



# 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](http://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 &amp; Ext.</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Business Manager	Charlie DaVolio	910-791-1003, Ext. 105	cdavolio@iccwilm.org
Director of Faith Formation	Gina Drost	910-791-1003, Ext. 112	gdrost@iccwilm.org
Secretary/Bulletin Editor/Registration	Tracey Kruger	910-791-1003, Ext. 102	tkruger@iccwilm.org
Youth Minister	Marie Marshall	910-791-1003, Ext. 110	mmarshall@iccwilm.org
Pastor & Dean, Cape Fear Deanery	Rev. John McGee, OSFS, VF	910-791-1003, Ext. 106	jmcgee@iccwilm.org
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)  
 Charlie DaVolio (Facilities)  
 Gina Drost (Faith Formation)  
 Mary Swack (Inreach)  
 Position Open (Outreach)

### Parish Pastoral Council

Matthew Simms, Chair     Julie Bowling, Vice Chair  
  
 Mike LaBruno     Caroline Paulhus  
  
 Susan Taylor     Angela Zombek

### Parish Finance Council

Pete Bartel, Chair  
 Stephen Conroy  
 Paul Dries, Vice Chair  
 Connor Duncan  
 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  
**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 Are No Altar Flowers During Lent

### Sunday, February 22—1st Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Walsh Culkin  
 10:30 am Liturgy, Frank Fisher  
 12:00–2:00 Youth Faith Formation, DFFC  
 2:30–3:30 The Athanasius Center, DFFC

### Monday, February 23, 2026

- 9:30 am Rosary/Novena

### Tuesday, February 24, 2026

- 9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

### Wednesday, February 25, 2026

- 9:00 am Liturgy, C. Anita Wynn

### Thursday, February 26, 2026

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Louise Hebert  
 9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

### Friday, February 27, 2026

- 11:00 am Funeral Liturgy, Ann Noack

### Saturday, February 28, 2026

- 3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church  
 5:00 pm Liturgy, Ken Burda

### Sunday, March 1—2nd Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Robert Trombley  
 10:30 am Liturgy, Bernard Meyer  
 12:00–2:00 Level 4 Parent Workshop, DFFC  
 2:30–3:30 The Athanasius Center, DFFC

*Liturgical Color for February 28 & March 1 is Purple*



### Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **Rose Valentine Smith**, and was donated by **Virginia Nohe**.

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

### February 14 & 15, 2026

Envelopes	143 (Envelopes)	\$ 5,678.00
e-Giving	245	\$10,432.64
Loose Check	38 (Checks)	<u>\$11,647.00</u>
Identifiable Contributions		\$27,757.64
Loose Cash		<u>\$ 1,431.00</u>
Total Contributions		\$29,188.64

### Offertory/1st Collection:

**Annual Budget: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026**

**\$1,165,000.00**

**Total Collected YTD: July 1– Feb 15, 2026**

**\$ 803,213.61**

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

## Diocesan Second Collection

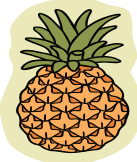
### Black and Indian Missions

This weekend 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 8:30 am).

#### The Next Welcome Events

March 7, 2026

June 6, 2026

## The Help Center Needs

### The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in **February 2026**:

February 1	Pasta
February 8	One- can meals
February 15	Rice
February 22	Ramen noodles/Cup 'O Noodles



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

## Stewardship Reflection

*“It is written: ‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.’”  
(Matthew 4:10)*

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other ‘gods’ we have put before God.

## Ways to Give at ICC

### Donating at ICC

Donations may be made via check or debit/credit card. Please make checks payable to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and write the collection on the memo line. For debit/credit cards, scan the QR code on the front cover of the Breaking Bread book, or visit the parish website at [www.iccwilm.org](http://www.iccwilm.org). You can also set up regular electronic giving by going to the parish website, or by contacting Business Manager Charlie DaVolio at 910-791-1003, ext. 105 or [cdavolio@iccwilm.org](mailto:cdavolio@iccwilm.org).



