



# 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



The Altar Flowers are courtesy of all parishioners who donated via their Easter Flower Donation Envelope

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

8:30 am Liturgy, Eleanor Cleary  
10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception

*No Faith Formation or Activities*

### Monday, April 1, 2024

**No Rosary/Novena**  
*Church Offices Closed*

### Tuesday, April 2, 2024

**No Eucharistic Adoration**  
*Church Offices Closed*

### Wednesday, April 3, 2024

**NO LITURGY**  
*Church Offices Closed*

### Thursday, April 4, 2024

**NO LITURGY**  
*Church Offices Closed*

### Friday, April 5, 2024

**NO LITURGY**  
*Church Offices Closed*

### Saturday, April 6, 2024

3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church  
5:00 pm Liturgy, Nick Burton  
*K of C Membership Drive at all Liturgies*

### Sunday, April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Liturgy, Moe Tubbs  
8:30 am K of C Corporate Communion  
10:30 am Liturgy, Steven Wayne Clifton  
*K of C Membership Drive at all Liturgies*  
*No Faith Formation or Activities*

*Liturgical Color for April 6 & 7 is White*



### Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **John Echols**, and was donated by **Mary Jo Echols**.

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

#### Stewardship of Treasure Report

Due to early submission to the bulletin company in observance of holiday deadlines, the offertory for the weekends of **March 23 & 24** through **April 6 & 7** will be in the bulletin for the weekend of **April 13 & 14**.

*Sorry for any inconvenience.*

#### *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.*

## **HAPPY EASTER**

From the Staff of ICC:

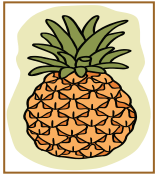
*Michele Bean      Gina Drost*  
*Johanna Hug      Tracey Kruger*  
*Marie Marshall      Chris Puritis*  
*Andrea Reynolds      Claudia Sing*  
*Fr. John McGee, OSFS*

To all our parishioners, their families and friends, and visitors to ICC, we wish everyone a Blessed Easter and a glorious Resurrection in the Lord!



## 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 **April 2024**:

- April 7            **Peanut butter (small or medium)**
- April 14          **Jelly**
- April 21          **Canned meat**
- April 28          **Mac 'n cheese**



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

## Stewardship Reflection

*“Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.”  
(Colossians 3:2)*

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died, rose, and opened the gates of heaven for us. We celebrate and sing ‘Alleluia.’ Let’s try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year. Pray daily and listen for how God is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

## 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.

# 26-27TH APRIL

IGNITED BY TRUTH

## 2024 CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

21st Annual

Friday Night Praise & Worship for ALL ages in conjunction with Franciscan University of Steubenville

- 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!



**FR. DONALD  
CALLOWAY**  
ST. JOSEPH  
Author of bestsellers  
Consecration to  
St Joseph, and  
Champions of the Rosary



**FR. LAWRENCE  
CARNEY**  
THE HOLY FACE  
Author of the Secret  
of the Holy Face  
Devotion



**MSGR. STEPHEN  
ROSSETTI**  
SPIRITUAL WARFARE  
Exorcist for Washington  
DC, Head of the  
St Michael Center for  
Spiritual Renewal



**CHIKA ANYANWU**  
PRAYER  
LIFE/YOUTH  
Popular Catholic youth  
evangelist & author of  
My Encounter: How I met  
Jesus in Prayer



**DON. RALPH POYO**  
ACTIVE  
APOSTLESHIP  
Deacon & Founder of  
the New Evangelization  
Ministries and  
Master of Ceremonies



REYNOLDS COLISEUM    **FRI 6:30-9:30PM**

MAIN STAGE • NC STATE • RALEIGH    **SAT 8AM-5:30PM**

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



REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[IGNITEDBYTRUTH.ORG](http://IGNITEDBYTRUTH.ORG)





**MONDAY**

April 1

*Octave of Easter*

Acts 2:14, 22-33

Mt 28:8-15

**TUESDAY**

April 2

*Octave of Easter*

Acts 2:36-41

Jn 20:11-18

**WEDNESDAY**

April 3

*Octave of Easter*

Acts 3:1-10

Lk 24:13-35

**THURSDAY**

April 4

*Octave of Easter*

Acts 3:11-26

Lk 24:35-48

**FRIDAY**

April 5

*Octave of Easter*

Acts 4:1-12

Jn 21:1-14

**SATURDAY**

April 6

*Octave of Easter*

Acts 4:13-21

Mk 16:9-15

**SUNDAY**

April 7

*Second Sunday  
of Easter**(Sunday of  
Divine Mercy)*

Acts 4:32-35

1 Jn 5:1-6

Jn 20:19-31

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 31, 2024

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (B)**Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 /  
John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7

*Then the other disciple also went in,  
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,  
and he saw and believed.*

JOHN 20:8

## Life without a Blankie

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**F**aith can have the look of high dives and learning to ride a bike without training wheels and life without one's "blankie." All are confrontations with the specter of death asking us to have faith. From youth to old age, our lives seem to be laced with the loss of control, and unless we embrace such moments, not only will we never really grow up, neither will we ever become people of faith who live in the resurrection.

The Easter Gospels are about women and men who arrive at the tomb but hesitate going in; it is the home of death. Yet they become believers after they have entered that home of death and discover it to be abandoned. Over the years, I have become convinced that the only way to become a believer in the resurrection is to walk into the tomb yourself and there discover that where you thought death

was present now has been abandoned. That is the pattern of coming to faith.

Usually such moments do not have the look of faith. They tend to seem more akin to death than any promise of new life—like having to move to a new city or a new school, or abandoning an addiction, or confronting a problem through counseling, or aging, or grieving over lost love. They all can have the look of tombs yet they are also where we find the beginnings of new life. Risk it often enough and so discover new life, and we begin to believe in the reality of resurrection—Jesus' and ours. ■

### Reflect

***Have you ever experienced life flowing  
from what appeared to be a death?***



# 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



## 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.*



# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



## Beacon of Light

Lord God,  
 you who conquered the darkness of evil,  
 also vanquish the fear in our hearts.  
 We rejoice that your resurrection,  
 frees us from the slavery of sin  
 and leads us to eternal life.  
 Grant that we may follow the path,  
 that your light shines for us  
 and share with others  
 the love that you have given us.  
 You live and reign with God the Father  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 31, 2024  
**He Has Risen!**



*Today's readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9.* The Lord has risen! Alleluia! Our rejoicing at Easter Time acknowledges that Christ's light has conquered darkness. Jesus came to do God's will; he paid the ultimate price, and now we proclaim with joy his resurrection. Our Lord prepared his disciples for his death and resurrection, telling them, "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me" (John 16:16). Jesus' rising from the dead should have come as no surprise to the disciples, yet they were surprised. As today's Gospel proclaims, "They did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead." Even though we understand, we still need to be open

to seeing with the eyes of our hearts so that we can embrace the resurrected Christ.

After the forty days of penitence of Lent, we celebrate the light defeating the darkness for fifty days. During Easter Time, we are invited to meditate on how our actions allow us to be light for others. How do you aid others to dispel the darkness surrounding them? Do you carry the message that Jesus is alive? Are you willing to shout it? When we share the light of Christ that permeates our lives, we show appreciation for the faith that we have been given. Through Jesus Christ, God has fulfilled his promise and given us eternal life. Let us not be afraid to rejoice in the new life we have been given.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 1

#### Trust

This week the Gospel shows Jesus encountering his disciples in varied settings. As we pray with these readings, we might see ourselves reflected in the encounters. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were fearful yet overjoyed upon seeing the empty tomb. How many of us have been stopped by our fears? These women trusted what the angel told them about our Lord. When we allow fear to overcome and paralyze us, problems are created. When afraid, seek the help of God, who has given you new life. *Today's readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Matthew 28:8-15.*

### Tuesday, April 2

#### Conversion

Many of Jesus' followers are like Mary of Magdala and do not recognize the risen Lord. They continue to seek the Jesus they had known before he fulfilled his mission. To recognize the resurrected Jesus, we ought to rely on the eyes of our hearts, which are filled with faith and trust in the Lord. Allow your heart to have a true conversion leading God to dwell within you. *Today's readings: Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; John 20:11-18.*

### Wednesday, April 3

#### Bread of Life

Imagine that, as one of the apostles, you followed Jesus and broke bread with him just before his death. Then he was nowhere to be found, or so you think. After Jesus' death, the disciples began to feel alone and disillusioned. When have you had an encounter with someone and realized it had been Jesus? At Mass, Jesus becomes the Bread of Life for us. He has not abandoned us; he remains within us, offering spiritual sustenance. *Today's readings: Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:13-35.*

### Thursday, April 4

#### Agents of Peace

While the disciples spoke of how Jesus had become known to them in the breaking of the bread, he appeared, saying, "Peace be with you." Rather than being overjoyed, the disciples were scared. Jesus had to show them his wounds for them to believe it was he who had returned. Reflecting on this scene, consider whether you are at peace. Do you bring peace to others? Is there someone with a restless heart who needs your offering of peace? *Today's readings: Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:2ab, 5, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:35-48.*

