



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Catholic Church

A Stewardship Community served by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales



A People Not a Place
Learning to Live Jesus

OUR VISION

Our parish is the vibrant expression of the presence of the Risen Christ through sacred worship and loving service.

OUR MISSION

We live Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Gospel, by celebrating the Eucharist, by nourishing our Faith and by loving and serving all God's people.

6650 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington, NC 28412

De Sales Faith
Formation Center
910-791-9857

Church Office
910-791-1003
Fax: 910-791-0081
www.iccwilm.org

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
9:00am – 4:00pm

Parish Staff, Councils & Commission Chairs

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

Commission Chairs

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Aaron Bean, Chair Matthew Simms, Vice Chair

Julie Bowling Judy Chmielenski

Angela Zombek

Parish Finance Council

Mike Bollinger, Chair
Pete Bartel, Vice Chair
Stephen Conroy
Paul Dries
Bob Smith
Andrew Tomlin

Liturgies and Devotions

Weekend - Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 am
Weekday - See "This Week at Immaculate Conception" - Page 3
Devotions - Rosary for World Peace/
Novena to Our Lady, Monday - 9:30 am
Chaplet of Divine Mercy to end human trafficking, Thursday - 9:30 am
Rosary, Devotion to the Sacred Heart,
First Friday
Fatima Rosary Devotion,
First Saturday - 3:30 pm
Eucharistic Adoration -
First Friday, 9:45 am - 11:00 am *and*
Tuesdays, 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Bulletin Deadline

Bulletin requests must be emailed to the Bulletin Editor: tkruger@iccwilm.org, by 12:00 noon on Wednesdays, ten days in advance of the weekend of publication. All articles will run for three weeks, space allowing, and must have name, phone # of contact person, and dates requested to be in the bulletin. Articles must be limited to 100-150 words and include the *who, what, why, where and when*. A summary/result article with facts and figures should be submitted within a week of the event's completion.

New Parishioners

If you are new to Wilmington or to Immaculate Conception, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you. We are an active and vibrant parish and ask, if you have decided to join us, that you will seriously consider giving of your time, talent, and treasure for the Lord's work. Completion of an Interest Card, Parish Registration Form and

attendance to a Welcome/Orientation/Registration Event is part of active membership and provides you with parish mailings. Please find an Interest Card located in the pamphlet rack in the Gathering Area of the church.

Sacramental Life

Infant Baptism: Celebrated monthly. Registered (minimum 3 months) and participating parishioners may schedule infant baptism after completion of a baptism preparation workshop and reception of godparent documents. Contact Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation, at 910-791-1003, ext 112, preferably prior to the child's arrival. *Children over 7 are not baptized as "infants." Instead they are prepared to receive all 3 sacraments of initiation at a later date.

To Be a Godparent/Sponsor: for Baptism or Confirmation; you must be a registered, participating member for at least 6 months prior to requesting letter.

1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist: Second grade is our Sacramental year for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. First grade faith formation is a pre-requisite for the second grade Sacramental year. We require four meetings for the parents/guardians of youth receiving these Sacraments.

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

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

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

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

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

Funerals: After a funeral director has been contacted but before any arrangements have been made public, the funeral director will contact the Parish Office in order to arrange for funeral time and/or vigil service. All aspects of parish funeral liturgy planning requires the participation and approval of trained parish personnel.

Vocations to Priesthood or Religious Life: Religious vocation as a priest, brother or sister, Fr. Michael Newman, OSFS, mnewman@oblates.us or 419-531-1421, x231. Vocation to diocesan priesthood, please visit the Diocese of Raleigh's Vocations website at dioceseofraleighvocations.org.

This Week at Immaculate Conception

There Are No Altar Flowers During Lent

Sunday, 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

Monday, March 18, 2024

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

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

- 9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Jim Martin

Thursday, March 21, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, In Celebration of Rosemary Block's 90th Birthday
- 9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, March 22, 2024

- 9:00 am Liturgy, John Kincart, Sr. & John Kincart, Jr.