**JOIN US FOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Mondays 9:30 am in the Church**

Feb 23 -The Way of the Cross-Kelly  
Leader: Joe Mazur

March 2- Praying the stations with  
Pope Francis Leader: Susan Taylor

March 9- The Way of the Cross- Ondrla  
Leader: Phyllis Filgate

March 16- Mary's Way of the Cross  
Leader: Gina Drost

March 23 -The Way of the Cross with  
St. Francis de Sales Leader: Mike Weir

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 / Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 / Matthew 4:1-11



"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil."

MATTHEW 4:1



## Jesus for the Win

MIGUEL DULICK

**T**he account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play. Pope Francis insisted, "Don't talk to the devil!" Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he's had plenty to eat—"every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus "test" his Father by jumping off the "parapet of the temple" (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5-7.) You don't play God, and you don't play with God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We'd do the bread; we'd do the jump; we'd definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It's a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan "destroys" her! And Adam, too. If they didn't sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an "overflow" of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that's what Lent is about—a flood of grace. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

### Reflect

**What grace do I pray for this Lent—for myself and for someone who is struggling?**

© 2026 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS • A MINISTRY OF THE REDEMPTORISTS • IMAGE: MAXIM IBRAGIMOV / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 23	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Second Sunday of Lent
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Is 55:10-11	Jon 3:1-10	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	Ez 18:21-28	Dt 26:16-19	Gn 2:1-4a
Mt 25:31-46	Mt 6:7-15	Lk 11:29-32	Mt 7:7-12	Mt 5:20-26	Mt 5:43-48	2 Tm 1:8b-10
						Mt 17:1-9

### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

**Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!**

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025



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 **2,800** cans, but the winter storm put a damper on that when we had to cancel liturgies the weekend prior. However, our amazing parish community rose to the occasion, and we are no less thrilled and excited with the support that we received.

All of the cans collected have been distributed to The Help Center, Sister Isaac Outreach, and Catholic Charities (approximately 700 cans each) 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 load and deliver the cans to two of these amazing outreach facilities. This project would not be possible without their continued and appreciated support.*

If you know of a company, business, 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](mailto:mmarshall@iccwilm.org)

## 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



## 2026 COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP



sponsored by  
Cape Fear  
Deanery



Knights of Columbus

[KofC2017.org/scholarship](http://KofC2017.org/scholarship)

The **Cape Fear Deanery Parishes and Knights of Columbus** are excited to offer the **2026 Collegiate Scholarship** for graduating high school students! If you are a **registered parishioner** in the Cape Fear Deanery, this is your chance to earn up to **\$4,000** to support your college journey. Submit your application, including a biography, essay, and high school transcript, by **Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM**. Don't miss this opportunity—visit [Kofc2017.org/scholarship](http://Kofc2017.org/scholarship) or email [scholarship@Kofc2017.org](mailto:scholarship@Kofc2017.org) to **apply today!**

## Lenten Family Project



## Meals in a Bag Lenten Family Project

“Meals in a bag” are simple, budget-friendly meal kits. Each bag contains everything needed for one complete meal for four people, and are shelf-stable items like pasta, canned vegetables, beans, rice, or packaged proteins. These meals are designed to be affordable, easy to assemble, and require minimal cooking skills or equipment.

As part of our Faith Formation Family Lent Event, our families will be assembling meal bags for donation to The Help Center and Catholic Charities. By assembling these bags, we support local food pantries and neighbors in need while gaining a deeper understanding of how communities work together to help one another. We just need our parishioners to help by donating the items we need.

We will be collecting these items over the weekends of  
March 14 & 15 and 21 & 22.

If you're able to donate a single item, or an entire meal kit, your support is greatly appreciated! Please remember, these items should be shelf-stable, and can be found at Dollar Tree as well as any grocery store.

### Individual Items Needed

Black Beans  
Canned Chicken  
Canned Diced Ham  
Carrots  
Chili Seasoning Packet  
Cream of Chicken Soup  
Cream Style Corn  
Diced Potatoes  
Diced Tomatoes  
Diced Tomatoes & Green Chiles  
Evaporated Milk  
Garlic & Herb Biscuit Mix  
Green Beans  
Kidney Beans  
Mixed Vegetables  
No Bean Chili  
Pasta Sauce, 24 oz

Pinto Beans  
Small Pasta  
Spanish Rice  
Tomato Sauce  
Whole Kernel Corn

***Want to shop a whole bag?  
Here's what you'll need for the  
heartiest meals we're  
assembling!***

### Creamy Chicken & Dumplings

1 Box of Garlic & Herb Biscuit Mix  
2 cans of Chicken  
1 can of Cream of Chicken Soup  
1 can of Evaporated Milk  
1 can of Mixed Vegetables  
1 can of Diced Potatoes

### Homestyle Ham Chowder

2 5 oz. cans Diced Ham  
1 can Diced Potatoes  
1 can Whole Kernel Corn  
1 can Cream Style Corn  
1 can Cream of Chicken Soup  
1 can Evaporated Milk

### Cheesy Chicken and Rice Soup

1 large can of Chicken  
1 can Black Beans  
1 can Whole Kernel Corn  
1 can Diced Tomatoes & Green Chiles  
1 package Spanish Rice

*\*bags and certain additional ingredient items have already been acquired*

## The Athanasius Center



Did you know that we have a Catholic ministry that welcomes people of all religious denominations to gather and discuss theological topics impacting personal and global

life? We are *The Athanasius Center*, and we welcome you to join us to share and explore ideas. All men and women, ages 18 and up, are welcome. We meet on Sundays from 2:30—3:30 pm in the DeSales Faith Formation Center, located on the campus of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

For more information, please email or text us:

- **Oliver Galbraith:** [olivergalbraith@gmail.com](mailto:olivergalbraith@gmail.com) or text 910-619-3933
- **Julianna Breit:** [julianna.breit@gmail.com](mailto:julianna.breit@gmail.com) or text at 910-338-8802

You can also find us on social media:

- **Instagram Name:** [athanasius\\_center](#)
- **Whatsapp QR code:**



Besides our Sunday meetings, the Athanasius Center also offers the following activities, which are hosted at the homes of participating members:

- **Book Club: Christianity Through the Centuries - 1st Friday of the Month at 7:00PM**
- **Bible Study: 3rd Friday of the Month at 7:00PM**

## Homeworks 2026



### Home Works Summer Mission

A group of 20 teens and adults will be traveling to Fayetteville, NC on June 14–19, 2026 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](http://www.homeworksofamerica.org).

The cost of the trip is a \$200 dollar donation, which will be covered this year through the generosity of the parishioners of ICC. If you are interested in attending, a non-refundable \$50 deposit with completed registration form 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! If you are unable to make the deposit, please reach out to Marie - no one will be turned away for inability to pay. Registration forms are available on the parish website and through the Youth Ministry Office.

