



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
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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, 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

Monday, March 4, 2024

- 9:30 am Stations of the Cross
No Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

- 9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Thursday, March 7, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, John Ferroli
- 9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, March 8, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Katrina Bouchard

Saturday, March 9, 2024

- 5:00 pm Liturgy, Nick Burton

Sunday, March 10 - 4th Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception
- 10:30 am Liturgy, Karen Kass
- 12:00-2:00 Elementary Faith Formation, DFFC
- 12:00-2:00 First Eucharist Parent Workshop, DFFC
- 12:00-2:00 TTRPG Session, DFFC
- 2:30-4:00 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

Liturgical Color for March 9 & 10 is Rose



Sanctuary Candle

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

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

February 24 & 25, 2024

Envelopes	168 (Envelopes)	\$ 6,961.00
e-Giving	81	\$ 3,508.00
Loose Check	37 (Checks)	<u>\$ 6,681.66</u>
Identifiable Contributions		\$17,150.66
Loose Cash		<u>\$ 1,260.00</u>
Total Contributions		\$18,410.66

Offertory/1st Collection:

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

\$1,001,640.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1- Feb 25, 2024

\$ 737,245.00

Born to Eternal Life

Please remember in your prayers the following people:



Walsh Culkin, former parishioner. Condolences may be sent to Walsh's wife, Carole, at 67 Hilton Ave, Apt. C5, Garden City, NY 11530-2801.



**Time to spring forward!
Daylight Savings Time
Begins Next Sunday,
March 10, 2024**

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 **March 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

*“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything.”
(Exodus 20:4)*

How many ‘gods’ do you put before God? ‘Idols’ do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort, or health. Pray for God’s help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

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
FILM OF
A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
with ROBERT BOLT
WENDY HILLER, LEO MAREK
ROBERT SHAW, ORSON WELLES,
SARAH JORDAN
...PAUL SCOFFIELD
<http://kale200.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 ASCENSION

BY THE DOORS AND LEAD PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE GOD BETTER

MONDAY
 March 4
Lenten Weekday
 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab
 Lk 4:24-30

TUESDAY
 March 5
Lenten Weekday
 Dn 3:25, 34-43
 Mt 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY
 March 6
Lenten Weekday
 Dt 4:1, 5-9
 Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY
 March 7
Lenten Weekday
 Jer 7:23-28
 Lk 11:14-23

FRIDAY
 March 8
Lenten Weekday
 Hos 14:2-10
 Mk 12:28-34

SATURDAY
 March 9
Lenten Weekday
 Hos 6:1-6
 Lk 18:9-14

SUNDAY
 March 10
Fourth Sunday of Lent
 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
 Eph 2:4-10
 Jn 3:14-21

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17 / 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 / John 2:13-25



Spring Cleaning Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When Jesus cleansed the temple, he cleared it of all the sacrificial animals and foreign coins that cluttered that holy place. He also shifted the focus of where we find God made present—from a building to himself. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Saint Paul tells us that we, too, are God’s temple because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. So it makes sense that Jesus also wants to clear our lives of all that clutters them so that we might grow in his image.

Such decluttering happens when youthful freedom and partying are left behind because we hear some inner call to settle down and contribute to life. It happens when young couples begin to raise a family and trade in sporty cars and fashionable lifestyles for baby furniture and SUVs. It happens in middle age when in the midst of building a life we change the blueprint. The weight of illness will shift our perspectives as well, when worries about life’s details turn dispensable because what we once thought was important becomes clutter in need of being cleared out.

None of this comes about because of some user manual for daily living, but rather because we sense an invitation from Jesus to reassess our lives—to join him in clearing out the clutter in order to take care of what is essential. It is a strange sort of wisdom that flows from a source deeper than ourselves. If not for that powerful force of God’s Spirit clearing the temples of our lives, we would never become the people God created us to be. ●

Reflect

What might be cluttering your life right now?



While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23

Lenten Adoration

Asked by the Lord: ONE HOUR

“Could you not keep watch for one hour?”

On the night before Christ’s death, during the Lord’s agony, in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord spoke these words to Simon Peter. Jesus had found Peter asleep.

Can YOU keep watch with Jesus, your loving Savior, for one hour, or part of one hour, this Lent? You may be surprised what the Lord will give you in return.

