



# 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, & 11:00 AM

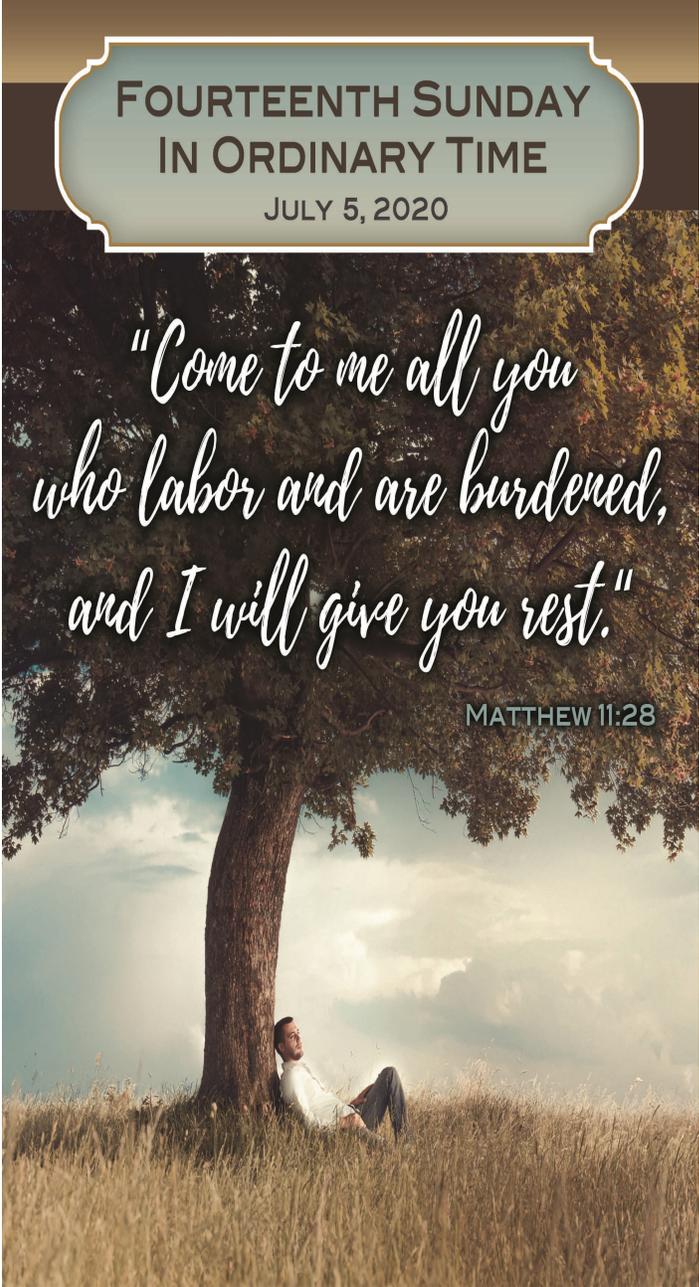
**Daily Masses:** Tues. 6:00 PM & Wed.-Sat. 8:00 AM

**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. 5:00 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.



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 5, 2020

*"Come to me all you  
who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest."*

MATTHEW 11:28

## Scriptures for the Week

**Monday:** Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Ps 145:2-9; Mt 9:18-26

**Tuesday:** Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115:3-10; Mt 9:32-38

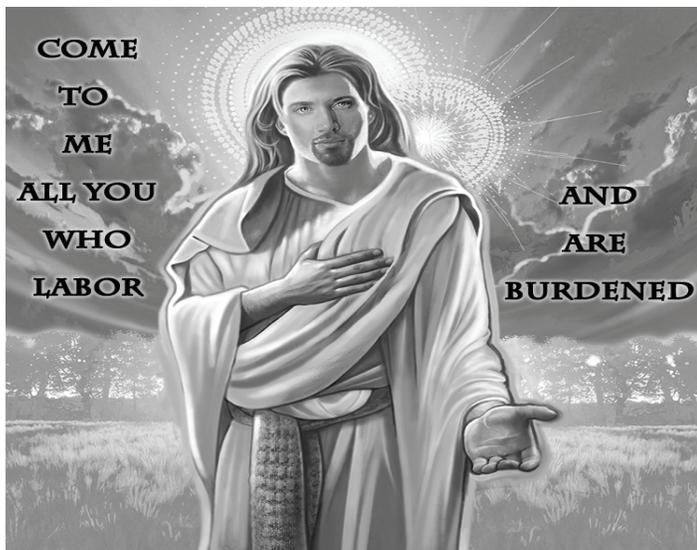
**Wednesday:** Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105:2-7; Mt 10:1-7

**Thursday:** Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mt 10:7-15

**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17; Mt 10:16-23

**Saturday:** Is 6:1-8; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mt 10:24-33

**Sunday:** Is 55:10-11; Ps 65:10-14; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23 [1-9]



## God Bless Our Troops

Please remember all of our troops overseas, especially members of Immaculate Conception Parish Family:

*Jordan Todd Aguillard, Air Force; Jules Craig Cifreo, Air Force.; Samuel Edward Guidroz, Navy; Quinton T. Gaspard, P.F.C., Army.*

## Prayer Requests

Aguillard Family, Leslie Aguillard, Trevor Allement, Janelle Amond, Tim Amond, Shirley Blauvelt, Herbert Brown, Kyle Cabalero, Lee Joseph Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Jean David, Brilynn Davis, Ronald Decuir, Landon Dickinson, Shannan Everett, Deborah Fountain, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred Gremillion, Judy Gremillion, Susie Gremillion, Lyndon Lynn Hernandez, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Sharon Jarreau, Tess Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kevin LeBlanc, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Janice Marks, Doug Matte, Troy Menier, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Linda Olinde, Corey Patin, John Gary Patin, Jr., Abigail Politz, Shelby Porche, Dotti Purpera, Hank Ryan, Hunter Schurba, Lou Sherman, James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Ainsley Wolf.

## This Week at I.C.C.

**07/07 No PAL Meeting.**

**07/08 Peer Bereavement Support Group**  
@ 5:30pm Rm #2.

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 5, 2020

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.”

— Matthew 11:28

## Flowers

Flowers on the altar this weekend were kindly donated by Kathy Saizan in loving memory of Urbin & Lillie Olinde, Gloria LeCoq, Eddy Rae David and Edgar Saizan, Jr..

## Catholic of Point Coupee Advisory Board Representative

Catholic of Point Coupee Advisory Board is looking to appoint a new parish representative from Immaculate Conception Church . Those interested are asked to please contact Fr. Todd at the Parish Office or through email at [icclakeland@gmail.com](mailto:icclakeland@gmail.com).

## From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

One of William Shakespeare's most interesting characters is the titular character of *Richard III*. Richard is portrayed as an ugly and unquestionably evil character who unapologetically even admits this from his opening monologue when he says: “And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover to entertain these fair well-spoken days, I am determined to prove a villain and hate the idle pleasures of these days.” The story is about Richard's meticulous plot to usurp the throne of England by manipulating the royal family using bribery, hearsay, lies, and murder.

One line that describes Richard's conniving well is spoken by him to the audience. Once all his plans have been put into motion, and he is convinced that he has fooled everyone, he says, “And thus I clothe my naked villainy with odd old ends stolen out of Holy Writ, and

seem a saint when most I play the devil.” In other words, he is admitting that he has used Christian sentiments, including verses of scripture, to conceal his evil intentions.

While the details in *Richard III* come from the creativity of Shakespeare, the truth of this kind of evil masquerading as good is hardly fiction. Many people are easily fooled by the “odd old ends stolen out of Holy Writ.” Many people have used the veneer of piety to achieve their own agendas. There have been times when people claimed Christian sentiments as a defense of racism, anti-Semitism, and violence towards others. Still today there are those who use Christian notions of charity and even claim their Christian and Catholic identity compels them to promote despicable evils such as abortion, sexual perversion, and Socialism. This last one, Socialism, is a particularly pernicious evil in our time.

Socialism veils itself in the virtue of justice. We hear about justice constantly today. And justice is a good thing. It is a virtue. But, as Ichabod Crane says in *Sleepy Hollow*, “Villainy wears many masks, and none so dangerous as the mask of virtue.” The way that something as good as the virtue of justice becomes vicious is when it is estranged from all other virtue. This is what many would-be promoters of “justice” do today; they idealize justice to the exclusion of virtues such as prudence, charity, faith, humility, obedience, generosity, and so on. To make things worse, “justice” is misunderstood to mean material and social equality. This simplistic and deformed understanding of justice, divorced from the other virtues, paves a path for abuse of individual liberties such as private property, free expression of speech and thought, and practice of religion. All of these personal liberties are potential obstacles to an egalitarian utopia. “Egalitarian” means no differences in the status or wealth of people, regardless of who they are (race/ethnicity/sex/gender/identity/heredity/etc.), how they live (amorality), or what they do for the community (i.e. State). In overt Socialism, or Marxism, this utopian idea requires all people to abandon anything that would take precedence over the priority of the secular community, including family and religion.

We should not expect, however, that all who want to achieve this ideal are unwilling to use seemingly agreeable and even Christian sentiment to achieve it. There are some who mischaracterize Jesus’ care for the poor and marginalized to advance Socialist principles of egalitarianism. There are some who operate behind façades of seemingly good phrases and sentiment in order to garner support for their movements and organizations that we would otherwise not support. For instance there are some movements today whose publicly proposed purpose is to protect the dignity and equal rights of the underprivileged in our society. That is a good objective that any Christian should stand behind. But some of these agendas suggest that the only way all will be equal is if those labeled “privileged” have their rights taken away, if group think is forced (making it taboo/illegal to hold differing social

opinions), and if private wealth is commandeered. Furthermore, in some instances the proposed means to “justice” is the destruction of culture so that a whole new one can be built. In *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, George Orwell describes a dystopia in which records of the past were destroyed or falsified, monuments of culture pulled down, and “Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.” Similarly, right now many defame the history of western (i.e. Christian) culture as all bad and no good, work to erase public memory of the past through demolition of historical structures, and promote “gender theory” which holds that family life and traditional gender roles based on biological sex and Christian morality are oppressive social constructs.

Unfortunately there are also some, including even clerics in the Church, who are what Vladimir Lenin would call “useful idiots”. This is when people who would otherwise be considered adverse to the Socialist ideals assist in the promotion of those Socialist ideals. For instance, when a priest or bishop uncritically supports a cause or organization for its proposed purposes of ending racism, caring for the sexually oppressed, or ending poverty, but does not consider the underpinning philosophy that is atheistic or pagan, or fails to denounce the other (and real) agendas, such as promoting “fertility rights” (aka abortion), normalizing sexual disorder, or obstructing the right of parents to educate their own children.

We should indeed work for justice, but not without knowing what real justice is. The most basic definition of justice is “to give to one what is his due.” Justice does not require that every person have the same wealth, but it does require they each get what he has worked for. This must be informed by all other virtue. One cannot claim to be fighting for justice if at the same time they are disregarding the rights of others, or are motivated by hatred, envy, greed, lust, etc. Just because someone claims to be concerned with the poor or marginalized, or even if they use Christian sentiments and words from “Holy Writ”, does not mean they are agents for good. As we celebrate our nation’s Independence Day this weekend, we should pray that we not become fools to the likes of the Richard IIIs among us, all while working for authentic justice, enlightened by the Word of God from whom real justice and mercy flow.

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd

### **Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** **July 5, 2020**

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.”

— Matthew 11:28