



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

12364 HWY 416, LAKELAND, LA 70752

P.O. BOX 158, LAKELAND, LA 70752

PARISH OFFICE: 627-5124 | RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: 627-5819

IMMACULATECONCEPTIONLAKELAND.COM

## STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Amrit Raj, IMS  
**Office Manager/DRE:** Dina Tunstall  
**Bookkeeper:** Amy McDaniel, CPA  
**Records:** Suzanne Maginnis  
**Preschool:** Skye Johnston  
**Maintenance:** Mitch Jarreau  
**Parish Email:** icclakeland@diobr.org  
**Website:** www.immaculateconceptionlakeland.com

## MASS TIMES

**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00 PM  
**Sunday Masses:** 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM  
**Daily Masses:** Tuesday 6:00 PM Church  
Wednesday-Friday 8:00 AM Chapel  
First Saturday of the Month 8:00 AM Chapel  
**Reconciliation:** Tuesday 5:00 - 5:45 PM  
Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 PM  
(Or By Appointment)

**Baptism:** Please contact Deacon Bob (337) 278-7923 during early months of pregnancy. Baptism preparation is required.

**Care of the Sick:** For emergencies, please contact the priest immediately. Communion is brought to the sick weekly. Families of those who are sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office as soon as possible.

**Marriage:** Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement or at least six (6) months prior to the desired wedding date.



©Diocesan - The Visitation - Philippe De Champaigne, 1643

Sunday, December 15, 2024

## Scriptures for the Week

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9;  
Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

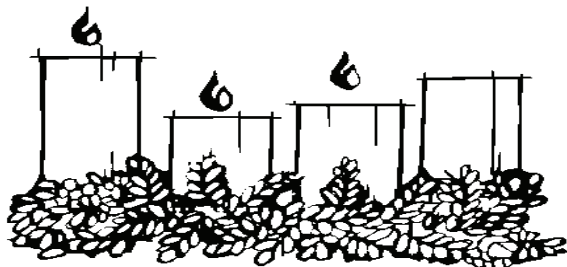
**Wednesday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Thursday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;  
Lk 1:5-25

**Friday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21;  
Lk 1:39-45

## 3rd Sunday of Advent



## God Bless Our Troops

Please remember all of our troops overseas, especially members of Immaculate Conception Parish Family:

*Jules Craig Cifreo, Air Force.; Quinton T. Gaspard, P.F.C., Army; Kaleb Porche, P.F.C., Army; Zachary Carl Rollins, Marines; Analise Reed, Marines.*

## Prayer Requests

John Larry Alpough, Tim Amond, Barbara Andre, Gerald "Cotton" Andrus, Joseph Leroy Bizette, Mike Bourgeois, Annie Bourque, Judah Burbank, Robin Casiano, Bernadette Chenevert, Monica Collie, Alma Collins, Pat Conerly, Daniel Cormier, Andy Daigle, Michael David, Patsy David, Tammy David, Dana Decuir, Darrel Decuir, Paulette Devillier, Wallace Dorgan, Jimmy Dupre, Malachi Engen, Anthony Alvarez Facione, Mary Firmin, Granger Fontenot, Horace Fuselier, David Gauthier, Gloria H. Genusa, Stuart Glasco, Shelby Gobert, Troy Green, Sr., Marshall Gremillion, Ylandra Hackett, Clay Hano, Emberly Hebert, Noah Jarreau, Stephanie Jarreau, Wayne Jarreau, Kiely Johnson, Judy & James Joseph, Linda Joseph, Juneau Family, Trey LaCour, Patricia LaMotte, Barbara Landry, Bobbie Laurent, Maria Lawrence, Ramie LeBlanc, Julie Lee, Janice Marks, Sutton McDaniel, Theresa McKnight, Abigail Medine, Rebecca Medine, Rob Melacon, Delores Mix, Myra Moniotte, Darlene Neal, Allen Olinde, Linda Olinde, Soody Olinde, Al Patin, Christine Patin, Gary Patin, Jr., Gary Patin, Sr., Gregory Patin, Carol Pharr, Jean Porche, Loretta Reviere, Mary Alice Robert, Julia Grace Ruiz, Hank Ryan, Keith Schapatone, Harper Showalter, Anna Graves Smith, Leona Smith, Wanda Smith, Beau Soulier, Shirley Sparks, Micah Theriot, Maxell Thompson, Jr., Frank Vienna, Randy Vossburg, Wayne Walton, Diane White, Diane Wildey, Harry Williams, Joyce York.

## This Week at ICC

**12/15** **ICC Children's Mass**  
@ 10am.  
**Christmas Holiday Festival**  
@ 11am Parish Hall.

**12/18** **Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd**  
@ 5pm.  
**Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th**  
@ 5pm.  
**KC 3rd Degree Officer Meeting**  
@ 6:30pm Parish Hall.

## ICC "Rooted in Christ" T-shirts

Orders placed for the ICC limited edition "Rooted in Christ" t-shirts are now available for pickup at the Parish Office.

## ICC Christmas Holiday Festival

ICC will be hosting a **Family Christmas Celebration** on **Sunday, December 15**, following the **10am Children's Mass**. There will be pictures with Santa, crafts, games and plenty of food and fun for the whole family.

## Parish Office Christmas Holidays

The ICC Parish Office will **close** for the **Christmas holidays** beginning **Monday, December 23rd** through **Wednesday, January 1st**. The office will **reopen** on **Thursday, January 2, 2025**, at 8:30am.

## 2024

## Christmas & New Year Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve

**Tuesday, December 24th**  
**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

No Confession  
Vigil Mass 4pm

### Christmas Day

**Wednesday, December 25th**  
**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Mass 8am & 10am

### New Year's Eve

**Tuesday, December 31st**  
**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Vigil Mass 4pm

### New Year's Day

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025**  
**(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Mass 10am ONLY

## Sympathy

The Sympathy of Immaculate Conception Church Parish Family is extended to:

Family of **Joseph F. Roubique.**

Family of **Mary Catherine Savoie.**

Family of **Lillie Major Thibaut.**

## Waste Management Dumpsters in Chenal & Lakeland

Please be aware that the waste management dumpsters, located in Chenal and Lakeland, are **designated for use by Immaculate Conception Church, only.** Disposal of trash and or personal items by anyone **not affiliated** with Immaculate Conception Church, and without expressed written permission, is **strictly prohibited.**

## Daily Inspiration

The people ask John the Baptist in earnest what they should do in response to his message. In the verses before today's Gospel, John is preaching a message of repentance and if I'm honest, a bit of fear thrown in. He is challenging the status quo with strong language, calling the Pharisees "vipers" and asserting that God is ready and waiting to cut down whoever isn't producing good fruit in their lives.

"What should we do?" The crowds, tax collectors, and even soldiers ask John. To each group, John gives a different answer. However, every answer is rooted in the same basic principle - be a community.

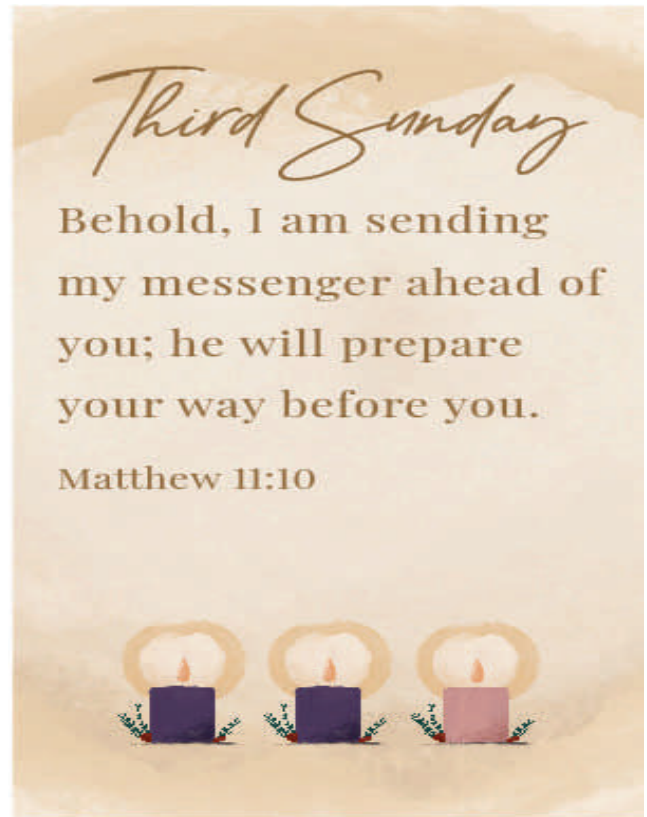
John tells the crowds to share their food and clothing with whomever among them is lacking. A community takes care of each person's basic needs. It requires that everyone consider the needs of others before their own wants and needs.

John tells the tax collectors to stop overcharging people. He is insisting on selflessness, rather than selfishness. Notice that John doesn't tell them to stop in their profession, but to practice it with integrity and honesty. There is no need to be greedy, especially if the community is practicing John's first assertion to take care of the basic needs of every individual.

Finally, John tells the soldiers to be content in their station and position. Do not flaunt your authority or use it to abuse others. Again, John doesn't tell them to desert their positions, but to fulfill their tasks well and with proper purpose. In a community, each person has something to contribute and the capacity to do it well. Some will be in authority over others, but this does not give them the right to abuse the privilege of leadership.

Today, John the Baptist gives us three foundational elements of a community built upon God's principles. We must be generous, considering the needs of others. We must be honest, contributing our part and not seeking to grasp what is not ours. We must be content, recognizing that what we have is from God and that we are stewards of His goodness and love.

By Kate Taliaferro



## Weekend Reflection

While Advent is a beautiful time to prepare for the coming of the Lord, we often get so caught up in all the things we do to prepare for Christmas that we forget Advent all together. The readings remind us that in spite of the stress we may feel thinking about how close Christmas is, we are called to rejoice for the Lord is near.

The stress we feel may be from fear: Fear that I won't get the shopping done by Christmas, fear that people won't like the gifts I bought, or fear that I forgot someone that should be on my list. But did you ever notice how much easier it is when you have someone to shop with you, or write the Christmas cards, or decorate the tree? "Shout for joy...fear not!" says the prophet Zephaniah in the first reading. (Zeph 3:14) He tells us the Lord is not coming to punish us for waiting till the last minute to put up the tree. The prophet says the Lord is in our midst, we are not alone. "He has turned away your enemies" (Zeph 3:15), enemies like fear, doubts, and loneliness.

And as if that wasn't good enough, he says that the Lord rejoices over us! How many times have you wondered if you could ask the Lord for help? Zephaniah reminds us that the Lord is happy to help. And St. Paul says the same thing in the second reading: "Have no anxiety at all...make your requests known to God." (Phil 4:6) That is where Advent comes in. We can look forward to the Lord's presence in our lives. We can be confident of his love for us. That is why faith and hope are central to the theme of Advent. Our faith in God's love for us gives us hope that he will support us in our weakness and fill us with the joy he has over us.

Tom Schmidt