

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
Business Manager
Director of Faith Formation
Secretary/Bulletin Editor/Registration
Youth Minister
Pastor & Dean, Cape Fear Deanery
Director of Music
Office Manager
Treasury Assistants

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Commission Chairs

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Aaron Bean, Chair Matthew Simms, Vice Chair

Julie Bowling Judy Chmielenski

Angela Zombek

Parish Finance Council

Mike Bollinger, Chair Pete Bartel, Vice Chair Stephen Conroy Paul Dries Bob Smith Andrew Tomlin

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 Chaplet of Divine Mercy to end human trafficking, Thursday - 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 will run for three weeks, space allowing, 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 prerequisite 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 arrangements 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

There Were No Altar Flower Donations for This Week

Sunday, January 7 - Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception

10:30 am
10:30 am
12:00-2:00
2:30-4:00
Liturgy, Catherine McCarthy
Baptism, Bennett John Seivert
JYM/TYM Faith Formation, DFFC
ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

Monday, January 8, 2024

9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 - Feast Day of St. Leonie Aviat

9:00 am Liturgy, Robert Dovichak

Thursday, January 11, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Sunny Oakes

Friday, January 12, 2024

9:00 am Funeral Liturgy, Carmela Carrano

Saturday, January 13, 2024

5:00 pm Liturgy, Joan Mulrain

Sunday, January 14 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception

10:30 am Liturgy, Manuel Torres

No Faith Formation/Activities

Liturgical Color for January 13 & 14 is Green



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

Due to early submission to our bulletin publisher in observance of holiday deadlines, please see the bulletin of January 13 & 14, 2024, for the Stewardship of Treasure Report for all remaining Offertories for the year, up to and including the weekend of January 6 & 7, 2024.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

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

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

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 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., 910-791-1003, ext. 105.

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 Events

January 13, 2024 February 1, 2024 May 11, 2024 June 1, 2024

The Help Center Needs

The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in January 2024:

January 7 Canned meat
January 14 Pasta sauce
January 21 Dry pasta

January 28



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

Jelly (small jars)

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Stewardship Reflection

"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

(Matthew 2:11)

Notice the order of events in the Magis' visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share.

Young Adult Fellowship Ministry

ICC Young Adult Fellowship Ministry

Are you a young adult looking for an opportunity to dialogue with fellow Catholics? The Young Adult Fellowship Ministry offers a uniquely intellectual and personal experience with other young adult members on a variety of topics of faith. We will meet on Sundays at 2:30 pm in the DeSales Faith Formation Center.

For more information, please email or text us:

- Oliver Galbraith: olivergalbraith@gmail.com or text 910-619-3033
- Cliff Turbeville: turbeville_r@lynchburg.edu or text at 910-523-2987



MONDAY

January 8 Baptism of the Lord Is 55:1-11 1 Jn 5:1-9 Mk 1:7-11

TUESDAY

January 9 *Weekday* 1 Sm 1:9-20 Mk 1:21-28

WEDNESDAY

January 10 Weekday 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Mk 1:29-39

THURSDAY

January 11 Weekday 1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45

FRIDAY

January 12 Weekday 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Mk 2:1-12

SATURDAY

January 13 Weekday 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Mk 2:13-17

SUNDAY

January 14 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42



January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Matthew 2:1-12



The Seekers

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

live at a parish in downtown Milwaukee. From my window I watch the world pass by, everyone below in search of one thing or another. Students from the local university seek an education, business folk look for a sale, street people often look for a place to spend the night, teenagers hope to find love. Yet beneath all of those longings, in each one there is a deeper hunger that wonders what life is all about and the hope that they might find it. Hidden amidst it all, the real hunger is for God, a longing sewn into our being, sometimes recognized but too often not

The story of the *Magi* is a story of seekers making their way from afar in hopes of finding the promised one, a newborn king. Perhaps they knew of this child's divine nature, more likely not, yet it was ultimately that same hunger that exists in all of us that drove them, a deep desire to know God.

Every serious religion seeks to experience God in life and tells the stories of those who have done so. There are Christian mystics like St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Ávila, Jewish mystics of the Kabbalah tradition, the Sufis of Islam, Native Americans who go on vision quests, the Hindus who practice yoga, as well as the Buddhists and Taoists and Confucians. Like the Maqi, we all seek to find God.



Reflect.

Does it make sense to you to say that your deepest hunger is for God?

Sacred Art Retreat

Prayer Bowls & Pysanky

The Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC, invites you to come to a sacred art retreat January 12-13, 2024. Make your own kiln-fired prayer bowl with personalized prayer stones. Learn the ancient craft of making pysanky eggs, where the tradition is to pray for the person who will receive your creation as a gift. Spend some time in prayer in the beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces at the center.

Attendance is limited, so register early. For more information, or to register, visit www.catholicconference.org/pysanky, or call us at 828-327-7441, email info@catholicconference.org.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!



Upcoming Salesian Feast Days

January Salesian Feast Days



Wednesday, January 10 - Feast Day of St. Leonie Aviat



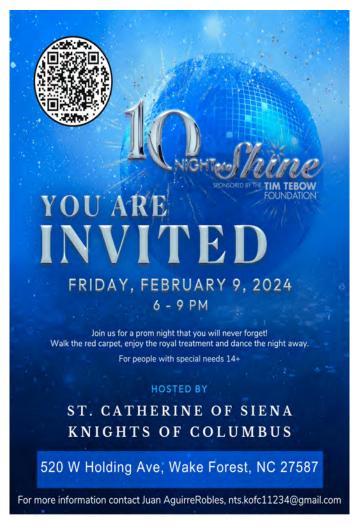
Wednesday, January 24 - Feast Day of St. Francis de Sales

Night to Shine

Night to Shine

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Wake Forest, NC, is very excited to be an official host for this year's Night to Shine, an unforgettable prom night experience centered on God's love for people with special needs, ages 14 and older, and sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. On one night, hundreds of churches of different denominations from all over the world will come together to celebrate people with special needs. To find out how you can be a part of this worldwide movement, please visit www.scswf.org/night-to-shine, or contact Juan Aguirre Robles at nts.kofc11234@gmail.com.

To donate or to register as a guest or volunteer, visit www.scswf.org/night-to-shine. To learn more and see all of the churches that are a part of this worldwide movement, check out www.timtebowfoundation.org.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Enlighten Us

Radiant God,
you are the source of all light and joy.
Illuminate our communities
and show us the way to live in peace
and harmony.
Shower us with knowledge of your
holy will
and grant us courage to manifest
your presence throughout the world.
Help us to bring the Good News
of your life among us
to the ends of the earth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, January 7, 2024 Look Back, Look Forward

Today's readings: Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11, 12–13; Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6; Matthew 2:1–12. Little is known about the three visitors from the East who paid the Holy Family homage. Still we can't help but marvel at their determination to meet Jesus despite the distance and that their only guide was a star.

In many cultures, Epiphany is celebrated with as much festivity as Christmas. The day may be marked with parades, parties, gift-giving, the three kings cake, and holiday meals. Create annual traditions to make Epiphany special in your household. The liturgy offers a house blessing on this day. Inscribe 20+C+M+B24 with chalk on the door frame. It stands for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "let Christ bless this house" and the current year. Custom

attributes the letters to the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Bring the figurines of the three Magi closer to the manger, light candles, and sing your favorite Epiphany and Christmas carols.

The Christmas season ends at sundown on the Baptism of the Lord. This weekend invites us to look back upon our journey since the beginning of Advent. From waiting for the coming of Christ, to welcoming him anew into our lives, and then making a permanent home for him in our hearts, we also traveled far. What new insights did you uncover along the way about the in-breaking of God into humanity? How will your faith journey bring you closer to Christ in the coming year?



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, January 8 The Baptism of the Lord

The Scriptures turn from Christ's infancy to his initiation and mission. At his baptism the Holy Spirit anointed and revealed Jesus as the Son of God. We are invited to ponder our baptism, which welcomed us into the community of the children of God. Pull out baptismal pictures, garments, and mementos, and recall the stories of baptisms in your family. Reach out to godparents and godchildren with a note or a call. Remember our baptismal commitment to keep the light of Christ burning brightly in our lives. *Today's readings: Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7; Psalm 29:1–2, 3–4, 3, 9–10; Acts 10:34–38; Mark 1:7–11.*

January 9—February 13 Ordinary Time

Our six-week journey from the First Sunday of Advent to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord has come to an end, and the Church now enters the season of Ordinary Time. There is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. It is named after ordered or counted time. There are five Sundays, thirty-eight days of time before Lent. Change your prayer space colors to green and reflect on how you hope to grow spiritually in the not-so-ordinary weeks ahead.

Wednesday, January 24 St. Francis de Sales

St. Francis de Sales served the Church in sixteenth-century Europe with his extraordinary gifts of communication about the spiritual life for the laity. He was tenacious in evangelizing through his humility, wisdom, teaching, and eloquent writing. Some of his letters to the faithful are collected in the book *The Introduction to the Devout Life*. Francis de Sales is the patron saint of writers and journalists. *Today's readings:* 2 Samuel 7:4–17; Psalm 89:4–5, 27–28, 29–30; Mark 4:1–20.

Thursday, January 25 Conversion of St. Paul

A brilliant, highly educated Jewish Roman during the first century, Paul was converted from a zealous persecutor of the early Christians to the most prolific and compelling disciple of Christ. Without a doubt, Paul accelerated the growth of the Christian community like no other evangelist. He was beheaded in Rome for his tenacious faithfulness. Read Acts, chapters 9–28, to recall his full story. *Today's readings: Acts* 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22; Psalm 177:1, 2; Mark 16:15–18.

