

# 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



## December 29, 2024 Feast of the Holy Family

### ***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](mailto:dmfaunce@rcdoc.org)

Parish email: [sgdate@charlottediocese.org](mailto:sgdate@charlottediocese.org)

Website: [www.immaculateconceptionforestcity.org](http://www.immaculateconceptionforestcity.org)


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

**Bulletin Editor: [pjwlm@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlm@gmail.com)**

**Feast of the Holy Family**  
December 29, 2024 ~ Bulletin No.1 XXXXI

**WEEKLY CALENDAR for December 28-January 5, 2025**

Sat 28	The Holy Innocents	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Father Gabriel Meehan by Giuliana Riley
Sun 29	<b>Holy Family</b>	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for the Parish Mass in Thanksgiving by Kim Tran AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 30	Saint Sabinus	9:00am	Communion Service
Tues 31	<b>Vigil, Mary Mother of God</b>	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Clem Suhy by Knights of Columbus
Wed 1/1/2025	<b>Solemnity, Mary Mother of God</b>	10:00am 7:00pm	Mass for ROS Michael Burke by Maxie & Joannie Jolley Mass for ROS Walter Orzechowicz by Terri Faunce & Kristi King
Thurs 2	Saint Basil	12:10pm 7:30pm	Mass for Alan & Paula Crandall by Friends AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 3	Most Holy Name of Jesus	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Marvin & Simone Bivens by Maxie & Joannie Jolley Men's Prayer Group
Sat 4	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Betty Sparks by Jackie Beam
Sun 5	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>	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



**Save the Date**

**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 10: Charlotte March for Life:** 12:00-1:00pm; Line up by 12:00pm at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church Street Charlotte.

**January 11: Ladies Guild Christmas Party,** 12:00-2:00pm, Marios, \$13.00, sign up in the Narthex by January 7th


**January 20: Prayer Shawl Ministry,** NO Prayer Shawl gathering today.

**January 23-24: Twenty-Four Hour Eucharistic Adoration**

**From the Church Fathers**

*"Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary's womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church's faith. He will dwell forever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul."*

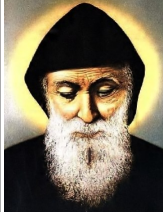
~ Blessed Isaac of Stella ~



**From the Saints**

*"Preserve the warmth of the family because the warmth of the whole world cannot make up for it."*

~ Saint Charbel Makhoul ~



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

<b>1st Sunday (January 5)</b>	<b>Yokefellow Sunday</b>	<b>Saltine Crackers</b>
2nd Sunday (January 12)	Hospice Sunday	Ensure, any flavor
3rd Sunday (January 19)	Hands of Hope Sunday	Children's diapers, SIZE LARGE
4th Sunday (January 26)	Backpack Sunday	Individual-serving size of Mac & cheese, ravioli, beanie-weenies, etc

**For Annulment Information Contact:**  
Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or  
Email: [reharrill@rcdoc.org](mailto:reharrill@rcdoc.org).

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**Collection for the Week of December 22:**

**Regular Collection: \$ 10,435.00**  
**Building Loan: \$2,250.00**  
**Special Offering: \$300.00**



**Banns of Marriage**

*Announced between  
James Andrew Cilone and Gabrielle Sara Lance*

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





Left to right: Mary Long, Michael Daigle, Araceli Daigle, Donna Kersey

## Congratulations to Our Lay Carmelites

On Saturday, December 21st, four of our parishioners took another step in their Carmelite vocation.

Donna Kersey made her First Profession of Promises for three years. Araceli Daigle, Michael Daigle, and Mary Long made their Final Profession of Promises, promises that are made for life. In both cases, these promises are made to God, to the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, and to the Most Reverend Míceál O'Neill, Prior General of the Order of the Brothers and Sisters of the same Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, and to his successors, to observe the Carmelite Way of Life.

The vocation to live a contemplative way of life isn't for everyone, but it truly is for these amazing parishioners. The formation process takes at least six years to reach final profession, during which a Carmelite learns of the spirituality, history, and lives of the Carmelite saints, while they learn to live the Carmelite way of life.

## Prayers for the Sick

Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Emily Bailey, Alisha Benfield, Iris Borrás, Wade Boswell, Father Burke, Melissa Chandler, Deacon Andy Cilone, 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 let us know when you are ready to be taken off our "Prayers for the Sick" list; email [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com)



### 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](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com)



### Please Pray for Our First Responders, especially for:

**Officer Max DeLauter**, Shelby Police Department and

**Officer Nathan Shomette**, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

Please consider adding the name of someone you love to our prayer list for our First Responders. Email to [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com)

### The "Pick a Prayer" Basket

includes prayers from the Litany of the Infant Jesus.



## JUBILEE Trivia

In ancient Judaism, the Jubilee Year (which was called the year of the yōbēl, "of the goat", because the holiday was proclaimed by the sound of a goat's horn) was a year that was declared holy. During this period, the Mosaic law prescribed that slaves could regain their freedom, and that land, (of which God is the sole master), should be returned to its former owners. A jubilee year was typically celebrated every 50 years. In the Christian era, after the first Jubilee of 1300, Pope Boniface VIII fixed the frequency of Jubilee celebrations to every 100 years. Following a plea from the people of Rome to Pope Clement VI (1342), the frequency was reduced to every 50 years.

In 1389, in remembrance of the number of years in the life of Christ, Urban VI chose to set the Jubilee cycle to every 33 years and called for a Jubilee in 1390—though it was only celebrated after his death by Pope Boniface IX. Despite this, in 1400, at the end of the previously fixed 50-year period, without having declared a Jubilee ahead of time, Boniface IX granted a Jubilee indulgence to the pilgrims who had flocked to Rome. In 1425, Martin V celebrated a new Jubilee, opening the holy door of St John Lateran for the first time. The last to celebrate a Jubilee on the 50-year cycle was Pope Nicholas V in 1450. Paul II extended the inter-jubilee period to 25 years, and in 1475 a Holy Year was celebrated by Sixtus IV. From then on, ordinary Jubilees were held at regular intervals. Unfortunately, the Napoleonic wars prevented the celebrations of the Jubilees of 1800 and 1850. The Jubilees were resumed in 1875, after the annexation of Rome to the Kingdom of Italy, although that year it was celebrated without the traditional solemnity.



## *Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

January 1st is the Octave Day of Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. We close out the Christmas octave—the eight days following the birth of Christ—with a day honoring Mary as the Mother of God.

As the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary has a unique position among the saints, indeed, among all creatures. She is exalted, yet still one of us.

*Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. At the same time, however, because she belongs to the offspring of Adam she is one with all those who are to be saved. (Lumen Gentium, no. 53)*

Mary embraces God's will and freely chooses to cooperate with God's grace, thereby fulfilling a crucial role in God's plan of salvation. Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, "while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed." The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf.

From USCCB Website

## *A Homily in Praise of the Virgin Mother*

By Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

It was fitting that the Virgin should give birth only to God; and it was also fitting that God should be born only of the Virgin. Accordingly, the Creator of mankind, in order that he might become a man by being born a human being, had to seek out from among all mankind and designate as his mother a woman he knew would be worthy of him and pleasing to him. And so he chose a sinless virgin, that he might be born sinless and free of all stain. He chose a humble virgin, from whom he might come forth meek and humble of heart, to display a most necessary and salutary model of these virtues for all mankind. Thus he allowed a virgin to conceive, in whom he had earlier inspired a vow of virginity, and required of her the merit of humility.

Otherwise how could the angel afterward pronounce her full of grace, if she had the slightest good quality which did not come from grace? Thus she, who was to conceive and bring forth the holy of holies, must be sanctified physically and so she received the gift of virginity; that she might be sanctified spiritually, she received the gift of humility.

The Virgin then, adorned like a queen with the jewels of virtue, shone with the glory of body and soul; and seen on high as radiantly beautiful, she so attracted the inhabitants of heaven that she moved the heart of the King with desire for her and brought down from above the heavenly message. Scripture says: *The angel was sent to a virgin.* For she was truly virgin in body, virgin in mind, a virgin by her special calling, sanctified, as the Apostle reminds us, in both mind and body. This came about by no unforeseen or accidental occurrence; she was chosen from eternity, foreknown and prepared by the Most High for himself, guarded by the angels, prefigured by the patriarchs, and promised by the prophets.

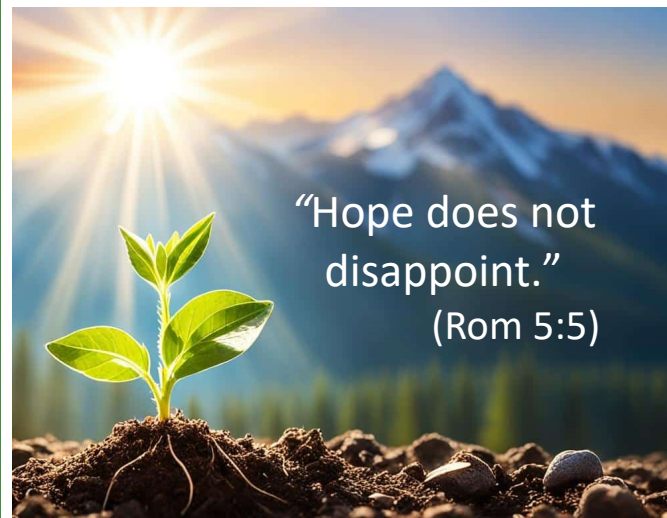


## Jubilee Year 2025

In his Papal Bull *Spes Non Confundit*, (Hope does not disappoint) Pope Francis declared that the Jubilee Year would begin with the Holy Doors of Saint Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, 2024.

The words of the Holy Father are dispersed throughout with the words of Saint Paul throughout the Papal Bull. Francis writes "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring...for all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's Word helps us find reasons for that hope."

Saint Paul wrote "*Since we are justified through faith, we have peace with God through Our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have access to this Grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing in the glory of*



God...Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Rom 5:1-2)

Francis continues..."Hope is born of love and based upon the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross, and is enlivened by a hope, and is constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit." But without a doubt, for some, this statement of Francis says it all. "Christian Hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love." Saint Paul says the same thing..."*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or conquerors through him who loved us...nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" (Romans 8:35, 37-39)

Of course, hope does not stand alone. Saint Augustine tells us "Whatever our state of life, we cannot live without these three dispositions of the soul, namely to believe, to hope, and to love."

Pope Francis also reminds us that we also need patience. He writes "Patience, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, sustains our hope and it is a virtue and a way of life. May we learn to pray frequently for the grace of patience, which is both the daughter of hope and at the same time its firm foundation."

The Jubilee is just started, and there is so much more to come. In keeping with the Jubilee 2025 Calendar of Major Events, our bulletin will do its best to be a companion to the year's Pilgrimage of Hope.

Articles will relate to the special events for each month of the Jubilee calendar. For example, for the 8th & 9th of February, we will celebrate the Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel, and during the 28th-29th of April, we will celebrate the Jubilee of Persons with Disabilities. Each week, in place of quotes from the saints, popes, and church fathers, there will be a quote from Scripture related to hope, and quotes from Hope-Full Role Models through the centuries. We will have a weekly Catechism Corner, and perhaps looking at Vatican documents through the centuries.

We have multiple opportunities this year to earn plenary indulgences which remove the temporal punishment due to sin. A full explanation of the requirements are available online, but on the reverse side of this insert, you can get a head start.

This year also includes the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, the Council that gave us the Nicene Creed. At this council, the date of Easter was discussed. The Eastern Churches had one method of calculating the date, and the Western Church another. Providence has given us a blessing this year because the dates coincide this year. In honor of the 1700th anniversary we will have a series in the bulletin on the creed that we pray at Mass.

Francis writes that "Hope finds its supreme witness in the Mother of God. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naïve optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life." Mary is 'our life, our sweetness, and our hope', so may she be our guide during this Jubilee Year, 2025.



## ***Indulgences for the Jubilee Year***

(Excerpt of “Decree on Granting Indulgence During the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025” available at [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com))

This Decree “provides Catholics with the opportunity to gain indulgences by making pilgrimages, prayerful visits to specific churches, or by practicing works of mercy during the holy year.” Most of us will not be able to make a pilgrimage to Rome, but that shouldn’t discourage us from gaining plenary indulgences. There are several ways to earn a plenary indulgence which will remove the temporal punishment due to sin.

The faithful who are truly repentant of sin but who cannot participate in the various solemn celebrations, pilgrimages and pious visits for serious reasons (especially cloistered nuns and monks, but also the elderly, the sick, prisoners, and those who, through their work in hospitals or other care facilities, provide continuous service to the sick), can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence, under the same **conditions if, united in spirit with the faithful taking part in person**, (especially when the words of the Supreme Pontiff or the diocesan Bishop are transmitted through the various means of communication), they recite the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any approved form, and other prayers in conformity with the objectives of the Holy Year, in their homes or wherever they are confined (e.g. in the chapel of the monastery, hospital, nursing home, prison...) offering up their sufferings or the hardships of their lives;

### **Works of mercy and penance**

In addition, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if, with a devout spirit, they participate in popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, held in a church or other suitable place, according to the mind of the Holy Father. **(NOTE: During the past two years, our bulletins have targeted documents of Vatican II. We will continue to do so, and will also be highlighting sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. If any parishioners are interested in getting together for a more formal study, contact bulletin editor.)**

Despite the rule that only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day (cf. *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, IV ed., norm. 18, § 1), the faithful who have carried out an act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory, if they receive Holy Communion a second time that day, can obtain the plenary indulgence twice on the same day, applicable only to the deceased (this must take place within a Eucharistic celebration; see can. 917 and the Pontifical Commission for the authentic interpretation of the CIC, *Responsa ad dubia*, 1, 11 July 1984). Through this double act, a praiseworthy exercise of supernatural charity is carried out, through that bond by which the faithful still journeying on this earth are united in the mystical Body of Christ, with those who have already completed their journey, by virtue of the fact that “the Jubilee indulgence, thanks to the power of prayer, is intended in a particular way for those who have gone before us, so that they may obtain full mercy” (*Spes non confundit*, 22).

In a special way “during the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind” (*Spes non confundit*, 10). Therefore, the Indulgence is also linked to certain works of mercy and penance, which bear witness to the conversion undertaken. The faithful, following the example and mandate of Christ, are encouraged to carry out works of charity or mercy more frequently, especially in the service of those brothers and sisters who are burdened by various needs. More especially, they should rediscover these “corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead” (*Misericordiae vultus*, 15) and rediscover also “the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead” (ibid.).

In this way, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, their brothers and sisters who are in need or in difficulty (the sick, prisoners, lonely elderly people, disabled people...), in a sense making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (cf. Mt 25, 34-36) according to the usual spiritual, sacramental and prayer conditions. The faithful can repeat these visits throughout the Holy Year, even daily, acquiring a plenary indulgence each time.

The Jubilee Plenary Indulgence can also be obtained through initiatives that put into practice, in a concrete and generous way, the spirit of penance which is, in a sense, the soul of the Jubilee. In particular the penitential nature of Friday can be rediscovered through abstaining, in a spirit of penance, at least for one day of the week from futile distractions (real but also virtual distractions, for example, the use of the media and/or social networks), from superfluous consumption (for example by fasting or practicing abstinence according to the general norms of the Church and the indications of the Bishops), as well as by donating a proportionate sum of money to the poor; by supporting works of a religious or social nature, especially in support of the defense and protection of life in all its phases, but also by supporting the quality of life of abandoned children, young people in difficulty, the needy or lonely elderly people, or migrants from various countries “who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families” (*Spes non confundit*, 13); it can also be obtained by dedicating a reasonable portion of one’s free time to voluntary activities that are of service to the community or to other similar forms of personal commitment.

This is going to be a year filled with hope, and “*Hope does not disappoint.*” (Romans 5:5)