

# 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



**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**August 10, 2025**

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

Parish email: [sgdate@rcdoc.org](mailto:sgdate@rcdoc.org)

Website: [www.immaculateconceptionforestcity.org](http://www.immaculateconceptionforestcity.org)

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

4<sup>th</sup> 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 August 9-17, 2025**

Sat 9	Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	5:00pm	Mass for the Parish
Sun 10	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	<b>Mass for ROS TM Mathew &amp; Joseph Purathail by Sumy Joseph</b> <b>Mass for Thomas Blanchard by the Krantz Family</b> AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 11	Saint Clare of Assisi	9:00am	Mass for ROS Father Leo Reinhardt by Lynn Reinhardt
Wed 13	Saint Radegund	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Belmira Pacheco and Jacinto Medeiros by Maria Read
Thurs 14	Saint Maximilian Kolbe	12:10pm	Mass for ROS Riley Family Members by Giuliana Riley
	<b>Vigil of the Assumption</b>	7:00pm 7:30pm	<b>Mass for ROS Frances Burke by Father Herbert Burke (Bilingual Mass)</b> AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 15	<b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	12:10pm	Mass for ROS Dr. Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton
Sat 16	Saint Roch	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Pam Cole by Michael and Shirley Wheeler
Sun 17	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	<b>Mass for the Parish</b> <b>Mass for ROS Fabiano Lopez, Lauriano and Teresa Mendoza by Aurelia Mendoza</b> AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

***Save the Date***

**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: Parish Council Meeting;** 11:00am in the School Building

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

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

**August 28-29: 24-Hour Adoration**

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

**September 5-6: Eucharistic Congress,** more information to come!

**September 8: Ladies Guild Meeting; 10:00am,** Parish Hall; first meeting of the new season.

**September 15: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Church**

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

**September 21: Second Collection for Priests Retirement Benefits**

**September 27: 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Cross Walk and Eucharistic Procession:** and for those that cannot make the walk, the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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***

*"We have heard of the love you bear toward all the saints-moved as you are by the hope held in store for you in heaven.*

*You heard of this hope through the message of truth, the gospel, which has come to you and has born fruit, and has continued to grow in your midst, as it has everywhere in the world."*

~ Colossians 1: 3-6 ~

*"In an experience of living our faith together, we can find that the Lord's grace, that the love of God can truly heal us, can give us the strength that we need, can be the source of that hope that we all need in our lives."*

~ Pope Leo XIV ~

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**Collection for August 3, 2025**

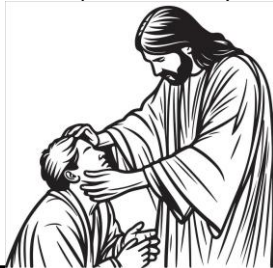
**Regular Offering: \$7,573.01**  
**Building Repair Loan: \$355.00**  
**DSA Shortfall Collection: \$2,222.00**  
**Thank you for your generosity.**

You can make online donations through the following link:  
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

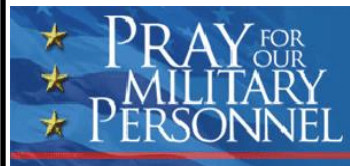
## Prayers for the Sick

Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Emily Bailey, Alisha Benfield, Terry Bird, Teresa Burgin, 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, Joannie Jolley, 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, 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, Linda & Keith See, Samantha Smith, Sister Mary Olivia, Larry St. Clair, Nancy St. Clair, Beth Ann Stamper, Cole Suh, Doug Suh, Sarah Suh, 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](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com)



### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



### NEW FROM THE KNIGHTS Knights Fundraiser for Deacon Lugo

The Knights are raising funds, to support the priestly ordination of our Immaculate Conception seminarian Deacon Michael Lugo.

For \$20, you will be entered into a Monday Night Football pool, which will award \$50 each week for 20 weeks (September 8 through February 8). Only 100 entries (boxes) will be sold from now to September 7.

Please see a Knight to secure a "box" for your entry or contact Knight John Killela 919.291.7664 or Grand Knight Joe Stenard 518.469.4898.

### CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 5-6, 2025



You Belong Here

[YouBelong2025.com](http://YouBelong2025.com)

Charlotte Convention Center | FREE

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I would like to personally invite you to experience our faith in Jesus Christ in a uniquely powerful way – at the 2025 Eucharistic Congress, "Pilgrims of Hope," September 5–6 at the Charlotte Convention Center. Join me, your fellow parishioners and Catholics from across our diocese for powerful talks, beautiful music, and moments of deep prayer – all focused on strengthening and renewing our relationship with Jesus.

Admission is free, and there's something for everyone – individuals, families, young and old. Come for an hour or come on both Friday and Saturday – don't miss this special opportunity for renewal and inspiration. Details about the 2025 Eucharistic Congress are in the bulletin and online. Let's go together – as Pilgrims of Hope!

Bishop Michael Martin

Hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, Quiero invitarles personalmente a vivir nuestra fe en Jesucristo de una manera única y poderosa – en el Congreso Eucarístico 2025, "Peregrinos de la Esperanza", que se llevará a cabo del 5 al 6 de septiembre en el Centro de Convenciones de Charlotte. Acompañenme, junto con sus compañeros de parroquia y católicos de toda nuestra diócesis, para disfrutar de charlas inspiradoras, música hermosa y momentos de profunda oración – todo enfocado en fortalecer y renovar nuestra relación con Jesús. La entrada es gratuita y hay algo para todos – individuos, familias, jóvenes y mayores. Pueden venir por una hora o quedarse ambos días – viernes y sábado – ¡no se pierdan esta oportunidad de renovación e inspiración! Los detalles sobre el Congreso Eucarístico 2025 están en el boletín y en línea. ¡Vamos juntos – como Peregrinos de la Esperanza!

Obispo Miguel Martín

## The History of Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

As early as 1940, there were Catholics living in Rutherford County, North Carolina, but there was no Catholic Church. Each Sunday everyone drove to Shelby to attend Mass at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church. From Forest City that is about 20 miles, and from Lake Lure, the western end of Rutherford County, that is about 48 miles. At that time the Benedictine priests from Belmont Abbey in Belmont, NC, travelled to Shelby for Sunday Mass.

In 1940, Rutherford County had six Catholic families. Believe it or not, according to the 2020 census, there are 2,429 Catholics in Rutherford County. The parish has certainly grown, even if we don't know all the parishioners.

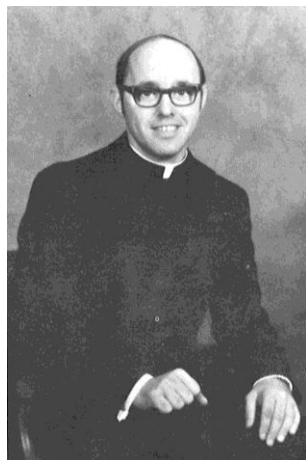
In the late 40's, during the pastorate of Father Lawrence Newman at Saint Mary's, efforts were made to establish a Mission Parish in Rutherford County. A parcel of land was donated by the Cornett family. With donations from the Catholic Church Extension Society, construction began in 1950, and on September 15, 1950, the Church of the Immaculate Conception was dedicated by Bishop Joseph Waters from the Diocese of Raleigh.



Bishop Waters at the Dedication Mass

Between 1950 and 1969, nine pastors served at Immaculate Conception, but in the summer of 1969, Father Kenneth Parker was installed as the first resident pastor. At that time, the Our Lady of the Angels Church in Marion was a Mission Parish of the Immaculate Conception Parish. The parish had grown to about 25 families. Father Frank Cintula followed Father Parker as pastor in 1970.

Changes came when the Diocese of Charlotte was established in January, 1972. Father Cintula was moved to Saint Mary Help of Christians in Shelby, and Immaculate Conception reverted back to being a Mission Parish of Saint Mary's. That did not last long, for in the summer of 1972 we regained our parish status with Father Joseph McCarthy as our pastor, and Our Lady of the Angels in Marion as our Mission Parish.



