



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 prerequisite 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 14—3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Samuel Baldwin
- 10:30 am Liturgy, John Boyle
- 12:00-2:00 Faith Formation Family Event, DFFC
- 2:30-3:30 The Athanasius Center, DFFC

Ornament Weekend for the ICC Christmas Tree

Monday, December 15, 2025

- 9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

- 9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Kathleen Mulvehill

Thursday, December 18, 2025

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Linda Mottola
- 9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, December 19, 2025

- 9:00 am Liturgy, Paul Navarra

Saturday, December 20, 2025

- 3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church
- 5:00 pm Liturgy, William Whitacre

Sunday, December 21—4th Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Liturgy, Ann Bennett
- 10:30 am Liturgy, Mohamed Jaziri
- 12:00-2:00 Faith Formation Family Event, DFFC

Liturgical Color for December 20 & 21 is Purple



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

Stewardship of Treasure Report

December 6 & 7, 2025

Envelopes	179 (Envelopes)	\$ 9,202.00
e-Giving	209	\$14,549.76
Loose Check	43 (Checks)	\$ 2,869.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$26,620.76
Loose Cash		\$ 1,258.00
Total Contributions		\$27,878.76

Offertory/1st Collection:

Annual Budget: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

\$1,165,000.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1- Dec 7, 2025

\$ 498,879.61

Sanctuary Candle



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

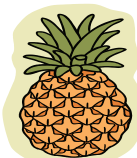
Stewardship Reflection

*"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."
(James 5:8)*

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer, God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are better able to align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

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.**



GAUDETE SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

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 on Christmas, **December 25**. We thank you in advance for your generous support.

2026 CDA Education Contest



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS EDUCATION CONTEST FOR PARISH YOUTH

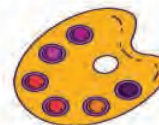
Catholic Daughters Court #2444 is excited to announce the 2025-26 National Education Contest.

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

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11

**MONDAY**December 15
*Advent Weekday*Nm 24:2–7,
15–17a

Mt 21:23–27

TUESDAYDecember 16
Advent Weekday

Zep 3:1–2, 9–13

Mt 21:28–32

WEDNESDAYDecember 17
Advent Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8–10

Mt 1:1–17

THURSDAYDecember 18
Advent Weekday

Jer 23:5–8

Mt 1:18–25

FRIDAYDecember 19
*Advent Weekday*Jgs 13:2–7,
24–25a

Lk 1:5–25

SATURDAYDecember 20
Advent Weekday

Is 7:10–14

Lk 1:26–38

SUNDAYDecember 21
*Fourth Sunday
of Advent*

Is 7:10–14

Rom 1:1–7

Mt 1:18–24

Say to the fearful of heart:

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God,

he comes with vindication;

With divine recompense

he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod’s prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn’t it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, “Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand,” or, to quote an unnamed saint, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
SANTA, CSSR

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptized on Saturday, December 6, 2025:

Andi Lynn Duncan, child of Connor & Emma Duncan.

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



Born to Eternal Life

Please remember in your prayers the following people:



Clair Brown, parishioner. Condolences may be sent to Clair's family via his wife, Ruthie, at 1402 Hospital Plaza Dr, Apt 316, Wilmington, NC 28401-6654.

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!

Third Sunday of Advent

Patiently waiting for the coming of the Lord!



The busyness of and excitement of this time of the year can create for a frenzied and chaotic time in our lives. However, we are reminded to be patient, patient in our waiting. Yes, we are called to patience in spite of all that we have to get done.

To wait in patience is to take time to grasp more deeply the reason for our waiting. Patient waiting prepares our hearts to be ready in welcome, and our thoughts to be focused, not on those things that we have yet to accomplish, but rather on the one who will come to dwell in our midst.

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.*

Demonstrate Your Thankfulness

One Time Online Giving

As you contemplate donations this holiday season, please keep **Immaculate Conception Church** in mind. Your contributions are needed for everything from special programs to basic operating expenses—both are deserving of your support. Please be as generous as you can this holiday season and in the year ahead. For the convenience of church members, we offer online giving. To donate, visit the church website at www.iccwilm.org, locate the link to our online giving page and follow the instructions.

Christmas Collection

The Christmas Collection is part of the parish's operating budget and supports all of the wonderful ministries here at Immaculate Conception: Liturgical, Faith Formation, Outreach, Inreach, Stewardship, Charity and Justice, Operating Expenses, Diocesan Obligations, and Capital Improvements. These funds are very important as we strive to maintain our quality of ministry and community support.

Our projected need for this year's Christmas Collection is \$30,000.

Priest Welfare & Retirement Collection

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.

These funds go directly to the Diocese of Raleigh to support the retirement benefits of all diocesan and religious order priests. Our parish is staffed by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, who receive a portion of these funds for their retirement. The diocesan bishop provides suitable support and housing for all diocesan clergy and the religious community of all order priests upon their retirement from active service.

Our amount due for this year's Priest Welfare & Retirement Collection is \$68,555.

We understand that you may be able to contribute more in one area of the Three T's (Time, Talent, and Treasure) than another. We appreciate all gifts that you are able to share. We see involvement in the Three T's as a return on the many gifts with which God has blessed each of us.

Thank You,

Fr. John McGee, OSFS
Charlie DaVolio, Business Manager



Prayer Matters

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Herbert Aiken	Petar Manolev
Margaret Ager	Frankie Marcinkiewicz
Kelly Avgerinos	Sonia Martin
Denise Barnes	Jason Massad
Marley Basurto	Teri Massey
Iliana & Maria Bouneva	Mary Meloni
Lee Bowling	Connie Mercier
Barry & Teresa Brighten	CJ Miley
Julie & John Bussi	Diane Miller
The Casiere Family	Chris Moore
John Clavin	Carole Mueller
Christine Coco	Irene & Kyle Muccia
Eva Congleton	Joanne McAteer
Bronwyn Conner	Barbara McCann
Joe Craig	Ed McCann
Margaret Deaton	Leah McDaniel
Marion DeCoursey	Denise McGee
Carole Dempsey	Joseph McGowan
Bertha Dennard	Joan McKillop
Leslie Dixon	Loretta McManus
Judith Dreisbach	Anne Obermeyer
Kathy Driscoll	Edward O'Neill
Skip & Charlotte Fairall	Joanne Owens
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Randy Gainey	Natalina Pittari
Jim Gallagher	Martin Plage, Jr.
Keira Gibson	Christine Ponzio
Donna Glisson	Lexie Queen
Brenda Grainger & Family	Alice Radewicz
Sandy Greggs	Jeff Raliski
Lisa Plarre Griffith	Susan Reynolds
Maureen Hayes	Ken Rowe
Sandra Hobbs	Tom Russell
Linda Hogan	Jonathan Schoo
Ruth Hohmann	Beatrice Schultz
Marcia Horvath	Rita & Ralph Seidl
Ann & Don Hutton	Susan Self
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	Jim Wirth
The Maney Family	Whitey Wood

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

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://rachelinc.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.

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 TIME SCHEDULE

Please plan on arriving early for Christmas Liturgies as they are very crowded.

CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY - NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Thursday, December 25, 2025 - 10:00 am

No Weekday Activities or Liturgies

on December 22 - 31, 2025 or

January 2, 2026

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, January 1, 2026

10:00 am

The church offices close on Monday,

December 22, and reopen on

Monday, January 5, at 9:00 am.

Faith Formation Sessions resume

on Sunday, January 4.

*“Behold, the **virgin** shall be
with child and bear a **son**,
and they shall name him
Emmanuel,” which means*

*“**God** is with us.”*

Matthew 1:23





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