



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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| 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)
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 25 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception
- 10:30 am Liturgy, Kathleen Fudali
- 12:00-2:00 Elementary Faith Formation, DFFC
- 12:00-2:00 Level 3 Parent Workshop, DFFC
- 2:30-4:00 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

Monday, February 26, 2024

- 10:00-11:00am All Through Love: Discovering the Best in People
- 6:30-7:30pm All Through Love: Discovering the Best in People

No Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

- 10:00-11:00am All Through Love: Accepting & Extending God's Mercy
- 6:30-7:30pm All Through Love: Accepting & Extending God's Mercy

No Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Artemio S., Florencia E., & Francisco E. Montenegro

Thursday, February 29, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Joe & Joan Carbone
- 9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, March 1, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Dennis Styczynski

Saturday, March 2, 2024

- 5:00 pm Liturgy, Nick Burton

Sunday, March 3 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Carmela Carrano
- 10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception
- 12:00-2:00 JYM/TYM Faith Formation, DFFC
- 2:30-4:00 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

Liturgical Color for March 2 & 3 is Purple



Sanctuary Candle

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

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

February 17 & 18, 2024

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Envelopes | 167 (Envelopes) | \$ 9,587.00 |
| e-Giving | 150 | \$14,211.17 |
| Loose Check | 24 (Checks) | \$ 1,300.00 |
| Identifiable Contributions | | \$25,098.17 |
| Loose Cash | | \$ 1,376.00 |
| Total Contributions | | \$26,474.17 |

Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Envelopes | 69 (Envelopes) | \$ 1,080.00 |
| e-Giving | — | \$ — |
| Loose Check | 13 (Checks) | \$ 350.00 |
| Identifiable Contributions | | \$ 1,430.00 |
| Loose Cash | | \$ 2,501.00 |
| Total Contributions | | \$ 3,931.00 |

Black & Indian Missions

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Envelopes | 100 (Envelopes) | \$ 1,543.00 |
| e-Giving | 7 | \$ 130.00 |
| Loose Check | 3 (Checks) | \$ 115.00 |
| Identifiable Contributions | | \$ 1,788.00 |
| Loose Cash | | \$ 789.00 |
| Total Contributions | | \$ 2,577.00 |

Offertory/1st Collection:

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

\$1,001,640.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1– Feb 11, 2024

\$ 718,802.44



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**:

- March 3 **Chef Boyardee**
- March 10 **Canned fruit**
- March 17 **Small bags of rice**
- March 24 **Pasta sauce**
- March 31 **Beans (not green)**



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

Stewardship Reflection

**“Here I am!” he answered.
(Genesis 22:11)**

It is easy to say, ‘Here I am, Lord,’ when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say, ‘Here I am, Lord,’ when a neighbor needs our help, or when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Oftentimes we are called when it is not convenient for us.

Discipleship is not easy - most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

Movie Night at St. Mark’s

A Man for All Seasons

A Man for All Seasons tells the story of the esteemed British statesman, Sir Thomas More, a devout Catholic, who stood by his religious principles in the face of political pressure by refusing to petition the Pope into annulling the marriage of King Henry VIII of England, in order that he may marry Anne Boleyn with the aim of producing a male heir. When King Henry breaks faith with the Bishop of Rome and forms the Church of England, Thomas must choose obedience to the King of England or the King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

The screening will take place on Saturday, March 2, from 7:30—9:30 pm in the St. Mark Parish Hall. Pre-registration is not required, but is recommended. Refreshments will be served. Admission to the movie is free, but donations are appreciated.

FAITH ON FILM SERIES

FREE ADMISSION

“I DIE HIS MAJESTY’S GOOD SERVANT, BUT GOD’S FIRST.”

