



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 158, LAKE LAND, LA 70752

PARISH OFFICE: 627-5124 | RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: 627-5819

IMMACULATECONCEPTIONLAKE LAND.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, & 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. 5:00 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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 10, 2021



*A voice came from the heavens,  
"You are my beloved Son;  
with you I am well pleased."*

*Mark 1:11*

## Scriptures for the Week

**Monday:** Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20  
**Tuesday:** Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28  
**Wednesday:** Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39  
**Thursday:** Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45  
**Friday:** Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12  
**Saturday:** Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17  
**Sunday:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10;  
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

## End Of Year Statements

If you require an end of the year **Contribution Statement** for **2020**, please call the Parish Office at 627-5124. All requested statements will be mailed out by **January 31, 2021**.

## Your Stewardship

<b>Collections</b>	\$ 12,643.39
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ 2,278.00

## God Bless Our Troops

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

*Jordan Todd Aguillard, Air Force; Jules Craig Cifreo, Air Force.; Samuel Edward Guidroz, Navy; Quinton T. Gaspard, P.F.C., Army; Zachary Carl Rollins, Marines.*

## Prayer Requests

Aguillard Family, Leslie Aguillard, Trevor Allement, Tim Amond, Gary Bello, Joseph Leroy Bizette, Theresa Bizette, Shirley Blauvelt, Kyle Cabalero, Robin Casiano, Doris Castillo, Linda Cheek, Brittany Collins, Lee Joseph Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Jean David, Brilynn Davis, Ronald Decuir, Wanda Decuir, Mary Doris Deculus, Malachi Engen, Shannan Everett, Deborah Fountain, Robert Geier, Jr., Alfred Gremillion, Joe Guarino, Pamela Vicknair Harrington, Lyndon Lynn Hernandez, Roger Hollier, Laura Jarreau, Sharon Jarreau, Tess Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kevin LeBlanc, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Janey Lively, Janice Marks, Doug Matte, Rob Melacon, Troy Menier, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Linda Olinde, Christine Patin, Corey Patin, David Patin, John Gary Patin, Jr., Abigail Politz, Shelby Porche, Dotti Purpera, Cody Reed, Michael Roche, Hank Ryan, Hunter Schurba, Lou Sherman, Anna Graves Smith, Timmy Smith, Sr., James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Harry Williams, Ainsley Wolf.

## This Week at I.C.C.

**01/12 Rel. Ed Class - Grade 2nd**  
@ 5pm.

## Baptisms

*We welcome to our Parish Community:*

**Ellie Rose Chustz**, child of Merrick Paul Chustz & Amanda Gueho Chustz.

## Sympathy

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

Family of **Michael Lee Fabre**.  
Family of **Louvenia Bueche Ballard**.

## 2021/2022 Pre-School Registration Deadline: February 2, 2021

Immaculate Conception Preschool Learning Center will be taking applications for the upcoming **2021/2022** pre-school year. The program offers a "hands-on", age appropriate pre-k curriculum for children ages 3, 4 & 5. **(children must turn 3 by December 31, 2021)**

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

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

## From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

We have all been to functions where there was an opening or closing prayer led by someone. Sometimes the prayer is well prepared and powerful, and other times they are forgettable. When I prepare prayers for public events I try to make sure that the prayer has one primary orientation: God. That might seem obvious, but the reason I am careful about this is because it is tempting to offer a "prayer" that is more concerned with the people hearing it than praising, thanking, or petitioning God.

Offering prayers at public events and gatherings can be tricky because the attendees likely come from various faith backgrounds. You want to offer a prayer that is oriented towards God and enlightened by true Christian and Catholic principles, while at the same time avoid unnecessarily offending others if possible. Using a prayer to make a point or to insult someone's differing views – social, religious, political, etc. – is poor form; as is being pretentious or contrived for the sake of showing off your own virtue (i.e. virtue signaling). A balance must be struck where the prayer is authentic, not *intentionally* offensive, but also not solely interested in pleasing the people hearing the prayer.