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

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.

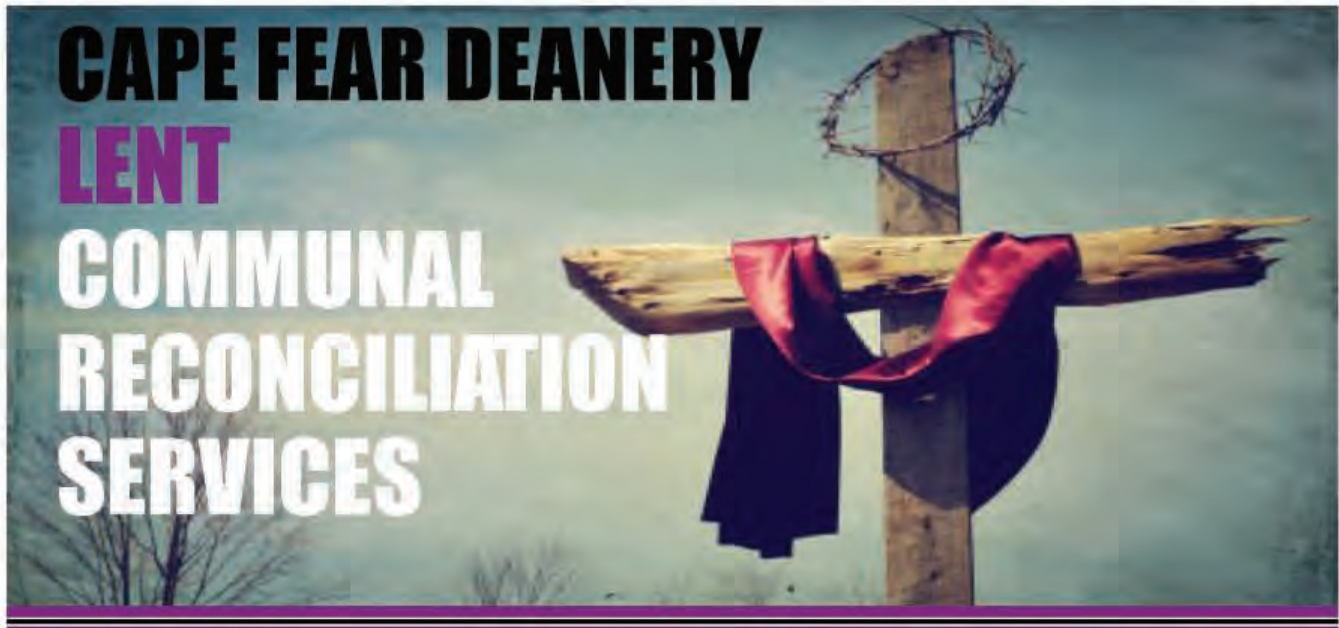
For specific requests (e.g., “as close to the dance floor as possible,” or “add us to the O’Sullivan group”), send an email, along with your order number. to the email address listed above.

Diocesan Second Collection

Catholic Relief Services

Next week our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ’s love to those most in need.

Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



Journey With Me

Lord God,
fill my heart with love,
so that I can see you in others
and recognize them as the temples
in which you reside on earth.
May your spirit guide my every step.

In my struggles,
give me strength and courage
so that I will be steadfast in faith
as I continue my journey.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Renewed Temples



Today's readings: Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22–25; John 2:13–25. Lent is a time for interior and exterior cleansing. Jesus was outraged when he saw what was taking place in the temple. The moneychangers failed to show reverence for the house of God when they used it as a marketplace. While some could not understand Jesus' overturning of the moneychangers' tables, the disciples recalled the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me." Jesus' reaction to the sales in the temple make it apparent that such zeal was missing from others.

In baptism, we become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Our consideration of Christ's care for the temple in Jerusalem is an opportunity to reflect on how we care for all human beings, who are made in the image and likeness of

God. Do we treat them with the dignity that a child of God deserves, remembering each person is sacred?

