

# 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](mailto:dmfaunce@rcdoc.org)

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

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



*The days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will fulfill the promise*

## December 1, 2024 First Sunday of Advent

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

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

**1st Sunday of Advent**  
December 1, 2024 ~ Bulletin No.49XXXX

**WEEKLY CALENDAR for November 30-December 8, 2024**

Sat 11/30	Saint Saturninus	5:00pm	Mass for the Parish
Sun 12/1	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Michael Burke by Maxie & Joannie Jolley Mass for Joe & Alicia Stenard by Kathy & Rich Burns AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 2	Saint Bibiana	9:00am	Mass for JoAnn Cilone, Happy Birthday by Andy Cilone
Wed 4	Saint Barbara	7:00pm 10:30am	Mass for John Staab & JoAnn Cilone, Happy Birthday by Rosanne Staab Prayer Group, Parish Hall
Thurs 5	Saint Gerald of Braga	12:10pm 7:30pm	Mass for Chris & Dana Christophorou by the Benedictine Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 6	Saint Nicholas	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Walter Orzechowicz by the Benedictine Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace Men's Prayer Group
Sat 7	Saint Ambrose	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton
Sun 8	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for the Parish Mass for ROS Sister Theresa Scheuren by the Benedictine Sisters of Mary Queen of Peace AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**December 3-12: Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Schedule**  
See next page for all events.

**December 5: Daughters of the Visitation, 4:30-6:30pm**

**December 7: Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar: 8:00am-2:00pm**

**December 7-8: 2nd Collection: Religious Retirement**

**December 8: After 9:00am and 11:30am Masses: Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast and a Movie, 'Star'**

**December 8: Knights of Columbus Meeting; Adoration at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:00pm**

**December 9: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception It is a Holy Day of Obligation: Masses are at 12:10pm and 7:00pm (Bi-lingual)**

**December 14: Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Basket and Coat Drive: see mor information on next page.**

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

*From the Holy Fathers*  
*"The season of Advent returns every year in order that our life may find its proper orientation, turned to the Face of God. The "Face" is not that of a master, but of a Father and Friend."*



*From the Saints*  
*"Now is the time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation. This is the season the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity."*



~ Saint Charles Borromeo ~

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**For November 24, 2024**

Regular Offering: \$5,795.61  
Building Repair Loan: \$1,500.00

You can make online donations through the following link:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

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

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

1st Sunday (December 1)	Yokefellow Sunday	Canned beans, (15 oz) any type (pinto, kidney, etc.)
<b>2nd Sunday (December 8)</b>	<b>Hospice Sunday</b>	<b>Ensure, any flavor</b>
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

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The annual Christmas Lights and Christmas Parade in Forest City are legend. This year, Immaculate Conception Parish is having a float in the Parade sponsored by our Parish Spanish Community. On the float, children will portray Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds and kings. Come out and support our community, and get ready for the Birthday of Our King!



**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

Prayers in the Prayer Basket for the next four weeks will be from the Advent Litany

**NOVENA AND ADORATION SCHEDULE FOR OUR LADY OF GAUDALUPE**

Tuesday, Dec. 3	Spanish Novena	7:00pm	Main Church
Wednesday, Dec 4	Spanish Novena	6:30pm	Main Church
	English Mass	7:00pm	
Thursday, Dec 5	English Mass	12:10pm	Main Church
	English Adoration	1:00-6:00pm	
	Rosary & Benediction	6:00pm	
	Spanish Novena	7:00pm	
Friday, Dec 6	English Mass	12:10pm	Chapel
	Spanish Novena	7:00pm	Main Church
Saturday, Dec 7	Spanish Novena	7:00pm	
Sunday, Dec 8	Spanish Novena	7:00pm	
Monday Dec 9	English Mass	12:10pm	Main Church
Holy Day of Obligation	Spanish Rosary/Novena	6:30pm	Main Church
	Bilingual Mass	7:00pm	
Tuesday, Dec 10	Spanish Novena	7:00pm	Main Church
Wednesday, Dec 11	English Mass	7:00pm	Main Church
	Spanish Novena	9:00pm-12:00am	
Thursday, Dec 12	English Mass	12:10pm	Main Church
	English Adoration	1:00-6:00pm	
	Rosary & Benediction	6:00pm	
	Spanish Mass	7:00pm	

**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, Stephannie 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 William, Marshall Williams, Mary Wright  
Pray for the Repose of the Souls of Erlinda Judson and Gladys Talley.

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)

**Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar!**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ~ 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

It's that time of year again! The Immaculate Conception Ladies Guild will be holding their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

We are calling **all** parishioners to put your baking and craft skills to work! We need lots of frozen meals, baked goods, and craft donations for our sale. Please bring your donation to the parish hall on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM or early Saturday morning before the sale begins (Between 7:00 and 8:00 AM). Please include a card with the list ingredients for each baked good, and cooking and/or reheating instructions for your frozen entrée.

All Bazaar proceeds will benefit the Ladies Guild ministries.

Thank you and God Bless!

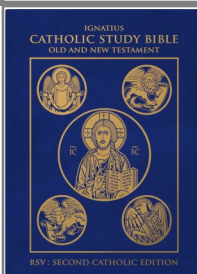
**Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Basket, Toys & Coats for Needy Families ~ December 14<sup>th</sup>**

We thank the Parish again for the tremendous support in the past with this program. We are again asking the parish for financial donations or donations of toys and new coats for ages 1 to 16. Adult coats will be accepted as well to be made available for families who otherwise would not have these items this Christmas. **We are expecting 75 families** this year up from the typical 60. Knights will collect toys and coats before the masses, or these items can be dropped off in the parish hall. Financial donations can be given to your favorite Knight or can be dropped off at the Parish office in an envelope marked for KoC Christmas Baskets.

**Father Burke's Advent Book Sale has arrived.  
Ignatius Catholic Study Bible~Old and New Testament**

This year Father Burke is featuring just one Study bible that was 20 years in the making by principle Biblical scholar co-editors Dr. Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch. **The list price for this bible is \$64.95, but Father is offering it to us at the price of \$40.00.**

**Orders must be pre-paid, cash or check (made out to Immaculate Conception Church) at the time of ordering.**





# Be Vigilant, for He Is Coming

(Taken from an Angelus speech by Pope Francis from the First Sunday in Advent, November 28, 2021, based on the Gospel for the First Week in Advent-Year C, the Year of Saint Luke)

The Gospel of today's liturgy, the First Sunday of Advent, speaks to us about the Lord's coming at the end of time. Jesus announces bleak and distressing events, but precisely at this point He invites us not to be afraid. Why? Because everything will be okay? No, but because *He will come*. Jesus will return as He promised.

This is what he says: "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand" (Lk 21:28). It is nice to hear this encouraging Word: stand up straight and raise our heads because right during those moments when everything seems to be coming to an end, the Lord comes to save us. We await Him with joy, even in the midst of tribulations, during life's crises and the dramatic events of history. We await Him.

But how do we raise our heads and not become absorbed with difficulties, suffering and defeat? Jesus points the way with a strong reminder: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy... Be vigilant at all times and pray" (Lk 21:34, 36).

"Be vigilant": *vigilance*. Let us focus on this important aspect of the Christian life.

From the words of Christ, we see that vigilance is tied to alertness: be alert, do not get distracted, that is, stay awake! Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians" – and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness - Christians without spiritual fervor, without intensity in prayer, without enthusiasm for mission, without passion for the Gospel; Christians who always look inwards, incapable of looking to the horizon. And this leads to "dozing off": to move things along by inertia, to fall into apathy, indifferent to everything except what is comfortable for us. This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.

We need to be vigilant so that our daily life does not become routine, and, as Jesus says, so we are not burdened by life's anxieties (cf. v. 34). So today is a good moment to ask ourselves: what weighs on my heart? What weighs on my spirit? What makes me go to sit in the lazy chair? It is sad to see Christians "in the armchair"! What are the mediocrities that paralyze me, the vices that crush me to the ground and prevent me from raising my head? And regarding the burdens that weigh on the shoulders of our brothers and sisters, am I aware of them or indifferent to them?

These are good questions to ask ourselves, because they help *guard our hearts against apathy*. What then is apathy? It is a great enemy of the spiritual life and also of Christian life. Apathy is a type of laziness that makes us slide into sadness, it takes away zest for life and the will to do things. It is a negative spirit that traps the soul in apathy, robbing it of its joy. It starts with sadness sliding downwards so that there is no joy. The Book of Proverbs says: "With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life" (Prov 4:23). Guard your heart: that means to be vigilant! Stay awake and guard your heart.



And let us add an essential ingredient: the secret to being vigilant is *prayer*. In fact, Jesus says: "Be vigilant at all times and pray" (Lk 21:36). Prayer is what keeps the lamp of the heart lit. This is especially true when we feel that our enthusiasm has cooled down. Prayer re-lights it, because it brings us back to God, to the center of things. Prayer reawakens the soul from sleep and focuses it on what matters, on the purpose of existence. Even during our busiest days, we must not neglect prayer. The prayer of the heart can be helpful for us, repeating often brief invocations.

For example, during Advent, we could make a habit of saying, "Come, Lord Jesus." Only these words, but repeating them: "Come, Lord Jesus". This time of preparation leading to Christmas is beautiful: we think of the nativity scene and Christmas, so let us say from the heart: "Come, Lord Jesus". Let us repeat this prayer all throughout the day: the soul will remain vigilant! "Come, Lord Jesus", is a prayer we can all say together three times. "Come, Lord Jesus", "Come, Lord Jesus", "Come, Lord Jesus".

And now we pray to the Madonna: may she who awaited the Lord with a vigilant heart accompany us during our Advent journey.