COLUMBIA PICTURES
FRED ZINNEMANN’S
A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
Directed by ROBERT BOLT
WENDY HILLER, LEO MAREK, ROBERT SHAW, ORSON WELLES, SARAVALI YOKA
...PAUL SCOFFIELD
<http://kale2024.org/index.php/register>

SCAN TO REGISTER

Saturday, 2 March 2024
7:30 PM

1011 Eastwood Rd. Wilmington, NC 28403, Parish Hall
120 minutes. Rated G | Refreshments will be served.

ST. MARK
CATHOLIC CHURCH OF WILMINGTON, NC

BY THE DOOR AND LEAD PEOPLE TO SHOW AND GIVEING OFFER

MONDAY
February 26
Lenten Weekday
Dn 9:4b-10
Lk 6:36-38

TUESDAY
February 27
Lenten Weekday
Is 1:10, 16-20
Mt 23:1-12

weDNEsDAY
February 28
Lenten Weekday
Jer 18:18-20
Mt 20:17-28

THURSDAY
February 29
Lenten Weekday
Jer 17:5-10
Lk 16:19-31

FRIDAY
March 1
Lenten Weekday
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

SATURDAY
March 2
Lenten Weekday
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

SUNDAY
March 3
Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
1 Cor 1:22-25
Jn 2:13-25

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 / Romans 8:31b-34 / Mark 9:2-10



Transfigurations in a Mutilated World

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

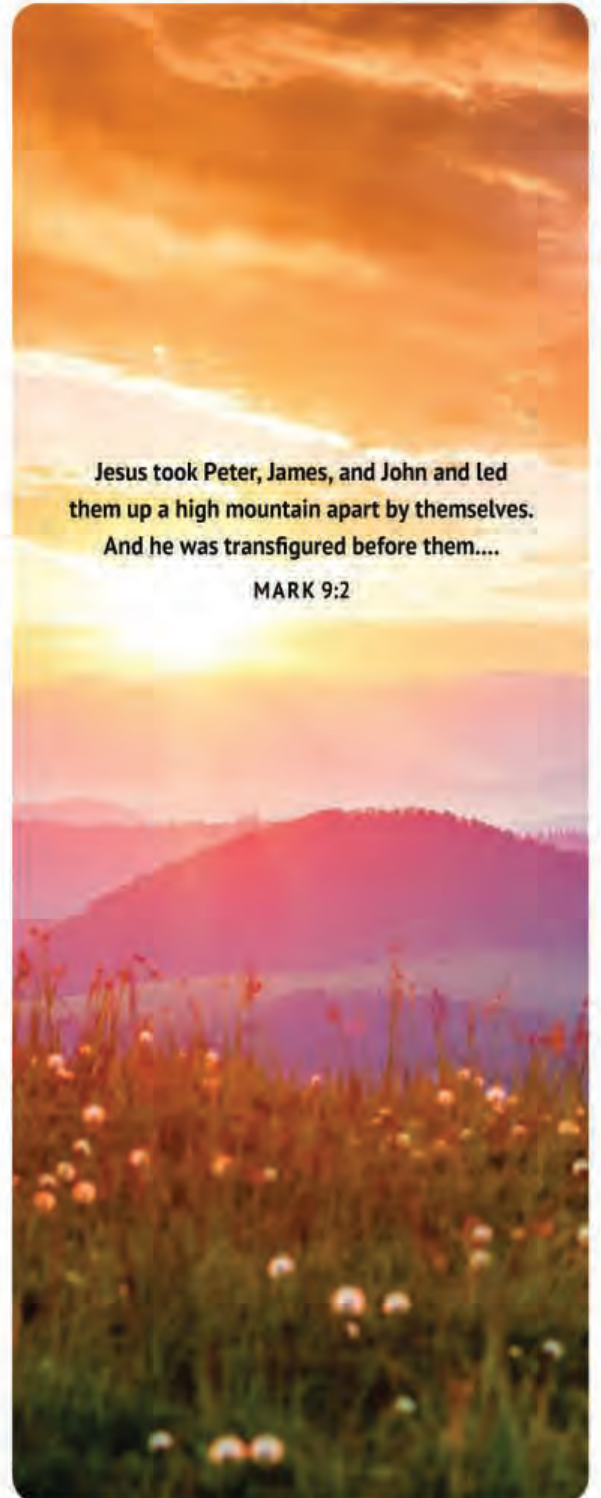
I' ve never met anyone who thought today's story in Genesis of Abraham and Isaac to be a good story. Abhorred, they ask, "Why would God test someone by asking him to sacrifice his son?" But what if we change the question and ask, "Why would the Hebrew people include that story in their most holy writings? Why would they tell it over and over?" Because of the ending—that's why. Like a movie we watch over and over even though we know how it ends, we watch it, in part, because the ending is satisfying.

