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	Alfred Casinelli	910-791-1003, Ext. 114	acasinelli@iccwilm.org
Business Manager	Position Open		
Director of Faith Formation	Loraine Fetzer	910-791-1003, Ext. 112	lfetzer@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.orgOffice
Manager	Claudia Sing	910-791-1003, Ext. 100	csing@iccwilm.org

Commission Chairs

Bob Smith (Inreach)
Fr. John McGee. OSFS (Liturgy)
Loraine Fetzer (Faith Formation)
Marie Marshall (Faith Formation)

Parish Pastoral Council

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

Bob Brezler
Judy Chmielenski
Cheri Grassi
Janice Jordan
Denise Mould
George Plarre

Parish Finance Council

Walt Chmielenski, *Chair*
wchmielenski@ec.rr.com

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 4

Devotions - Rosary for World Peace, Monday - 9:30 am
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 pm *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 Loraine Fetzer, lfetzer@iccwilm.org or 910-791-1003, ext. 112 preferably before 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 Loraine Fetzer, lfetzer@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. 110.

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

At this time, Reconciliation is by Appointment Only

As well, Fr. John & Staff may be seen by Appointment Only

Sunday, March 14—Laetare Sunday
8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception
10:30 am Liturgy, Marjorie Cardello

Monday, March 15, 2021
9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, March 16, 2021
9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
9:00 am Liturgy, Mary Bennett

Thursday, March 18, 2021
9:00 am Liturgy, Tom Graf
9:45 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, March 19, 2021
9:00 am Liturgy, Dennis Edmonds

Saturday, March 20, 2021
5:00 pm Liturgy, Matthew Dougherty

Sunday, March 21, 2021
8:30 am Liturgy, John Echols
10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception

Liturgical Color** for **20** & **21** is **Purple

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

March 7 & 8, 2021

Envelopes	131 (Envelopes)	$ 15,044.00
e-Giving	118	$ 11,698.18
Loose Check	25 (Checks)	$ 2,045.00
Identifiable Contributions		$ 28,787.18
Loose Cash		$ 252.36
Total Contributions		$ 29,039.54

Offertory/1st Collection:
Annual Budget: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021
$947,000.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1– March 7, 2021
$ 696,421.33

Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **Joan Pompilio** and was donated by **Matthew Pompilio**.

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

Stewardship

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." (John 3:16)

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. Thar we nurture and develop our gifts and, in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works, and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and the greater Church.

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 2020-2021 Baptismal Preparation Workshops

March 21, 2021 June 6, 2021

To register for a Baptism Preparation Workshop, please contact Loraine Fetzer, lfetzer@iccwilm.org or 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 which are held in the De Sales Faith Formation Center (building directly behind the church). The events are on Saturday mornings, 9:00 am - 10:45 am (refreshments available at 9:00 am).

The Next Welcome Events

June 5, 2021

The Help Center Needs

The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in March 2021:

March 7	**Macaroni & Cheese**
March 14	**Dry Pasta**
March 21	**Pasta Sauce**
March 28	**Baked Beans**

Any other packaged or canned food items or toiletries are gratefully accepted.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

Diocesan Second Collection

Catholic Relief Services Collection

This week we take up the Collection for Catholic Relief Services to help **Jesus in disguise**. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at *www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.*

Due to constraints caused by Covid-19 , there will be no ICC Lenten Reconciliation Service this year. Appointments for reconciliation may be made by calling the parish office at 910-791-1003.

While many parishioners are already scheduled for Covid-19 vaccinations, the ICC's Inreach Commission is offering assistance in scheduling a first appointment if anyone wants or needs assistance. Please contact the parish office and leave a message for "Inreach Covid Vaccine Assistance" along with your phone number and someone will contact you. You are free to leave a message if you have any questions concerning appointments or concerns related to the Covid-19 vaccination program.

Passion Palm Sunday 2021

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 27	5:00 pm, Liturgy
Sunday, March 28	8:30 am and 10:30 am, Liturgies
Monday, March 29	9:00 am, Rosary / Novena
Tuesday, March 30	10:30 am, Chrism Liturgy Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh This year, each parish will be permitted to send two parishioners to the Liturgy.
Wednesday, March 31	No Liturgy / Activities

The Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021

The Evening Liturgy of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm

Foot Washing - One essential part of the liturgy is the Washing of the Feet, a profound sign of service to one another given to us by Jesus at the Last Supper. This year, our feet washing cannot be a physical gesture, but rather a silent reflection on the concrete actions required to walk alongside the communities in most need.

Good Friday, April 2, 2021

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3:00 pm

Adoration of the Cross - This year, our Adoration of the Holy Cross cannot be a physical gesture, but rather a silent reflection on your love of the Lord and your commitment to take up your cross and follow Jesus.

Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday), April 3, 2021

The Vigil in the Holy Night begins at 8:00 pm - *in the Church*

No Confession/Reconciliation or 5:00 pm Liturgy on Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

Liturgies: 8:30 am and 10:30 am, by reservation.

Church offices will close at 1 pm on Wednesday, March 31, and will reopen on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Tickets

Online reservations for Passion Palm Sunday liturgies
are available
Wednesday, March 24, at 2:00 pm - Saturday, March 27, at 12:00 noon
Visit www.iccwilm.org

Phone reservations for Passion Palm Sunday liturgies
are available
Wednesday, March 24, at 2:00 pm - Friday. March 26, at 4:00 pm
Call 910-791-1003 ext.110

Online reservations for Holy Thursday & Good Friday liturgies
are available
Wednesday, March 24, at 2:00 pm - Saturday, March 27, at 12:00 noon
Visit www.iccwilm.org

Phone reservations for Holy Thursday & Good Friday liturgies
are available
Wednesday, March 24, at 2:00 pm - Friday. March 26, at 4:00 pm
Call 910-791-1003 ext.110

Online reservations for Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday liturgies
are available
Wednesday, March 31, at 2:00 pm - Saturday, April 3, at 12:00 noon
Visit www.iccwilm.org

Phone reservations for Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday liturgies
are available
Wednesday, March 31, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Call 910-791-1003 ext.110

Seating is Limited. Reservations are required for all Liturgies.
Those with reservations are encouraged to arrive early to facilitate seating.
Masks, hand sanitizer, and physical distancing are required.

Calendar

Monday
MARCH 15
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17–21
Jn 4:43–54

Tuesday
MARCH 16
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1–9, 12
Jn 5:1–16

Wednesday
MARCH 17
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8–15
Jn 5:17–30

Thursday
MARCH 18
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7–14
Jn 5:31–47

Friday
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

Saturday
MARCH 20
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18–20
Jn 7:40–53

Sunday
MARCH 21
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31–34
Heb 5:7–9
Jn 12:20–33

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)
2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23
Eph 2:4–10
Jn 3:14–21

You Decide

We normally take great pride in making our own decisions. When we did this as children, it was a sign that we were growing up; as adolescents, it was a proclamation of independence. Now as adults, when making decisions we demonstrate that we are self-directed. The problem doesn't seem to lie in decision-making itself but in the options given to us that require a decision. And there is the rub. Often these are options not of our choosing. This can make decision-making very difficult.

Today's Gospel is all about making decisions. Options are placed before us. We either choose Jesus and the extraordinary way of life that he has outlined for us, or we go along with the movements of society. This could include making money at any cost, denying hospitality to those who knock on our door, harboring an attitude of superiority over others. We either choose to live in the light with the insights that our faith provides, or we simply accept the values that bombard us each day through the media, namely: Me first. What's mine is mine. What's in it for me? Not in my back yard.

If we look carefully, we will realize that the way of life Jesus promotes is based on the dignity of each person, who is made in the image and likeness of God. Actions that dismiss, demean, damage, or destroy human life are contrary to the teaching, life, and example of Jesus. Accepting his way brings forth a new society called "the reign of God." Rejecting it will undermine the foundations of the society we have. Which will it be? You decide.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- *How might you have compromised your religious values in order to get by in life?*
- *Might God be asking you to choose something new?*

DARIA CHICHKAREVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Live in the Light

Loving Father,
in love you created the world,
and in love you sent its redeemer.
Early and often you called
to our ancestors.
Early and often you call to us too.
Be merciful to us.
We were made in your image
and likeness.
You saw that we were very good.
We had all that we needed, yet you
wanted to give us more.
This gift, which we cannot merit,
is the gift of your Son's life.
Help us to live in your light.
Guide us away from the darkness,
that we, new creations, might do the
good works to which we are called.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, March 14, 2021
Called to the Light

Today's readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23; Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6; Ephesians 2:4–10; John 3:14–21. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." This Scripture's beauty, simplicity, and truth inspire people to answer the call of Jesus to spread the Good News.

Though we know that God made the world and everything in it and saw that it was good, we also see that the world is filled with darkness and difficulty. How can this be? Each of us can think of world events that break our hearts. We do not want to think about how our actions contribute to what breaks the hearts of others. In Chronicles, we hear that God sent messengers early and often to call the people away from their destructive decisions. In the Gospel, we hear that the people preferred darkness to light.

