

**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 29, 2015**



**Salesian Sunday Reflection**

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges us to live a life of holiness so as to experience the glory of His coming. This calls for a conversion of our hearts. St. Francis de Sales notes:

As soon as some people see that you wish to lead a life of holiness, they might speak of your conversion as hypocrisy, bigotry, and trickery. They will say that the world has turned against you, and being rebuffed by it, you have turned to God. Your friends will tell you that you will become depressed, lose your reputation, be unbearable, and that your affairs at home will suffer. All this is mere foolishness. People spend hours in playing games and think nothing of it. Yet if you spend an hour in meditation or get up a little earlier than usual in the morning to pray, everyone thinks there is something the matter with you. So we must be firm in our resolution to live faithfully in God's love.

When we first have a change of heart, things will seem a little strange, as they are new. When we see that the mountain of Christian perfection is very lofty, we tend to say "O God, how shall I be able to climb it?" Have courage. Such feelings will pass, and you will receive countless blessings.

We are like young bees who cannot yet fly out among the flowers, mountains, or nearby hills to gather honey. Little by little, by continuing to eat honey the older bees have prepared, the young bees develop wings and grow strong, so that later they fly all over the country in search of food. At first we cannot fly up high according to our plan, which is to be holy. But as our desires and resolutions begin to take form and our wings start to grow, we hope some day to be able to fly aloft. Let us follow the instructions of holy persons of past times, and pray to God to give us wings, not only to fly upward during the time of our present life but also to find repose in the eternity that is to come.

*(Adapted from the Introduction to the Devout Life, St. Francis de Sales.)*

**"It is not necessary to always feel strong. It is sufficient to have hope that we will be strong enough at the proper time and place."**

- St. Francis de Sales

**~ THIS WEEK Mass Schedule ~**

Saturday 6:00 pm  
 Sunday 9:00 am  
 Sunday 6:00 pm (Spanish)  
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am  
 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 8:30 am – 1 hour of Adoration



**A Sign of Peace**



Friday's terrorist attacks in Paris were evil.

We pray for the people who died, people who are wounded, including people who are in a very serious

condition. We also pray for their families and friends. We pray for ourselves—that our hope for peace in our world is not eviscerated. We are called to be women, men, and young people committed to hope, made real in the person of Jesus. To lose such hope is to move further from Jesus and to empower those who terrorize. Grace is stronger than evil, and Jesus' resurrection after the terrorism of his crucifixion illustrates this with the human face of God.

*While we may not have the power to quell the violence that makes the headlines, we do have the authority to bring peace to our worlds, one relationship at a time.* It is tragically true that violence is spreading, accelerating the need for us to advance peace in our lives.

Let's keep offering the sign of peace, well beyond the walls of our church.

*An excerpt from last weeks ~DeSales Weekly~*



**THEY'RE HERE!!!**

**ENGLISH & SPANISH**

Available after Mass in the vestibule. Limited supply.

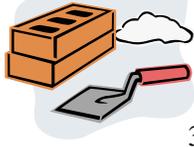
**Pastoral Council Meeting**

TODAY FOLLOWING THE 9:00 AM MASS, our Pastoral Council will meet take at the rectory. All are welcomed.

**Our Stewardship 11/22/201 Weekend**

	<i>Buxton</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Ocracoke</i>
<i>Offertory</i>	<i>\$970.00</i>	<i>\$73.00</i>	<i>cancelled</i>
<i>Debt Reduction</i>	<i>\$1088.00</i>		
<i>Attendance</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>13</i>	
<i>Principal Balance as of 10/30/2015 ~ \$227,151.31</i>			

The Reading for today's Mass are found in the **Glory & Praise** at number **732**



1<sup>st</sup> Reading ~ Jeremiah 33:14 – 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2  
Gospel Reading ~ Luke 21:25 – 28, 34 – 36

