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

Commission Chairs

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

Parish Pastoral Council

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

Parish Finance Council

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

Liturgies and Devotions

Weekend - Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Weekday - See "This Week at Immaculate Conception" - Page 3

Devotions - Rosary for World Peace/ Novena to Our Lady, Monday - 9:30 am
Chaplet of Divine Mercy to end human trafficking, Thursday - 9:30 am
Rosary, Devotion to the Sacred Heart, First Friday

Eucharistic Adoration -
First Friday, 9:45 am - 11:00 am ***and***
Tuesdays, 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Bulletin Deadline

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

New Parishioners

If you are new to Wilmington or to Immaculate Conception, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you. We are an active and vibrant parish and ask, if you have decided to join us, that you will seriously consider giving of your time, talent, and treasure for the Lord's work. Completion of an Interest Card, Parish Registration Form and attendance to a Welcome/Orientation/ Registration Event is part of active membership and provides you with parish mailings. Please find an Interest Card located in the pamphlet rack in the Gathering Area of the church.

Sacramental Life

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

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

1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist: Second grade is our Sacramental year for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. First grade faith formation is a 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 Flower During the Summer Months

Sunday, August 23—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am Liturgy, Jim Schrichte
10:30 am Liturgy, Alice Kelley
2:30-3:30 The Athanasius Center, DFFC

Monday, August 24, 2026
9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, August 25, 2026
9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, August 26, 2026
9:00 am Liturgy, David Bellm

Thursday, August 27, 2026
9:00 am Liturgy, Rella Jean Martin
9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, August 28, 2026
9:00 am Liturgy, Fr. Mark S. Mealey, OSFS

Saturday, August 29, 2026
9:15-10:30 OCIA Meeting, DFFC
3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church
5:00 pm Liturgy, Antoni & Elizabeth Jankowski

Sunday, August 30—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 am Liturgy, Rose Lysaght
10:30 am Liturgy, Sheila Dineen
12:00-2:00 Faith Formation Kick Off, DFFC

Liturgical Color for August 29 & 30 is Green

Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in celebration of **Denise McGee**, and was donated by **Chapter By Chapter 2**.

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

August 15 & 16, 2026

Envelopes	115 (Envelopes)	$ 4,584.00
e-Giving	192	$15,245.28
Loose Check	42 (Checks)	$ 5,375.00
Identifiable Contributions		$25,204.28
Loose Cash		$ 1,802.00
Total Contributions		$27,006.28

Mission Cooperative

Total YTD Contributions	$ 2,042.00

Assumption of Mary

Total YTD Contributions	$ 2,738.00

Offertory/1st Collection:
Annual Budget: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
$1,225,000.00
Total Received YTD: July 1– Aug 16, 2026
$ 154,518.27

Stewardship Reflection

"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?"
(Romans 11:35)

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship: we cannot give God anything—He already owns all of it. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we, too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity. And, through our generosity, we may just be the answer to someone else's prayer.

Welcome Events

Welcome/Orientation/Registration Events

New to the area? Want to join ICC? Pick up an Interest Card in the pamphlet rack in the Gathering Area, fill it out and return to the church office, then attend one of the listed Welcome / Orientation / Registration Events. The events are on Saturday mornings, 9:00 am-10:45 am (refreshments available at 8:30 am).

The Next Welcome Events

September 12, 2026

November 7, 2026 **January 9, 2027**

March 6, 2027 **June 12, 2027**

The Help Center Needs

The Help Center Food Donations

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

August 2	**Pasta**
August 9	**Pasta sauce**
August 16	**Soup**
August 23	**Cereal**
August 30	**Green Beans**

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

E-Giving Program

Did you know that...

Immaculate Conception Church offers an electronic option for making regular offerings by debiting automatically from your checking account, savings account, or credit card. Our *e*-Giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our parish. Contact Charles DaVolio, cdavolio@iccwilm.org, or by calling 910-791-1003, ext. 105.

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, **August 29 & 30**. We thank you in advance for your generous support.

Catholic Daughters News

Catholic Daughters Bake Sale

Members of the Catholic Daughters Court #2444 thank the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church for their generous support of our bake sale held on the weekend of August 15-16. Sales of baked goods and donations totaled $844.

