

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

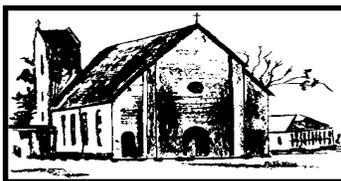
Sat. Vigil: 4:00 PM

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 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: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

Your Stewardship

Collection \$ 9,048.00
Building Fund \$ 2,114.00

Sick List

Barbara Andre, Gary Aucoin, Edward Babin, Jr., Inez Bueche, John David, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred Gremillion, Susie Gremillion, Deborah Fountain, Ferd Fabre, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Linda Olinde, Landon Pickin-son, Dottie Purpera, Horace Ransome, Vera 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.

This Week at I.C.C.

01/15 Rel. Ed Grades 1st and 2nd @5:30pm.
01/16 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th @ 5:30pm.
KC's Officers Meeting.

25th, 50th, 65th & Over Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Michael Duca will celebrate a liturgy at **2pm on Sunday, February 10, 2019**, at St. George Catholic Church. The Bishop will be honoring couples on their 25th, 50th, 65th or greater wedding anniversary. The families of the honored couples are also invited to attend the liturgy and Reception afterwards at the KAC Parishioner Hall.

Couples wishing to attend should contact ICC parish office, at 627-5124, as soon as possible. The registration deadline is **Wednesday, January 30th**.

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,

This Sunday is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. St. John the Baptist called on people to be baptized as a symbol of repentance and forgiveness of sins in order to prepare themselves for the messiah. This baptism before Jesus' coming was not the sacrament of baptism. It was a way of personally and publicly admitting to the guilt of sin, and acknowledging that a cleansing was needed. It was a symbolic way of preparing for the messiah, who came to do the real cleansing.

That Jesus himself was baptized might seem surprising and potentially problematic to our faith. If Jesus is God in the flesh, and like us in all things except sin, then why does he get baptized? Even St. John is surprised at this. The gospel of Matthew records that when Jesus came to be baptized, "John tried to prevent him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?'" Certainly, Jesus did not *need* to be baptized for himself, as if he had any sin to confess or turn away from. But nothing Jesus does is for himself. Everything he does is for us and God the Father.

In 2nd Corinthians St. Paul says "For our sake he [God] made him [Jesus] to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." This is reminiscent of Jesus' response to John's objection to Jesus being baptized: "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Jesus is going to fulfill righteousness, *our righteousness*, by *becoming sin* for us. All the sins of the world are placed on Jesus who makes the perfect offering to God on our behalf, so that those sins can be washed away. His baptism, at the beginning of his public ministry, is his way of inaugurating his ultimate mission that will come to completion at his passion. So the first explanation of Jesus' baptism is that he did not get baptized because he needed to be cleansed from personal sin, but because he was taking upon himself all our sins, and his baptism was foreshadowing his passion, when he was crushed under the weight of sins, buried and raised again.

The second reason, closely related to the first, is that he was making what was not a sacrament before a sacrament that would unite us to him. Jesus personally instituted all the sacraments himself. Baptism, as the first, was instituted by the Lord actually entering into the waters himself. We might say that Jesus did not enter the water to be made clean, but rather he entered to make the water clean (sacramental) for us. It is the way by which we are personally united to the whole saving mission of Jesus, from beginning with baptism to ending with death. St. Paul explains in Romans "We were indeed

buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."

As Catholics we believe that baptism is necessary for salvation. As a sacrament it actually causes grace in us. It does not matter if the person being baptized is an infant or an adult, understanding or not. If the baptism is done intentionally and correctly it changes the soul of the person, cleansing them of Original Sin and, if present, personal sin. It causes them to become children of God according to the Spirit, as opposed to merely children of Adam and Eve according to the flesh. They are born again into the life of Christ and the Church. The *Catechism* puts it simply: "Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation, as is the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism." And Our Lord told Nicodemus "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd



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.