### Friday, April 5

#### Moving Forward

Jesus' followers have gone back to their old lives. Many people do the same today. After we experience a genuine encounter with Christ, it can be easy to return to our former ways. The harder path is to continue to move forward in the faith journey. As easy and as comfortable as our old life might have been, Christ calls us to a new life in which we surrender ourselves to God. *Today's readings: Acts 4:1-22; Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27a; John 21:1-14.*

### Saturday, April 6

#### Is It Really He?

At the end of this first week of Easter, consider how you allowed yourself to be transformed. When have you recognized the presence of Jesus in your faith journey and opened yourself to change? Are there times that Jesus could rebuke you for your unbelief and hardness of heart, as he rebuked the apostles? As you read of the encounters Jesus had throughout his glorious day of resurrection, ponder how you have been the living Christ for others. Take to heart the message of light and hope brought about through the resurrection. *Today's readings: Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:24; Mark 16:9-15.*



## Young Adult Fellowship Ministry

### ICC Young Adult Fellowship Ministry

Are you a young adult looking for an opportunity to dialogue with fellow Catholics? The Young Adult Fellowship Ministry offers a uniquely intellectual and personal experience with other young adult members on a variety of topics of faith. We will meet on Sundays at 2:30 pm in the DeSales Faith Formation Center.

For more information, please email or text us:

- **Oliver Galbraith:** [olivergalbraith@gmail.com](mailto:olivergalbraith@gmail.com) or text 910-619-3033
- **Clint Turbeville:** [turbeville\\_r@lynchburg.edu](mailto:turbeville_r@lynchburg.edu) or text at 910-523-2987



## Join Us in Steubenville

### Power & Purpose Conference

St. Mary Magdalene Church in Apex is traveling to Franciscan University of Steubenville on June 14-16 for an adult Catholic conference. Come learn from great speakers and hear more about the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will be traveling via coach bus, and would love for you to join us. Learn more at [steubenvilleconferences.com](http://steubenvilleconferences.com). Reserve your spot today by contacting Laura Werner at [lwerner@franciscan.edu](mailto:lwerner@franciscan.edu). You can also reach Laura by phone at 919-889-9904.

## 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.



## Prayer Matters

*Please remember the following people in your prayers:*

Herbert Aiken	Erin Mabry
Charles Babinski	The Maney Family
Drew Baker	Petar Manolev
Marley Basurto	Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Gail Bean	Teri Massey
Carol Bigwood	Kenneth May
Lorraine Biml	Connie Mercier
Iliana Bouneva	Ernest & Margie Messing
Barry & Teresa Brighten	Diane Miller
Christopher Brooks	Chris Moore
Tony Casiere	Irene Muccia
John Clavin	Kyle Muccia
Eva Congleton	Ernie Munoz
Susan Craig	Maurice Murphy
Margaret Deaton	Joanne McAteer
Marion DeCoursey	Barbara McCann
Patrick Delaney	Denise McGee
Leslie Dixon	Josephine McGovern
Kathy Driscoll	Joan McKillop
Carol Dubin	Ann Noack
Kathleen Estep	Kelly O'Connor
AC Everett	Edward O'Neill
Judy Faulk	Joanne Owens
Eleanor Flannery	John Paulhus
Robert Flavin	Debra Paulson
Brenda Floyd	Martin Plage, Jr.
Jennifer Freeman	Lexie Queen
Walt & Mary Gable	Anne-Marie Regan
Keira Gibson	Susan Reynolds
Sandy Greggs	Melanie Ryan
Dale Guy	Kerri Schafer
Don & Gloria Harris	Vivian Scharfer
Maureen Hayes	Jonathan Schoo
Louise Hebert	Beatrice Schultz
James Hinson	Rita & Ralph Seidl
Sandra Hobbs	Susan Self
Anthony Jenkins	David Stiver
Barbara Jezek	Cynthia & Paul Streb
J.J. Jones	Bill Sunseri
Denise Kassem	Marieange Tribie
Ken Keith	Pat Tyson
Lauren Kelly	Jack Walsh
David Kendziora	T. Michael Werner
Addison LaCourse	John Weisenreider
Robert LaGoe	Richard Weisenreider
Tracy Langone	Stephen Weisenreider
Eileen Lavelle	Anita Wynn
Christine Levy	
Mildred Lowrance	
Margaret Lupton	
Nicholas Lusk	
John Lyons	
Gregg Lysaght	

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

## Healing Spiritual Retreat

### Recovering Our Soul Connections Retreat

The experience of sexual abuse can reach every level of our being and leave us feeling distant from ourselves and even God. You are invited to come together with other women for a weekend experience of reflection and inspiration to help you reconnect with your deepest self and the God who loves all of you.