We also extend our appreciation to Fr. John and his staff for their support of Court activities.

Our monthly meetings are held at 9:45 AM on the second Friday of each month in the DeSales Faith Formation Center. All women of the parish are cordially invited to attend.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 23, 2026
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 22:19–23 / Romans 11:33–36 / Matthew 16:13–20

Who Do You Say That I Am?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: "Who do *you* say that I am?" Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response. No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter's assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

Reflect

How would you answer if Jesus asked you, "Who do you say that I am?" (He is asking you!)

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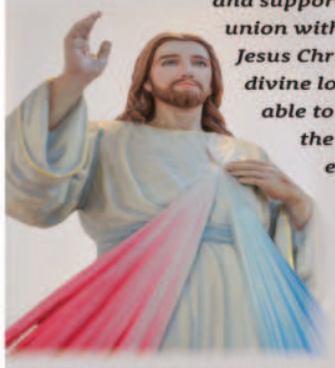
A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, "Samaritan" spirit—one that is welcoming, courageous, committed, and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly, or afflicted.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026



IMMACULATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about ***Dear Padre***.

Monday
August 24
St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Rv 21:9b–14
Jn 1:45–51

Tuesday
August 25
Weekday
2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17
Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday
August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6–10, 16–18
Mt 23:27–32

Thursday
August 27
St. Monica
1 Cor 1:1–9
Mt 24:42–51

Friday
August 28
St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Cor 1:17–25
Mt 25:1–13

Saturday
August 29
The Passion of St. John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26–31
Mk 6:17–29

Sunday
August 30
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7–9
Rom 12:1–2
Mt 16:21–27

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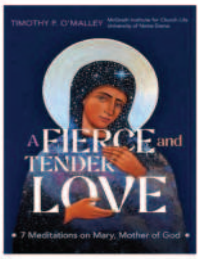
Fall Book Study

ICC Fall Book Study



Join us as we discover through Scripture, reflection, and discussion, how Mary's witness can help us draw closer to her Son and deepen our own relationship with Christ.

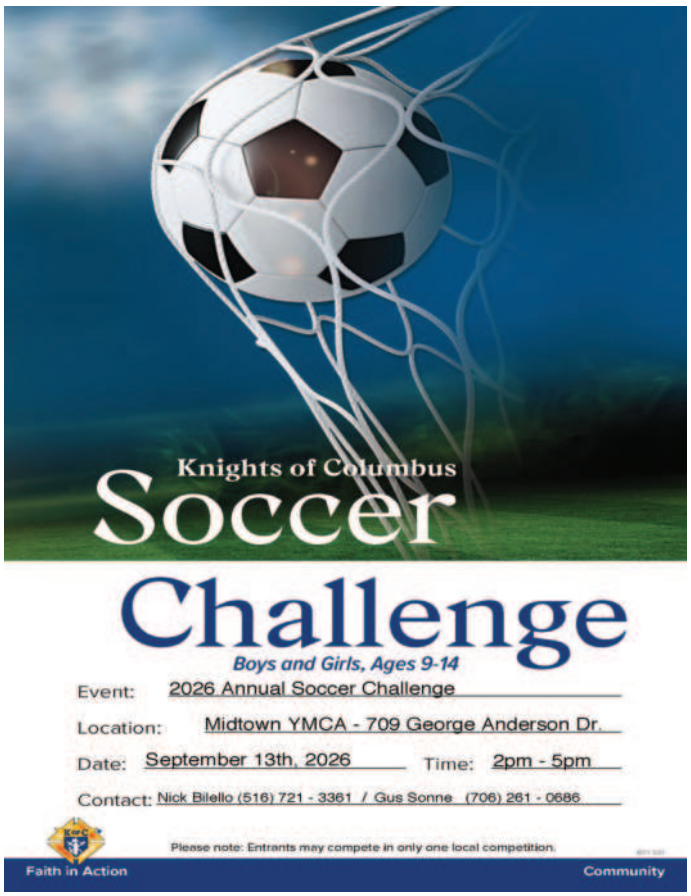
Mondays 6-8 pm Sept. 14, 21, 28 Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26

Tuesdays 10:30am - 12:30pm Sept. 15, 22, 29 Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27

To register please go to iccwilm.org and click on the link or contact Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation gdrost@iccwilm.org 910-791-1003

Registration $15.00 includes book and materials

Soccer Challenge



Welcome Our Newest Members

The following households have joined our parish community at the June 6 Welcome/Orientation Registration Event:

Chris **Davis**

Jennifer **Grubba**

Thomas & Maureen **Kelly**

Gregg **Leichtman**

David & Elizabeth **Macdonald** and family

Victor & Elizabeth **Markie**

Mike & Ginny **Nystrom** and family

Mark **Pasquarette**

Ellie **Riviella**

Tom & Dolly **Suddoth** and family

Allen & Allison **Underkofler** and family

Let us extend a warm welcome to our parish community and invite them to join us in ministry!

PRIEST WELFARE & RETIREMENT SECOND COLLECTION

Diocesan Second Collection

Your Generous Support Is Needed and Appreciated.

Diocesan Bishops provide financial and housing support for retired diocesan and religious order priests in accord 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.

The Priest Welfare and Retirement 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 amongst all parishes of the diocese. Parishes meet this ***required*** commitment through 2nd collections. ***Any remaining balance must be paid from its operating budget.***

Immaculate Conception holds four collections throughout the fiscal year to meet this commitment. The dates for 2026-2027 are: August 30, 2026, Christmas, Easter and Father's Day. The PWR is calculated at 5.8% of the offertory reported for the **prior** fiscal year that runs July 1—June 30 .

Immaculate Conception's commitment for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is **$71,620** (5.8% of the Offertory on June 30, 2026).

Immaculate Conception plans to meet this commitment through the four Priest Welfare and Retirement collections held throughout the fiscal year.

Thank you for your stewardship!

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.*

These are the ones who have baptized our children, married our daughters, given the sacraments to our children, forgiven our sins, challenged us to live the Gospel, been at the bedside of the dying in the middle of the night, and are at the altar every Sunday to bring us Jesus. Now is our chance to say Thank You! Please consider a generous gift to the Priest Retirement Fund!

Prayer Matters

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Margaret Ager
Herbert Aiken
Jack Allen
Kathy Altom
Kelly Avgerinos
Frank Ballard
Denise Barnes
Marley Basurto
Mike & Loretta Baumann
Donna Blackburn
Iliana & Maria Bouneva
Ginny Bovelsky
Lee & Judy Bowling
Barry & Teresa Brighten
Carol Burchill
Julie & John Bussi
The Casiere Family
Cindy Cassulis
The Clark Family
John Clavin
Christine Coco
Michael Colling
Eva Congleton
Susan Craig
Raymond Custer
Margaret Deaton
Marion DeCoursey
Fran Diseroad
Leslie Dixon
Charley Drake
Judith Dreisbach
Paul Dries
Kathy Driscoll
Skip & Charlotte Fairall
Robert Flavin
Barbara Fleming
Jennifer Freeman
Joan Fry
Mary Gable
Jim Gallagher
Donna Glisson
Brenda Grainger & Family
Becky Graves
Maureen Hayes
Sandra Hobbs
Ruth Hohmann
Pam Hults
Dan Janusek
Carmel Kang
Denise Kassem
Tracy Langone
Gene Laskowski
Eileen Lavelle
Riley Liberati
Emily & Lauren Limbach
Darryl Linder
Margaret Lupton
Nicholas Lusk
John Lyons
Julia Macdougal
The Maney Family
Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Teri Massey
CJ Miley
Oscar Moreno
Irene & Kyle Muccia
John Murrisky
Barbara McCann
Paul McCauley
Leah McDaniel
Maura McGoldrick
Deirdre McGovern
Joan McKillop
Kathleen McLogan
Loretta McManus
Maureen & Vince McNally
Anne Obermeyer
Edward O'Neill
Joanne Owens
John Paulhus
Debra Paulson
Scott Peters
Camden Peterson
Martin Plage, Jr.
Joseph Politan
Lexie Queen
Alice Radewicz
Susan Reynolds
Ken Rowe
Tom Russell
Rick Schirtzinger
Beatrice Schultz
Rita & Ralph Seidl
Gayle Sherouse
Fr. Greg Spencer
Cynthia & Paul Streb
Christopher Swan
Amanda Tascone
Mike Temple
Carter Vincent Tetto
Sue Toppin
Marieange Tribie
Ed Valente
Jack Walsh
Diane Wiegand
Janet Zeleznock

