



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Catholic Church

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



A People Not a Place  
*Learning to Live Jesus*

## OUR VISION

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

## OUR MISSION

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

6650 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington, NC 28412

De Sales Faith  
Formation Center  
910-791-9857

Church Office  
910-791-1003  
Fax: 910-791-0081  
[www.iccwilm.org](http://www.iccwilm.org)

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

## Parish Staff, Councils & Commission Chairs

<u>Title</u>	<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Phone Number &amp; Ext.</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Business Manager	Charlie DaVolio	910-791-1003, Ext. 105	cdavolio@iccwilm.org
Director of Faith Formation	Gina Drost	910-791-1003, Ext. 112	gdrost@iccwilm.org
Secretary/Bulletin Editor/Registration	Tracey Kruger	910-791-1003, Ext. 102	tkruger@iccwilm.org
Youth Minister	Marie Marshall	910-791-1003, Ext. 110	mmarshall@iccwilm.org
Pastor & Dean, Cape Fear Deanery	Rev. John McGee, OSFS, VF	910-791-1003, Ext. 106	jmcgee@iccwilm.org
Director of Music	Andrea Reynolds	910-791-1003, Ext. 114	areynolds@iccwilm.org
Office Manager	Claudia Sing	910-791-1003, Ext. 100	csing@iccwilm.org
Treasury Assistants	Johanna Hug & Chris Puritis	910-791-1003, Ext. 107	

### Commission Chairs

Fr. John McGee, OSFS (Liturgy)  
 Charlie DaVolio (Facilities)  
 Gina Drost (Faith Formation)  
 Mary Swack (Inreach)  
 Position Open (Outreach)

### Parish Pastoral Council

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

### Parish Finance Council

Pete Bartel, Chair  
 Stephen Conroy  
 Paul Dries, Vice Chair  
 Connor Duncan  
 Bob Smith  
 Andrew Tomlin

### Liturgies and Devotions

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

### Bulletin Deadline

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

### New Parishioners

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

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

### Sacramental Life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## This Week at Immaculate Conception

There Are No Altar Flowers During Lent

### Sunday, March 22—5th Sunday of Lent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Beverly B. Harper  
 10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception  
 12:00–2:00 Faith Formation Lenten Family Event, DFFC  
 2:30–3:30 The Athanasius Center, DFFC

### Monday, March 23, 2026

- 9:30 am Stations of the Cross

### Tuesday, March 24, 2026

- 9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

### Wednesday, March 25, 2026

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Tom & Bob Maggi

### Thursday, March 26, 2026

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Denise McGee  
 9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

### Friday, March 27, 2026

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Edith Brady

### Saturday, March 28—Vigil of Palm Sunday

- 3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church  
 5:00 pm Liturgy, Matthew Dougherty  
*Processions Begins in Courtyard*

### Sunday, March 29—Plam Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Walter Zeigler  
 10:30 am Liturgy, Joyce & Bernie Maguire  
 12:00–2:00 Faith Formation Lenten Family Event, DFFC  
 2:30–3:30 The Athanasius Center, DFFC  
*Processions Begins in Courtyard  
 No Faith Formation*

*Liturgical Color for March 28 & 29 is Red*



### Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in honor of **another wonderful year together**, and was donated by the **Chapter by Chapter 1 Group**.

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

**The offertory report was not available at the time that the bulletin was sent for publication, and will appear in a future bulletin.**

*Sorry for any inconvenience.*

### 5 Reasons to Stay Until the End of Mass

*Most of us have probably done it at least once or twice.*

*We make a beeline for the door with our heads down after receiving communion because we have something important to do.*

*We hope our pastor and friends won't notice. And perhaps they don't. But someone does.*

*Here are 5 reasons I stay until the end of Mass:*

**Communion is About Communing:** In order to commune, we have to actually savor this special time with him and take a few moments with our Lord.

**It's Not Nice to be Rude:** Our motivation to be on time should not be to avoid embarrassment, but because Jesus is waiting to see us.

**Mass is Not an activity on a To-Do-List:** It is an invitation to be in a relationship with God, to holiness, to transformation, and not merely a sense of responsibility.

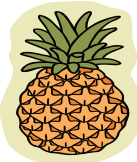
**The Final Blessing is Important:** When a priest, who by his ordination is configured to Christ, gives his final blessing, we are being blessed by God himself.

**You get MORE Grace:** If you are rushing out of church after communion, chances are our disposition is not such that we are reverentially aware of the amazing fact that we are consuming the body, blood, soul, and divinity of God himself.

Sr. Theresa Aletheia Noble, FSP

## Welcome Events

### Welcome/Orientation/Registration Events



New to the area? Want to join ICC? Pick up an Interest Card in the pamphlet rack in the Gathering Area, fill it out and return to the church office, then attend one of the listed

Welcome / Orientation / Registration Events. The events are on Saturday mornings, 9:00 am-10:45 am (refreshments available at 8:30 am).

#### The Next Welcome Events

June 6, 2026

## The Help Center Needs

### The Help Center Food Donations

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

<b>March 1</b>	<b>Rice</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Pasta sauce</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Jelly</b>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Canned carrots</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>Pasta</b>



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

## Stewardship Reflection

*“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’”  
(John 11:40)*

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become 'partakers of the divine nature.'

## Ways to Give at ICC

### Donating at ICC

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Dear Padre,

*I've offered many Masses for wife and family, thinking if perhaps they are in Purgatory, it would help shorten their time. How can we tell if our prayers and Masses are beneficial? How do we know?*

It has been a long- and well-established expression of Catholic faith and practice to pray for the departed. Our prayers help us as we grieve and mourn the passing of the people we love. Our prayers help us keep their passing in perspective—not as the end of something, but rather as the beginning of new life in Christ. This is beneficial and needs no further evidence to illustrate the value of the practice.

Your question, on the other hand, goes beyond what the tradition emphasizes. It seems like you are seeking some sort of guarantee or warranty, which you assume will be reassuring. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee or warranty either promised or implied in this spiritual practice. In death, indeed in the whole of Christian life, we bump up against mystery, not certitude. We are invited to enter into the mystery. To grow in the mystery. To be graced by the mystery. Nothing more is possible. We hope because we believe. We believe because we practice what we hope for. ●



RENATA SEMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org**



FAUSTO RENCA / SHUTTERSTOCK

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*A very widespread ailment of our time is the fatigue of living: reality seems to us to be too complex, burdensome, difficult to face. And so, we switch off, we fall asleep.... But reality has to be faced.... Let us go to Jesus: he can heal us; he can revive us. Jesus is our hope!*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 25, 2025

#### Monday

**MARCH 23**

*Lenten Weekday*

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,  
19-30, 33-62 or  
13:41c-62  
Jn 8:1-11

#### Tuesday

**MARCH 24**

*Lenten Weekday*

Nm 21:4-9  
Jn 8:21-30

#### Wednesday

**MARCH 25**

*The Annunciation  
of the Lord*

Is 7:10-14; 8:10  
Heb 10:4-10  
Lk 1:26-38

#### Thursday

**MARCH 26**

*Lenten Weekday*

Gn 17:3-9  
Jn 8:51-59

#### Friday

**MARCH 27**

*Lenten Weekday*

Jer 20:10-13  
Jn 10:31-42

#### Saturday

**MARCH 28**

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 37:21-28  
Jn 11:45-56

#### Sunday

**MARCH 29**

*Palm Sunday of the  
Passion of the Lord*

Mt 21:1-11  
Is 50:4-7  
Phil 2:6-11  
Mt 26:14-27:66 or  
27:11-54

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

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

## Lenten Family Project



## Meals in a Bag Lenten Family Project

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

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

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

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

### Individual Items Needed

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

Pinto Beans  
Small Pasta  
Spanish Rice  
Tomato Sauce  
Whole Kernel Corn

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

### Creamy Chicken & Dumplings

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

### Homestyle Ham Chowder

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

### Cheesy Chicken and Rice Soup

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

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

## The Athanasius Center

### The Athanasius Center



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

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

For more information, please email or text us:

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

You can also find us on social media:

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



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

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

## Homeworks 2026

### Home Works Summer Mission



A group of 20 teens and adults will be traveling to Fayetteville, NC on June 14–19, 2026 to take part in a week long session that offers service projects that are prayerful and spiritual in nature. Home Works' activities focus on providing repairs to homeowners in need, assisting youth in their development, and empowering communities to meet the needs of its members. To learn more about the program, you can visit their website at [www.homeworksofamerica.org](http://www.homeworksofamerica.org).

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

### Sponsoring a Youth

Want to help out? The registration fee may be out of the budget for some interested families. If you would like to help sponsor a youth for this trip (partially or fully), or would like to contribute to the overall cost of this mission, please let Marie Marshall know today at [mmarshall@iccwilm.org](mailto:mmarshall@iccwilm.org) or 910-791-1003x110!



## Palm Sunday & Holy Week 2026



### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

*No Confession/Reconciliation on Saturday*

*(Courtyard Palm Procession)*

**Saturday, March 28**

**5:00 pm, Liturgy**

**Sunday, March 29**

**8:30 am and 10:30 am, Liturgies**

**Monday, March 30**

**No Rosary or Stations of the Cross**

**Tuesday, March 31**

**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, April 1**

**No Liturgy / Activities**

**Parish offices close at 1:00 pm**

## The Paschal Triduum

### Holy Thursday, April 2

**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, April 3

**Silent Meditation**

**12:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

**Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**

**3:00 pm**

### Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday), April 4

**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, April 5

**Liturgies: 8:30 am and 10:30 am**

**We encourage everyone to arrive early for the Liturgies**

## Prayer Matters

*Please remember the following people in your prayers:*

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

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

## 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal

**\$59,083.12 Received of ICC Goal of \$150,556**

### How Does My Gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal Help?



The Bishop's Annual Appeal funds many ministries that allow us to educate the next generation. In addition to the ongoing formation of the priests and deacons currently serving in our diocese, the BAA provides funds needed to educate our future priests. The BAA also provides opportunities for our elementary, middle, and college-aged youth to grow in their Catholic faith through Catholic schools and campus ministry.

## Catholic High School Information

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

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

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

That our Catechists (teachers of the faith) are just like you, members of the community. Each of them gives their time and talent to the children, sharing their love of God and showing that God loves them. Our Catechists use games, crafts and stories to enrich the lessons and each brings their unique perspective to the sessions. Find out more by speaking to Gina or Marie

## EASTER COLLECTION

As you contemplate donations this Easter season, please keep Immaculate Conception in mind. **The Easter Offertory on April 4 & 5** 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](http://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 \$67,000.**

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  
Charlie DaVolio, Business Manager

- 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.*

**Lenten Reflection**



*St. Louis Brisson*  
**LENTEN REFLECTIONS**

*"When you fast, you only profit from the act: nobody else is edified or inspired by it. But when you perform an act of love — whether you are gentle, patient, or accommodating — everyone is edified. Let us consider living this way."*

One of three basic Lenten spiritual disciplines is fasting (the other 2 are prayer and almsgiving). While we think of fasting as avoiding excess of food and drink, the reality is that any type of restraint can be a type of fasting (such as fasting from movies, podcast listening, etc).

What impresses me about Fr. Brisson is that he invites us to fast here by doing something for someone else — even the tiniest act of love can help others. I often think of my dad, who often tells me that he smiles and is friendly with people at the store because it can help make someone else's day better.  
 May we fast in this way today.

**Free Furniture for Pick-Up Only**

- Wicker Pieces
- Queen Bedroom Set
- 2 tables
- 2 lamps

*If you're interested in any of the furniture, please contact Mary Sewell at [nyjets12mrs@aol.com](mailto:nyjets12mrs@aol.com).*

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

<p>1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Week</p> <p>Feb 21 &amp; 22 Feb 28 &amp; Mar 1 March 7 &amp; 8</p> <p><b>PURPLE</b></p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Week Laetare</p> <p>March 14 &amp; 15</p> <p><b>ROSE</b></p>	<p>5<sup>th</sup> Week</p> <p>March 21 &amp; 22</p> <p><b>PURPLE</b></p>	<p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>March 28 &amp; 29</p> <p><b>RED</b></p>	<p>Holy Thursday</p> <p>April 2</p> <p><b>WHITE</b></p>	<p>Good Friday</p> <p>April 3</p> <p><b>RED</b></p>	<p>Vigil &amp; Easter Sunday</p> <p>April 4 April 5</p> <p><b>WHITE</b></p>
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# The Colors of Lent

### EverTide Event

#### EverTide Presents “I AM”

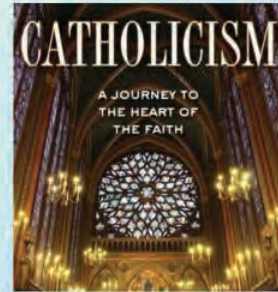
EverTide offers a worship experience of prayer and reflection, combining scripture and music in a sacred setting. In this hour-long event, EverTide leaders weave contemplative Christian music with readings from God’s Word, creating time for stillness, listening, and renewal.

The event will be led by John and Andrea Reynolds, and will take place from 2:30—3:30 PM on Sunday, April 26, here at ICC. For more information, please contact John at [EvertideEvents@gmail.com](mailto:EvertideEvents@gmail.com).



### Adult Faith Formation

#### Catholicism & Community: MONTHLY LUNCH AND LEARNING



De Sales Faith Formation Center 12-2

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| January 14  | July 8       |
| February 11 | August 12    |
| March 18    | September 16 |
| April 22    | October 14   |
| May 13      | November 11  |
| June 17     | December 9   |

Join fellow parishioners as we explore our Catholic faith through the award-winning Catholicism Series by Bishop Robert Barron. Each month we’ll watch an episode and enjoy a guided community discussion. Bring your lunch or sign up for a Firehouse Subs Box Lunch.

Register online at [ICCWilm.Org](http://ICCWilm.Org) or contact Gina Drost Director of Faith Formation for more information



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## DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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Easter 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Easter, our churches will be transformed with bells and songs and light and incense. But let us be reminded that what truly needs to be transformed is us. We need to experience what we celebrate.

When Jesus descended from heaven, taking on our human nature, He entered a world much like ours today—one gripped by power struggles, enslavement to sin, where human dignity is measured only by what is produced or possessed. He did not avoid or indulge this brokenness. Instead, He embraced our human history fully, not to conform to it, but to redeem and transform it through His divine plan.

The power behind His plan is quite simple, but also quite different from what our world considers “powerful.” Jesus shows us a different way - one where love, mercy, service and vulnerability become transformative powers through Him. The original pain and humility of the cross become a healing medicine that eradicates sin and destructive forces and restores to us the beauty of our God-given dignity.

This is the triumph we proclaim on Easter Sunday: life over death, love over sin, freedom over slavery. Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

Easter invites us to enter into this conversion with Him. In moments of fragility—whether personal trials, global challenges, or even times of isolation—we are reminded how little control we truly have. Technology grants us immense power, yet it cannot conquer death or heal the heart. God challenges us to prioritize love over control, to see ourselves and others as he sees. He loves us not in spite of our weaknesses, wounds, fears, and failings, but because of them—revealing our true greatness as His beloved children.

We must acknowledge the difficult truth that many of the problems and challenges of our world are a reflection of our own sins. Let us use this time of tremendous grace to hear and to share the Good News that the world so desperately needs. Let us celebrate this joyful time with renewed faith, embracing His power and believing that when we surrender control to His ways, we become truly free.

We are not merely spectators in this great transformation; God wants us to be transformed *by* Him and to celebrate who we are *through* Him. May this Easter be more than a joyful moment, but the beginning of a transformed reality where God's beauty and love reshape each of our lives.

In Christ,

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



# ALTAR FLOWERS

## January to June 2026

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

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

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

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

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

Song of Songs 2:12

**Choose from the following weekends:**

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

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

**No Flowers during Lent**

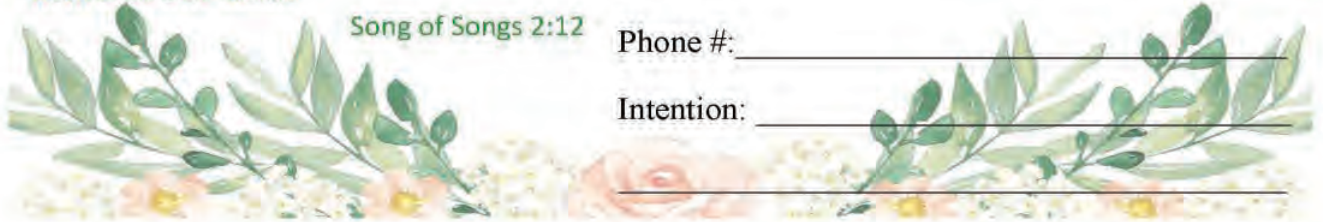
- Apr 18 & 19, 2026
- Apr 25 & 26, 2026
- May 2 & 3, 2026 - 1st Eucharist
- May 9 & 10, 2026 - Mother's Day
- May 16 & 17, 2026 - The Ascension of the Lord
- May 23 & 24, 2026 - Pentecost
- May 30 & 31, 2026 - Most Holy Trinity
- June 6 & 7, 2026 - The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
- June 13 & 14, 2026
- June 20 & 21, 2026 - Father's Day
- June 27 & 28, 2026

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

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

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





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