

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

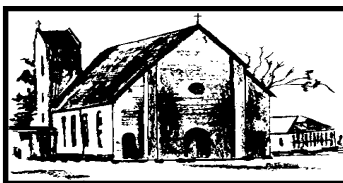
Sat. Vigil: 4:00 PM

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: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32;
Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14,
17-18a; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-4, 9-11;
Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-
29
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-
34
Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8;
1 Cor 15:1-11 [3-8, 11]; Lk 5:1-11

Your Stewardship

Collection \$ 8,543.00
Building Fund \$ 317.00

Sick List

Barbara Andre, Gary Aucoin, Edward Babin, Jr.,
Herbert Brown, Inez Bueche, Mable Collette, John
David, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred Gre-
million, Susie Gremillion, Deborah Fountain, Earl
Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kay Lee,
Larry Lee, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Linda Olinde,
Landon Pickinson, Dottie Purpera, Horace 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.*

Faith, hope, and love remain, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.
— 1 Corinthians 13:13

This Week at I.C.C.

- 02/05 Altar Society Meeting
@ 10am.
Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd
@ 5:30pm.
KC Meeting.
- 02/06 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th
@ 5:30pm.
Baptism Seminar @ 6pm.
- 02/07 Sacrament of Confirmation
@ 7pm.

Sympathy

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

Family of Lloyd Lindsly

Family of Elliot Jarreau

Preschool Registration

2019/2020

Deadline: Feb. 5, 2019

Immaculate Conception Preschool Learning Center
will be taking applications for the upcoming
2019/2020 preschool year. The program offers a
“hands-on”, age appropriate pre-k curriculum for
children ages 3,4 & 5. **(Children must turn 3 by
Dec. 31, 2019)**

Preschool hours: 8:30am-2:00pm M/W/F.

Application forms can be found near side door of
Office of Christian Formation and must be received
by **Feb. 5th, 2:00pm**. For more information contact
Skye Johnston in the Office of Christian Formation at
225-627-5819.



In Christ,

This past week you may have heard that the pope affirmed priestly celibacy. After a reporter asked about the possibility of there being a change the Holy Father said: *I am reminded of a phrase of St. Paul VI: 'I prefer to give my life before changing the law of celibacy.'* *This came to me and I want to say it because it is a courageous phrase... Personally, I think that celibacy is a gift to the Church. Secondly, I would say that I do not agree with permitting optional celibacy, no. There remains only some possibility for very far places.* Here the pope is referencing some talk among South American bishops who have people in extremely rural places. After saying he'd allow some theologians to discuss this, he continued, *...my decision is: optional celibacy before the diaconate, no.*

This should come as no surprise. Many in our Church want to use this time of scandal and crisis as an excuse to change things in the Church, including celibacy. So it must be said: celibacy has nothing to do with abuse of minors; male only priesthood has nothing to do with abuse of minors; and having a hierarchy has nothing to do with abuse of minors. The issue of abuse, and many of the other problems, is a problem of sin. Sin is the problem.

This evil, like all evils, is one that must be combated against by grace. We do not need to allow men to be married for them to be sexually healthy, we need them to be virtuous, prayerful, and faithful. Our Lord himself chose celibacy for himself. He promoted it when he said *Some are incapable of marriage because they were born so; some, because they were made so by others; some, because they have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever can accept this ought to accept it* (Mt 19). St. Paul, a priest and the best evangelist ever, also embraced celibacy and encouraged it. He wrote in 1 Corinthians 7, *If you marry, however, you do not sin, nor does an unmarried woman sin if she marries; but such people will experience affliction in their earthly life, and I would like to spare you that... I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is di-*

vided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. St. Paul believes that celibacy is a way of being totally focused on God.

This is not merely an issue of practicality – so that priests do not have to worry about family life as they tend to the parish. Rather, celibacy is theological. Where married men and women are images of Christ and the Church in one way (Eph 5), exclusive love, celibate men and women are images of Christ and the Church in heaven in an inclusive love.

When we get to heaven there will be no marriage between individuals anymore (cf. Matthew 22:33) because we will all be married to Christ. Celibacy, when lived well, is supposed to be an image to the world of what sanctity looks like – total union with Christ the Bridegroom. Celibate priests hopefully image the love of Christ the Bridegroom who does not merely love one person in an exclusive way, but loves the whole Church in an inclusive way. When we fail, and of course we do, that is not because celibacy is faulty, but because we are. The same can be said of marriage: just because married couples do not always perfectly succeed in imaging Christ and the Church does not mean there is something wrong with marriage, but something wrong with the people in the marriage; namely the fall of human nature in Original Sin.

In this time we all need to reaffirm, with Pope Francis, the Church's belief in the good of celibacy, thank God for that gift, and pray for men and women who are called to this life of total commitment to God for the building up of his Kingdom.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd