

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



*Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!*

December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Bulletin Editor: pjwlmg@gmail.com



WEEKLY CALENDAR for December 21-29, 2024

Sat 21	Saint Peter Canisius	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
Mon 23	Saint John of Kanty	9:00am	Mass for a Private Intention
Tues 24	Christmas Vigil Midnight Mass	5:00pm 10:00pm	Mass for ROS Krantz Family Members by the Krantz Family Mass for ROS Jonathan Lane by Alicia Lane
Wed 25	Christmas Day	10:00am	Mass for ROS Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton
Thurs 26	Saint Stephen	12:10pm 7:30pm	Communion Service AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 27	Saint John the Apostle	12:10pm 7:00am	Communion Service Men's Prayer Group
Sat 28	Holy Innocents	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Father Gabriel Meehan by Giuliana Riley
Sun 29	Holy Family	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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

No 24-Hour Adoration on December 26-27

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 (See info on next page)

January 20: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am, Parish Hall

January 23-24: Twenty-Four Hour Eucharistic Adoration

From the Holy Fathers

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness, thus to open the doors of Hope"
~ Pope Benedict XVI ~



From Pope Francis

"Advent is a continuous call to hope. It reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal, and to its fullness, which is the Lord, Jesus Christ."



For Annulment Information Contact:

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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1st Sunday (January 5)	Yokefellow Sunday	Canned beans, (15 oz) any type (pinto, kidney, etc.)
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

COLLECTION INFORMATION

**Collection for the Week of December 15:
Regular Collection: \$5,826.73**

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



*"Under the influence of fear, we bear the Cross of Christ with patience.
Under the inspiring influence of HOPE, we carry the Cross with a firm and valiant heart.
But under the consuming power of love, we embrace the Cross with ardor."*

~ Saint Bernard of Clairvaux ~

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, 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 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



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



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

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.



Hope Does Not Disappoint

Jubilee Year 2025, the Year of Hope, begins when Pope Francis opens the Holy Doors of Saint Peter's Basilica at 7:00pm (our time) on Christmas Eve.

The Jubilee Year provides Catholics with a special opportunity for year-long spiritual renewal and celebration of faith. The calendar of events features key moments for reflection, prayer and pilgrimage, inviting you to take part in meaningful celebrations and rituals throughout the year. By participating, you join a global community in experiencing God's mercy, grace and hope. This is your chance to deepen your faith and embrace a transformative journey – don't miss it!

More information to come next week.

Just a Reminder....

There are still 2025 Masses available for your special intentions. Forms are available in the Narthex.

Thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods, frozen entrées and raffle gifts for the Ladies Guild 2024 Bazaar. It was a great success! At last count, the total proceeds from the Bazaar were \$2461.00, and will be used to support Ladies Guild ministries. We would also like to announce the winners of the raffles: Wanda Weaver - Bird House. Jennie Decastral – Christmas Tree. Kate Johnson – Fruit Cake. Kathy Blodgett – Christmas Basket. Mary Swanson – Money Tree. Maria Arango – Christmas Carol Song Box. Mike – Bird Suet Feeder.

Merry Christmas



From Father Burke, Deacon Andy, and Deacon Dave

A Parishioner asked that we bring back this prayer that was printed in the April 28, 2019 Bulletin.

I Pray That I May Walk With God

By Father Herbert T. Burke

When I walk, I walk with God.

He guides my feet as I walk the earth to keep me on the path to heaven; He keeps me company, guides my steps and inspires my thoughts.

I know He's always there to listen and to talk to me.

He responds to my words when He sends me His love, the light of His truth. His inspiration helps me move forward in this world filled with selfishness and darkness.

In answer to my prayers He sends me His life which is Grace; His love which is providence; His light which is vision through the darkness, and His truth which is the foundation of my reasoning. They move as one within my soul.

When I pray, I pray to God who made heaven and earth and the stars.

I pray with God, with His Holy Spirit who inspires me .

When I pray to God I never pray alone; for I have God before me;

I have his mother beside me; and I have the Saints all around me, a cloud of witnesses who pray for me and with me to the Lord.

I pray with His Mother who worships Him along with me; who prays to Him as my mother who is always beside me; and who prays to Him for me because she loves me along with my heavenly brothers and sisters, the saints in the Kingdom of God. Their love for me is in their prayer. My love for God is my service to His commandments and works of mercy.

When I sleep, I sleep with God .

I know He's always there, He never leaves me alone. Even when I seem to sleep alone, His Holy Spirit comforts me and I know He's always ready to listen to a prayer.

I eat with God.

I know that the food that comes to my mouth can only come from His hand, for it is He alone who feeds me. He gives me my daily bread - the one that feeds my stomach and my body as well as the Living Bread that come down from heaven to the altar at Mass that feeds my soul. With His grace may I do His will on earth as it is in heaven.

I think with God.

I reflect on my troubles and my needs with God. I make my life's decisions with God, and I imagine many things with God. May all my thoughts be inspired by Him; may all my decisions be guided by Him.

As I live my life I live with God.

I know He gives me my next heartbeat and my next breath. I know He guides me on the path to a place where I can be with Him forever; and when He decides it's time for me to take my last breath, I look forward to that place called heaven and paradise.

May I use my imagination to remember Him in the manger in Bethlehem, being born to save me; to remember him on Mount Calvary paying the price for my sins; to remember him walking from the grave on Easter Sunday, that I may rise from the grave on the last day.

May He take my hand on the day of the resurrection of the dead so that we may walk in the light of heaven together for eternity.

Amen.

