

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:	I Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	I Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	I Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72: 1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	I Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	I Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	I Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38 or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Sick List

Barbara Andre, Gary Aucoin, Edward Babin, Jr., Gertrude Bonaventure, Inez Bueche, John David, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred Gremillion, Deborah Fountain, Ferd Fabre, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Linda Olinde, Landon Pickinson, 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.

- 01/08** Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd @ 5:30pm.
Ladies Auxiliary Meeting @ 6:30pm.
- 01/09** Rel. Ed Grades 3rd—5th @ 5:30pm.
Peer Bereavement Support Group @ 5:30pm.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In Christ,

This Sunday is the Epiphany of the Lord. On this feast we remember how Magi from the east followed the Star of Bethlehem to find the Child Jesus, King of the Jews. These learned men represent a fulfillment of the prophesy that all nations would come to adore the God of Israel. They used their apparent knowledge of both revelation (Hebrew Scripture?) and nature (astronomy) to determine both when and where to find this new King. It is an example of men using their intellects and faith together to bring glory to God – quite literally by bringing him gifts. Any epiphany – the manifestation of God to human beings through some sign – shows us that God wishes for humanity to know him. This Epiphany shows he does not mind using human reason along with revelation.

One of the great errors of our time is that faith, particularly religious faith, is contrary to reason. Atheism was not common or taken serious until quite recently. The great majority of our human ancestors would have found the idea of there being no deity who is responsible for the existence of the universe to be impossible. These were not, as is often portrayed, simpletons. Men like Aristotle, who did not ascribe to Greek mythological religion, rationally came to the conclusion that there must be an immortal, unchanging being, ultimately responsible for all else that exists.

Major changes in thought regarding God came during the time of the so called “Enlightenment” of the 18th century. Many rejected ideas of traditional religion (especially Catholicism),

revelation, or a personal deity who would reveal itself to us. They instead claimed to be rationalists who held to empirical evidence (verifiable through personal experience and scientific method). Still, many of the proponents of this Enlightenment philosophy, such as Thomas Jefferson, believed that there was a deity. They held to the idea that there must logically be a deity or power of some kind who is responsible for the world. Nonetheless, they considered traditional religion, specifically the Catholic Church, to be the enemy of progress.

While we, as Christians, disagree with many of the theological opinions held by ancient or Enlightenment philosophers, their logical conclusions that there is a deity is in agreement with ours that belief in God is not irrational. In fact, as Catholics we hold that the belief in the existence of God is something that can be reached through reason alone. As the Catechism puts it, referencing many sources including St. Thomas Aquinas, “The Church teaches that the one true God, our Creator and Lord, can be known with certainty from his works, by the natural light of human reason” (CCC 47).

Unfortunately, many contemporary people have taken their skepticism and rejection of traditional (handed on) religion or revelation beyond their Enlightenment predecessors. Now it is widely believed that there is no deity at all, and that it is contrary to reason to believe so. For many this belief has created a false division or competition between science and religion. Often today believers in God are caricatured as being stupid and unscientific. This is becoming increasingly common among young people. Militant atheism is on the rise, and they claim to choose science over religion.

Authentic Christianity is a pro-science religion because we believe that the God who created the universe did so in an ordered way, fashioned on laws, and that he even entered that universe by the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity – definitively showing us that the material world is not intrinsically evil or chaotic, but is created by God as objectively good; to be discovered and studied by the human intellect, as the rational means to know him better, not unlike how the Magi found him in Bethlehem. For this reason the Church is historically one of the greatest patrons of science, including being the source of universities and institutional scientific research that helped produce much of the unprecedented scientific ad-

vancement the west saw in the last 2000 years. In fact, some of the most important scientific figures in history were clergy.

One of the earliest thinkers to propose and popularize the Scientific Method (hypothesis, prediction, testing, analysis) was the 13th century Franciscan Friar Roger Bacon. The 16th century mathematician and physicist Copernicus, best known for proposing that the sun, not the earth, is the center of the universe, was a faithful Catholic whose siblings included priests and a nun, and he worked for the Church as a canon and shared regular communications with high ranking clerics in the Church. To skip forward, and over several good examples, we can look at men like Fr. Roger Boscovich, a Jesuit priest of the 18th century who has a crater on the moon named after him in honor of his work in physics and geometry which help determine the orbit of planets. Another is Gregor Mendel of the 19th century, who was an Augustinian Friar recognized as the founder of the modern science of genetics thanks to his discovery of hereditary traits in plants. His work became the basis for all subsequent studies of genetics. Perhaps most surprising to some is Fr. Georges Lemaitre (1966) who is the father of the Big Bang Theory. He was a Catholic priest and a world renowned physicist. Lemaitre saw no contradiction in faith and science, including his own theories. Pope Pius XII, when hearing of Lemaitre’s discoveries and theory, celebrated him as bringing forth more proof of the Christian belief about the universe having a beginning point. There are countless other examples throughout history.

These important figures of science and math were not successful despite their faith; or faithful despite their science. They were men of integrity who saw no contradiction between faith and reason. As we celebrate the Epiphany, we should be reminded that there is no reason to fear scientific research or discovery. When our young people claim to “choose science” over religion, we should confidently share with them the role the Church has played in science. No scientific discoveries have or will contradict what we believe in the faith. God designed the universe intelligently – and science’s discovery of the complexity of the universe does not disprove that, but further enforces it. The Wise Men used the light of natural reason, and the light of faith to discover God in creation and bring him good gifts. Thankfully, we can do the same.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd