

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

Father Herbert T. Burke, Pastor

Reverend Mr. Andrew Cilone, Permanent Deacon
Reverend Mr. David Faunce, Permanent Deacon

Sharon Date, Parish Secretary
Parish Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
Office/Rectory: (828) 245-4017



Lord, teach us to pray."

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 27, 2025

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

Nocturnal Adoration

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

Confession

Saturday, 4:15-4:45pm (Church)
Wednesday, 6:30pm-7:00pm (Church)

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 Andrew Cilone at 828-245-6219. For information regarding instructions in the Catholic faith through the RCIA program, please contact Deacon David Faunce at 828-429-1469.

Weekly Calendar for July 26-August 3, 2025

Sat 26	Saints Joachim and Anne	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Lena Chiesa by Giuliana Riley
Sun 27	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for the Parish Mass for ROS Duane Williams by Thomas and Barbara Ruth AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 28	Saints Nazarius and Celsus	9:00am	Mass for ROS Lee Reinhardt by Lynn Reinhardt
Wed 30	Saint Peter Chrysologus	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Leo Crawford by Mark and Mary Fetsko
Thurs 31	Saint Ignatius of Loyola	12:10pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Polinari Family Members by Giuliana Riley Rosary and Benediction AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 8/1	Saint Alphonsus Liguori	12:10pm	Mass for ROS Deceased Third Order Carmelites
Sat 2	Our Lady of the Angels	5:00pm	Mass for Debi White by Sisters of Queen of Peace Monastery
Sun 3	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Steven Quade by Nicholas Quade Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

Save the Date.

July 26-27: Before and After all Masses: Last Chances to have your pictures taken for the Parish Directory

July 31-August 1: (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE) 24-Hour Adoration

August 1: LAST DATE for submission of Pictures for the Parish Pictorial Directory, and LAST DATE for submission for ads in the Business Directory.

August 3: Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting: 7:00pm on the Parish Hall, Adoration in the Chapel at 6:30pm.

August 6, 20: Prayer Group, 10:30, Parish Hall

August 15: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holyday of Obligation
Mass times: Thursday, 8/14: 7:00pm; Bi-lingual Mass
Friday, 8/15: 12:10pm

August 16-17: Knights of Columbus Special Event; more info on next page.

August 28-29: 24-Hour Adoration

August 31: Second Collection, Archdiocese of Military Services; every three years this collection is taken.

September 15: 75th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Church

September 20: Annual Hispanic Festival; more information to come.

September 21: Second Collection for Priests Retirement Benefits

September 27: 13th Annual Cross Walk and Eucharistic Procession: and for those that cannot make the walk, the 3rd order Carmelites are sponsoring Stations of the Cross in the Large Church to coincide with the timing of the march. **Time:** 8:30AM – 1:00PM; **Objective:** To march in Reparation and for Conversion of Souls. This year we are raising funds for Cross Catholic Outreach. Please also join us as we begin praying The Holy Cross novena on The Feast Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which is Sunday, Sept 14th.

Hope Quotes

*"The Lord is my portion, says my soul,
therefore I will hope in Him."*

~ Lamentations 3:24 ~

*"The more truly we believe, the more
strongly we hope and the more ardently
we desire, the more generously
we will receive."*

~ Liturgy of the Hours~

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Collection for July 20, 2025

Regular Offering: \$5,305.57

Building Repair: \$1,515.00

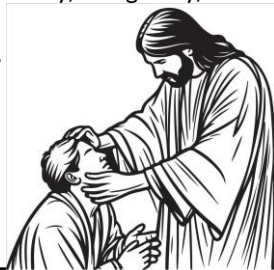
You can make online donations through the
following link:

[https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/
immaculateconceforestcity](https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity)

Prayers for the Sick

Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Emily Bailey, Alisha Benfield, Christopher Bouzon, Iris Borrás, Wade Boswell, Ruth Brown, Father Burke, Melissa Chandler, Gary Colhouer, Frank Colini, Joanne Colini, Julie 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, Clint Hamrick, Jim Hauelsen, 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, Bruce Lancaster, Ed Long, Stephannie Longo, Patricia Lucas, Jeff Lugo, Monica Martin, Elias Martinez, Nathan I. McCain, Jennifer McDonald, Darlene McPeters, Geri Melton, Esther Mendoza, Teresa Mendoza, Gloria Millette, Kevin Millette, Benny Montanez, Scott Moore, 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, Donnie Samarotto, Linda & Keith See, Samantha Smith, Sister Mary Olivia, Larry St. Clair, Nancy St. Clair, Beth Ann Stamper, Cole Suhy, Doug Suhy, Sarah Suhy, Mark Tavernia, Richard Thelen, Federico Trejo, Patty Wansor, Arwin Watts, Sammy White, Bernice Williams, Marshall Williams, Mary Wright, Lily Young

Please let us know when you are ready to be taken off our "Prayers for the Sick" list; email pjwlmg@gmail.com



On the Weekend of August 16th and 17th, after all Masses, Catholic Financial Advisor and Knights of Columbus Field Agent Gregory Ross will be available to all members of the Parish to discuss your current and future financial needs. Gregory will be in the Parish Hall with light

refreshments, and you all are going to want to speak with him regarding topics such as life insurance, retirement preparation, long-term care coverage, and most every family financial issue that comes to mind. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic family-oriented organization, so you know all investments are done with this foremost in mind. Those needing immediate attention can contact Gregory at (828) 367-9529.

Meanwhile the parish Council of the Knights of Columbus is hosting its annual membership drive over the next few weeks for all Catholic men 18 and older to sign up and join the order. For more information on membership contact Jim Brooks at (828) 447-7060, speak to an usher, or ask any of the gentlemen wearing a Knights badge after Mass.

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 pjwlmg@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 pjwlmg@gmail.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1st Sunday (August 3)	Yokefellow Sunday	Canned potatoes or instant potatoes
2nd Sunday (August 10)	Hospice Sunday	Ensure, any flavor
3rd Sunday (August 17)	Hands of Hope Sunday	Children's diapers, SIZE LARGE
4th Sunday (August 27)	Backpack Sunday	Individual-serving size of Mac & cheese, ravioli, beanie-weenies, etc



Father Paul Kersey, whose family members have been parishioners here for many years, and who came from his mission in Honduras to visit us annually, passed away on July 16th of this year.

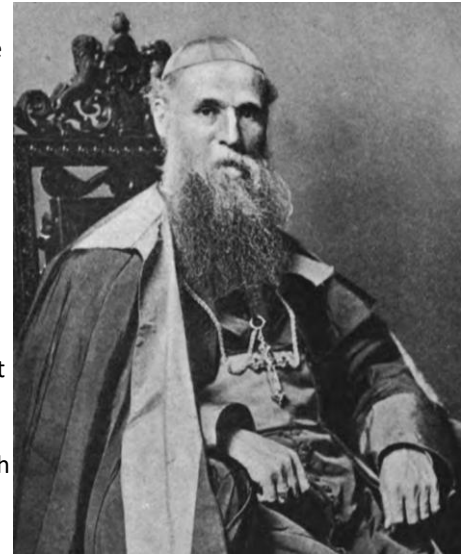
Rest in peace, Father Kersey.

History of the Catholic Church in North Carolina: Belmont Era

Cardinal Gibbons had a dream to bring Catholic education to the children, and a Catholic college for further education. He was easily successful with recruiting the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy to come to teach and build hospitals, but it was to the Benedictine Monks to whom he looked for his college.

He recruited Benedictine monks from Philadelphia to come to the area we now know as Belmont Abbey. Five hundred acres had been donated for the purpose of a priory (a place where monks lived) and a college. In 1873, the monks arrived, and the first prior was Herman Wolfe. Many younger monks were willing to travel to the new NC mission. Their numbers grew, and eventually the compound moved up to the status of an abbey in 1887, with Leo Haid as the first abbot.

Only 3 years later, Haid was consecrated bishop over 8 counties in the NC Vicariate. This created an "Abbey Nullius", which is an abbey that does not actually belong to the diocese. It is separate and distinct by its own boundaries from the surrounding diocese. It is governed by an abbot who exercises active jurisdiction over the clergy and faithful in its territory. In 1976, Pope Paul VI declared that no more would be established except for extraordinary reasons, and except for the few with historic importance, they would be phased out of existence. This was a challenge for Haid. He was a monk who lived a secluded life, being asked to live the demanding public life of a bishop. Over the years, the dual position had a serious effect on his success in both areas of his life.



Leo Haid

In the early 1900s, there were only 2500 Catholics in the state and only 12 priests. Gibbons felt that bringing in the abbey would also help provide priests to serve in the area. The number of monks grew and by 1910 there were 50 monks at the Abbey Church of Mary Help of Christians. The College of Saint John became the first and only Catholic College in the state. Eventually the monks moved out of the abbey into the work of building parishes. By 1910 they had 39 churches, 50 missions and 33 priests. (In 1944 the Abbey Nullius was downsized to only one county, Gaston. In 1977, it came fully into the Diocese of Charlotte.)

The Diocese of Raleigh

In 1925, Pope Pius XI established the Diocese of Raleigh which encompassed the entire state of North Carolina. North Carolina was the last state in the Union to have its own diocese. The first bishop of the new diocese was Bishop William James Hafey, who was 37 at the time, and the youngest bishop in the country. Bishop Eugene McGuiness followed. One of his first accomplishments was to establish the Sisters of Mercy in Wilmington to bring in a Catholic school. His thought was to bring Catholic education to the children.



Bishop Hafey

The fourth bishop of the Raleigh Diocese was Bishop Vincent Waters. He did something that few remember today. If you were born after 1953 you might not have even heard of the event.

In 1953, one year before Dr. Martin Luther King became influential, Bishop Waters stated that Catholic Churches in the diocese would be integrated. In Newton Grove NC, there were two Catholic churches; one for black parishioners and one for white parishioners. The church for black parishioners was shuttered up and Waters said that on a given Sunday, all masses, now to be held in the church that had been for white parishioners, would be integrated. The two priests assigned to the parish were apprehensive but were going to follow the orders of the bishop. As they were walking toward the church, a black sedan pulled up and out came Bishop Waters. He told the two priests that he would say the first mass and preach at the other two masses. Fourteen white parishioners and twenty black parishioners attended the first mass. The crowds grew outside and became increasingly louder, shouting threats to anyone who attempted to enter the church.



Bishop Vincent Waters

Fewer people attended the second mass, and only a dozen white parishioners attended the third. The event certainly made the headlines, but not a major change in the actual situation of segregation. Bishop Waters stands out today as the only Southern Bishop in the 50's taking a stand on the issue of integration.

Next episode: The Diocese of Charlotte