Wednesday, January 31 St. John Bosco

St. John Bosco followed his call to minister to poor and neglected youth in Turin during the early nineteenth century. His patience and compassion for children seemed limitless. He opened a church and a home and school for boys who would otherwise have been without care. He founded the Salesian order, named after his favorite saint, St. Francis de Sales, as well as an order of women to do similar ministry for girls. John Bosco is remembered as the patron saint of children. *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9–17; Psalm 32:1–2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 6:1–6.*

Friday, February 2 The Presentation of the Lord

Today's feast commemorates the purifying of Mary according to Jewish law, forty days after the birth of a male child, as well as the consecration of the child in the temple. This feast is always celebrated with candles (it used to be known as Candlemas) because of Simeon's recognition that in the person of Jesus, God has given us "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people, Israel" (Luke 2:30–32). Prepare a special meal, light candles for the table, and read chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel at prayer time. *Today's readings: Malachi 3:1–4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14–18; Luke 2:22–40.*





Prayer Matters

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Alfred Allongo Drew Baker Gabrielle Baldwin Megan Bardeen Marley Basurto Gail Bean Carol Bigwood Iliana Bouneva Whitney Brenner Barry & Teresa Brighten Christopher Brooks Phyllis Cameron Eva Congleton Susan Craig Debbie D. Margaret Deaton Don DeBragga Marion DeCoursey Patrick Delaney Leslie Dixon Kathy Driscoll Kathleen Estep AC Everett

Tony Farone Mark Reynolds Farrington Judy Faulk Eleanor Flannery Robert Flavin Brenda Floyd Jennifer Freeman Walt & Mary Gable

Keira Gibson Kellie & Lilly Gibson

Kellie & Lilly Gi Sandy Greggs Frank Grissler Dale Guy Louise Hebert Sandra Hobbs Anthony Jenkins Barbara Jezek J.J. Jones

Lauren Kelly Carol Konicki Addison LaCourse Robert LaGoe Tracy Langone

Denise Kassem

Beth Lessard Christine Levy Margaret Lupton Nicholas Lusk Gregg Lysaght Erin Mabry The Maney Family Petar Manolev

Frankie Marcinkiewicz

John H. Martin Teri Massey Connie Mercier

Ernest & Margie Messing

John Montgomery

Bill Moore
Chris Moore
Irene Muccia
Kyle Muccia
Ernie Munoz
Joanne McAteer
Barbara McCann
Denise McGee
Gerald McGovern
Josephine McGovern
Joan McKillop

Ann Noack Kelly O'Connor Edward & Sharon

Edward & Sharon O'Neill

Joanne Owens
John Paulhus
Debra Paulson
Lexie Queen
Anne-Marie Regan
Susan Reynolds
Kerri Schafer
Jonathan Schoo
Beatrice Schultz
Rita & Ralph Seidl
Susan Self

Brian Slater Linda Snow Lesley Stevens David Stiver

Cynthia & Paul Streb Marieange Tribie Rob Verderosa Jack Walsh T. Michael Werner John Weisenreider

John Weisenreider Richard Weisenreider Stephen Weisenreider Maria Woodcock Anita Wynn

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.

Epiphany Chalk

SOME CHRISTIANS bless their homes on Epiphany each year. With chalk, they write an inscription on the inside lintel above the front door. The series of numbers, letters, and crosses changes only slightly from year to year. For example, at the start of the year 2018, the line read as follows: 20+C+M+B+18.

The four digits designating the New Year appear at the beginning and end of the line. In 2010, for example, the last number would have been 10. Because Epiphany comes so near the beginning of the New Year, the numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing.

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing.

The crosses represent Christ, whom we invoke, and the saintliness of the Magi. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing.

The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and patron of the beginning and end of things. This blessing adds a Christian dimension to the traditional observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal Word in this holy season.

If you want to bless your home this Epiphany, read the opening verses of John's Gospel, pray the Lord's Prayer, then write the inscription for this year above your front door with chalk.

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



Our weekly Altar Flowers depend solely on donations from you, our parishioners. We need your help to ensure that we have flowers at all the weekend liturgies.

Fill out this form with the date (s) you would like to donate the Altar Flowers in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event.

The size of the flower arrangement is determined by the number of households that contribute on a given weekend. We accept up to 4 households per weekend. Memorial contributions are \$65.00. Make your check payable to Immaculate Conception Church with "Altar Flowers" written on the memo line.

Place your form and check in an envelope marked "Flowers - Tracey Kruger" and put in the collection basket or drop off during office hours, Mon-Fri, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

"The flowers appear on the earth, the time of pruning the vines has come, and the song of the turtledove is heard in our land."

Song of Songs 2:12

Choose from the following weekends:

Jan 6&	7, 2024 - Epiphany of the Lord	
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_Jan 13 & 14, 2024

Jan 20 & 21, 2024

Jan 27 & 28, 2024

Feb 3 & 4, 2024 - World Marriage Day

Feb 10 & 11, 2024

No Flowers during Lent

Apr 13 & 14, 2024

Apr 20 & 21, 2024

Apr 27 & 28, 2024

May 4 & 5, 2024 - 1st Eucharist

May 11 & 12, 2024 - Mother's Day

May 18 & 19, 2024 - Pentecost

May 25 & 26, 2024 - Most Holy Trinity

June 1 & 2, 2024 - Body & Blood of Christ

June 8 & 9, 2024

June 15 & 16, 2024 - Father's Day

June 22 & 23, 2024

_June 29 & 30, 2024

Name:		_	
Address:			
Phone #:			

Intention: