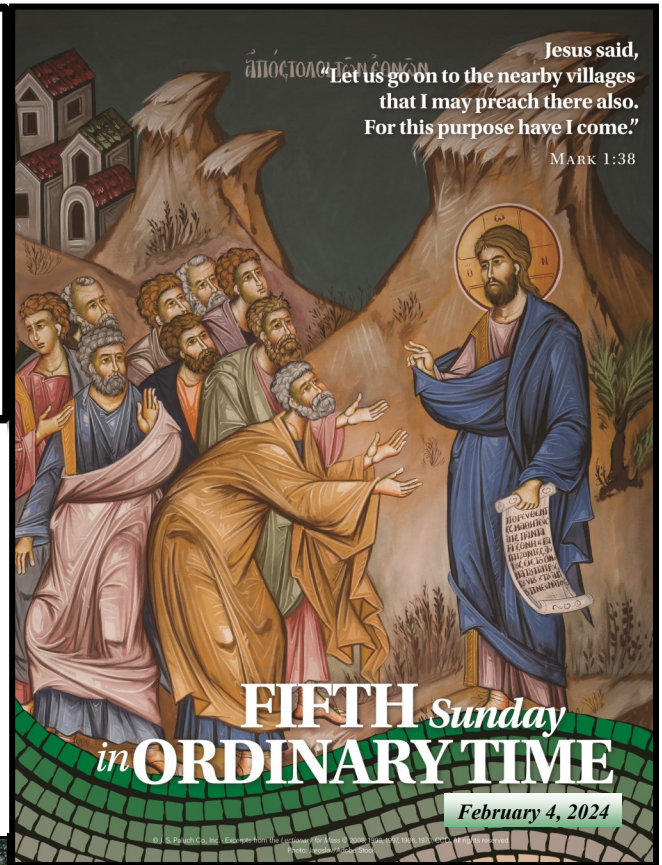
Maria Rosario
gsccadl@gmail.com
910-425-1590, ext. 203

Office Assistant

Barbara Chapman
gsbulletinedit@gmail.com
910-425-1590, ext. 202

Parish Finance Council

Steve Graybill, Chairperson
sgraybill@nc.rr.com



*Jb 7:1-4,6-7; Ps 147; 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23;
Mk 1:29-39*



OUR MISSION

The People of Good Shepherd are dedicated to Preaching the Word of the Kingdom of God by Service to the Community and Sanctifying the One Family of Faith.

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick: Call the Parish Office to schedule.

Marriage: Couples are asked not to set a date for their wedding until an initial meeting with the Pastor.

Diocesan requirements mandate a minimum six-month period of preparation. For Marriage Prep or Annulments, please contact Deacon Joshua Klickman: 919-632-7379

Joshua.Klickman@raldioc.org

Baptism: Parental participation in a program to prepare parents is required. Contact the Parish Office at least three months in advance of your desired baptismal date to make the proper arrangements. **Baptismal Prep Sessions are the first Saturday of each month at 10:45am in Room 4.**

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 8:30am & 11:30am

Holy Days 12:00pm & 6:30pm

First Saturday 9:00am

Monday No Mass

Tuesday 9:00am

Wednesday Evening Services

Holy Hour 5:30pm

(Adoration & Evening Prayer)

Mass 6:30pm

Thursday 9:00am

Friday 12:00pm

Mass at Carolina Rehab of Cumberland
Second Thursday of each month, 10:45am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday 4:00-4:45pm

Wednesday 5:30-6:20pm

Or by Appointment

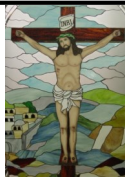
Eucharistic Adoration

Each Wednesday evening at 5:30pm and
First Fridays of each month following Mass at
12 Noon, with Benediction at 9:00pm



San Isidro Catholic Church Mission Parish of Good Shepherd

4733 Macedonia Church Road
Fayetteville, NC 28312
(910) 424-2698 www.siccnc.org





SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light will illuminate the Blessed Sacrament this week **In Loving Memory of Frank Sparrow**, given by **Carol Sparrow**.

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week the Altar Flowers were donated **In Loving Memory of Matthew J. O'Connor**, given by **Jim O'Connor**.



THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	9:00a	Knights of Columbus Members & Their Families, Living & Deceased
	5:00p	† Matthew J. O'Connor
Sunday	8:30a	† Carmen Ramos
	11:30a	People of Good Shepherd Parish
Monday		No Mass
Tuesday	9:00a	† Tony Kirven & Will Salley
Wed.	6:30p	In Honor of Idia Osifo's Birthday
Thurs	9:00a	† Members of the Emmanuel Family
Friday	12:00p	† Francis & Susanna Kim
Saturday	9:00a	† Shirley Shedlock

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME | TALENT | TREASURE



Fiscal Year July 2023– June 2024

Due to Bulletin Submission Deadline, collection for January 28th will be reported in next week's bulletin

The envelope company made an error in the February envelope mailing. Please note: There is no longer a Half-A-Can/St. Isidro collection.

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish!



Donating online is easy

Visit our website, good-shepherd-church.org and click on the Online Giving Button and follow the instructions. **EFT donations are reported monthly.**

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Priests' Welfare and Retirement

This collection provides for the future pension and retiree health benefits of the priests in our diocese. This collection helps ensure that funds will be available for our priests when they become eligible for retirement benefits.

2023 TAX STATEMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

If you need a tax statement for 2023 and are a registered parishioner, please PRINT YOUR NAME, ENVELOPE NUMBER AND PHONE NUMBER on the list located on the Welcome Table.

Statements will be mailed out Feb 12, 2024.

LITURGICAL SERVICES TRAINING

Lector: February 10, March 9—both at 10am
Sacristan: February 17, February 24—both at 10am

Sign up on the Welcome Table or contact Sheila Franklin: franklinsheila0131@gmail.com, (260) 672-3687

This Week's Parish Schedule

Sunday, February 4 - Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time

8:30a - Mass
9:45a - OCIA Inquiry Session 1, Library
9:45a - CCD K-5 Classes
10:00a - Children's Liturgy Practice, Church Nave
10:00a - OCIA/Adult Faith Formation with Deacon Josh on the Sacrament of Marriage, CAP Room, Social Hall
11:30a - Mass
1:00p - CCD 6-12 Faith Formation Classes
1:15p - MS/HS Practice Youth Mass, Church Nave

Monday, February 5 - St. Agatha

6:00p - Legion of Mary, Rm. 2

Tuesday, February 6 - Sts. Paul Miki & Companions

9:00a - Mass

Wednesday, February 7

10:30a - Bible Study, Rm. 2

5:30p - Confessions

5:30p - Holy Hour

6:30p - Mass

7:00p - Women of Charity, Gathering Area

Thursday, February 8 - St. Jerome & St. Josephine Bakhita

10:00a - Mass

10:00a - Holy Stitches, Classroom 6, downstairs Social Hall

Friday, February 9

11:00a - Widows' Watch, Rm. 4

12:00p - Mass

6:30p - Choir Practice, Music Rm.

6:30p - Family Night Mardi Gras, Social Hall

Saturday, February 10- St. Scholastica

10:00a - Lector Training, Church Nave

4:00p - Confessions

5:00p - Vigil Mass

Altar Guild ministry

The Altar Guild is the quiet ministry of the Lord, dedicated to helping the Church reflect the beauty of God's love for his people. Guild members offer their time and effort to maintain the sacramental linens, priestly albs and vestments, and all indoor plants. During Christmas, Easter and other feast days, Guild members decorate the Sanctuary, Altar, and other areas with floral arrangements.

Being part of the Altar Guild is also a wonderful way to grow in holiness. You learn to work together as you grow in knowledge of the traditions of the Church, and you grow in holiness through service to the altar in many unseen ways that benefit our parish so much. **A Catholic Altar is a holy place** where vows are made and where the Lord daily renews His covenant with His people, and where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the repose of the souls of our beloved dead. There is no greater ministry in any parish, and no greater way to help both our priests and our people.

If you would like to join the Altar Guild or would like more details please contact Maria Rosario, at 910-424-1590, or email gdsprdr81@gmail.com.