A bright light can dazzle our eyes. It can reveal things that were not visible in the dark. We might prefer to sit in the dark. But because of God's great love, Ephesians states, we have been given a gift we do not deserve. Brought to life in Christ Jesus, we might live. We must turn away from our discomfort, our feelings of exposure and vulnerability, and go forth to do the work that we have been called to through our baptism. Is there something in your life that makes you prefer the darkness? How can you take away its power by exposing it to the light?

THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 15
Life-Giving Word

Jesus' second sign in Galilee, the healing of the official's child, occurs from a distance. Jesus' word provides healing and life to the boy, who is near death. We even hear that the fever left him at the time Jesus spoke. Jesus' word gives new life. We hear in Isaiah the prophecy of the new heavens and the new earth. "No longer shall the sound of weeping be heard there." How is this healing word of Jesus a sign of what is to come? What do you think the coming kingdom will be like? *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17–21; Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a and 13b; John 4:43–54.*

Tuesday, March 16
Take Up Your Mat

Once again, Jesus' word brings healing and life. After encountering the healing word of Jesus, a man who has been ill for many years is able to pick up his mat and walk, with all the possibilities this new life suggests. Jesus' word gives life. It has power. Choose a phrase that Jesus states in Scripture and copy it three times. How is Jesus' word inviting you to new life today? *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

Wednesday, March 17
St. Patrick

St. Patrick was a bishop in Ireland in the fifth century. He was responsible for the peaceful conversion of Ireland to Christianity. Kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland, he returned as a missionary to use his knowledge of Irish language and culture to evangelize. Celebrate St. Patrick, patron of Ireland, by living as a loving witness to Jesus, so that others might be brought to Christ through your love. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

Thursday, March 18
St. Cyril of Jerusalem

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was a bishop and a Doctor of the Church who lived in the fourth century. He wrote for those who were in the process of becoming Christians and also against heresies that were causing divisions within the Church. St. Cyril was a great catechist. Is there an opportunity for you to teach others about the faith? *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

Friday, March 19
St. Joseph

St. Joseph's vocation was one of the most important in history. God speaks to St. Joseph in dreams, but Joseph has no trouble distinguishing God's voice from other voices. He acts in accordance with the words he receives. And in so doing, he protects Mary and Jesus from the forces that wish to harm them. We can surmise that his awareness of God's voice might originate in a lifetime of attentiveness to God's presence and action in his life. In our time, just as in St. Joseph's, other voices vie for our attention and response. Ask St. Joseph to intercede for you, to ask God to help you to listen as he does. Then spend some time listening for God's voice in silent prayer, with Scripture, or in the voice of a trusted friend. *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 or Luke 2:41–51a.*

Saturday, March 20
Who Are You, Jesus?

As Jesus taught about the kingdom of God and did many signs, people who listened were divided about his identity. If Jesus is the messiah, raised from the dead, there is a reason for our hope. The ground of all reality is a love stronger than death. Yet often hope and trust are put in other things, and decisions are based on fear rather than love. How can you reorient your life so that your choices are guided by love, not fear? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*

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Prayer Matters

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Conner Ager
Susan Alford
Nancy Arietta
AC Everett
Gabrielle Baldwin
Marsha Barnes
Marley Basurto
Lynn Bateman
Kimberly Becker
Edward Brennan
Barry & Teresa Brighten
Carmela Carrano
Pat Collins
Marion DeCoursey
Grace Deich
Jim Demetres
Kathleen Devlin
Patricia DiQuattro
Johnny Doherty
Arthur Doody
Robert Dovichak
Kathleen Draghi
John Finn
Gisela Fisher
Kathleen Flavin
Robert Flavin
Pearl & Diane Fountain
The Gibson Family
Sandy Greggs
Frank Grissler
Rose Guerrero
Dotty Gullo
Jimmy Hack
Karen Hales
Diane Hardison
Elaine & Damon Heath
Victoria Herman
Bailey Hudson
Guenter Kass
Denise Kassem
Mary Kincart
Margaret Kipp
Rose Kirchoff
Carlos Lagomarsino
Delores Leary
Bill Loschiavo
Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Janet Marshall
Teri Massey
Barbara McCann
Mary Lou McCarthy
Josephine McGovern
Joan McKillop
Barbara McMahon
Jean Messing
Mary Messing
Rosemary Messing
Pat Monahan
Bill Moore
Joseph Muccia, III & Family
Diane Naylor
Bella Natalicchio
Jeff Nicol
Ann Noack
Kelly O'Connor
Elizabeth Ollis
Pat Onderdonk
Edward O'Neill
Megan Owen
Joanne Owens
Roberta & Robert Painter
Mary Jo Pembrook
Maria Ross
Tom Savarese
Marion Schweis
Betty Selfridge
Glen Severage
Miranda Slater
Louise Spera
Jeffrey Stewart
David Stiver
Sandra & Tim Stott
Larry Strauss
Lucy Talomi
Barbara Treman
Chase Turano
Ned Underhill
Rob Verderosa
Tatiana Vielma
Richard Wadzinski
Jack Walsh
Kay Weninger
T. Michael Werner
Richard White
Mary Beth Whitton
Arlyn Wyatt
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**

