



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

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

Commission Chairs

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Matthew Simms, Chair Julie Bowling, Vice Chair

 Mike LaBruno Caroline Paulhus

 Susan Taylor Angela Zombek

Parish Finance Council

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

Liturgies and Devotions

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

Bulletin Deadline

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

New Parishioners

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

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

Sacramental Life

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Week at Immaculate Conception

There Are No Altar Flowers During Advent

Sunday, December 7—2nd Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Josephine McGovern
- 10:30 am Liturgy, Sharon Fosler & Holly Swan
- 12:00-2:00 Youth Faith Formation, DFFC
- 2:30-3:30 The Athanasius Center, DFFC

Return C.A.R.E. Gifts At All Liturgies

Monday, December 8, 2025

- 9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

- 9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Patrice Magalon

Thursday, December 11, 2025

- 9:00 am Liturgy, John 'J.J.' & Margie Jones
- 9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, December 12, 2025

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Ross Willman & Family

Saturday, December 13, 2025

- 3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church
- 5:00 pm Liturgy, Al Angelino

Sunday, December 14—2nd Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Samuel Baldwin
- 10:30 am Liturgy, John Boyle
- 12:00-2:00 Faith Formation Family Event, DFFC

Liturgical Color for December 13 & 14 is Rose



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

Stewardship of Treasure Report

Thanksgiving

Envelopes	52 (Envelopes)	\$ 1,038.00
e-Giving	34	\$ 1,606.14
Loose Check	1 (Checks)	\$ 50.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$ 2,694.14
Loose Cash		\$ 302.00
Total Contributions		\$ 2,996.14

November 22 & 23, 2025

Envelopes	309 (Envelopes)	\$ 7,177.00
e-Giving	191	\$ 5,628.20
Loose Check	25 (Checks)	\$ 1,370.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$14,175.20
Loose Cash		\$ 1,367.20
Total Contributions		\$15,542.40

November 29 & 30, 2025

Envelopes	155 (Envelopes)	\$ 6,167.00
e-Giving	—	\$ —
Loose Check	37 (Checks)	\$ 2,483.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$ 8,650.00
Loose Cash		\$ 1,494.50
Total Contributions		\$10,144.50

Offertory/1st Collection:

Annual Budget: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	\$1,165,000.00
Total Collected YTD: July 1– Nov 30, 2025	\$ 465,716.51

Sanctuary Candle



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

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

January 10, 2026

March 7, 2026

June 6, 2026

The Help Center Needs

The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in **December 2025**:

- December 7 Cereal**
- December 14 Boxes of mac and cheese**
- December 21 Peanut butter to go cups**
- December 28 Small jars of mayonnaise**



Any other packaged or canned food items or toiletries are gratefully accepted, especially small or single-serving and easy to open items. **Thank you so much for your continued generosity.**

Anointing of the Sick
Thursday, December 11
at the Weekday Liturgy



Stewardship Reflection

*“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”
(Matthew 3:10)*

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others, or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church, or do you buy more things that go unused? Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning on giving to the Lord during the upcoming Christmas season?

Born to Eternal Life

Please remember in your prayers the following people:



Christopher Brooks, parishioner. Condolences may be sent to Chris’s family via Paula Cook, at 1313 Honor Ln, Wilmington, NC 28412-3648.



Fred Donovin, parishioner. Condolences may be sent to Fred’s family via his daughter, Mary Donovin, at 4505 Staffordshire Dr, Apt 11, Wilmington, NC 28412-0935.

The altar flowers for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 were donated by:

William & Reba Passmore, in memory of **John & Linda Passmore and Ida Flores**, and **Linda Wast**, in memory of **John Joseph Krukowski**.



Cape Fear Deanery

ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICES



December 2

7:00 PM St. Stanislaus
Castle Hayne
910-675-2336

December 3

7:00 PM All Saints
Hampstead
910-270-1477

December 4

7:00 PM St. Mark
Wilmington
910-392-0720

December 9

11:00 AM St. Mark
Wilmington
910-392-0720

7:00 PM Basilica of St. Mary (*En español*)
Wilmington
910-762-5491

December 10

11:00 AM Sacred Heart
Southport
910-457-6173

7:00 PM St. Therese
Wrightsville Beach
910-256-2471

December 11

7:00 PM Immaculate Conception
Wilmington
910-791-1003

December 16

11:00 AM Basilica of St. Mary
Wilmington
910-762-5491

December 17

7:00 PM St. Joseph the Worker
Burgaw
910-259-2601

UNC-W will be combining with St. Mark on December 4.

St. Brendan the Navigator will be combining with Sacred Heart, Southport, on December 10.

Diocesan Second Collection

Retirement Fund For Religious

Support a lifetime of service... Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education, and care for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

For more information, or to donate online, please visit Retirement Fund for Religious at retiredreligious.org.

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

Christmas Flowers Offering

Christmas Flowers Offering



Every year Immaculate Conception depends on the generosity of our parishioners to give memorial donations to cover our Christmas flowers and decorations. **Please drop your Christmas Flower Offering envelope, found in your envelope packets, in the 1st collection basket.** As our “thank you” we will remember your loved ones at our liturgies throughout the Christmas season.

***If you donate to the Christmas Flower Offering by e-Giving, type up your loved ones’ names in an email and send them to the parish secretary at tkruger@iccwilm.org.**

Christmas Ornaments

Time to Decorate the Sanctuary Tree

We invite everyone to bring a gold, white, or clear ornament with a hanging hook on it, on the **3rd Sunday of Advent, December 13 & 14**. We ask that, following the Liturgy, you hang your ornament on the parish Christmas tree, which will be located behind the choir.



Christmas Cards for Denise

Spread Some Christmas Cheer

If you would like to send a Christmas card to Fr. John’s sister, Denise, please make sure to drop or send it to us here at ICC by **December 19th** so that Fr. John can send all of them to Denise to enjoy this Christmas season.

Denise has so enjoyed the cards that were sent to her in the past, and we know that she would love to hear from her ICC family this Christmas. When writing out your cards, please make sure to **PRINT** your name, as Denise has difficulty reading cursive.

Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with Denise!

Catholic Daughters

CDA Bake Sale December 8



Catholic Daughters, Court Immaculate Conception #2444 will host a bake sale after all Liturgies on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday, December 8. A variety of baked goods will be offered, including plates of holiday cookies ideal for gift giving. Proceeds from the bake sale will be used to support the various philanthropic endeavors that the Catholic Daughters undertake throughout the year.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptized on Saturday, November 22, 2025:

Ewyn Joy Seivert, child of Britton & Samantha Seivert.

Through Baptism, **Ewyn** was given new birth in the Holy Spirit and welcomed into the Body of Christ.



Project Rachel

Project Rachel Retreat

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat on January 9-11, 2026, in the Raleigh area. The weekend retreat is strictly confidential, for both women and men, and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a memorial service, and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion.

For more information, or to register for the retreat, please contact Project Rachel at project.rachel@raldioc.org or call (919) 852-1021. The website is <https://rachelnc.org>. The cost of the retreat is \$350 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. A discount of \$50 is available for those registering before December 9. If there is a financial burden, assistance is always available.

2026 CDA Education Contest



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS EDUCATION CONTEST FOR PARISH YOUTH

Catholic Daughters Court #2444 is excited to announce the 2025-26 National Education Contest.

Students in three age divisions (grades 4-5, grades 6-8, grades 9-12) are invited to submit original work in one or more of three categories: **essay, poetry, art**. The work must reflect ONE of the two themes of this year's contest:

"THE LEAST OF THESE"
(Matthew 25:40)
OR
**"THE LEAST OF THESE:
LIFTING OTHERS UP"**



Entries must be received by Court #2444 by February 1, 2026. Local winners will receive a monetary prize and their works will be submitted to compete at the state level. State-level winning entries will be forwarded to the national level competition.



For rules and an entry form, please contact:
Kathleen Cahill
Court #2444 Education Contest Chair
919.368.5213
or
Marie Marshall, Youth Minister
mmarshall@iccwilm.org
910.791.1003 x110

Ways to Give at ICC

Donating at ICC

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

Thank you for your stewardship and support.



Christmas Angel Request Extravaganza

The Christmas Angel Request Extravaganza (C.A.R.E.) program has, once again, teamed up with Catholic Charities and The Help Center to assist us in collecting items for families and individuals in need, in New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, Columbus and Bladen Counties. As good stewards of our many gifts, we encourage you to choose one or more items as an expression of the love and concern we have for our community.

Wrapped with Love

Catholic Charities Cape Fear Office is seeking items that are highly requested by families throughout the year, such as gift cards and toys. To ensure all people have access to everyday items, please donate from the supplied list of most requested items. When the families visit Catholic Charities or the food pantry, a blessing bag filled with your generous donations is provided to them. We thank you for your generosity!

The program will run with a wish list of items, available through a link on our website:

www.iccwilm.org

- When accessing the wishlist, you will see the items that are needed and the quantity we would like to receive.
- When you purchase the gift(s), you signup for that spot to mark it as purchased.
- *If you do not have access to a computer, you can also call the church at 910-791-1003 ext. 105, and speak to Charlie DaVolio, Business Manager, during business hours to let him know the gifts you have purchased.*

All gifts should be new and unwrapped (*no bags, Christmas wrap, cards, etc., are needed*) and brought to the weekend liturgies on the **6th & 7th of December**. As in years past, items will need to be placed in the appropriate boxes at the foot of the altar.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

The C.A.R.E. Team

C.A.R.E. Wish List

(many of these items can be purchased at the Dollar Store, Walmart, or found on Amazon)

The Help Center Food Basket

(The goal is 100 baskets)

- Canned Sweet Potatoes - Family-Sized
- 4-lb Bag of Sugar
- Instant Rice - Family Size
- Instant Oatmeal

Catholic Charities Food Items

- Canned fruits and vegetables with no added sugar or sodium
- Low sodium vegetables
- Fruit canned in 100% juice or in water
- 100% Juice
- Brown rice
- Whole wheat pasta
- Whole grain cereal
- Dried beans
- Low-sodium canned beans
- Nut butters
- Nuts
- Canned chicken
- Low-sodium canned tuna
- Canned salmon

Other Items

- \$10 Walmart gift cards
- \$10 Gas cards (for gas only) from Speedway or Harris Teeter
- Newborn to 5T children's clothes

Children's Toys (ages 2-5)

- Talking Flash Cards
- Building toys
- Cars
- Educational toys

- Arts and Craft kits, hands on science toys, slime kits, etc.
- Baby Dolls

Children's Toys (ages 6-10)

- Legos
- LCD writing tablet
- Sports equipment/balls/outdoor toys
- Headphones, wireless ear buds
- Arts and Craft kits, science toys, etc
- Remote controlled toys
- STEM puzzles for children

Children's Toys (ages 11-16)

- \$25 Amazon Card
- Hair accessories, nail polish, lip gloss
- Skin and body care
- Arts & Craft Kits
- Headphones, wireless ear buds, Blue-tooth speakers
- STEM puzzles for teens (ex. Discovery Model building kits)
- Reusable tote bags

Family Game Night

- Monopoly
- Scrabble
- Cards, Uno, Skip Bo
- Sorry
- Jenga

Second Sunday of Advent

A voice cries out – Prepare the way of the Lord!



Just as John the Baptist foretold of the Lord's coming, we too are called by God to prepare the way. John's message of the need for repentance is a necessary voice for us to listen to as we prepare ourselves and help others to prepare for the coming of our savior. It is not easy to hear that we must change from ways that may have become comfortable and safe. May the voice crying in the wilderness not fall on deaf ears, but rather become fertile ground to produce good fruit.

Spiritual Pilgrimage

33 DAYS to EUCHARISTIC GLORY



Make a spiritual pilgrimage with this self guided reflection, and forever change the way you spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist.

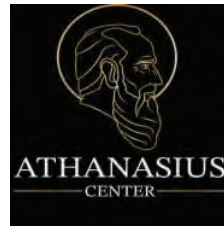
With two optional discussions following First Friday Adorations on November 5 and December 5, we will celebrate the Consecration after the noon liturgy on Monday, December 8.

Complimentary books are available for those interested on the weekend of October 18-19 following the liturgies while supplies last.

Any questions can be directed to Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation, at gdrost@iccwilm.org or 910.791.1003 ext. 112

The Athanasius Center

The Athanasius Center



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

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

For more information, please email or text us:

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

You can also find us on social media:

- **Instagram Name:** [athanasius_center](https://www.instagram.com/athanasius_center)
- **Whatsapp QR code:**



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

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

Prayer Matters

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Herbert Aiken	The Maney Family
Margaret Ager	Petar Manolev
Kelly Avgerinos	Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Denise Barnes	Sonia Martin
Marley Basurto	Jason Massad
Iliana & Maria Bouneva	Teri Massey
Lee Bowling	Mary Meloni
Barry & Teresa Brighten	Connie Mercier
Christopher Brooks	CJ Miley
Julie & John Bussi	Diane Miller
The Casiere Family	Chris Moore
John Clavin	Irene Muccia
Christine Coco	Kyle Muccia
Eva Congleton	Joanne McAteer
Bronwyn Conner	Barbara McCann
Lizzie Cooper	Ed McCann
Joe Craig	Leah McDaniel
Margaret Deaton	Denise McGee
Marion DeCoursey	Joan McKillop
Carole Dempsey	Loretta McManus
Bertha Dennard	Bridget Nichols
Leslie Dixon	Ann Noack
Kathy Driscoll	Anne Obermeyer
Skip & Charlotte Fairall	Edward O'Neill
Robert Flavin	Joanne Owens
Jennifer Freeman	John Paulhus
Mary Gable	Debra Paulson
Randy Gainey	Natalina Pittari
Jim Gallagher	Martin Plage, Jr.
Keira Gibson	Christine Ponzio
Donna Glisson	Lexie Queen
Brenda Grainger & Family	Alice Radewicz
Sandy Greggs	Susan Reynolds
Lisa Plarre Griffith	Ken Rowe
Maureen Hayes	Tom Russell
Sandra Hobbs	Jonathan Schoo
Linda Hogan	Beatrice Schultz
Ruth Hohmann	Rita & Ralph Seidl
Marcia Horvath	Susan Self
Ann & Don Hutton	Anthony Smith
Dan Janusek	Bob Smith
Theresa Jeffers	Fr. Greg Spencer
Denise Kassem	Lorraine Stattel
Tom Lakas	Cynthia & Paul Streb
Tracy Langone	Hailey Strong
Gene Laskowski	Christopher Swan
Riley Liberati	The Teideken Family
Darryl Lindner	Mike Temple
Margaret Lupton	Marieange Tribie
Dianne Lusk	Jack Walsh
Nicholas Lusk	John Weisenreider
John Lyons	Diane Wiegand
Julia Macdougall	Whitey Wood

Liturgy Corner

By Paul Turner



Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. He serves as a facilitator for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. He is the author of these bulletin inserts.

Immaculate Conception

“The Immaculate Conception” is a title for Mary, the mother of Jesus. The expression means that Mary was conceived without sin. The conviction that Jesus was born of a virgin is a distinct belief, even though many Catholics erroneously think that the Immaculate Conception refers to Jesus.

Contributing to the confusion is the celebration of the Immaculate Conception during the season of Advent. While the faithful are preparing to honor the birth of Jesus, we commemorate the conception of Mary. The choice of Dec. 8 for the Immaculate Conception does not directly relate to Advent; it corresponds more to the traditional date for the feast of the birth of Mary, Sept. 8., which coincides with the dedication of a Jerusalem church in honor of the mother of Mary. The feast for the conception of Mary is backed up from that day nine months. In a similar way we celebrate the Annunciation on March 25, nine months before the birth of Jesus.

Belief in the Immaculate Conception asserts that God preserved Mary from all sin from the moment of her conception, thus preparing a pure vessel for the incarnation of the Son. This belief is not expressly contained in the Scriptures, but it enjoys a widespread following in the church’s tradition. Although the Immaculate Conception of Mary has been affirmed since the earliest centuries of Christianity, it was not formally proclaimed a dogma of the church until 1854. Dec. 8 is now a holy day of obligation in the United States, which is placed under Mary’s patronage with this title.

When Mary is depicted as the Immaculate Conception, she is often shown wearing a crown of stars as the woman in Revelation 12 and standing on a snake, reversing the temptation of Eve. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, is the exalted queen of heaven who manifests God’s power over sin.

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

Cape Fear Deanery Parish Christmas Schedules

CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 pm

Immaculate Conception, Wilmington

4:00 pm

All Saints, Hampstead
St. Brendan the Navigator, Shallotte
St. Mark, Wilmington
St. Therese, Wrightsville Beach
Sacred Heart, Whiteville [*Bilingual*]

5:00 pm

Basilica of St. Mary, Wilmington
Sacred Heart, Southport
St. Stanislaus, Castle Hayne

6:00 pm

Christ the King, Riegelwood
Immaculate Conception, Wilmington
St. Brendan the Navigator, Shallotte
St. Therese, Wrightsville Beach

6:30 pm

All Saints, Hampstead
St. Mark, Wilmington
Our Lady of the Snows, Elizabethtown
[*Bilingual*]

7:00 pm

Basilica of St. Mary, Wilmington

8:00 pm

St. Joseph, Burgaw
St. Brendan the Navigator, Shallotte
[*Spanish*]
Sacred Heart, Southport
St. Stanislaus, Castle Hayne

9:00 pm

Basilica of St. Mary, Wilmington
[*Spanish*]
St. Mark, Wilmington [*Vietnamese*]

11:30 pm

St. Mark, Wilmington



CHRISTMAS DAY

12:00 am

Basilica of St. Mary, Wilmington

8:00 am

St. Brendan the Navigator, Shallotte

9:00 am

St. Joseph, Burgaw [*Spanish*]
St. Stanislaus, Castle Hayne
St. Therese, Wrightsville Beach
Sacred Heart, Whiteville [*Bilingual*]

9:30 am

St. Brendan the Navigator, Shallotte
St. Mark, Wilmington

10:00 am

All Saints, Hampstead
Immaculate Conception, Wilmington
Basilica of St. Mary, Wilmington
Sacred Heart, Southport

10:30 am

Our Lady of the Snows, Elizabethtown
[*Bilingual*]

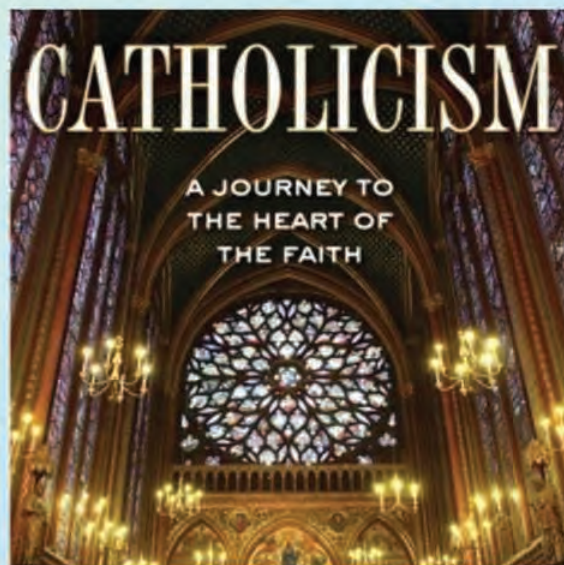
11:00 am

St. Joseph, Burgaw

11:30 am

St. Mark, Wilmington

Catholicism & Community: MONTHLY LUNCH AND LEARNING



De Sales Faith Formation Center 12-2

January 14

February 11

March 18

April 22

May 13

June 17

July 8

August 12

September 16

October 14

November 11

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

January to June 2026

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

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

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

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

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

Song of Songs 2:12

Choose from the following weekends:

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

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

No Flowers during Lent

- Apr 18 & 19, 2026
- Apr 25 & 26, 2026

- May 2 & 3, 2026 - 1st Eucharist
- May 9 & 10, 2026 - Mother’s Day
- May 16 & 17, 2026 - The Ascension of the Lord
- May 23 & 24, 2026 - Pentecost
- May 30 & 31, 2026 - Most Holy Trinity

- June 6 & 7, 2026 - The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ
- June 13 & 14, 2026
- June 20 & 21, 2026 - Father’s Day
- June 27 & 28, 2026

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Intention: _____





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