The 2024 Recovering Our Soul Connections Retreat, which includes an exploration of sacred scripture, music, movement, expressive arts, mutual support, and liturgy, will be held at Well of Mercy Retreat Center (<https://wellofmercy.org/>) in Hamptonville, NC. The retreat begins at 6:00 pm on Thursday, June 20, and concludes at noon on Sunday, June 23. Over a period of two months prior to the retreat, you will meet with a spiritual director to build a supportive relationship.

Space is limited to 12 retreatants. Applications will be accepted until the retreat is full. If accepted to the retreat, the full retreat fee of \$200 is required to secure your reservation. Subsidies from the Diocese of Raleigh, the Catholic Community of St. Thomas More in Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina State Court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas make this retreat possible.

For more information, or to request an application, please email us at [soulconnection366@gmail.com](mailto:soulconnection366@gmail.com) or visit **Recovering Our Soul Connection on Facebook**.

## Evening of Mercy

### Evening of Mercy with Bishop Zarama

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Southern Pines invites you to join us for an Evening of Mercy with Bishop Luis Zarama on Sunday, April 7, at 7:00 PM. The evening will begin with the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Bishop Zarama will give a reflection on God's Mercy. Refreshments will follow the chaplet, and all are welcome to attend.

The church is located at 160 E Vermont Avenue in Southern Pines, NC. As you prepare for this event, we suggest that you pray the nine-day Dive Mercy Novena, beginning on Good Friday and concluding on April 6.

**DIocese of Raleigh****Office of the Bishop**

7200 Stunselange Drive Raleigh, NC 27613

984-900-3103

Easter 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish each of you a Blessed Easter filled with the promise and joy of our Risen Lord!

Today we are united with the universal Church in celebrating the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death. How blessed are we to know that our Lord has turned suffering into glory and death into life.

As Catholics in the Diocese of Raleigh, we are especially blessed to welcome the light of Christ this Easter during the 100th year. We must not keep this Good News to ourselves! Just like the first disciples of the Risen Lord, we are called to go forth and to be His witnesses. We must remind the world that our Lord offers a love that is beyond what this world offers. Let us work together to spread the Love of the Risen Lord to every corner of eastern North Carolina and the world.

Please also join me in joyfully praying for all those who will be baptized and confirmed and welcomed into our Catholic faith this Easter.

May the Risen Lord abundantly bless you on Easter and always with the peace that only He can give.

In Christ,

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



## Easter Flowers and Decorations

Thank you to the following parishioners whose memorial donations cover our Easter flowers and decorations. We remember their loved ones at our Liturgies throughout the Easter Season.

Donated By:	In Memory / Honor Of:	Donated By:	In Memory / Honor Of:
Mrs. Mary Adams	Loved Ones	Ms. Katherine Hebel	Lazarus Sforzo, Tessie Forzo, Jean Cimino, Kay Accuri, Helen Quirroz
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Allen	Loved Ones	Mr. & Mrs. Aquiles Hernandez	Loved Ones
Mrs. Rose Angelino	Al Angelino	Ms. Laura Jabeck	The Porter & Ferrolli Families
Mrs. Angela Bellm	David Bellm	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Janusek	Nellie Champ, Cel Janusek
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Benigno	Benedetto & Teresa Benigno, Jack & Joan Castner	Mrs. Gail Joy	Helen & Stephen Joy, Sr., Ross Willman, John Montgomery, Sharon Joy Foster, Holly Joy Swan
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bennett	Mary Bennett, Ed Bennett, Edna Patterson, Harold Patterson	Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Kadnar	Barbara Cerqueira, Ralph Cerqueira, Christina Stever
Mrs. Gail Binni	The Binni & Ramsay Families	John Kirk	Judy Kirk, Bishop Albert Ottenweller
Mrs. Rosemary Block	Loved Ones	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kiser	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. David Brandie	Richard & Carol Dernac, Edward & Marie Brandie	Mr. Norbert Kupinski	Kathleen Kupinski
Mrs. Nancy Brown	Joseph Brown, Daniel Leahy, Jim Leahy, Melvin & Ann Cox, James Reece	Ms. Dianne Lusk	Byron & Frances Lusk, Stanley & Irene Lusk, Carl & Anna Governale, John & Sally Sodano, Margie Jordan O'Malley
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Casiere	The Living & Deceased Members of the Casiere & Lawson Families	Mrs. Michaline Manno	Anthony P. Manno
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Chalmers	The Chalmers Family, The Ambrose Family, The Killian Family, The Lanove Family	Mr. & Mrs. William McGee	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Chmielenski	Agnes Crampi, Anna Marie Crampi, Mamie Del'Uomo, Estelle Chmielenski, Dee Bogard	Mrs. Patricia Mahoney	Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. John Clavin	Joe Hemmel, Joe & Margaret Smith, Dianne Brewer, C.G. Clavin, Frances DeBusk	Mr. Randall Miller	Mr. Randall Miller
Mrs. Rose Coppola	The Coppola, Messina, Cacace, Dobbene, and Morello Families	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Muccia	Mary Muccia, Joe Muccia, Sr., Frances Lusk, Byron Lusk
Ms. Jo-Ann Craig	Deceased Members of the Craig, Cullinan, & Recchia Families	Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Myers	Kendall Myers
Dr. Susan Craig	Loved Ones	Mrs. Bella Natalicchio	The Roselli & Natalicchio Families
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Dougherty	Loved Ones	Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Norton	The Osborne & Norton Families
Mrs. Betty Downey	Thomas Downey	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Patterson	William Graney, Mr. & Mrs. William Graney, Emily Patterson
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Dreisbach	The Dreisbach and Sweeney Families	Ms. Anne Pelak	Tomm & Jean Dennison, Steve & Anna Pelak, Sr., Chuck Houghton, George Hebert, Karen Gross
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Eckert	Loved Ones	Mr. & Mrs. Santo Pittari	Loved Ones
Ms. Melanie Ferrara	The Entire Sterna Family and Kathy, Rose, Louise, Edie, & Jim	Mr. & Mrs. Martin Plage	Matthew Plage, Albert & Alma Heister, William & Marian Plage
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Flavin	The Flavin & Lindeboom Families, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Veterans	Mr. & Mrs. George Plarre	Susan Plarre, Dolores & Victor DeLuccia
Dr. & Mrs. Brian Ford	Loved Ones	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Plautz	Donald M. Plautz, Gerald J. Zygarr, Helen T. Burke
Mr. James Gallagher	Maureen Gallagher, Pat & Barbara Gallagher, Al & Rose Gallagher, Walter & Lee Lawrence, Ellen Crampton	Mrs. Mary Raliski	Edward J. Raliski, Edward S. Raliski, the Bode & Raliski Families
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Graybar, Sr.	Peter Stephen Graybar		



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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Russell	The DiLena & Russell Families	Mr. Walter Zwaryczuk	Mike & Maria Zwaryczuk
Mr. & Mrs. Vito Salerno	Alex Mitchell, Anellia Mitchell, Stanley Mitchell, Paul Salerno, Phyllis Salerno		
Mrs. Nancy Schrichte	The Schrichte & Dillard Families		
Mr. & Mrs. William Schultz	Marianne & Gerard Schultz		
Ms. Mary Sewell	The Sewell & Rinsdale Families		
Mrs. Lois Sheehy	Burch Sheehy		
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Simpson	Dewey Paul Beckham, Pauline Beckham, Thomas Beckham, Stanton Kolb, Josephine Herpel, Holly Talacek, Claude & Esta Me Simpson, Lois & Benson Windmiller, Dewey Angel, Stella Angel, Sherry Angel, Sonny & Annette Johnson, Gerry Talacek, Steve Bolton		
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Stokes, Sr.	Mary Casey, Eileen Walsh, Robert Walsh, George Stokes, Sr., Jacqueline Fitzpatrick		
Mr. & Mrs. Teddy Targonski	Esther Katreny		
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Tryer, Jr.	Loved Ones		
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Turano	John Cutrone, Laura Turano, Joseph Turano, Joseph Turano, Jr., Chase Turano, Lucas Cutrone		
Mrs. Katherine Umscheid	Joseph Umscheid, Jack & Catherine Kenny, Michael & Johanna Umscheid		
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Valente	Friends and Family of the Conlan & Valente Families		
Mrs. Gale Wallace	Kathy Cooper, Virginia Day Glen Wallace		
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Williams	Kitty & Bill Williams, Flonnie Godwin, Enoch & Anna Margaret Godwin, Sonny Oaks		
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Walser	Reed Whitesell, Elizabeth Billipp, Paul Dugan		
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Willis	Loved Ones		
Mr. George Winchell	Loved Ones		
Mrs. Dolores Wisilosky	Martin Wisilosky, Nellie Wazybok		
Mrs. Cathleen Yaschur	Fred C. & Helen Bishop, Vincent A. Yaschur		





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