# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
## Catholic Church

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

## A People Not a Place
*Learning to Live Jesus*

### OUR VISION

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

### OUR MISSION

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


**6650 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington, NC 28412**

De Sales Faith Formation Center
910-791-9857

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

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

# Parish Staff, Councils & Commission Chairs

| Title | Staff Member | Phone Number & Ext. | Email Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| Director of Music | Andrea Reynolds | 910-791-1003, Ext. 114 | areynolds@iccwilm.org |
| 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 | 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 |
| 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 - Temp)

## 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

Altar Flowers donated by all parishioners who donated by using their Easter Flower Donation Envelope

**Sunday, April 9 - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**
8:30 am Liturgy, Jack Brodie
10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception

**Monday, April 10, 2023**
*Church Offices Closed - No Liturgies/Activities*

**Tuesday, April 11, 2023**
*Church Offices Closed - No Liturgies/Activities*

**Wednesday, April 12, 2023**
*Church Offices Closed - No Liturgies/Activities*

**Thursday, April 13, 2023**
*Church Offices Closed - No Liturgies/Activities*

**Friday, April 14, 2023**
*Church Offices Closed - No Liturgies/Activities*

**Saturday, April 15, 2023**
3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church
5:00 pm Liturgy, Diane Edorssom

**Sunday, April 16 - Divine Mercy Sunday**
8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased Members of Immaculate Conception
10:30 am Liturgy, Robert Dovichak

*Liturgical Color for April 15 & 16 is White*

**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 April 2 & 3 and April 9 & 10 will be in the next bulletin.**

***Sorry for any inconvenience.***

***Please Note:***

***The Church Offices will close at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, and remain closed through Monday, April 17. Offices will reopen to the public on Tuesday, April 18, at 9:00 a.m.***

## *HAPPY EASTER*

From the ICC Staff:

*Michele Bean, Gina Drost,*
*Tracey Krüger,*
*Marie Marshall, 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**

**June 3, 2023**

## The Help Center Needs

### The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in **April 2023**:

| | |
|---|---|
| **April 2** | **Jelly** |
| **April 9** | **Cereal** |
| **April 16** | **Pasta sauce** |
| **April 23** | **Canned meat** |
| **April 30** | **Mac and cheese** |

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

## 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., 910-791-1003, ext. 105.

## Stewardship Reflection

***"Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."***
***(Colossians 3:2)***

Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego, can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be readjusted. Don't let earthly things become a god before God. This is also the first commandment: "I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any strange gods before me."

## Catholic Estate Planning

### Virtual Catholic Estate Planning Webinar

As a way to help educate parishioners in their knowledge as faithful stewards of the Lord's gifts, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh is offering another Estate Planning Webinar on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 10:00 - 11:15 am.

The webinar will be led by Foundation staff and a local estate planning attorney, providing an excellent opportunity for parishioners to learn more about what personal planning is, and what it involves. Webinar topics will include:

- Legal steps required in personal planning
- Understanding wills and trusts
- Catholic advanced medical directives
- Power of attorney
- Overview of the various charitable vehicles for estate planning

Guest speakers will include:

- Ryan Flood, Planned Giving Specialist, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh
- Andy Blair, Estate Planning Specialist, Partner, Poyner Spruill LLP

Please note that this is a free webinar, and no solicitations will be made. For more information, or to reserve a virtual seat, please call Maura Aguirre at 919-568-1065, or by email at Maura@FoundationDOR.org.

