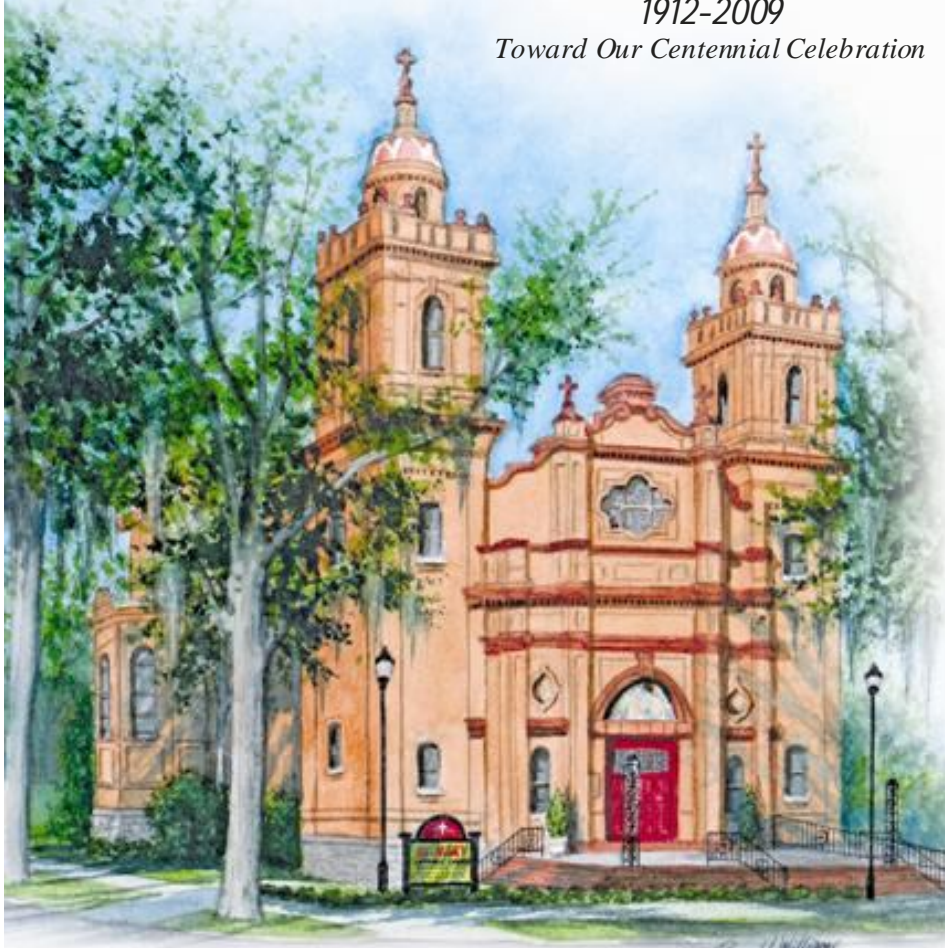


THE SAINT MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1912-2009

Toward Our Centennial Celebration



December 20, 2009
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday:..... 5:30 pm English
7pm Spanish
Sunday:... 8am, 9:30 am, & 11am English
1pm Spanish
98.7 FM Radio Mass:..... 9am Spanish
Daily: As published in bulletin

Sacraments

Baptism: Preparation prior to baptism is required. Parents should contact the Parish Office for details.

Confirmation: Please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information.

Reconciliation: 4:00–4:45 pm Saturdays or by appointment.

Weddings: Contact the Pastor as soon as possible to set the wedding date and begin marriage preparation; preferably at least 3 months before your wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

R.C.I.A.—Rite of Christian Initiation for

Adults: Saturday: 3:30-5:00pm;
RCIA Room, 1st Floor, Tileston Building

Education

The Saint Mary School: Grades Pre-K–8.
The oldest Catholic School in North Carolina now celebrating 140 years of education. Accredited by SACS-CASI

Faith Formation: Pre-School–High School
(Communion–Confirmation)

Sunday: 9:30–10:30 am; September to May

CEPI De Santa María: Spanish Adult School, Tileston Gym Annex 2nd Floor

St. Mary Adult School: Art and ESL. Call office for times and dates.

Children, Youth & Young Adults

Nursery: 6 months–5 years
Sunday: 9:30 Mass. Nursery,
1st Floor, Tileston Building

Youth Group:

Middle & High School Students
Sunday: 6:00–8:00pm. Youth Room,
1st Floor, Tileston Building

Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos:

Monday: 7:30pm. Hispanic Ministry room,
1st Floor Tileston Building

Social Outreach

St. Mary/Tileston Outreach:

Monday–Thursday 9:00-11:30am

CARE—Coastal AIDS Resource Effort

By appointment 232-5324

St. Mary Dental Clinic:

Tileston Gym Annex - Lower Floor

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Call for Appointment: 520-7218

The St. Mary Parish Office:

412 Ann Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401
Tel. 910-762-5491
Fax 910-762-9664
www.thestmaryparish.org
Monday–Friday: 9am–4pm

The St. Mary School Office:

217 South Fourth Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401
Tel. 910-762-5491 ext. 40
Fax 910-772-8034
www.thestmaryschool.org
Monday–Friday: 8am–3pm

