

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**

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: Jer 13:1-11; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13;
Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-6ab; Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 14:1-12
Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Ps 78:3-4, 23-25, 54; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

Your Stewardship

Collection \$7,117.00

Sick List

Janelle Amond, Jessica Berthelot, Gertrude Bonaventure, Inez Bueche, John David, Robert Geier, Jr., Alfred Gremillion, 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.

8/4 **KC's Summer Social.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

2018-2019

AUGUST 12, 2018

**HELD AFTER ALL MASSES IN
ACTIVITY CENTER AND INCLUDES:**

Religious Education for 1st-11th Grades.
Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for 2nd Grade.
Sacrament of Confirmation for 11th Grade.
(11th Grade Catholic School students must register and also attend weekly classes)
Classes for baptized/unbaptized adults/children interested in becoming Catholic.

**Forms are available outside the Office of
Christian Formation for anyone wishing to
register early!**

For questions or concerns, please call Mrs Rachel Christ at 627-5819.



In Christ,

We are in our fourth week of looking at Blessed Pope Paul VI's important encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which turned 50 this past Wednesday. Last week we saw how he taught that the Church's condemnation of artificial means of birth control is the constant teaching, doctrine, of the Church. He continues by addressing common objections to this teaching.

Some people object to this teaching because scientific progress which enables man to direct natural forces for our good is a "right and responsibility" of man. Is it not good, then, to limit procreation by those means if it fosters better opportunities for prosperity in families? Paul VI responds by saying that the Church supports the use of human intellect in making advances in creation, but this must be done in cooperation with the Creator's design, not in opposition to it. If there are legitimate reasons for avoiding pregnancy, either for health or external circumstances such as *serious* economic concerns, then married people may, by the use of their human intellect and discipline, engage in intercourse "during those times that are infertile." Thanks to that same scientific progress praised by the objector we have come to better understand the reproductive cycles, which a couple may take advantage of.

While some may consider this to be inconsistent, the pope explains that using the faculty of human intellect to cooperate with nature to achieve the desired result of limiting procreation is "completely different" from obstructing "the natural development of the generative process." A couple who, when discerning a legitimate need to delay pregnancy, abstains during fertile periods, and expresses their mutual love through sexual intimacy during naturally infertile times "certainly give proof of a true and authentic love." In other words moments of abstinence harms neither the unitive nor the procreative aspects of the marital act, whereas artificial birth control does.

Blessed Pope Paul then offers what he believes would be the consequences of wide spread use of artificial birth control. First he explains how it could lead to more "marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards" because human weakness requires motivations to keep the moral law. Another effect is that, as sex and procreation become separate in the mind and practice of men, they may begin to lose respect for women, treating them as objects of their sexual desire rather than as persons deserving of care and affection. He also foresaw governments becoming tempted to use artificial birth control as a means to resolve social and national problems. It must be admitted, then, that there are limits to the power of man over his own body and nature. Arbitrary decisions of men do not have authority over the nature and responsibility of procreation. These limits extend both to the private individual as well as the public authority.

Paul VI anticipated that in this time when more voices cry out against the Church, that this teaching too will be rejected. But it is the vocation of the Church, as it was for her divine Founder, to be a "sign of contradiction." That people reject the Church or her teaching does not relieve her of the duty to proclaim the truth. These laws, her faith and morals, are not of the Church's design and therefore she has no authority over them. She is merely the guardian and interpreter. "It could never be right for her to declare lawful what is in fact unlawful, since that, by its very nature, is always opposed to the true good of man." By preserving this teaching the Church is contributing "to the creation of a truly human civilization." The Church is reminding man to be responsible for himself, rather than placing his trust in technological methods. By this will the dignity of husband and wife be upheld. With this teaching the Church, being loyal to Jesus Christ, is not seeking the world's admiration or honors, but has man's best interest in mind.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd