

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 20, 2015**

**Salesian Sunday Reflection**



In today's Gospel, we experience Elizabeth proclaiming Mary to be blessed as the mother of Our Lord. St. Francis de Sales notes:

When Elizabeth proclaims Mary's blessedness, Mary affirms that she is indeed blessed, for all her happiness comes from God. God looks at Mary in her lowliness and exalts her. Mary, in her humility, is in awe that God has made her the mother of Jesus.

A very exalted love of God and neighbor, as well as a profound humility, form a special union in Mary's heart. Humility has Mary experience the immense and inexhaustible depth of God's goodness. After experiencing the immensity of God's love, she is aware of her littleness in the face of God's loftiness. She immediately acts on her love for God, by saying: Let it be done to me as You say. In giving her consent to God's will, she demonstrates the greatest charity conceivable. For at the moment she consents, the Divine Word takes on flesh. Infinitely graced, Mary desires God's love for all.

As with Mary, our first fruit of the grace of God is humility. Humility has us experience the infinite love of God. At the same time, humility has us experience the limitations of our capacity to love God and others. While grace inclines us to the excellence of God's divine love, humility has us see how God's love profoundly purifies the heart before God and creatures. Like in Mary, God's love, in us, has us love others.

What a good sign humility of heart is in the spiritual life! If we humble ourselves by giving our consent to God's will in our life, we too can give birth in our heart to the Christ Child. To let go of our own willful desires is painful. Yet, to bring Christ to birth in our hearts is well worth trusting in God's action in us. Our divine Savior, with our consent, will assuredly make us eternally blessed, and introduce us into eternal life.

*(Sermons of St. Francis de Sales, L. Fiorelli, Ed.;  
Saint Francis de Sales, Oeuvres.)*

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

**Processional:** # 301 Save Us, O Lord

**Psalm Response:** "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."

**Gospel Acclamation:** Celtic Alleluia

**Offertory:** # 305 Creator of the Stars of Night

**Communion:** # 304 Jesus, Come to Us

**Recessional:** # 723 Soon and Very Soon - vs. 1 & 3

The Reading for today's Mass are found in the **Glory & Praise** at number **741**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** ~ Micah 5:1 – 4a

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** ~ Hebrews 10:5 – 10

**Gospel Reading** ~ Luke 1:39 – 45

**Flowers this Sunday**



The altar flowers were donated in loving memory of Cliff Morrow on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Given By: His wife Dee, and their children Janet & Jeffrey.*

***"In our duties we must work calmly and with composure, performing them as promptly as possible and as well as we can."***

*~ St. Francis de Sales*



**Holiday Mass Schedule 2015**

22<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 8:30 am

23<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 8:30 am

**24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Mass at 11:00 pm OLS**

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day ~ 11:00 am OLS (Friday - only Mass *bi-lingual* Homily in English)

26<sup>th</sup> Saturday 6:00 pm

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mass ~ 9:00 am

27<sup>th</sup> Misa en Español ~ 6:00 pm

29<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 8:30 am

30<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 8:30 am

31<sup>st</sup> Thursday 8:30 am

**January 2016**

1<sup>st</sup> Friday 11:00 am followed with 1 hour Adoration

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 6:00 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Mass ~ 9:00 am

3<sup>rd</sup> Misa en Español ~ 6:00 pm



Connect with our Parish!!! "LIKE" Our Lady of the Seas Catholic PARISH

## 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!

### Our Stewardship 12/13/2015 Weekend

	<u>Buxton</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>
Offertory	\$1,103.00	\$127.00
Debt Reduction	\$493.00	
Attendance	160	50

**Principal Balance as of 10/30/2015 ~ \$227,151.31**

### WHAT IS THE YEAR OF MERCY!!!

*Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, Pope Francis called for the Year of Mercy-a special period, also known as a Holy Year or Jubilee Year, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for the Church across the world to take approximately a year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way.*

*Pope Francis has asked us as individuals and as a Church "to be a witness of mercy" by reflecting on and practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (Pope Francis' Announcement of the Year of Mercy). Beginning December 8, 2015, the Holy Year of Mercy will focus on studying and reflecting on mercy, receiving mercy, and being merciful towards others.*

*The Jubilee Year was inaugurated 700 years ago. Today is the 29<sup>th</sup> time that we celebrate the jubilee, "Jubilee with the Year of Mercy".*  
**WITH THE JUBILEE COMES THE DOOR!**



Las Posadas

*"Las Posadas is one of many Latin American holiday traditions in which participants symbolically retrace the steps of the Virgin Mary and Joseph on the night that baby Jesus was born."*

***Beginning at 6:00 pm in the***

***Social Hall until Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>.*** After prayers a light dinner will be provided by a host Latino family. All are invited.

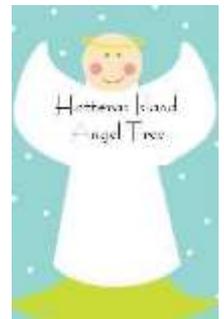


### Coffee Fellowship Sunday

***Today is Coffee Sunday*** You are all invited to the social hall immediately following the 9:00 am Mass to share coffee, cake, and other goodies. Please remember to bring your goodies in with you to the Social Hall.

### "Angel Gift"

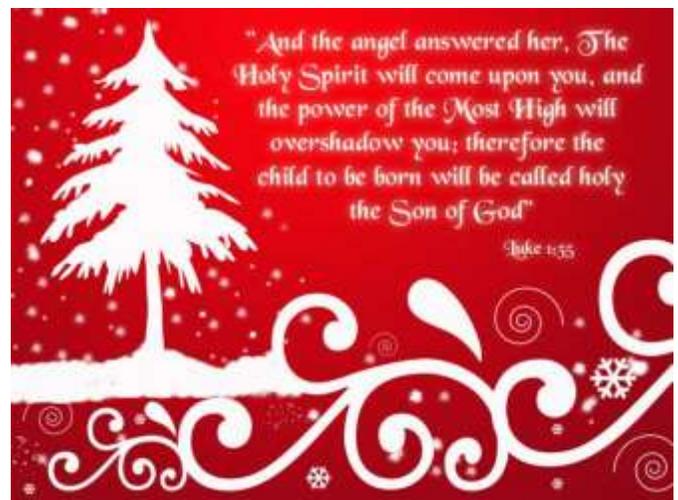
THANK YOU for honoring Christmas by giving to those in need! Our Lady of the Seas once again joined Hatteras Island churches, businesses and individuals to help families enjoy a brighter Christmas. As always, THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



### *Merry Christmas*

*Many Blessings and Peace This Holiday Season.*

*Wishing everyone receives the most precious gift of all, our Lord and Savior.*



*¡Feliz Navidad!*

*Numerosas Bendiciones y Paz para estas Fiestas.  
Deseando que todos reciban el más preciado regalo,  
Nuestro Señor y Redentor.*