Last week the 117<sup>th</sup> United States Congress was opened. As is the good custom of our country's legislature, after the calling to order, there was an opening prayer. This is something any person of the Christian faith should be happy to see still survive, despite the growing anti-faith sentiment in our country and even in our government. The tradition of prayer in the chambers of congress goes back to the founding of our nation, and one that will hopefully be retained for as long as the nation stands.

The prayer was offered by Representative Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri. After starting the prayer with a mention of the tumultuous nature of 2020, he rightly acknowledged God's "sacred supremacy" and confesses congress's need for His divine favor and forbearance to proceed well. On behalf of the representatives he asked God for an extra-dose of commitment to our nation's good principles of democracy and liberty, and asked that they be given self-restraint in order to avoid unnecessary divisions based on ideology or prejudice. Part of his closing referenced the blessing found in the Book of Numbers, "The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!" He beautifully asked for this blessing on the whole nation and upon congress.

For all this that is standard and good the prayer offered by Rep. Cleaver would have gone unnoticed and unmentioned by most people in the country. Unfortunately, however, the prayer is getting some attention because of the last phrase. At the end of the prayer Rep. Cleaver said "We ask this in the name of the monotheistic God, Brahma, and God known by many names and by many different faiths. Amen, and awoman." There are two problems with this conclusion.

Firstly, the detail getting less attention but is a bigger issue is equating God with Brahma. Brahma is not the God of Israel, from who comes the blessing Rep. Cleaver just invoked with the Book of Numbers prayer. Brahma is the creator god amongst the many gods in the pantheon of Hinduism. Without mentioning all the theological differences between the myths of Hinduism and the beliefs of Christianity, it should suffice to say that a

god who is a part of a pantheistic religion cannot be considered the same as the God of our monotheistic religion. This attempt at being inclusive is offensive to faith because mature faith does not believe that all religions are the same or equal, but that there is one true religion. Our religion, that is true, professes that there is one God who has revealed his name to Moses, and who as Christians we worship through our incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ, who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life". That Rep. Cleaver asked for his prayer to be heard in the name of the "monotheistic God" and then mentioned Brahma is as nonsensical as it is offensive to true religion.

The second thing he did is more offensive to language and common sense than it is theology. He closed the prayer with an "Amen *and* awoman." The word *amen* is a Hebrew word that is used to imply "truth" or "certainty." With Christianity it became a Latin term to imply affirmation of something, i.e. "so be it." This is why we conclude prayers with it and say *amen* before Holy Communion. We are affirming our belief in the truth of something. The word has nothing to do with gender or sex at all. This is important: *words have meaning*, and using them correctly matters. This kind of practice is dangerous because reading into words and phrases meaning that is not there and/or using words and phrases (or made up words and phrases) outside of their real meaning leads to meaningless language, which leads to chaos. There is something ironic about someone taking a word meaning "truth" and changing it for their own purposes.

There is no reason to pass judgment or assume anything about Representative Emanuel (and Ewomanel) Cleaver. But there is a lesson to learn here. As Christians, while we should not be intent on being offensive in how we express our faith, we should not be eager to please the world with our expressions of faith either. Authentically expressing our faith in the way we live, pray, worship, and evangelize does not require seeking out confrontation, but it does require of us not manipulating our faith in order to avoid confrontation or to please those who do not share our beliefs. In truth what Rep. Cleaver did was not helpful for sharing the faith because in his desire to be inclusive and acceptable he distorted the faith. This kind of display gives implications to the world that our beliefs are not so important after all, and that we are willing to be malleable.

Our faith professes belief in truth. That truth cannot be manipulated for the sake of pleasing others. Instead, we should be eager to please God, the author of truth, by sharing truth with the whole world.

"The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it emotionally." – Flannery O'Connor

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd

## **Information Page**

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**Special Instructions:** Until further notice, please  
send us only **250** printed bulletins. Thank you.