



# 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 24 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception

10:30 am Liturgy, Paul Bellm

*Procession Begins in the Courtyard  
No Faith Formation or Activities*

### Monday, March 25, 2024

**No Rosary/Novena**

### Tuesday, March 26, 2024

**No Eucharistic Adoration**

### Wednesday, March 27, 2024

**NO LITURGY**

*Church Offices Close at 1:00 PM*

### Thursday, March 28 - Liturgy of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet

7:00 pm Liturgy, Robert & Ruby Ferroli

*Church Offices Closed*

### Friday, March 29 - Passion of the Lord

12:00-2:30pm Silent Meditation

3:00 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

*Church Offices Closed*

### Saturday, March 30 - Holy Saturday

**No Reconciliation**

8:00 pm Liturgy, Edward & Eleanor McGee

*Easter Vigil Begins in the Courtyard*

### Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8:30 am Liturgy, Eleanor Cleary

10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception

*No Faith Formation or Activities*

*Liturgical Color for March 30 & 31 is White*



### Sanctuary Candle

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

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

### March 16 & 17, 2024

Envelopes	168 (Envelopes)	\$ 7,249.00
e-Giving	60	\$ 2,085.00
Loose Check	41 (Checks)	\$ 2,426.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$11,760.00
Loose Cash		\$ 1,564.00
Total Contributions		\$13,324.00

### Offertory/1st Collection:

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

\$1,001,640.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1- Mar 17, 2024

\$ 804,405.29

### *Please Note:*

*The Church Offices will close at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, March 27, and remain closed through Monday, April 8. Offices will reopen to the public on Tuesday, April 9, at 9:00 AM.*

## Holy Land Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the **Pontifical Good Friday Collection**, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church to minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines and provides humanitarian aid to Christian refugees. When you contribute to this collection you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

## Welcome Events

### Welcome/Orientation/Registration Events



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

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

#### The Next Welcome Events

May 11, 2024

June 1, 2024

## The Help Center Needs

### The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in **March 2024**:

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



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

## Stewardship Reflection

*“Pilate again said to them, ‘Then what shall I do with the man whom you call King of the Jews? And they cried out again, ‘Crucify him.’”  
(Mark 15:12-13)*

Jesus told us ‘whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me.’ Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and to be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone’s prayer.

## Chrism Mass



The Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Raleigh will take place at the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh, NC, on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 10:30 am. All are welcome to attend.

*Note: Attendees are responsible for their transportation to and from the Liturgy.*



ChurchArt Online | [www.churchart.com](http://www.churchart.com)

## Diocesan Second Collection

### Priests Welfare & Retirement

Diocesan Bishops provide financial and housing support for retired diocesan and religious order priests in accordance with the gospel. Many of our 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 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 provides additional resources for these priests.

Our parish is staffed by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, who receive a portion of these funds for their retirement. The cost of this financial support is allocated among all parishes of the diocese. Parishes meet this required goal through 2nd collections, paying any remaining balance from its operating budget. This special collection will be taken up next weekend, March 30 & 31. We thank you in advance for your generous support.



**MONDAY**

March 25  
Holy Week  
Is 42:1-7  
Jn 12:1-11

**TUESDAY**

March 26  
Holy Week  
Is 49:1-6  
Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**WEDNESDAY**

March 27  
Holy Week  
Is 50:4-9a  
Mt 26:14-25

**THURSDAY**

March 28  
Holy Thursday  
Chrism Mass:  
Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9  
Rv 1:5-8  
Lk 4:16-21  
Evening Mass of the  
Lord's Supper:  
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14  
1 Cor 11:23-26  
Jn 13:1-15

**FRIDAY**

March 29  
Friday of the Passion  
of the Lord  
(Good Friday)  
Is 52:13-53:12  
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
Jn 18:1-19:42

**SATURDAY**

March 30  
Holy Saturday  
(Easter Vigil)  
Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1,  
26-31a  
Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2,  
9a, 10-13, 15-18  
Ex 14:15-15:1  
Is 54:5-14  
Is 55:1-11  
Bar 3:9-15; 32-4:4  
Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28  
Rom 6:3-11  
Mk 16:1-7

**SUNDAY**

March 31  
Easter Sunday  
of the Resurrection  
of the Lord  
Acts 10:34a, 37-43  
Col 3:1-4 or  
1 Cor 5:6b-8  
Jn 20:1-9 or  
Mk 16:1-7

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 24, 2024.

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)**

Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 / Isaiah 50:4-7 /  
Philippians 2:6-11 / Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39



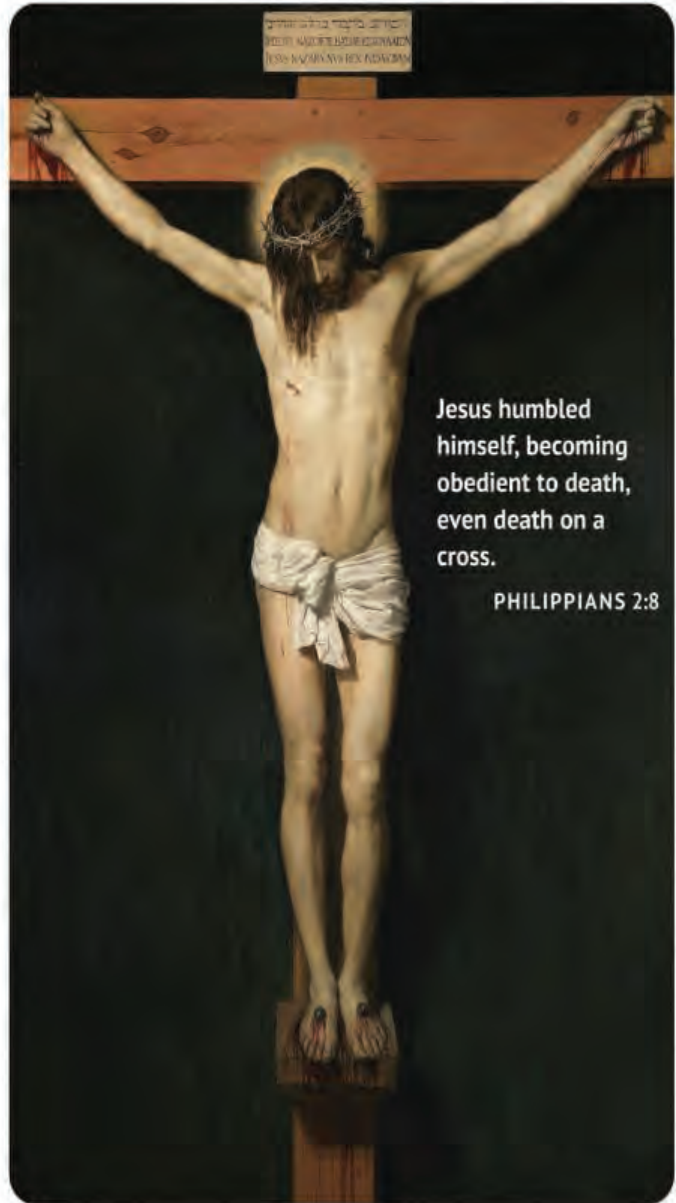
## The Hungers with Which We Live

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**enzin Kiyosaki is a former Buddhist nun who now works as an interfaith chaplain at a medical center in Los Angeles. There she tends to the spiritual needs of patients who have less than six months to live. When her brother asked her what it was that dying patients talk about, it led to her book *The Three Regrets: Inspirational Stories and Practical Advice for Love and Forgiveness at Life's End*. The three regrets she lists are: 1) I did not live the life of my dreams; 2) I did not share my love; and 3) I did not forgive. All too easily it seems we become preoccupied with what in the end becomes peripheral to what we really seek in life.

Today we tell the story of how Jesus' life of loving others came to its final conclusion, one of sacrificial love to the point of death. He came to reveal how such love is an essential dimension of the presence of God at the heart of every human life, and a cornerstone of the kingdom of God he proclaimed and to which he gave his life.

To the end, even on the cross, forgiveness was an essential aspect of his life of loving others. The very realities of what Jesus' life was all about are the same hungers we so often fail to recognize as we live our lives, though it is what he continually preached. Coming face to face with our own mortality seems to make his message most real. ●



Jesus humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

### Reflect

**Are you living the three values articulated by Tenzin Kiyosaki? Is there one you could do better?**



# Palm Sunday & Holy Week 2024



## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

*No Confession/Reconciliation on Saturday*

*(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



## 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](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 \$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.*



# PALM SUNDAY



## Promise of Life

Lord God,  
you entered Jerusalem in triumph,  
and we shouted, "Hosanna!"  
As the Lenten journey closes,  
may I continue to remember  
your sacrifice and love.

Give me the strength  
to follow your cross.  
May my heart find serenity  
and joy in your promise.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Never Alone



*Today's readings: Gospel at the procession Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16; Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24; Philippians 2:6–11; Mark 14:1–15:47.* Today's readings leave us much to ponder. During the Gospel at the procession, a crowd welcomes Jesus to Jerusalem, singing, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" At the end of the Gospel from Mark, Jesus was not hailed but reviled as passersby taunted, "You who would destroy the temple in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross."

In the last verses from Mark's Gospel, we witness the faith of the steadfast disciples, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of younger James and Joses, and Salome. These women had followed Jesus in Galilee, stood by until his

death, and watched where he was laid in a tomb. Apparent, too, is the faith of Joseph of Arimathea, who wrapped Jesus in linen and laid him in the tomb.

Also obvious in the Gospel is the wavering faith of those who had followed Jesus for three years. Not only did Judas betray Jesus, but Peter could not stay awake with him as he prayed in the garden, and later Peter denied him three times. The Gospel proclaimed today does not record the apostles' presence at the crucifixion.

During Holy Week, Christians have the opportunity to be with Christ as his last days are recalled. Take to heart Jesus' words to the apostles in Gethsemane: "Remain here and keep watch."





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, March 25 A Precious Offering

In today's Gospel we see how Mary, Lazarus' sister, takes what may have been her most precious possession and used it to anoint Jesus' feet. We are also given opportunities to give the very best of ourselves. Today, examine whether you have gifts within you that you hold back. Who would benefit from those gifts? *Today's readings: Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; John 12:1-11.*

### Tuesday, March 26 Judas Is Humanity

Imagine how Jesus would have felt knowing that Judas was about to betray him. He surely was troubled but also hurt. Let us also imagine what may have been in the mind and heart of Judas. In Judas we can see all of humanity reflected: the emptiness of greed and envy, the alienation and loneliness of sin. However much we strive to be like Jesus, we will always meet our flaws and shortcomings. In Christ, however, we are strengthened to do good in the world despite our failings. As we approach the celebration of the resurrection and prepare for the renewal of our baptismal promises, resolve to let the new life that Christ gives to well up within you. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 7:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17; John 13:21-33, 36-38.*

### Wednesday, March 27 Second Chances

Much can be learned from Judas' betrayal. Perhaps by examining Judas' actions, we can right our failings. Consider how you can explore and acknowledge what keeps you from God. This week reflect on the times you preferred a path other than God's. How did following another way disturb your relationship with God and others? Trust in God's promise of forgiveness for all who truly repent. *Today's readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 69:8-10; 21-22, 31, 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25.*

### Thursday, March 28 Serving Others

Tonight, with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Sacred Paschal Triduum begins. Humbling himself, Jesus washed and dried the feet of the disciples. Just as he washed their feet, by his resurrection, he washed away our sins. Perhaps you have an elderly parent, neighbor, or relative with impaired movement. How can you humble yourself and be of service to another? *Mass of the Lord's Supper: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15.*

### Friday, March 29 Symbol of Love

During the Adoration of the Holy Cross in today's liturgy, the faithful are invited to process to the cross and offer a sign of reverence. Even when you are unable to attend this service, spend time in quiet contemplating Jesus' surrender of himself on the cross. How are you asked to surrender yourself to the crosses in your life? *Celebration of the Passion of the Lord: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42.*

### Saturday, March 30 Beacon of Light in the Darkness

Jesus has died and descended into hell but the darkness surrounding us is only temporary. The light of the world will shine brightly once more, and soon enough it will defeat the darkness. *Today's readings: Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Psalm 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22; Genesis 22:1-18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ezra 36:16-17a, 18-28; Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Romans 6:3-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mark 16:1-7.*





## Divine Mercy Celebration

### Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

April 7, 2024 at 3:00pm

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church,  
4849 Castle Hayne Rd.,  
Castle Hayne, NC

As the official Host of the Divine Mercy Devotion of the Cape Fear Deanery, all are invited to attend our Celebration on April 7th, 2024, at 3:00 pm.

We are proud to have the Knights of Columbus from the Cape Fear Deanery to serve as Honor Guard to our Celebration.

Following our devotion, everyone is invited to enjoy a delicious luncheon of fried chicken and pulled pork in our Parish Hall. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share for this enjoyable meal.

What a wonderful day of worship and fellowship with parishioners from the whole Cape Fear Deanery!

Please call 910-675-2336 with any questions.

## 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**.

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

### Reasons to sign up for e-Giving

- \*No need to write checks or bring cash to church.
- \*More secure than checks.
- \*Peace-of-mind knowing that the church is receiving your contribution even if you are unable to attend.
- \*All contributions are recorded for you on your bank statement with date of settlement.

Immaculate Conception Church offers an electronic option for making regular offerings by debiting automatically from your checking or savings account or credit card. Our e-Giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our parish. Contact Michele Bean, [mbean@iccwilm.org](mailto:mbean@iccwilm.org), 910-791-1003, ext. 105.

**26-27TH APRIL**

IGNITED BY TRUTH

**2024 CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**  
*21st Annual*

- Experience Mass with Bishop Zarama and Confession with numerous diocesan priests
- Listen and talk to our fantastic speakers
- See your friends & grow your children's faith

- Be moved in Adoration or with saint's 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!**

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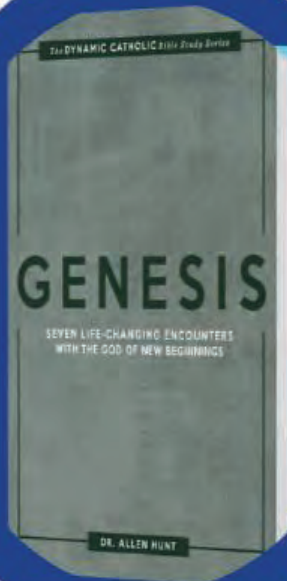
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*Names will remain on the list for one month from time of request. Please call the office if you wish to renew.*

## Palms

by Paul Turner



The Catholic faithful use palm branches at Mass on Palm Sunday and bring them home for devotional purposes. Palm Sunday is the popular name for the Sunday before Easter, though its full title is Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. Two Gospel passages are proclaimed at Mass that day: One tells of people waving branches or spreading cloaks to welcome Jesus in triumph to Jerusalem, and the other tells of his passion and death.

Any branches may be used in the liturgy, but parishes usually provide palm branches, as mentioned in John's gospel (12:13). The faithful hold them at the beginning of the Mass for the blessing and procession.

After Mass, people may bring the branches home as a sacramental. Various customs have developed. Some place branches behind a wall-mounted crucifix or other religious image. Others cleverly fold them into crosses. Still others incorporate blessed branches into improvised prayers for protection during harmful weather.

Used palm branches are burned the following year, and the ashes are placed on the heads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday. Some parishes burn their own ashes. People who wish to dispose of old palm branches may offer them back for burning or dispose of them at home in some reverent manner.

Palm branches appear in religious art as a symbol of martyrdom. In the Book of Revelation (7:9), a great multitude praises God with palm branches in hand. In the apocryphal gospel of pseudo-Matthew (20-21), a palm tree miraculously bends over to nourish the Holy Family on the flight into Egypt, and an angel plants one of its branches in paradise, making the palm a sign of victory in any contest.



## Making a Memorable Holy Week



# Five Holy Week Suggestions for Families

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the most solemn week of the Church's liturgical year. During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his earthly life, beginning with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

For nearly 40 days, the Christian faithful have practiced the disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Now the Church invites us to an even deeper spirit of prayer as we follow Christ on his journey to the Cross.

Here are five suggestions for families to use this week as an opportunity to grow in holiness as individuals and as a family.

1. What do you do with the palm branches you bring home from Palm Sunday Mass? Consider a simple ceremony to place them in your home. See below for a suggested ritual.
2. During the week, pray the seven Penitential Psalms together (Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and

143; [www.usccb.org/bible/psalms/6](http://www.usccb.org/bible/psalms/6)). These are especially appropriate during Lent. Prayerfully reciting these psalms helps us to recognize our sinfulness, express our sorrow, and ask for God's forgiveness.

3. Celebrate the Sacrament of Penance if you haven't already done so during Lent ([www.foryourmarriage.org/why-do-catholics-go-to-confession/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/why-do-catholics-go-to-confession/)). Many parishes have extra hours and/or communal penance services during Holy Week.
4. Attend a service together on Holy Thursday and/or Good Friday. On Thursday, the Church recalls the Last Supper and Jesus' gift of his Body and Blood. On Friday, parishes hold services to celebrate the Passion of the Lord; many have Stations of the Cross as well.
5. On Holy Saturday, pray for those who will be received into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil. Pray, too, for a deepening of your own faith and the grace to endure the suffering and celebrate the joys of married life.

### ***A Suggested Ritual for Placing Palm Branches in the Home***

*After dinner or at another time on Palm Sunday, the household gathers where the palms have been placed, perhaps near a crucifix or the family Bible.*

*All make the Sign of the Cross. The leader begins:*

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**R/. Hosanna in the highest!**

*The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the prayer:*

We have come to the last days of Lent. Today we heard the reading of the Passion. That story will remain with us as we leave Lent behind on Holy Thursday and enter into the three days when we celebrate the mystery of Christ's passing through suffering and death to life at God's right hand.

Listen to the words of the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (4:10-11):

[We are] always carrying about in the body the

dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**R/. Thanks be to God.**

*After a time of silence, members of the household join in prayers of intercession. The intercessions are followed by the Lord's Prayer. The leader continues:*

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, God of Israel, so rich in love and mercy. Let these branches ever remind us of Christ's triumph.

May we who bear them rejoice in his Cross and sing your praise forever and ever.

**R/. Amen.**

*The leader concludes: Let us bless the Lord.*

*All respond, making the Sign of the Cross: **Thanks be to God.***





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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

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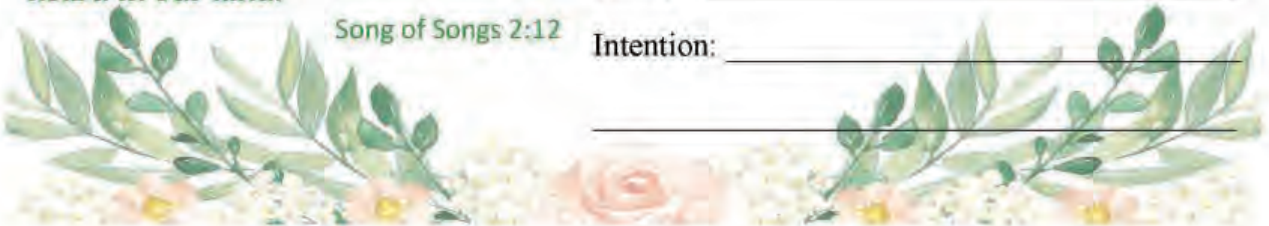
- Apr 13 & 14, 2024
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- Apr 27 & 28, 2024
- May 4 & 5, 2024 - 1st Eucharist
- May 11 & 12, 2024 - Mother's Day
- May 18 & 19, 2024 - Pentecost
- May 25 & 26, 2024 - Most Holy Trinity
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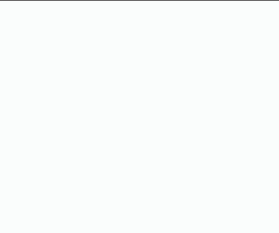
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