

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: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Ps 96:1-5;
Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10-13;
Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5;
Mk 6:17-29
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-7; Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11;
Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-21;
Mt 25:14-30
Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; Jas 1:17-18,
21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$ 6,854.00
Building Fund	\$108.00
Electronic	\$1,120.00

Sick List

Janelle Amond, Gertrude Bonaventure, Inez Bueche, John David, Robert Geier, Jr., Alfred Gremillion, Deborah Fountain, Ferd Fabre, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Dottie Purpera, Lou Sherman, Gwen Trabeaux, Sonny 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 Cifreo Air Force.; Samuel Edward Guidroz, Navy.

Flowers

Flowers on the altar this weekend are loving memory of Leona Major Landry and Lionel "Blackie" Major, Jr. from their families on the anniversaries of their birthdays

Sympathy

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

Family of Douglas Henry.

Family of Judy Comeaux.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

On Sunday, August 26, 2018 from 7am-1:00pm we will host our annual blood drive sponsored by the Knights of Columbus with the assistance of Our Lady of the Lake Hospital. Please join us in helping our community by donating blood.

HELP IS NEEDED WITH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FEES FOR THE NEEDY. PLEASE DROP OFF AT OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION OR MAIL. THANK YOU.

In Christ,

This past week I mentioned that the scandal and crisis within the Church is both a cultural and spiritual one. The sexual abuse scandal is a disturbing symptom and manifestation of what plagues the Church, but is not the full sickness itself. Back in 2010 Pope Benedict XVI told reporters that today, *the greatest persecution of the Church comes not from her enemies without, but arises from sin within the Church, and that the Church thus has a deep need to relearn penance, to accept purification, to learn forgiveness on the one hand, but also the need for justice.*

Forgiveness does not replace justice. In a word, we need to relearn precisely this essential: conversion, prayer, penance and the theological virtues. The loss of these essentials – conversion, prayer, penance, and virtue – is the real plague that manifests in so many ways in the Church including not only the sexual scandal, but also the shrinking number of priests and religious, lowering of Mass attendance and general participation in the Church, loss of young people to secularism, and disregard for the faith, worship, and moral life of the Church by Catholics at every level of the Church. When the sense of conversion and penance is lost, so too is the necessity for sacrifice, discipline, and holiness forgotten. When the virtues are neglected relativism creeps in, which can rationalize any type of behavior, no matter how depraved. And when prayer is neglected idol worship takes its place and the grace needed for a holy life is lost.

Fortunately our Lord in his mercy gives us to opportunity, again and again, to repent and turn back to him. Sometimes this call to conversion comes from the painful realization of just how lost we have become. These recent scandals are a painful “wake-up call.” We should not let this opportunity to be real instruments of change pass us by, not merely through human ideas or efforts, but inspired by the grace of our Lord, who is the only savior of the world. Pope Francis wrote to all members of the Church this past week, saying, *Together with those efforts, every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does. ... To see things as the Lord does, to be where the Lord wants us to be, to experience a conversion of heart in his presence. To do so, prayer and penance will help. I invite the entire holy faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting, following the Lord’s command (Mt. 17:21).* He continued, *Without the active participation of all the Church’s members, everything being done to uproot the culture of abuse in our communities will not be successful in generating the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change. The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God’s People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion.*

As I mentioned last week, I am inviting every member of our parish to join me in three spiritual exercises to restore those essentials that will help us combat what ails the Church. First, I’m asking every individual and family to pray the Rosary at least weekly, as a household. This special prayer made with and to Our Lady teaches us how to pray, helps us to reflect on the saving life of our Lord, and implores assistance from heaven for the needs of our families and Church. Second, penitential Fridays. Canon Law, the law of the Church, says: *The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.* I’m asking that everyone abstain from eating meat on every Friday, not just in Lent. This small sacrifice is a way of showing our sorrow for sins of the flesh, and observing the sacrifice of our Lord’s flesh, by abstaining from eating flesh that day. It is a small reminder and sacrifice made in reparation for sin. Finally, every parishioner is asked to take time for adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament every week. St. Pope John Paul II called all people to this type of prayer because he believed it to be *an inexhaustible source of holiness.* He said, *If in our time Christians must be distinguished above all by the “art of prayer”, how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual converse, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament? How often, dear brother and sisters, have I experienced this, and drawn from it strength, consolation and support!* I will expose the Blessed Sacrament for silent prayer and adoration for an hour before each of our weekday Masses and Saturday vigil Mass; and on Sunday 30 minutes before the 9AM and 11AM Masses. On Saturdays we will also maintain our 8AM holy hour and communal praying of the Rosary.

With these three exercises – weekly Rosary, penitential Fridays, and adoration – we will participate in the much needed conversion of the Church.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd