IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Catholic Church

A Stewardship Community served by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

A People Not a Place

Learning to Live Jesus

OUR VISION

Our parish is the vibrant expression of the presence of the Risen Christ through sacred worship and loving service.

OUR MISSION

We live Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Gospel, by celebrating the Eucharist, by nourishing our Faith and by loving and serving all God's people.

6650 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington, NC 28412

De Sales Faith Formation Center
910-791-9857

Church Office
910-791-1003
Fax: 910-791-0081
www.iccwilm.org

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
9:00am – 4:00pm

Parish Staff, Councils & Commission Chairs

Title	Staff Member	Phone Number & Ext.	Email Address
Director of Music	Position Open	910-791-1003, Ext. 114	
Business Manager	Michele Bean	910-791-1003, Ext. 105	mbean@iccwilm.org
Director of Faith Formation	Gina Drost	910-791-1003, Ext. 112	gdrost@iccwilm.org
Secretary & Bulletin Editor	Tracey Kruger	910-791-1003, Ext. 102	tkruger@iccwilm.org
Youth Minister	Marie Marshall	910-791-1003, Ext. 110	mmarshall@iccwilm.org
Pastor & Dean, Cape Fear Deanery	Rev. John McGee, OSFS, VF	910-791-1003, Ext. 106	jmcgee@iccwilm.org
Office Manager	Claudia Sing	910-791-1003, Ext. 100	csing@iccwilm.org
Treasury Assistants	Johanna Hug & Chris Puritis	910-791-1003, Ext. 107	

Commission Chairs

Fr. John McGee. OSFS (Liturgy)
Michele Bean (Facilities)
Gina Drost (Faith Formation)
Bob Smith (Inreach)
Janice Jordan (Outreach - Temp)

Parish Pastoral Council

Marguerite Stokes, *Chair*
mmc0113@ec.rr.com

Bob Brezler, Cheri Grassi, George Plarre, Judy Chmielenski, Janice Jordan

Parish Finance Council

Mike Bollinger
John Sullivan

Liturgies and Devotions

Weekend - Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Weekday - See "This Week at Immaculate Conception" - Page 3

Devotions - Rosary for World Peace/ Novena to Our Lady, Monday - 9:30 am

Rosary, Devotion to the Sacred Heart, First Friday
Fatima Rosary Devotion, First Saturday - 3:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration -
First Friday, 9:45 am - 11:00 am ***and***
Tuesdays, 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Bulletin Deadline
Bulletin requests must be emailed to the Bulletin Editor: tkruger@iccwilm.org, by 12:00 noon on Wednesdays, ten days in advance of the weekend of publication. All articles should run for three weeks, be written three different ways, and must have name, phone # of contact person and dates requested to be in the bulletin. Articles must be limited to 100-150 words and include the *who, what, why, where and when*. A summary/result article with facts and figures should be submitted within a week of the event's completion.

New Parishioners
If you are new to Wilmington or to Immaculate Conception, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you. We are an active and vibrant parish and ask, if you have decided to join us, that you will seriously consider giving of your time, talent, and treasure for the Lord's work. Completion of an Interest Card, Parish Registration Form and attendance to a Welcome/Orientation/ Registration Event is part of active membership and provides you with parish mailings. Please find an Interest Card located in the pamphlet rack in the Gathering Area of the church.

Sacramental Life

Infant Baptism: Celebrated monthly. Registered (minimum 3 months) and participating parishioners may schedule infant baptism after completion of a baptism preparation workshop and reception of godparent documents. Contact Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation, at 910-791-1003, ext 112, preferably prior to the child's arrival. *Children over 7 are not baptized as "infants." Instead they are prepared to receive all 3 sacraments of initiation at a later date.

To Be a Godparent/Sponsor: for Baptism or Confirmation; you must be a registered, participating member for at least 6 months prior to requesting letter.

1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist: Second grade is our Sacramental year for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. First grade faith formation is a pre-requisite for the second grade Sacramental year. We require four meetings for the parents/guardians of youth receiving these Sacraments.

Confirmation: Confirmation in our Diocese is celebrated in the high school years, and is a two year process. Candidates may enroll in Level I as a freshman with immediate preparation and celebration of the sacrament in Level II the sophomore year. Stewardship opportunities and attendance to a Confirmation retreat are mandatory.

Reconciliation: We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation/confession, normally, Saturdays from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Church's Reconciliation Room. In addition, the sacrament is available by appointment. Please call the Parish Office to speak to the pastor.

RCIA: Adults seeking Initiation into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church are invited to contact Gina Drost, gdrost@iccwilm.org or 791-1003, ext.112

Matrimony: Only parishioners registered at ICC for at least 6 months may request to be married here. The couple must meet with a priest before setting a date and at least 6 months in advance of an anticipated wedding in order to complete the preparation process. All aspects of marriage planning requires the participation and approval of trained personnel. Contact: Claudia Sing, csing@iccwilm.org., 791-1003, ext. 100.

Anointing of the Sick: Anyone who is seriously ill or who is anticipating surgery or an extended hospital stay or who is weakened because of a prolonged illness or advanced age is encouraged to call the Parish Office to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Funerals: After a funeral director has been contacted but before any arrange-ments have been made public, the funeral director will contact the Parish Office in order to arrange for funeral time and/or vigil service. All aspects of parish funeral liturgy planning requires the participation and approval of trained parish personnel.

Vocations to Priesthood or Religious Life: Religious vocation as a priest, brother or sister, Fr. Michael Newman, OSFS, mnewman@oblates.us or 419-531-1421, x231. Vocation to diocesan priesthood, please visit the Diocese of Raleigh's Vocations website at dioceseofraleighvocations.org.

This Week at Immaculate Conception

No Altar Flowers During Lent

Sunday, March 13, 2022 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Liturgy, Guenter Kass
8:30 am Primary Faith Formation, DFFC
10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception
12:00 pm Elementary Faith Formation, DFFC

Monday, March 14, 2022

9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

9:30 am Adoration

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

9:00 am Liturgy, Paul Bellm

Thursday, March 17, 2022

9:00 am Liturgy, Bill Loschiavo
9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00 am Liturgy, Dennis Edmonds

Saturday, March 19, 2022

3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church
5:00 pm Liturgy, Tom Graf

Sunday, March 20, 2022 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception
8:30 am Primary Faith Formation, DFFC
10:30 am Liturgy, Eileen Canty
12:00 pm Youth Faith Formation, DFFC

Liturgical Color** for **March 19** & **20** is **Purple

Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **John Echols** and was donated by **Mary Jo Echols**.

Stewardship - A Way of Life
Following "God's Plan for Giving"
Stewardship of Treasure Report

March 5 & 6, 2022

Envelopes	156 (Envelopes)	$ 7,499.00
e-Giving	111	$ 10,708.18
Loose Check	49 (Checks)	$ 3,742.00
Identifiable Contributions		$ 21,949.18
Loose Cash		$ 457.00
Total Contributions		$ 22,406.18

Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

Envelopes	61 (Envelopes)	$ 1,168.00
e-Giving	24	$ 376.00
Loose Check	7 (Checks)	$ 175.00
Identifiable Contributions		$ 1,719.00
Loose Cash		$ 334.00
Total Contributions		$ 2,053.00

Collection for Black & Indian Missions

Envelopes	65 (Envelopes)	$ 1,456.00
e-Giving		$ 66.00
Loose Check	2 (Checks)	$ 40.00
Identifiable Contributions		$ 1,562.00
Loose Cash		$ 100.00
Total Contributions		$ 1,662.00

Offertory/1st Collection:
Annual Budget: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
$982,000.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1– Mar 6, 2022
$ 686,789.79

Hearing Devices Available for the Hearing Impaired Please see an Usher for Assistance

Baptism Prep. Workshops

Baptism Preparation Workshops at ICC

ICC's Baptism Preparation Workshops are held in the main church sanctuary. All workshops are held on Sunday afternoons from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm:

The 2021-2022 Baptismal Preparation Workshops

June 5, 2022

To register for a Baptism Preparation Workshop, please contact Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation at 910-791-1003, ext. 112.

Welcome Events

Welcome/Orientation/Registration Events

New to the area? Want to join ICC? Pick up an Interest Card in the pamphlet rack in the Gathering Area, fill it out and return to the church office, then attend one of the listed Welcome / Orientation / Registration Events. The events are on Saturday mornings, 9:00 am - 10:45 am (refreshments available at 9:00 am).

The Next Welcome Event

June 4, 2022

The Help Center Needs

The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in **March 2022**:

March 6	**Peanut butter**
March 13	**Dry pasta**
March 20	**Canned fish**
March 27	**Canned vegetables (except corn and green beans)**

Any other packaged or canned food items or toiletries are gratefully accepted. **Thank you so much for your continued generosity.**

Stewardship Reflection

"I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." (Genesis 15:7)

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether your home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do you show your gratitude to God for the home He has given you? Do you make a sacrifice of any kind? Do you return your finances to God investing equally in your eternal home just as you invest in your earthly home?

For Your Information...

Liturgy Intentions

The 2022 Mass Book is currently filled through July. Open dates for Liturgy Intentions for the remainder of 2022 may be found by clicking the ***Liturgy Intentions*** link on the ICC website under **Weekly Liturgy Remembrances**. Once you have found the date that you would like, you may obtain Mass cards on Wednesdays, from 9:00 am to 12 noon in the church office. As a reminder, we also have Mass Cards for the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales that are available as well.

For planning purposes, the 2023 Mass Book will open up in July for your requests for next year.

E-Giving Program

Did you know that...

Immaculate Conception Church offers an electronic option for making regular offerings by debiting automatically from your checking account, savings account, or credit card. Our *e*-Giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our parish. Contact Michele Bean, mbean@iccwilm.org, or by calling 910-791-1003, ext. 105.

Calendar

Monday
MARCH 14
Lenten Weekday
Dn 9:4b–10
Lk 6:36–38

Tuesday
MARCH 15
Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16–20
Mt 23:1–12

Wednesday
MARCH 16
Lenten Weekday
Jer 18:18–20
Mt 20:17–28

Thursday
MARCH 17
Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5–10
Lk 16:19–31

Friday
MARCH 18
Lenten Weekday
Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a
Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

Saturday
MARCH 19
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a or
Lk 2:41–51a

Sunday
MARCH 20
Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 3:1–8a, 13–15
1 Cor 10:1–6, 10–12
Lk 13:1–9

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 13, 2022
Second Sunday of Lent (C)
Gn 15:5–12, 17–18
Phil 3:17—4:1 or Phil 3:20—4:1
Lk 9:28b–36

Who Was This Man?

Peter, John, and James must have asked this question themselves. This Jesus was certainly not the man they had come to know. Here he was radiant, and his clothing was dazzling. Furthermore, he was in deep conversation with two of the greatest heroes of the religious tradition: Moses, the agent of the law, and Elijah the prophet. And then there was that voice that identified Jesus as "my chosen Son" and commanded them to "listen to him" (Luke 9:35). What were they to think? What would anyone think? Who was this man?

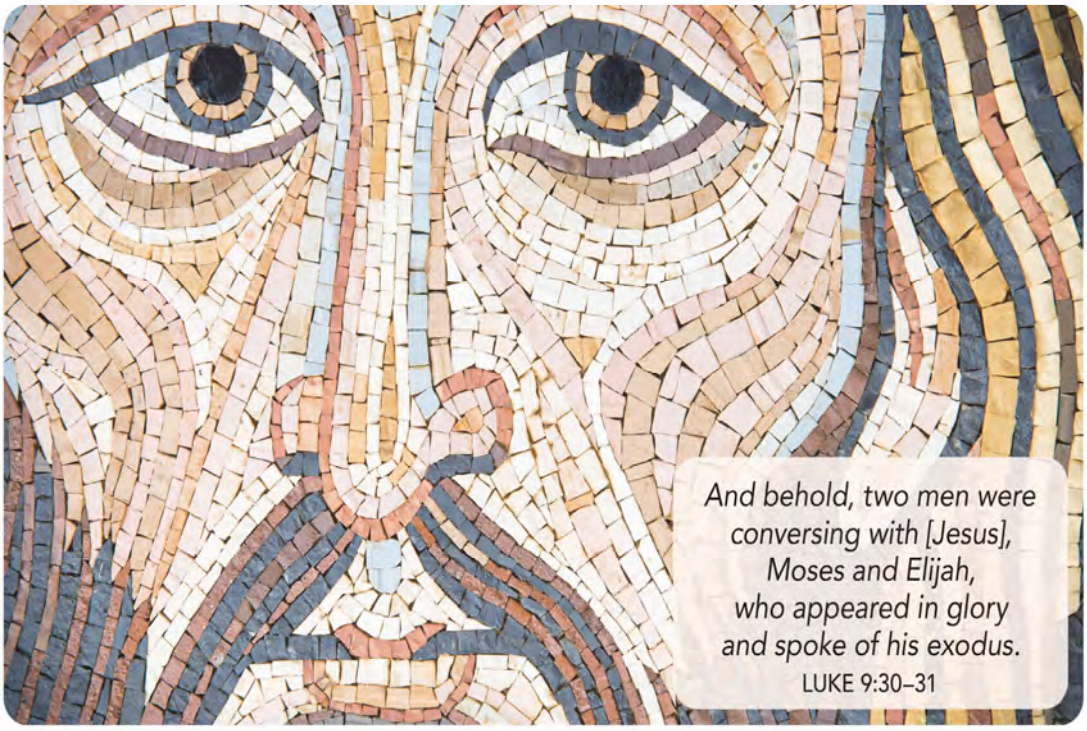
Jesus' own experience was quite different. While he prayed, he was transfigured, and in that transformed state he engaged Moses and Elijah in conversation. They discussed his future death in Jerusalem, his exodus, his deliverance. It is important to note that they maintain that his exodus was to be his own accomplishment—not a deed done to him. Who was this man?

It was the mysterious voice from the cloud that provided an answer to that question: "This is my chosen Son." But what did "my Son" mean? Unlike we who profess faith in the Trinity, it's likely the disciples still had to learn what being God's Son was all about. However, they must have realized that it meant something about Jesus' relationship with God. Every aspect of this mystifying experience told them so. When they came to their senses, the light had disappeared, the ancient men were gone, the voice was silent. And there he was again, the man they had come to know. But who was this man?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ***Give praise and glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.***
- ***What does Jesus mean in your life?***



FAUSTO RENDA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

The Glory of God

God of our ancestors,
your glory shines through
all generations,
and brings forth life.
You offer us salvation in your Son,
our Lord Jesus;
in you we shall not fear.
Strengthen our resolve to imitate
your Son,
speak of the power of your love,
and share the good news.
Help us stand firm
and shine your light and love
to all we encounter.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Deep and Real Prayer

Today's readings: Genesis 15:5–12, 17–18; Psalm 27:1, 7–8, 8–9, 13–14; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 9:28b–36. In Luke's account of the Transfiguration, we hear these words: "Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray." The sole focus of the climb of the mountain was prayer.

What a stunning and revelatory moment it was for Peter, John, and James to experience Jesus praying deeply, changing in appearance, and even his clothes turning dazzling white. Seeing Jesus in his fullness, the apostles witnessed their friend's divinity. They were speechless when they heard God say, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

As we begin the second week of Lent, consider how Jesus prioritized prayer and the place it holds in your life. Do you set aside time for prayer? Do you allow space to be silent before God? Examine your schedule to determine a time for prayer.

St. Paul tells us in the second reading that "our citizenship is in heaven." There, Christ will change our bodies to "conform with his glorified body." But he tells them first that they need to imitate the holy life that he has set before them, changing their focus from earthly things. Help yourself focus this week on heavenly things by praying the psalm from today and contemplating the refrain, "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 14
Share Mercy

Today's Gospel calls us to "be merciful." Merciful actions beget mercy. "The measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you," Jesus tells the disciples. Act on one of the seven corporal works of mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead, give alms to the poor. *Today's readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, March 15
Truly Humble

People often tout their accomplishments and their status. Jesus' message today is contrary to such behavior. He tells us that the greatest among us must be a servant, and that those who are humble will be exalted. Seek to be conscious of whether you are boastful. When we act as the person God created us to be, there is no need to boast, for each one of us is made in God's image and likeness. *Today's readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21, and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, March 16
Service

Jeremiah was a young prophet. When first called by God, he didn't want the job. He knew it would be tough to challenge people who were not following God's ways. Christians today can be wary of taking on their call as disciples. Jesus asks us to serve without seeking favor. For many of us such service is difficult. How will you follow Jesus today by serving others? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

Thursday, March 17
Priorities

Lying at the rich man's door, Lazarus would have liked to receive any bit of food. The rich man did not heed the poor any more than he was attentive to Moses and the prophets. Many things vie for our attention. Where do you put your focus: on Christian teachings and Scripture or on more earthly things? Make a list today of your top ten priorities. Where does God fall on the list? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, and 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 18
Faith during Adversity

Jealousy, hatred, vengeful feelings are strong human emotions that can be at the root of poor choices. Cyril of Jerusalem, whose feast day is today, was treated unjustly by his contemporaries but remained faithful. He was the bishop of Jerusalem and later named a doctor of the church. He is known for his homilies that prepared catechumens for initiation into the Church. *Today's readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, March 19
St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary

As we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we hear in the Gospel that Joseph is "a righteous man" unwilling to expose Mary to shame. When an angel visited Joseph in a dream, he showed great trust and confidence in God's plan for him and Mary. Joseph is the patron of the universal Church. Pray through the intercession of St. Joseph today, mindful of his example of faith. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a.*

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Prayer Matters

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Susan Alford
AC Everett
Gabrielle Baldwin
Marsha Barnes
Marley Basurto
Lynn Bateman
Alfred Beck
Dee Bogard
Jan Boland
Edward Brennan
Barry & Teresa Brighten
Christopher Brooks
Bill & Maureen Brown
Carol Burchill
John Bussi
Kelly Cahill
Joan Carilli
Carmela Carrano
Susan Craig
Marion DeCoursey
Grace Deich
Jim Demetres
Kathleen Devlin
Barbara DiLena
Leslie Dixon
Robert Dovichak
Bryna Fair
Judy Faulk
Stacey Fedele
John Finn
Robert Flavin
Barbara Fleming
Linda Flick
Corrie Formica
Walt & Mary Gable
Sandy Greggs
Lorraine Grimsley
Frank Grissler
Mark Gushanas
Dale Guy
J.B. Gwin
The Hart Family
Louise Hebert
Russell Jackson
Denise Kassem
Mary Kincart
Helen Kramer
Delores Leary
Bob Lowney
Margaret Lupton
Joanne McAteer
Joan McCall
Barbara McCann
Carol McCann
Denise McGee
Denise McGlynn
Josephine McGovern
Drew McIntyre
Beulah McKee
Joan McKillop
Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Teri Massey
Connie Mercier
Pat Monahan
Bill Moore
Ann Noack
Elizabeth Ollis
Edward O'Neill
Joanne Owens
Roberta & Robert Painter
Joan Parrilli
David Perreault
Donna Piner
Gladys Restrepo
Susan Reynolds
Dorothy Rickard
John & Beatrice Schultz
Rita & Ralph Seidl
Glen Severage
Frederick Skipper
David Stiver
Larry Strauss
Cynthia Streb
Holly Swan
Michael Talaska
Stanley Tocidlowski
Kaye Torrens
Barbara Treman
Chase Turano
Rob Verderosa
Richard Wadzinski
Jack Walsh
Jack Ward
John Webb
Rose Marie Weisenhorn
Kay Weninger
Margaret Wenz
T. Michael Werner
Richard White
Kathie Winseck
Arlyn Wyatt
Ray Wycoff
Pete Zoeller

Names will remain on the list for one month from time of request. Please call the office if you wish to renew.

Liturgy Corner

By Paul Turner

Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. He serves as a facilitator for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. He is the author of these bulletin inserts.

The Gospel of Mark

MARK IS the Gospel featured at Mass in Year B of the three-year cycle of Sunday readings. Notable exceptions occur during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and across five weeks in summer, when we hear the Bread of Life discourse from John. Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels.

Mark was probably the first Gospel written. Parts of it appear in both Matthew and Luke, who also used other materials that do not appear in Mark. Because Mark included Jesus' saying about the destruction of the Temple, a prediction fulfilled in the year 70, the date of composition is thought to be around then.

This Gospel never identifies its own author. An early tradition gave him the name Mark, a companion of Peter in Rome. Although the work may have been written in Rome by someone who heard the stories of Jesus (already being circulated), the name of its author is uncertain. The Gospel author writes with a sense of urgency. The audience who first received the book was probably a community of gentile Christians, which would account for the author's frequent explanation of Jewish customs and Aramaic words.

Mark's main point is to proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God. We hear the proclamation in the opening verse and again near the end, from the centurion at the Cross. In the middle of the Gospel stands Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Messiah.

In the second half of the Gospel, Jesus predicts his passion, death, and Resurrection three times. The earliest version of Mark ended with the news of the Resurrection, but without stories of Jesus' appearances. Accounts of those events were later appended to Mark's conclusion. Mark does not relate the story of Jesus' birth. Mark is frequently symbolized as a lion, calling to mind the desert scene that opens his story.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Lectionary for Mass
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Welcome Our Newest Members

The following households have joined our parish community at the January 8 Welcome/Orientation Registration Event:

Bradberry, Brad

Beasey, Kelley, Virginia, Clara, Olivia, and Sophia

Brooks, Chris

Dolderer, Danielle

Katulak, Robert & Johanna

Kiser, Paul & Michelle

Losito, Vince & Kim

Maguire, Bernie & Joyce

Musgnug, Greg & Brianna

Nelson, Charles & Carol

Preston, Mark & Maggie

Small, Heather, **Lindner**, Liz & **Small- Lindner**, Rilynn

Let us extend a warm welcome to our parish community and invite them to join us in ministry!

Catholic Charities Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer With Us!

The Catholic Charities Cape Fear Regional Office in Wilmington is looking for bilingual (English/ Spanish) volunteers to conduct client intakes and accompany individuals through the client choice food pantry process. Opportunities are available from 9:00 am - 11:30 am, Tuesday through Friday.

Interested individuals should contact **Jo-El Sidbury at Jo-El.Sidbury@ccharitiesdor.org**, or by phone at **910-756-4593**.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh
CAPE FEAR REGION

Inreach Ministers Needed

Inreach Commission is Looking for You!

Want to get out and meet fellow parishioners? The Inreach Commission Ministry is looking for your help in a few areas.

- The Welcome/Orientation Ministry is interviewing for a Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator
- The Visitation Ministry can always use additional help visiting sick and homebound parishioners

These are all great opportunities to get to know other parishioners in the ICC community, and to share your time and talent. All are welcome - singles, married couples that would like to work as a team, or you and a friend can create a new team! Time requirement is minimal, and the fellowship is spectacular.

If interested in more details and information, please contact Robert "Bob" Smith at (910) 458-3838.

Due to continuing constraints caused by Covid-19 , there will be no ICC Lenten Reconciliation Service this year. Reconciliation takes place in the church each Saturday beginning at 3:30 pm. Appointments may also be made by calling the parish office at 910-791-1003.

Thank You Note

Dear Fr John and the parishioners of ICC,

Thank you for your generous donation of over 1,000 cans of soup and your faithful support each week of needed foods. Your support has greatly aided in allowing us to keep our food pantry available during the past two difficult years.