The ending of the Abraham/Isaac story shows God is not interested in death and human sacrifice, contrary to the gods of that time. The God of the Hebrews is a God of Life—that's the surprise ending they love, and they keep telling it over and over lest they forget. For them, the part about the testing is simply a means to that unbelievable ending when God insists upon life, contrary to false gods.

In his poem "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," Adam Zagajewski writes of life's Godly moments in a world we have mutilated by violence, greed, division, and more. He muses on tender moments when we fall in love, on laughter until our sides hurt, on nature's dazzle, on the sweet taste of wine—all simple moments of a life-giving God transfigured in a mutilated world, for our God insists upon life. ●

Reflect

Remember and give thanks for the moments of this past week that made you smile.



Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them....

MARK 9:2

Lenten Adoration

Lenten Hour of Adoration

Come experience the joy and blessings of spending quiet time with Jesus, sharing your heart's desires, longings, sufferings, and joys.

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

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

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
- **Clint Turbeville:** turbeville_r@lynchburg.edu
or text at 910-523-2987



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



I Surrender

Loving Father,
I come before you,
asking for your mercy.
May my faith be as strong
as that of Abraham.
Grant me steadfastness this Lent,
in my pursuit of a deeper prayer life.
Free me from obstacles
that keep me from you.
May I find peace in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 25, 2024
Continued Change

Today's readings: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10. In today's Gospel, Peter, James, and John glimpse Jesus' glory as he is transfigured before them on the mountaintop. Peter, intent on staying at the site of their beatific vision of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, suggests that three tents be made. "Rabbi, it is good that we are here," he tells Jesus.

Each week we participate in a mystery as we take part in Sunday Mass. There, as the Eucharistic Prayer is prayed, the bread and the wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. But the elements of bread and wine are not all that are transformed during the liturgy. In the Eucharistic Prayer, it is also prayed that we "may become one body, one spirit in Christ." When we are especially attentive to the prayers,

songs, and gestures of the liturgy, we may say to ourselves and one another, "It is good that we are here." Transformed by the liturgy, we leave the church to bring the presence of Christ and the Word of God into the world.

Just as the apostles could not stay with Jesus on the mountaintop, the faithful cannot remain in the church. As the Second Vatican Council's *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* states, "The renewal in the eucharist of the covenant between the Lord and his people draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire." Our mission, as we leave the liturgy, is to testify to God's love, bringing hope to those facing difficult times. We make Christ known as we accompany others.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 26

Forgiven

“Forgive and you will be forgiven,” Jesus tells his followers in today’s Gospel. As Jesus preaches mercy, he explains that the actions of others will reflect our actions. Only if we are willing to forgive will we be forgiven. During this week, consider whom you need to forgive and from whom you need to request forgiveness. *Today’s readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8–9, 11, 13; Luke 6:36–38.*

Tuesday, February 27

A Just, Humble Life

Both the first reading and the Gospel today give instructions on how to live. In the reading from Isaiah, the Lord instructs “to make justice your aim,” aid the orphan and widow, and right wrongs. Jesus tells his followers to live with humility. “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” When we do good things, we should not seek recognition. Today, strive to forward the kindnesses you have received. That might be done by buying coffee for a coworker, assisting a friend, or doing another’s chore. Such acts can be testimonies of God’s love. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21, 23; Matthew 23:1–12.*

Wednesday, February 28

Distractions

Today we are reminded of what we are preparing for: Jesus’ passion, death, resurrection, and ascension. During this season we make promises of things we will sacrifice, yet sometimes we become distracted. We are being called to transform our hearts and our lives for the service of our Lord. Today sit with your family and discuss how all can remain attentive to the message of God. What are some of the distractions in your life? How can you overcome them? *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.*

