

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

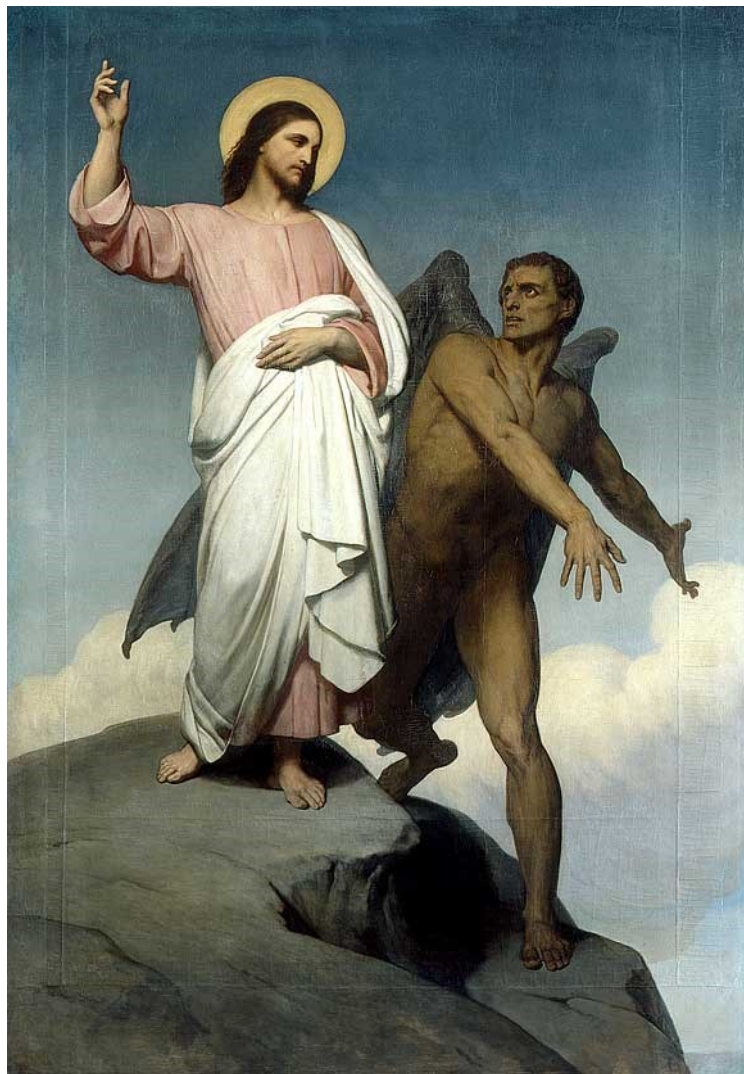
Thursday, 12:30pm-8:00pm (Chapel)
Friday, 12:30pm-1:30pm (Chapel)
Saturday, 4:00pm-5:00pm (Church)
Sunday, 8:00am-9:00am (Church)
Sunday, 10:30am-11:30am (Church)
Sunday, 2:30-3:00pm (Church)

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Confession

Saturday, 4:00pm-5:00pm
Wednesday, 6:30pm-7:00pm
Or anytime by appointment



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.

February 26, 2023
1st Sunday of Lent

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

Bulletin Editor: pjwlmg@gmail.com

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 25, 2023 ~ Bulletin No. 9Vol. XXXIX

WEEKLY CALENDAR for February 25-March 2, 2023

Sat 25	Saint Walburga	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Barbara Mann by Tom & Barbara Ruth
Sun 26	First Sunday Of Lent	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for Jack & Mary Alice Brown by Lauren Faunce Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 27	Saint Gregory of Narek	9:00am 7:00am	Mass for Prayers Answered, by Chuck Hill Men's Prayer Group
Wed 3/1	Saint David	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Santo & Mary Ricci by Andy & Joann Cilone
Thurs 2	Blessed Charles The Good	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass for George True, Happy Birthday by Joe & Jamie Thelen Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 3	Saint Katherine Drexel	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Father Gabriel Meehan & Bobbie Bridges by Maxie & Joannie Jolley Men's Prayer Group
Sat 4	Saint Casmir	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Deceased Members of the Williams/Ruth Families by Tom & Barbara Ruth
Sun 5	Second Sunday of Lent	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for the Parish Mass for ROS Sajimon Joseph by Sini Kalapurakal AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information



From the Saints

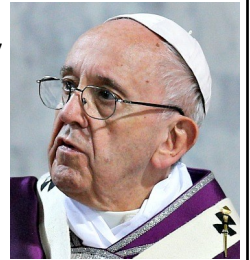
"Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of lust and kindles the true light of chastity."