Father Paul C. Wilderotter

In the summer of 1976, Father Paul Wilderotter succeeded Father McCarthy as pastor. Under his leadership we started a pledge program aimed at the construction of a Rectory/Parish Hall Complex. After many months, construction began in 1978. The buildings were completed on December 8, 1978 and were dedicated by Bishop Begley on December 10, 1978.

The next pastor was Father John Murray. Father Murray, a former FBI agent, was pastor from 1979-1980. During that time he was responsible for having the parking lot paved. It seems the unpaved parking area was frequently being used as a place for trucks to turn around, and as a result the lot was in poor condition.

Of even more importance, Father Murray suggested to a young man, Andrew Cilone, that he consider entering the first class in the new Diocesan Permanent Diaconate Program which started on September 12, 1980.



Father John Murray with Joann and Andy Cilone

On May 29, 1983, the first Diaconate Class was ordained, and Deacon Andy Cilone was actually the first permanent deacon to be ordained, as the ordination rite was administered alphabetically. He was assigned to his home parish of Immaculate Conception, where music continues today to be a large part of his ministry. A talented vocalist, he sings at liturgical celebrations, nursing homes, and in his prison ministry.

By this time, Father Jim Stuber was the pastor, and he was blessed to have this amazing young deacon working with him. We are even more blessed to still have Deacon Andy and Joann today after over 40 years.

Father Jim Stuber was our pastor from 1980 to 1985. When Father Jim died, he was succeeded by Father Gabriel Meehan.

From 1985 until 2001 when he retired, Father Gabriel was known for his generosity. Father Gabriel wrote: "The name of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Forest City, NC reflects the Marian dimension of the life of our church, entrusting ourselves to Mary in a filial manner, like the apostle John, who took her "into his own home." The church is our Christian family. The families within the church are living representations of the eternal living communion of the three persons of the Most Holy Trinity. Each family is called a church in miniature, contributing to building up the church family and their own sanctification."



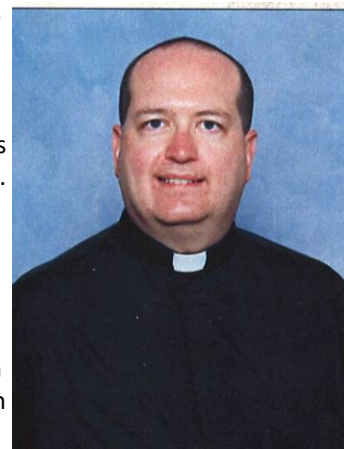
Father Gabriel Meehan and Volunteers at the Hot Meal Center



Father James Stuber with Andrew Harding as Server

While Father Gabriel was pastor, we obtained the school building and adjacent property, and Father Gabriel started the Hot Meal Center that was active for many years.

In 2001, Father Herbert Burke became pastor. He purchased 7.18 acres of property on the west side of the original church building in 2003. It was his plan to build a new church. In 2007, Father Burke then purchased an additional 14.4 acres to the north of what is now our new church.



Father Herbert T. Burke

Father Burke saw the growth potential of the Immaculate Conception Parish. The capital campaign was successful, and 60 years after our original church was built, our new Gothic style church was built. It was dedicated by Bishop Jugis on October 13, 2010, the anniversary of the miracle of the sun and the final apparition at Fatima of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Beyond the physical growth in our parish, Father Burke has also encouraged growth in our spiritual lives. His devotion to the Mother of God is clearly seen and heard in his frequent reminders to pray the Rosary

Like one of his predecessors, Father Burke encouraged one of our parishioners to enter the Permanent Diaconate Program. Deacon David Rutter Faunce was ordained in 2018, and was assigned to our parish. He has also recently been appointed as Director of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Charlotte.



Deacon David Faunce



Dedication Day, October 13, 2010

Today, our parish is considered home to over 500 families, registered and non-registered.

When you think that we started with only 6 families, can you imagine how many there will be in the next 75 years?

## Our Newest Doctor of the Church

There are only 37 of them, and soon there will be one more. Pope Leo XIV has announced that he will be formally declaring Saint John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church.

This is a big deal. There are thousands of holy men, women and children who have been declared saints. And in all 2025 years of Christianity, only 37 of them have been declared to be Doctors of the Church. Why is that? On the website SimplyCatholic.com, Msgr. Charles E. Pope, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. explains why.

“The Doctors of the Church are teachers of the faith who have demonstrated exemplary holiness and have deepened the whole Church’s understanding of the Catholic faith. They must be officially declared doctors by a papal proclamation. Such men and women also are known particularly for the depth of understanding and the orthodoxy of their theological teachings. Though their teachings are not infallible, being a “doctor” means that they contributed significantly to the formulation of Christian teaching in at least one significant area in a way that has impacted later generations.

Through the Middle Ages, the title and process of being named a doctor remained a fluid and informal one. In the 13th century, however, the Church formalized the process by which the Church could honor persons with the title and then put out the first official list of Doctors of the Church.

There are three requirements for being named a Doctor of the Church. First is great sanctity. Thus only those who have already been declared to be saints by the Church may be named a doctor. A second requirement is eminent learning. This is often demonstrated by the fact that they were known to be great teachers of the Faith. The third requirement is a proclamation by the Church. Usually, such proclamation is made by the pope.”

Pope Benedict XVI explains the spirituality of Newman in his speech at the ceremony of Newman’s beatification in September of 2010: *The definite service to which Blessed John Henry was called involved applying his keen intellect and his prolific pen to many of the most pressing “subjects of the day”. His insights into the relationship between faith and reason, into the vital place of revealed religion in civilized society, and into the need for a broadly-based and wide-ranging approach to education were not only of profound importance for Victorian England, but continue today to inspire and enlighten many all over the world. I would like to pay particular tribute to his vision for education, which has done so much to shape the ethos that is the driving force behind Catholic schools and colleges today. Firmly opposed to any reductive or utilitarian approach, he sought to achieve an educational environment in which intellectual training, moral discipline and religious commitment would come together. The project to found a Catholic University in Ireland provided him with an opportunity to develop his ideas on the subject, and the collection of discourses that he published as *The Idea of a University* holds up an ideal from which all those engaged in academic formation can continue to learn. And indeed, what better goal could teachers of religion set themselves than Blessed John Henry’s famous appeal for an intelligent, well-instructed laity: “I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it”* (*The Present Position of Catholics in England*, ix, 390). On this day when the author of those words is raised to the altars, I pray that, through his intercession and example, all who are engaged in the task of teaching and catechesis will be inspired to greater effort by the vision he so clearly sets before us.

While it is John Henry Newman’s intellectual legacy that has understandably received most attention in the vast literature devoted to his life and work, I prefer on this occasion to conclude with a brief reflection on his life as a priest, a pastor of souls. The warmth and humanity underlying his appreciation of the pastoral ministry is beautifully expressed in another of his famous sermons: **“Had Angels been your priests, my brethren, they could not have consoled with you, sympathized with you, have had compassion on you, felt tenderly for you, and made allowances for you, as we can; they could not have been your patterns and guides, and have led you on from your old selves into a new life, as they can who come from the midst of you”** (“Men, not Angels: the Priests of the Gospel”, *Discourses to Mixed Congregations*, 3). He lived out that profoundly human vision of priestly ministry in his devoted care for the people of Birmingham during the years that he spent at the Oratory he founded, visiting the sick and the poor, comforting the bereaved, caring for those in prison. No wonder that on his death so many thousands of people lined the local streets as his body was taken to its place of burial not half a mile from here. One hundred and twenty years later, great crowds have assembled once again to rejoice in the Church’s solemn recognition of the outstanding holiness of this much-loved father of souls. What better way to express the joy of this moment than by turning to our heavenly Father in heartfelt thanksgiving, praying in the words that Blessed John Henry Newman placed on the lips of the choirs of angels in heaven: Praise to the Holiest in the height

And in the depth be praise;

In all his words most wonderful,

Most sure in all his ways!

