

## 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-Fri.** Eucharist 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](http://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 except during Lent & Advent. Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptism preparation is required.

# Scriptures for the Week

Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16 Ps 50:16b-23;  
Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday: Eph 2:19-22 Ps 117: 1bc, 2 Jn 10-24-  
29

Wednesday: Am 5:14-15 21-24; Ps 50: 7-13  
16bc-17; Mt 8:28-34 or, for Independence  
Day, any readings from the Mass "For the  
country or a City; nos. 882-886 or "For the  
Peace and Justice" nos. 887-891

Thursday: Am 7:10-17: 19: 8-11., Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12; Ps 11+9:2, 10, 20, 30,40  
131; Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 9:14-17

Sunday: Ez 2:2-5; Ps 123: 1-4; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk  
6:1-6a

## Your Stewardship

Collection	\$6,419.00
Electronic	\$999.00
Peter Pence	\$619.00

## Sick List

Janelle Amond, Jessica Berthelot, Gertrude  
Bonaventure, Inez Bueche, John David, Robert  
Geier, Jr., Deborah Fountain, Earl Jarreau, Sr.,  
Laura Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kaci McCamy, Gail  
Metz, Dottie Purpera, Lou Sherman, Gwen  
Trabeaux, 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.

7/3 KC Mtg.

## Sympathy

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

Family of Harold Gene Willeford.

## REGINA CAELI ACADEMY 2018-2019

Come join our exciting mission to form the  
next generation of Catholics! Regina Caeli  
Academy provides a classical, hybrid educa-  
tion in the Catholic tradition. Pre K3-12th  
grade students attend Socratic, hands on  
classes taught by trained tutors 2 days a week  
and home school on the remaining days. For  
enrollment or to schedule a tour of our facility  
please contact our admissions representative at  
[admissions@rcahybrid.org](mailto:admissions@rcahybrid.org) or (470)-239-0259.

## ***FOUNDATION***

The will of the people is the only legitimate  
foundation of any government, and to protect its  
free expression should be our first object.

—Thomas Jefferson.

In Christ,

Two weeks ago a public speech promoting faith in God and reliance on his grace was made in an unexpected place: *The MTV Movie and TV Awards*. Actor Chris Pratt, who had been honored with “Our Generation Award,” used both comedy – some of it crass – and sincerity to express how important it was to believe in God, to live charitably towards others, and to recognize your own faults as a requisite to receiving saving grace. The closing line in this surprising show of faith was well crafted and poignant. The celebrity said, “You always will be [imperfect]... and if you are willing to accept that, you will have grace. And grace is a gift. Like the freedom that we enjoy in this country, that grace was paid for with somebody else’s blood. Do not forget that. Don’t take that for granted.” I cannot speak to the character of Mr. Pratt, or his faith, morality, or patriotism. But this line demonstrates an understanding of both the blessings of living in the U.S.A. and of being Christian. He also demonstrated courage in speaking these words that could be taken as offensive to some.

This Wednesday we celebrate our nation’s Independence Day. It is a day where we celebrate liberty. As Pratt pointed out, blood has been shed to gain and maintain this freedom. The freedom of our nation from tyrannical governments is paid for with the blood of patriots. The freedom of humanity from the tyranny of sin is paid for with the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. This freedom is to be respected and not taken for granted by misusing it. With rights come responsibilities to use those rights properly. When we misuse freedom of any kind, or neglect them, we jeopardize the value of those freedoms. Take for instance the freedom of the press. If it is abused by journalists to report inaccurate news then that freedom becomes of less value because it is potentially doing harm, rather than good. The credibility of the journalist can rightly be lost. In certain cases abuse of legal freedoms may lead to penalties, restrictions, or even loss of freedom (i.e. fines, lawsuits, restriction of license, imprisonment). So too, spiritually and morally, human freedom is abused when we choose to sin, harming the freedom itself; which is most clear in the effects of Original Sin generally, and addiction specifically.

Political freedom is given to us so that we might *choose*, rather than be forced, to live as good citizens. The less good the citizenry is the more their freedoms are threatened by stricter laws (e.g. gun laws). Human freedom is given so that we can *choose*, rather than be controlled like puppets, to know, love, and serve God. The less holy a person is the more their freedom is threatened by attachment to sin and even Hell – a total loss of the freedom to know, love and serve God eternally.

These abuses show a disregard for those who have shed blood to gain and maintain those freedoms. The celebration of our nation’s freedom is a good day to recommit ourselves to living and promoting authentic freedom for the good of our nation, and for the good of our relationship with God. We should honor the blood shed for us by using our freedoms to strive for excellence, rather than mediocrity or evil. We should not take it for granted, but remember that freedom has come to us through sacrifice. This sacrifice demands of us respect by using our freedoms to be good citizens and faithful Christians.

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd

