



# 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	Michele Bean	910-791-1003, Ext. 105	mbean@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)  
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 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 #2, DFFC  
 12:00-2:00 TTRPG Session, DFFC  
 2:30-3:30 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

#### Monday, March 11, 2024

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

#### Tuesday, March 12, 2024

- 9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

#### Wednesday, March 13, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, James P. Martin

#### Thursday, March 14, 2024

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

#### Friday, March 15, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, William McNaughton

#### Saturday, March 16, 2024

- 5:00 pm Liturgy, Antoni & Elizabeth Jankowski

#### Sunday, March 17 - 5th Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Shirley Kilduff  
 10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception  
 12:00-2:00 Faith Formation Family Event, DFFC  
 2:30-3:30 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

*Liturgical Color for March 16 & 17 is Purple*



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

### March 2 & 3, 2024

Envelopes	186 (Envelopes)	\$11,422.00
e-Giving	78	\$ 3,597.00
Loose Check	36 (Checks)	\$ 2,685.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$17,704.00
Loose Cash		\$ 1,547.00
Total Contributions		\$19,251.00

### Offertory/1st Collection:

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

**\$1,001,640.00**

**Total Collected YTD: July 1– Mar 3, 2024**

**\$ 759,329.10**



### Sanctuary Candle

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

## Diocesan Second Collection

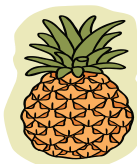
### Catholic Relief Services

This week we take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

## 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.**

## Lenten Resource

### It's Not Too Late!

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

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

Interested? Visit [www.dynamiccatholic.com](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com) and start your **BEST LENT EVER** this year.

## Stewardship Reflection

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...”***  
***(John 3:16)***

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and, in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works, and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and the greater Church.

## 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.

## Ministry Alive!

### The Eber Family

Congratulations to Adam, who began his stewardship service as altar server with his first Liturgy on Sunday February 25, 2024.

Brothers Jon (Level 2 Eucharist) and Matt were excited as well, and can often be seen helping straightening up after the Liturgies.

Their family commitment to ICC is appreciated.



Stewardship is an important component to an active faith life. If you are interested in opportunities to serve, please see the Stewardship Opportunities Booklet found in the wall rack in the Gathering Area.

**MONDAY**  
 March 11  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 Is 65:17-21  
 Jn 4:43-54

**TUESDAY**  
 March 12  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 Ez 47:1-9, 12  
 Jn 5:1-16

**WEDNESDAY**  
 March 13  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 Is 49:8-15  
 Jn 5:17-30

**THURSDAY**  
 March 14  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 Ex 32:7-14  
 Jn 5:31-47

**FRIDAY**  
 March 15  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 Wis 2:1a, 12-22  
 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**SATURDAY**  
 March 16  
*Lenten Weekday*  
 Jer 11:18-20  
 Jn 7:40-53

**SUNDAY**  
 March 17  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
 Jer 31:31-34  
 Heb 5:7-9  
 Jn 12:20-33

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 / Ephesians 2:4-10 / John 3:14-21



*And this is the verdict,  
 that the light came into the world,  
 but people preferred darkness to light,  
 because their works were evil.*

JOHN 3:19

## The Saving Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A** long time ago, I came across a piece that I still remember because it's pretty much a commentary on how life is for most of us. It goes something like this: At the age of ten, we think we can live forever. When we're twenty, we think we can save the world. When the big thirty rolls around, we think we can save the company. When the fortieth birthday arrives, we think we can save our children. Then, when we're fifty, we think we can at least save our marriage. And by the time we're sixty, we think we should just save aluminum cans.

A bit flippant perhaps, but it reminds me that even given my own best efforts, I really do not save much of anything. It is always God who does the saving, not me.

It's a conversation replayed in our heads again and

again. We find ourselves unwittingly thinking that if we do all the right things, when we die and go to heaven, then God will have to take us in. If we say the right prayers and follow all the rules, then we will have earned salvation. Yet then we will have saved ourselves and there will have been no need for God's gracious goodness. Then we will have lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps and not by the Lord Jesus.

Then we will proclaim ourselves as the light to overcome darkness, and it will not be the death and resurrection of the Lord which does so. ●

### Reflect

***How have you been saved and how do you need saving now?***

## 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](mailto:olivergalbraith@gmail.com) or text 910-619-3033
- **Clint Turbeville:** [turbeville\\_r@lynchburg.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Bishop's Annual Appeal

For 100 years the Diocese of Raleigh has been:



By supporting the Bishop's Annual Appeal, you have the chance to define what our next 100 years will look like and how our community will be changed because of it.

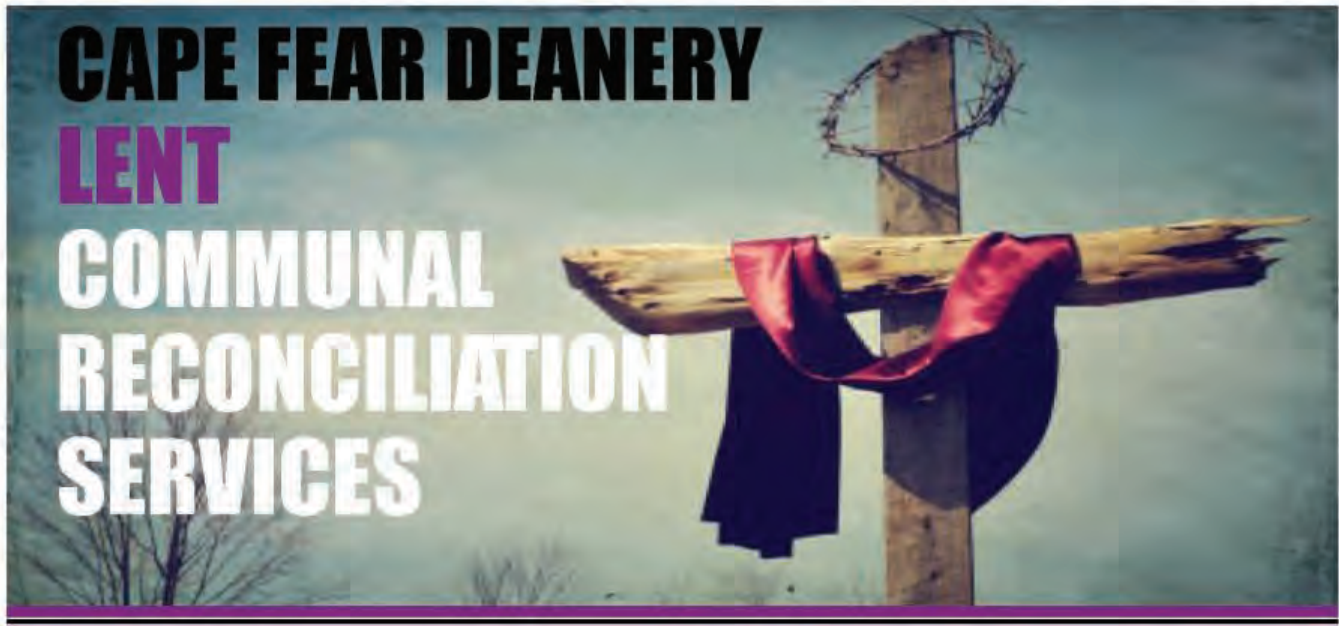


**Goal \$7.345 Million**  
How your gift will help

30.4 %	Catholic Formation and Education
24.5 %	Catholic Charities
19.1 %	Parish Support Services
11.7 %	Catholic Communications
5.8 %	Seminarians & Vocations
5.0 %	Marriage, Family & Respect Life
3.5 %	Ministry Support

Ways to give  
Online, Direct Debit, Cash or Check  
Donate online [givetobaa.org](http://givetobaa.org)





# 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

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



## Light of the World

Lord God,  
when we were unfaithful,  
you remembered us.  
Your love is so great  
that you sent your Son  
to be the Light of the World.

May I keep my eyes fixed upon your light,  
and never surrender to the dark,  
O Christ,  
Who lives and reigns with you,  
in the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Light of Hope in the Darkness



*Today's readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23; Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6; Ephesians 2:4–10; John 3:14–21.* Hope and joy are recurring themes in the readings and prayers on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Midway through Lent, just as we begin to weary in our resolve, the readings remind us of God's love and the eternal life that awaits, and the prayers relate the Christian response of joy. The entrance antiphon begins, "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her," recalling for us that Lent is also a season for joy.

The liturgical color varies from the season's violet to rose today to visually encourage us. This day points to the

reconciliation that is ours because of Christ's death and resurrection. And we have merited none of this. Only by the mercy of God do we live in Christ. As the reading from Ephesians states, "It is the gift of God; it is not from works so no one may boast."

Some accept the gift of faith, but as the Gospel states, "The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light." At baptism, we received the light of Christ and, with that light, join Christ in dispelling darkness. This week, be aware that you carry the light of Christ within you and can bring others to it.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, March 11 Blind Faith

John tells the story of a man pleading for Jesus to cure his dying child. The miracle of the cure convinced this man and the others present that Jesus was the Messiah. But what about those of us who have never witnessed such a miracle? Take some time to journal about your faith in Jesus. On what do you base your belief? How much do you trust in the Lord? *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17-21 Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b; John 4:43-54.*

### Tuesday, March 12 Journeying Together

Asking for or accepting help shows courage because it implies that we are not self-sufficient. Recognizing our dependence on God and one another is a virtue. Being in relationship with others requires listening. Today, await the answer when asking someone how he or she is doing. Then really listen. Similarly, make sure that you leave space and time in your prayer for God's voice to bubble up inside of you. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16.*

### Wednesday, March 13 Blind Faith

While the Lord is a just judge, people are not always so fair or righteous. Are you your worst critic? The idea of self-compassion might seem hedonistic or selfish, yet it can be hard to give what we do not possess. If we desire to extend God's kindness to others, we need to express compassion toward ourselves. Examine how well you practice patience and mercy toward others. To improve, begin with yourself. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30.*

### Thursday, March 14 Taking a Pause

During every Mass, we encounter Christ in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He is present especially in the consecrated bread and wine, in the Scriptures, in the ministers, and in the assembly. God does not want us to continue wandering in the desert; he beckons us to the promised land of eternal life. This week, meditate on a part of the Mass. Practice being truly present during Mass to allow space for conversion and transformation. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47.*

### Friday, March 15 Genuine Encounter

What does it mean to truly know someone? Have you followed a famous figure or professional contact and felt that you knew everything about him or her without having even met the person? Or perhaps you met the individual and encountered someone different than you had imagined. In today's Gospel, the inhabitants of Jerusalem think that they know Jesus, but their knowledge is on a surface level. They do not know the One who sent him. When you read the Scriptures, invite the words to fill your heart so that you can know the Lord. *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21, 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.*

### Saturday, March 16 The Body of Christ

Many things can distract us as we seek to become closer to God and spread the Good News. How can you stay rooted in a life of discipleship? What are some of the things you can do in your community to continue the ministry of Jesus? Can you read to children at the library? Or volunteer in a soup kitchen? Does your community have a cleanup day for which you could sign up? Strive to be walking testimonies of Jesus' love. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53.*



## 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](mailto: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

## OCIA Team Members Needed

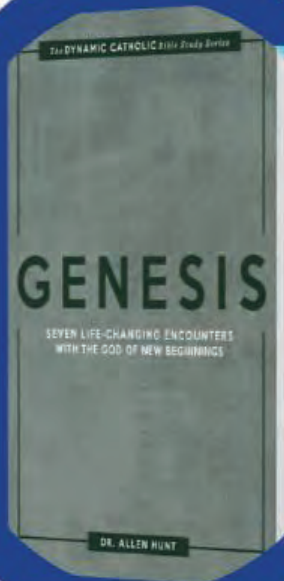
As an OCIA (The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) team member, you would work with the Director of Faith Formation in helping accompany and catechize those who are in the process of becoming Catholic Christians. In order to be a member of the team, you must be a Catholic in good standing, feel a call to work in evangelization and education of new members of our Faith, and be able to make a time commitment to the process.

**INTERESTED CONTACT: GINA DROST**

 910-791-1003 X112       [GDrost@iccwilm.org](mailto:GDrost@iccwilm.org)



# 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](http://www.iccwilm.org) or  
contact Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation, at  
[gdrost@iccwilm.org](mailto: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	The Maney Family
Steven Astriakis	Petar Manolev
Charles Babinski	Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Drew Baker	John H. Martin
Megan Bardeen	Teri Massey
Marley Basurto	Connie Mercier
Gail Bean	Ernest & Margie Messing
Carol Bigwood	Diane Miller
Iliana Bouneva	Bill Moore
Barry & Teresa Brighten	Chris Moore
Christopher Brooks	Irene Muccia
Phyllis Cameron	Kyle Muccia
John Clavin	Ernie Munoz
Eva Congleton	Maurice Murphy
Susan Craig	Joanne McAteer
Margaret Deaton	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	Melanie Ryan
Sandy Greggs	Kerri Schafer
Dale Guy	Vivian Scharver
Don & Gloria Harris	Jonathan Schoo
Maureen Hayes	Beatrice Schultz
Louise Hebert	Rita & Ralph Seidl
Sandra Hobbs	Susan Self
Anthony Jenkins	Brian Slater
Barbara Jezek	Lesley Stevens
J.J. Jones	David Stiver
Denise Kassem	Cynthia & Paul Streb
Ken Keith	Bill Sunseri
Lauren Kelly	Marieange Tribie
Addison LaCourse	Pat Tyson
Robert LaGoe	Jack Walsh
Tracy Langone	T. Michael Werner
Eileen Lavelle	John Weisenreider
Christine Levy	Richard Weisenreider
Margaret Lupton	Stephen Weisenreider
Nicholas Lusk	Maria Woodcock
John Lyons	Anita Wynn
Gregg Lysaght	
Erin Mabry	

*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](http://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](mailto: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*



# Fact of Faith

## WHY IS LENT FORTY DAYS?

*The Lenten season is a time of preparation for the liturgical celebration of the suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. Many Catholics spend that time on the three practices of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is also a time to participate in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.*

*The season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. If Sundays are excluded from the count, the season lasts forty days. The forty-day length of Lent is rooted in the biblical usage of the number forty. Forty is typically indicative of a time of testing, trial, penance, purification, and renewal. In the New Testament, forty days is the length of Jesus' time of trial in the desert in preparation for his public ministry, proclaiming the Gospel.*

### Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts,

and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.

The forty-day period of Jesus' trial in the desert echoes a number of events in the Old Testament:

- The face of the earth was cleansed and purified during the promised period of days and nights that rain poured down during the great flood—"I will bring rain down on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and so I will wipe out from the surface of the earth every moving creature that I have made" (Gen 7:4).
- The face of the earth was renewed during a forty-day period after the mountain tops appeared and the waters of the great flood receded—"The tops of the mountains appeared. At the end of forty days Noah opened the hatch of the ark that he had made" (Gen 8:5-6).
- Moses spent forty years as a shepherd in the desert before God called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery—"Moses fled when he heard this and settled as an alien in the land of Midian . . . Forty years later, an angel appeared to him in the desert near Mount Sinai in the flame of a burning bush" (Acts 7: 29-30).
- Moses fasted for forty days and nights on Mount Sinai before receiving the tablets of the covenant—

"So Moses stayed there with the LORD for forty days and forty nights, without eating any food or drinking any water, and he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments" (Ex 34:28).

- The Israelites spent forty years wandering in the desert, as a time of testing, trial and purification of the people, before reaching the Promised Land—"Now the Israelites had wandered forty years in the desert, until all the warriors among the people that came forth from Egypt died off because they had not obeyed the command of the LORD" (Jos 5:6; see Num 32:13).

- The prophet Elijah spent forty days in the desert before encountering God on Mount Horeb—" [Elijah] got up, ate and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb" (1 Kgs 19:8).

- The Ninevites were given forty days before God was going to destroy the city, allowing time for repentance and conversion—"Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, 'Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,' when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth" (Jon 3:4-5).



*This resource was created specifically for myUSCCB.*

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## ALTAR FLOWERS

### January to June 2024

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

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

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

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

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

Song of Songs 2:12



**Choose from the following weekends:**

- Jan 6 & 7, 2024 - Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 13 & 14, 2024
- Jan 20 & 21, 2024
- Jan 27 & 28, 2024
- Feb 3 & 4, 2024 - World Marriage Day
- Feb 10 & 11, 2024

**No Flowers during Lent**

- Apr 13 & 14, 2024
- Apr 20 & 21, 2024
- Apr 27 & 28, 2024
- May 4 & 5, 2024 - 1st Eucharist
- May 11 & 12, 2024 - Mother's Day
- May 18 & 19, 2024 - Pentecost
- May 25 & 26, 2024 - Most Holy Trinity
- June 1 & 2, 2024 - Body & Blood of Christ
- June 8 & 9, 2024
- June 15 & 16, 2024 - Father's Day
- June 22 & 23, 2024
- June 29 & 30, 2024

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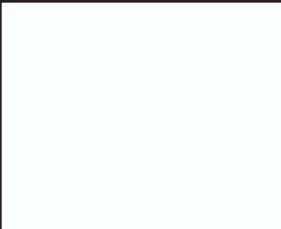
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