



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

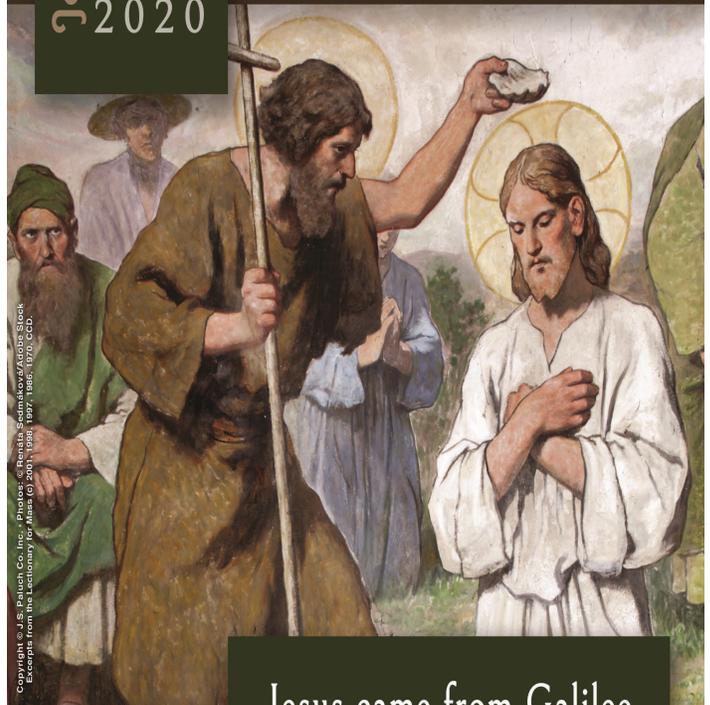
Care of the Sick: For emergencies please call immediately. Eucharist is brought to the sick weekly. Families of those who are sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office as soon as possible.

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.

January
12
2020



Jesus came from Galilee
to John at the Jordan
to be baptized by him.

Matthew 3:13

The Baptism of the Lord

Scriptures for the Week

Monday: I Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: I Sm 1:9-20; I Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: I Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10;
Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: I Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25;
Mk 1:40-45

Friday: I Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: I Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7;
Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; I Cor 1:1-3;
Jn 1:29-34

A Vocation View

Baptism of the Lord - January 12, 2020

In Baptism we are called to live a holy life. Could it be that you are being called to fulfill that responsibility as a priest, sister or brother? If you are, call **Fr. Andrew Merrick** at (225) 336-8778, amerrick@diobr.org.

Prayer Requests

Aguillard Family, Leslie Aguillard, Trevor Allement, Janelle Amond, Numa Aucoin, Shirley Blauvelt, Herbert Brown, Kyle Cabalero, Lee Joseph Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Jean David, Ronald Decuir, Landon Dickinson, Shannan Everett, Deborah 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, Phyllis Naquin, 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.

God Bless Our Troops

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; Major Jordan Morris; Lieutenant Stephen Burleigh, Jr.; MT2 Jacob Lamotte; Sgt. Greg Silva, Army; Jules Craig Cifreo Air Force.; Samuel Edward Guidroz, Navy; Quinton T. Gaspard, P.F.C., Army.

This Week at I.C.C.

1/14 Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd
@ 5:30pm.
PAL Meeting @ 6pm.
Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
@ 6:30pm.

1/15 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th
@ 5:30pm.
KC Officers Meeting.

Your Stewardship

Collections	\$ 9,720.00
Building Fund	\$ 2,344.00
New Year	\$ 2,281.00

BAPTISMS

We welcome to our Parish Community:

Kaleb Maverick LeDuff, child of John Marvin LeDuff, Jr. & Danielle Rene Gremillion

Ayden Andrew Olinde, child of Andrew Nicholas Olinde & Alyssa Comeaux Olinde.

Caden James Schulin, child of Cody James Schulin & Cassidy Michelle Dillon.

Sympathy

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

Family of **Ralph St. Amant**.

Family of **Mary David**.

Family of **Linda Jarreau**.

Family of **Betty Honore**'.

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 appropriate 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,

Unfortunately we hear about natural disasters very regularly these days. Over the past week there was a devastating earthquake in Puerto Rico, and fires in Australia continue to spread. In a few months the annual battle against forest fires will begin in the west, and then hurricane season comes for the East Coast and Gulf South. There is a worthwhile question we should consider: where is God in all this? We believe God is not indifferent to the human condition, so why does he not spare us from all these disasters? It is helpful to look back at the beginning.

In the beginning, God made creation and pronounced it good. It was ordered and well made. Before the Fall of Adam and Eve into sin, there existed a harmony between man, animals and nature, with man being given stewardship of creation. The first chapter of the Bible tells us, "God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good" (Gen. 1). When Adam and Eve committed the first sin, one of the effects was that this harmony was broken. The Lord said, "Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, as you eat of the plants of the field" (Gen. 3:17-18). This curse of creation's disorder is not caused by or inflicted on us by God, but rather is caused by the disorder of sin – a perversion of the original goodness in creation. Man is the steward of all creation. His Original Sin did not only affect the souls of humanity, but also brought disorder into the natural world over which he was given dominion.

The *Catechism* says, "The harmony in which they [Adam and Eve] had found themselves, thanks to original justice, is now destroyed... Harmony with creation is broken: visible creation has become alien and hostile to man. Because of man, creation is now subject 'to its bondage to decay'" (CCC, 400). Because of the Fall, nature is no longer perfectly ordered. We do not necessarily believe that these events are "acts of God," out of punishment, but rather are the result of the workings of an imperfect natural world. This imperfection does not come from God but from natural evil, the deterioration of nature due to sin.

Now, there is a lot of talk these days about climate change. A new language is being used to refer to some of these calamities as "climate disasters." I am not a scientist and cannot give any valuable input on the question of climate change. It is possible that human activity and the sinful abuse of nature is playing a part in the escalation (*if* there is an escalation) of natural disasters in our world. But as Catholics, since we know that natural evil is a result of Original Sin, we should not dismiss the role sin plays in the corruption of the world. We know that God's grace can spare us from the results of sin, including natural evil. Why should we also not believe that, if we are

not disposed to God's grace, we do not have the benefit of that protection?

In the gospels it is made clear that those who do not have faith, who reject our Lord, are not given any signs or miracles. Neither Herod nor Pontius Pilate was given this benefit; and most vividly the gospel tells us that in Nazareth Jesus performed no signs because of their lack of faith and rejection of Jesus (Mark 6). It is not at all implausible, and fits well in our faith, that natural disasters occur more and with increasing severity due to an increase of sin, and a decline in openness to divine assistance and grace. If we believe that God hears the prayers of the faithful, and comes to our assistance, then we must also believe that those who do not pray and who are unfaithful do not benefit from that supernatural assistance; at least not to the level that they could were they faithful.

I am not suggesting that natural disasters are God's punishments on specific people for their sins (cf. Luke 13:4-5). We know that God does not will the death of a sinner, but that he be converted and live (cf. Ezekiel 18). We also know that God has redeemed suffering through Jesus, and thus made the results of sin a remedy for sin for those who unite their suffering to Christ for the forgiveness of sin. But we also must acknowledge that the disorder of sin brings corruption into the world, which we should want to root out, and avoid contributing to as much as possible. As Christians we should fight against the most real cause of climate change, sin, through our personal conversions, and witness to the life of Christ through works of charity for those in need, adherence to the moral life of Christ, and a life of prayer. Let us never cease imploring God's assistance by praying for an end to ongoing disasters, recovery from past disasters, and protection against future disasters. All while trusting that God can work miracles, not only by sparing us from disasters, but also by allowing us to experience the cross of Christ through them.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd

Respect Life Mass Saturday, January 25th

Join us in thanking God for the gift of life and praying for its protection at all stages! Bishop Michael Duca will celebrate Mass at **St. Joseph Cathedral** on **Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 8:30am**, prior to the **Louisiana Life March**. Following Mass we will walk to the State Capitol for the beginning of the March at **10am**. For more information, please contact **Danielle VanHaute** at **(225) 242-0164** or dvanhaute@diobr.org.

