

## 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: I Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18  
Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
Wednesday: I Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28  
Thursday: I Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34  
Friday: I Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42  
Saturday: I Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51  
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

## Sympathy

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

*Family of Sadie Olinde*

*Family of Elsie Pascalin*

*Family of Gwen Trabeaux*

*Family of Winona Ballard*

## Sick List

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

12/24-01/01 Parish Office Closed.  
No Religion.

01/02 Baptism Seminar @ 6pm.

## Flowers

Christmas Poinsettias on the altar are in loving memory of Lorraine and Irvis Pourciau from their children Wayne, Brenda, Jean and Sonya.



## NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

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.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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

## In Christ,

Some of our older parishioners might remember when Archbishop Fulton Sheen would come on television. He would use a chalk board to teach a Catholic lesson. He always wrote *JMJ* on the top of the board as he started. He also marked all of his writings this way. What does the *JMJ* mean? The Sunday after Christmas day is when we celebrate *JMJ*: that is, the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This was a simple way to honor the three people who we most want to be close to. It is a way of remembering them in all things and dedicating work to them.

This celebration of the Holy Family calls to mind the mystery of Jesus entering into human life. He humbled himself even to the point of being raised from childhood by human parents to whom he was obedient (Lk. 2:51). This feast gives us reason to not only reflect on the Holy Family, but on our own families.

God has used families since Adam and Eve to be the means by which creation is built up. He continues to use families – husbands, wives, and children – for the same purpose today. What’s more amazing is that God has also chosen the family to be the means by which society is redeemed. When Jesus came he did not come as a magnificent wizard or warrior. He did not use wealth or power to recreate his people. Instead he chose a simple holy family in Nazareth.

We should not underestimate the importance of families today. It is still the family by which our world will be renewed and made better. For this reason every family should look to the Holy Family as their model. Remember that it was not their wealth that brought forth Jesus in the world; it was not their esteem among men; it was not status or power. Mary and Joseph became the holy parents of Jesus because they were humble and ready to accept God’s will in their lives. This meant blessings and struggles.

This week is also marked by another feast celebrating a critical aspect of family life. As the world ushers in the New Year, we celebrate Mary as the Mother of God. We live in a time that considers the highest achievements of women to be professional and political. For some, motherhood is an unfortunate biological curse. It is becoming more common for women to put off being a wife and mother until they have “established” themselves in more important endeavors. Many women reject the call to motherhood altogether, not for the sake of a totally religious life, but for a totally secular and professional life. Many would prefer to be identified by their academic, professional, or political achievements rather than their role in the family and home. As the world celebrates the progress from one year to another, and “feminism” further rejects authentic femininity in the name of progress, we in the Church celebrate something very antiquated: Motherhood. There is no title by which Mary would rather be known, and for this there is no man or woman who will rise as high or know as much glory as her.

This week and this New Year, as families we should seek holiness over worldly success. Those who place a primacy on family life, on the identities of wives and mothers, husbands and fathers, and children, will be

the ones who God uses to change the world for the better. The individual or families that seek wealth, status, or a problem free life will not resemble the family of Jesus. Now is a good time to consider the practice of marking our lives with *JMJ* by imitating the simple way the Holy Family embraced the life God gave them. And to congratulate and encourage women on the singular most important vocation; the one which they have in common with the most celebrated woman in history: Motherhood.

Totus Tuus  
Fr. Todd Lloyd



### **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 30, 2018**

Beloved, we are God’s children now;  
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.  
— 1 John 3:2a