

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

March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday

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

Bulletin Editor: pjwlmg@gmail.com



Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 ~ Bulletin No.13 XXXX



WEEKLY CALENDAR for February 17-25, 2024

Sat 23	Our Lady of Victories	5:00pm	Mass for the Parish
Sun 24	Palm Sunday	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Jonathan Lane by Alicia Lane Mass for John, Happy Birthday by Sini Kalapurakal AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 25	Saint Dismas	9:00am	Mass for ROS Kathy Killela by John & Chris Killela
Wed 27	Saint John Damascene	7:00pm	Mass for Living & Deceased Members of the Staab & Botz Families by John & Roseanne Staab
Thurs 28	Holy Thursday	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Lena Chiesa by the Lugo Family
Fri 29	Good Friday	2:30pm 3:00pm 7:00am	Stations of the Cross, in the Church Good Friday Liturgy Men's Prayer Group
Sat 30	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Florence Hill by Chuck & Janet Hill
Sun 31	Easter Sunday	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for the Parish Mass for ROS Clem Suhy by Terry & Shannon Date AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 28: Holy Thursday, 7:00pm Mass, Bilingual

March 29: Good Friday:
Stations of the Cross 2:30pm
Good Friday Liturgy: 3:00pm

March 30: The Easter Vigil: 7:00pm
March 31: Easter Sunday; Regular Schedule

March 30-31: Second Collection-Spring Seminarian Education Collection

March 31: Easter Egg Hunt, 1:00pm, for all children of the parish 10 and under. Anyone interested in helping to hide eggs for the hunt, please come to the parish hall at 11:30am. We will be hiding the eggs during the 11:30am Mass.

April 3: Ablaze, the parish high school youth group, will meet on Wednesday, April 3rd at 5:30pm in the parish hall.

April 4, 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 13: Bishop's Youth Retreat (See info on next page)

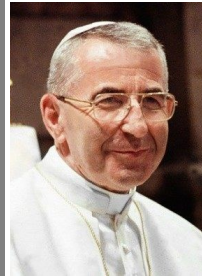
April 21: Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner (more info to come)

April 26-28: Diocesan Youth Conference (See info on next page)

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!



From The Holy Father

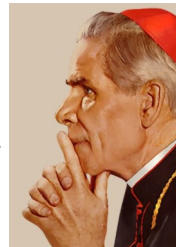
"What a mistake those who do not hope make! Judas made a huge blunder the day in which he sold Christ for thirty denarii, but he made an even bigger one when he thought his sin was too great to be forgiven. No sin is too big; any wretchedness, however great, can always be enclosed in infinite mercy."

~ Blessed Pope John Paul I ~

From the Saints

"Judas did not sell the Master for thirty pieces of silver; he sold himself. Judas perished. Christ lives on. Good is self-conserving; evil is self-defeating."

~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen ~



COLLECTION INFORMATION

From the March 17th Collection:
Regular Offering \$7,397.48

For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or
Email: 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

Prayers for the Sick

Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Wade Boswell, Father Burke, Frances Burke Burr, 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, Joanne Harrelson, 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, Jean Linder, Ed Long, Stephannie 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, Bill & Anthony Saladino, 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

Bishop's Youth Pilgrimage 2024 Saturday, April 13, 2024

The Bishop's Youth Pilgrimage, held each spring on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, is designed to provide young people of the Diocese of Charlotte with a day of reflection, prayer, formation, vocation awareness and fellowship.

It is a component of the annual Diocese of Charlotte Eucharistic Congress.

During the day-long event, which runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., youth enjoy live music, a vocations fair and motivational speakers, as well as Eucharistic Adoration and a Eucharistic Procession on the historic Belmont Abbey College campus. There are separate program tracks for middle and high school students, and the sacrament of confession is also available.

Online Registration is now open at:
<https://goeucharist.com/bishops-youth-pilgrimage-2024/youth-pilgrimage-registration-family/>

If you have any questions, please call 704-370-3244.



