

## 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-SAT** 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. Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptism preparation is required.

## Scriptures for the Week

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

## Sick List

Gary Aucoin, Edward Babin, Jr., Gertrude Bonaventure, Inez Bueche, John David, Robert Geier, Jr., Alfred Gremillion, Deborah Fountain, Ferd Fabre, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Linda Olinde, Dottie Purpera, Horace Ransome, Vera Ransome, 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.*

## This Week at I.C.C.

12/24-1/1 Parish Office Closed.  
No Religion.

## Sympathy

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

*Family of Dolores Chustz*

# CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th  
Vigil Mass 4pm & 6pm.

### Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25th  
8am & 10am.

### New Year's Eve

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Holy Day of Obligation)  
Monday, December 31st  
Vigil Mass 4pm.

### New Year's Day

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Holy Day of Obligation)  
Tuesday, January 1st  
8am.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

From Fr. Todd and the staff at  
Immaculate Conception  
Church.

In Christ,

On the vigil of December 25<sup>th</sup> we begin the Christmas Season which extends all the way to January 13<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the older traditional calendar (before Vatican II), however, the days of Christmas could be counted as 12, stopping at Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>. One of the popular carols of this season is about “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” This song, according to legend, has a rich history rooted in the life of persecuted English Catholics going back centuries.

After Henry VIII declared himself the head of the Church of England, ending the nations strong fidelity to the Catholic Church and her supreme pontiff, a long process began of purging faithful Catholics who refused to acknowledge the king’s claim on spiritual authority. It began with the martyrdom of important men like St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher. While Henry made life hard for Catholics in England, he was still more tolerant than his successors, especially his villainous daughter, Queen Elizabeth I. At the beginning of her reign, 1558, it officially became illegal to *be* Catholic in England. This law persisted until 1829. There are still anti-Catholic laws to this day, including the prohibition against a Catholic being head of state. During Elizabeth’s reign Catholics were horribly treated. Their property was stolen – including every single church, school, monastery, and convent. Any priest who continued his ministry as a Catholic was arrested, tortured, and put to death. A common practice during this time was for Catholics to have “priest holes” in their homes. These were hidden spaces where a priest could offer Mass for clandestine Catholics, and if necessary, hide from authorities.

It is during this terrible time that legend says the famous Christmas carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas” originated. Catholics sang it openly, knowing that there was another meaning to the lyrics that non-Catholics were not privy too. It was both a sign of Catholic joy in Christmas, and a useful teaching tool for Catholic children. The gifts of each day represent something from the faith. First, “my true love” is God, who gives us great gifts. The “Partridge in a pear tree” is Jesus. When a mother partridge has nestlings she will pretend to be injured and sacrifice herself to a predator to save the nestlings. This calls to mind Christ’s sacrifice to save us from sin and death. The other days all have meaning too:

2 Turtle Doves – The Old and New Testaments; 3 French Hens – faith, hope and charity, the Theological Virtues; 4 Calling Birds – the four gospels and/or the four evangelists; 5 Golden Rings – The first five books of the Old Testament, the

“Pentateuch”, which gives the history of Original Sin, God’s covenant with Abraham, the Exodus, the 10 Commandments, etc.; 6 Geese A-laying – the six days of creation; 7 Swans A-swimming – the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and/or the seven sacraments; 8 Maids A-milking – the eight beatitudes; 9 Ladies Dancing – the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit (it’s believed that they combined 3 pairs of the similar fruits to make 9 instead of 12 - Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Generosity], Goodness [Kindness], Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control [Chastity]); 10 Lords A-leaping – the Ten Commandments; 11 Pipers Piping – the eleven faithful apostles; 12 Drummers Drumming – the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed.

As you enjoy these days of Christmas, sing this song with your family, remember the sacrifice of faithful Catholics who are persecuted, some still to this day; and celebrate all the great gifts God gives us in our faith, especially through his Incarnate Son. Merry Christmas!

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd