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

Knights of Columbus Corner

K of C Sponsorship Opportunities

Each year the Knights of Columbus Council 1074 operates a charity golf tournament. This year's event will be held on Monday, October 5, at Beau Rivage Golf & Resort. The tournament is currently sold out for golfers, but the Knights are offering parishioners the opportunity to support this special event by becoming a sponsor.

This year's tournament is dedicated to the memory of its founder and former Grand Knight, Lou Mattes, who passed away unexpectedly in December 2024. Proceeds from the tournament benefit local charities and veteran organizations in our community.

There are several levels of sponsorship to be had, all of which will go a long way towards supporting the Knights and those that we serve. If you would like to become a sponsor would like additional information, please contact the following Knights:

- Barney McAteer: 215-416-6752, bmcateer@gmail.com
- George Plarre: 233-1624, printsinthesand327@gmail.
- Ray Davis: 704-299-6629, RLDJ2@aol.com

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Your sponsorship will help us continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of local families and our nation's veterans. We will be accepting donations through September 9, 2026.

Grandparents Wanted

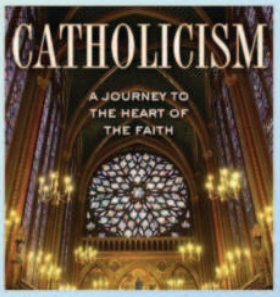
ICC Faith Formation is looking for a few Grandparent Stand-ins

Some of our students do not have grandparents that live locally and on Sunday September 13 from 12 Noon to 2 pm our Elementary students will celebrate Grandparent's day with crafts, snacks and participate in the first class. If you are willing to step in and join us please contact
Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation
gdrost@iccwilm.org

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

Adult Faith Formation

Catholicism & Community:
MONTHLY LUNCH AND LEARNING



De Sales Faith Formation Center 12-2

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

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

Register online at ICCWilm.Org or contact Gina Drost Director of Faith Formation for more information

ICC CHOIRS— WE NEED YOU!

Join Our Church Choir – All Are Welcome!

Do you love to sing? Have you ever wanted to be part of a joyful, uplifting community that praises God through music?

Our church choirs are looking for new voices — and **we'd love for YOU to join us!**

No experience needed- just a willing heart and a love for worship

Rehearsals: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Church

First Gathering for New Season: September 16, 2026

Adult Choir: Sunday Mass at 8:30am & special events throughout the year

CONTEMPO Choir: 4th Sunday of the month at 10:30am (unless otherwise noted on the schedule)

Come share your gift, make new friends, and help us fill the sanctuary with beautiful music glorifying God!

For more information, contact Andrea Reynolds at *areynolds@iccwilm.org*

Let your voice be part of something truly special!

ALTAR FLOWERS
September to December 2026

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

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

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

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

"The flowers appear on the earth, the time of pruning the vines has come, and the song of the turtledove is heard in our land."
Song of Songs 2:12

Choose from the following weekends:
(No Flowers during Advent)

___August 15 & 16, 2026—Assumption of Mary
___August 29 & 30, 2026
___September 5 & 6, 2026—Labor Day
___September 12 & 13, 2026
___September 19 & 20, 2026
___September 26 & 27, 2026

___October 3 & 4, 2026 - Respect Life Sunday
___October 10 & 11, 2026
___October 17 & 18, 2026
___October 24 & 25, 2026

___October 31 & November 1—All Saints
___November 7 & 8, 2026
___November 14 & 15, 2026
___November 21 & 22, 2026—Christ the King
___November 26, 2026—Thanksgiving Day

___December 8, 2026—Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Name:_____

Address: _____

_____

Phone #:_____

Intention: _____

_____

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Aqua Odyssey Travel
Lenoir, NC 28645
908-887-0720
denisegarry823@icloud.com
Book a cruise & get a $50 credit!

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