



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

Commission Chairs

Fr. John McGee, OSFS (Liturgy)
 Michele Bean (Facilities)
 Gina Drost (Faith Formation)
 Bob Smith (Inreach)
 Janice Jordan (Outreach)

Parish Pastoral Council

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.

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

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

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

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

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

This Week at Immaculate Conception

The Altar Flowers for This Week Were Donated By:

Bette & Tony Casiere, in celebration of **60 years of marriage**, and **Catherine Cray**, in memory of **Fr. Kevin Novack**.

Sunday, May 26 - The Most Holy Trinity

8:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception
 10:30 am Liturgy, Karen Kass
 2:30-4:00 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

Monday, May 27, 2024

NO ROSARY/NOVENA

Church Offices Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Robert Dovichak

Thursday, May 30, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Bill Keller
 9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, May 31, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Jack & Peggy Mitchell

Saturday, June 1, 2024

3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church
 5:00 pm Liturgy, Nick Burton

Sunday, June 2 - The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

8:30 am Liturgy, Warren Spruill
 10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception
 10:30 am Baptism, Noah Alexander Broadway
 2:30-4:00 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

Liturgical Color for June 1 & 2 is White



Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **Matthew & Joan Pompilio**, and was donated by **Terry Pompilio**.

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

Stewardship of Treasure Report

May 18 & 19, 2024

Envelopes	159 (Envelopes)	\$ 6,306.00
e-Giving	109	\$ 5,785.00
Loose Check	31 (Checks)	\$ 3,251.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$15,342.00
Loose Cash		\$ 1,204.00
Total Contributions		\$16,546.00

Oblate Annual Appeal

Envelopes	111 (Envelopes)	\$ 5,746.00
e-Giving	257	\$ 7,260.00
Loose Check	17 (Checks)	\$ 1,115.00
Identifiable Contributions		\$14,121.00
Loose Cash		\$ 3,438.00
Total Contributions		\$17,559.00

Offertory/1st Collection:

Annual Budget: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

\$1,001,640.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1- May 19, 2024

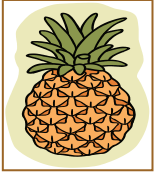
\$1,002,283.17

**Hearing Devices Available
for the Hearing Impaired
Please see an Usher for Assistance**



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 1, 2024

The Help Center Needs

The Help Center Food Donations

The following items are needed in **June 2024**:

June 2	Canned fruit
June 9	Jelly
June 16	Canned meat
June 22	Cold cereal
June 29	Rice (1 lb. bags)



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 Michele Bean, mbean@iccwilm.org, or by calling 910-791-1003, ext. 105.

Wishing you a Safe Memorial Day Weekend



From the Staff of Immaculate
Conception Church

Michele Bean

Gina Drost

Johanna Hug

Tracey Krüger

Marie Marshall

John McGee, OSFS

Chris Puritis

Claudia Sing

Heavenly Father,

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom.

May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace.

In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek an end to violence and conflict around the globe.

We pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Archdiocese of Detroit / Catholic Prayer and Worship 2016





Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 26, 2024

Most Holy Trinity (B)

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40 / Romans 8:14-17 / Matthew 28:16-20

Doubting, Remembering, then Believing

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Voltaire, the French author, once commented that God created us in God's image, and ever since we have been trying to pay God back. When we fail to forgive, we may not believe that God forgives us. If we hate another person (or another nation), we may imagine that God agrees with us. "God is on our side," presumes that God is rooting only for our team. In other words, we tend to think of God being like us rather than discovering how we reflect God.

It is little wonder, then, that amid such confusing images we can find ourselves wondering who God is or even doubting God's existence. Yet faith of its nature tends to be sown with doubt simply because faith does not bring the kind of certainty we think science does. This week's Gospel tells how "the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:16-17). From the beginning believers seemed to be inclined to uncertainty and doubt.

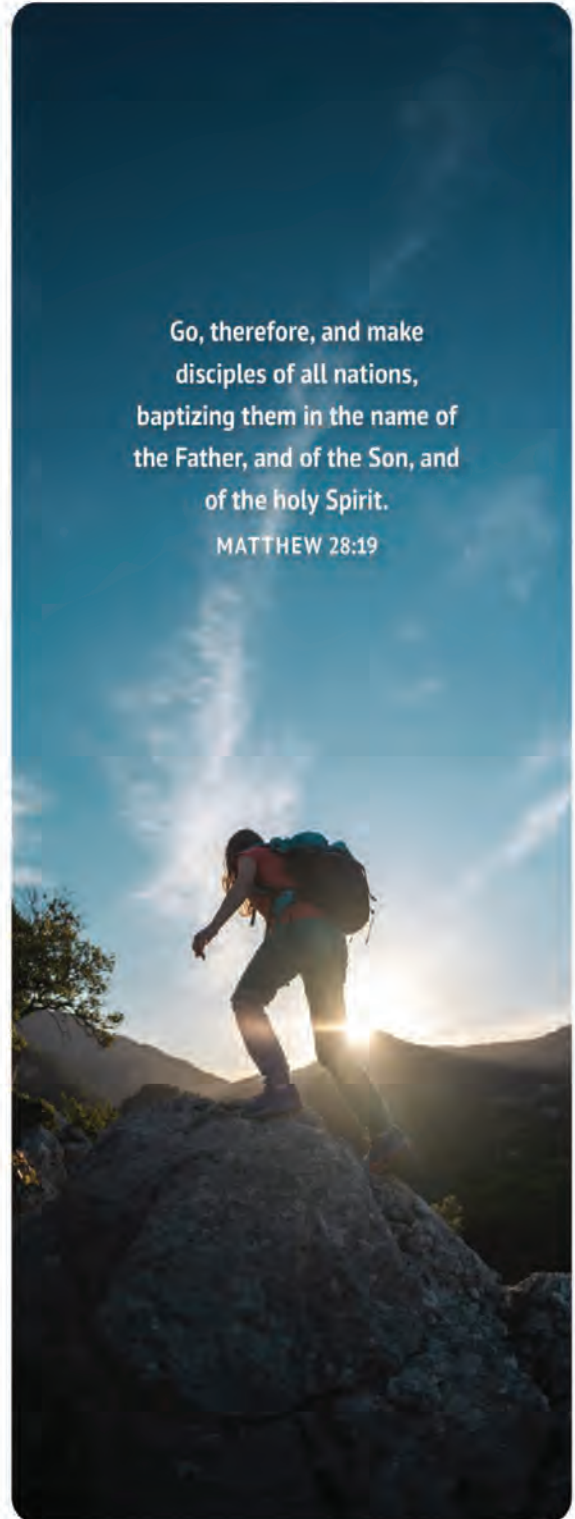
How then do we live in faith? The reading from Deuteronomy tells of Moses asking the people to remember how they had been freed from slavery in Egypt, how God had taught them and taken care of them. It is in remembering past blessings that we recognize a power at work greater than ourselves, a remembering that will lead to renewed faith. We are people who live with the promise of Jesus "to be with you always, to the end of the age." ●

Reflect

This week, perhaps you could spend some time remembering how God has worked in your life.

Go, therefore, and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father, and of the Son, and
of the holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 28:19

**MONDAY**

May 27
Weekday
1 Pt 1:3-9
Mk 10:17-27

TUESDAY

May 28
Weekday
1 Pt 1:10-16
Mk 10:28-31

WEDNESDAY

May 29
Weekday
1 Pt 1:18-25
Mk 10:32-45

THURSDAY

May 30
Weekday
1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12
Mk 10:46-52

FRIDAY

May 31
Visitation of the
Blessed Virgin
Mary
Zep 3:14-18a or
Rom 12:9-16
Lk 1:39-56

SATURDAY

June 1
St. Justin, Martyr
Jude 17, 20b-25
Mk 11:27-33

SUNDAY

June 2
Most Holy Body
and Blood of Christ
(Corpus Christi)
Ex 24:3-8
Heb 9:11-15
Mk 14:12-16,
22-26

Board Members Needed

St. Mary Housing Corporation

The Board of Directors of St. Mary Housing Corp., a non-profit operated under the auspices of the Diocese of Raleigh, is looking for three additional board members. Meetings are quarterly, and the term is a commitment of three years.

We provide long-term housing for low income seniors in Hadden Hall I and II apartments in Wilmington, and provide various programs to help them during their stay.

Board membership requires a respectful attitude towards a religiously affiliated organization, and a commitment to the welfare of the residents. If interested, please email Nord Cofini at nordcof@gmail.com, or by calling 910-409-7142.



Born to Eternal Life

Please remember in your prayers the following people:



Peggy McLaughlin, parishioner. Condolences may be sent to Peggy's husband, Charles, at 2905 Newkirk Ave, Wilmington, NC 28412-6529.

Join Us in Steubenville

Power & Purpose Conference

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

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

Stewardship Reflection

“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...”
(Romans 8:16-17)

If we are heirs to the kingdom of God, shouldn't we work to build up His kingdom? Shouldn't we be good stewards of our inheritance, using our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works, and our treasure to care for the Church that God has left to us? Our Church is a treasured heirloom from God. Do we treat it that way?

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

Welcome Our Newest Members

The following households have joined our parish community at the May 11 Welcome/Orientation Registration Event:

Abbate, Michael

Barczak, Marliss Healy

Brayman, Robert

DeSanto, Donald & Ellen

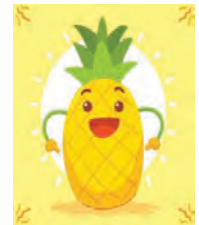
Dworshak, Avery

Hillegass, Tom & Kathleen

Mabry, Erin & Luke

McGill, John & Rosalie

Wirth, Jim & Caroline



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

Healing Spiritual Retreat

Recovering Our Soul Connections Retreat

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

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

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

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



**CELEBRATE
MARY THIS
MAY**

WITH MARY'S TRAVELERS

Mary's Travelers is a spiritual community dedicated to Mary and her special intercession for safe travel - on the road and in life!
Visit oblates.org to learn more!

Summer Blood Drive

Summer Blood Drive - June 21st



ICC will sponsor our Summer Blood Drive on Friday, June 21st, from 10:00 am - 3:30 pm, in Brisson Hall in the DeSales Faith Formation Center. Please help us maintain

sufficient supplies for the busy summer season. Every two seconds of every day, someone needs blood and/or platelets, and the average blood transfusion requires three units. To give blood, you must be at least 17 years of age, over 110 lbs., and in reasonably good health. There is no upper age limit. When you present, Red Cross staff will take a brief medical history and conduct a mini-exam to determine your eligibility. If you are a regular donor, you are eligible to donate if you last gave on or before April 26, 2024.

Our volunteers will help with sign-ups before and after all Liturgies on the weekends of June 8 & 9 and June 15 & 16. Appointments are also available by phone or email, and by direct sign-up on the Red Cross website redcrossblood.org. The website has an option to sign up for Rapid Pass, an option to complete initial questions and required reading prior to your appointment. This is highly recommended, and will save you time and improve your donation experience. Please contact Mike Apicella at beachblooddrive@gmail.com or call 301-915-4658 to request an appointment or for further information. Please support this special stewardship and give the gift of life! Thank you.



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 2023-2024 are: August 27, 2023, Christmas, Easter and Father's Day. The PWR is calculated at 8.73% of the offertory reported for the **prior** fiscal year that runs June 30 - July 1.

Immaculate Conception's commitment for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is **\$62,241** (8.73% of the Offertory on June 30, 2023).

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:

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

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

Ancient Order of Hibernians

Lookin' For A Little Luck O' the Irish?



The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Brunswick County are selling raffle tickets for a 7 day/6 night vacation for TWO to Ireland! The trip includes:

- Round trip airfare from Wilmington
- Vehicle rental
- B&B lodging
- \$250 per person (total of \$500)

You must travel before June 1, 2025. Cash option of \$4,500 available in lieu of the trip.

Drawing will be held September 17, 2024, and tickets are \$100 each (only 125 tickets will be sold). If by August 30, 2024, a threshold of 80 tickets has not been sold, the drawing will revert to a 50/50. Final date for ticket sales is September 15, 2024. The net proceeds will benefit AOH charities.

To purchase a ticket, please send your check, made payable to AOH, along with your phone number and email, to:

Jim O'Reilly
304 Kitts Way
Winnabow, NC 28479

(Tickets will be mailed upon receipt of checks.)