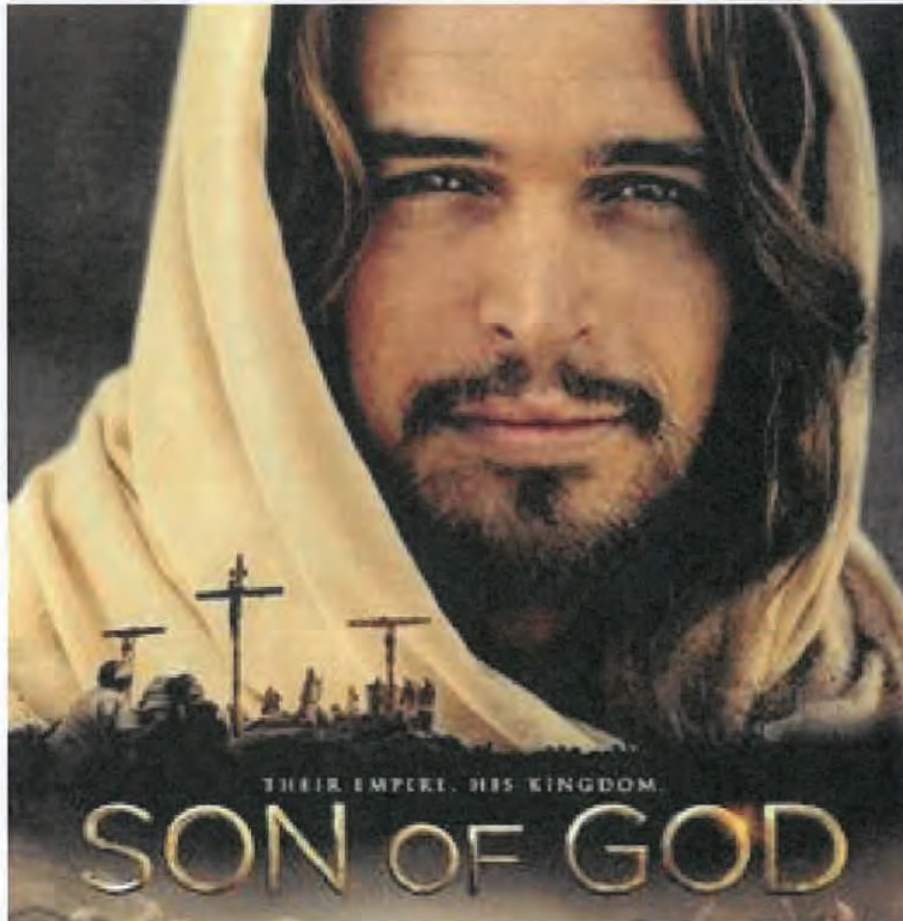
### Sponsoring a Youth

Want to help out? The 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](mailto:mmarshall@iccwilm.org) or 910-791-1003x110!



## ICC Lenten Retreat

Immaculate Conception Lenten Retreat  
Saturday March 14, 2026



All ages welcome.

Doors open at 9am for coffee and light refreshment.

Movie begins at 9:30am. Discussion following

Free admission, however registration is required  
online at [iccwilm.org](http://iccwilm.org) or contact Gina Drost, Director  
of Faith Formation.

## Prayer Matters

*Please remember the following people in your prayers:*

Herbert Aiken	Julia Macdougall
Margaret Ager	The Maney Family
Kelly Avgerinos	Petar Manolev
Denise Barnes	Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Marley Basarto	Sonia Martin
Iliana & Maria Bouneva	Teri Massey
Lee Bowling	CJ Miley
Barry & Teresa Brighten	Diane Miller
Julie & John Bussi	Chris Moore
Terry Cashen	Irene & Kyle Muccia
The Casiere Family	Barbara McCann
John Clavin	Ed McCann
Christine Coco	Paul McCauley
Eva Congleton	Leah McDaniel
Joe Craig	Denise McGee
Margaret Deaton	Maura McGoldrick
Marion DeCoursey	Joan McKillop
Bertha Dennard	Loretta McManus
Leslie Dixon	Maureen McNally
Judith Dreisbach	Vince McNally
Kathy Driscoll	Anne Obermeyer
Skip & Charlotte Fairall	Edward O'Neill
Robert Flavin	Joanne Owens
Jennifer Freeman	John Paulhus
Mary Gable	Debra Paulson
Jim Gallagher	Camden Peterson
Keira Gibson	Natalina Pittari
Donna Glisson	Martin Plage, Jr.
Brenda Grainger & Family	Lexie Queen
Sandy Greggs	Alice Radewicz
Lisa Plarre Griffith	Susan Reynolds
Maureen Hayes	Ken Rowe
Sandra Hobbs	Tom Russell
Linda Hogan	Patti Schacht
Ruth Hohmann	Jonathan Schoo
Marcia Horvath	Beatrice Schultz
Pam Hulst	Misty Moore Seals
Ann & Don Hutton	Rita & Ralph Seidl
Dan Janusek	Bob Smith
Theresa Jeffers	Fr. Greg Spencer
Dwayne Jessup	Lorraine Stattel
Denise Kassem	Cynthia & Paul Streb
Tom Lakas	Luanne Styron
The Lancaster Family	Christopher Swan
Tracy Langone	Ginny Tascone
Gene Laskowski	Mike Temple
Eileen Lavelle	Marieange Tribie
Riley Liberati	Jack Walsh
Darryl Lindner	John Weisenreider
Margaret Lupton	Diane Wiegand
Dianne Lusk	Jim Wirth
Nicholas Lusk	
John Lyons	

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

## Catholic High School Information

### Fr. Thomas F. Price Catholic High School

Fr. Thomas F. Price Catholic High School, located at the Tileston Building at the Basilica of St. Mary in Wilmington, has officially launched!