Just as you show concern for others, you need to care for yourself. How do you care for your interior life? Do you seek reconciliation with God through the sacrament of penance? Do you take to heart that God's mercy is for you as well as for others? In the remaining weeks of Lent, be especially attentive to the words of the penitential act. During this part of the Mass, the faithful may pray the Confiteor, after which the priest calls on God's mercy. The other option is for the faithful to pray the Kyrie, saying, "Lord, have mercy / Christ have mercy" to the priest's invocations. Seeking mercy, our zeal for God is apparent.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 4 Faith and Humility

When Jesus is asked to perform signs in his hometown as he did in other places, he refuses, saying, “No prophet is accepted in his own native place.” Jesus accepted that his former neighbors would not believe and so did not seek to prove himself. Sometimes we face humbling situations; we, too, do not need to prove ourselves. It is necessary only to accept that all we have is by the grace of God. *Today’s readings: 2 Kings 5:1–15ab; Psalm 42:2–3; 43: 3–4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 5 Love and Kindness

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells Peter that he must forgive another “not seven times but seventy-seven times.” From that instruction, we may ascertain that we are to forgive over and over again. Such forgiveness is an act of kindness, one which any of us would hope to receive after our own transgression. When wronged, we have an opportunity to create enmity or to nurture love. Who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to request forgiveness? *Today’s readings: Daniel 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6, 7bc, 8–9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 6 Praise the Lord

“Praise the Lord, Jerusalem,” we sing today in the refrain for Psalm 147. In recognizing all that God has done, the psalm is a reminder that prayers of praise should be part of our prayer life. During these remaining weeks of Lent, schedule a time at the end of the day to recall the ways that God has blessed you. Compose your own prayer of praise and thanksgiving. You might include today’s refrain in your prayer. *Today’s readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 7 Soften Your Hearts

In the reading from Jeremiah, the Lord speaks of how his people have ignored his voice and his commands. The Lord tells the prophets: “But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their hearts.” Hardened hearts are still noticed, as people are concerned with many things. Efforts can be made to soften hearts. Today, tell someone that God loves him or her, and that you do too. Do not expect a response. *Today’s readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 8 Listen with Your Heart

Sometimes we ask questions when we already know the answer. Are we hoping for a different answer from what we know is from God? The third week of Lent is winding down. Have you committed to a process of transformation? Have you set aside time for discernment and reflection? As the Lenten season continues, take courage and listen with your heart. *Today’s readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14, 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 9 Spring Cleaning

The phrase “Practice makes perfect” is kept in mind while seeking to improve performance. In today’s readings, we hear that God desires our love and mercy, not our sacrifice. Each season of the liturgical year is a new opportunity to grow in our love for God and others and to learn to be generous with our mercy. Lent’s emphasis on penitence and baptism is an invitation to discard what keeps us from God and bring to the fore those practices that conform us to the promises of our baptism. Some might call this an interior spring cleaning. *Today’s readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*



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.



Thank You Note

Dear Fr. John and the Members of ICC,

Thank you very much for your wonderful "Souper Bowl" soup drive that recently took place. Your tremendous donation of soup was well over one thousand cans!

Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated, and we thank you for helping us feed our neighbors in need.

Sincerely,
The All-Volunteer Staff of the Help
Center of Federal Point



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, Ondra

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

Ignited by Truth

Ignited by Truth Conference

Get ready for the annual Ignited by Truth Catholic Conference! Join us on April 26-27, 2024, at NC State's Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh for an unforgettable experience.

Friday night praise and worship for ALL ages (in partnership with Franciscan University at Steubenville) is led by Chika Anyanwu, Dana Catherine, and Fr. Ian Van Heusen. Saturday brings Mass with Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama, Confession, Adoration, Church relics, and a focus on Eucharistic miracles. Our speakers include Fr. Donald Calloway, Msgr. Stephen Rosetti, and Fr. Lawrence Carney. Deacon Ralph Poyo will MC and share insights on the power of Jesus and forming a personal relationship with Him.

Adult admission for both days is just \$25. Students ages 10 - college age are FREE, with food provided for both days. For tickets, please visit IgnitedByTruth.org, or call 919-789-1428.

26-27TH APRIL

IGNITED BY TRUTH
2024 CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
26th Annual

- Experience Mass with Bishop Zarama and Confession with numerous diocesan priests.
- Listen and talk to our fantastic speakers.
- See your friends & grow your children's faith.
- Be moved in Adoration or with saintly relics.
- Say a Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet with over 1000 fellow Catholics.
- Learn more about your Catholic faith.

Don't Miss This Unforgettable Event!

