

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



*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths*

December 8, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent

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

Bulletin Editor: pjwlm@gmail.com

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024 ~ Bulletin No.50 XXXX

WEEKLY CALENDAR for December 7-15, 2024

Sat 12/7	Saint Ambrose	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton
Sun 8	Second Sunday of Advent	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
Mon 9	Immaculate Conception	12:10pm 7:00pm	Mass for ROS Bob Giggie by Michael & Valerie Giggie Mass for ROS Walter Orzechowicz by Andy & JoAnn Cilone
Wed 11	Our Lady Queen of the Angels	7:00pm	Mass for Joe & Alicia Stenard by Kathy & Rich Burns
Thurs 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	12:10pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Deceased Members of the Polinari Family by Giuliana Riley AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 13	Saint Lucy	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Porinchu Muthipeedika by Sini Kalapurakel Men's Prayer Group
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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 7-12: Continuance of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena; See next page for all events.
December 7: Ladies Guild Christmas Bazaar: 8:00am-2:00pm
December 7-8: 2nd Collection: Religious Retirement



December 8: TODAY ~ After 9:00am and 11:30am Masses: **Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast and a Movie**, as we celebrate Keeping Christ in Christmas with pancakes (Plain, Chocolate Chip and Peppermint) and the Nativity movie, *The 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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:
December 24: 5:00pm
December 24: 10:00pm
December 25: 10:00am

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

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From The Holy Fathers

"Let us prepare ourselves in this season of Advent, to see...with the eyes of Faith."

~ Pope Benedict XVI ~



From the Saints



"Mary is the excellent masterpiece of the Most High, the knowledge and possession of which He has reserved to Himself. Mary is the admirable Mother of the Son, who took pleasure in humbling and concealing her during her life in order to favor her humility."

~ Saint Louis de Montfort ~

**COLLECTION INFORMATION
For December 1, 2024**

Regular Offering: \$ 7,891.00

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.

REMAINDER OF NOVENA AND ADORATION SCHEDULE FOR OUR LADY OF GAUDALUPE

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	

**Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Basket, Toys & Coats for Needy Families
December 14th**

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.

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 Williams, Marshall Williams, Mary Wright



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.



Please Pray for Our First Responders, especially for:

Officer Max DeLauter, Shelby Police Department and

Officer Nathan Shomette, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

Reminder...

If you are willing to help the Ladies Guild by making a food item for Funeral Luncheons, please email Penny Watkins at:

pjwlmg@gmail.com

Or call at:

828-436-5161



“The Christmas message is not that peace will come automatically, because Christ is born in Bethlehem; that birth in Bethlehem was the prelude to His birth in our hearts by grace and faith and love. Peace belongs only to those who will to have it. If there is no peace in the world today, it is not because Christ did not come; it is because we did not let Him in.”

HOMILY OF JOHN PAUL II

On the 150 Anniversary of the declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ Wednesday, 8 December 2004

The Gospel for today's Liturgy, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, brings us into the house of Nazareth, where she receives the angel's annunciation (cf. *Lk 1:26-38*). Within the domestic walls, a person reveals him or herself better than elsewhere. And it is precisely within that domestic intimacy that the Gospel gives us a detail that reveals the beauty of Mary's heart.

The angel calls her "full of grace". If she is full of grace, it means Our Lady is void of evil: she is without sin, Immaculate. Now, at the angel's greeting, Mary — the text says — is "greatly troubled" (*Lk 1:29*). She is not only surprised, but troubled. To receive grand greetings, honors and compliments sometimes brings the risk of provoking pride and presumption. Let us recall that Jesus is not gentle with those who go in search of greetings in the squares, adulation, visibility (cf. *Lk 20:46*). Mary, instead, does not exalt herself, but is troubled; rather than feeling pleased, she feels amazement. The angel's greeting seemed too grand for her. Why? Because she feels "little" within, and this littleness, this humility attracts God's eyes.

Within the walls of the house of Nazareth, we thus see a marvelous trait. How is Mary's heart? Having received the highest of compliments, she is troubled because she hears addressed to her what she does not attribute to herself. In fact, Mary does not credit prerogatives to herself, she does not hold claim to anything, she accounts nothing to her own merit. She is not self-satisfied, she does not exalt herself. For in her humility, she knows she receives everything from God. She is therefore, *free from herself*, completely oriented toward God and others. Mary Immaculate *does not look on herself*. This is true humility: not looking on oneself, but looking toward God and others.

Let us remember that this perfection of Mary, the one who is full of grace, is declared by the angel within the walls of her house — not in Nazareth's main square, but there, in hiding, in the greatest humility. In that little house of Nazareth beats the greatest heart that any creature has ever had. Dear brothers and sisters, this is extraordinary news for us! Because it tells us that, in order to work marvelous deeds, the Lord has no need of grand means and our lofty abilities, but rather of our humility, of our eyes open to him, and also open to others. With this annunciation, within the poor walls of a small house, God changed history. Today too, he wants to do great things with us in our daily lives: that is, in our families, at work, in everyday environments. God's grace loves to operate there more than in great historical events. But, I ask myself, do we believe this? Or do we think that holiness is a utopia, something for insiders, a pious illusion incompatible with ordinary life?

Let us ask Our Lady for a grace: that she may free us from the misleading idea that the Gospel is one thing and life is another; that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, *humbly and joyfully*, like Our Lady, free from ourselves, with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet. Let us not lose heart: The Lord has given everyone what it takes to weave holiness within our everyday life! And when we are assailed by the doubt that we cannot succeed, or the sadness of not being adequate, let us allow ourselves to be looked upon by the "merciful eyes" of Our Lady, for no one who has asked for her help has ever been abandoned!

The Virgin's "yes" to the announcement of the Angel fits *into the reality of our earthly condition*, with humble respect for the divine will to save humanity not *from* history but *in* history. Indeed, ever preserved free from all taint of original sin, the "new Eve" benefited uniquely from the work of Christ as the most perfect Mediator and Redeemer. The first to be redeemed by her Son, she shares to the full in his holiness; she is already what the entire Church desires and hopes to be.

In Mary's Immaculate Conception the Church sees projected and anticipated in her most noble member, the saving grace of Easter. In the event of the Incarnation the Church encounters Christ and Mary indissolubly united: "he who is the Church's Lord and Head and she who, uttering the first *fiat* of the New Covenant, prefigures the Church's condition as spouse and mother" (*Redemptoris Mater*, n. 1).

To you, Virgin Immaculate, predestined by God above every other creature to be the advocate of grace and model of holiness for his people, today in a special way I renew *the entrustment of the whole Church*. May you guide your children on their pilgrimage of faith, making them *ever more obedient and faithful to the Word of God*. May you accompany every Christian on the path of conversion and holiness, in the fight against sin and in the search for *true beauty* that is always an impression and a reflection of divine Beauty.

May you obtain *peace and salvation for all the peoples*. May the eternal Father, who desired you to be the immaculate Mother of the Redeemer, also renew in our time through you, the miracles of his merciful love. Amen!

