

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

Office/Rectory: (828) 245-4017



January 12, 2025 The Baptism of the Lord

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

Parish email: sgdate@rcdoc.org

Website: www.immaculateconceptionforestcity.org

Bulletin Editor: pjwlmg@gmail.com

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)

4th Thursday 12:30pm-Friday 12:00pm (Chapel)

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Confession

Saturday, 4:15pm-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

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025 ~ Bulletin No.1 XXXXI

WEEKLY CALENDAR for January 11-January 19, 2025

Sat 11	Saint Theodosius	5:00pm	Mass for the Parish
Sun 12	Baptism of the Lord	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Jonathan Lane by Alicia Lane Mass in Thanksgiving for Blessings Received by Sini Kalapurakal AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 13	Saint Hilary of Poitiers	9:00am	Mass for ROS Art & Norma King by Bryan & Kristi King
Wed 15	Our Lady of Prompt Succor	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Peter & Maria Cilone by Andy & JoAnn Cilone
Thurs 16	Our Lady of Refuge	12:10pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Michael Barnas by Thomas & Barbara Ruth Rosary And Benediction AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 17	Saint Antony The Abbot	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for Father John Zec by Floyd & Ginny Kunkle Men's Prayer Group
Sat 18	Saint Prisca	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Jeff Bnosky by Karen Lugo
Sun 19	The Baptism of the Lord	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for the Parish Mass for ROS Becky Kesterson by Jackie Beam AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

Save the Date

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

January 11: Knights of Columbus Christmas Dinner, 7:00pm at Mario's; For information call Joe Stenard at 518-469-4898 or Pete Siviglia at 704-641-4999

January 13: Ladies Guild Meeting, 10:00am in the Parish Hall. All women of the parish are invited.

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

January 23-24: Twenty-Four Hour Eucharistic Adoration

January 25: Usher Orientation session; 1:00pm, Parish Hall

February 22: Usher Training session; 10:00am, School Building (More info on next page)



Hope Quotes

*"You are my refuge and shield;
in your word I hope."
~ Psalm 119: 114 ~*

*"When you meet together there must be
one petition, one prayer, one mind,
one hope in love, and in holy joy;
for Jesus Christ is one and perfect before all
else. You must all be quick to come together,
as to one temple of God, one altar to the one
Jesus Christ."
~ Saint Ignatius of Antioch ~*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1st Sunday (January 5)	Yokefellow Sunday	Saltine Crackers
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.

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Collection for January 1st and 5th, 2025

**January 1: \$3,224.45
Sunday, January 5: \$7,008.01**

You can make online donations through the following link:

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

Remember...Anyone who is interested in assisting with funeral luncheons by making an entrée, salad or dessert, can receive a call when the need arises. Contact Penny Watkins at 828-436-5161, or at pjwlm@gmail.com

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, Benny Montanez, Scott Moore, Lucas Cade Motter, Alan Murfitt, Keith Oliver, Luis Parra, Maria Parra, Carmen Perez, David Picquet, Ken Pierson, 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 pjwlm@gmail.com



Our parish needs additional Ushers at several masses. The Saint Michael's Shield team has organized both an orientation session and a training session for parishioners interested in participating in the Usher program. **We will have sign-up sheets in the Narthex after masses over the next few weekends.**

- **Orientation session - Saturday, January 25th** at 1 pm in the Parish Hall
- **Training session - February 22nd** at 10 am in the School Building
You can contact Steve McNally at 828-412-2198 or Brian Cilone at 623-202-5956 for more information.

C A T E C H I S M

O ¶1818 The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.

From *Spes Non Confundit* by Pope Francis



Pope Francis has made it clear that HOPE and MERCY go hand in hand.

In a recent past bulletin, we presented the program of indulgences for the Jubilee Year of Hope. What we don't always consider is how these indulgences can help the **souls in Purgatory**. In ¶22 of *Spes Confundit* (Hope Does Not Disappoint) Pope Francis writes:

"Judgment, then, concerns the salvation in which we hope and which Jesus has won for us by his death and resurrection. It is meant to bring us to a definitive encounter with the Lord. The evil we have done cannot remain hidden; it needs to be purified in order to enable this definitive encounter with God's love. Here we begin to see the need of our prayers for all those who have ended their earthly pilgrimage, our solidarity in an intercession that is effective by virtue of the communion of , and the shared bond that makes us one in Christ, the firstborn of all creation.

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.

Indeed, the indulgence is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy."



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 pjwlm@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 pjwlm@gmail.com

Prayerful Ponderings

"Sanctity is possible for every soul of good will; it is not impossible that a soul which leads a humble, hidden life, may adhere to the divine will as well and perhaps even better than a "great" saint who has received from God an exterior mission and has been enriched with mystical graces. The perfection of a soul may be measured by the degree to which it does the will of God, and finds its happiness in doing it."

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



Reflection of God by Morgan Weistling

Christ is Bathed in Light

By Saint Gregory Nazianzen

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: "I ought to be baptized by you." He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. "I ought to be baptized by you"; we should also add: "and for you," for John is to be baptized in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honor to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honor to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world.

You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received—though not in its fullness—a ray of its splendor, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

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From ***SPES NON CONFUNDIT (Hope Does Not Disappoint)***  
BULL OF INDICTION OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025  
By Pope Francis

Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: "For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life" (*Rom 5:19*). That life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God's grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit.

By his perennial presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives. 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: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or the sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (*Rom 8:35.37-39*).

Here we see the reason why this hope perseveres in the midst of trials: founded on faith and nurtured by charity, it enables us to press forward in life.