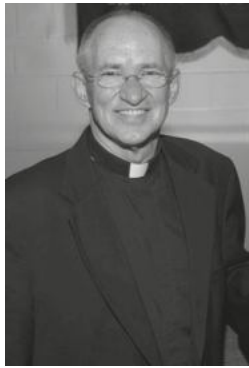
St. Mary Staff

<i>Pastor</i> , Very Reverend Robert J. Kus.....	ext. 11
<i>RCIA/Social Ministries</i> , Sister Isaac Koenig, S.U.....	ext. 35
<i>Director of Religious Education</i> , Mr. John Walsh.....	ext. 14
<i>Director of Hispanic Ministry</i> , Ms. Victoria Howard.....	ext. 22
<i>Business Manager</i> , Ms. Sharon Marren.....	ext. 58
<i>Assistant to Father Bob</i> , Ms. Maureen Wiltse.....	ext. 29
<i>Development Director</i> , Ms. JoAnn Daley.....	ext. 10
<i>Bulletin Editor</i> , Ms. Sandy O'Leary.....	bulletin@thestmaryparish.org
<i>Campus Director</i> , Mr. Clifton Lively.....	ext. 15
<i>Organist/Director of Music</i> , Ms. Sara Bryant.....	ext. 18
<i>St. Mary Parish Bookstore</i>	ext. 59
<i>St. Mary School Principal</i> , Ms. Joyce Price.....	ext. 53
<i>St. Mary School Administrative Assistant</i> , Ms. Susan Linn.....	ext. 40

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff and faculty of St. Mary Parish, I wish you and those you love a very Merry Christmas! I pray that your Christmas dreams will come true, and that you will find you heart full of gratitude for all the many blessings God has given you.



Christmas time is often one of frenzied activities—school plays, dinners, parties, family gatherings, and many other activities. For many people, it has become stressful and exhausting. But guess what? It is okay to decline party invitations. It is okay to take some “alone time.” It is okay to say enough is enough. After all, why make this magical season one of dread when it should be one of happiness and joy?

Please remember those who may be suffering this Christmas season from depression, homelessness, poverty, joblessness, loss of a loved one, or other problems. Please do what you can to make this season brighter for these folks.

One of my Christmas-time traditions is to reflect on the past year and record my observations in a Christmas letter to family and friends. Because my life is basically St. Mary's, my reflections are always very positive. Our parish is thriving and flourishing. We're growing by 300 families per year, our St. Mary Catholic School is celebrating its 140th anniversary, our new St. Mary Dental Clinic is seeing record-number of patients, our *Upper Room 1871* is now hosting banquets, our mission activities on the Cape Fear Coast and in Honduras are continually exciting, and new ministries continue to be formed. We have so much to be grateful for in this parish!

This year, we have six (6) Masses for Christmas. The Christmas Eve Masses are: 2, 4, 6, 8 and Midnight, and the Christmas Day Mass is at 10 a.m. The 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass is in Spanish and 10 a.m. Christmas Day Mass is bilingual.

Merry Christmas and thanks for being you! I can't imagine a more wonderful parish for a priest to be than at St. Mary's!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
- Father Bob



June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010
The Faithfulness of Christ,
The Faithfulness of Priests

Remember to check out Father Bob's Sister Parish Corner
on the Celebrations Page



Liturgies and Paraliturgies Including Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 19

- 5:30 pm Mass – † Andrea Silva
Offered by Maggie McCormick
7:00 pm Mass – † Joseph Badolato
Offered by The Family

Sunday, December 20

- 8:00 am Mass – † James Kenny
Offered by Betty Kenny
9:30 am Mass – Bernard Kuebler
Offered by The Kueblers
11:00 am Mass – † Natalie Stephens
Offered by Helen Kromer
1:00 pm Mass – † Epifanio Valazco
Offered by Father Bob and the Parishioners of St. Mary

Monday, December 21

- 7:30 am Mass – † Richard Close, Jr.
Offered by Sylvia Close

Tuesday, December 22

- 7:30 am Mass – † Louis V. Coronato
Offered by Maryann Metzger

Wednesday, December 23

- 7:30 am Communion Service

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve

- 2:00 pm Mass – † Richard Close, Jr.
Offered by Sylvia Close
4:00 pm Mass – † Michael J. Gressman
Offered by Mom, Dad, Eric and Julea
6:00 pm Mass – † Janet Rynne
Offered by Sharon Marren
8:00 pm Mass – † Albert Dietz
Offered by The Brockelmans
Midnight Mass – † Faith and Friendship Missions
Offered by the Catholic Daughters, Court 1036

Friday, December 25—Christmas Day (Bilingual)

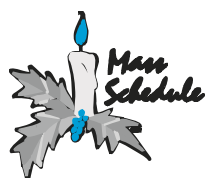
- 10:00 am Mass – † John McNiemey
Offered by Rita Ackert

Saturday, December 26

- 5:30 pm Mass – † Eleanor Antonaccio
Offered by The Antonaccio Family
7:00 pm Mass – † Joseph G. Fitzpatrick
Offered by Father Bob and St. Mary Parishioners

Sunday, December 27

- 8:00 am Mass – † Mike Montbrun
Offered by Margaret Hart
9:30 am Mass – In honor of Sam Bowen's 95th Birthday
Offered by The Sisters of Ursula
11:00 am Mass – † Carolyn Burns
Offered by Pat and Ed Mahoney
1:00 pm Mass – Mass for the Parishioners



Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve
2:00 pm—Children's Choir with St. Mary School
Violins
4:00 pm—Contemporary Choir
6:00 pm (Spanish) - Latino Band
8:00 pm—Gospel Choir and Youth Gospel Choir
Midnight—Renaissance Choir
Christmas Day
10:00 am (Bilingual)- Latino Band

Weekend Mass Schedule at a Glance

Saturday Mass in English – 5:30 pm
Saturday Mass in Spanish – 7:00 pm
Sunday Mass in English – 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Sunday Mass in Spanish – 1:00 pm

To schedule a **Mass Intention**, to donate the **Altar Flowers**, or for information on **Baptism**, please call the Parish Office at 762-5491.

Scripture Verse

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." -

Lk 1: 41, 42, 45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Readings for the Week

Readings for the Week of December 20, 2009

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
 Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
 Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Cd 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 24:1-52

Station Eight

Meets after daily Mass in the church for recitation of the Rosary. This ministry, called "Station Eight", is headed by Mary Friedrichs. If you are interested, all you do is show up.

Faith Sharing Men's Group

Meets each Friday morning at 7:00 am in the Tileston Building. Along with Father Bob, we study and reflect on scripture. Come join us if you are able.

The St. Mary Parish Bookstore

The St. Mary Parish Bookstore is pleased to announce that we will now be open on Saturday, from 4-7 p.m.



Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Saturday 4:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Rides to Church Ministry

If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry as a driver you should call Mr. Baxendell at 599-6229 to discuss arrangements.



Camillus Ministers

There is need for more Camillus Ministers to bring Communion to Nursing Home residents and Home-bound parishioners. Please consider serving in this important ministry. No previous experience necessary. Call D.C. Thompson at 251-1237 for more information.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court 1036

will hold their next meeting on
 Monday, January 4th
 in the Jumpin' Run Clubhouse at 6:00 pm.
 All Catholic women are invited to attend.

Please Pray for Our Sick

Stephanie Barrows	Nina Esquire	Marion Martinez
Cheryl Bezek	Herman Lee Everett	Mary Eugenia Mazur
Judy Brooks	Mildred Gbbons	Elizabeth Millscher
Dolores Jane Brown	Lou Gisonna	Carol Palladino
Mary Buttigieg	Phil Gisonna	Anne Potter
Patricia Carroll	Mary Guarino	Fran Reilly
John Carroll	Jim Hargrove	Dory Ring
Joyce Christine	Niece Keaton	Jennie Savickas
Robert DeZuba	Jody Lane	Julie Schauer
Madelaine Dowell	Anna Lenortavage	Marlene Sigler
James Eichorn	Frances Lyons	

Call the church office or email bulletin@thestmaryparish.org
 To have a name added or removed.

St. Mary Nursery News!

The nursery is open each Sunday during 9:30 Mass.
We offer a safe and fun environment!
 We are located on the main floor of the Tileston Building.
 There is no cost or requirements for this service.
 The nursery is open to all children 6 months to 5 years old.
 If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Allen Sanderson at nursery@thestmaryparish.org.

Centering Prayer

An hour of contemplating prayer and the Centering practice
 Wednesday afternoons in our Chapel in Tileston.
www.centeringprayer.com

When: Wednesday from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Place: RCIA Room - Tileston – 1st floor

More information: contact Joan Regan at 383-2804

Eucharistic



Adoration

Why not "watch and pray" an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament?

- Every Thursday after the 7:30 a.m. Mass for one hour.
- Each Sunday following the 1:00 p.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m.
- The first Friday of each month, following the morning Mass until 3:30 p.m.

The Knights of Columbus

Wilmington Council #1074

is looking for a few good Catholic men.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Call Dave King at 383-1107 for more information.



St. Mary AAMEN Chapter

will meet in the Tileston Building on the
 fourth Saturday of each month at 4pm.



Youth Group News

Youth Group is for those in grades 6-12.
 We meet each Sunday from 6-8 pm in the Tileston Building Youth Room.
 Check us out online at www.thestmaryparish.org/youth
 for up to date information

The Week Ahead in Our Parish



Saturday, December 19:

Youth Gospel Choir Rehearsal* - 9:00 am in the Church

Gospel Choir Rehearsal* - 10:15 am in the Church

RCIA class* - 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm in Tileston

Sunday, December 20:

Nursery* - Available at the 9:30 am Mass

Faith Formation— 9:30 am—10:30 am in the Tileston Building and St. Mary Lower Schod

Faith Sharing* - 9:45 am in Tileston

English as a Second Language* - 10:45 am - 12:45 am in the Cafeteria

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the Church

Faith Formation Play—6:00 pm in the 1871 Upper Room

Youth Group (grades 6-12) - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Tileston Building

Monday, December 21:

St. Mary Church Office and St. Mary Schod closed until January 4th

Station Eight recitation of Rosary following daily Mass*

Contemporary Choir Rehearsal* - 7:00 pm in the Church

Hispanic Young Adult Group (El grupo de jóvenes adultos)* - 7:30 pm in Tileston

Grupo De Alcohólicos Anónimos* - 8:00 - 9:30 pm en el gimnasio

Tuesday, December 21:

Divine Mercy Chaplet* - 12:30 pm in the Chapel at Tileston

Adult Education* - 6:00 pm in Tileston

Practica de la Banda Latina de Domingo* - 7:00 pm in Tileston

Wednesday, December 22:

Centering Prayer - 1:30 - 2:30 pm in the RCIA Room

Catechist's Toolbox - contact John Walsh for time and location*

St. Mary Children's Choir - 5:00 - 6:00 pm in the Amy Bradley Room*

Thursday, December 23:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* - 8:00 am - 9:00 am in the Church

Renaissance Choir Rehearsal* - 7:30 pm in Tileston

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve:

See Mass Schedule on Page 2

Men's Faith Sharing* - 7:00 am in the RCIA room in Tileston

Grupo De Alcohólicos Anónimos* - 8:00 - 9:30 pm en el gimnasio

Saturday, December 25—Christmas Day:

Youth Gospel Choir Rehearsal* - 9:00 am in the Church

Gospel Choir Rehearsal* - 10:15 am in the Church

RCIA class - 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm in Tileston

* indicates weekly event



e-News Alerts

St. Mary Catholic Church is now offering *e-News Alerts* directly to your inbox! Register online at www.thestmaryparish.org

**Advent Reconciliation Services
Cape Fear Deanery
2009**

Dec. 1	7 p.m.	Immaculate Conception	Wilmington
Dec. 2	7 p.m.	St. Joseph	Burgaw
Dec. 3	7 p.m.	Sacred Heart	Whiteville
Dec. 4	7 p.m.	St. Therese	Wrightsville Beach
Dec. 9	7 p.m.	St. Jude	Hampstead
Dec. 10	7 p.m.	St. Stanislaus	Castle Hayne
Dec. 14	10:30 a.m.	St. Mary	Wilmington
Dec. 15	7 p.m.	Sacred Heart	Southport
Dec. 16	7 p.m.	Our Lady of the Snows	Elizabethtown
Dec. 21	7 p.m.	St. Brendan the Navigator	Shallotte

CARE

Annual Holiday Christmas Party

December 20th from 4:00—6:00 pm

St. Mary School cafeteria

If you are able to help, please call 232-5324.

CARE Need

Help! Help!

Our office is bursting at the seams and we are in need of help in the office during January. If you are able to roll up your sleeves and pitch in it would be greatly appreciated. One workday should do it!!

Open Your Home and Hearts as a Host Family

ISE-International Student Exchange Program, was founded in 1982 as a non profit organization dedicated to educating tomorrow's leaders. We are looking for warm loving families who would enjoy sharing their lives with a young person from another country. Students visit anywhere from 6 months to a year.

There is an immediate need for a family to host a 16 year old Catholic boy from Colombia for a 6 month period (late Jan-June). He is a good student and avid golfer. If you or someone you know would like the opportunity to be a host family, please contact Siobhan Jackman, ISE Representative at 910-617-0305 or siobhanjackman@hotmail.com.

LOOKIN' FOR A LITTLE LUCK O' THE IRISH?

The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Wilmington will be raffling off a 7 day/6 night vacation for FOUR to Ireland beginning the first weekend in December. This trip includes round-trip airfare to Shannon, a rental vehicle, B & B lodging and 4 days of golf OR \$1000 (for non-golfers). You must travel between September and May following the drawing and trip is not redeemable for cash. Drawing will be held March 13, 2010, at the Hibernian luncheon following the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Tickets are \$100 each and only 150 tickets will be sold. The net proceeds will benefit AOH charities and to St. Mary and St. Mark Schools in Wilmington. Last year we were able to give each school a donation toward their tuition assistance programs. If by March 7, 2010, a threshold of 100 tickets sold has not been reached, the drawing will revert to a 50/50.

Questions? / Ticket Orders Contact:

Steve McEnaney 686-5498, Pat Boylan 686-9075 or Jim Quinn 686-5151.

From the Office of Social Ministry

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sister Isaac

Today we reflect on Mary and her visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Always such a role model, we see how Mary thinks of others first. She is blessed and so are we as we move towards Christmas day, reflecting on Jesus' coming in History, His coming to us each day in the mystery of the other, and His personal meeting with each one of us at our death. What a gift life is!

The giving tree gifts are gathered this weekend and our busy elves will prepare the packages, and purchase food baskets and get set up for pick-up on Tuesday. We will also deliver our shoeboxes filled with wonderful products for "Yesterday's Children". When we deliver these we always find several men and women who tell us that it is the only gift they receive and they are so appreciative.

May the celebration of Christmas fill our hearts with joy and peace. Perhaps a re-read of the reflection for Christmas Eve in our little blue book will help us sing with a strong voice, "**Glorify to God in the Highest.**"

"We, like Mary, are all called to give birth to Jesus in our world, to "bring Christ to light" here and now through our own living of the gospel".

Blessed Christmas holidays.

Special Need for the Week

There is no **Special Need this week** other than to spend some quality time with our loved ones, and perhaps send a card or give a phone call to someone we may have neglected during the past year.



We meet Saturdays weekly from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
in the Tileston Building.

There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on
Sunday, December 20th and the 27th,
nor on the First Friday of January, which is January 1.

The Outreach Quilt



will be raffled off on December 20th. The profits from this, the Yard Sale and Private Donations are enabling us to buy commercial refrigeration for our Food Program. Thank you for making this a reality!

