



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 158, LAKELAND, LA 70752  
PARISH OFFICE: 627-5124 | RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: 627-5819  
IMMACULATECONCEPTIONLAKELAND.COM

## STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. C. Todd Lloyd  
**Business Manager:** Patti Aguiard  
**Religious Education:** Dina Tunstall  
**Music Coordinator:** Jody Doucet

## MASS TIMES

**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00 PM  
**Sunday Masses:** 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM  
**Daily Masses:** Tues. 6:00 PM & Wed.-Sat. 8:00 AM

**Care of the Sick:** For emergencies please call immediately. Eucharist is brought to the sick weekly. Families of those who are sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office as soon as possible.

**Reconciliation:** Tues. 5:30 PM & Sat. 3:00 PM

**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.

THE PRESENTATION OF

## THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2, 2020



Behold, this child is destined for  
the fall and rise of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be contradicted.

LUKE 2:34

## Scriptures for the Week

**Monday:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7;  
Mk 5:1-20  
**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3;  
Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43  
**Wednesday:** 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7;  
Mk 6:1-6  
**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12;  
Mk 6:7-13  
**Friday:** Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29  
**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34  
**Sunday:** Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5;  
Mt 5:13-16

## Your Stewardship

Collections	\$ 11,243.55
Building Fund	\$ 90.00
Latin America Appeal	\$ 409.00

## Sympathy

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

Family of **Bobbi Bizette**.

## God Bless Our Troops

Please remember all of our troops overseas, especially  
members of Immaculate Conception Parish Family:

*Jules Craig Cifreo Air Force.; Samuel Edward Guidroz,  
Navy; Quinton T. Gaspard, P.F.C., Army.*

## Prayer Requests

Aguillard Family, Leslie Aguillard, Trevor Allement,  
Janelle Amond, Tim Amond, Numa Aucoin, Shirley  
Blauvelt, Herbert Brown, Kyle Cabalero, Lee Joseph  
Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Jean David, Brilynn Davis,  
Ronald Decuir, Landon Dickinson, Shannan Everett, Deb-  
orah Fountain, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred  
Gremillion, Judy Gremillion, Susie Gremillion, Lyndon  
Lynn Hernandez, Audrey Jarreau, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura  
Jarreau, Lillie Betty Jarreau, Sharon Jarreau, Tess Jarreau,  
Reid LaComb, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Troy Menier, Doug  
Matte, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Helen Olinde, Linda  
Olinde, Corey Patin, John Gary Patin, Jr., Shelby Porche,  
Dotti Purpera, Hank Ryan, Hunter Schurba, Lou  
Sherman, James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Ainsley Wolf.

## This Week at I.C.C.

- 02/04 Altar Society Meeting**  
@ 10am.  
**Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd**  
@ 5:30pm.  
**PAL Meeting**  
@ 6pm Rm #2.  
**KC Meeting**
- 02/05 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd - 5th**  
@ 5:30pm.
- 02/06 Sacrament of Confirmation**  
@ 7pm.

## A Vocation View

### Presentation of the Lord – February 2, 2020

How blest with happiness are those who know they need  
God. Blest too are those who respond to God's invitation  
to announce His Good News as a priest, brother or sister.  
If you think God is calling you, call **Fr. Andrew Merrick**  
at (225) 336-8778, [amerrick@diobr.org](mailto:amerrick@diobr.org).

## 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> & Over Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Michael Duca will celebrate a liturgy at **2pm on  
Sunday, February 23, 2020**, at St. Thomas More  
Church. The Bishop will be honoring couples on their  
25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> or greater wedding anniversary.

Couples wishing to attend should contact the Parish Of-  
fice, at 627-5124, as soon as possible. The registration  
deadline is **Wednesday, February 6, 2020**.

## 2020/2021 Pre-School Registration

Immaculate Conception Preschool Learning Center will  
be taking applications for the upcoming **2020/2021**  
pre-school year. The program offers a "hands-on", age ap-  
propriate pre-k curriculum for children ages 3, 4 & 5.  
(children must turn 3 by Dec. 31, 2020)

**Preschool hours:** 8:30-2:00 M/W/F

Application forms can be found near side door of **Office  
of Christian Formation** and must be received by **Feb. 4,  
2:00pm**. For more information contact **Skye Johnston** in  
the Office of Christian Formation at **225-627-5819**.

