

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

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, 2:30-3:00pm (Church)

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Confession

Saturday, 4:15-4:45pm
Wednesday, 6:30pm-7:00pm
Or anytime by appointment



"I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

March 12, 2023
3rd Sunday of Lent

Welcome to our Parish!

We welcome all visitors and newcomers to our parish family. If you need any information regarding instruction in the Catholic Faith, Baptism, First Communion or Matrimony, please contact Deacon Andy Cilone at 828-245-6219.

Parish email: sgdate@charlottediocese.org

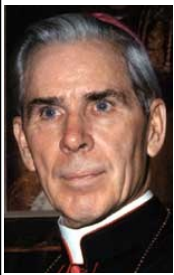
Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church ~ 1024 West Main Street ~ Forest City, NC ~ 28043
Bulletin Editor: pjwlm@gmail.com

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 12, 2023 ~ Bulletin No. 11 Vol. XXXIX

WEEKLY CALENDAR for March 11-19, 2023

Sat 11	Saint Sophronius	5:00pm	Mass for the Parish
Sun 12	Third Sunday of Lent	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Rosaleen & Henry McEnnerney by Diane McEnnerney & Family Mass for ROS Margaret Fetsko by Mark & Peggy Fetsko AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 13	Saint Euphrasia	9:00am 7:00am 10:30am	Mass for the Lugo Children by Mom & Dad Men's Prayer Group Prayer Group, Parish Hall
Wed 15	Saint Longinus	7:00pm	Mass for ROS for the Deceased Members of the Cilone Family by Andy & JoAnn Cilone
Thurs 16	Saint Heribert (Herbert)	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Funeral Mass for the ROS Russ Tobine Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 17	Saint Patrick	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Elsie Sipko by Jim & Joan King Men's Prayer Group
Sat 18	Our Lady of Mercy	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Hilry Gilbert
Sun 19	Fourth Sunday of Lent	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for the Parish Mas for ROS Phillip[& Patricia O'Reilly by the O'Reilly Family AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

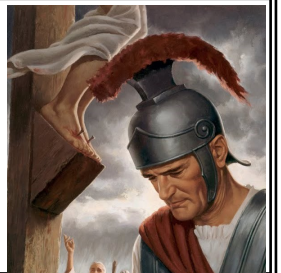


"What the Council did was establish equilibrium or balance between these extremes—between evangelization and human progress, between soul-winning and society-saving, between divine salvation and human liberation. It made both inseparable. The Council decided that we must beget children of God through evangelization but not without giving witness to fraternal love and a sensitiveness to humanity's desire for freedom and justice."

~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen ~

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
Mark 15:39

~ Saint Longinus ~
Feast March 15



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

March 13: Ladies Guild Meeting: 10:00am, Parish Hall

March 14: Prayers for People with Addictions, 10:00am, parish hall (more info on next page)

March 17-19: Annual Women's Emmaus Retreat in Black Mountain

March 18: "Ablaze" Youth Group, 6:30pm

March 20: Prayer Shawl Ministry: 10:00am in Parish Hall

March 23-24: 24-Hour Adoration

March 28: New Prayer Group: Praying for those with addictions

April 1: "Ablaze" Youth Group, 6:30pm

April 8-9: Seminarian Education/Spring Collection (Easter Sunday)

April 15: Confirmation Retreat (more details to follow)

April 15: "Ablaze" Youth Group, 6:30pm

May 17: Confirmation, 7:00pm

June 18-23: Totus Tuus Summer Catechetical Program

For Annulment Information Contact:

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

COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Parishioners have the option of making their contributions online through the following link:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

COLLECTION INFORMATION 3/5/2023

Regular Offering \$7967.00

Building Repair Loan \$40.00

The Financial Statement is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you wish to have a hard-copy, please call the parish office.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1st Sunday (April 2)	Yokefellow Sunday	Pancake Mix
2nd Sunday (April 9)	Hospice Sunday	Ensure, any flavor
3rd Sunday (March 19)	Hands of Hope Sunday	Children's diapers, any size

Prayers for the Sick

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Russ Tobine,
Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Mark McDaniel,
Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Wade Boswell, Father Burke,
Jorje Carcamo, Melissa Chandler, Gary Colhouer, Joann Colini,
Sabrina & Kevin Collier, Michelle Contreras, Claire Daigle,
Matthew Daigle, Lana Dalton, Claudia Dodril, Priscilla & Larry Dorr,
Robert DuCharme, Carol Faunce, Emanuel Garcia,
Silvestre Gonzalez, Nancy Goulet, Joanne Harrelson, David Hernandez,
Julian Hernandez, Janet Hill, Clare Jablonski, Betsy Jackson,
Father Jenkins, Kate Johnson, Erlinda Judson, Peggy Keyes,
Jim & Joan King, Jared Krantz, Alice Lee, Jean Linder, Ed Long, Jeff Lugo,
Wilson Mancipe, Nathan I. McCain, Diane McEnnerney,
Esther Mendoza, Gloria Millette, Alan Murfitt, Maria Parra, David Piquet,
Richard Rance, Bonnie Rackley, Nathan Ryback, Bill & Anthony Saladino,
Cassie Schmanski, Gloria Sears, Linda & Keith See, Ellen Spear,
Nancy St. Clair, Teri St. John, Beth Ann Stamper, Cole Suhy,
William Szabo, Gladys Talley, Chris & Mark Tavernia, Sharon Taylor,
Federico Trejo, Fred White, Pat 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 pjwlm@gmail.com

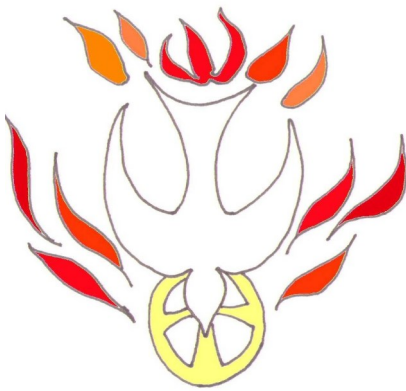
I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN



The annual food drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus began on Ash Wednesday and will continue throughout Lent. Please try to donate only canned and dry foods that are usable in the backpack program. A rolling receptacle will be available in the narthex.

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Confirmation 2023



We just got word today from the diocese that confirmation will take place on May 17th at 7pm.

Also, the confirmation retreat for the class of 2023 will take place on April 15th in the parish hall. Attendance is required.

More information to come.

A Message From Bishop Jugis

Whereas the Memorial of Saint Patrick, Patron of the Cathedral of the Diocese of Charlotte, falls on a Friday in Lent this year, now, therefore,

DISPENSE those who wish to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day from the observance of abstinence from meat on Friday, March 17, 2023. If they chose to do so they may transfer their day of abstinence to an alternative day that week, or they observe one of these alternative penances: people can assist at Mass at any church, chapel or oratory on March 17, pray the Breastplate of St. Patrick on March 17, or engage in prayer such as the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, Stations of the Cross or a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

Pray for Our Troops, in Particular...

Peter F Siviglia III, Air Force Senior Airman, Load Master flying on C17 cargo planes, stationed in NJ.
LCDR Stuart Whitaker;
John Escalera, also in the Navy

Please consider adding the name of someone you love to our prayer list for our Troops. Email to pjwlm@gmail.com

NEW PRAYER GROUP

Prayers for People with Addictions

Someone you love may be suffering with an addiction. You may have lost someone you love because of their addiction. Join together and pray for these loved ones, and others who also suffer as a result of addiction. **WHEN?** Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. **WHERE?** Parish Hall **TIME:** 10:30am

March is the month of Saint Joseph



The Lay Carmelites have had the "Go to Joseph" box in the narthex for three years as of this month. They pray every day for those intentions placed in the box, and all intentions are held in confidence. Please don't hesitate to ask them to help by praying to Saint Joseph, the Protector of all Carmelites, specifically for his intercession for your intentions.

DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL 2023

to SERVE *is* to LOVE

We are now six weeks into the Diocesan Support Appeal campaign, and as of today 24 of our parishioners have contributed through pledges/credit/checks. We need each of you to help us reach our goal of \$47,247.58. So far we have collected \$19,198.00, so we have a way to go.

La Campaña Diocesana de Apoyo ya lleva un mes. Necesitamos la ayuda de todos para poder llegar a nuestra meta de \$47,247.58. Hasta ahora hemos recopilado \$19,198.00

The Celtic Cross and Saint Pádraig



West Face Panel (facing the Church)

You may have noticed that our church and church grounds have various Celtic Crosses of different designs, and in many locations. Of particular note, we have a replica of Muiredach's High Cross in front of the church in the middle of the circle. The original (which is a wee bit larger) stands in Monasterboice, a monastic site founded in the 6th century. There are multiple stories on the origin on Muiredach's Cross itself; suffice it to say that it was made somewhere in the early 10th century. The original is made out of sandstone and looking at the figures and detail, it was carved by a master stonemason, or perhaps a team of them.

The main point of this particular cross is the amazing story it tells of various people and times from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Take a look at the picture of the West Face Panel on the left. In the very center of the cross-bar is the Crucifixion of Christ. Above it are Moses (in the middle) with Aaron and Hur on either side of him, holding up his arms on Mount Sinai. Below the Crucifixion is thought to be a replication of the Ascension, the next panel down-the scene of Doubting Thomas, and the last panel down, the arrest of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane.

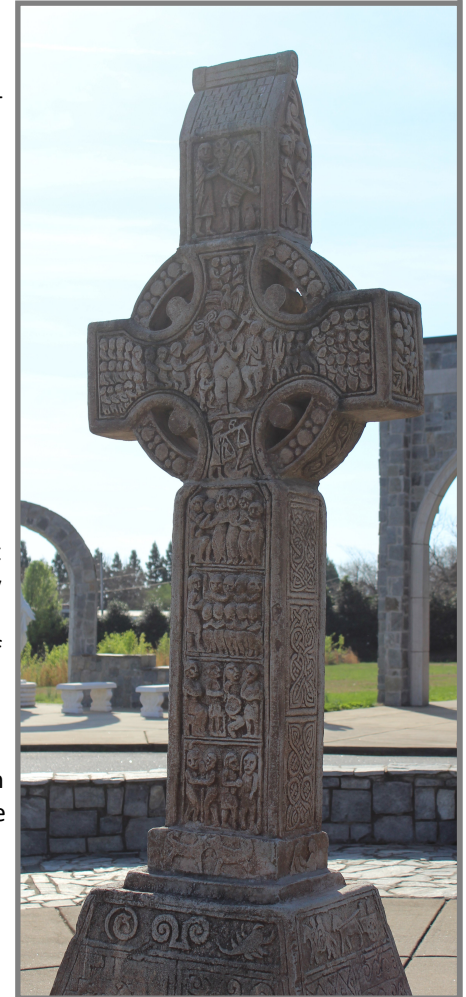
The East Face Panel (lower right) has the story of the Last Judgment in the center. Just below it, a bit narrower and tapered, is Michael the Archangel, the Devil and a human. The human's soul is on a balance scale. (see picture to the right) Beneath is a panel of the Adoration of the Magi with four Magi, yes, four for balance. The panel also has an elderly bearded Saint Joseph, and the Christ Child. Below that panel is the story of Moses hitting a rock with his staff in front of a crowd of his thirsty followers. The next panel is the fight between David and Goliath. The last panel actually has two scenes: Adam and Eve at the tree; and Cain and Abel (Abel is the one with what looks like a cleaver in his head).

There are also stories on the two side panels. If anyone would like a worksheet for the panels, email the bulletin editor at pjwlmg@gmail.com and you can receive them via email. After Mass one Sunday you might want to have a family Bible Class and identify all the Bible episodes on Muiredach's High Cross.

We tend to forget that centuries ago, most people couldn't read, and stone carvings, paintings, icons, and eventually stained glass windows, were how the common people learned about the Scriptures and the saints.