Saturday, March 23 - Palm Sunday Vigil

- 3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church
- 5:00 pm Liturgy, Matthew Dougherty

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception
- 10:30 am Liturgy, Paul Bellm

No Faith Formation or Activities

Liturgical Color for March 23 & 24 is Red



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

March 9 & 10, 2024

Envelopes	143 (Envelopes)	\$ 6,201.01
e-Giving	177	\$15,453.18
Loose Check	29 (Checks)	\$ 2,235.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$23,889.19
Loose Cash		\$ 1,183.00
Total Contributions		\$25,072.19

Catholic Relief Services

Envelopes	74 (Envelopes)	\$ 1,467.00
e-Giving	41	\$ 1,710.00
Loose Check	2 (Checks)	\$ 35.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$ 3,212.00
Loose Cash		\$ 697.00
Total Contributions		\$ 3,909.00

Offertory/1st Collection:

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

\$1,001,640.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1- Mar 10, 2024

\$ 790,593.79

Sanctuary Candle



A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **Marcia Ann Stempien**, and was donated by **Leonard Norris**.

Reconciliation Services

Lenten Reconciliation Services



The remaining Lenten Communal Reconciliation Service for the Cape Fear Deanery will take place on:

Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 pm

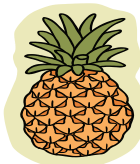
St. Joseph the Worker

1303 Hwy 117 South, Burgaw

910-259-2601

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 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.

Stewardship Reflection

*"I will be their God and they shall be my people."
(Jeremiah 31:33)*

What does it mean to be God's people? It means that we recognize that everything that we have and everything that we are belongs to God. We aren't 'owners' of anything, but are merely 'stewards' of the gifts that God has given us. It means that we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors, and for people that we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

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.
- Belonged in Adoration or with saints' 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 19th Jubilee 20th Anniversary of the Holy Face	FR. LAWRENCE CARNEY THE HOLY FACE Author of the Series of the Holy Face	MSGR. STEPHEN ROSETTI BISHOP OF WASHINGTON DC Fr. St. Michael Carney the Spiritual Director	CHIKA ANYANWU POYER LIFEYOUTH Popular Catholic youth minister & author of My Encounter: How I've grown in Faith	DEACON RALPH POYO APOSTOLIC MISSION & Founder of the Holy Eucharistic Miracles and Masters of Carmelites
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REYNOLDS COLISEUM - NC STATE - RALEIGH **FRI 6:30-9:30PM**
MAIN STAGE - SAT 8AM-5:30PM

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

REGISTER ONLINE AT IGNITEDBYTRUTH.ORG

CATHOLIC 940-AM DIVINE MERCY RADIO WILMINGTON CATHOLIC RADIO

MONDAY
March 18
Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62
Jn 8:1-11

TUESDAY
March 19
*St. Joseph, Spouse
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*
2 Sm 7:4-5a,
12-14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
or Lk 2:41-51a

WEDNESDAY
March 20
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14-20,
91-92, 95
Jn 8:31-42

THURSDAY
March 21
Lenten Weekday
Gn 17:3-9
Jn 8:51-59

FRIDAY
March 22
Lenten Weekday
Jer 20:10-13
Jn 10:31-42

SATURDAY
March 23
Lenten Weekday
Ez 37:21-28
Jn 11:45-56

SUNDAY
March 24
*Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord*
Mk 11:1-10 or
Jn 12:12-16
Is 50:4-7
Phil 2:6-11
Mk 14:1-15:47
or 15:1-39

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

Jeremiah 31:31-34 / Hebrews 5:7-9 / John 12:20-33



Learning How to Die

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It has been pointed out that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well, that is, to go where we would rather not go, to love

when we know it will cost, to offer ourselves even when we know we will be used. If we die a bit every day, sometimes with struggle and sacrifice in those situations that may call for such, then at our final moment we will be able to stand before that specter face to face and not run, simply because we have met before and have been able to walk away the victor.

Dying well does not mean we do so without fear. Courage blossoms when we stand in a field of fear. Even the Lord Jesus "offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears" to God, as the Letter to the Hebrews notes. Dying well does not mean we do so cleanly. Dying is often messy, and it is always an uprooting that disrupts and scatters everything nearby.