**2020/2021 Deadline: Feb 4, 2020**

## From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

This Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, marks 40 days since Christmas. The Old Testament law required Jewish women to offer sacrifices at the Temple 40 days after childbirth. A woman was considered ritually unclean after childbirth. This meant that she was unable to participate in the religious life of Jews for that time period until this sacrifice took place on the 40<sup>th</sup> day.

Also, in the case of a firstborn son, there was a requirement to present the child in the Temple and offer a ransom or redemption payment to a priest. This was so because the first born sons of Israel, before the Golden Calf incident, were all set apart for priestly ministry. God had a special claim on them since the day when he spared them at Passover – when the first born of all died, except those of the Israelites. But after the Golden Calf worship, only the tribe of Levi – who did not participate in the idol worship – maintained the formal priesthood. The first born sons of the rest of Israel must now be presented to God and “bought” (redeemed) from God. This is a sign of humility and appreciation to God for giving the gift of life, and acknowledging his claim on the child's life in a unique way as the firstborn. It is called the *pidyon haben*, or “redemption of the son.”

Mary and Joseph, being observant Jews, would follow these laws faithfully. This meant that Mary would go to the Temple for purification, and they would bring Jesus, their first born son, for his presentation. This helps us to understand that just because Jesus is referred to as the “first born,” that it does not mean Mary had any other children. Being first born has religious significance, and does not imply that there were any other births after him. As Catholics it is a required belief, a dogma, that Mary remained a virgin her entire life.

This feast of the Presentation of the Lord is accompanied with traditions in the Church. The liturgical celebration is also called “Candlemas.” This is so because it is customary to bless candles and have a procession with them on this day. This is an ancient custom that goes back to at least the 4<sup>th</sup> century when Christians in Jerusalem would have a procession into the Basilica of the Resurrection with blessed candles. We still have the option to start the Mass with a blessing and procession into the church with lit candles. This symbolizes the fact that Jesus, the Light of the word, entered the Temple for the first time on his presentation. God's presence once more, and in a new and unique way, was entering into his dwelling place on earth. It also recalls the priest Simeon's words at the presentation of the Lord, which we'll hear in the gospel: “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

There is a custom that Catholics keep these blessed candles in their home to be lit for prayer, and dur-

ing times of duress, such as during war and natural disasters, including as a storm passes by. This feast is a good time to be reminded of this custom, and to have your candles blessed for that purpose.

It is also customary on the day after the Presentation to celebrate the feast of St. Blaise with the blessing of throats. It is likely that the use of candles for this blessing is because of its proximity to the Candlemas. I will be offering the blessing of throats after our Masses this weekend.

Finally, also related to the Presentation is the Marian Anthem we sing after the Sunday Mass, which changes today. On this feast we start singing the *Ave Regina Caelorum*. This will be sung until the Easter Vigil. This connects the lighting and blessing of candles on this feast to the lighting and blessing of the Paschal Candle on Easter; two different but significant representations of the Light of Christ – one at the start of his earthly life, and the other at his Resurrection. The *Ave Regina Caelorum* honors Mary as the Queen of Heaven. It also speaks of how she is the “gate” through which light has arisen. The Light of Christ chose to enter the world through Mary. May she pray for us, that we may present ourselves to God, and be purified for serving him.

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd

## Altar Servers Meeting, Lunch and Training Sunday, February 16 12pm

All altar servers, or those interested in learning how to become an altar server, are asked to attend a meeting on **Sunday, February 16th, at 12pm** in the Parish Hall.

Please contact **Mrs. Deidre Roberts** to **RSVP** at **(225) 270-2591** or **ddrlaw@bellsouth.net**.

## Retrouvaille Weekend

Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Retrouvaille, a Christian-based program, is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track.

When: **March 6-8, 2020**

Contact: **Bill & Missie Curth** at **(985) 232-5963**

Visit The Website: **HelpOurMarriage.com**