

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. C. Todd Lloyd

Deacon Bob McDonner

Religious Education:

Rachel Christ

Music Coordinator:

Jody Doucet

Sunday Masses: 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM

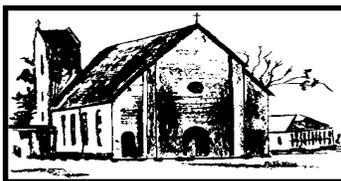
Sat. Vigil: 4:00 PM

Daily Masses:

Wed-Fri. Eucharist 8:00 AM & **Tues.** 6:00pm

Care of the Sick: Emergency calls immediately. The Eucharist is brought to the sick weekly. Families of those who are sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office.

**P.O. Box 158
Lakeland, LA 70752**



**Parish Office 627-5124
Religious Education Office 627-5819
Immaculateconceptionlakeland.com**

Reconciliation: Saturday Vigil 4:00

PM. Saturday 3:00 PM and Tuesday 5:30pm

Marriage: Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement or at least six months prior to the projected date of marriage.

Baptism: Celebrated monthly except during Lent & Advent. Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptism preparation is required.

Scriptures for the Week

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30;
Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a,
17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-
40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20;
Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69
Sunday: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29;
1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$9,795.00
Building Fund	\$2,260.00

Sick List

Jessica Berthelot, Inez Bueche, John David, Neil Daigle, Deborah Fountain, Earl Jarreau, Jr. Gwen Trabeaux, Sony Trabeaux.

-Prayer Request

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

Lance Corporal Metoyer, Marines; P.F.C.; SPC ; Timothy J. Loucks, Corporal U.S. Marine; Lance Corporal Gary R. Major, Jr., Corporal; Private First Class; Captain Jordan Morirs;; Lieutenant Stephen Burleigh, Jr.; MT2 Jacob Lamotte., Sgt. Greg Silva, Army; Jules Craig Major, Air Force.

Sympathy

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

Family of Sam Patrick Glaviano.
Family of Isadore Slaughter.

This Week at I.C.

- 4/16 KC 4th Degree Mtg. @ 6pm.
4/18 KC Mtg.
Parish Council Mtg @ 5pm.
4/22 1st Communion @ 1pm.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COUNTRY CARNIVAL SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH

**12 NOON TO 6PM.
NO ADMISSION FEE
MUSIC AND BINGO
GAMES- \$10 PER PERSON FOR
ALL DAY ACCESS
FOOD/SOFT DRINKS/BEER AND
WINE.**

*****11am Mass will be at the
fairgrounds.**

PRESCHOOL THANK YOU!

Thanks to all family, friends, friends, and local businesses that helped make our annual preschool fundraiser an enormous success. We appreciate you and ask for God's blessing on each and every one of you.

We are extremely grateful to the ladies of Comfort Makers for helping us serve. It definitely helps our day go smooth and they are An absolute joy to be around.

Also, THANK YOU to our Knights of Columbus. Our appreciation to for their continued service to our preschool and our church community is beyond words. The food was superb and the fellowship we enjoy as we work with you is priceless.

In Christ,

“What is the Church’s *official* teaching on...?”

This is a question priests hear from time to time. Usually it is about a moral issue: tithing, homosexuality, immigration, contraception, capital punishment, Sunday worship or work, etc. Occasionally, but not commonly, the question will be about a more theological issue such as angels, demons, ghosts, hell, purgatory, indulgences, non-Christians, sacraments, etc. It is good for people, especially Catholics, to seek out the teaching of the Church on any issue. However, many people approach the teaching of the Church like a legal matter; a law, rather than an objective truth. As if, because the Church says *X* ought not be done, then it is wrong *because* the Church says so. Some think that if an individual or group does not agree with the teaching, they can just as easily disregard it. Some even attempt to lobby for change in the Church’s belief, or think that if enough people disregard the Church’s belief that it will change naturally. These are serious but common errors. (For clarity’s sake, I’m not talking here about matters of discipline and practice such as meat on Fridays or priestly celibacy or fasting before Mass. These are practices embraced by the Church freely, not compelled by Divine Revelation or Natural Law.)

The Church’s official teaching is her official teaching not just because she teaches if officially. Something is *not* right or wrong, true or untrue, because the Church teaches it. She teaches what she teaches because *it is true*. It has its source in something beyond human authority: Divine Revelation and Natural Law. It is not like civil law, such as speed limits, that can be adjusted or all together done away with; making something that was illegal yesterday legal today. When asking for the teaching of the Church our primary concern should be *what is true*. What has been revealed to the Church to be true? If she believes *X* is morally evil then it is morally evil to do *X* not because she says so, but because it is.

Even if everyone in the world, or some authority (e.g. bishops and pope) believe that today *X* is not a sin as believed in the past, that does not change the truth nor the Church’s teaching. Truth is not transitory, nor determined by majority vote, nor by the person teaching it. The best math teacher in the world does not make $2+2=4$. The teacher teaches that $2+2=4$ because it is true. If he decided to teach contrary to that, that does not mean the truth changed, just that the teacher, no matter how authoritative, is wrong. Yes, even bishops and the pope are wrong if they hold a belief contrary to what has been the consistent and defined faith of the Church. Like the math teacher, their job is to teach

the truth already given, not to declare something new (though they may find a new way to express the truth; like the math teacher who teaches a way to get to 4 other than $2+2$ without contradicting the objective truth of what $2+2$ equals). This does not contradict papal infallibility which is *not* an assertion that everything the pope says it true; but rather that the Holy Spirit will guard him from teaching error in an official capacity. For papal infallibility, it must be clear that he intends (1) by virtue of his supreme authority (2) to explain a doctrine (3) on a matter of faith or morals (4) to be held by the whole Church (universally, throughout space and time). What a bishop or pope says to a reporter, or at the dinner table, or in a talk or homily, or even in most documents, is not guaranteed to be true just because he said it. If a cleric of any rank contradicts the deposit of the faith then he is most assuredly wrong and Catholics can, and must, reject his error.

The Church is not a human institution, made up of human ideas. The Church is a divinely instituted community, with divinely instituted beliefs, practices, and authority. When God the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit onto the Church at Pentecost, he empowered that community, with Peter and the apostles and their successors as the head, to know and teach the truth. Jesus told his apostles “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth” (Jn. 16:12-13). It is with this charism – gift – that the Church teaches the truth. The Lord gives this charism out of love, because he wants us to have access to objective truth, and not left to figure things out on our own. When we ask what the *official* teaching of the Church is we should do so with a sincere desire to seek out the truth. We are the Church, and the truth is the foundation of our faith. We must be loyal to our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the *Truth*, and the Life.

“Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teaching.” – Heb 13:7-9

“Anyone who is so ‘progressive’ as not to remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God.” – 2 Jn 9

“If I should be delayed, you should know how to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth.” – 1 Tim 3:15

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd