

# 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



*Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.*

**March 5, 2023**  
**2nd 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](mailto:sgdate@charlottediocese.org)

**Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church ~ 1024 West Main Street ~ Forest City, NC ~ 28043**  
**Bulletin Editor: [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com)**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2023 ~ Bulletin No. 10 Vol. XXXIX

### WEEKLY CALENDAR for March 4-12, 2023

Sat 4	Saint Casmir	5:00pm	<b>Mass for ROS Deceased Members of the Williams/Ruth Families by Tom &amp; Barbara Ruth</b>
Sun 5	<b>Second Sunday Of Lent</b>	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	<b>Mass for the Parish</b> <b>Mass for ROS Sajimon Joseph by Sini Kalapurakal</b>  AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 6	Saint Felicitas & Perpetua	9:00am 7:00am 10:30am	<b>Mass for ROS Denise Conway by the Krantz Familyl</b> Men's Prayer Group Prayer Group, Parish Hall
Wed 8	Saint John of God	7:00pm	<b>Mass for ROS Helen Supsic by the Sharik Family</b>
Thurs 9	Saint Dominic Savio	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	<b>Mass for ROS Robert Riley by Giuliana Riley</b> Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 10	Saint Macarias	12:10pm 7:00am	<b>Communion Service</b> Men's Prayer Group
Sat 11	Saint Sophronius	5:00pm	<b>Mass for the Parish</b>
Sun 12	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	<b>Mass for ROS Rosaleen &amp; Henry McEnnerney by Diane McEnnerney &amp; Family</b> <b>Mass for ROS Margaret Fetsko by Mark &amp; Peggy Fetsko</b>  AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information



#### From the Saints

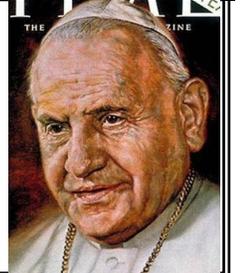
*"One reason why so few Christians think of their baptismal vows, and live with as much license as if they had promised no more to God than the heathen, is that they do not wear any external sign to remind them of their vows."*

~ Saint Louis de Montfort ~

#### From the Holy Father

*"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but what is still possible for you to do."*

~ Saint Pope John XXIII ~



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

**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 10: Lenten Meal** of Soup & Sandwiches,  
sponsored by the Ladies Guild

**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** 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**

**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

#### For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or  
Email: [reharrill@rcdoc.org](mailto: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](https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity)

#### COLLECTION INFORMATION 2/19/2023

Regular Offering: \$6,601  
Ash Wednesday: \$2,788  
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
<b>2nd Sunday (March 12)</b>	<b>Hospice Sunday</b>	<b>Ensure, any flavor</b>
3rd Sunday (March 19)	Hands of Hope Sunday	Children's diapers, any size

## Prayers for the Sick

Please pray for the soul of Tom Burke who passed away Tuesday, 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, 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](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com)

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.



## Support the Heartbeat Bill!



Please contact our state legislators and encourage them to support a "heartbeat" bill that would prohibit abortions in North Carolina after six weeks, when a heartbeat is detectable. The number of abortions in the state increased after the *Dobbs* decision came down from the Supreme Court, according to a report from the Society of Family Planning, as more women travel from surrounding states where abortion has become more restricted. By passing laws that discourage abortion, North Carolina will seek to protect unborn children and help mothers in need.

A heartbeat bill is one of two options being considered by Republican leadership to be brought forward for action. The other bill is a 13-week ban on abortion. The 13-week ban would do less to protect women and children because state health data show that around 85% of abortions in North Carolina take place before 13 weeks. **Now is the time to encourage support for the heartbeat bill.** This is a great opportunity to protect life and share the resources available for mothers in need.

## 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 [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com)

## Funeral arrangements for Thomas Joseph Burke are as follows:

Mass will take place on Tuesday, March 7th at 11:00am in the main church. There will be a luncheon reception in the parish hall following the Mass. Please pray for Father Burke and his family during this difficult time.



*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may Your perpetual light shine upon him.*

## DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL 2023 to SERVE is to LOVE

As of 2/27, our parish has contributed \$17,583.00, or 37% of our assessed amount of \$47,247.  
We have a little over \$30,00 to go.

On behalf of those who benefit from the Diocesan Support Appeal, thank you for your generosity. Remember, "To Serve is to Love," calls us to help others with charity and kindness and to live by the teachings of our Catholic faith. Inspired by Philipians 2: 5-9, we are called to follow Christ's example of humbly regarding others as more important than ourselves and to serve one another with love and compassion.

En nombre de aquellos que se benefician de la Campaña Diocesana de Apoyo, gracias por su generosidad. Recuerde, "Servir es amar", nos llama a ayudar a los demás con caridad y bondad y a vivir según las enseñanzas de nuestra fe católica. Inspirados en Filipenses 2: 5-9, estamos llamados a seguir el ejemplo de Cristo de considerar humildemente a los demás como más importantes que nosotros mismos y a servirnos unos a otros con amor y compasión.

# Do You Renounce Satan?

Before you automatically say "I do", what does the question actually mean to you?  
In a few weeks, we will be asked to renew our Baptismal Promises. Just what are they?

If you were baptized as an infant, these promises were made on your behalf by your godparents. If you were baptized as an adult you answered "I do" to the following three questions:

- V. Do you reject Satan? R. I do.
- V. And all his works? R. I do.
- V. And all his empty promises? R. I do.

Let's think for a bit about the first question...Do you renounce Satan? Before you answer, ask yourself: "Have I sinned lately?" Take the time to do a really good examination of conscience. If you have sinned, even venial sins, then you know that keeping all your Baptismal promises takes effort. Right now we are in the beginning of Lent and we have a few weeks to work on doing a better job of it, and "I do" will have more meaning behind it.

In the early days of Christianity a person could be baptized only after a person professed their faith and made a promise to conform to the precepts of Christ. Practically speaking, how would we do that today?

First, we have to pray. That's the best way we can talk to God. If you pray using the Scriptures, for example in Lectio Divina, God talks back to you. Another prayer form, the Scriptural Rosary, while a bit more labor-intensive, helps you to reflect on the Scripture as you pray through each mystery. This is not a new concept, especially if you participated in the Rosary Program this past fall.

Another step towards living your Baptismal Promises is by reading the Scriptures daily. The Gospels are the most comfortable and familiar place to start for several reasons. When Jesus spoke with people and asked them questions, such as "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29), He is asking that same question of you today.

A third way to keeping Baptismal Promises is a bit harder because it involves other people... become more involved in our parish. There are several reasons why this is a challenge for many of us. Geography is one of them. Many of us live 40-50 minutes away from our church. Others have difficulty driving at night. Many of us have limited time because of our jobs and family obligations. These are all certainly valid considerations. But it helps to put the focus on what you CAN do rather than on things that you can't. A simple example, and one that will help a lot of people, is to read through the names of all the people on our prayer list in the bulletin every week. Pray for these folks during the week. All of us can pray.

