

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: 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]

During the 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]

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

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

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

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

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:

1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or

Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Your Stewardship

Collection \$6,946.00

Building Fund \$210.00

Sick List

David Pete Aguiard, Sharron Allement, Cleveland Allement, Daniel Allemond, LaDawnia Amond, Leonard Andre, Linda Armand, Janelle Amond, Craig Aguiard, Mary Lois Alexander, Rudolph P Antoine, Clarence Armand, Russ Armand, Julie Ashtin, Eloise 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, 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, Sr., 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 Marioneaux, 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 Puttler, Lawrence Pascalain, 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, Ramie Villere, Tracy Viola, Joyce York..

-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.

This Week at I.C.

12/25-1/1 Parish Office Closed.
No Religion.
No RCIA.

Sympathy

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

Family of Lenora Darensbourg.

Flowers

Christmas Poinsettias on the altar are in loving memory of Lorraine and Irvis Pourciau from their children.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

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.

FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTION DATES FOR JANUARY ARE INCORRECT DATES. THE CORRECT DATES ARE JANUARY 8TH & 9TH.

In Christ,

For the past few weeks I've been sharing with you Pope Francis' catechesis on the Mass which he has been giving in St. Peter's Square for the past month. In his fourth talk the Holy Father addresses the need to go to Mass on Sundays. So many people do not make any effort to go to Mass on Sundays. The pope says, "The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is at the center of the life of the Church." He explained in his talk that it is precisely by going to Mass on Sunday – encountering the Risen Lord, listening to his word, being nourished by his Blessed Sacrament – that we become the Church.

This day, the first day of the week for the Jews and the *day of the sun* for the Romans, was the day that the first disciples encountered their Lord raised from the dead. On Sunday the Lord appeared to the disciples, talked to them, opened the word with them on the road to Emmaus, broke bread with them, breathed on them the Holy Spirit for forgiveness of sins, helped Thomas believe, and on the Sunday 50 days after his resurrection, he sent upon the fledgling Church the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Since then Sundays have held a significant place in the heart of the Church. The Holy Father explains "For these reasons, Sunday is a holy day for us, sanctified by the Eucharistic celebration, the living presence of the Lord among us and for us. It is the Mass, therefore, that makes Sunday Christian! Christian Sunday revolves around the Mass." What is Sunday, then, for Christians who willfully do not participate in Mass?

The Holy Father says that those communities that do not have the ability to share in the Eucharist still must gather together in prayer, reflecting on the Word of God, and keep alive their desire for the Eucharist.

The Holy Father is saddened by those secular societies which have lost the Christian meaning of Sunday, illuminated by the Eucharist. He said, "In these contexts it is necessary to revive this awareness, to recover the meaning of the feast, the meaning of joy, of the parish community, of solidarity, of rest that refreshes the soul and the body." Some people are unfortunately under the impression that there is no longer an obligation to go to Mass on Sundays. The Holy Father clearly agrees with what the Second Vatican Council said: "For on this day Christ's faithful are bound to come together into one place so that, by hearing the word of God and taking part in the Eucharist, they may call to mind the passion, the resurrection and the glorification of the Lord Jesus, and may thank God who 'has begotten them again, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto a living hope'. Hence the Lord's Day is the original feast day, and it should be proposed to the piety of the faithful and taught to them so that it may become in fact a day of joy and of freedom from work."

The Sunday abstinence from work is strictly a Christian contribution to the world. For the Jews the day of rest was Saturday, and in the Roman society there was no weekly day of rest. The Holy Father says, "It was the Christian sense of living as sons and not slaves, animated by the Eucharist, to make Sunday – almost universally – the day of rest." He goes on, "Without Christ we are condemned to be dominated by the fatigue of everyday life, with its worries, and by the fear of tomorrow." The Sunday rest and encounter with the Lord gives us strength to live with trust and courage as we move forward throughout the week. Offering Mass on Sundays anticipates the "Sunday without sunset," said the Holy Father, "when there will be no more effort, neither pain nor grief or tears, but only the joy of living fully and forever with the Lord."

What, then, can be said to those who say there is no need to go to Mass on Sundays, but only to live well and loving towards others? While it is true that we should live morally upright lives and care for others, the Holy Father suggests that the grace of the Eucharist is the only thing that makes this possible. He asks, "How can we practice the Gospel without drawing the necessary energy to do it, one Sunday after another, at the inexhaustible source of the Eucharist?" When we participate in Sunday Mass, the Pontiff says, we receive the grace that makes a good and faithful life possible. Not to be entertained, to witness a spectacle, as the Holy Father has said, but rather to encounter the crucified and risen Lord, through whom all good things come. We cannot do any good on our own, without his grace.

The Holy Father concludes by asking again, *why go to Mass?* That we have the obligation to do so because it is a precept of the Church is true, but not sufficient. "We Christians need to participate in Sunday Mass because only with the grace of Jesus, with his living presence in us and among us, can we put into practice his commandment, and thus be his credible witnesses."

Totus Tuus,
Fr Todd Lloyd

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
FR TODD AND THE STAFF AT
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CHURCH**