



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

<u>Title</u>	<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Phone Number & Ext.</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Business Manager	Michele Bean	910-791-1003, Ext. 105	mbean@iccwilm.org
Director of Faith Formation	Gina Drost	910-791-1003, Ext. 112	gdrost@iccwilm.org
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Director of Music	Andrea Reynolds	910-791-1003, Ext. 114	areynolds@iccwilm.org
Office Manager	Claudia Sing	910-791-1003, Ext. 100	csing@iccwilm.org
Treasury Assistants	Johanna Hug & Chris Puritis	910-791-1003, Ext. 107	

Commission Chairs

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

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 pre-requisite for the second grade Sacramental year. We require four meetings for the parents/guardians of youth receiving these Sacraments.

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

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

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

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

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

Funerals: After a funeral director has been contacted but before any 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 Are No Altar Flowers During Lent

Sunday, February 18 - 1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Liturgy, Kay Weninger
10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception

Monday, February 19, 2024

9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Thomas Lowder

Thursday, February 22, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Sunny Oakes
9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, February 23, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Phil Dagnon

Saturday, February 24, 2024

5:00 pm Liturgy, Marie Yandolino

Sunday, February 25 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception
10:30 am Liturgy, Kathleen Fudali

Liturgical Color for February 24 & 25 is Purple



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

February 10 & 11, 2024

Envelopes	167 (Envelopes)	\$ 7,101.00
e-Giving	122	\$ 6,854.00
Loose Check	31 (Checks)	\$ 1,300.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$15,255.00
Loose Cash		\$ 1,399.40
Total Contributions		\$ 16,654.40

Offertory/1st Collection:

Annual Budget: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

\$1,001,640.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1- Feb 11, 2024

\$ 697,556.77

Sanctuary Candle



A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **Jerome Driscoll**, and was donated by **Ann Driscoll**.

Diocesan Second Collection

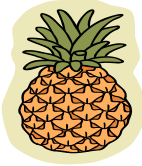
Black and Indian Missions

This week we will take up the Collection for the Black and Indian Mission. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit <https://blackandindianmission.org>.

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

May 11, 2024

June 1, 2024

The Help Center Needs

The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in **February 2024**:

February 4	Mac and cheese
February 11	Beans (not green)
February 18	Cold cereal
February 25	Canned meat



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

It's Hooley Time!

7th Annual Irish Hooley

The Wilmington St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will hold the 7th Annual Irish Hooley on Saturday, February 24, at Waterline Brewing Co. in downtown Wilmington. The event will take place from 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM, and proceeds will be used to cover the costs of the 23rd Annual Wilmington St. Patrick's Day Parade, taking place on Saturday, March 16th. For more information on the Hooley and the parade, please visit the committee website at www.wilmingtonparade.com.

Stewardship Reflection

*"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God..."
(Mark 1:14)*

Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming? It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him to do here on earth. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

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

Lenten Resource

Best Lent Ever

If you're looking for a resource to add to your spiritual practice during the Lenten season, consider BEST LENT EVER from Dynamic Catholic.

By signing up for this free program, you will receive daily inspiration emails that will help you to have a truly life-changing Lent.

Interested? Visit www.dynamiccatholic.com and start your BEST LENT EVER this year.



Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent (B)

Genesis 9:8-15 / 1 Peter 3:18-22 / Mark 1:12-15



MONDAY
February 19
Lenten Weekday
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY
February 20
Lenten Weekday
Is 55:10-11
Mt 6:7-15

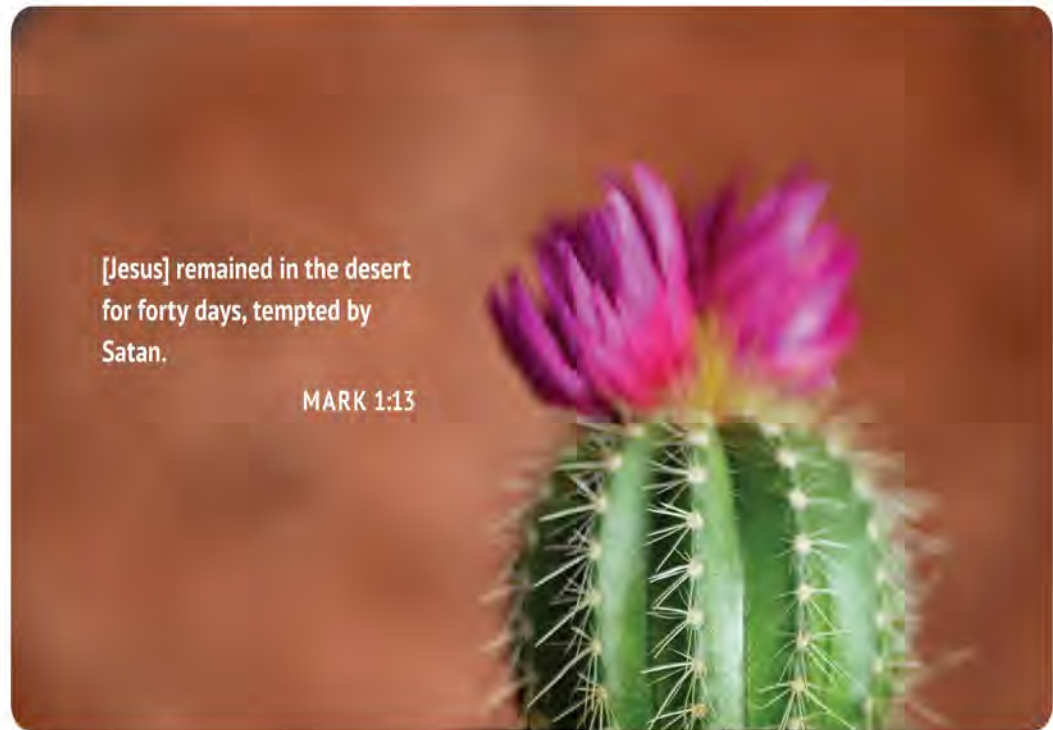
WEDNESDAY
February 21
Lenten Weekday
Jon 3:1-10
Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY
February 22
*Chair of St. Peter
the Apostle*
1 Pt 5:1-4
Mt 16:13-19

FRIDAY
February 23
Lenten Weekday
Ez 18:21-28
Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY
February 24
Lenten Weekday
Dt 26:16-19
Mt 5:43-48

SUNDAY
February 25
*Second Sunday
of Lent*
Gn 22:1-2, 9a,
10-13, 15-18
Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10



[Jesus] remained in the desert
for forty days, tempted by
Satan.

MARK 1:13

A Trek in the Desert

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Deserts come in all shapes and sizes. For Noah, it turned out to be a desert of water, an endless, dreary expanse. For Jesus, it was also without end, one of rocks and sand; it was a harsh existence. In our lives, deserts might be a debilitating illness, a dried-up marriage, grief over lost love, a job that seems to tax our sanity, or a childhood scarred by abuse. Not long ago, the world found itself in a pandemic desert. For many, it was one of cabin fever that isolated us from family and friends. Deserts are not alluring places. They are places from which we tend to run.

Some people deal with the inevitable deserts of life by becoming angry; others grow bitter and turn inward; others blame God and walk away from faith. Yet deserts can also be the very forces that reshape lives. With nothing else to distract us, in the desert we come face to face with ourselves, with who we really are and whose voice it is that we follow. There we take a stand on life, as Jesus did. It was the Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert, and it was there that he realized the future to which he was being called. So also with us. Deserts become places where we discover what God is asking of us and where we need to go, all discoveries that may otherwise never have occurred. In some strange and curious way, then, deserts may be blessings in our lives. ●

Reflect

Have you had a desert experience? How did it reshape your life?

Welcome Our Newest Members

The following households joined our parish community at the January 13 and February 3 Welcome/Orientation Registration Events:

Bucci, Christopher & Donna

Canning, Michael

Cesare, Stephen & Alicia

DeLillo, John & Marie

Maino, Robert, Teresa, & Anna

Pitts, Tammi

Repage, Ray & Kathy

Rimsky, Tammy & Gabriella

Roberts, Julie

Scharenbrock, Joan

Shepherd, David & Jenn

Sweeney, Michael & Stephanie

Weems, Louise

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



Knights of Columbus Corner

K of C St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance



The Knights of Columbus Fr. James E. Waters Council 12017 are hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 16, from 6 pm - 10 pm.!

- Where: Our Lady of Victory Activity Center, located at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Wilmington.
- Food: Corned beef, cabbage, and all of the sides, provided by Middle of the Island Catering.
- Cost: \$50 per person, and only 300 tickets are available, with no walk-ins.
- Soft drinks and ice will be provided, along with beer, wine, and water.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please email tickets@kofc12017.org.

For specific requests (e.g., "as close to the dance floor as possible," or "add us to the O'Sullivan group"), send an email, along with your order number. to the email address listed above.

St. Stanislaus Food Sale

Frozen Food Sale

On Saturday, March 2, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church will host their Easter frozen food sale from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in the church parish hall.



The pierogis, which are imported from our supplier in PA, are available in Potato & Cheese, Jalapeno & Cheese, Sauerkraut, Farmer's Cheese, Cabbage, Cheddar & Bacon, and Spinach & Feta, and are \$10 per package.

Kielbasa from NJ (approx. 1.5 lbs.) sells for \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Kolachi rolls are available in apricot, pumpkin cream cheese, and poppyseed, and are \$10 each.

For more information, please call Rebecca at the St. Stanislaus Parish office at 910-675-2336.

CAPE FEAR DEANERY

LENT

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICES



February 15

11:00am St. Brendan the Navigator
Shalotte
910-754-8544

February 20

7:00pm UNC-W
Wilmington
(910) 792-0507

February 21

7:00pm St. Mark
Wilmington
910-392-0720

February 22

11:00am St. Mark
Wilmington
910-392-0720

7:00pm St. Therese

Wrightsville Beach
910-256-2471

February 28

7:00pm All Saints
Hampstead
910-270-1477

March 5

7:00pm St. Stanislaus
Castle Hayne
910-675-2336

March 6

11:00am Basilica of St. Mary
Wilmington
910-762-5491

March 12

7:00pm Basilica of St. Mary
Wilmington
910-762-5491

March 13

11:00am Sacred Heart
Southport
910-457-6173

7:00pm Immaculate Conception

Wilmington
910-791-1003

March 14 (Spanish)

7:00pm Basilica of St. Mary
Wilmington
910-762-5491

March 19

7:00pm St. Joseph the Worker
Burgaw
910-259-2601

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



In His Mercy

Loving Father,
you sent a rainbow
as a sign of your mercy
and of our relationship with you.
Soften our hardened hearts.
May the mercy that we show others

be a sign that through the waters of baptism
you live in us and that we are your
adopted children.
May our Lenten prayer and sacrifice
fortify us to continue your mission on earth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Abundant Mercy



Today's readings: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15. "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every little creature." With these words, God shows his love as he promises anew to be in relationship with creation. In the reading from the First Letter of Peter, we hear that God saved the eight who were aboard the ark through the waters of the flood and now saves us through the waters of baptism. God, whose love brought us into being, seeks relationship and communion with us. To reconcile us with him, he sent his Son, who prepared for his mission by fasting for forty days in the desert.

During the forty days of Lent, many of us give in to temptation and find ourselves repenting time and again. Knowing that God is merciful and understands our shortcomings, we can always resolve to begin anew. God yearns for relationship with us and does not give up on us.

As one of your Lenten practices, you may have chosen to read the day's Scriptures attentively. Try to approach the readings with fresh eyes willing to allow the text to relate to your life today. Familiar texts can speak to us in the new circumstances, challenges, joys, and sorrows of our lives. All we need is an openness to the Word. God's Word is always relevant.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 19 The Neighbor

In Matthew 22:36–39, Jesus tells the scholar about the two greatest commandments: loving God and loving neighbor. Today’s passage from Matthew depicts how our actions show love for both God and neighbor. Inviting the sheep on his right to the kingdom, the Son of Man recounts that their feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and welcoming the stranger also fed, clothed, and welcomed Christ. When a reminder is needed on how God expects us to treat our neighbor, return to this passage. *Today’s readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8–10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

Tuesday, February 20 Patiently Waiting

Both the psalm and Gospel show us how to pray. Portraying the need for trust, the psalmist sings, “I sought the LORD and he answered me, / delivered me from all my fears.” In the Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that they need to come to God with humility as they pray that his will be done. Instead of expecting instant gratification from prayer requests, keep in mind that God acts in his time, not ours. Be patient and trust; God will not leave you alone. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–7, 16–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, February 21 Grateful Hearts

Jesus comments in today’s Gospel on the generation’s desire for a sign. How many times have you prayed and asked for a sign? Many of us want proof that God will come through for us. Remember that God knows what is best for each of us. During this Lent, seek to discern and appreciate what you have been given and thank God for what he has provided. *Today’s readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, February 22 The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Upon Peter’s assertion that Jesus is the Messiah, we hear Jesus tell Peter that he is the rock upon which the Church shall be built. As Christ’s followers, we too must voice that Jesus is our Savior. Our faith can be the foundation upon which others’ faith can grow. Pope Francis implores us to go out in mission so that through encounters with others, the Church will grow. Our faith is not a secret but a wonderful gift. This Lent, how will you contribute to strengthening the foundation of the Church? *Today’s readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4–6; Matthew 16:13–19.*

Friday, February 23 Continuing the Mission

On the optional Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr, the Church recalls a second-generation Christian who was a disciple of the apostle John. Before St. Polycarp was burned at the stake, he put his trust in God. He was unafraid of what would happen to him. Pray to be able to trust that God is with you, no matter the trial you face. *Today’s readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, February 24 Learning to Love

“If you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?” we hear in today’s Gospel. To love without conditions can be difficult. Yet this is what Jesus asks from us. When we have been wronged, it is tempting to seek revenge. Yet, Jesus shows us a higher path. Instead of revenge, Jesus loves everyone and instructs us to forgive. What would it mean for you to love your enemy and to forgive someone who has hurt you? *Today’s readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*



K of C Scholarship

College Scholarship for Future Saints

Cape Fear Deanery parishes, with Knights of Columbus Msgr. Christopher Dennen Assembly 2017 administrative support, will be awarding **\$4,000 Gold** award, **\$3,000 Silver** award, and **\$2,000 Bronze, plus \$1,000 across Honorable Mentions**, award scholarships to Catholic students enrolling for the first time in a college or university beginning in Fall 2024. The student must demonstrate academic proficiency for college admission and identify some service to church, school, or their local community. The winners will be discerned by the Knights of Columbus Scholarship for Future Saints Committee members.

To apply for the scholarship, **a student must fill out a one-page application**, write an essay on the spiritual journey of a saint, and provide the requested biographical information. The application is available on our parish website and social media or can be obtained by emailing the Scholarship Chairman at scholarship@kofc2017.org. Applications must be **emailed by May 30, 2024**.



JOIN US FOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Monday's 9:30 am in the Church

February 19- Mary's way of the Cross March 4- Praying with Pope Francis

March 11- The Way of the Cross, Ondrla March 18- The Way of the Cross with St. Francis de Sales

Please join us to learn about valuable community resources and best practices for caregivers supporting people living with Alzheimer's Disease or other dementias.

February 24 & 25, 2024

LifeCare Memory Partners will provide a brief overview of their no-cost services for caregivers at the beginning of the 5pm (Saturday), 8:30am, and 10:30am (Sunday) liturgies. They will be available for Q&A during and immediately after liturgy.