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

Help your neighbors this Lent with...



ONE *Body in* **CHRIST** *Diocesan Support Appeal* **UN** *solo Cuerpo en* **CRISTO**

Our 2024 Parish Assessment is \$41,187.09

So far, 49 parishioners (plus in-pew collections) have contributed \$33,030.00 (70%) of our assessment.

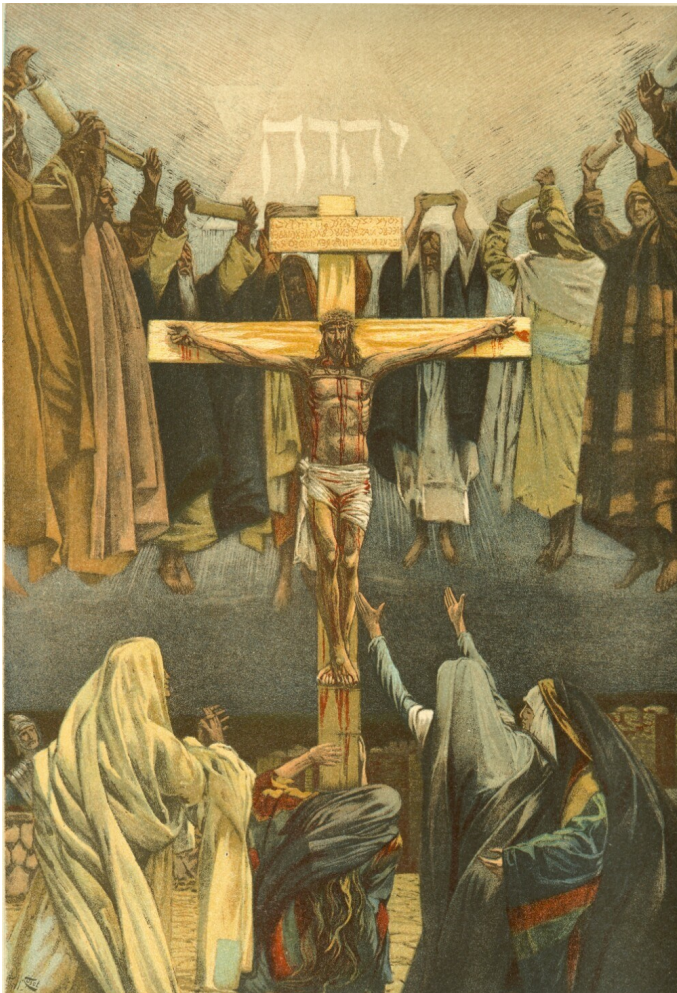
Prayerful Pondering

"All the angels pray. Every creature prays. Cattle and wild beasts pray and bend the knee. As they come from their barns and caves they look up to heaven and call out, lifting up their spirit in their own fashion. The birds too rise and lift themselves up to heaven: they open out their wings, instead of hands, in the form of a cross, and give voice to what seems to be a prayer."

(Tertullian, 155-220 A.D.)



Portfolio of Prophecy



"It is Finished" By James Tissot

Over the years, we have all heard the prophecies related to Christ's birth and death. Years ago, 1930 to be exact, A.G Sertillanges brought them all together in his book *"What Jesus Saw from the Cross"*. Reading them all in a "life-span" arrangement may prove why the Jewish people knew the Messiah was coming soon. Sadly, not everyone noticed. Prophet after prophet gave us advance warning of the suffering our Savior would endure...for us. Artist James Tissot's picture *"It Is Finished"* shows the prophets in praise for Christ at the time of the Crucifixion. Read the prophecies and remember.

"The scepter shall not be taken from Judah, nor a ruler from his thigh, till He comes that is to be sent: And He shall be the expectation of nations."
(Gen 49:10)

"And thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, art a little one among the thousands of Judah: out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be the ruler in Israel; and His going forth is from the beginning, from the days of eternity."
(Mic 5:2)

"A virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name shall be called Emmanuel."
(Isa 7:14)

"For a child is born to us, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon His shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, God the Mighty, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace."
(Isa 9:6)

"Behold I send my angel and he shall prepare the way before my face. And presently the Lord whom you seek, and the angel of the testament whom you desire, shall come to His temple. Behold He cometh."
(Mal 3:1)

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."
(Isa 9:2)

"Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall be free."
(Isa 42:1-3)

"Behold my servant, I will uphold Him. My Elect, my soul delighteth in Him. I have given my spirit upon Him, He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor have respect to person, neither shall His voice be heard abroad. The bruised reed He shall not break, and smoking flax He shall not quench."
(Zech 9:9)

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold the king will come to thee, the just and Savior: He is poor, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the fool of an ass."
(Zech 9:9)

"For even the man of my peace, in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, hath greatly supplanted me."
(Ps 40: 10, RSV=Ps 41:9)

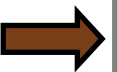
"And they weighed for my wages thirty pieces of silver, and the Lord said to me: Cast it to the statuary, a handsome price, that I was prized at by them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and I cast them into the house of the Lord to the statuary."
(Zech 11: 12-13)

"Unjust witnesses rising up have asked me things that I knew not. They repaid me evil for good."
(Ps 34:11-12, RSV= Ps 35:11-12)

"I gave my body to the strikers, and my cheeks to those who plucked them: I did not turn my face from those who rebuked me, and spit upon me."
(Isa 50:6)

"They gave me gall for my food, and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."
(Ps 68:22, RSV=69:21)

"All they that saw me have laughed me to scorn: they have spoken with the lips and wagged their head. He hoped in the Lord, let Him deliver him: let Him save him, seeing He delighteth in him....I am poured out like water; and all my bones are scattered.... The council of the malignant hath besieged me. They have dug my hands and feet. They have numbered all my bones. And they have looked and stared upon me. They have parted my garments amongst them; and upon my vesture they cast lots."
(Ps 21: 8-19, RSV= Ps 22:7-18)



“Surely He hath born our infirmities and carried our sorrows: and we have thought Him as it were a leper, and as one struck by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our iniquities, and He was bruised for our sins: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and by His bruises we are healed.” (Isa 53:4-5)

“Thou wilt not leave my soul in Hell; nor wilt Thou give Thy Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt make known to me the ways to life.” (Ps 15:10-11, RSV= Ps 16:10-11)



“Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thy enemies Thy footstool.” (Ps 109:1, RSV= Ps 110:1)

“Therefore will I distribute to Him very many, and He shall divide the spoils of the strong, because He hath delivered His soul unto death and was reputed with the wicked.” (Isa 60:1-4)

“Arise, be enlightened, O Jerusalem; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and a mist the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light, and kings in the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thy eyes round about, and see: all these are gathered together, they are come to thee.” (Isa 60:1-4)

“I beheld therefore in the vision of the night, and lo, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of Heaven, and He came even to the Ancient of Days: and they presented Him before Him. And He gave Him power, and glory, and a kingdom: and all peoples, tribes, and tongues shall serve Him: His power is an everlasting power that shall not be taken away: and His kingdom shall not be destroyed.” (Dan 7:13-14)

Philip, the Apostle

In his book *Jesus, Apostles, and the Early Church*, Pope Benedict XVI tells us a few things about Philip, the Apostle.

He always comes fifth in the lists of the Twelve, so he is among the first disciples to be called. He was of Jewish origin, but like Andrew, his name is Greek. He is a native of Bethsaida, and a fisherman.

He heard Jesus speak, and quickly went to his friend Nathanael and told him: “We have found Him of whom Moses, in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph!” To which Nathanael replied: “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Then Philip posed a challenge: “Come and see.” Pope Benedict writes that when reading the Scriptures today, Philip poses that same challenge to us. “Come and see!” Come and enter into contact by listening, responding, and living a life of communion with Jesus day by day.