Thursday, February 29

Making Good Choices

The Gospel from Luke today presents the story of the rich man who ignored the needs of the poor man lying at his door. After death, the poor Lazarus lived in comfort while the rich man was in torment. Our daily choices can lead us to God or away from God. Consider whose needs you ignore while allowing yourself to eat your fill. *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 16:19–31.*

Friday, March 1

Families

In today’s account of Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob, we see an example of jealousy building among brothers until they sell Joseph to foreigners. The eleven brothers appreciated neither their father’s preferential treatment of Joseph nor their brother’s dreams and wanted to be rid of him. Are there unresolved tensions in your family that are eroding relationships? Examine whether you play a part in the harm or healing in this family dynamic. *Today’s readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.*

Saturday, March 2

The Love of God

It is no secret the lengths to which God goes to show us his love. We know he wants to be in relationship with us, but sometimes we are reluctant. The moment we say yes to the relationship, God showers us with many blessings. The psalm tells us that God overlooks shortcomings and forgives sins. Today recite the psalm, and with each verse, pause to feel the love and presence of God. *Today’s readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.*



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, Ondria 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.

LENT: MORE OR LESS?


| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Less Noise, | More Quiet, |
| Less Self, | More Prayer, |
| Less Food, | More Fasting, |
| Less Ignorance, | More Reading, |
| Less Talking, | More Listening, |
| Less Television, | More Family, |
| Less Coldness, | More Warmth, |
| Less Anger, | More Patience, |
| Less Gossip, | More Reverence, |
| Less Selfishness, | More Generosity, |
| Less Blindness, | More Awareness, |
| Less Envy, | More Compliment- |
| | ing, |
| Less Jealousy, | More Acceptance, |
| Less Sitting, | More Exercise, |
| Less Fear, | More Trust, |
| Less Hesitation, | More Courage, |
| Less Me, | More them, O Lord, |
| Less Me, | More You, O Lord, |

Amen.

(An excerpt from Fr. John's homily on Ash Wednesday 2018)

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

Thank You Notes



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



Dear Father John and the members of ICC,

You honor the Megan Cajigas Education Foundation (MCEF) with your support. We can't thank you enough for your generosity. Your gift of \$250.00 will be used to support children needing assistance in order to attend pre-school.

A pre-school education unlocks the door to future life and learning experiences. Most families we encounter have educational wishes for their children and are thrilled to be able to give their child this experience.

We wish to express our gratitude for your generous and consistent donation. Your wisdom in this matter allows us to continue our mission for families in need of tuition.

*God bless,
Ed Kaczynski
MCEF Scholarship*

Dear Father McGee,

Your steadfast support of Nativity Prep's 20th Anniversary Gala as a dedicated sponsor is nothing short of amazing. We're truly grateful for your generous contribution of \$500, which is a powerful blessing to our school and our young men.

But here's the real magic: your support isn't just about money. It's about igniting the flames of potential and a brighter future in our students. The 20th Anniversary Gala ensures that no young man is ever turned away from Nativity Prep due to financial barriers.

You're not just a supporter; you're a key player in our mission to empower young minds. Your belief in our cause is a beacon of hope. So thank you for your incredible commitment to Nativity Prep. With the continued support of our wonderful community, we'll be able to welcome even more deserving young men and offer them the education and opportunities they deserve.

*Sincerely,
Mary Patricia Weidner
Director of Development*

Bishop's Annual Appeal



— A MESSAGE FROM —

BISHOP LUIS ZARAMA

“ As your Bishop, I have the privilege to serve our entire diocese. I have the pleasure of celebrating mass at our biggest church, Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, but also at some of our smaller rural parishes, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

This is the beauty of who we are. How diverse, how rich, and how wonderful we are. What makes our Diocese as vibrant as it is, is us working together, each one of us in our own parishes has different needs.

I knock on the door of your parish and your heart, to help us with the Bishop's Annual Appeal. ”

“ This year we celebrate 100 years of our amazing diocese. Your kindness today will help us shape the future of our diocese tomorrow. Thank you for your love. Thank you for your prayers. And thank you for your generosity. May God Bless you. ”

† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh

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