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
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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 21, 2021—5th Sunday of Lent
8:30 am Liturgy, John Echols
10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception

Monday, March 22, 2021
9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, March 24, 2021
9:00 am Liturgy, Leo Torrens

Thursday, March 25, 2021
9:00 am Liturgy, Tony Coppola
9:45 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, March 26, 2021
9:00 am Liturgy, Ruby Wortman

Saturday, March 27—Vigil of Palm Sunday
5:00 pm Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception

Sunday, March 28—Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:30 am Liturgy, Leo Torrens
10:30 am Liturgy, Frederick "Red" Hurst

Liturgical Color** for **March 27** & **28** **is** **Red

Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **Raphael Sgambati** and was donated by **Dolores Sgambati.**

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

March 14 & 15, 2021

Envelopes	99 (Envelopes)	$ 4,533.00
e-Giving	—	$ ————
Loose Check	31 (Checks)	$ 1,904.19
Identifiable Contributions		$ 6,437.19
Loose Cash		$ 172.10
Total Contributions		$ 6,609.29

Catholic Relief Services

Envelopes	46 (Envelopes)	$ 885.00
e-Giving	21	$ 700.00
Loose Check	0 (Checks)	$ 0.00
Identifiable Contributions		$ 1,585.00
Loose Cash		$ 68.00
Total Contributions		$ 1,653.00

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

Total Collected YTD: July 1– Mar 14, 2021
$ 667,260.79

Stewardship Reflection

"I will be their God and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors, and for people we do not know, just as God cares for each of us.

Mass Cards & Sanctuary Candles

Mass Cards and Sanctuary Candles may be purchased on Wednesday mornings, between 9:00 am to 12 noon in the parish office.

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:

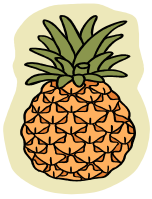
The 2020-2021 Baptismal Preparation Workshops

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.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Raleigh will take place at the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh, NC, on Tuesday, March 20, 2021, from 10:30 am—12:00 noon.

Four members from each parish are permitted to attend the Liturgy. If you would like to attend, please contact Father John McGee at (910) 791-1003, extension 106. Requests will be considered on a first come, first served basis.

Note: Attendees are responsible for their transportation to and from the Liturgy.

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

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 22
Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62
or 13:41c–62
Jn 8:1–11

Tuesday
MARCH 23
Lenten Weekday
Nm 21:4–9
Jn 8:21–30

Wednesday
MARCH 24
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95
Jn 8:31–42

Thursday
MARCH 25
The Annunciation of the Lord
Is 7:10–14, 8:10
Heb 10:4–10
Lk 1:26–38

Friday
MARCH 26
Lenten Weekday
Jer 20:10–13
Jn 10:31–42

Saturday
MARCH 27
Lenten Weekday
Ez 37:21–28
Jn 11:45–56

Sunday
MARCH 28
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Mk 11:1–10 or
Jn 12:12–16
Is 50:4–7
Phil 2:6–11
Mk 14:1—15:47
or 15:1–39

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)
Jer 31:31–34
Heb 5:7–9
Jn 12:20–33

Do I Have to Die?

Who has not asked this question, at least to oneself? It's a valid question, because at the core of every living being is the drive to live. Jesus also must have asked this question. Today's Gospel account implies this in John 12:27. ("I am troubled now.") Despite his passion for living, Jesus was more passionate about the transformation that would take place later. The example of the grain that must die if a harvest of wheat is to be produced is a perfect metaphor to make this point. Just as the grain is insignificant compared with the possible harvest, so—our faith assures us—there is no comparison between this life and the wondrous transformation that awaits us. And yes, in order to move from this life to that splendorous future, we will have to die.

Our Lenten meditations will soon focus on the suffering and death of Jesus. However, to concentrate solely on suffering and death is like examining the death of the grain without any thought of its transformation and the bountiful harvest that will come. We must not minimize Jesus' suffering. However, it was precisely by means of his having been lifted up on the cross in suffering and death that he was lifted up in glory and exaltation. This is why we claim that death is not the end of life but the gateway to new life. So, as difficult as it might be to leave the life we love, like Jesus we have to die in order to enter that new life.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- *Begin to place yourself in God's hands with little things so that you are better able to do so in bigger things.*
- *The second reading reminds us that Christ is the source of our eternal salvation. Spend a moment in gratitude for this great gift.*

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Transform Us

Loving God,
through all the ages you create new life
and see that it is good.
Having given us all good gifts,
you gave more: you gave yourself,
doing something completely new
from the moment of Mary's yes.
You transform even death, pain,
and suffering.
You transform endings into beginnings,
buried seeds to fruitful plants.
Transform us, help us to follow where
you lead,
that we might live with you forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 21, 2021
The Grain of Wheat

Today's readings: Jeremiah 31:31–34; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15; Hebrews 5:7–9; John 12:20–33. After triumphantly entering Jerusalem, Jesus knows that his passion is imminent. He also knows that no one around him expects what is about to occur. Jesus uses the image of a seed to help his friends to understand.

"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." Like the seed, Jesus will die. Like the seed, Jesus will bear much fruit, eternal life given to each one of us. His death, when he is "lifted up from the earth" on the cross, "will draw everyone" to him.

When a seed is planted, the seed coat breaks apart as the plant within it begins to grow and develop. The seed itself ceases to exist in a meaningful way. From the beginning, though, the prospect of new life, the germ, was within the seed. Jesus recognized that his life had to be laid down for the potentiality of eternal life to come to fulfillment.

Through Jesus, the germ of eternal life exists in us as well. He tells us that discipleship entails imitating him. We have to let the seed of our current life break apart for the new plant to grow.

Journal about the experience of letting go of your old life in order to nurture the new.

THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 22
Neither Do I Condemn You

The woman caught in adultery expected to die. Instead, she hears, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more." What must she have felt in that moment, to be forgiven? This same forgiveness is available to us every time we ask for it. God's mercy is always there, sometimes we just need to celebrate it. Examine your conscience. No one is perfect. Receive the sacrament of reconciliation and you will feel the full force of God's merciful love. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62 or 13:41c–62; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; John 8:1–11.*

Tuesday, March 23
God's Voice

As Holy Week nears, spend five to ten minutes in silence reflecting on God's presence and action in your life. When did you hear God's voice today? When did you feel calm and peaceful? When did you feel that you did not live up to what God was calling you to do? How can you adjust your life to be more open to God's will? *Today's readings: Numbers 21:4–9; Psalm 102:2–3, 16–18, 19–21; John 8:21–30.*

Wednesday, March 24
Uncomfortable Truth

God spoke to Abraham and Abraham believed. The trust Abraham had in God, the keeper of promises, sets him apart. Jesus contrasts Abraham's trust, his belief in the truth, with the reaction Jesus faces as he teaches and preaches. Truth can be uncomfortable. Maybe you have been with a small child who, unburdened with lessons about politeness, describes a situation with embarrassing accuracy. Those situations pass in a moment. The truth to which Jesus testified had the power to discomfort more deeply, but he tells us "the truth will set you free." What can that mean in your life? *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14–20, 91–92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31–42.*

Thursday, March 25
Annunciation of the Lord

A young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us." The words of Isaiah carry us to the house of Mary in Nazareth, where a young girl is addressed as "favored one." She is troubled, and the angel tells her not to be afraid. The young girl is not afraid. Her words will change history: "May it be done to me according to your word." From the moment of Mary's yes, God began to do something completely new in the world. Mary's vocation is unique, yet her response, her yes, is something we are able to imitate. Pray the Rosary today, and ask for Mary's intercession that you might be more like her to answer with a brave yes to God's call. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14, 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Friday, March 26
A New Way

Jesus finds himself in trouble with the authorities again and again because the kingdom of God, which he came to inaugurate, did not adhere to the expectations of the people. Jesus stood with those who lacked power, authority, and status, and in the Beatitudes, he tells us that standing alongside them is standing with him. How can you embrace those on the margins? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10–13; Psalm 18:2–3a, 3bc–4, 5–6, 7; John 10:31–42.*

Saturday, March 27
God Transforms

Approaching Holy Week, the readings show the plot against Jesus growing stronger. The plot against Jesus was about self-preservation, yet Caiaphas' words unwittingly testify to what God was doing: "He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only the nation, but also to gather into one the dispersed children of God." *Today's Readings: Ezra 37:21–28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11–12abcd, 13; John 11:45–56.*

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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
Mark Gushanas
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
Kenny Levy
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
Richard Schacht
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
Tricia Young
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

Mass with One Minister

On occasion, a priest may not have a congregation to celebrate Mass. The Missal used to carry a formula called "The Oder of Mass without a Congregation," but it has been renamed, "The Order of Mass with the Participation of a Single Minister." By its nature, the Mass presumes someone other than the minister is participating to make responses and represent the Church.

Right after the Second Vatican Council, a priest would begin this Mass at the entrance to the sanctuary with the Sign of the Cross, Greeting, and Penitential Rite. Then he kissed the altar, recited the Entrance Antiphon, and led the Kyrie. Now he kisses the altar at the beginning, the Entrance Antiphon is read, and he goes to the chair—just as at every other Mass. The priest opens and closes the Prayer of the Faithful, but the minister is now to lead the individual intentions.

When reciting the Confiteor, the priest and minister change the words "brothers and sisters" to the singular form because only one other person is there. Oddly, the invitation after the washing of the hands, "Pray, brothers and sisters," remains in the plural, probably because of its traditional plural formula in Latin, *"Orate, fratres."*

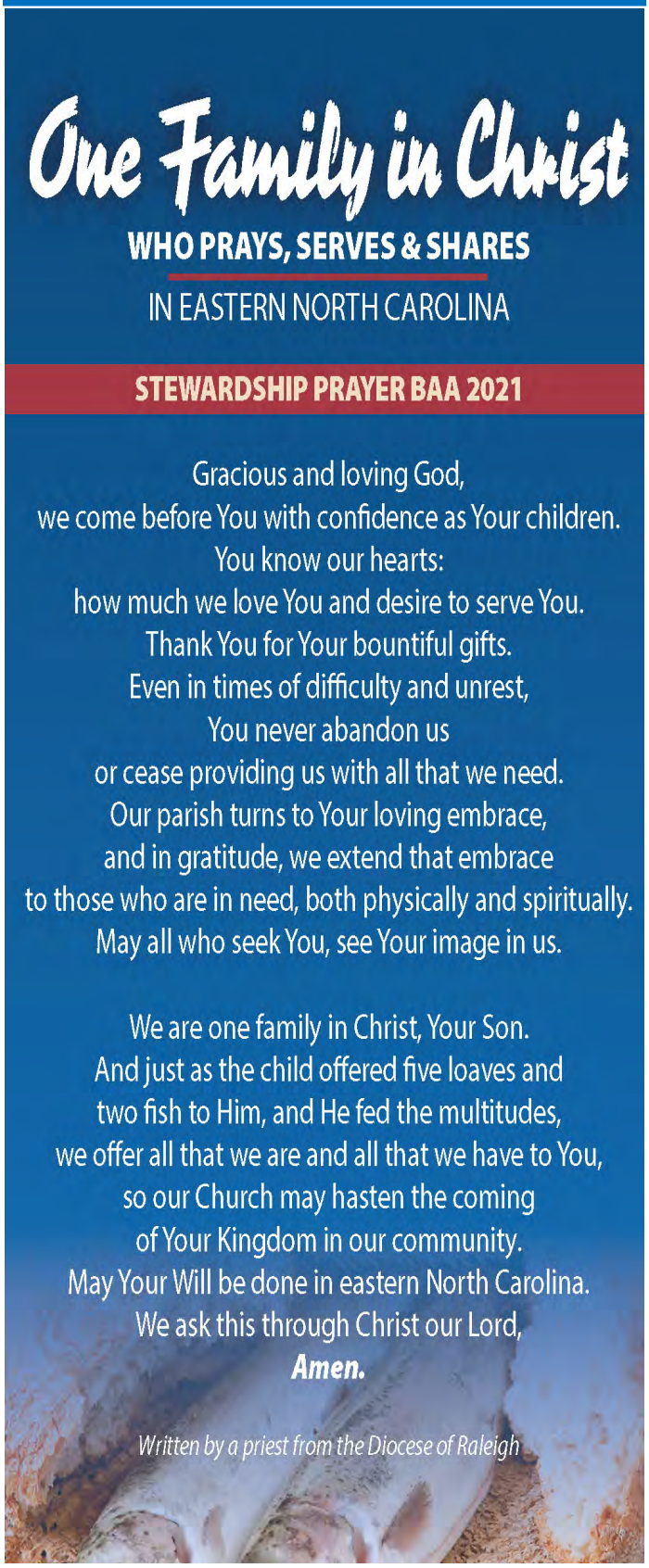
At the breaking of bread, the minister leads the Lamb of God while the priest recites the commingling prayer as he drops part of the host into the chalice. The order of these two prayers is reversed, which strengthens the notion that the Lamb of God is to accompany the breaking of the bread.