Philip is seen as being able to communicate with Greek questioners, and perhaps he was also good with figures. When it was time to feed 5,000 listeners, Jesus asked Philip where they could find enough food, and how much it would cost.

And it was Philip who asked a question that provided a moment of revelation. In the Gospel of John, at the Last Supper, Philip asked Jesus: “Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.” That question surprised Jesus, and he spoke sharply to Philip. “Have I been with you for so long a time and you still; do not know me Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

It is said that Philip’s missionary work took him to Phrygia, Greece and Syria, and that he was martyred in Heliopolis. He was whipped, imprisoned and eventually crucified. Another version of his martyrdom states that he died by hanging.

Saint Philip’s feast day is May 3.



The Seven Last Words: The Seventh Word “Father, Into Thy Hands I Commend My Spirit”

When Adam had been driven from the garden of paradise, and the penalty of labor imposed upon him, he went out in quest of the bread he was to earn by the sweat of his brow. In the course of that search, he stumbled upon the limp form of his son Abel, picked him up, carried him upon his shoulders, and laid him on the lap of Eve. They spoke to him, but Abel did not answer. He had never been so silent before. They lifted his hand, but it fell back limp; it had never acted that way before. They looked into his eyes, cold, glassy, mysteriously elusive; they had never been so unresponsive before. They wondered, as they wondered, their wonder grew. Then they remembered: “For in what day soever thou shalt eat of the tree, thou shalt die the death.” (Gen 2:17) *It was the first death in the world.*

Centuries whirled around into space, and the new Abel, Christ, is now put to death by His jealous brethren of the race of Cain. The life that came out from the boundless deep now prepares to return home. His sixth word was a cry of retrospect: “I have finished the work.” His seventh and last word is one of prospect: “I commend my spirit.” The sixth word was manward; the seventh word was Godward. The sixth word was a farewell to earth; the seventh His entrance into heaven. Just as those great planets only after a long time complete their orbit and return again to their starting point, as if to salute Him who sent them on their way, so He who had come from Heaven had finished His work and completed His orbit, now goes back to the Father to salute Him, who sent Him out on the great work of the world’s redemption: “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

The prodigal son it returning to His Father’s house, for is not Christ the prodigal? Thirty-three years ago He left His Father’s eternal mansion and went off into the foreign country of this world. Then He began spending Himself and being spent; dispensing with an infinite prodigality the divine riches of power and wisdom, and bestowing with a heavenly liberality the divine gifts of pardon and mercy. In this last hour, His whole substance is wasted among sinners, for He is giving the last drop of His precious blood for the redemption of the world. There is nothing to feed upon except the husks of human sneers, and the vinegar and gall of bitter ingratitude.

He now prepares to take the road back to His Father’s house, and when, yet some distance away, He sees the face of His Heavenly Father, He breaks out into the last and perfect prayer from the pulpit of the Cross: “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”

All the while Mary is standing at the foot of the Cross. In a short time, the new Abel slain by His brethren will be taken down from the gibbet of salvation and laid in the lap of the new Eve. It will be the death of Death! But when the tragic moment comes, it may seem to the tear-dimmed eyes of Mary that Bethlehem has come back. The thorn-crowned head which had nowhere to lay itself in death, except in the pillow of the Cross, may, through Mary’s clouded vision, seem the head which she drew to her breast at Bethlehem.

Those eyes, at whose fading even the sun and moon were darkened were to her the eyes that glanced up from the crib of straw. The helpless feet riveted with nails once more seem to her the baby feet at which were cast gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The lips now parched and crimsoned with blood, seem the ruddy lips that once at Bethlehem nourished themselves on the Eucharist of her body. The hands that can hold nothing but a wound seem once more the baby hands that can hold nothing but a wound seem once more the baby hands that were not quite long enough to touch the huge heads of the cattle.

The embrace at the foot of the Cross seems the embrace at the side of the crib. In that sad hour of death, which always makes one think of birth, Mary may feel that Bethlehem is returning again