Applications for admission for the 2026-2027 school year are now being accepted. For more information, or to apply, please visit <https://www.ftpch.s>.

## Born to Eternal Life

*Please remember in your prayers the following people:*



**Joyce Maguire**, parishioner. Condolences may be sent to Joyce's family via her daughter, Meghan Maguire, at 4810 Whitner Dr, Wilmington, NC 28409-2067.



**Connie Mercier**, parishioner. Please remember Connie and her family in your prayers.

## Volunteer with Catholic Charities



## Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh - Cape Fear Region

### Clean Start Mobile Laundry Training

Join us as we serve our neighbors through our mobile laundry trailer. Providing more than clean clothes—we are able to create a welcoming, compassionate space where every guest is treated with dignity.

**March 3, 2026**

**2pm-4pm**

**5<sup>th</sup> Flood Conference Room at the Harrelson Center**  
Once registered will share details for parking!



Contact [Layla.Perez@ccharitiesdor.org](mailto:Layla.Perez@ccharitiesdor.org) for questions!

## 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.

# Cape Fear Deanery

## LENT

### Communal Reconciliation Services



---

---

#### February 17

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

#### February 19

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

#### February 24

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

#### 7:00pm St. Stanislaus

Castle Hayne  
910-675-2336

#### February 25

7:00pm St. Joseph *Bilingual*  
Burgaw  
910-259-2601

#### February 26

7:00pm St. Therese  
Wrightsville Beach  
910-256-2471

#### March 3

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

#### March 4

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

#### 7:00pm All Saints

Hampstead  
910-270-1477

#### March 10

7:00pm Immaculate Conception  
Wilmington  
910-791-1003

#### March 12

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

#### 7:00 pm Sacred Heart *Bilingual*

Whiteville  
910-642-3895

#### March 19

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

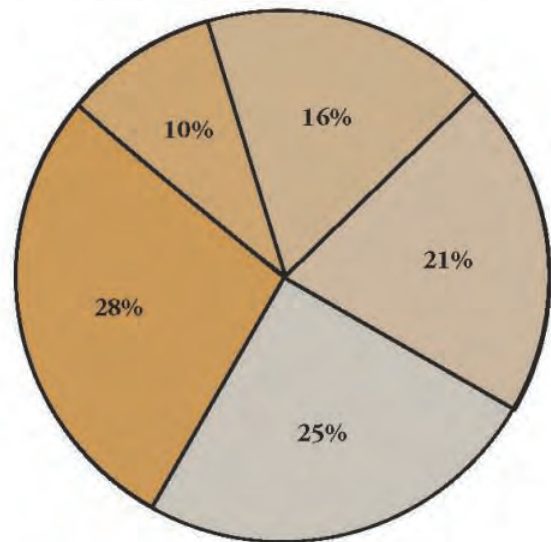
## 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal

ICC Goal—\$150,556



### *The Goal* **\$8.5 Million**

Through the Bishop's Annual Appeal, the Diocese of Raleigh aims to raise \$8.5 million to strengthen faith, serve those in need, and support our parishes and ministries. Every contribution helps sustain vital programs that educate, care, and build community across eastern North Carolina.



- 28% Christian Formation and Education
- 25% Catholic Charities
- 21% Parish Support and Community Service
- 16% Seminarians and Vocations
- 10% Catholic Communication



**BISHOP'S  
ANNUAL APPEAL**  
DIOCESE of RALEIGH

# ALTAR FLOWERS

## January to June 2026

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 3 & 4, 2026 - Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 10 & 11, 2026 - Baptism of the Lord
- Jan 17 & 18, 2026
- Jan 24 & 25, 2026
- Jan 31 & Feb 1, 2026

- Feb 7 & 8, 2026
- Feb 14 & 15, 2026 - World Marriage Weekend

**No Flowers during Lent**

- Apr 18 & 19, 2026
- Apr 25 & 26, 2026

- May 2 & 3, 2026 - 1st Eucharist
- May 9 & 10, 2026 - Mother's Day
- May 16 & 17, 2026 - The Ascension of the Lord
- May 23 & 24, 2026 - Pentecost
- May 30 & 31, 2026 - Most Holy Trinity

