

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: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any
readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin
Mary, nos. 707-712
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28
-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-
15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;
I Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$10,583.00
Building Fund	\$1,442.00

Sick List

David Pete Aguillard, Sharron Allement, Cleveland Allement, Daniel Allement, LaDawnia Amond, Leonard Andre, Linda Armand, Janelle Amond, Craig Aguillard, Mary Lois Alexander, Rudolph P Antoine, Clarence Armand, Russ Armand, Julie Ashtin, Elouise Aucoin, Gary Aucoin, Ronnie Barlow, Rebecca Beard, Butch Beauvais, Linda Beauvais, Racheal Bello, Chad Bellelo, Andrea Bergeron, Mary Grace Bernard, Chestin Boudreaux, Cheryl Bouquet, Hannah Boutee, Liz Breaud, Inez Bueche, Dorothy Butler, Peggy Cazayoux, Connie Cearley, Carl Chenevert, Henrietta Chenevert, Earl Chustz, Gwen Chustz, Charles Chustz, Juanita Chustz, Benedict Cline, Kristy Cobb, Mabel Collette, Sherry Comeaux, Lee Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Gary David, Grant Joseph Delatte, Gary Denson, Betty Dickerson, Felton Dickinson, Deanna Lieux Ducote, James Ducote, Delta Dugas, Stacie Eirick, Melodie Fairchild, Wilfred Fleming, Daniel Firmin, Debra Fountain, Jerome Fontenot, Zane Gabor, Joshua Gaspard, Theresa Gautro, Carmella Genusa, Alfred Gremillion, Charles Gremillion, Moise Galtier, Jeremy Gremillion, andy Gremillion, Carol Gros, Erin Gross, Cindy Gueho, Celeste Guidroz, Leo Guidroz, Marilyn Guidroz, Dana Guzzardo, Brooklyn Hebert, Nathaniel Hill, Brandon Holden, Betty Honore, Margaret Hooper, Nadia Jarreau, Bert Jarreau, Jr. Earl Jarreau, Jr., Emmett Jarreau, Sr., Helen Jarreau, James Robert Jarreau, Jessie Jarreau, Laura Jarreau, Noah Jarreau, Patricia Olinde, Ronald Jarreau, Wanda Jarreau, Larae Lewis Johnson, Judy Jones, Kayla Kinler, Adaam Kleinpeter, Black Lalonde, Ida Langlois, Avery Laurent, Antoinette LeBlanc, Bonne LeBlanc, Jeffrey LeBlanc, Marilyn LeDuff, Jacob Laiche, John E. Landry, Eva Lalonde, Larry Lee, Kay Lee, Randy Levi, Anthony Lopinto, Jo Ann McGowan, Margie Marieoneaux, Hartense Manchester, Aaron McLemore, Breanna McDonald, Rickey Manchester, Alan Meadow, Ralph Mezat, Cheyenne Michalsky, Tim Miller, Joe Mitchell, San Juana Moreno, Danielle Moses, Katherine Myers, Carter Navarre, Anthony Olinde Sr., James Olinde, Jonathan Olinde, Shane Roy Olinde, Frieda Parks, Mason Part, Corey Patin, Greg Patin, John Patin, Jay O Porche, Dottie Purpera, Brenda Puttle, Joyce Ricard, Donald Richard, Sharron Ristroph, Barbara Rizet, Debbie Rock, Mary Roubique, Brenda Singletary, Lonnie Shasse, Angel, Raven, Amil Snell, Melanie Spears, Eric Stone, Emmett Taylor, Emily Taylor, Hank Ryan, Qwen Trabeaux, Brenda Tuttle, Debbie Wheeler, Bobby Williams, Jalen Williams, Lydia Vancal, Tracy Viola, Joyce York.

This Week at I.C.

- 12/11 Rel Ed Grades 6th-8th @ 5:15.
12/12 Rel Ed Grades 1st-2nd @ 5:30pm.
Ladies Aux Party.
12/13 Rel Ed Grades 3rd-5th @ 5:30pm.

Sympathy

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

Family of Joyce Decuir.

Family of Billy Ray Henry, Sr.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23rd

Regular Mass 4pm.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

7am. & 9am. NO 11am Mass
4pm. & 6pm.

Concert at 3:30pm.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

8am. & 10am.

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31st

Regular 7am., 9am. & 11am

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1st

8am.

-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.*

In Christ,

Last week I shared Pope Francis' first of a series of talks on the Mass. He has continued these catecheses for a few weeks now and we are reflecting on his talks in our bulletins. In his second talk the Holy Father address a simple point: "Mass is prayer;" he said, "rather, it is prayer *par excellence*, the loftiest, the most sublime, and at the same time the most 'concrete.'" The pope considers Mass to be a loving encounter between God and man through scripture and the Body and Blood of Jesus. "It is an encounter with the Lord."

The Holy Father says we first have to ask "what is prayer?" He said "It is first of all a dialogue, a personal relationship with God." Pope Francis believes that man was created for and only finds fulfillment through personal relationship with God. From the creation story we learn that "we were all created in order to enter a perfect relationship of love, [like the Holy Trinity who we are created in the image and likeness of] in the continuous giving and receiving of ourselves so as to be able to find the fulfillment of our being." From the story of Moses' encounter with the Lord in the burning bush we hear the Lord say he is "I Am Who I Am" which expresses presence – like saying "I am with you." So too, when Christ calls his disciples, "he calls them so that they may be with Him," the pope says. This is also what the prayer of the Mass is; an encounter and dialogue with the Lord. The greatest grace is knowing that "the Mass, the Eucharist, is the privileged moment to be with Jesus and, through him, with God and with brothers and sisters."

If praying is a dialogue then it requires silent listening. Pope Francis said that when we get to church before Mass we shouldn't start chatting with the people around us because "...this is not the moment for small talk; it is the moment of silence to prepare ourselves for the dialogue." This should be a time for recollection to prepare ourselves for this encounter with Jesus. "Silence is so important!" the pope said, "Remember what I said last week: we are not going to a spectacle, we are going to the encounter with the Lord, and silence prepares us and accompanies us."

In the Gospel we see how Jesus himself "withdraws to secluded places to pray; seeing his

intimate relationship with God, the disciples feel the desire to be able to take part in it, and they ask him: 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" The Holy Father believes it is important to acknowledge, like St. Paul, that we do not know how to pray, and therefore must be taught and given prayer by God, who Jesus tells us to call "Father." This is why we do not make up the Mass for ourselves as we go, but rather we are taught how to pray the Mass, it is a gift from God the Father and Jesus not to be tampered with. We have to trust, like children, "that someone will take care of them, of what they will eat, of what they will wear and so on." The Holy Father says this is so important: "trust and confidence, as a child toward his parents; to know that God remembers you, takes care of you, of you, of me, of everyone."

When we trust like a child we also let ourselves be surprised. "A child always asks thousands of questions because he wants to discover the world; and he even marvels at little things because everything is new to him." In prayer we have to let ourselves be astonished. One who tries to control the situation or diminish what we experience refuses astonishment. Mass is a *living* encounter with the Lord where, if we trust him to provide for us, he will amaze us.

The best surprise the Lord gives is showing us that he loves us even in our weaknesses. The Holy Father concludes with the reflection on the best and perhaps most surprising consolation in receiving Holy Communion; in the Eucharist "the Lord encounters our frailty so as to lead us back to our first call: that of being in the image and likeness of God."

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd

**ADVENT
PENANCE SERVICE
WED. DEC 20TH
6:00 PM.**