Celtic crosses have a very long history, and some of that history existed before Christianity spread through Ireland. Its roots can be found in the ancient pagan beliefs, but the popular belief was that Saint Pádraig (Patrick, b. 387 +/-) brought the Christian version of the Celtic Cross to Ireland. It may also have evolved during the time of Saint Declan (mid 4th-early 5th century) or Saint Columba (late 6th century). There are also many styles of artwork, and some are quite plain. In fact, some of the very early Celtic Crosses were actually just etched onto large stones.

There are multiple explanations of the use of the circle (generally seen as representing the sun), and the cross as representing Jesus. Note that the Cross always superimposes the circle. Many Irish Catholics see the circle on the Celtic Cross as representing a symbol of eternity that emphasizes the endlessness of God's love, and that love was certainly expressed by God sending His Son for our salvation.



East Face Panel

The 16 Vatican II Documents

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that most Catholics today have not read all 16 of the Vatican II documents. Considering the impact that the documents have had on all of us, it's truly a shame that more people have not read them. Hopefully over the next few months, our reflection on the actual words of the documents will help to de-bunk a few of the myths around Vatican II. We need to remember that all of the Ecumenical Councils of the Church have been under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. After Vatican II, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen wrote:

"The tensions that developed after the Council are not surprising to those who know the whole history of the Church. It is a historical fact that whenever there is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as in a general council of the Church, there is always an extra show of force by the anti-Spirit or the demonic. Even at the beginning, immediately after Pentecost and the descent of the Spirit upon the apostles, there began a persecution and the murder of Stephen. If a general council did not provoke the spirit of turbulence, one might almost doubt the operation of the third Person of the Trinity over the assembly."



There was indeed, turbulence, especially in the area of our liturgy. But let's first look at the structure of the Vatican II documents themselves, and learn about how the type of document accents its importance. There are sixteen documents, and the four that Pope Francis asked us to study this year are:

Lumen gentium, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church; 21 November 1964

Dei verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation; 18 November 1965

Gaudium et spes Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World; 7 December 1965

Sacrosanctum concilium, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy; 4 December 1963

There is a hierarchy of Church documents, and at the top are the apostolic **constitutions** and decrees issued by the popes, and this includes the Vatican II documents. Along with the Code of Canon Law, they have a binding authority on the entire Church. They are legislative documents, and they contain dogmatic or doctrinal elements. These may not be new doctrines, but they are being brought forward so that we have the opportunity to review and see them in light of our Catholic lives today. These may be quite formal, and are written on matters of serious importance

Decrees are statements involving Church law, or perhaps decisions on specific matters. There are nine decrees among the documents of Vatican II: *Unitatis redintegratio*, Decree on Ecumenism; *Ad gentes divinitus*, Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church; *Apostolicam actuositatem*, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity; *Orientalium ecclesiarum*, Decree on the Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite; *Christus dominus*, Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops; *De presbyterorum*, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests; *Optatam totius*, Decree on Priestly Training; *Perfectae caritatis*, Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life; *Inter mirifica*, Decree on the Mass Media.

Declarations are simple statements of law, which must be interpreted according to the existing law; or an authoritative declaration that modifies the law and must be promulgated according to the law. There are three Declarations among the Vatican II documents: *Dignitatis humanae*, Declaration on Religious Freedom; *Nostra aetate*, Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions; *Gravissimum educationis*, Declaration on Christian Education.

At Father Burke's request, we will be discussing *Lumen gentium* first, for several reasons. First, because its concluding chapter is dedicated to Our Lady; second because every other Vatican II document reflects upon this document; and third, because it is one of only two Vatican II documents to be labeled as a Dogmatic Constitution, giving it a bit more weight.

If you choose to really study these documents, you might want to download each document as we get to it. Just go to the Vatican website at www.vatican.va/documents. That way, they are available in several languages.

Another option is buying a book containing all 16 of the documents. There are several translations out there, but the one suggested by most teachers is the version edited by Austin Flannery, O.P.

The journey is about to begin. If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to ask them. Email pjwlmg@gmail.com