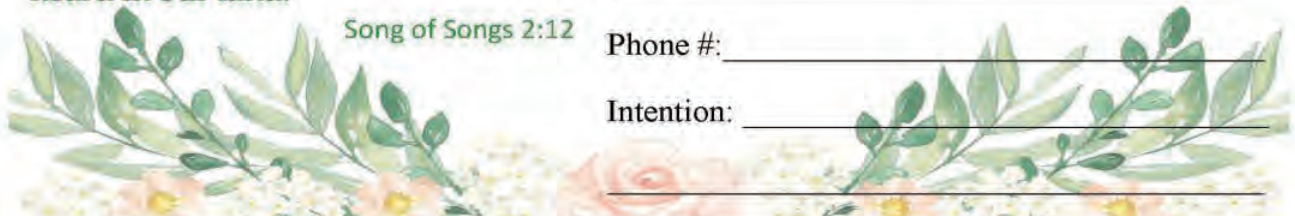
- June 6 & 7, 2026 - The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
- June 13 & 14, 2026
- June 20 & 21, 2026 - Father's Day
- June 27 & 28, 2026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Intention: \_\_\_\_\_





**ELECTRIC & MORE**



**(910) 520-6218**

[www.power2youelectric.com](http://www.power2youelectric.com)

**DAMIEN'S PAINT AND BODY SHOP**



**910-200-1784**

[WWW.DAMIENSPAINSHOP.COM](http://WWW.DAMIENSPAINSHOP.COM)  
727 S 18TH ST  
WILMINGTON, NC

**HVAC StarPlus**  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

2109 Capital Drive  
Suite 100  
Wilmington, NC 28405

**910-509-7107**



**910-791-5432**

Effective Long Term Pest Control in  
Wilmington & Surrounding Areas



**MALLORY'S ARMY**  
Foundation

United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...  
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!

[www.MallorysArmy.com](http://www.MallorysArmy.com)  
(973) 440-8657 | [info@mallorysarmy.org](mailto:info@mallorysarmy.org)

It's easy to join our mailing list!

Just send your email address by text message:  
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.



**ACUT ABOVE TREE EXPERTS**  
(910) 232-2000

[ACUTABOVETREEEXPERTS.COM](http://ACUTABOVETREEEXPERTS.COM)

SEAN GAINES  
OWNER/OPERATOR



Accurate, Reliable &  
Convenient  
Tax Preparation  
And Business  
Services



Visit our website to  
learn more!

[www.atax.com/atax](http://www.atax.com/atax)  
[masonborocommons](https://www.facebook.com/masonborocommons)

**YEAR ROUND SERVICES**

Bookkeeping • Tax Preparation  
Incorporations • Payroll • Free Itins  
6400 Carolina Beach Rd. Unit 7, Wilmington, NC 28412  
Phone: 910-221-5444 • [vlosito@atax.com](mailto:vlosito@atax.com)

Owned & Operated by Carolina Beach residents, Vince & Kim Losito,  
who each have extensive accounting & finance experience.



appreciate

thank you

support

SPONSORS

Welcome  
to Our Church!



Check out the latest offerings by your  
bulletin sponsors by downloading our app

FREE  
DOWNLOAD!



**Denise Garry**  
Cruise Specialist  
Aqua Odyssey Travel

Lenoir, NC 28645  
908-887-0720

[denisegarry823@icloud.com](mailto:denisegarry823@icloud.com)

Book a  
cruise &  
get a \$50  
credit!



**Dignity**  
MEMORIAL

Coble Funeral & Cremation Services at  
Greenlawn Memorial Park

**910-791-4444**

[www.coblegreenlawn.com](http://www.coblegreenlawn.com)



**American Red Cross**

Someone Needs You!