Sincerely,

The All Volunteer Staff of the Help Center of Federal Point

The Bozeman Family

Congratulations to Ryin who recently began her stewardship service as an Altar Server! Sister, Adelyn, is in Year 1 for First Eucharist Preparation and Mom, Michelle, works with the autistic community. Their Family commitment to ICC is appreciated.

Stewardship is an important component to an active faith life. If you are interested in opportunities to serve, please see the Stewardship Booklet found on the pamphlet rack the Gathering Area wall.

St. Mary Catholic School

Our Educational Program is Exceptional

Trust your child's education to St. Mary Catholic School. We have 152 years of educational excellence to offer your child. In addition to Religion and core subjects, we offer a comprehensive curriculum including Advanced Math, Science Olympiad, Lego Robotic, Technology (3D Design & Printing, Digital Graphics), Suzuki Violin, Band, Spanish, Art, Literature, and Athletics. Our grades include PreK 3& 4 through 8th, and an after-school program and tuition assistance are available.

To set up a tour, please call **910-762-5491, ext. 140.**

ST MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Retrouvaille Program

You Can Help Your Marriage

It's not too late! **Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to help get your marriage back on track. Don't you owe it to your spouse? Your family? Don't you owe it to yourself? This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing marital disillusionment and misery.

For confidential information, or to apply to attend the program beginning with the weekend of April 8-10, 2022, call 434-793-0242 or email: retrouvaillenc@msn.com or visit the web site at www.helpourmarriage.org .

All are reminded to dress with reverence and respect as they come to the liturgy all year long.

St. Mark Catholic School

Educating the Whole Child

St. Mark Catholic School is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year! St. Mark is a PreK - 8th grade school in Wilmington, NC, dedicated to educating the whole child academically, spiritually, and physically. For 20 years, St. March Catholic School has provided top-tier Catholic education and unique opportunities for students and their families. These opportunities are designed to help students grow in their faith and become true Christian leaders. Families interested in scheduling a personal tour or enrolling their children at St. Mark can do so by calling **(910) 398-6532** or emailing **admissions@smcsnc.org** Tuition assistance, scholarships, and other financial help are also available for qualifying families. To learn more about our tuition assistance opportunities, please visit **www.smsnc.org**

Marriage Encounter

Be transformed by Jesus' love. Sign up today to attend one of the next **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences** on May 6-8, 2022, in HICKORY, NC, and June 24-26, 2022, in BEAUFORT, SC. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: https://NCMarriageDiscovery.org or contact us at applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org or 704-315-2144.

Prayer for Peace

(Written by Cameron Bellm)

How do we pray for peace from half a world away?
How can words salve and soothe real wounds,
Assuage real fears, Wipe tears from real eyes?

God of endless compassion, transform our prayers
From words into bridges, that span the distances
Between us, uniting our hearts in yours.

Every time we turn our keys in a lock,
May we remember all who are losing their homes.

Every time we step into our cars,
May we remember all who are having to flee.

Every time we embrace our children,
May we remember all who are trying to shield
theirs from war.

May our besieged sisters and brothers
Be drawn into the arms of the suffering Christ,
And may our cry be heard as one voice,
Ringing out from every corner of the earth:
God of endless mercy, grant us peace!

Amen.

Lenten Adoration

Lenten Hour of Adoration

Come experience the joy and blessings of spending quiet time with Jesus, sharing your heart's desires, longings, sufferings, and joys.

A Holy Hour of Adoration normally takes place every Tuesday morning from 9:30—10:30 in the church. Come for all or any part of the hour.

ICC has received $91,393 from 295 households out of 1,047.
Our 2022 BAA goal is $131,851.

Journey to the Foot of the Cross
10 Things to Remember for Lent

By Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, former chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis

1. **Remember the formula.** The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

2. **It's a time of prayer.** Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

3. **It's a time to fast.** With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

4. **It's a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."

5. **It's about dying to yourself.** The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

6. **Don't do too much.** It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

7. **Lent reminds us of our weakness.** Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

8. **Be patient with yourself.** When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

9. **Reach out in charity.** As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

10. **Learn to love like Christ.** Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

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