March 2, 2024

Normal vs Not Normal Aging

Join us for an in-depth education session to provide caregivers with valuable information in recognizing when certain changes in behaviors or actions may indicate a memory loss as opposed to signs of normal aging.



**LifeCare
MEMORY
PARTNERS**



Immaculate Conception Parish Mission 2024
All Through Love Nothing Through Fear



Discovering the Best in People

Monday, February 26 at 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM

In a culture of mistrust and divisiveness, how do we maintain our faith and hope. We do so by discovering the best in people. This presentation and discussion will focus on the "human encounter," how to welcome others for who they are and as they are, how to accept differences in one another, and how to engage one another in healthy dialogue without demonizing the other.

Accepting and Extending God's Mercy

Tuesday, February 27 at 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM

Come explore the Gospel stories of the blind man named Bartimeaus (Mark 10: 46-52) and the tax collector Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10) and discover the secrets to accepting and extending God's mercy. We will spend time reflecting how Bartimeaus came to accept God's mercy and discover how we can learn to accept God's mercy in our lives. Also, we will spend time reflecting on the conversion story of Zacchaeus and discover how he came to extend the mercy of Jesus to others. How do we take that intimate experience of God's mercy and forgiveness and share it with other people?

To register please go to our website www.ICCWILM.ORG and click on the banner link.

If you have any questions, please contact Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation, at gdrost@iccwilm.org or by phone at 910-791-1003, ext. 112.

Prayer Matters

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Steven Astriakis	John Lyons
Charles Babinski	Gregg Lysaght
Drew Baker	Erin Mabry
Gabrielle Baldwin	The Maney Family
Megan Bardeen	Petar Manolev
Marley Basurto	Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Gail Bean	John H. Martin
Carol Bigwood	Teri Massey
Iliana Bouneva	Connie Mercier
Whitney Brenner	Ernest & Margie Messing
Barry & Teresa Brighten	Bill Moore
Christopher Brooks	Chris Moore
Phyllis Cameron	Irene Muccia
Eva Congleton	Kyle Muccia
Susan Craig	Ernie Munoz
Debbie D.	Maurice Murphy
Margaret Deaton	Joanne McAteer
Don DeBragga	Barbara McCann
Marion DeCoursey	Denise McGee
Patrick Delaney	Gerald McGovern
Leslie Dixon	Josephine McGovern
Kathy Driscoll	Joan McKillop
Carol Dubin	Ann Noack
Kathleen Estep	Kelly O'Connor
AC Everett	Edward & Sharon O'Neill
Tony Farone	Joanne Owens
Judy Faulk	John Paulhus
Eleanor Flannery	Debra Paulson
Robert Flavin	Martin Plage, Jr.
Brenda Floyd	Lexie Queen
Jennifer Freeman	Anne-Marie Regan
Walt & Mary Gable	Susan Reynolds
Keira Gibson	Kerri Schafer
Kellie & Lilly Gibson	Jonathan Schoo
Sandy Greggs	Beatrice Schultz
Dale Guy	Rita & Ralph Seidl
Don & Gloria Harris	Susan Self
Louise Hebert	Brian Slater
Sandra Hobbs	Lesley Stevens
Anthony Jenkins	David Stiver
Barbara Jezek	Cynthia & Paul Streb
J.J. Jones	Marieange Tribie
Denise Kassem	Pat Tyson
Lauren Kelly	Rob Verderosa
Carol Konicki	Jack Walsh
Addison LaCourse	T. Michael Werner
Robert LaGoe	John Weisenreider
Tracy Langone	Richard Weisenreider
Eileen Lavelle	Stephen Weisenreider
Beth Lessard	Maria Woodcock
Christine Levy	Anita Wynn
Margaret Lupton	
Nicholas Lusk	

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

Lenten Adoration

Why an Hour of Adoration?

Jesus, the Lord, is waiting for you. He is inviting you to spend time growing closer to him. He says, "Come to ME and I will refresh you." Why not spend some special time with Him this Lent in Adoration?

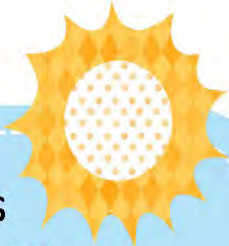
Adoration takes place every Tuesday morning from 9:30—10:30 in the church. Come for all or any part of the hour.



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- ♦ Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- ♦ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- ♦ Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- ♦ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- ♦ Fast from worries and have trust in God
- ♦ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
- ♦ Fast from pressures and be prayerful
- ♦ Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
- ♦ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
- ♦ Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- ♦ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen



Home Works Summer Mission

A group of 20 teens will be traveling to Fayetteville, NC on June 16– 21, 2024 to take part in a week long session that offers service projects that are prayerful and spiritual in nature. Home Works' activities focus on providing repairs to homeowners in need, assisting youth in their development, and empowering communities to meet the needs of its members. To learn more about the program, you can visit their website at www.homeworksofamerica.org.

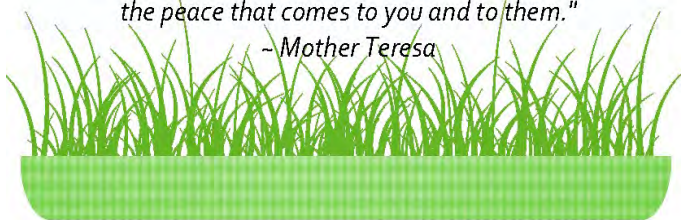
The cost of the trip is only a \$200 dollar donation, and assistance is available. If you are interested in attending, a non-refundable \$50 deposit with completed registration forms should be turned into Marie Marshall, Youth Minister, in the Parish Office. You can only secure a spot with your registration and the deposit, and it is first come first serve! Registration forms are available through the Youth Ministry Office.

Sponsoring a Youth

Can't go, but still want to help out? The \$200 registration fee may be out of the budget for some interested families. If you would like to help sponsor a youth for this trip (partially or fully), or would like to contribute to the overall cost of this mission, please let Marie Marshall know today at mmarshall@iccwilm.org or 910-791-1003x110!

*"Works of love are always works of peace.
Whenever you share with others, you'll notice
the peace that comes to you and to them."*

~ Mother Teresa



2315



1659

SOUPER BOWL

3974

TOUCHDOWN!!

On behalf of our Youth Ministry Program, thank you to everyone who helped to make our Souper Bowl of Caring an enormous success. Our goal this year was 2,400 cans, but this parish community exceeded our expectations and have set a new INCREDIBLE record.

2,703 cans were donated by our parishioners, exceeding our record last year. An additional donation of 1,271 cans were made by other individuals to push us past the stretch goal of 3,400 cans set by our youth.

All of the cans collected have been distributed to The Help Center and Sister Isaac Outreach to serve those in our community who are most in need of a warm, full belly.

A special thanks to the Knights of Columbus Council #1074 for stepping up and helping to deliver all 9,974 cans to these amazing outreach facilities.

As promised to our youth ministry participants for meeting (and exceeding) their stretch goal Youth Minister, Marie Marshall, in celebration of the smashing success of this year's soup drive will be shaving her head. Thank you for your continued support of our youth and our at risk community!

If you know of a company or organization who would like to partner with our Youth Ministry Program next year to make our Souper Bowl even more super for those who face food insecurities, Marie Marshall, Youth Minister, would love to speak to you! Please contact her in the parish office at 910.791.1003 ext. 110 or mmarshall@iccwilm.org

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

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

- 1. Remember the formula.** The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.
- 2. It's a time of prayer.** Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.
- 3. It's a time to fast.** With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.
- 4. It's a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."
- 5. It's about dying to yourself.** The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.
- 6. Don't do too much.** It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.
- 7. Lent reminds us of our weakness.** Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.
- 8. Be patient with yourself.** When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.
- 9. Reach out in charity.** As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.
- 10. Learn to love like Christ.** Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.