**Monday**
April 10
*Octave of Easter*
Acts 2:14, 22-32
Mt 28:8-15

**Tuesday**
April 11
*Octave of Easter*
Acts 2:36-41
Jn 20:11-18

**Wednesday**
April 12
*Octave of Easter*
Acts 3:1-10
Lk 24:13-35

**Thursday**
April 13
*Octave of Easter*
Acts 3:11-26
Lk 24:35-48

**Friday**
April 14
*Octave of Easter*
Acts 4:1-12
Jn 21:1-14

**Saturday**
April 15
*Octave of Easter*
Acts 4:13-21
Mk 16:9-15

**Sunday**
April 16
*Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)*
Acts 2:42-47
1 Pt 1:3-9
Jn 20:19-31

Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (A)
Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 / John 20:1-9

# Learning "Alleluia"

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I overheard this conversation in a coffee shop:

Child: Mom, I wouldn't have to go to school today. I could stay home with you.
Mom: I know, Joe, but I think Mrs. Burns would miss you.
Child: But won't you miss me, Mom?
Mom: Sure, Joe, but I know you'll be back in the afternoon, and I can be with you then.
Child: But I could help you in the kitchen.
Mom: What do you think you'll be doing in school today? It's getting close to Easter. I bet Mrs. Burns will let you make bunnies.
Child: Yeah, maybe. Mom, I think my tummy hurts.
Mom: Oh, I think it'll get better once you're busy in school.
Child: Mom, couldn't I stay home with you today? I'll miss you.
Mom: I know you will, Joe, but it's only for a couple of hours. How's your apple juice?
Child: OK. Mom, I think it would be OK if I stayed home today.

By the time they left, it looked as if Joe was going to school. Joe was learning an important lesson in life. Sometimes we have to do what we don't want to; we have to go into what seems to be "the tomb of death" if we're going to find life.

Easter's Gospel is that of Peter and John going and finding the tomb empty. Curiously, they didn't become believers until they entered the tomb, until they entered death's home. It's how faith happens, finding life when we expected only death and recognizing the hand of God in it.

**Reflect**

***Have you ever had a Lazarus Experience—called out of a dark place into the light?***

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## Divine Mercy Celebration

**Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration**
**April 16, 2023 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 16th at 3:00 pm.

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

We will be having our famous 'potluck/covered-dish' luncheon in our Fellowship Hall following the celebration, and will have 'Fried Chicken' and 'Pulled Pork.' Everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share for this enjoyable meal.

We know that you will enjoy this time of worship and devotion, followed by a time of food, fun, and fellowship. We look forward to celebrating worship and fellowship with parishioners from the whole Deanery.

## K of C Scholarship

### "College Scholarships for Future Saints"

The local Knights of Columbus Msgr. Christopher Dennen Assembly 2017 will be awarding **$3,000 Gold** award, **$2,500 Silver** award, and **$1,500 Bronze** award scholarships to Catholic students enrolling for the first time in a university or community college beginning in 2023. The student must demonstrate academic proficiency for admission and some service to church, school, or their local community. The **3** winners will be discerned by the K of C Scholarship for Future Saints Committee members. To apply for the scholarship, a student must fill out a one-page application, write an minimum 700 word essay on the life of a Catholic saint, and provide the requested biographical information.

The application is available at **htttps://kofc2017.org/scholarship** and parish social media. Questions can be emailed to the Scholarship Chairman at **2023scholarship@ec.rr.com .**

## Raleigh Tribunal

The Raleigh Tribunal is seeking men and women who are willing to assist individuals pursuing a declaration of nullity of a prior marriage. Our Tribunal is in particular need of those who are bilingual in Spanish and/or Vietnamese. A compassionate ear and the ability to maintain strict confidentiality are the main requirements. There will be five training sessions, three in person at the Catholic Center in Raleigh, and two done remotely via Go To Meeting. All sessions will be on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, and will begin in late April. Attendance at all five sessions is required.

For more information about training and specific dates, please contact Mrs. Vikki Newell no later than Monday, April 17, 2023 by calling 984-900-3135, or by email at Vikki.Newell@raldioc.org .

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

## Ignited by Truth

### Ignited By Truth Conference

Don't miss the 20th annual Ignited by Truth conference! Meet friends, learn about your faith, experience the sacraments, be moved in Adoration, and venerate relics. Don't miss this unforgettable event on April 28-29, 2023, at NC State's Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh.

NEW this year: Steubenville Night of Worship on Friday evening with Deacon Ralph Poyo, Dana Catherine, Kris Frank, and Fr. Ian Van Heusen. Saturday's speakers include Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, Matthew Leonard, Kris Frank, Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse, and Jackie Angel, plus Morning Mass with Bishop Zarama.