Called and Sent:

A Brief History of the Society of Saint Ursula

Now is your chance to learn more about Sr. Marion and Sr. Isaac and the other amazing women of their community. A new book, written by Sr. Agnes McManus, S.U. and Sr. Carol Pery, S.U., has just been published. This paperback book, published by iUniverse, Inc., is available from Sister Marion for \$12.95. Get your copy now!

English as a Second Language

Sister Marion

Musings

submitted by Judith D. Brockelman
ESL Instructor

"Why are the lights so bright at this time of the year? Wow, look at those lights! They're mesmerizing. Fascinating, too. Their brilliance enchants me."

"O.K. What exactly are you guys talking about?"

"We're impressing Grampa with our vocabulary, because we want him to think of something "SPECTACULAR" to give us as a present."

Do we all have presents on our minds at this time of year? As we were looking through the newspaper inserts to build vocabulary with our ESL students, we also talked about the true meaning of gift giving, today's budget restraints, the economy crunch and not short changing our children.

I'm not putting down toys but this might be a good time of year to stop for a moment and think about what we really want to give our children; what gifts will truly enrich and sustain them throughout their lives.

The Gift of Awe: Through the gift of awe, our children go out into the world in excited anticipation of what they might find there.

The Gift of Ideals: Our children need to believe in the possibility of living a wonderful life, that there are goals worth striving for, and that their daily ups and downs add up to something meaningful.

The Gift of Confidence: By communicating our joy in our children's strivings, regardless of ultimate success or failure, by assisting those strivings when necessary, but only enough so our children feel a sense of accomplishment, by taking projects, seriously, by reminding them that setbacks are a natural part of any worthwhile pursuit; by retelling stories about persistence.

The Gift of Love: Being fundamentally on their side. That's the essence of the gift of love. Enjoying our children and letting them know it, unconditionally. If our children come to feel that we root for them even when we find it necessary to say no, we can rest secure that we've given them a gift that will last a lifetime.

"SPECTACULAR enough for you little munchkins, queried Grampa.

"Not a bad list for grown-up guys, either," piped up a lilting voice from the crowd.

Office of Faith Formation

St. Mary Faith Formation Advent Program

The children and youth of the St. Mary Parish Faith Formation present:

"The First Christmas: A Children's Christmas Pageant."
Sunday, December 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Church



St. Mary's Second Annual Polish Dinner

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus 1074

January 9, 2010
6:30 pm

St. Mary School Cafeteria

Traditional Polish dinner to include:

Golabki (cabbage rolls)
Kluski Kapusta (cabbage and noodles)
Kielbasa
Pierogi
Sauerkraut
Cucumber Salad
Rolls
Homemade nut rolls
and Pizzelles

Polka music and dancing
Polish beer and wine

Tickets will be sold after Mass and are available in the
St. Mary Parish Office
762-5491 ext. 11

\$20.00 per person
\$5.00 children 12 and under



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH Office of the Bishop
715 Nazareth Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27606-2187
(919) 821-9702 • Fax: (919) 821-9755

Christmas, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Gospel of Luke for the Christmas Midnight Mass the angel of the Lord says, "*Do not be afraid; for behold I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord.*" No wonder we sing, "Silent night. Holy night. All is calm. All is bright."

Perhaps all may not appear to be calm and bright in our present day, especially as we deal with many challenges internationally, nationally and even personally. It is important to remember that our world is not much different from the holy night when Jesus was born. There was no calm in Israel. There was much tension and conflict. There was little brightness. The land was torn apart by oppression, persecution and terror. Yet, it is into this world that the Son of God, the Word made flesh, was born. Chaos was transformed into peace and darkness into light.

The festive days of the Christmas season, from the Nativity of the Lord to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, give us a grace-filled moment in which to celebrate anew the transforming power of Jesus in our lives. It is a time to renew our promise to be with Him each week at Holy Mass. It reminds us that we must continue to allow His Word to enlighten us as we make important decisions. We must always find our strength and comfort in the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and Penance. We must strive to imitate His selfless service so that the outpouring of generosity we see at Christmas may continue, especially in our outreach to the neediest in our midst.

If we live each day celebrating the truth that Jesus is Emmanuel - God is with us and trusting in His power to transform us and our world, we will not be afraid. In the midst of the challenges of life, we will know calmness and brightness! That is my hope and prayer for you and your families in this sacred season and always.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Mary, bless you with abundant joy and peace at Christmas and always.

Sincerely in Christ,
Michael F. Burbidge
Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh

Diocesan Events

Project Rachel Support Group 2010

Project Rachel assists women and men who have been wounded by abortion find truth and healing. There is a support group beginning in the Triangle area in late January. If you have participated in an abortion and would like more information about the support group contact Project Rachel at (919) 852-1021 or email projectrachel@nc.rr.com.



Auction Item Donations needed
for this year's annual
St. Mary Parish and School Fundraiser!
Fête du
Mardi Gras
Casino Royale

- ⇒ Are you a business owner who can provide an item or service?
- ⇒ Do you have an employer, friend or family member that has a special talent and would like to donate their services or items for auction?
- ⇒ We are looking for auction items of all kinds, the sky is the limit! (ie: Artisan jewelry, golf package, dining/spa/entertainment gift certificates, artwork, beach house, airfare, antiques, furniture...)

For questions or additional information, please contact JoAnn Daley @ 762-5491 x-10 or Simone Payne @ smpayne@bak.rr.com, (661) 394-0779.

Celebrations

December 5— December 6



María Esther García Leiva
Liam Grey Smith
Kemper Pilar Yarnoz

*Our Lady of
Guadalupe
Celebration
December 12, 2009*



Christopher Ramírez as
St. Juan Diego.
Photo taken by
Fr. Bob Kus at the
Midnight Mass at
St. Mary in honor of
Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Luis Vela Hernández as
St. Juan Diego.

The crowds were so huge
that the priest and altar
servers had to enter in a side
door as they could not get
into the main door of the
church!



Natalie Foley, Lauren Strader and
Haley O'Leary, representing St.
Mary Youth Group, putting
flowers on the altar.



Liturgical Ministers' Schedule Weekend of December 26 – December 27

For Masses in English
Feast of the Holy Family
~ Schedule does not show substitutions ~

	Saturday 5:30 pm	Sunday 8:00 am	Sunday 9:30 am	Sunday 11:00 am
Eucharistic Ministers	M. Friedrichs P. Lachance R. Little	L. Newton L. Parker S. Parker	T. Graham C. Jones M. Reis	F. Metzgar M. Metzgar J. O'Keefe
Lectors	A. Cousineau J. Zier	E. Stumph S. Hartung	B. Russo E. Flewellin	C. Stiles T. Smith
Altar Servers	F. Hutko S. Hutko M. Karg	R. Fry E. Gittings A. Hudson	M. Szymczek M. Szymczek S. Szymczek	O. Gerbe S. Gerbe W. Gerbe

Sister Parish Corner

Shopping in Nueva Jerusalén

Tegucigalpa is not only the capital of Honduras, it is also the seat of the Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa in which our sister parish is located. In this photo, we see a little girl in a very poor section of Tegucigalpa called Nueva Jerusalén (New Jerusalem) buying something at a store.



Stewardship of Treasure

"For everything is from you and we only give you what we have received from you."
— 1 Chronicles 29: 14-16

November 29, 2009

Envelopes Mailed: 1321 Envelopes Returned: 350

	Offertory	Budget	Education
11/29/2009	\$ 14,907.41	\$ 13,400.00	\$ 105.00
07/01/2009 to	\$ 329,312.95	\$ 324,000.00	\$ 13,048.22

Bulletin Editor December Early Deadlines

Bulletin deadline for 01/03/10 is 12/24/09 at Noon
Regular bulletin deadline for publishing is Friday at Noon. This will be for the following weekend bulletin. Any information received after deadline will be published in the next week's bulletin. Please submit information to:

Sandy O'Leary at
bulletin@thestmaryparish.org or
by placing information in my box in the church office.

1869
ST. MARY
 Catholic School



From the Desk of Joyce Price, Principal

Will return next week

St. Mary's Annual Mardi Gras dinner is expanding this year! Join us, February 13, 2010 for an evening of food and merriment, New Orleans style!

Fête du Mardi Gras, Casino Royale
will feature a delicious, authentic Cajun menu prepared by St. Mary's own Native Louisiana Chef, Clifton Lively.

Following dinner, there will be exciting rounds of auctions (live & silent), lively dancing and thrilling casino-style gaming action. "The Dixieland All Stars" will provide Louisiana Jazz and Dixieland music for your listening or dancing pleasure!

The fun begins at 6:30 pm in "The Upper Room 1871" located in the historic Tileston building.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit the St. Mary School. Tickets sales will begin soon, online at www.thestmaryparish.org or in the St. Mary Parish office.

ARTISTS FOR CHARITY

Octogenarian Paula C. Faraday and Roslyn Hancock, formerly of South Africa, announce a show of their work January 2 through 23, 2010, at the Caffé Phoenix. Come to the Meet-the-Artist Reception 6 pm to 8 pm on January 7, 2010 to personally encounter these accomplished artists.

"Artists for Charity" has long been Mrs. Faraday's dream. The exhibition at the Caffé Phoenix is the first presentation to the public. Mrs. Faraday foresees an annual exhibition with two purposes: to raise funds for a specific charity and to promote the artistic creations of local artists. Sales from the show of January 2010 will go to: **St Mary Catholic School** for Mrs. Faraday and to Breast Cancer for Mrs. Hancock.

St. Mary Falcons' Athletic Booster Club

You are the key to our success!

Membership dues are:

Option 1: \$50.00/annually each family will receive a t-shirt and a magnet.
 Option 2: \$25.00/annually each family will receive a magnet.



Mrs. White's Kindergarten Feast



Mrs. White's and Miss Rabuano's classes came together for a Thanksgiving feast! Wearing Pilgrim and Native American hats they feasted on popcorn, cran-raisins, corn bread, and apple juice. The children enjoyed learning about the first Thanksgiving and sharing their snack together.

St. Mary School Annual Giving Campaign

Since 1869, St. Mary School has been providing quality Catholic education.

We look to 2010, as we continue to grow our spiritual community for future generations.

- Additional classrooms must be renovated.
- Aging facilities need updates and repairs.
- Books and supplies are needed for academic, athletic and fine arts programs.
- Computer and technology upgrades are essential to meet changing demands of mathematics, science and technology programs.
- Struggling families need financial assistance.

As a former student, parent, grandparent, parishioner or community friend ***you can make a difference*** in the future of St. Mary School by enriching the educational capabilities of the school through your financial support of its students, programs or facilities. Brochures will be mailed in the coming days, or are available in the back of the church.

Tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating a child at St. Mary. We must rely, now more than ever, on the generosity of friends like you.

Please accept our gratitude for your support in creating tomorrow's church and community leaders with your investment in our school.

St. Mary School Calendar 2009 – 2010

December 21—January 1—Christmas Holidays—No School



*You are cordially invited
 to the one hundred fortieth anniversary
 of*

*Saint Mary School
 Friday, the fifteenth of January*

*Two thousand and ten
 at half past eight in the morning*

*Saint Mary Church
 5th Avenue at Ann Street
 Wilmington, North Carolina*



Bishop Michael Burbidge will celebrate the children's mass. A reception and brief presentation highlighting the history of the school will follow in the Upper Room 1871 of the Tileston Building.

smiths@thestmaryparish.org



PARROQUIA SANTA MARIA

412 Ann Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
Tel (910) 762-5491
Fax (910) 762-9664

Párroco
Padre Robert J. Kus
910-762-5491 Ext. 11

Coord. Ministerio Hispano
Victoria Howard
910-762-5491 Ext. 22

HORARIO DE MISAS

EN ESPAÑOL Sábado 7:00 PM
Domingo 1:00 PM

EN INGLÉS Sábado 5:30 PM
Domingo 8:00, 9:30 y 11:00 AM

HORARIO DE OFICINAS PARROQUIALES Lunes a Viernes 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Oficina del Ministerio Hispano
Martes y Jueves 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Domingos 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Oficina de la Escuela SANTA MARIA (Lun-Vier 8-3:00)
271 South Fourth Street
(910) 762-5491 Ext. 40

20 DE DICIEMBRE, 2009 CUARTO DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

BAUTISMO: Pláticas de preparación para padres y padrinos, obligatorio: primer Jueves de cada mes a las 6:45 p.m.

PRIMERA COMUNIÓN, CONFIRMACIÓN Y RICA: Ya iniciamos las clases este período.

MATRIMONIO: Llamar a la oficina para hacer cita. **6 meses antes de la boda.**

QUINCEAÑERA Y PRESENTACION DE 3 AÑOS: Favor de hacer cita en la oficina.

COMUNION A LOS ENFERMOS: Llamar a la Oficina para solicitar la Comunión a domicilio.

CONFESIONES: Sábados 4:00 – 4:45 PM o antes de las Misas en Español.

GRUPO DE JOVENES ADULTOS: Lunes a las 7:30 p.m. en el salón hispano.

SERVICIOS A LA COMUNIDAD

Localizado en el lado Oeste del edificio Tileston. Lunes a Jueves 9:00 a 11:30 a.m. Servicio Tileston, Ext. 35

Clínica Dental: Sigue en el mismo lugar a un lado del Gimnasio. Martes, miércoles y jueves. Llamar para hacer cita: 520-7218

Clínica Tileston – Llamar para hacer cita: 343-8736

Grupo de Alcohólicos Anónimos: Se reúnen en el Gimnasio los Lunes y viernes de las 8 a las 9:30 p.m.

Lecturas de hoy

Primera Lectura: Miqueas 5:1-4
Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 79:15-16, 18-19
Segunda Lectura: Hebreos 10:5-10
Evangelio: Lucas 1:39-45

Lecturas para la Próx. Semana 21 – 26

Lunes: Sof 3:14-18; Lucas 1:39-45
Martes: 1Sa muel 1:24-28; Lucas 1:46-56
Miérc: Malaq 3:1-4, 23-24; Luc 1:57-66
Jueves: 11Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16; Luc 1:67-79
Viernes: Isaías 52:7-10; Juan 1:1-18
Sábado: Hechos 6:8-10; Mateo 10:17-22

Lecturas para el Próximo Domingo 27

Primera Lectura: 1Sa muel 1:20-22, 24-28
Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
Segunda Lectura: 1Juan 3:1-2, 21-24
Evangelio: Lucas 2:41-52

QUE ESTAMOS HACIENDO EN EL MINISTERIO HISPANO? ENTÉRATE Y PARTICIPA

- El Grupo de Oración se reúne en el edificio Tileston, los sábados a las 8 p.m.
- Clases de Inglés a las 10:45 en la Cafetería de la Iglesia.
- Ven a rezar el Rosario con nosotros, los domingos a las 12:30, antes de la Misa.
- Después de la Misa del domingo el Santísimo estará en el Altar para adoración.
- Iniciamos un nuevo grupo en nuestra comunidad hispana, para ayudar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas hispanos de este Condado: El grupo de Misioneros Hispanos Maryknoll de Santa María.
- Te invitamos a colaborar y participar en nuestros grupos: Lectores, Ministros de Eucaristía, Monaguillos, Catequistas, Coros, Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos, Grupo de Oración, Misioneros Hispanos. Hay entrenamiento para todos los participantes. Ven, conócenos y únete a nuestro hermoso grupo de convivencia, aprendizaje y hermandad.
- La Misa de Nochebuena será el 24 de Dic. A las 6 pm y en Navidad, 25 de Dic. será a las 10 a.m.

Mensaje del Padre Bob



Queridos Amigos,

A nombre del personal y maestros de Nuestra Parroquia Santa María, les deseo a ustedes y sus seres queridos, una muy ¡Feliz Navidad! Le pido a Dios que sus sueños de Navidad se hagan realidad y que encuentren sus corazones llenos de gratitud por todas las muchas bendiciones que Dios les ha dado.

El tiempo de Navidad esta a veces lleno de actividades—proyectos de la escuela, cenas, fiestas, posadas, reuniones familiares y muchas otras actividades. Para mucha gente, a llegado a ser un tiempo lleno de estrés y cansancio. ¿Pero saben una cosa? Esta bien decir no a las invitaciones a fiestas. Esta bien darse un tiempo para estar a solas. Esta bien decir suficiente es suficiente. Después de todos, ¿Por qué debemos hacer de esta temporada mágica una llena de ansiedad, cuando debe estar llena de felicidad y alegría?

En esta Navidad, por favor recuerden a los que están sufriendo de depresión, vagabundos, pobreza, desempleo, perdida de familiares u otros problemas. Por favor hagan lo que puedan para ayudar a personas en problemas en esta temporada.

Una de mis tradiciones de Navidad, es reflexionar en los años pasados y poner mis observaciones en una carta de Navidad a mis familiares y amigos. Mis reflexiones son muy positivas siempre, ya que mi vida es básicamente Santa María. Nuestra parroquia está prosperando y floreciendo. Tenemos un crecimiento de 300 familias al año, nuestra Escuela Santa María está celebrando su aniversario 140, nuestra nueva Clínica Dental Santa María está atendiendo un número récord de pacientes, nuestro salón de banquetes Upper Room 1871 está ahora atendiendo banquetes, nuestras actividades misioneras en el área del Cape Fear y en Honduras son continuamente excitantes y nuevos ministerios continúan formándose. ¡Tenemos tanto por que estar agradecidos en nuestra parroquia!

Este año, tendremos seis Misas por Navidad. Las Misas de Nochebuena son: a las 2, 4, 6, 8 y medianoche y en Navidad la Misa es a las 10 a.m. La Misa de Nochebuena de las 6 es en Español y la de Navidad a las 10 a.m. es bilingüe.

¡Feliz Navidad y gracias por ser como son! ¡No puedo imaginar una parroquia mas maravillosa para ser un sacerdote que Santa María!

Sinceramente suyo en Cristo,

- Padre Bob

CARTA DEL OBISPO CON MOTIVO DE LA NAVIDAD

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH Office of the Bishop
715 Nazareth Street · Raleigh, North Carolina 27606-2187
(919) 821-9702 • Fax (919) 821-9755

Navidad, 2009

Estimados Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

En el Evangelio segun Lucas para la Misa de medianoche, el angel del Señor dijo: *"No tengan miedo. Miren que les traigo buenas noticias que seran motivo de mucha alegría para todo el pueblo. Hoy les ha nacido en la ciudad de David un Salvador, que es Cristo el Señor"* Por eso cantamos *"Noche de paz, noche de amor, todo duerme en derredor ... brilla la estrella de paz."*

Quizas, todo no parezca tan calmado o resplandeciente en nuestro presente, en especial, cuando enfrentamos tantos desafios a nivel intemacional, nacional y personal. Por esta razón, es importante recordar que nuestro mundo no es tan diferente como aquella noche en la que Jesus nació. En ese entonces no habia calma en Israel, existia tanta tensión y conflicto que no habia claridad; Israel estaba hecho pedazos por la opresión, por la persecución y por el terror, sin embargo, nació en ese mundo el Hijo de Dios, el verba hecho carne. El caos se transformó en paz y las tinieblas en luz.

Los días festivos de la época de Navidad, desde la Natividad del Señor hasta su Bautismo, nos da un momento lleno de gracia en el que podemos celebrar de nuevo el poder de transformación que tiene Jesus en nuestras vidas. Es tiempo de renovar nuestra promesa de estar con El todas las semanas en la Santa Misa. Tambien nos recuerda que debemos permitir que su Palabra nos ilumine en nuestra toma de decisiones y siempre debemos encontrar la fortalezay el confort en los Sacramentos, sobre todo, en la Santa Eucaristia y en la Penitencia. Tenemos que hacer un esfuerzo por imitar Su servicio desinteresado para que continuemos recibiendo esa lluvia de generosidad que vemos durante la Navidad y así tenderle una mano a los mas necesitados entre nosotros.

Si vivimos cada día celebrando la verdad que Jesus es Emmanuel, Dios esta con nosotros, y encomendamos nuestra fe en su poder que nos transforma a nosotros y a nuestro mundo, entonces no tendremos miedo. ¡En medio de los retos de nuestra vida, encontraremos la calma y la luz! Estos son mis deseos para todos ustedes y sus familias durante este tiempo sagrado ahora y siempre.

Que nuestro Señor Jesus, el Hijo de Dios y de la Virgen Maria, los bendiga con abundante alegría y paz en Navidad para siempre.

Sinceramente en Cristo,
Reverendísimo Michael F. Burbidge
Obispo de Raleigh

**Mensaje de Nuestra
Parroquia Hermana**
De compras en Nueva Jerusalén

Tegucigalpa no solo es la capital de Honduras, ahí también está la Arquidiócesis de Tegucigalpa, donde nuestra parroquia hermana está ubicada. En esta foto, vemos a una niña en un área muy pobre de Tegucigalpa llamada Nueva Jerusalén, comprando algo en la tienda.