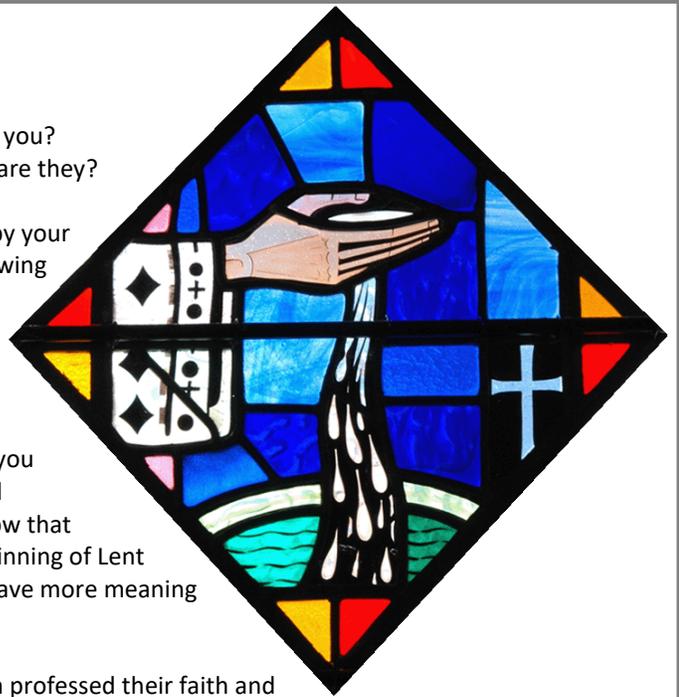
There are also many projects and committees that can use extra help and frequently you'll see an item listed in the bulletin such as helping out with a spaghetti dinner. If you can't work the event, maybe you can donate some of the products needed to make the sauce. If God gave you a gift, share it with us. We have a small group of people who work on the Prayer Shawl Ministry. These 4-5 people work on prayer shawls, lap robes, afghans etc. by getting together once a month, but in between the meetings, they work on projects and pray for the future recipient of the project while they work. The need is great. If you can't make the monthly meeting you can work on your own and bring your finished project to the gift shop and it will get to a person in need.

Remember the old saying "Idle hands are the devil's workshop"? If we spend more time following the example of Christ, we won't slip into the realm of Satan's negativity.

Another very important action to take is to go to confession.

Take some time to sit and work through an examination of conscience, remembering that the actions we have done are not our only concern. So here's another question for you.

"What have you failed to do?"



## Purification of Spirit Through Fasting and Almsgiving

By Pope Leo the Great

Dear Friends, at every moment the earth is full of the mercy of God, and nature itself is a lesson for all the faithful in the worship of God. The heavens, the sea and all that is in them, bear witness to the goodness and omnipotence of their Creator, and the marvelous beauty of the elements as they obey him demands from the intelligent creation a fitting expression of its gratitude.

But the return of that season marked out in a special way by the mystery of our redemption, and of the days that lead up to the paschal feast, we are summoned more urgently to prepare ourselves by a purification of spirit.

The special note of the paschal feast is this: the whole Church rejoices in the forgiveness of sins. It rejoices in the forgiveness not only of those who are then reborn in holy baptism but also of those who are already numbered among God's adopted children.

Initially, men are made new by the rebirth of baptism. Yet there is still required a daily renewal to repair the shortcomings of our mortal nature, and whatever degree of progress has been made there is no one who should not be more advanced. All must therefore strive to ensure that on the day of redemption no one may be found in the sins of his former life.

Dear Friends, what the Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion, so that the Lenten fast enjoined by the apostles may be fulfilled, not simply by abstinence from food but above all by the renunciation of sin.

There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of all the faithful may be of equal value, even when their means are not. The love that we owe both God and man is always free from any obstacle that would prevent us from having a good intention. The angel sang: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with virtue of good will but also with the gift of peace.

The works of mercy are innumerable. Their very variety brings this advantage to those who are true Christians, that in the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts.

If they find some store of love's fruit in their hearts, they must not doubt God's presence within them. If they would increase their capacity to receive so great a guest, they should practice greater generosity in doing good, with persevering charity.

If God is love, charity should know no limit for God cannot be confined.

Any time is the right time for works of charity, but these days of Lent provide a special encouragement. Those who want to be present at the Lord's Passover in holiness of mind and body should seek above all to win this grace, for charity contains all other virtues and covers a multitude of sins.

As we prepare to celebrate the greatest of all mysteries, by which the blood of Jesus Christ did away with our sins, let us first of all make ready the sacrificial offerings of works of mercy. In this way we shall give to those who have sinned against us what God in his goodness has already given to us.

In these acts of giving do not fear a lack of means. A generous spirit is itself a great wealth. There can be no shortage of material for generosity where it is Christ who feeds and Christ who is fed. In all this activity there is present the hand of him who multiplies the bread by breaking it, and increase it by giving it away.

The giver of alms should be free from anxiety and full of joy. His gain will be greatest when he keeps back least for himself.