Lay Preaching

A **HOMILY** is a sermon preached by a deacon or a priest, but there are occasions when a lay person preaches. Most commonly, these are celebrations outside of Mass. For example, some communities do not have a priest available to them every Sunday. They may gather without a priest under the liturgical leadership of a layperson. That person may read a homily prepared by the priest, or offer a reflection on the readings. By definition, this reflection is "preaching," though not a "homily."

At Masses with children, a layperson may occasionally preach. "With the consent of the pastor or rector of the church, one of the adults may speak to the children after the gospel, especially if the priest finds it difficult to adapt himself to the mentality of children." (*Directory for Masses with Children*, 24).

In some churches, the pastor has invited a layperson to speak about the financial needs of the parish or the diocese. Non-ordained missionaries have also made appeals. Sometimes these talks are as inspiring as a homily, but they do not qualify as the same thing. Some churches have these talks during homily time, but if some instruction or testimony by a layperson is to be given, the homily comes at its normal time, and the layperson speaks following the Prayer after Communion (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 74.)

In places where priests and deacons visit so rarely that a layperson must be appointed for Baptisms, the *Rite of Baptism for Children* permits that person to preach on that occasion (137).

In these various ways, the Church invites the spirit-filled reflection of the laity to nurture the People of God.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Liturgical Ministers © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

Welcome Our Newest Members

The following households have joined our parish community at the March 6 Welcome/Orientation Registration Event:

Farley, Christine

Fee, Eileen

Hobbs, Dennis & Sandra

Johnson, Teresa

Magnetti, Anthony

Schenck, Rick & LuAnne

Scott, Ann & Jack

Sheron, Robert & Joanne

Weir, Michael & Carol

Williams, Rose

What's New?

Help Us Stay Up To Date

Have you moved? Are there new members in your family? Letting us know about any changes to your information means that we have the most current and correct records for you and your family. Please send any updated information to Tracey Krüger, parish secretary/bulletin editor and let her know. You can reach her by calling (910) 791-1003, extension 102, or by email at tkruger@iccwilm.org.

Born to Eternal Life

Please remember in your prayers the following people:

Will Florence, parishioner. Condolences may be sent to Will's wife, Irene, at 6016 Chancellorsville Dr, Wilmington, NC 28409-0009.

Keith Liberati. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Linda, at 517 Green Acres Dr, Hampstead, NC 28443-3438.

Marriage Encounter

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." Bring God into your marriage to honor Him by going on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** Experience August 27-29, 2021 in HICKORY, NC, and Nov 5-7, 2021 in ATLANTIC BEACH, NC. 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.

Thank You Note

Thank You Chris Lewis & the Knights of Columbus

Since I am currently unable to attend Liturgies at Immaculate Conception, I wanted to tell my friends about my gift. I received a new wheelchair, sent to me by Chris Lewis (Jerry Lewis's son) through his company, Global Wheelchair Mission. They deliver wheelchairs in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, and many State and Local Councils. I later found out from a friend that the Knights have furnished over 100,000 wheelchairs to people in need around the world. I thank Global Wheelchair Mission and the Knights for helping me become more mobile.

Sincerely,

Marion Schweis

Altar Servers Needed

There continues to be a need for Altar Servers at all Liturgies, and we would love to have YOU.

Parishioners of all ages are welcome, and per Diocesan requirement implemented to protect children, anyone under the age of 18 years of age must be accompanied to the training session by a parent. The training sessions last about 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on the number and experience of those attending.

Please contact Peggy Crott at 724-219-5751 or mjcrott@gmail.com for more information or to arrange a training session (leave a message if calling).
Please also take a moment to personally thank all

Lenten Adoration

Asked by the Lord: ONE HOUR

"Could you not keep watch for one hour?"

On the night before Christ's death, during the Lord's agony, in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord spoke these words to Simon Peter. Jesus had found Peter asleep.

Can YOU keep watch with Jesus, your loving Savior, for one hour, or part of one hour, this Lent? You may be surprised what the Lord will give you in return.

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

Volunteer Opportunity

Brunswick County Tornado

The strong tornado that swept through parts of Brunswick County on February 15, 2021, left damage and destruction in its wake. In an effort to aid those affected by this storm, the Brunswick County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is organizing teams to clear storm debris. If you would like to volunteer your time, or are interested in learning more about what the Brunswick County VOAD is doing, please contact them in care of United Way Cape of the Cape Fear Area, 5919 Oleander Blvd, Ste 115, Wilmington, NC 28405.

E-Giving Program

e-Giving Program

Immaculate Conception Church offers an electronic option for making regular offerings by debiting automatically from your checking or savings account. Our *e*-Giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our parish. Contact Claudia Sing, csing@iccwilm.org., (910) 791-1003, ext. 100.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Who Benefits From the BAA?

Most parishioners realize that their Bishop's Annual Appeal gifts support the hungry, the homeless, the frail, and the sick. But your help goes beyond that. Every parishioner benefits from the BAA. Every Catholic school and parish faith formation program, like the one here in our parish, is helped by your gift. Marriage preparation programs, seminarian and deacon formation, as well as a host of other spiritual and educational activities exist through God's grace and your generosity.

If you have not yet participated, BAA commitment envelopes are available in the gathering area here at ICC, or you can donate online at GivetoBAA.org. Small or large, each donation makes a world of difference. Thank you for your generosity.

Marriage Preparation

2021 Diocesan One-Day Marriage Preparation Workshop

Inviting all engaged couples who are preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony to attend a One-Day Diocesan Marriage Preparation Workshop. At this workshop, you will deepen your relationship with your fiancé as you prepare to begin living out the sacrament of marriage. Topics for the day include: Theology of Marriage, Communication and Conflict Resolution, Finance & Stewardship, Intimacy and Natural Family Planning, and Living a Sacramental Marriage. Remember to talk with your pastor before signing up.

Registration and a list of dates and locations can be found at https://raldioc.confgio.com/go/mpw2021. Additional questions can be answered by contacting Rebekah Tolson at Rebekah.tolson@raldioc.org, or by calling 919-821-9753.

Almsgiving: Love in a Troubled World

By Jill Rauh

Almsgiving, one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, means donating money and time to help others in need. With 46 million Americans living below the poverty line, children as victims of violence, and global conflicts that wreak havoc on families around the world, what kind of almsgiving are we called to practice this Lent?

Pope Benedict XVI's Lenten message for 2013 emphasizes the power of God's love to transform us. Our encounter with "God who is Love," Pope Benedict writes, necessarily opens our eyes to our neighbors. Almsgiving becomes more than just a donation in Lent. It is transformative, an experience of solidarity with others.

The pope's Lenten message mirrors what he said in his first encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, or *God Is Love*, and in *Porta Fidei*, the guiding document to the Year of Faith. The pope notes that when transformed by Christ's love, we come to recognize the face of Christ in our brothers and sisters in need. We are compelled by faith to act for justice.

This is connected to what we do every Sunday: we gather as Christ's body, hear the Word of God, celebrate the Eucharistic meal, are transformed, and go out as disciples—on mission in the world.

We must work both to meet immediate needs through charitable works and to work for long-term change through social justice by addressing the root causes of social ills. We are called to walk with Two Feet of Love in Action.

Here are some ideas for how we can put love in action this Lent:

- Participate in CRS Rice Bowl, the program of Catholic Relief Services that invites people to pray with families and faith communities, fast in solidarity with the hungry, learn more about the challenges of poverty overseas and give alms to those in need.

"Love in action can illuminate a world grown dim and give distressed people the courage to live and work in hope."

- Visit *www.povertyusa.org* or *www.pobrezausa.org* to learn about poverty in the United States and join the efforts of faith communities that are responding.

- Make a commitment to take action each week with Catholics Confront Global Poverty on behalf of vulnerable brothers and sisters around the world. *(www.confrontglobalpoverty.org)*

- Do a self-assessment of how you, or your parish, school or community put love into action.

There's much need in today's society. At the same time love in action can illuminate a world grown dim and give distressed people the courage to live and work in hope. Almsgiving helps meet physical needs and costs dollars, time, and commitment. But, more important, it nurtures hope, and that is priceless.

Jill Rauh is currently the assistant director of education and outreach for the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

This article was originally published on the USCCB Media Blog.

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