

# 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



*Thomas the Apostle by Caravaggio*

## **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)

**April 7, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

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

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

## Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday

April 7, 2024 ~ Bulletin No.15 XXXX

### WEEKLY CALENDAR for April 6-14, 2024

Sat 6	Saint Marcellinus	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Dr. Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton
Sun 7	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for Gloria Millette, Happy Birthday by Claire Daigle Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 8	<b>Feast of the Annunciation</b>	9:00am	Mass for ROS Ron Ebel by Joe & Jamie Thelen
Wed 10	Saint Fulbert	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Richard Feldmeth, Sr. by Claire Feldmeth (in Chapel)
Thurs 11	Saint Leo the Great	12:10pm 7:30pm	Mass for Andy & JoAnn Cilone, Happy 60th Anniversary by John & Rosanne Staab AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 12	Saint Julius	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for Andy & JoAnn Cilone, Happy 60th Anniversary, in Thanksgiving Men's Prayer Group
Sat 13	Bl. Margaret of Castello	5:00pm	Mass for the Parish
Sun 14	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Antonio Johnson by Kate Johnson Mass for Joseph Shomette, Happy 1st Birthday by Grandpa & Grandma AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

**April 11, 18, 25, May 2: Daughters of the Visitation;** 4:30-6:30pm in the Parish Hall

**April 6: Confirmation Retreat;** This retreat is mandatory for all students that are preparing for the sacrament of confirmation in May. Students should meet at the parish hall at 8:45am.

**April 7: Divine Mercy Chaplet,** after the 11:30am Mass

**April 7: Knights of Columbus Meeting,** 7:00pm in the Parish Hall; Adoration in the Chapel at 6:30pm

**April 13: Bishop's Youth Retreat**

**April 21: Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner**

**April 26-28: Diocesan Youth Conference**

**May 19: First Communion, the 9am Mass.** Students should meet outside the church at 8:45am. More information to follow on First Confession and First Communion practice.

**May 22: Sacrament of Confirmation, 6:00pm.** There will be a practice for all students and their sponsors in the parish hall at 5pm.

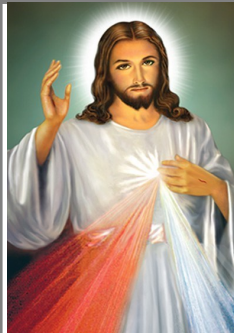
**June 9-14: Totus Tuus Summer Education Program;** More details to come!

**June 24: Talitha Koum:** See info on next page.

**June 24 - June 28: Duc in Altum,** See info on next page.

#### THE BOOK SALE BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED

For those who placed prepaid orders for books, the books can be picked up in the Gift Shop. If the Gift Shop isn't open, please ask Deacon Andy to unlock the door so you can pick up your bag of book(s).



*"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners."*

*"Suffering is a great grace; through suffering the soul becomes like the Savior; in suffering love becomes crystallized; the greater the suffering, the purer the love."*

~ Saint Faustina ~



#### COLLECTION INFORMATION

**Week of March 31, 2024**

Regular Offering: \$8,591.13

Seminarian Education: \$3,894.03

#### For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or

Email: [reharrill@rcdoc.org](mailto:reharrill@rcdoc.org).

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

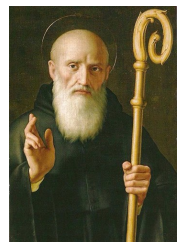
1st Sunday (April 7)	Yokefellow Sunday	Instant coffee and/or tea bags
2nd Sunday (April 14)	Hospice Sunday	Ensure, any flavor
3rd Sunday (April 21)	Hands of Hope Sunday	Children's diapers, SIZE LARGE

#### Prayerful Ponderings

"At times, you may become discouraged when you pray because your sins seem to jump out at you. You may actually feel worse than ever. But don't let that get you down. It's actually a sign of progress because the closer you draw to the perfect holiness of God, the more your own imperfections will stand out against the pure light of His holiness... This explains why really holy people are often the last ones to admit it, because the holier they get, the less holy they feel."

-J. Augustine Wetta, O.S.B

(In: *Humility Rules: Saint Benedict's 12-Step Guide to General Self-Esteem*)



**Attention all Catholic young women ages 16 -19! Do you know where your life is going? Do you have a desire to grow deeper after the role model of our Lady?** You are invited to attend the eighth annual *Duc in Altum* camp to spend time with other young women your age looking at the Lord's call in your life, while having fun and receiving the tools for a strong prayer life. *DIA* is led by priests and religious of the diocese and is supported by the diocesan Office of Vocations. *Duc in Altum* will be held from June 24 - June 28, 2024, at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont. The cost of the camp is \$150.



**¡Atención a todas las jóvenes católicas de 16 a 19 años! ¿Sabes adónde va tu vida? ¿Tienes el deseo de crecer más profundamente después del modelo de Nuestra Señora?** Está invitada a asistir al octavo campamento anual de *Duc in Altum* para pasar tiempo con otras jóvenes de tu edad observando el llamado del Señor en tu vida mientras se divierten y reciben las herramientas para una vida de oración fuerte. *DIA* está dirigido por sacerdotes y religiosos de la diócesis y cuenta con el apoyo de la Oficina diocesana de Vocaciones. El campamento de *Duc in Altum* se llevará a cabo del 24 al 28 de junio de 2024 en Belmont Abbey College en Belmont. El costo del campamento es de \$150.00.

**Additionally, we are happy to introduce Talitha Koum for young women ages 12-15!** *Talitha Koum* is a daylong retreat for younger women to grow in their relationship with Jesus and Mary and to spend time having fun with each other. The retreat will be held on Monday, June 24, also at Belmont Abbey College. The cost is \$25. **The deadline to register for these events is Wednesday, June 12, 2024.** If you are interested, please visit our website: <https://charlottediocese.org/vocations/woman-religious/duc-in-altum/> or contact Sister Mary Jacinta at (704) 370-3248 or [mjacinta@rcdoc.org](mailto:mjacinta@rcdoc.org)

**¡Además, nos alegramos a presentar Talitha Koum para jóvenes católicas de 12 a 15 años de edad!** *Talitha Koum* es un retiro de un solo día para adolescentes, para acercarse a Jesús y María, crecer en confianza, descubrir más el tesoro de nuestra fé, y pasar tiempo y divertirse con compañeras de la misma edad. Este retiro será como un "mini" *Duc in Altum* y tendrá lugar el 24 de junio en Belmont Abbey College, de las 8:00am a las 4:00pm. El costo de *Talitha Koum* es \$25.00. Fecha límite para registrarse (para los dos eventos) es el 12 de junio de 2024. Si estás interesada, visita nuestro sitio web: <https://charlottediocese.org/vocations/woman-religious/duc-in-altum/> o ponte en contacto con la Hermana Mary Jacinta al (704) 370-3248 or [mjacinta@rcdoc.org](mailto:mjacinta@rcdoc.org)

### Prayers for the Sick

Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Wade Boswell, Father Burke, Frances Burke-Urr, Melissa Chandler, Gary Colhouer, Sabrina & Kevin Collier, Michelle Contreras, Claire Daigle, Michelle Daigle, Danya Davis, Claudia Dodrill, Priscilla & Larry Dorr, Robert DuCharme, Carol Faunce, Emanuel Garcia, Gloria Gimpaya, Silvestre Gonzalez, Nancy Goulet, Thomas Hammond, John Helenius, David Hernandez, Julian Hernandez, Sherlin Hernandez, Janet Hill, Clare Jablonski, Betsy Jackson, Father Jenkins, Kate Johnson, Erlinda Judson, Bishop Jugis, Peggy Keyes, Jim & Joan King, Jared Krantz, Charlie Kutilek, Ed Long, Stephanie Longo, Patricia Lucas, Jeff Lugo, Wilson Mancipe, Nathan I. McCain, Jennifer McDonald, Diane McEnnerney, Geri Melton, Esther Mendoza, Teresa Mendoza, Gloria Millette, Kevin Millette, Alan Murfitt, Keith Oliver, Maria Parra, David Picquet, Ken Pierson, Richard Ranc, Bonnie Rackley, Ann Marie Rodriguez, Camille Russo, Nathan Ryback, Linda Samarotto, Cassie Schmanski, Gloria Sears, Linda & Keith See, Larry St. Clair, Nancy St. Clair, Beth Ann Stamper, Cole Suh, Gladys Talley, Chris & Mark Tavernia, Richard Thelen, Valerie Thelen, Federico Trejo, Patty Wansor, Arwin Watts, Fred White, Patricia White, Sammy White, Bernice Williams

**And When You Get Better...** 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...

E2 Private First Class Jayden Mills, USMC, Stationed at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan; Peter F Siviglia III, Air Force Senior Airman, Load Master, flying on C17 cargo planes, stationed in NJ.; 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)



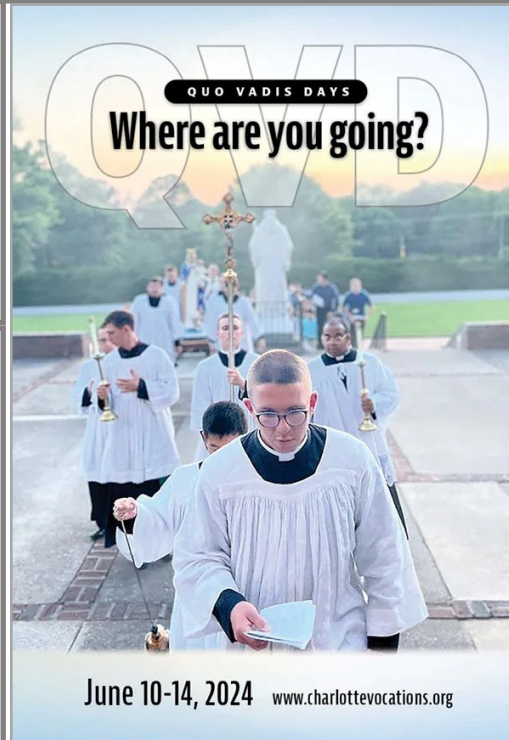
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

**Sunday April 21 from 10am – 3pm.**  
\$5.00 for the Large Plate  
~ \$3.00 for the Small  
A sign-up list of items needed to supply is available in the narthex. We would appreciate your help with the

supplies. Thank you for your assistance in the past, and we look forward to your help for this event. Proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner will go toward the Knights Charities.

~ ALSO ~

Knights of Columbus State Raffle Tickets are available in the Narthex after Mass. Tickets are \$5.00 each; First Prize is \$4,000.00



More information to come. In the meantime, check out the Diocesan website for additional information.

## ***"The Eucharist is the greatest gift that Jesus bequeathed to us."***

*(Benedict XVI, General Audience. St. Peter's Square. Wednesday 4 August 2010, on The Martyr of the Eucharist, Saint Tarcisus)*

Who was St Tarcisus? We do not have much information about him. We are dealing with the early centuries of the Church's history or, to be more precise, with the third century. It is said that he was a boy who came regularly to the Catacombs of St Calixtus in Rome and took his special Christian duties very seriously. He had great love for the Eucharist and various hints lead us to conclude that he was presumably an acolyte, that is, **an altar server**.

Those were years in which the Emperor Valerian was harshly persecuting Christians who were forced to meet secretly in private houses or, at times, also in the Catacombs, to hear the word of God, to pray and to celebrate Holy Mass. Even the custom of taking the Eucharist to prisoners and the sick became increasingly dangerous. One day, when, as was his habit, the priest asked who was prepared to take the Eucharist to the other brothers and sisters who were waiting for it, young Tarcisus stood up and said: "send me!". This boy seemed too young for such a demanding service! "My youth", Tarcisus said, "will be the best shield for the Eucharist". Convinced, the priest entrusted to him the precious Bread, saying: "Tarcisus, remember that a heavenly treasure has been entrusted to your weak hands. Avoid crowded streets and do not forget that holy things must never be thrown to dogs nor pearls to pigs. Will you guard the Sacred Mysteries faithfully and safely?". "I would die", Tarcisus answered with determination, "rather than let go of them".

As he went on his way he met some friends who approached him and asked him to join them. As pagans they became suspicious and insistent at his refusal and realized he was clasping something to his breast that he appeared to be protecting. They tried to prize it away from him, but in vain; the struggle became ever fiercer, especially when they realized that Tarcisus was a Christian.

They kicked him, they threw stones at him, but he did not surrender. While Tarcisus was dying a Pretoria guard called Quadratus, who had also, secretly, become a Christian, carried him to the priest. Tarcisus was already dead when they arrived but was still clutching to his breast a small linen bag containing the Eucharist. He was buried straight away in the Catacombs of St Calixtus. Pope Damasus had an inscription carved on St Tarcisus' grave; it says that the boy died in 257. The Roman Martyrology fixed the date as 15 August and in the same Martyrology a beautiful oral tradition is also recorded. It claims that the Most Blessed Sacrament was not found on St Tarcisus' body, either in his hands or his clothing. It explains that the consecrated Host which the little Martyr had defended with his life, had become flesh of his flesh thereby forming, together with his body, a single immaculate Host offered to God.

**Dear altar servers**, St Tarcisus' testimony and this beautiful tradition teach us the deep love and great veneration that we must have for the Eucharist: it is a precious good, a treasure of incomparable value; it is the Bread of life, it is Jesus himself who becomes our nourishment, support and strength on our daily journey and on the open road that leads to eternal life; the Eucharist is the greatest gift that Jesus bequeathed to us.

I am addressing those of you who are present here and, through you, all the altar servers of the world! Serve Jesus present in the Eucharist generously. It is an important task that enables you to be particularly close to the Lord and to grow in true and profound friendship with him. Guard this friendship in your hearts jealously, like St Tarcisus, ready to commit yourselves, to fight and to give your lives so that Jesus may reach all peoples. May you too communicate to your peers the gift of this friendship with joy, with enthusiasm, without fear, so that they may feel that you know this Mystery, that is true and that you love it!

Every time that you approach the altar, you have the good fortune to assist in God's great loving gesture as he continues to want to give himself to each one of us, to be close to us, to help us, to give us strength to live in the right way. With consecration, as you know, that little piece of bread becomes Christ's Body, that wine becomes Christ's Blood. You are lucky to be able to live this indescribable Mystery from close at hand! Do your task as altar servers with love, devotion and faithfulness; do not enter a church for the celebration with superficiality but rather, prepare yourselves inwardly for Holy Mass! Assisting your priests in service at the altar helps to make Jesus closer, so that people can understand, can realize better: he is here. You collaborate to make him more present in the world, in every day life, in the Church and everywhere.

Dear friends! You lend Jesus your hands, your thoughts, your time. He will not fail to reward you, giving you true joy and enabling you to feel where the fullest happiness is. St Tarcisus has shown us that love can even bring us to give our life for an authentic good, for the true good, for the Lord.

Martyrdom will probably not be required of us, but Jesus asks of us fidelity in small things, inner recollection, inner participation, our faith and our efforts to keep this treasure present in every day life. He asks of us fidelity in daily tasks, a witness to his love, going to church through inner conviction and for the joy of his presence. Thus we can also make known to our friends that Jesus is alive. May the example of St Tarcisus impel us every day to love Jesus and to do his will, as did the Virgin Mary, faithful to her Son to the end.

The feast day of Saint Tarcisus is celebrated on August 15th. He is the patron saint of altar servers.