FR. DONALD CALLOWAY ST. JOSEPH Author of <i>Disciplines of the Heart</i> Coadjutor to St. Joseph and Chancellor of the Diocese	FR. LAWRENCE CARNEY THE ROCKY MOUNT Author of <i>The Love of the Holy Eucharist</i> (Jedediah)	MSGR. STEPHEN ROSETTI "SPIRIT OF WARFARE" Founder of <i>Warfare</i> IC, Head of the St. Michael Center for Spiritual Renewal	CHIKA ANYANWU PRAYER LIFE/FOCUS Popular Catholic youth minister & author of <i>My Encounter with Christ</i> Dana Catherine	DON BALISFORD ACTIVE APOSTLE Deacon & founder of the Holy Eucharistic Ministries and Master of Ceremonies
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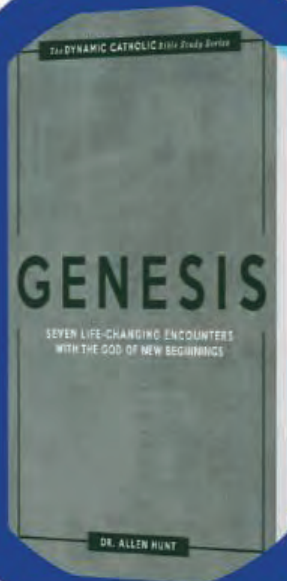
REYNOLDS COLISEUM - NC STATE - RALEIGH FRI 6:30-9:30PM
SAT 8AM-5:30PM

Adults: 2-Day Admission \$25
Saturday Lunch Options: Pizza, Turkey Subs, or Bring Your Own
Students Age 10+: FREE Admission and Pizza
Free Food Provided Friday Evening

REGISTER ONLINE AT
IGNITEDBYTRUTH.ORG

Wilmington Catholic Radio

Immaculate Conception **BIBLE STUDY** **WORKSHOP**



Genesis: Seven Life-Changing Encounters with the God of New Beginnings

DeSales Center
Tuesday 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
April 9, 16, 23, 30
May 7, 14, 21

DeSales Center
Thursday 10:00am - 12 pm
April 11, 18, 25
May 2, 9, 16, 23

Register online at www.iccwilm.org or
contact Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation, at
gdrost@iccwilm.org or 910-791-1003, ext. 112

\$20.00 registration fee

Prayer Matters

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Herbert Aiken	Gregg Lysaght
Steven Astriakis	Erin Mabry
Charles Babinski	The Maney Family
Drew Baker	Petar Manolev
Gabrielle Baldwin	Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Megan Bardeen	John H. Martin
Marley Basurto	Teri Massey
Gail Bean	Connie Mercier
Carol Bigwood	Ernest & Margie Messing
Iliana Bouneva	Diane Miller
Whitney Brenner	Bill Moore
Barry & Teresa Brighten	Chris Moore
Christopher Brooks	Irene Muccia
Phyllis Cameron	Kyle Muccia
Eva Congleton	Ernie Munoz
Susan Craig	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
Sandy Greggs	Vivian Scharver
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Christine Levy	Richard Weisenreider
Margaret Lupton	Stephen Weisenreider
Nicholas Lusk	Maria Woodcock
John Lyons	Anita Wynn

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



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.

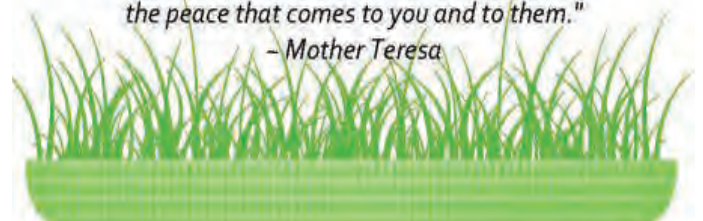
The cost of the trip is only a \$200 dollar donation, and assistance is available. If you are interested in attending, a non-refundable \$50 deposit with completed registration forms should be turned into Marie Marshall, Youth Minister, in the Parish Office. You can only secure a spot with your registration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



Lenten Reflection—The Universal Call to Holiness

Lent 2024 – The Universal Call to Holiness

Introduction

The word holy and holiness occur more than 900 times in the Scriptures. A study recently discovered that 73% of Christians surveyed believe that it is possible for someone to be holy, regardless of their past. The universal call to holiness is a teaching of the Roman Catholic Church that all people are called to be holy. It is based on Matthew: "Be you therefore perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect" (5:48). The Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium* (the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) takes up the matter that all who believe in Jesus Christ regardless of their vocation in life are called to holiness.



