

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: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13;
Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: 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
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: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7;
Lk 3:10-18

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$ 11,266.00
Building Fund	\$ 2,052.00
Flowers	\$ 865.00

Sick List

Gary Aucoin, Edward Babin, Jr., Gertrude Bonaven-
ture, 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 Ran-
some, Lou Sherman, Gwen Trabeaux, Sonny Tra-
beaux.

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.

- 12/10 Rel. Ed Grades 6th-8th
@ 5:15pm.
- 12/11 Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd
@ 5:30pm.
- 12/12 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th
@ 5:30pm.
- 12/15 Christmas Party For The Elderly
@ 10am - 3pm.

Sympathy

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

Family of Donald Glosup

Family of Eric Guillaume

Family of Annabell Hughes

Family of Mary Roubique

SAVE TIME AND DONATE ONLINE

Online Giving is now available for parishioners with
WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time
and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and
completely secure.

With WeShare, you can set up a recurring weekly
or monthly transaction using your checking, saving,
or credit card account. You can decide how much to
give to any collection and make changes any time,
day or night. Plus, you can leave your checkbook at
home on Sundays.

If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please
visit, [https://](https://immaculateconceptionlakeland.weshare.org)

immaculateconceptionlakeland.weshare.org.

If you have any questions or concerns about the
program or would like help setting up your account
call our parish office 627-5124.

In Christ,

Advent is a season for the virtue of hope. Hope is one of three theological virtues. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines these as “Gifts infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life.” In other words, these are not products of human behavior alone, but are gifts from God which we cooperate with. Hope is the virtue “by which we desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it.” If faith is the *belief* of things not seen, then hope is the *desire* for those things.

Advent is a time of hope because we are longing for the coming of Jesus, not just at Christmas, but at the end of time (or end of our lives). We are remembering that this life is not all there is, and that God has promised us a much better life to come. This does not mean that it is bad to enjoy this life, just that we should not live this life as if this is all there is. The “you only live once” mantra of some people in our society is potentially dangerous to a life of hope. The ultimate objective of this life is not to enjoy it, but to get to heaven. A life of hope lives for the next life, which also gives meaning and happiness to this one. Saints are joyful people, no matter how much they suffer, precisely because they have hope. The reverse of a saint, those hopelessly looking for total fulfillment in this life, are usually sad and bitter, no matter how much comfort and pleasure they have.

One of the most important aspects of living a hopeful life is desire to overcome sin. This desire comes from hope because we know that sin is not harmonious with the life to come. Since we want to enter into that life, we want to be set free from sin. When we struggle to overcome sin we might find ourselves dejected. We shouldn't give in to this. While contrition for sin is good, that has to be paired with the hope that sin will not always be victorious. That God does not abandon us because we lost a battle to sin. Rather, even when we look back and see sin in our lives we should renew our confidence in God's mercy, which not only forgives past sin, but also gives us grace to eventually come to a life without sin. That is why we say in the *Act of Contrition* that we will, by the grace of God, avoid sin. This isn't just a quaint or wishful saying, but a confident statement of hope. We desire to avoid sin, and believe that God will give the grace to enable that desire. If we fall again, we restate that hope, acknowledging that it was not God's grace that failed, but us. Yet, nonetheless, we are confident he will help us again, and eventually we will finally be completely free of sin.

For this reason Advent is a good time to make a really thorough examination of conscience and go to confession. We should desire to welcome Jesus into our lives the way Mary and Joseph did in Bethlehem; completely and totally – holding nothing back. Like any good parent, they opened their whole lives to this New Born and Divine Son. We should all want to give Christ access to our whole lives. He isn't coming to us like a house guest for dinner. He comes to join in every aspect of our lives. This means that we should give him access to everything, even to the things we know need cleaning, repairing, and removing. How much better will the coming of Christ be – at Christmas, in the Eucharist, and at the end of our lives – if we know that there is nothing off limits to him; that we are comfortable allowing him into every room of our hearts.

On Wednesday, December 19th, starting at 6PM, we will all have the opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation. I and other priests will remain in the church until 8PM, and longer if necessary. There will be examination of consciences made available for everyone at the doors of the church this week. Please take one home to prepare for confession. I hope that everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to show Christ our hope – our desire – for him to enter into our lives and set us free from sin. There is no better way to prepare for the Birth of our Savior.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd

Nursing Home Donations Needed

Our 1st and 2nd graders, again this year, will hold an annual drive to collect socks for the nursing home residents. They are asking for your help to collect plenty of warm socks.

Please drop off socks at the Office of Christian Formation by **Sunday, December 16, 2018**. If you are interested in making a monetary donation instead, please place in an envelope labeled Nursing Home and drop off in the mail slot at the Office of Christian Formation, as we will buy the socks for you. Thank you!