



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, 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:

Marta Basez, in memory of **Mathew Basez, Gail Binni**, in memory of **Frank Binni & Farrel Ramsay, Linda Hogan**, in memory of **Frank Hogan, Jr.**, and **Lynn Wast**, in memory of **John E. Krukowski**.

Sunday, June 16 - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Liturgy, Suzanne Ricci
10:30 am Liturgy, Living & Deceased of Immaculate Conception
2:30-4:00 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC
Father's Day Recognition at All Liturgies
Sign-Ups for Red Cross Blood Drive Following All Liturgies

Monday, June 17, 2024

9:30 am Rosary/Novena

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

9:30 am Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Thomas Maggi

Thursday, June 20, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Carmela Carrano
9:30 am Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration Chapel

Friday, June 21, 2024

9:00 am Liturgy, Robert Dovichak

Saturday, June 22, 2024

3:30 pm Reconciliation, Church
5:00 pm Liturgy, Arthur Pizzuto

Sunday, June 23 - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am Liturgy, Lorraine Grimsley
10:30 am Liturgy, Karen Kass
2:30-4:00 ICC Young Adult Fellowship, DFFC

Liturgical Color for June 22 & 23 is Green



Sanctuary Candle

A 14-day Sanctuary Candle will burn in memory of **Frank Binni**, and was donated by **Gail Binni**.

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

Stewardship of Treasure Report

June 8 & 9, 2024

Envelopes	154 (Envelopes)	\$ 7,159.00
e-Giving	231	\$17,252.36
Loose Check	30 (Checks)	<u>\$ 1,280.00</u>
Identifiable Contributions		\$25,691.36
Loose Cash		<u>\$ 1,442.00</u>
Total Contributions		\$27,133.36

Offertory/1st Collection:

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

\$1,028,867.00

Total Collected YTD: July 1- June 9, 2024

\$1,070,673.06

Happy Father's Day

From the Staff of ICC

Michele Bean

Gina Drost

Johanna Hug

Tracey Kruger

Marie Marshall

Fr. John McGee, OSFS

Chris Puritis

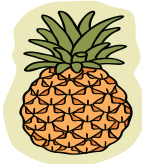
Andrea Reynolds

Claudia Sing



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

August 10, 2024	September 7, 2024
November 9, 2024	January 4, 2025
March 1, 2025	June 7, 2025

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.

Stewardship Reflection

“For we must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.”
(2 Corinthians 5:10)

We are all accountable for all of the gifts God has given us—our time, our talent, and our treasure, everything we have and everything we are. Each of us is accountable not only for our own life, but for the lives of others as well. One day God will ask each of us what we did with the gifts we were given. How will you respond?

A Prayer for Fathers

God our Father,
We give you thanks and praise
For fathers young and old.
We pray for young fathers,
Newly embracing their vocation;
May they find the courage and
perseverance
To balance works, family, and faith in joy and sacrifice.
We pray for our own fathers
Who have supported and
challenged us;
May they continue to lead in strong and gentle ways.
We remember fathers around the world
Whose children are lost or suffering;
May they know that the God of compassion
Walks with them in their sorrow.
We pray for men who are not fathers
But still mentor and guide us
With fatherly love and advice.
We remember fathers, grandfathers,
And great-grandfathers who are no longer with us
But who live forever in our memory
And nourish us with their love.
Amen



Illustration: St. Joseph with the Infant Jesus, c. 1635 by Guido Reni, (1575-1642). Prayer © Our Sunday Visitor

MONDAY

June 17

Weekday

1 Kgs 21:1-16

Mt 5:38-42

TUESDAY

June 18

Weekday

1 Kgs 21:17-29

Mt 5:43-48

WEDNESDAY

June 19

Weekday

2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY

June 20

Weekday

Sir 48:1-14

Mt 6:7-15

FRIDAY

June 21

St. Aloysius

Gonzaga,

Religious

2 Kgs 11:1-4,

9-18, 20

Mt 6:19-23

SATURDAY

June 22

Weekday

2 Chr 24:17-25

Mt 6:24-34

SUNDAY

June 23

Twelfth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Jb 38:1, 8-11

2 Cor 5:14-17

Mk 4:35-41

Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 16, 2024

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Ezekiel 17:22-24 / 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 / Mark 4:26-34



With many such parables [Jesus] spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

MARK 4:33

Life Happens

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The adage that “life is what happens to us as we’re busy doing other things” seems to be a rewording of this week’s Gospel about the kingdom of heaven, namely about God’s reigning activity in our lives. It is a parable about a man who sows seeds in his field. The seeds sprout, grow, and bear fruit, all without his knowing how. In effect, the message says that it is *God* who happens to us as we’re busy doing other things.

We tend to convince ourselves that we have complete control over our lives, when in reality that is somewhat of an illusion. Though we may decide what we will have for dinner, what TV program to watch, or what we will wear, we have much less control over the portions of life that so often give meaning and shape to who we are. The person someone marries

is dependent upon the mutual commitment of the two people in love. The degree of job satisfaction we eagerly hope to find can partly depend upon the people with whom we work and the expectations of others. “We walk by faith and not by sight” reveals that we recognize the reigning presence of God bringing us to a life we’d never imagined. In reality, the one thing we do have control over is how we respond to life’s events, which can then open us to the ways by which God brings us to fruitful abundance. ●

Reflect

**Think of three of your blessings:
How much did you have to do
with their coming about?**

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



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 this weekend, June 15 & 16. We thank you in advance for your generous support.

Parish Pastoral Council

Will You Answer the Call?

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is accepting nominations for parishioners interested in being part of the Council. The PPC is an advisory council assisting our pastor and staff in achieving the vision and mission of the parish. Members participate in projects undertaken by the Council and other ministries within the parish.

In order to be considered for the Council, all nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Must be registered members of the parish for at least one year
- Must participate in at least one other parish ministry, and be committed to the principles of parish stewardship
- Is supporting the parish financially

If interested in more details and information, please contact Matt Simms, PPC Chair, at ppechair@iccwilm.org.

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.



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

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

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

"A Living Example of the Gospel"



June 16-21, 2024

We ask that our friends and family at ICC please keep our missionary participants, and all of those attending this work session, in your prayers as we are away on this AMAZING experience of living the Gospel in Fayetteville, NC! This program allows youth to spend a prayer-filled and spiritual week repairing and renovating homes for elderly and underprivileged families.

Teddy Clifford

Lucas Kruger

Natalie Fair

Marie Marshall

Christina Fatum

Justin Naklicki

Julia Fatum

Cameron Nunn

Karen Gaughan

Brady Savard

Matthew Hancock

Jim Savard

Brody Hanson

Sarah Tavares

Natalie Hanson

Nico Vafiadis

Jorge Kruger

Dan White

We also ask that you remember in prayer those we will be serving this week, and those who go without the assistance they need.

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

~ Mother Teresa

Save the Date for S'mores!

SAVE THE DATE! S'mores Night



with Firemen!

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



Holy Hour

with Bishop Luis Rafael
Thursday, June 27 at 6:30 pm



How can you make an imprint on the lives of the children in our community? Share your faith journey with them and see the results. For more information on how you can bring your faith into our community contact our faith formation team.

STEWARDS NEEDED:

KINDERGARTEN AIDE
2ND LEVEL AIDE
3RD LEVEL CATECHIST

MIDDLE SCHOOL SMALL GROUP LEADERS
JYM AIDES

SACRAMENT EVENT HOSTS

CONTACT

GDROST@ICCWILM.ORG OR
MMARSHALL@ICCWILM.ORG

A traveling monstrance is part of the Diocese of Raleigh's centennial, which observes the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1924, and it will be at Immaculate Conception Church on Thursday, June 27. We will be celebrating a Holy Hour with Bishop Luis Rafael at 6:30 pm that evening.

The endeavor serves not only to unite the diocese during a milestone, but to focus on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist during a year that will see the National Eucharistic Congress in July.

A liturgical vessel that holds the Eucharist, a monstrance is part of venerating the Blessed Sacrament. The word monstrance has its roots in the Latin verb *monstrare*, which means *to show*.

The traveling monstrance was an important part of the Eucharistic Congress, which took place in October 2023. This year, after traveling through the Raleigh Deanery, beginning at Sacred Heart Church, which was the cathedral for the diocese from 1924 until 2017, the monstrance is traveling to parishes, schools, homes and neighborhoods to be a central part of similar celebrations marking the rich history and bright future of our Catholic faith in the Diocese of Raleigh.

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.

LIFT UP YOUR HEART

Written by John Burns



BASED ON THE SPIRITUAL CLASSIC
INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE

BOOK DISCUSSION

TUESDAYS 6:30PM-8:30PM

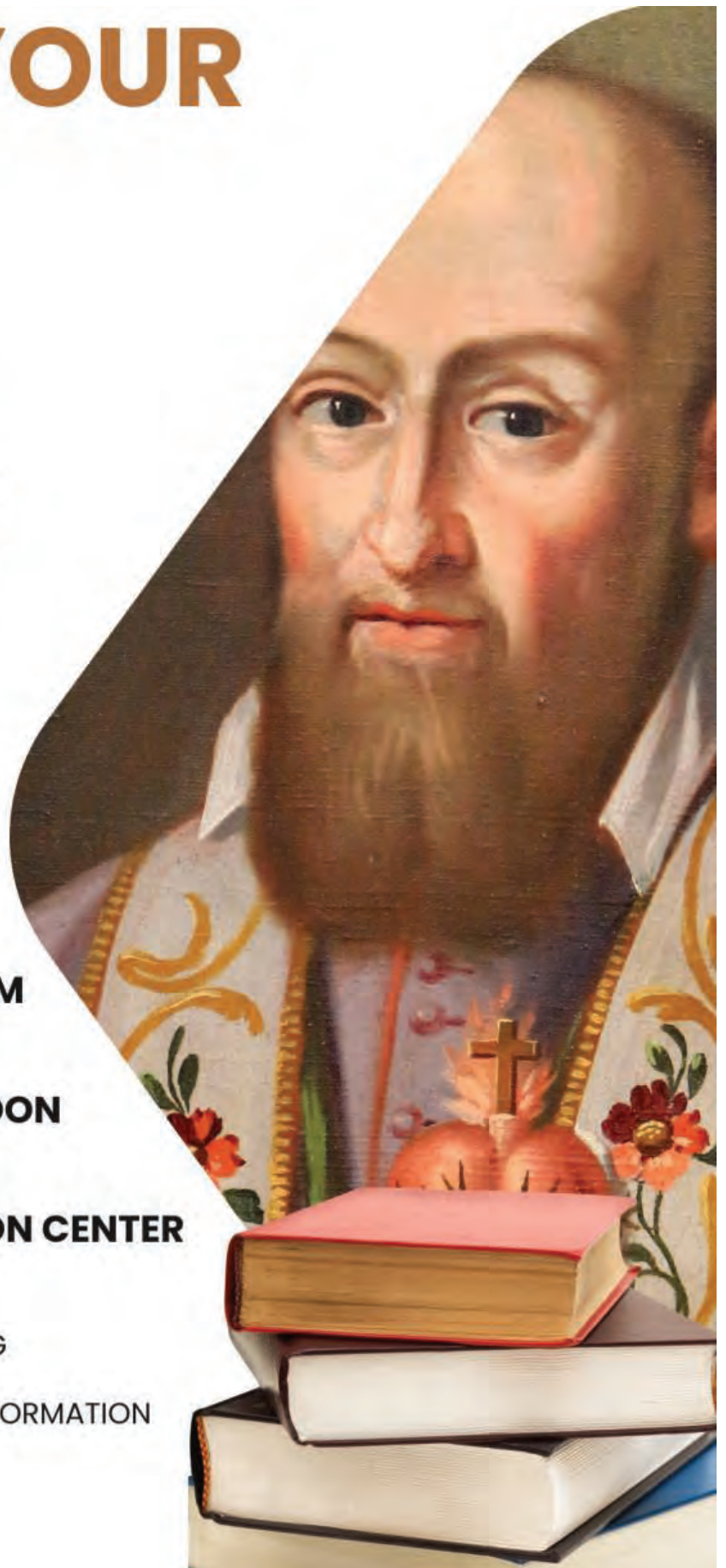
SEPT. 24, OCT. 1, 8, 15, 22

THURSDAYS 10AM -12 NOON

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24

DESALES FAITH FORMATION CENTER

REGISTER ONLINE AT ICCWILM.ORG
OR CONTACT
GINA DROST DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
GDROST@ICCWILM.ORG
910-791-1003



Dear Padre,

*Why did Jesus always speak in parables?
Why didn't he give us clearer answers?*

Parables are short, relatable stories. Their simple images or comparisons convey a moral or religious lesson and put us in touch with the mystery of God and ourselves. Thus, parables confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice to enter God's kingdom: "One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, in order to 'know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 13:11). For those who stay 'outside,' everything remains enigmatic" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 546).

About a third of Jesus' recorded teachings are in parable form. After the Pharisees rejected Jesus (Matthew 12:14), he immediately changed his straightforward preaching to parables. This fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]" (Matthew 13:35; see Psalm 78:2).

Parables are intended to reveal as much about us as they do about God. As John Shea writes in *Stories of God*, "God not only loves to hear our stories, God loves to tell stories. And, quite simply, we are the story God tells." In the telling, we ourselves are told. The timeless, universal stories of Jesus speak to us at different stages of life and provide multiple levels of meaning to the openhearted. ●



RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON, GHERGINO / WIKICOMMONS

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Aloysius	Weekday	Twelfth Sunday
1 Kgs 21:1-16	1 Kgs 21:17-29	2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14	Sir 48:1-14	Gonzaga,	2 Chr 24:17-25	in Ordinary Time
Mt 5:38-42	Mt 5:43-48	Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Mt 6:7-15	Religious	Mt 6:24-34	Jb 38:1, 8-11
				2 Kgs 11:1-4,		2 Cor 5:14-17
				9-18, 20		Mk 4:35-41
				Mt 6:19-23		



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

It may happen that we get discouraged, because we see the weakness of good as compared to the apparent power of evil.... The Gospel asks us to take a fresh look at ourselves and at reality...to discover the presence of God who as humble love is always at work in the soil of our life....

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 13, 2021

VARUNA / SHUTTERSTOCK



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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