What does it mean to be holy and how does one get there? St. Francis de Sales wrote a classic in 1609 entitled: *The Introduction to the Devout Life*, which first introduced this teaching to the Church and what it means. He uses the word devout (hence the title of his book) to explain this perspective. He writes, "God invites all Christians to bring forth the fruit of devotion, each in his or her own position or vocation in life." He goes on to explain that the word devout is simply true love of God: "when love of God makes us do good carefully, frequently, and promptly it is called devotion."

Below are *Seven Pillars* that will help you grow and become devout or holy during these forty days of Lent. The goal is to be holier on Easter Sunday than I am today on Ash Wednesday one day at a time.

1. **Prayer**—Francis de Sales describes prayer as a "heart to heart" conversation with God. The journey to become devout or holy begins on the inside out. It requires time for quiet prayer where we sit and have a conversation with God about what is going on in our lives, and then listen to the wisdom and insight that will come to us from the Holy Spirit. During Lent come to adoration on a Tuesday from 9:30 to 10:30 AM and sit quietly before the Eucharist. The Church is available to you anytime during the week. You can access the Church during the week between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.
2. **Integrity**—This is the work we do to remain faithful to who we are, to our values and our faith. Francis de Sales has a beautiful quote to capture this pillar: "Be who you are and be that well." Integrity requires honesty to what is right and good. C.S. Lewis writes: "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching."
3. **Glorify God**—St. Paul says to the Corinthians, *glorify God in everything you do*. How can we possibly glorify God in all that we do? St. Francis de Sales gives us a practical and simple way to do that throughout our day. It is called the "Direction of Intention," which means that before every action I remind myself that God is present, and I ask him for the grace to do my best with the circumstances at hand, and whatever we are doing becomes a sacred act.

*"My God, give me the grace to perform this action with you and through love for you.
In advance, I offer to you all the good that I may do and
accept all the difficulty I may meet therein."*

Lenten Reflection—The Universal Call to Holiness

4. **Little Virtues**—There is a beautiful Latin phrase “In medio stat Virtus,” which translated means “In the middle stands virtue.” St. Francis de Sales teaches that a practice of virtue, specifically the Little Virtues, are a remedy to vices and can lead to a more balanced life. For example, if a person struggles with gluttony (eating or drinking too much) he or she can practice the virtue of temperance (self-control) or if a person struggles with anger, he or she can practice the virtue of patience. He called these virtues—gentleness, humility, simplicity, patience—the *Little Virtues*, which were promoted by St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians: “The fruit of the Spirit of Love is joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (5:22). What virtue will you practice this Lent to counter a vice with which you struggle.

5. **Forgiveness**—Jesus said it best in the prayer that he taught us: “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Essentially, Jesus says forgive as you want to be forgiven or forgive as God forgives you. Clearly, this is easier said than done. One of the biggest challenges in life is to let go when we have been hurt. When we forgive another person, it is not about them, but about us not letting hurt, anger, and disappointed harden our hearts. This is one of my favorite quotes of St. Francis de Sales: “Blessed are the hearts that bend for they shall be broken.” Is there unfinished business of reconciliation that needs to be resolved in your life? Lent is a good time to work on this.

6. **Service**—Jesus modeled foot washing love for us at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples. By washing the feet of his disciples, Jesus taught the lesson of selfless service. Clearly, Jesus wants us to put others first. However, we cannot give to others what we do not have. So, we first must take care of ourselves and grow in our own spiritual lives. It is also important to remember that Jesus is not looking for the extraordinary here, rather he wants us to attend to one another in the little things. Our greatest gift to one another is the very gift of our presence. What can you do during these days of Lent to do something to help another person?

7. **Gratitude**—At the end of the day, one key ingredient to becoming holy and devout is to nurture a grateful heart. A best practice to keep perspective on life, to see that the glass is half full as opposed to half empty, and avoid the trap of comparing ourselves to others is to give thanks to God every night before going to bed for three things we are thankful for that day.



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