

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

Father Herbert T. Burke, Pastor

Reverend Mr. Andy Cilone, Permanent Deacon
Reverend Mr. Dave Faunce, Permanent Deacon,

Sharon Date, Parish Secretary
Parish Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
9:00am-4:00pm; (828) 245-4017
Office/Rectory: (828) 245-4017

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 5:00pm
Sunday, 9:00am, 11:30am, and 3:00pm(Español)

Weekday Masses

Monday, 9:00am (Chapel)
Wednesday, 7:00pm (Church)
Thursday, 12:10pm (Chapel)
Friday, 12:10pm (Chapel)

Rosary and Benediction

Thursday, 7:00pm (Chapel)

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, 12:30pm-8:00pm (Chapel)
Friday, 12:30pm-1:30pm (Chapel)
Saturday, 4:00pm-5:00pm (Church)
Sunday, 8:00am-9:00am (Church)
Sunday, 10:30am-11:30am (Church)
Sunday, 2:30pm-3:00pm (Church)

Nocturnal Adoration

Second Saturday of the Month,
10:00pm—6:00am (Chapel)

Confession

Saturday, 4:15-4:45pm
Wednesday, 6:30pm-7:00pm

Welcome to our Parish!

We welcome all visitors and newcomers to our parish family. If you need any Information regarding Baptism, First Communion or Matrimony, please contact Deacon Andy Cilone at 828-245-6219.

For information regarding instructions in the catholic faith through the RCIA program, please contact Deacon David Faunce at:

dmfaunce@rcdoc.org

Parish email: sgdate@charlottediocese.org

Website: www.immaculateconceptionforestcity.org



*Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!*

December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church ~ 1024 West Main Street ~ Forest City, NC ~ 28043

Bulletin Editor: pjwlm@gmail.com

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024 ~ Bulletin No.51 XXXX

WEEKLY CALENDAR for December 14-22, 2024

Sat 14	Saint John of the Cross	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Deceased Hill Family Members by Chuck & Janet Hill
Sun 15	Third Sunday of Advent	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Richard Feldmeth, Jr. by Claire Feldmeth Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 16	Saint Adelaide	9:00am	Mass for ROS Michael King by Jim & Joan King
Wed 18	Expectation of the Bl. Virgin Mary	7:00pm	Mass for Joe & Alicia Stenard by Kathy & Rich Burns
Thurs 19	Blessed Urban V	12:10pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS al Urban by Barbara Urban AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 20	Saint Dominic of Silos	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Gerard Harmeyer by Giuliana Riley Men's Prayer Group
Sat 21	Saint Thomas the Apostle	5:00pm	Mass for the Parish
Sun 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for Johnson, Martin & Harbort Family by Kate Johnson Mass for ROS Terexa Nhung Pham by Kim Tran AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 14: Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Basket and Coat Drive

December 19-20: 24-Hour Adoration, from after the 12:10pm Mass on the 19th, to 12:10pm on the 20th

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

December 24: 5:00pm, Christmas Vigil Mass
December 24: 9:30pm, Choir Cantata
December 24: 10:00pm, Christmas Midnight Mass
December 25: 10:00am, Christmas Day Mass

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE (Holy Day of Obligation)

December 31: 7:00pm
January 1: 10:00am
January 1: 7:00pm

January 11: Ladies Guild Christmas Party (See info on next page)

January 23-24: Twenty-Four Hour Eucharistic Adoration

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1st Sunday (December 1)	Yokefellow Sunday	Canned beans, (15 oz) any type (pinto, kidney, etc.)
2nd Sunday (December 8)	Hospice Sunday	Ensure, any flavor
3rd Sunday (December 15)	Hands of Hope Sunday	Children's diapers, SIZE LARGE
4th Sunday (December 22)	Backpack Sunday	Individual-serving size of Mac & cheese, ravioli, beanie-weenies, etc



"The Nativity scene is more timely now than ever, when every day, throughout the world, so many weapons and violent images that penetrate our eyes and hearts are being produced. The Nativity scene is an artisanal image of peace. That is why it is a living Gospel."

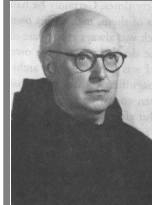
~ Pope Francis ~



From the Holy Fathers

"True joy is not merely a passing state of mind or something that can be achieved with the person's own effort; rather it is a gift from Jesus Christ."

~ Pope Benedict XVI ~



From the Reverend Fathers

"The coming of the Lord was expected for long ages; it was foretold by the prophets and desired by all the just. The Church commemorates and renews this expectation with each recurring Advent, expressing this longing to the Savior who is to come."

~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D. ~

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For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or
Email: reharrill@rcdoc.org.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

November On-Line Giving
Regular Collection: \$7,435.00
Seminarian Education: \$215.00
Building Repair Loan: \$100.00

For December 8, 2024
Regular Offering: \$ 7,891.00
Retired Religious Collection: \$2,156.00

You can make online donations through the following link:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>



Brother Knights Frank Colini and Tom Elio

The Knights would like to thank everyone who enjoyed the Christmas pancakes and a movie breakfast, while supporting those with intellectual disabilities through LAMB (Least Among My Brethren).

Thankyou, Knights of Columbus!



Prayers for the Sick

Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Emily Bailey, Alisha Benfield, Iris Borrás, Wade Boswell, Father Burke, Melissa Chandler, Gary Colhouer, Frank Colini, Joanne Colini, Sabrina & Kevin Collier, Julie Collins, Michelle Contreras, Michelle Daigle, Danya Davis, Claudia Dodrill, Robert DuCharme, Danya Evans, Carol Faunce, Emanuel Garcia, Rebekah Giltner, Gloria Gimpaya, Silvestre Gonzalez, Nancy Goulet, Ellie Graves, Gertrude Hand, David Hernandez, Julian Hernandez, Sherlin Hernandez, Janet Hill, Clare Jablonski, Betsy Jackson, Father Jenkins, Kate Johnson, Gabriel Jones, Bishop Jugis, Ronnie Kennedy, Jim & Joan King, Jared Krantz, Charlie Kutilek, Ed Long, Stephanie Longo, Patricia Lucas, Jeff Lugo, Wilson Mancipe, Monica Martin, Elias Martinez, Nathan I. McCain, Jennifer McDonald, Joan Meade, Geri Melton, Esther Mendoza, Teresa Mendoza, Gloria Millette, Kevin Millette, Scott Moore, Lucas Cade Motter, Alan Murfitt, Keith Oliver, Luis Parra, Maria Parra, Carmen Perez, David Picquet, Ken Pierson, Charles Plateroti, Bonnie Rackley, Richard Ranc, Rick Rorey, Deborah Rowlands, John Rowlands, Camille Russo, Nathan Ryback, Linda Samarotto, Cassie Schmanski, Gloria Sears, Linda & Keith See, Samantha Smith, Sister Mary Olivia, Larry St. Clair, Nancy St. Clair, Beth Ann Stamper, Cole Suhy, Doug Suhy, Mark Tavernia, Richard Thelen, Federico Trejo, Patty Wansor, Arwin Watts, Fred White, Patricia White, Sammy White, Bernice Williams, Marshall Williams, Mary Wright



Please Pray for Our First Responders, especially for:
Officer Max DeLauter, Shelby Police Department
 and
Officer Nathan Shomette, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

Annual Gift Drive for Hands of Hope



Our tree is up in the narthex again, and awaits the generosity of our parishioners once again.

We are 'hoping' for gifts for mothers, and for children (infants and toddlers).

Gifts should be unwrapped, but you may also put them in gift bags that are not sealed.

Thank you for your generosity.



ESPECIALLY FOR....

E2 Private First Class Jayden Mills, USMC, Stationed at

Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan; CDR Stuart Whitaker; John Escalera, also in the Navy; CDR Jeffrey Gerring of the US Navy. Please consider adding the name of someone you love to our prayer list for our Troops. Email to pjwlmg@gmail.com



The Ladies Guild Christmas Party will be held on January 11th, 2025, at Mario' Restaurant from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. All ladies of the parish are invited! This will be a buffet lunch consisting of garlic rolls, salad, chicken parmesan, baked ziti, eggplant parmesan, roasted chicken, green beans, potatoes, dessert, iced tea, and coffee. The cost will be \$13.00 (includes tax and tip) per person. Please make your check payable to the Ladies Guild as we will be collecting the money and writing one check to Mario. Your cost is in addition to the \$500 that the Ladies Guild will be funding for the party. In lieu of a secret Santa, we are asking for all party participants to bring a donation for Hands of Hope. This can be children's clothes size 18 months to 2 T, boys or girls, or a monetary donation. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex beginning this weekend, December 7th through the weekend of January 4th. We look forward to seeing all you beautiful ladies at the party!

THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE MOST PERFECT PRAYER



It is no surprise that the Lord's Prayer is the most perfect prayer since it was the prayer taught to the apostles by Jesus Himself.

In his work *Praying Like the Early Church*, historian James L. Papandrea writes "(Early) Christians were expected to pray the Our Father from memory, verbatim, because in praying this prayer, we are praying the words of Jesus-it was always understood to be the prayer that the faithful pray."

Saint Cyprian of Carthage (200-258) tells us that the best way to pray in the name of Jesus is to pray in the words of Jesus. Saint Augustine (354-430) wrote that Jesus didn't just teach the Our Father, He dictated it. He said that after the Eucharistic Prayer, the primary Christian prayer is the Our Father, and wrote that "the words which Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us in this prayer are the rule and standard of our desires."

When we pray the Our Father during Mass, do we pray these words with the understanding that they spell out our rules and standards? We have heard Father Burke say "There is no 'my' in the Our Father." Do we realize that we pray this prayer for all those present during Mass, for all Christians everywhere?

In explaining Saint Cyprian's words, Papandrea writes that "when a person prays the Our Father privately as part of his or her personal prayer life, that person is still praying with and for others, especially anyone for whom he or she is responsible. Parents who pray the Our Father are praying for their whole households, especially their children, for their salvation and for their consciences to be formed correctly, and for the forgiveness of their sins." For some of us, that might add more depth to our understanding the importance of this perfect prayer.

A few interesting facts about the Our Father. In Scripture, there are two versions of the Our Father: Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13. Matthew's version is longer, and it was this version that the Church Fathers used when writing their early commentaries.

Another comment would be regarding the phrase added after the Our Father when prayed during Mass- "for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours, now and forever." This phrase is not in either of Luke's or Matthew's Gospel. A version of this doxology (a liturgical form of prayer and praise) appeared in the Didache (The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles) a 1st or 2nd century work that documented teachings of The Twelve, as well as rituals for Baptism and the Eucharistic celebrations. When this phrase was brought back to the Mass after Vatican II many Catholics did not like it because it was thought to be Protestant. It may not be the words of Jesus although the words are in some bibles, but historians see it as part of the earliest Christian liturgical practices taught by the apostles.

After we pray the Our Father at Mass, there comes a gesture that in recent months has created a bit of confusion...the Sign of Peace. Because many of our parishioners were concerned about COVID, we have only recently begun sharing the gesture. In reality, many people get carried away with it. They wave the "peace sign" to parishioners across the aisles, walk around to shake the hand of a friend, and everybody they can stretch to reach. That is not the intent of the gesture. It is a symbolic act to express our connection as a community. And whether you offer a sign of peace or not, when that beautiful prayer "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us", begins, we should be ready to sing that song with a heart-felt request for God's mercy.