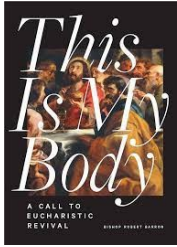
ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Sunday, February 18, right after 8:30am Mass
Contact Sandra Hall: Sandra.hall@gmail.com

FROM THE OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Lenten Book Study Groups

Last week the book by Bishop Robert Barron, **"This is My Body"** was distributed to parishioners. **If you did not receive a copy, please take one from the Welcome Table in the Gathering Area.** While picking up a book, **check out the opportunities to join a study group on the book.** Sunday between the Masses at 9:45am, Tuesday evening 6:30pm, Wednesday morning 10am, Thursday morning after Mass 9:30am. If none of these days and times fit your schedule, there is a sheet to let us know which day and time will work for you. Joe Bierkorte will facilitate the Sunday morning group and William Bennett is willing to take one of the other groups. This is a good way to renew your relationship with Christ in the Eucharist and at the same time, get to know other parishioners. Together, we can make the **Eucharistic Revival** called for by the bishops a reality as we celebrate to 100th Anniversary of the diocese. What a great time to celebrate our Catholic faith!



For more info or to volunteer to be a facilitator, contact Jan Carnahan, 910-425-5617 or gscldre@gmail.com

CHILDREN SERVE IN LITURGY

Families with elementary age children, come to the 11:30 Mass this Sunday, Feb. 4th! Children in Grades K-5 will serve as Greeters, Ushers, Altar Servers, and Lectors. The children in the catechetical classes have written the Prayers of the Faithful for the parish to pray together.

GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH GROUP



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY is almost here!

Are you getting ready for the big game? If so, include coming to the Youth Mass 11:30am next Sunday, Feb. 11th, and enjoy worshipping our Lord as the youth serve as Readers, Ushers, EXO's, and Gift Bearers. You will also be able to pray the prayers they have written for the Prayers of the Faithful. It's always a joy to see our young people sharing their faith with us older folks! In case you cannot come to the 11:30 Mass next Sunday, you can still contribute to the Souper Bowl collection at all Masses. The collection will be given to Hope House for its ministry to "those who have more month than money."

**Saturday/Sunday, February 10/11
Souper Bowl Collection Weekend!**

**Join REMIND for updates and information!
(@4a278d)**

ADULT FORMATION FOR FEBRUARY

All adults are cordially invited to attend the sessions offered by the OCIA in Room 2, 9:45am on Sundays (unless time/location otherwise are indicated):

**Feb. 4— The Sacrament of Marriage, with
Deacon Josh - At 10am in the CAP Rm/Social Hall**

Feb. 11 - Lent & Stations of the Cross

**Feb. 18 - Sin & Reconciliation, with
Father Arul - at 10am in the CAP Rm/Social Hall**

Feb 25— Examination of Conscience & Confession



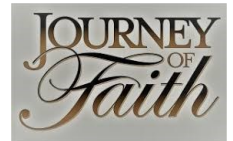
WHY DOES THE CHURCH TEACH MARRIAGE IS A SACRAMENT?

Other Christian communities do not believe matrimony is a sacrament, but the Catholic Church does. Deacon Josh will explain the reasons for the Church's teaching during the next Adult Formation session this Sunday, Feb. 4th, 10-11:00am in the CAP Room. Grab a cup of coffee in the Gathering Area and join the group headed to the Social Hall for his presentation. Enjoy his knowledgeable teaching and the good company of other parishioners!

KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN THE CHURCH?

If so, the upcoming Inquiry period will begin next Sunday, February 4, 9:45-11:15am in the Library. Offer to attend the first session with your friend or family member, as inquirers are often more willing to attend if someone they know accompanies them. Be sure to let anyone interested know that the catechists are friendly, willing to answer questions and help any way they can.

For more info, contact Judi Summers, judithsummers503@gmail.com, or Jan Carnahan, 910-425-5617, or gscldre@gmail.com



Mardi Gras Family Potluck and Game Night February 9, 2024 6:30pm Social Hall

Friday evening before Lent begins—Come out and celebrate Mardi Gras *Family Style*! Wear your beads, masks and Mardi Gras colors. Bring a traditional Mardi Gras dish (gumbo, red beans and rice, jambalaya, King cake, etc.) or any potluck dish of your choice and a favorite card or board game.

Join us for an evening of food, games, music and family fun!





L E N T



OLD PALM COLLECTION REMINDER TO RETURN YOUR 2023 PALM BRANCHES

You may bring your old palms to church for so they can be prepared for Ash Wednesday services. Palms must be received by February 9th for us to dispose of properly. The normal “rule of thumb” is that anything that has been blessed should be burned, if possible, (and then the ashes buried) or if not burned simply buried.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. We will celebrate Mass at 12:00pm and 6:30pm with the distribution of ashes. *There will be no confessions or Holy Hour.*

The Collection for Ash Wednesday will be for **Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**. This collection channels aid through the bishops’ conferences of Central and Eastern Europe to meet the needs of rebuilding the Church: training seminarians & lay leaders, supporting social service programs, schools, youth ministry, pastoral and catechetical centers, church construction and evangelization through Catholic media.

For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

Lenten Suppers and Stations of the Cross

Each Friday during Lent, we will share a meal and pray the Stations of the Cross together afterwards.

The Lenten “**Soup**” Suppers, which will be meatless, will begin at 5:30pm in the Social Hall.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 7pm, with Stations of the Cross and closing with **Benediction**.

A different parish ministry will lead the Stations of the Cross each week:

February 16	Knights of Columbus
February 23	Legion of Mary and Pro-Life Ministry
March 1	Widows’ Watch
March 8	Faith Formation K-5 Children
March 15	Father Arul
March 22	Women of Charity
March 29	GOOD FRIDAY—Middle School and High School Youth Outdoor Living Stations

Guideline to Lenten Fasting & Abstinence

Fasting

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday
Ages 18-59

Abstinence

Every Friday
during Lent
Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the **physically or mentally ill**, including individuals suffering from **chronic illnesses** such as diabase. Also excluded are **pregnant** or **nursing women**.

For more information, visit usccb.org



LENT is an invitation for you step out and do something extra to grow in your faith

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Wednesday, February 7th, 10:30a-12:00p, Room 2, continuing through Lent, we will “break open the Mass Readings” as we study all of the weekly readings for this Lent. The first session will focus on the readings for Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18. The final session on March 27th will focus on the readings for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday and the Good Friday service.

Read each next-week’s Sunday readings before Bible Study, so you can come prepared.

Everyone is welcome, even if you cannot make every weekly session. Join us!

Welcome to the Flock

We welcome our Families who recently joined our Parish:

Philip & Megan Ruaya Family

Welcome to the Good Shepherd Parish Family!



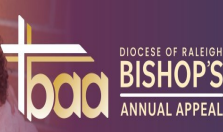
CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of RALEIGH

**Diocesan Centennial Celebration Holy Hour
St. Paul Catholic Church
3005 Country Club Rd.
New Bern NC 28562**

**Holy Hour with Bishop Luis Zarama from 6:00-7:00pm,
followed by social hour from 7:00-8:00pm**



**Learning from our history
Shaping our future | 2024**



The 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal funds many ministries that allow us to proclaim the Gospel and reach even the most remote areas of Eastern North Carolina. Your support plays a critical role in funding ministries in the areas of evangelization, discipleship, worship, liturgy, sacramental preparation, and a wide variety of programs that pour forth God's grace, love and mercy.

**The best way to donate is online at:
givetobaa.org**

**Select Good Shepherd Parish, Hope Mills in the
"Select Parish" dropdown menu**

Together, we are **LEARNING FROM OUR HISTORY, AND SHAPING OUR FUTURE**

**Our Good Shepherd 2024 BAA Goal is:
\$51,304.79**

Parish Prayer List



In order to keep our "**Parish Prayer List**" current, we will clear the list of all names on February 29, 2024.

Please submit names of those you would like to have included in our 2024 Parish Prayer List to: gsbulletinedit@gmail.com, or contact the Parish Office. **Thank you!**

Parish Prayer List

~for our Parishioners~

Rosemonde Angrand, Miguelina Aracena, Ty Bardon, Archie Barringer, Pamela Blackmore, Mary Brooks & daughter Cheree, Nicholas & Elaine Caras, Sadie Davis, Teresa & Gerard Dorais, Edward & Marilyn Felten, Tylene Fisher, Ginny French, Fr. Gaul, Roy & Cheryl Hauck, Ana Haughn, Elizabeth Hester, Kelly Hilliard, William Hodges, Joan Hosking, Billie King, Marlene Kovasckitz, Paul Marascia & Family, Theresa Marchman, Barbara Martin, Billy McCammit, Kevin O'Connor, Ed Pappa, Richard Pataky, Rosemarie Revelle, Wolfgang Sanyer, Donald Taylor, Pat & Milton Vila

~for Living & Deceased Priests/Deacons of Diocese~

~for Deceased Members of our Parish & Loved Ones ~

~ Friends and Family who are ill, homebound, or have asked for our prayers~

Nande Ball, Linda Bashore, Kellie Beam, Barbara Bostic, Travis C. Bunn, Jr., Joy Coleman, Dorothy Hinrichs, Hoi Hiung, Myong H. Kendall, Terrie Leafstedt, Charlie MacEacheen, Larry McIntosh, Bill Nicol, Steven Nicol, Kelvin O'Connor, Martin Sabat, Benito Salinas, Filomena Samuels, Jong K. Song, Jordan Splawn, Howard Splawn, Thien Tam, Don Truong, Betty Wile, Maggie Young, For the lost sheep of Parish families

~for our Military and Deployed~

We pray for the safety and the Lord's protection of our men and women in the military, especially: David Brown, Ty Cravatta, Bernard Jenkins, Jr.

If you know of any parishioners or family members of parishioners that are deployed overseas, please call the Office to have them included in our Parish Prayer List.

~ For additions and updates, please contact the Office at (910)425-1590 or email: gsbulletinedit@gmail.com ~



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February: For the Terminally Ill

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us
We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN

40 CANS FOR LENT



The Knights of Columbus in cooperation with our Youth Group is once again sponsoring 40 Cans for Lent.

Since this year the Knights will be distributing Food Baskets on Saturday, March 23rd, this Lenten opportunity will be used to help support this project. Participants are asked to donate one food item per day and to bring their donations to the Church each weekend. Food items needed are: canned green beans, canned corn, canned peas, canned sweet potatoes/yams, box instant mashed potatoes, canned pineapple slices. Hams can be dropped off at Church. Boxes will be located in the Gathering Area by the Share Table and at the Entrances to Church and Social Hall beginning Ash Wednesday. **Thank you for your support.**

Pro-Life Ministry Baby Shower

This weekend, look for the boxes provided for your donations of diapers, baby formula, clothes, etc, which will be donated to local moms in need. Donations will be delivered to Hand of Hope.

What is Hand of Hope Pregnancy Center? The Mission

God says in Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

As the Body of Christ in this community, Hand of Hope wants to give the preborn a chance to live, and to offer women life-affirming choices for their babies and post-abortive women and men a chance for healing and restoration. Hand of Hope also wants to reach teens with abstinence education and are happy to visit a school, church, or other organization and speak.

Mission Statement

As a Christian center, Hand of Hope affirms the value of life from conception by compassionately sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ; and assisting individuals facing the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy, to minister to the emotional and spiritual needs resulting from abortion to miscarriage and to promote sexual abstinence until marriage.

handofhope.net

For more information, or to join our Pro-Life Ministry, contact Chastidy Hall at chashall@sbcglobal.net

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

40 Days for Life Spring Campaign Feb 14—Mar 24, 2024

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion.

During these 40 days, we ask for volunteers to stand and pray at the abortion center, and also to fast. Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

To register and sign up for hours, please visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/fayettevillenc>

Spiritual Adoption 2024

Each Ash Wednesday, Good Shepherd spiritually adopts two babies in danger of being aborted. Please cut out the Spiritual Adoption Prayer and pray together with your family for the well being of these little ones.

Spiritual Adoption Prayer

"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg of you to spare the life of *(give the baby a name)*, the unborn baby I have spiritually adopted, who is in danger of abortion. Amen."

—Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Pray this prayer every day for nine months—the whole time the baby is in the mother's womb—asking the Holy Family to save the baby's life. You may never meet the baby you spiritually adopted while you are on earth, but you surely will in Heaven!

Baby's Name: _____

Date Adopted: _____



Welcome to our Community!

Take a Welcome Packet from the **Welcome Table** in the Gathering Area, visit the Parish Office, or go online:
www.good-shepherd-church.org.

Though a simple act, registration is a sign of one's commitment and responsibility to the parish and allows the parish to know how many families live in the parish. It also provides an official record of your **Active membership** and is **essential for participation** in parish programs and sacraments.

What is an **Active Membership**? Three points determine active membership:

- **Registration in the parish for a sufficient period of time and use of the envelope system in support of the parish;**
- **Faithful attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days;**
- **Volunteer and participate in Parish activities with time, talent, and treasure as means permit.**

Please note: The Facilities and Services of Good Shepherd Church are available to active members.

Sick and Homebound/Hospitalized: Please notify the Parish Office when someone is ill and unable to attend Mass for any significant length of time and would like to receive Holy Communion.

Bulletin Deadline: Requests must be received 10 days **prior** to the weekend the announcement is to be published. E-mail your request to: gbulletinedit@gmail.com.

Special Needs: Handicapped accessible doors are located on the left side of the Gathering Area.

Wheelchair seating is available in the front row of **chairs** in the Church. Cars must display a valid handicap sticker or placard to park in the reserved handicap spaces in the Church parking lot.

Moving? Please contact the Office and let us know.

MINISTRIES

Liturgical Ministries

Sheila Franklin
franklinseila0131@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Justin Hubbard
jdhubbard2700@gmail.com

Altar Servers

Saundra Hall, Saundra.hall@gmail.com, 330-692-1817

Pastoral Council

Joseph Bierkortte
postalbernie@yahoo.com

Finance Council

Stephen Graybill
sgraybill@nc.rr.com

Knights of Columbus

Michael Croyle: mcroyle4@gmail.com

Legion of Mary

Barbara Chapman
legionofmary.mote@gmail.com

Sick & Homebound

Maria Rosario
910-425-1590

Women of Charity & Welcoming Committee

Robin Candido: robincandido@hotmail.com, 910-670-7700

Widow's Watch

Camille Grupy
alcam116@embarqmail.com

Holy Stitchers

Lee Pappa
leep1063@aol.com

Pro-Life

Chastidy Hall: chashall@sbcglobal.net

Faith Formation and OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation)

Jan Carnahan, Director of Religious Education
gscddre@gmail.com, 910-425-1590, ext. 200

Youth Ministry

Jeanette Hubbard
910-257-2959
jeanettehubbard@embarqmail.com

Teresa Clayton
claytond@gmail.com

Alms House Liaison

Karen Weller, kweller1953@gmail.com, 863-521-4161

Parish Social Life Committee

Janice Scott: j2elscott@gmail.com
910-964-0927

Bulletin Inserters

Karen Phillips

Garden Committee

Jolinda Swartout



PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Almighty God, my parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly if I am. It will be holy if I am. Its pews will be filled if I help fill them. It will do great work if I work. It will be prayerful if I pray. It will make a generous gift for so many causes if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship if I invite and bring them. It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, fearlessness and faith, compassion, charity, and mercy if I — who make it what it is — am filled with the same qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be. Bless my journey, Lord God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be. Bless my journey, Lord God that I might follow Jesus and build the Church for your glory. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Father, we're your people, the work of your hands. So precious are we in your sight that you sent your Son, Jesus.

Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, and to rejoice in your steadfast love. We, the baptized, realize our call to serve.

Help us to know how. Call forth from among us priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. With our hearts you continue to love your people. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

(USCCB Prayers for Vocations)





On Feb. 11, the Catholic Church celebrates the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, recalling a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, Saint Bernadette Soubirous. The Marian apparitions began Feb. 11, 1858, ended July 16 that year and received the local bishop's approval after a four-year inquiry.

Coming soon after the 1854 dogmatic definition of her Immaculate Conception, the Virgin Mary's appearances at Lourdes turned the town into a popular travel destination. Thousands of people say their medical conditions have been cured through pilgrimage, prayer and the water flowing from a spring to which Bernadette was directed by the Blessed Virgin. Experts have

verified 69 cases of miraculous healing at Lourdes since 1862.

St. Bernadette also has her own liturgical memorial, which occurs Feb. 18 in France and Canada and April 16 elsewhere. Born in January 1844, the future visionary was the first child of her parents Francois and Louise, who both worked in a mill run by Francois. Their family life was loving but difficult. Many of Bernadette's siblings died in childhood, and she developed asthma. Economic hardship and an injury suffered by her father cost them the mill in 1854.

Years of poverty followed, during which Bernadette often had to live apart from her parents and work rather than attending school. In January 1858 she returned to her family, whose members were living in a cramped single room. Strongly committed to her faith, Bernadette made an effort to learn the Church's teachings despite her lack of formal education.

On Feb. 11, 1858, Bernadette went to gather firewood with her sister and a friend. As she approached a grotto near a river, she saw a light coming from a spot near a rosebush. The light surrounded a woman who wore a white dress and held a rosary. Seeing the lady in white make the sign of the Cross, Bernadette knelt, took out her own rosary, and began to pray. When she finished praying, the woman motioned for her to approach. But she remained still, and the vision disappeared.