~ Saint Augustine ~

From the Holy Father

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

~ Pope Francis ~



March 3: Lenten Meal, Knights of Columbus sponsored, 5:30-6:30

March 4: "Ablaze" Youth Group, 6:30pm

March 5: Knights of Columbus Meeting, 7:00pm in Parish Hall; Eucharistic Adoration at 6:30pm in the Chapel

March 11: Nocturnal Adoration in the Chapel: 10:00pm-6:00am

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

March 17-19: Annual Women's Emmaus Retreat (See information on the next page)

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

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

March 23-24: 24-Hour Adoration

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

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

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

June 18-23: Totus Tuus Summer Catechetical Program (More information to come.)

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

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 2/19/2023

Regular Offering \$7,005.00

Building Repair Loan \$2,120.00

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 (March 5)	Yokefellow Sunday	Pancake Mix
2nd Sunday (March 12)	Hospice Sunday	Ensure, any flavor
3rd Sunday (March 19)	Hands of Hope Sunday	Children's diapers, any size

Prayers for the Sick

Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Wade Boswell, Tom Burke, 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, William Gaboda, 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, Mark McDaniel, Diane McEnnerney, Esther Mendoza, Gloria Millette, Alan Murfitt, Maria Parra, David Piquet, Richard Rance, Bonnie Rackley, Joe Rockholt, 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, Russ Tobine, 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 pjwlmg@gmail.com

I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN

40 CANS FOR LENT



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 receptacle will be available in the narthex.

Journey to Easter with Exodus Lent

40 days to grow closer to God
and become a better man.

EXODUS

It's an introduction to a different kind of life: a life of responsibility, meaning, and true freedom. For forty days, men commit to prayer, asceticism (a fancy word for acts of self-denial), and fraternity.

Exodus Lent: 40 Days to Freedom - Exodus 90

<https://exodus90.com/lent-downloads/>
Contact Michael Lugo for additional information.

Pray for Our Troops, in Particular...

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 pjwlmg@gmail.com



The annual **Women's Emmaus Retreat** will be held the weekend of March 17-19, 2023, at the Blue Ridge Assembly YMCA in Black Mountain, NC. Contact Linda Roberts at 828-287-7908 for more information. Let this be the year you say "yes" to Him. We hope you will join us! You can download the application at:

<https://forms.gle/8W6Pe5PEaGRbPmzF8>

Deadline for applications: March 3, 2023

Bishop's Youth Pilgrimage 2023 ~ March 25th

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



The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all of those who helped to make our Spaghetti Dinner a GREAT success. Bob Burkhart won the Tailgate Basket Raffle.

**DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL 2023**

to **SERVE** *is to* **LOVE**

Your pledge to the Diocesan Support Appeal is shared with the educational, multicultural, vocational, and social service ministries of the diocese. Thousands of people depend on your generosity. You may complete a pledge envelope and return it to the Parish Office or go to charlottediocese.org/dsa to make a gift online.

Su donación a la campaña DSA se distribuirá a los ministerios educativo, multicultural, vocacional, de vivienda y social de la diócesis. Miles de personas dependen de su generosidad.

The Crucifixion

By Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

The crucifixion on Good Friday is not only something that happened 1,900 years ago, it is something that is happening now as the Cross is erected in our midst. From a spiritual point of view there are no natural causes; there is only the conflict of those who crucify Christ and those who are crucified with Him. Consider first how Christ is made to suffer today by those who crucify; Pilate and the executioners.

Judas still roams the world in the person of all those who were baptized to Christ and called to be one with Him, but who have fallen away from their high destiny by “selling out”.

In the catalog of Fascism, Nazism, and Communism you will find those who in their youth were signed with the Sign of the Cross, sealed with the seal of salvation, and then like Judas bargained away their Christian heritage for thirty pieces of silver from the coffers of a transitory political power.

Thumb over the lists of other nations and you will discover that those leaders who either welcomed international congresses of militant atheists to their midst, or turned their backs on the rights of religion, were those who, like Judas, were once called to be defenders of those rights and soldiers of Christ.

Those who do most harm to the cause of Christ are not those whose souls were left barren in their naturalism, but those called like Judas to live and move with the Son of God.

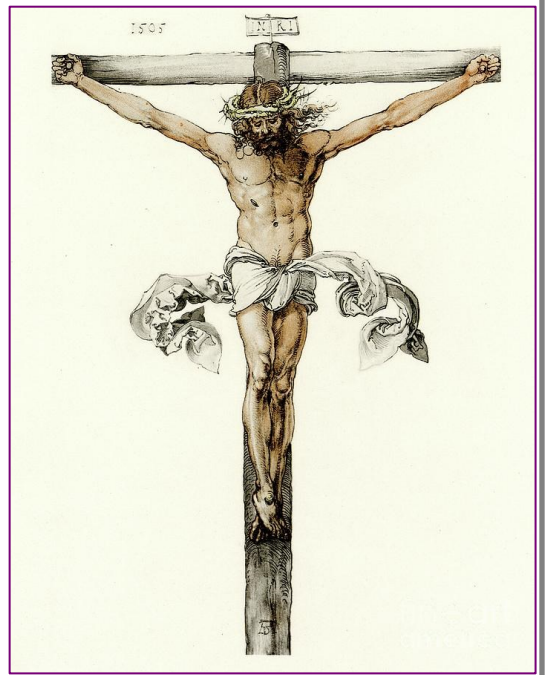
The Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane still has his lips blistered by a kiss, and, in His last gracious love to win them back, He still whispers: Judas, dost thou betray the Son of man with a kiss.” (Luke 22:48)

Pilate too still lives. He lives in those teachers and jurists who deny an absolute; who feel that right and wrong are only points of view; who flatter themselves on their broad-mindedness as they allow the mob to choose between Barrabas and Christ; who have a feeling that possibly Christ is the Son of God, but who would not assert it lest they lose favor with Caesar; who, when they are brought face to face unequivocally with Divine Truth, ask the same question as Pilate: “What is truth” and then turn their back on it. Put the Creed therefore in the present tense: “Christ is suffering under Pontius Pilate.”

The executioners still walk the earth, brutal, blind forces, which ignore the Divine, take orders from higher-ups, persecute the Christ in His Church and His apostles, profane His Eucharistic Presence, nail His Mystical Body to a tree and then, with the calmness of their ancestors beneath Calvary, shake dice, “sit and watch” while before them is being reenacted the tremendous drama of the world.

If there are those who crucify, there are those who are crucified with Christ—those who are hunted because they believe in Him and of whom our Lord foretold: “If the world hate you, know ye, that it hath hated me before you.” (John 15:18) “Yea, the hour cometh, that whatsoever killeth you, will think that he doth a service to God.” (John 16:2)

As our Lord suffered on Cross He looked forward to all times and all people, and offered not only Himself but all the members of His Body, the Church, to His heavenly Father



The Crucifixion by Albrecht Dürer



Remember When...

...it was a mortal sin to eat meat on Fridays? When did that change, and why?

In last week's bulletin, we listed the Lenten requirements for fasting and abstinence. Let's review.

Fasting means that each day, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. (for persons 18 through 59 years of age.)

Abstinence, not eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during Lent, is required of all of us starting at age 14.

Fasting, abstinence and almsgiving are three ways we offer sacrifices during Lent, and we **ARE** expected to offer sacrifice during Lent. These practices have been part of the Church since the very earliest days. The early Christians fasted and abstained from meat as a means of saving money to help support their fellow Christians who were in need, hence the almsgiving.

That said, when did the old “no meat on ” rule change? In February 1996, Saint Pope Paul VI wrote the Apostolic Constitution *Paenitemini*, on fasting and abstinence. This was after Vatican II, and it was written to help bring the “significance and importance of the divine precept of penitence.”

Paul VI wrote: *"The Church invites everyone to accompany the inner conversion of the spirit with the voluntary exercise of external acts of penitence."* Sadly, most interpreted the change as saying that abstinence from meat was therefore a thing of the past, and that was not Pope Paul's intention at all. In simple terms, he lifted the penalty of sin, but he did not remove the requirement for personal sacrifice.

He realized that there was the need to have some universally accepted practice. That's where the Lenten rule for abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Lenten Fridays came in. He also put further explanations in the hands of the local bishops. In November 1966, our National Conference of Catholic Bishops (now the US Conference of Catholic Bishops) reinforced our obligation for penance and sacrifice, particularly during Lent. They upheld the."

They also wrote this..."Friday itself remains a special day of penitential observance throughout the year, a time when those who seek perfection will be mindful of their personal sins. Friday should be in each week something of what Lent is in the entire year. For this reason we urge all to prepare for that weekly Easter that comes with each Sunday by freely making every Friday a day of self-denial, and mortification in prayerful remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ."

That makes Paul's intent super clear—we should offer our self-sacrifice willingly, and meaningfully. “Meaningful” adds another dimension. Giving up meat on Friday and then eating lobster instead, isn't much of a sacrifice (unless you hate lobster). Paul VI wrote that when he modified the Friday abstinence “*We do so in the hope that the Catholic Community will ordinarily continue to abstain from meat by free choice.*” Free choice offers the opportunity for real sacrifice.

Knowing human nature well, our bishops wrote this: “Perhaps we should warn those who decide to keep Friday abstinence for reasons of personal piety, that they must not pass judgment on those who elect to substitute other penitential observances.”

For some people eating fish of any kind, on any day of the week, would be horrible, and doing so as a form of sacrifice would indeed be special. But how about doing without social media on Fridays? Or maybe even on Wednesdays and Fridays? For avid readers, give up fiction for Lent. If you feel you have no time to pray, get up twenty minutes earlier two days a week and pray the Rosary.

A pretty important point to remember is that we were never told to go ahead and eat meat on Friday. Abstaining from meat (which is generally more expensive than meat) may help save a few dollars that can be used for...let's say... contributing to the 40 Cans for 40 Days. Just remember that Christ sacrificed His life for us. Let us offer our sacrifices in thanksgiving.