For more information, please visit www.brunswick.ncaoh.com, or call Jim O'Reilly at 910-409-7025, email joreilly@ec.rr.com, or Steve Thomson at 954-319-4590, email steven_thomson@msn.com

Save the Date for S'mores!

SAVE THE DATE!
S'mores Night



with Firemen!

Friday, July 19
7:00-9:00 pm

Young Adult Fellowship Ministry

ICC Young Adult Fellowship Ministry

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

For more information, please email or text us:

- **Oliver Galbraith:** olivergalbraith@gmail.com or text 910-619-3033
- **Clint Turbeville:** turbeville_r@lynchburg.edu or text at 910-523-2987



“Join me on this spiritual journey to the Marian Shrines, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Diocese of Raleigh. Our pilgrimage will be a true adventure in every sense of the word.”



THE MARIAN SHRINES OF PORTUGAL, SPAIN & FRANCE!
FATIMA, ZARAGOZA, MADRID, LOURDES, LISBON, BARCELONA & MORE!

12 DAYS / \$4499 PER PERSON FROM RALEIGH, NC

Sept 27 - Oct 8, 2024

We will honor St. Bernadette in **Lourdes**, visit the homes of the Visionaries in **Fatima**, enjoy time in **Madrid and Barcelona**. We pay homage to the **Black Madonna of Montserrat** and to **Our Lady of the Pillar in Zaragoza**.

I hope you can join me to explore this beautiful part of the world. Our time together will allow us to **reflect on our lives and deepen our faith**. It will be a joy to share this journey with you, to **celebrate daily Mass** and to be inspired by your presence.

TO BOOK ONLINE: www.bit.ly/Zarama2024

EMAIL: Groups@Perillotours.com or belinda@apilgrimsjourney.com

PHONE: 724-679-7450 / 855-784-7687



For a brochure on the trip, please email Sara.Edwards@raldioc.org



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.

Standing

LIKE SCOUTS at the pledge of allegiance, Catholics rise to our feet when we hear the words, "Let us pray." We stand a lot at church. Of course, we also sit and kneel a lot. Visitors to a Catholic parish often find that figuring out when to stand and sit poses a mystery as great as the incarnation.

Standing is key to understanding liturgical postures. A basic principle to remember is that we stand for prayer. Not everything that happens at Mass is precisely prayer. We listen to readings, we dialogue with the priest, we process to receive Communion. But at certain times we pray to God. Often the priest prays on our behalf, as in the opening prayer. Sometimes we pray together out loud, as in the Lord's Prayer. Generally, when we pray we stand.

The largest exception, of course, is the Eucharistic Prayer. It's the longest single prayer at Mass and the only one that calls for kneeling. Kneeling came fairly recently in our history. When Eucharistic piety grew during the Middle Ages, several customs changed—the faithful knelt for the Eucharistic Prayer, they rarely came to Communion, and received it in the

mouth instead of in the hand. Pews were invented; prior to this time people stood for Mass. The infrequency of Communion indicated that the piety had become exaggerated, so we actually legislated that people had to receive Communion at least once a year. Although we praised more regular Communion, centuries passed before it finally caught on again. In the beginning, though, people stood for the Eucharistic Prayer just as for the other prayers of Mass because they felt reverent standing, as Americans do when we pledge allegiance to the flag or sing the national anthem. A vestige of the earlier posture remains when we stand for the preface. It's just as much the Eucharistic Prayer as the part that follows the "Holy." Some communities around the world have maintained the custom of standing for the entire Eucharistic Prayer in keeping with the ancient tradition.

We stand for other occasions—the Entrance Rite, the Gospel, the Creed, the Communion Rite, and the Dismissal, for example. But ordinarily standing signals prayer.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Gestures, Postures, and Customs of the Liturgy © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.



"The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary."

- St. Francis de Sales

Project Rachel

Post-abortion Healing 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 June 14-16, 2024, 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.

The cost of the retreat is \$200 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. If there is a financial burden, assistance is always available. For more information, or to register for the retreat, contact Project Rachel at (919) 852-1021 by email at project.Rachel@raldioc.org. or go to the website at <https://rachelnc.org>.

Immaculate Conception Church Kid's Summer Camp Let's make some memories!

Join us
June 25, 26, & 27
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm in the
De Sales Center
for CRAFTS & STORYTIME!

Open to all children ages 6-11

\$10 supply fee per participant
No participant is turned away due to
inability to pay.

Registration opens May 1
Signup online at iccwilm.org

Contact Gina Drost,
Director of Faith Formation
at gdrost@iccwilm.org
910.791.1003 ext. 112



Adventurers Wanted!

June 25, 26 & 27

1:00—3:00 pm

De Sales Faith Formation Center

ICC youth ages 12-17 (and their friends) are invited to participate in our Tabletop Adventure Camp to learn the basics of character creation, game mechanics, and the gameplay of a tabletop roleplay game (Dungeons & Dragons).

This adventure camp is designed for those who are brand new or have limited experience with

TTRPGs, but all experience levels are welcome to join us in our adventure. All resources, including a personal set of dice, and snacks will be provided for the camp.

Register online at iccwilm.org beginning May 1. There is a \$10 supply fee for each participant, but no adventurer will be turned away due to inability to pay.

Contact Marie Marshall, Youth Minister, at mmarshall@iccwilm.org or 910.791.1003 ext. 110 with any questions.

Dear Padre,

I hear people talking about finding their vocation. How do I know what my vocation is?

Our Catholic understanding of vocation is “a call from God to a particular state in life,” by which is usually meant single, married, priest, or religious. When you hear people speaking about finding their vocation, it is possible that this is what they have in mind. On the other hand, it is also quite possible that they are referring simply to a particular occupation that they feel comfortable with and wish to pursue.

The root understanding of *vocation* is really the understanding of God’s call and our response. Vocation has not so much to do with what we do but is rather reflective of what we believe about our relationship with God. Vocation assumes that we believe that God is active in our own unique history, and is involved in our decision-making process; that God desires to manifest his will to us; and that God does in fact communicate with us in a very personal way.

If you are truly open to the will of God in your own life, if you are willing to listen to God’s call and make your decisions and choices based on this experience, preferably with the guidance of a confessor or spiritual director, you will discover the true happiness that a real vocation can bring. ●



A pilgrim takes time during a World Youth Day event to speak with a priest about vocations. MICHELLE BAUMAN / CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

“Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another” [2 Corinthians 13:11]. The Christian community, even with all its human limitations, can become a reflection of the communion of the Trinity, of its kindness, of its beauty. But this—just as Paul himself testifies—necessarily passes through the experience of God’s mercy, of his forgiveness.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 11, 2017



MONDAY

May 27
Weekday
1 Pt 1:3–9
Mk 10:17–27

TUESDAY

May 28
Weekday
1 Pt 1:10–16
Mk 10:28–31

WEDNESDAY

May 29
Weekday
1 Pt 1:18–25
Mk 10:32–45

THURSDAY

May 30
Weekday
1 Pt 2:2–5, 9–12
Mk 10:46–52

FRIDAY

May 31
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Zep 3:14–18a or
Rom 12:9–16
Lk 1:39–56

SATURDAY

June 1
St. Justin, Martyr
Jude 17, 20b–25
Mk 11:27–33

SUNDAY

June 2
Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
Ex 24:3–8
Heb 9:11–15
Mk 14:12–16, 22–26

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ALTAR FLOWERS

January to June 2024

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 6 & 7, 2024 - Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 13 & 14, 2024
- Jan 20 & 21, 2024
- Jan 27 & 28, 2024
- Feb 3 & 4, 2024 - World Marriage Day
- Feb 10 & 11, 2024

No Flowers during Lent

- Apr 13 & 14, 2024
- Apr 20 & 21, 2024
- Apr 27 & 28, 2024
- May 4 & 5, 2024 - 1st Eucharist
- May 11 & 12, 2024 - Mother's Day
- May 18 & 19, 2024 - Pentecost
- May 25 & 26, 2024 - Most Holy Trinity
- June 1 & 2, 2024 - Body & Blood of Christ
- June 8 & 9, 2024
- June 15 & 16, 2024 - Father's Day
- June 22 & 23, 2024
- June 29 & 30, 2024

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