**Music for the Liturgy at 9:00 am**

Processional: # 301 Save Us, O Lord  
 Psalm Response: *"To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul, O My God."*  
 Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia  
 Offertory: # 307 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns  
 Communion: # 295 Maranatha  
 Recessional: # 723 Soon and Very Soon - vs. 1 & 3

**THE COLOR PURPLE**

Advent is here, the time of expectant waiting and spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and for His Second Coming at the end of time. Our liturgies and our music help direct our minds and hearts towards the twofold meaning of the season. The liturgical color is purple, which represents the sovereignty of Christ as well as the penitential nature of Advent. The decor of the sanctuary is minimized, the Advent wreath is displayed, the Gloria--one of the most festive hymns of the Mass--is not sung. These are signs of the penitential nature of the season.

Maybe it's not easy for us to put a stop to our celebrations during Advent especially when we live in a culture that doesn't look at Christmas as we do; **but we can try.** That might be our **Homework!** Advent is a preparation for the Christmas season. Happy Advent everyone!

**Thank You For Helping**

To all the bakers who helped to make our annual *Thanksgiving Bake Sale* be a rousing **success!** And, special thanks to Marcie Shoemaker and Karen Kelmer for handling the "Bake Sale."

**DONATING MADE EASY ON OUR WEBSITE!!!**



If you're one of the "billions" of people, who do your charitable giving on line, then you will be glad to know that Our Lady of the Seas website now has the ability to accept on-line donations. It is a secure easy way to make your donation and is available 24-hours a day for your convenience. Currently four categories are available for donation: Offertory, Debt Reduction, Pastor Discretionary & Hurricane Relief. Your comments and suggestions on this new capability, or

other aspects of our web site, are encouraged and welcomed.

**PAVERS FOR THE WALKWAY**

The church is working on OUR LAST BATCH OF PAVERS for our walkway. If you are interested in purchasing a paver **PLEASE DO SO BEFORE THE END OF NOVEMBER.**



**Hatteras Island Food Pantry**

Our pantry is still busy and requires regular replenishment. Please consider adding a few items each time you shop. Since the size of the families accessing the food pantry varies, please avoid bulk sized items. Shopping suggestions and items needed are listed below **VISITORS:** Save room packing! Donate any unopened non-perishable items at our convenient 24-hour drop box on the Social Hall porch.

*No time to shop? Checks may be made out to:*

United Methodist Men,  
 PO Box 1591  
 Buxton, NC 27920

**Thank you for your generosity!**



**Angel Gift 2015**

**If you would like to volunteer to help this year please contact Karen Kelmer (252) 986-2719**

Angel Gift forms for family needs are available at Dare County Department of Social Services (DSS) in Frisco (475-9320) or in the counselor office at both Cape Hatteras Elementary and Secondary Schools. Forms may be mailed upon request to a family to return via mail to DSS. Pastors may also contact DSS or United Methodist Church Hatteras, to make a confidential referral.

Anticipated distribution is around December 16<sup>th</sup>, and sponsored families will receive a letter in early December regarding pick-up.

**If you know of a family that could use assistance in providing a brighter holiday, please encourage them to complete a form soon.**

Thank you for all that you do for our community.



**Angel Gift Program**

Our Lady of the Seas is once again participating in the Angel Gift program for Hatteras Island children. Angels with specific "wishes" are available on the Christmas tree in the vestibule. Please pick as many wishes as you feel you can help fulfill and **return UNWRAPPED**

**items with the paper angel attached to the Christmas tree no later than December 6<sup>th</sup>.**

If you are interested in sponsoring all of the wishes/needs of a child, please feel free to contact Linda

O'Neal at Hatteras Methodist 986-2149 (office) or 475-4390 (cell).

If you are unable to shop, you may write a check with "Angel Gift" in the subject line, place in a marked envelope in the offering or provide to Father Fred. Let's make this a great year for children on Hatteras Island. Thank you for your generosity.