**VOLUNTEER**  
and make a difference.



**WORSHIP**  
With Us



**This Space is Available!**

**800-333-3166 ext. 161**

[www.jpcc.net](http://www.jpcc.net)

IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

S

A

M

I

STOP

ASK

MATCH

INFORM

Ask #WHATSMYNAME  
BEFORE YOU GET IN A RIDE SHARE



**INCREASE YOUR  
VISIBILITY IN THE  
COMMUNITY**

Place Your Ad Here  
to Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME**  
**Kathy Zechello**

[kzechello@jpcc.net](mailto:kzechello@jpcc.net)  
(774) 245-9057



**Dr. Brian P. Ford**  
 Family Dentistry (Parishioner)  
 3418 South College Rd., Wilmington, NC 28412  
 (Pine Valley Area)  
**910-791-8770**  
*Welcoming New Patients*

**ROGER LANDSCAPES**  
 Lawn Maintenance  
 Pruning & Shrub Trimming  
**Call Roger at**  
**910-269-9224**  
 stretton@charter.net

**Julia K. Eskander, CPA**  
 www.eskandertax.com  
 jkcpa@eskandertax.com  
 (910) 399-5713  
 (910) 840-3858  
 4018 Shipyard Blvd Suite A1  
 Wilmington NC 28403

A stunning New Continuing Care Retirement Community  
 right on the Intracoastal Waterway  
**TRINITY LANDING**  
 LAND HERE. LIVE HERE. LOVE IT HERE!  
 5450 Trinity Landing Way • Wilmington, NC • 910-398-9400 • www.trinitylanding.net

**Andrews**  
 MORTUARY & CREMATORY  
*Est. 1850*  
 1617 Market St., Wilmington NC 28401  
 910-762-7788 | www.andrewsmortuary.com

**THE ACCENTS ON US**  
 Professional Estate Sale Services  
 For Over 10 Years!  
**Donna Ciccarelli**  
 Set-Up • Photography • Advertising • Appraisals  
 donna@accentsonus.com  
**949-686-8854**

**Advertise Your Business Here**  
**800-333-3166**  
 ext. 161  
 www.jpcc.net

**newWay POOLS**  
 Celebrate your life  
 6501 Carolina Beach Rd  
 Wilmington, NC  
 www.newwaypools.com

**Knights of Columbus**  
 Consider joining the over 2 million members of the largest, lay Catholic order in the world by signing up today at:  
**kofcnc.org/ncc**

**FITNESS TREE SERVICES, INC**  
 Michael Connaughton  
 Owner/President  
 ISA Certified Arborist  
 Call or Fax **(910) 343-8016**  
 VISA/MC/AMEX  
 FitnessTree@gmail.com  
 www.FitnessTreeServices.com  
 6411 Carolina Beach Rd.  
 Wilmington, NC 28412

**JULIA'S FLORIST**  
 900 S. Kerr Ave.  
 Wilmington, NC  
**910-395-1868**  
 www.juliasflorist.com

**Faith | Family | Fraternity**  
 FOR A LIMITED TIME  
 FREE ONLINE MEMBERSHIP  
 use promo code:  
 BlessedMcGivney  
 Wilmington, Council 1074

**Rhine ... Law Firm, P.C.**  
 Parishioner Ruth Sheehan, Esq.  
**910-772-9960**  
 1612 Military Cutoff Rd, Suite 300  
 Wilmington, NC 28403

**Helping fellow parishioners with purchases and refinances for over 30 years!**  
 Call/Text me at **919.608.5316** for your primary, second, or rental home mortgage needs.  
**Central Bank | Mortgage** NMLS# 407985

**STORMGRADE ROOFING**  
 3819 Park Ave., Suite B  
 Wilmington, NC  
**910-524-8577**  
 YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A NEW ROOF!  
 www.stormgraderroof.com

**catholicmatch®**  
 New Hampshire  
 CatholicMatch.com/dateNH

**PIZZA SUSHI BAR BAKERY Optician's CHINESE TEA SHOP**  
**BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY - Shop Local -**  
**PATRONIZE THE ADVERTISERS WHO MAKE THIS BULLETIN POSSIBLE!**

**OUR SPONSORS & OUR COMMUNITY**  
 Sponsors can offer promotions, discounts and/or up-to-date contact information to the **ENTIRE** community  
**Finding FABER**  
**ANYONE** in the community, not only Parishioners, can access realtime offers from their favorite sponsors to save, share & support