Adult admission for both days is just $25. Students ages 10 - college age are FREE, with food provided for both days. For tickets, please visit IgnitedByTruth.org, or call 919-789-1428.

# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

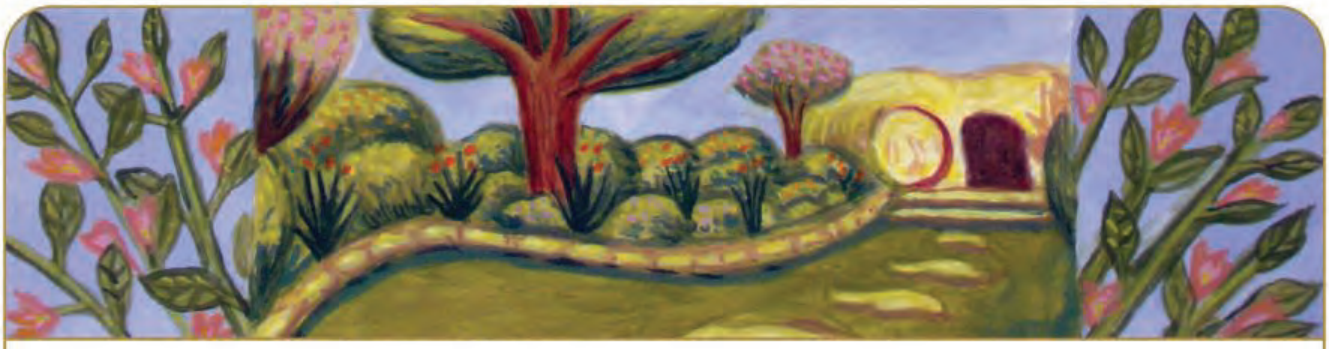
## Alleluia! Alleluia!

God of joy,
you raised Jesus from the dead
and unlocked the path to eternal life
for all of creation.
Awaken us to the gift of salvation
poured into the world
with Christ's victory over death.
Infuse our hearts with joy
as we pray, sing, and dance in celebration.
Bless our Easter worship
and time gathered with family and friends
this day.
Through Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

### Sunday, April 9, 2023
### Alleluia!

*Today's readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8; Sequence Victimae paschali laudes; John 20:1–9 or Matthew 28:1–10 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13–35.* Celebrating Easter is like watching the sunrise in the most beautiful place ever visited. All along our journey through Lent our eyes have been tuned for directional arrows in the Scriptures pointing our steps toward God, who summons us unceasingly.

At Easter we open our hearts fully as the Son rises gloriously and his rays fill us with joy. Together with the community of faith, we renew our baptismal vows. Like a long-married couple renewing their marriage vows, we baptized Christians renew our commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church. We welcome sprinkles of blessed baptismal water as a symbol of our bond in faith. It is a joyous response to God's invitation to return to him with ready hearts. The resurrection is celebrated with our jubilant renewal of faith as the Gloria and Alleluia are sung and trumpets and bells resound. Our sanctuaries and homes are filled with fragrant flowers and our tables hold choice foods to share with those we love. The Son is alive and with us always! Alleluia!



# THIS WEEK AT HOME

## Monday, April 10
### Do Not Be Afraid

In Matthew's resurrection account, the first appearance of the risen Lord is to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary." The encounter is utterly unexpected. The women were looking for the disciples. They could not imagine seeing Jesus. The first words Jesus speaks are "Peace" and "Do not be afraid." With their fear dispelled, the women embrace their call to be the first witnesses of the risen Christ. *Today's readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

## Tuesday, April 11
### Called by Name

John's resurrection account mirrors Matthew's in that the first appearance of the risen Lord is to Mary Magdalene. Consumed with grief and confusion, Mary is unable to recognize Jesus until he calls her by name. At the sound of her name, Mary is forever transformed. With certainty, she announces the good news. On the day of our baptism, and continually throughout our lives, God calls us by name and sends us as living witnesses to the world. *Today's readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

## Wednesday, April 12
### Be Alert

There is so much good news to unpack and celebrate about the resurrection of Jesus that the Church gives us fifty days in the Easter season to do this. Today is one of the many times when we hear about the time Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. He approaches and walks with them, first listening, then teaching, and ultimately revealing. Jesus does that with each of us, day by day, through the Easter season. Be alert for when he shows up! *Today's readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

## Thursday, April 13
### Go Deeper

As Jesus ate and spoke with his disciples in Jerusalem, Luke tells us that "he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45). He reinterpreted sacred Scripture in light of his birth, death, and resurrection, revealing a new layer of meaning about the plan of God. How might we allow our daily reading of the Scriptures through this Easter season to bring us to a deeper understanding of the paschal mystery in our time? *Today's readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

## Friday, April 14
### Fifty Days

Today we hear from John about Jesus' third appearance to his disciples, this time on the beach of the Sea of Tiberias. The disciples have returned to their occupation of fishing. Jesus will be sending them back to the vocation to which he called them as evangelists. Jesus did not give up on his beloved disciples; he does not give up on us. Easter is not over; it has just begun. During these fifty days of Easter, we have time to contemplate how the Lord draws us close, feeds us, and empowers us to be living witnesses of joy. *Today's readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

## Saturday, April 15
### Go Out to the Whole World

The octave (eight days) of Easter concludes with Mark's account of how Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene. She immediately went to announce the good news. But, alas, she was met with resistance and disbelief. Witnessing the truth of Jesus Christ in today's culture requires confronting skepticism and rejection. But as Jesus instructed the disciples then, he commands us now to persist and "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). *Today's readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*

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## Prayer Matters

***Please remember the following people in your prayers:***

Michael Accattato
Susan Alford & Family
Gabrielle Baldwin
Marley Basurto
Lorraine Biml
Dee Bogard
Jan Boland
Iliana Bouneva
Ryin Bozeman
Barry & Teresa Brighten
Christopher Brooks
Bill & Maureen Brown
Carol Burchill
Nick Burton
John Campbell
Micki Campbell
Joe & Joan Carbone
Joan Carilli
Carmela Carrano
Mary Jo Cavanaugh
John Clavin
Jackie Coppolino
Susan Craig
Joanne Davis
Marion DeCoursey
Grace Deich
Jim Demetres
Leslie Dixon
Kathy Driscoll
David Duarte
Kathleen Estep
AC Everett
Judy Faulk
Francine Federici
Eleanor Flannery
Robert Flavin
Barbara Fleming
Corrie Formica
Sharon Joy Fosler
Jennifer Freeman
Walt & Mary Gable
Sandy Greggs
Lorraine Grimsley
Frank Grissler
Gloria Harris
Sandra Hobbs
Tom Hoepfner
Richard Hug
Marion Isaksen
Anthony Jenkins
J.J. Jones
Denise Kassem
Lauren Kelly
Helen Knoll
Addison LaCourse
Delores Leary
Beth Lessard
Margaret Lupton
Nicholas Lusk
Gregg Lysaght
Joanne McAteer
Keith McAteer
Michael McAteer
Joan McCall
Barbara McCann
Denise McGee
Josephine McGovern
Beulah McKee
Joan McKillop
Frankie Marcinkiewicz
John H. Martin
Teri Massey
Connie Mercier
Ed Mezzela
Owen James Monroe
Bill Moore
Chris Moore
Irene Muccia
Kyle Muccia
Ann Noack
Edward O'Neill
Joanne Owens
Roberta & Robert Painter
Debra Paulson
Bobby Perrone
Donna Piner
Susan Reynolds
Beatrice Schultz
Rita & Ralph Seidl
Glen Severage
Mary Ellen Simmons
Jeff Stewart
David Stiver
Larry Strauss
Cynthia & Paul Streb
Kaye Torrens
Rob Verderosa
Richard Wadzinski
Jack Walsh
T. Michael Werner
Richard White
Maria Woodcock
Anita Wynn

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

# Easter

***by* Paul Turner**

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. On this day the disciples saw the empty tomb, and the risen Jesus began to appear to them. Easter celebrates our belief in life after death. It ranks first among the feasts of the church.

The Easter Sunday Mass differs a bit from others. The new paschal candle is lighted and stands near the ambo. Having omitted the Glory to God throughout the season of Lent, we sing it again. The Easter sequence is said or sung after the second reading. During Lent we sang a different acclamation before the Gospel, but now we sing "Alleluia" again. In the United States the creed may be replaced with the renewal of baptismal promises and the sprinkling of holy water on this day.

There are small changes to the Eucharistic prayer. If you are alert, you will hear during the preface that Christ became our paschal sacrifice "on this day." If the priest is using Eucharistic Prayer I, he announces that this is the day of the resurrection of the Lord and that the community prays especially for those newly baptized at the Easter Vigil.

At the end of the Mass, the deacon or priest adds two "alleluias" to the words of dismissal, and you respond, "Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia."

Attendance is strong on Easter, as all those who profess faith in Christ join together in a single celebration. Many worshipers like to dress up for the occasion. The main Easter liturgy is the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, and all Catholics should make every effort to participate in it. But Easter Sunday remains a popular choice for affirming one's faith in the risen Christ.

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## Easter Collection

As you contemplate donations this Easter season, please keep Immaculate Conception in mind. **The *Easter Offertory on April 8 & 9*** is part of the parish's operating budget and supports all of the wonderful ministries here at Immaculate Conception. Your contribution to this year's ***Easter Offertory*** is an opportunity to renew our commitment to maintaining our parish's financial wellbeing. We ask all to prayerfully consider what they can do to make this renewal happen. Our efforts may well require sacrificial giving. If you plan to be away from the parish this Easter, please consider making your contribution the preceding weekend or alternatively, by mail or through our parish website at www.iccwilm.org.

**Our goal for this year's Easter Collection is $35,000.**

## 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 $58,000.***

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
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.*

## Reminder of Parking Lot Courtesies

With the Easter season upon us, and the increase of new visitors to ICC, here are a few reminders of parking courtesy . . .

- You are invited to drop off passengers at the front walkway to the Gathering Area, but this is an emergency lane and parking is NOT allowed at any time.
- Handicap parking is available in the front of the church, and is clearly marked.
- Please be good stewards and park ONLY in lined parking spots. There is additional parking along the side of the church with a second entrance to the Gathering Area in the back.
- Our church is located on a very busy highway. To ensure a safe and speedy exit from the parking lot following our weekend Liturgies, we have paid Sheriff Deputies directing traffic. Please watch them carefully and follow their lead.
- We appreciate that so many of our parishioners want to be courteous and stop and allow people out of their parking spot, but that interrupts the flow of exiting. The Sheriff Deputies have asked us to remind everyone that they are only allowed to stop traffic for a few minutes at a time, so it is very helpful to keep the flow going while the traffic is stopped.
- We know that everyone has someplace to be after Liturgy, but that should not preclude common courtesy. Please practice an attitude of patience, and follow the proper flow to exit the church parking lot. It is up to each of us to do our part and keep everyone safe and accident free.

## Home Works Summer Mission

A group of 20 teens will be traveling to Fayetteville, NC on June 11– 16, 2023 to take part in a week long session that offers service projects that are prayerful and spiritual in nature. Home Works' activities focus on providing repairs to homeowners in need, assisting youth in their development, and empowering communities to meet the needs of its members. To learn more about the program, you can visit their website at www.homeworksofamerica.org.

The cost of the trip is only a $250 dollar donation! If you are interested in attending, a non-refundable $50 deposit with completed registration forms should be turned into Marie Marshall, Youth Minister, in the Parish Office. You can only secure a spot with your registration and the deposit, and it is first come first serve! Registration forms are available through the Youth Ministry Office.

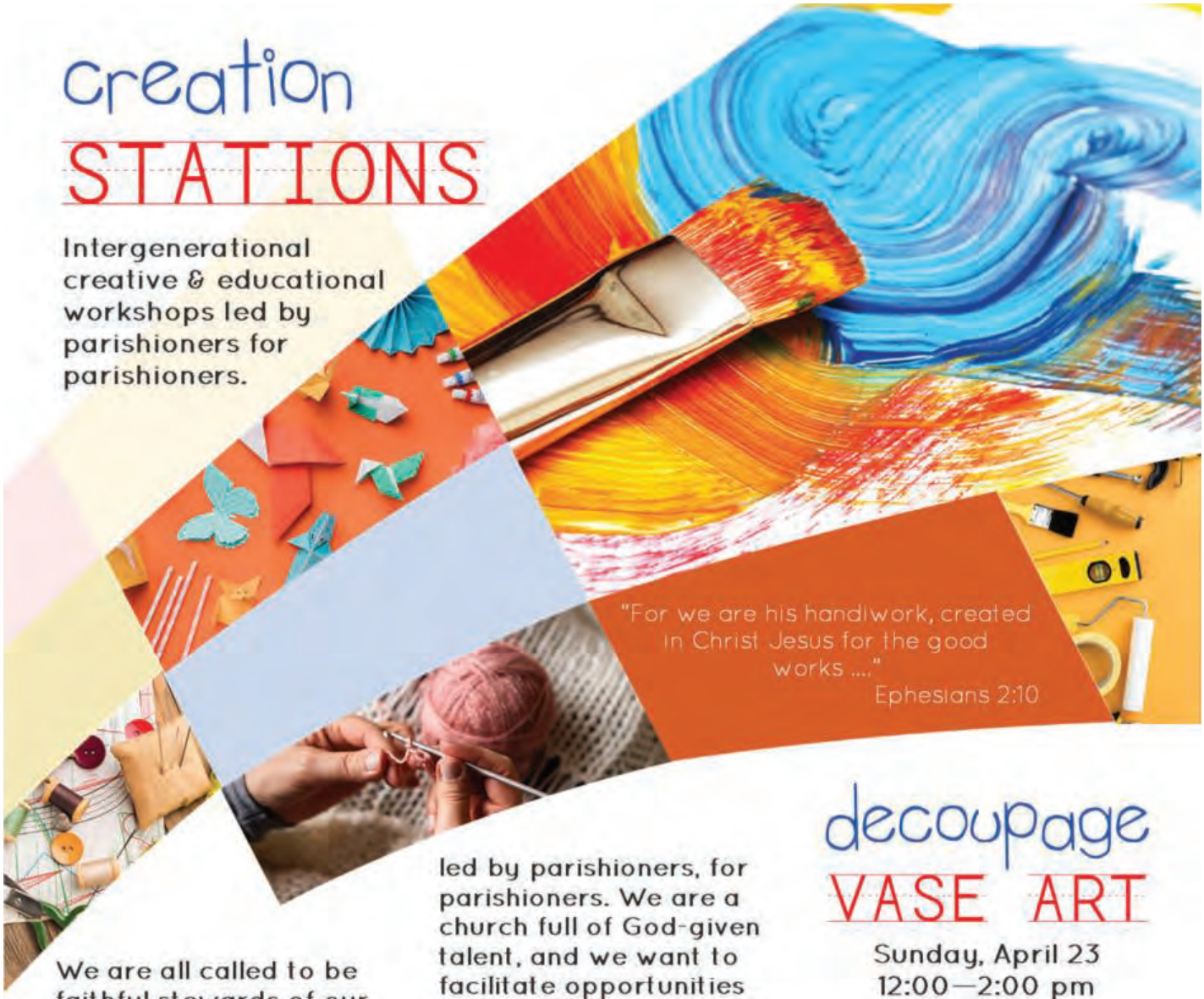
### Sponsoring a Youth

Can't go, but still want to help out? The $250 registration fee may be out of the budget for some interested families. If you would like to help sponsor a youth for this trip (partially or fully), or would like to contribute to the overall cost of this mission, please let Marie Marshall know today at mmarshall@iccwilm.org or 910-791-1003x110!

*"Works of love are always works of peace. Whenever you share with others, you'll notice the peace that comes to you and to them."*
*~ Mother Teresa*

# creation STATIONS

Intergenerational creative & educational workshops led by parishioners for parishioners.




We are all called to be faithful stewards of our God-given gifts. Using our talents for God can help us to find purposeful work and share God's love. Depending on what our gifts are, we are using those talents in so many different ways - ways that others would love to learn or experience!

Creation Stations is an on-going series of intergenerational creative and educational workshops led by parishioners, for parishioners. We are a church full of God-given talent, and we want to facilitate opportunities to share them with each other while building our faith community.

If you are interested in participating by leading a workshop on a talent, skill, or sharing knowledge that you have we would love to hear from you! Please contact our Director of Faith Formation, Gina Drost, at gdrost@iccwilm.org or at 910.791.1003 ext. 112

## decoupage VASE ART

Sunday, April 23
12:00—2:00 pm
DeSales Faith Formation Center

Learn basic techniques and skills to create beautiful decoupage vase art!

There is a supply fee of $5.00 per participant.

Register online at www.iccwilm.org by April 19

# 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: |
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| Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Allen | Deceased Members of The Jeff & Ann Allen Families |
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| Mrs. Angela Bellm | David Bellm |
| Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Barrone | Anthony A. Barone, Jr., Mary M. Holmes |
| Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bender | Loved Ones |
| Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bennett | Catherine Mary Bennett, Edward X. Bennett, Edna Louise Patterson, Harold Patterson |
| Mrs. Gail Binni | Loved Ones |
| Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Bird | Patrick Bird, Helen Bird, Katherine Brangan, Thomas Brangan, Richard Brangan |
| Mr. & Mrs. Christian Branchi | Loved Ones |
| Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Branco | Gregory Branco |
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| Mr. & Mrs. Walter Chmielenski | Sal & Agnes Farone, Estelle & Walter Chmielenski, Anne Marie Crampi, Mamie Dell'Uomo |
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| Kathleen Corbett | Frank & Lorraine Corbett, James & Ellen Corbett, Frank & Florence Jarboe, Maryellen Thompson |
| Ms. Jo-Ann Craig | Bill Bertrand, Dean Powell, Deceased Members of the Craig Familys |

| Donated By: | In Memory / Honor Of: |
|---|---|
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| Mr. & Mrs. Joe McDonald | The McDonald & Leinen Families |
| Mr. & Mrs. William McGee | Loved Ones |

# Easter Flowers and Decorations

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| Donated By: | In Memory / Honor Of: |
|---|---|
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| Mr. Randall Miller | Loved Ones |
| Mr. & Mrs. Joel Morin | Levy & Morin Families |
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| Mr. & Mrs. David Prosser | Loved Ones |
| Ms. Jean Render | Loved Ones |
| Ms. Susan Reynolds | The Cusimano & Reynolds Families, Jesus |
| Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Russell | The Di Lena, Russell, Mannix, and Malloy Families |
| Mrs. Cathy Rutti | Dave Rutti & Family |
| Mr. & Mrs. Vito Salerno | Alex Mitchell, Anellia Mitchell, Stanley Mitchell, Paul Salerno, Phyllis Salerno |
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| Mr. & Mrs. George Stokes | George Stokes, Sr., the Murphy Family |
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| Mr. & Mrs. Robb Trout | Maureen Gallagher, Ellen Crampton, Pat & Barbara Gallagher, Walter & Lee Lawrence, Barbara & Henry Trout, Henry Trout, III |
| Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Tryer, Jr. | Loved Ones |
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| Mr. & Mrs. James Welsh | James Welsh, Marilyn Johnson |
| Mr. George Winchell | Loved Ones |
| Mrs. Cathleen Yaschur | Fred & Helen Bishop, The Bishop, Peterson, and Yaschur Families |
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