If for some reason the minister is not receiving Communion, the priest does not say, "Behold the Lamb of God," but does say, "Lord, I am not worthy."

The occasions for this celebration should be rare, but they do happen, and the Church wishes to ensure that it still conveys the complete meaning and communal nature of the Mass.

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.

ICC has received $86, 755, from 282 households out of 1,039.



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.

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 those currently engaged in this selfless ministry.

2021 Ignited by Truth Events

"Unite Our Nation"

Ignited by Truth Rosary For Our Nation
First Saturdays, February—April 2021

Ignited by Truth is organizing **Rosary For Our Nation** events on First Saturdays in January through April of 2021.

Please join us in reverent and peaceful prayer and singing as we place our beloved nation under the Mantle of Our Lady of Lourdes. Bring your whole family; all are welcome. Event will be held outside the church, so please dress warmly. For more information, please visit: IgnitedByTruth.org

Note: Those attending should plan to follow the Governor's guidelines for social distancing and mask wearing.

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.

Thank You Note

To the members of Immaculate Conception Church,

We received your generous check from February 2021, and want you to know how much we appreciate your assistance and concern for our Federal Point Help Center.

Sincerely,

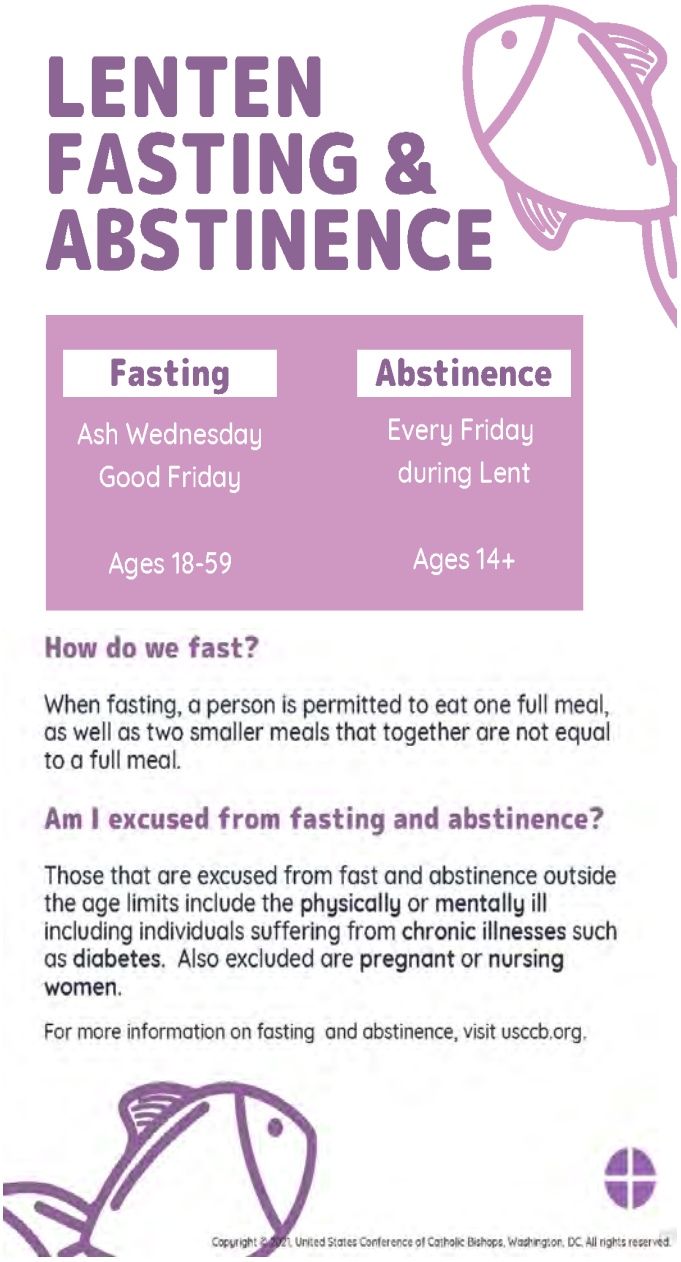
The Help Center of Federal Point

E-Giving Program

e-Giving Program
Reasons to sign up for *e*-Giving

*No need to write checks or bring cash to church.
*More secure than checks.
*Peace-of-mind knowing that the church is receiving your contribution even if you are unable to attend.
*All contributions are recorded for you on your bank statement with date of settlement.