Nor does dying well mean we do so in control of the event. That is what is so devastating about death. It has complete and total control. At its best and at its worst the only way to die well is to say "yes" to it every time it demands our submission. And like the eye of stillness at the center of the hurricane, it is at the heart of death where we embrace resurrection and where the holy offers life. It is where we can have a deep encounter with the Lord Jesus. ●

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

JOHN 12:24



Reflect

Can you accept the little deaths along the way as preparation for the final passing from this life?

Palm Sunday & Holy Week 2024



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

(Courtyard Palm Procession)

Saturday, March 23

5:00 pm, Liturgy

Sunday, March 24

8:30 am and 10:30 am, Liturgies

Monday, March 25

No Rosary or Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, March 26

10:30 am, Chrism Liturgy

Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh

The Chrism Liturgy will be celebrated with the diocesan & religious priests of the Raleigh Diocese. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, March 27

No Liturgy / Activities

Parish offices close at 1:00 pm

The Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday, March 28

The Evening Liturgy of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm

Foot Washing - One essential part of the liturgy is the Washing of the Feet, a profound sign of service to one another given to us by Jesus at the Last Supper. We invite and encourage all members of the community to have their feet washed. If you desire to have your feet washed, we encourage you to dress accordingly.

Adoration - Following the Holy Thursday Liturgy, all parishioners are invited to participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:45 pm. Adoration is both a private devotion and a communal one. Adoration takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.



Good Friday, March 29

Silent Meditation

12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

3:00 pm

Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday), March 30

The Vigil in the Holy Night begins at 8:00 pm
(outside in the courtyard)

No Confession/Reconciliation or 5:00 pm Liturgy on Holy Saturday



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, March 31

Liturgies: 8:30 am and 10:30 am

We encourage everyone to arrive early for the Liturgies

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

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 the faith, and be able to make a time commitment to the process.

IF INTERESTED CONTACT: GINA DROST

 **910-791-1003 EXT 112**

 **GDrost@iccwilm.org**



"You know the spot where our hearts meet - there they can see one another in spite of the distances of places."
St. Francis DeSales

EASTER COLLECTION

As you contemplate donations this Easter season, please keep Immaculate Conception in mind. **The Easter Offertory on March 30 & 31** is part of the parish's operating budget and supports all of the wonderful ministries here at Immaculate Conception. Your contribution to this year's **Easter Offertory** is an opportunity to renew our commitment to maintaining our parish's financial wellbeing. We ask all to prayerfully consider what they can do to make this renewal happen. Our efforts may well require sacrificial giving. If you plan to be away from the parish this Easter, please consider making your contribution the preceding weekend or alternatively, by mail or through our parish website at www.iccwilm.org.

Our goal for this year's Easter Collection is \$30,000.

PRIEST WELFARE & RETIREMENT COLLECTION

During our Easter liturgies there will be a second collection for the Priests' Welfare and Retirement Fund. The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, who administer parishes throughout the Diocese of Raleigh, receive a portion of this fund. Many of our senior priests retire after 40 or 50 years of active ministry, far exceeding the typical years worked in most professions. Because our priests are paid a very modest stipend during their active ministry, their corresponding Social Security benefit upon retirement is extremely small compared to workers with similar years of service. This fund is needed to provide additional resources for these priests.

All dioceses provide financial support for retired priests in accord with the Gospel. The cost of this financial support is allocated amongst all parishes of the diocese. Parishes meet this required goal through second collections, paying any remaining balance from its operating budget.

This year our required goal is \$62,241.

We again ask for your support in reaching the required goal. Your response helps tangibly express our gratitude as a community for the sacrifice and service of our priests!

Thank you for your generosity to our parish and to the many priests who serve our Diocese.

Fr. John McGee, OSFS, Pastor
The Parish Finance Council

- 70 † *the normal retirement age for priests of the Diocese of Raleigh*
- 53% † *portion of the parish contribution that funds the Diocese of Raleigh Clergy Pension Plan.*
- 21% † *portion that pays long-term nursing home costs for priests of the Diocese of Raleigh and to pay salary, benefits and living expenses for priests of the Diocese of Raleigh and to provide support for priests who are ill, infirm, or otherwise unable to serve at this time.*
- 12% † *portion the Diocese of Raleigh provides to Religious Orders of priests working in the Diocese of Raleigh to assist with their retirement.*
- 5% † *portion that funds medical expenses of priests working or retired in the Diocese of Raleigh that are not covered by insurance (after priests have paid \$500 deductible).*
- 7% † *portion funds health insurance and Medicare premiums for retired priests of the Diocese of Raleigh.*
- 1% † *portion that funds the Clergy Care Management Program which provides acute health care intervention and wellness programs for priests of the Diocese of Raleigh.*
- 1% † *portion that funds legal, actuarial and other professional services to maintain the Clergy Pension Plan of the Diocese of Raleigh.*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Always Near

Loving Father,
 you who answer when I call,
 who continue to love me,
 even when I fall,
 you are ever present and merciful.
 May I be a mirror of your promises.
 Never let me stray too far
 from your gaze,
 May your hand never be far
 from mine.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Covenant of Love



Today's readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15, (12a); Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33. On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the readings begin by recalling the covenant God made with the chosen people. The Lord tells the prophet Jeremiah, "I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people." In the covenant that God keeps with us today, he offers us eternal life. Jesus refers to that life in the Gospel reading, saying, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life."

The first reading explains that all shall know God, for he "will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no

more." In the second covenant, Jesus lays down his life for us on the cross, erasing our sins and reconciling us with God. The Letter to the Hebrews explains that Christ "became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

To obey God, to have a place for him in our hearts, we seek a pure heart, praying from Psalm 51, "Create a clean heart in me, O God." In this psalm, we ask not only that our souls be cleansed of sin but for a steadfast and willing spirit. How will you carry this psalm with you through this week so that you can be true to the love God offers? How can this psalm turn you to God's presence so that you might be a walking testimony of his love?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 18 Traps for Kindness

Even though Jesus was without sin, he did not condemn. How much more should we, with our failings and shortcomings, follow his example and offer a kind word instead of judgment. As we live these final days of Lent, let us practice kindness by complimenting others and refraining from critical words. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11.*

Tuesday, March 19 Feast of St. Joseph

"It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants that he would inherit the world, but through the righteousness that comes from faith," we hear in today's reading from Romans. The phrase "righteousness from faith" personifies St. Joseph, who was inclined to quietly divorce the pregnant Mary but followed the angel's instruction and took her into his home. Have you considered looking to St. Joseph as a model of faith? *Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a.*

Wednesday, March 20 Becoming Better

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his listeners that to be his disciples, they are to remain in his Word. Only by remaining in his Word will they know the truth and be set free from sin. Reading and meditating on Scripture is a regular practice of many to come closer to God during Lent. During your prayer time, ponder how you act out your discipleship. Are the people that you encounter aware that you are a Christian by the way you live? *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.*

Thursday, March 21 Beyond Imagination

Abraham surely never imagined that God would come to him to make a covenant. It is beyond imagination that God would come to make "an everlasting pact." Yet God promised the childless Abraham that he would be "the father of a host of nations." God has a plan for each of us too. In the Gospel, we hear, "Whoever keeps my word will never see death." To keep God's Word is the work of each disciple. For that work, the reward is eternal life. *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.*

Friday, March 22 Do You Believe?

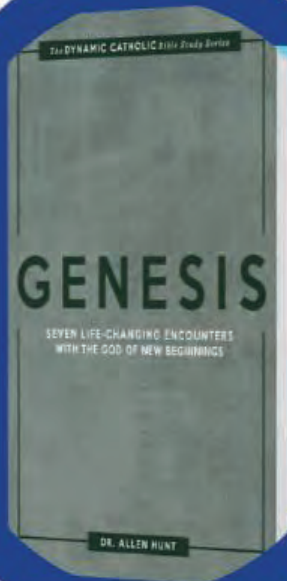
In the first reading, we hear the prophet Jeremiah say, "All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine." Jesus, too, knew that people who practiced their religion looked for reasons to arrest or stone him. Reminding them of the Father's good works he had performed, he asked, "For which of these are you trying to stone me?" In the world today, who is being punished for their good works? How do you recognize the work and action of Jesus around you? *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.*

Saturday, March 23 All Praise to God

As we stand at the precipice of Holy Week, reflect on a time when you turned away from God. Perhaps you felt persecuted or ashamed of your relationship with God. Many young people face this problem; they hide their faith because it is unpopular, yet our faith in God is not about popularity. How can we be examples of hope to the younger generation? How can you turn a tense moment into an opportunity to share God's love and mercy? *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Psalm: Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*



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	The Maney Family
Steven Astriakis	Petar Manolev
Charles Babinski	Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Drew Baker	Teri Massey
Marley Basurto	Connie Mercier
Gail Bean	Ernest & Margie Messing
Carol Bigwood	Diane Miller
Lorraine Biml	Bill Moore
Iliana Bouneva	Chris Moore
Barry & Teresa Brighten	Irene Muccia
Christopher Brooks	Kyle Muccia
Tony Casiere	Ernie Munoz
John Clavin	Maurice Murphy
Eva Congleton	Joanne McAteer
Susan Craig	Barbara McCann
Margaret Deaton	Denise McGee
Marion DeCoursey	Gerald McGovern
Patrick Delaney	Josephine McGovern
Leslie Dixon	Joan McKillop
Kathy Driscoll	Ann Noack
Carol Dubin	Kelly O'Connor
Kathleen Estep	Edward & Sharon O'Neill
AC Everett	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
James Hinson	Susan Self
Sandra Hobbs	David Stiver
Anthony Jenkins	Cynthia & Paul Streb
Barbara Jezek	Bill Sunseri
J.J. Jones	Marieange Tribie
Denise Kassem	Pat Tyson
Ken Keith	Jack Walsh
Lauren Kelly	T. Michael Werner
Addison LaCourse	John Weisenreider
Robert LaGoe	Richard Weisenreider
Tracy Langone	Stephen Weisenreider
Eileen Lavelle	Maria Woodcock
Christine Levy	Anita Wynn
Margaret Lupton	
Nicholas Lusk	
John Lyons	
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.

For the Garden of Your Daily Living



Plant Three Rows of Peas

- 1) Peace of mind
- 2) Peace of Heart
- 3) Peace of soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

- 1) Squash gossip
- 2) Squash grumbling
- 3) Squash indifference
- 4) Squash selfishness



Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

- 1) Lettuce be faithful
- 2) Lettuce be kind
- 3) Lettuce be patient
- 4) Lettuce really love one another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

- 1) Turnip for meetings
- 2) Turnips for service
- 3) Turnip to help one another


To Conclude our Garden we Must have Thyme

- 1) Thyme for each other
- 2) Thyme for family
- 3) Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

(www.spiritview.net)



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.

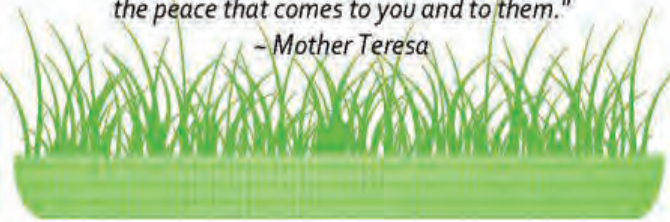
The cost of the trip is only a \$200 dollar donation, and assistance is available. If you are interested in attending, a non-refundable \$50 deposit with completed registration forms should be turned into Marie Marshall, Youth Minister, in the Parish Office. You can only secure a spot with your registration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



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



Prayer: Organic Gardening

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. —John 15:5



We pollute the gardens of body and soul with artificial agents, enticed by promises of beauty, exhilaration, escape, athleticism, or success. The rise of organic food reflects the value of more natural forms of personal cultivation. Prayer is organic gardening for the soul, nurturing us with the supernatural grace of God. As we remain rooted in the True Vine, we indeed bear much fruit.



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Intention: _____



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