Her companions had seen nothing. Bernadette described the lady in white to them, demanding they tell no one. But the secret came out later that day. The next Sunday, Bernadette returned to the grotto, where she saw the woman again. The identity of the apparition, however, would remain unknown for several weeks.

Some adults accompanied Bernadette on her third trip, on Feb. 18, though they did not see the vision she received. The woman in white asked the girl to return for two weeks. "She told me also," Bernadette later wrote, "that she did not promise to make me happy in this world, but in the next." A group of family members and others went with her to the cave the next day, but only the young peasant girl saw the woman and heard her words.

Over the next few days, the number of people in attendance at the cave swelled to more than 100. A parish priest, Father Peyramale, became concerned – as did the police. On Feb. 24, 250 people saw Bernadette break into tears, but only she heard the woman's message: "Penance! Penance! Penance! Pray to God for sinners. Go, kiss the ground for the conversion of sinners."

A larger crowd was there on Feb. 25 – but they were shocked to see Bernadette drinking from a muddy stream and eating weeds. The apparition had told her to drink the water, and the weed-eating was a penitential act. Onlookers, meanwhile, saw only the girl's unusual behavior, and popular fascination turned to ridicule and suspicion.

On Feb. 27, Bernadette made a joyful discovery: the spring from which she drank was not muddy now, but clear. As the crowds continued to gather, this change was noticed, and a woman with a paralyzed arm came to the water hoping to be healed. Four years later, her case would be recognized as the first miraculous healing at Lourdes. Public interest continued, and Bernadette heard a recurring message from the vision: "Go, tell the priests to bring people here in procession and have a chapel built here."

While others were quick to conclude that Bernadette was seeing the Virgin Mary, the visionary herself did not claim to know the woman's identity. As she conveyed the repeated message to Fr. Peyramale, the priest grew frustrated and told Bernadette to ask the woman her name. But when she did so, the woman smiled and remained silent. Her identity remained a mystery after the initial two-week period.

Three weeks later, on the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette visited the cave again. When she saw the lady, she kept asking to know her identity. Finally, the woman folded her hands, looked up and said: "I am the Immaculate Conception." The seer, devout but uneducated, did not know what these words meant. She related them to Fr. Peyramale, who was stunned and informed his bishop. Bernadette saw the Blessed Virgin Mary two more times in 1858: on the Wednesday after Easter, and on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. In 1862, the local bishop declared the apparitions worthy of belief.

St. Bernadette left Lourdes in 1866 to join a religious order in central France, where she died after several years of illness in 1879. By the time of her death, a basilica had been built and consecrated at the apparition site, under the leadership of Fr. Peyramale.



TỈNH TÂM MÙA CHAY 2024
Thứ Tư, ngày 13 & Thứ Năm, ngày 14 tháng 3

CHỦ ĐỀ:
NÀY LÀ MÌNH THẤY CHO ANH EM

Chương Trình:
6PM Xưng Tội
6:30-7PM Thánh Lễ
7:30-9PM Giảng Thuyết

Địa Chỉ: Saint Patrick Church
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Lm. Đaminh Giuse Nguyễn Thiết Thắng

2024 VIETNAMESE Lenten Retreat by Rev. Thang Thiet Nguyen

On: Wednesday, Mar 13th & Thursday, Mar 14th, 2024

*At: Saint Patrick Catholic Church 2844 Village Dr, Fayetteville, NC 28304

*Topic: This is my body, given up for you

*Program: Confession (6:00PM) Mass (6:30-7:00PM) Talk (7:30-9:00PM)

*For more information and sign up please contact Mrs. Han Nguyen at (910)568-2227
(The church offers free nursery service during retreat)



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May 31, 2024 / 7:00p - 8:00p

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JUNE 28-30 / 2024



1

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06/28 RALEIGH

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2

Our Lady of Guadalupe

06/29 NEWTON GROVE

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3

Old Saint Paul Church

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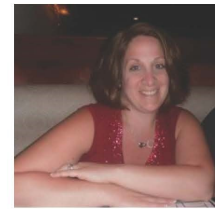
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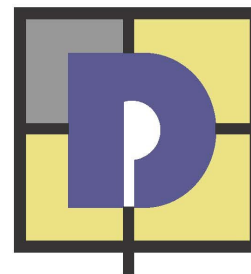
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