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.,



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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.

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.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

How Does My Gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal Help?

†Builds our faith communities through ministry, education and training in each parish.

†Provides our future Priest with their seminary education.

†Serves thousands of people through Catholic Charities, whose focus is providing the corporal works of mercy to our neighbors in need.

†Creates an environment for our children where they will learn fundamental life values and receive a quality education through our Faith Formation programs and Catholic School system.

Carolina Catholic

For our second show in March, Carolina Catholic interviews Father Stephen Imbarrato, The Protest Priest, a priest associate of Priests for Life, and a priest in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM. In this show, we will talk to Father Stephen about his ministry, On the Road for Life 2021, and his pro-life activism. Father is no stranger to the pain of those who have been involved in abortion; he lost twin children, Thomas and Mary, when he encouraged his former girlfriend to have an abortion in the 1970s, and he was the first man to speak for the Silent No More campaign on the steps of the United States Supreme Court in 2004. Father was in Wilmington on Friday, March 12th, where he celebrated Mass and prayed the Rosary just steps from the local Planned Parenthood abortion clinic with Catholic parishioners from both Wilmington and Southport.

This show will air on Wilmington Catholic Radio on stations 91.7 FM, 93.1 FM, and 103.1 FM in Wilmington, and 100.5 FM in Southport, the third and fourth weekends of March, Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 6 p.m. That's Saturday, March 20th and 27th, at 11 a.m., and Sunday, March 21st and 28th, at 6 p.m. This show can also be heard on our website at www.wilmingtoncatholicradio.com. And as always, we thank you for listening to Catholic radio.

Volunteer Opportunity

Join NC Catholics Volunteer in 2021 to repair and rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Florence here in the Cape Fear Deanery. Trips are scheduled for February 27th, March 27th, April 24th, May 29th, and June 26th.

Over 2 years after Hurricane Florence, many families still have not returned to their homes. All experience levels are welcome to join in helping rebuild our neighbors' homes. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Altenau at Daniel.Altenau@raldioc.org or at 919-821-9767. Spots are limited, so sign up now at www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/NCCV.

HE MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US

The Annunciation and the Gospel of Life

The Annunciation celebrates the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of Jesus. On this great feast day, we not only recall Mary's courageous "yes" to God, we also celebrate the Incarnation of Christ, our Savior. For it was there, in the womb of a woman, nine months before the celebration of the manger, that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

The celebration of the Annunciation coincides with the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). This prophetic document on the dignity and inviolability of every human life was put forth by Pope John Paul II on the Solemnity of the Annunciation in 1995. The intimate connection of these two events highlights a profound reality about the identity and value of every human person.

Luke's Gospel tells us that by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ would be conceived within the womb of Mary. It was there, in the womb of the Blessed Mother, that Christ first took on human flesh and made his dwelling among us. Like us, the unborn child Jesus grew and developed beneath the shelter of his mother's loving heart. Through Christ's Incarnation, God chose to share fully and intimately in our humanity and bridge all distance between God and man, so that we may dwell together.

The Church teaches us that "by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every man."[1] God desired to dwell among us, as one of us, in order to bring us salvation. This truth "reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God... but also the incomparable value of every human person."[2]

Each of us is made in the image and likeness of our Creator, to share in the very life of God himself. This reality "reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life."[3] The human person is "a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory."[4] Created through the love of the Father, each one of us bears "an indelible imprint of God."[5] By sharing in our humanity, Christ invites us to share in his divinity, that we might dwell with him for eternity.

Therefore, "the Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel."[6] Through Christ's descent to earth God desires to raise each one of us to the heights of heaven. May we recognize that to proclaim the Gospel of Life is to proclaim Christ, the one who *made his dwelling among us*.

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1 Pope Paul VI, *Gaudium et spes: Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1965), 22.
2 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), 2.
3 *Ibid.*
4 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 34.
5 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 35.
6 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 2.

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