

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: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Ps 98:1-6; Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 17:7-16; Ps 4:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 18:20-39; Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab, 8, 11; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: 1 Kgs 18:41-46; Ps 65:10-13; Mt 5:20-26

Friday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Mt 5:27-32

Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:19-21; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-10; Mt 5:33-37

Sunday: Ez 17:22-24; Ps 92:2-3, 13-16; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$8,794.00
Electronic	\$842.00
Building Fund	\$2,054.00

Sick List

Jessica Berthelot, Gertrude Bonaventure, Inez Bueche, John David, Robert Geier, Jr., Deborah Fountain, Earl Jarreau, Jr., Laura Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Dottie Purpera, 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.

6/12 Ladies Aux Mtg @ 6:30pm.

Congratulations

To Alvin LaPrarie and Torie Ortis who were married here on June 1, 2018.

To Joseph LeCompte and Shirley Decules who were married here on June 2, 2018.

KNIGHT OF MONTH **TODD LEBLANC**

FAMILY OF MONTH **MARK AND BRENDA HURST**

AMERICAN FLAG

This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation.

—Woodrow Wilson

In Christ,

A staple of taking a commercial flight is the pre-flight safety demonstration. One of the things always said, after demonstrating how to put on the oxygen mask, is that you are to secure your *own mask first before assisting others around you*. Applied to many things in life this principle may not correspond to Christianity.

After-all, our Lord said “The first will be last and the last will be first.” The saints always put the needs of others before their own. Our Lord himself is the exemplar of putting the good of other before self, even to the point of death on a cross. But, in other ways, this famous flight attendant instruction of putting your own mask on first is filled with wisdom that is not contradictory to Christianity.

You need oxygen to stay conscious, and you need to be conscious to help others. So even if helping others is your priority you still need to make sure you have the oxygen mask on. That practical wisdom is applicable to many aspects of the Christian’s desire to be of help to others. For example, a saint cannot feed the hungry if they do not at least minimally feed themselves to avoid starvation. This rule would apply to most corporal works of mercy. You need food, water, shelter, and clothing to feed, give drink, shelter, and clothe the needy.

This practical wisdom, the analogy of the oxygen mask, perhaps works best when applied to the life of grace. God’s grace is like the oxygen of our spiritual lives. The Church must have divine grace to share grace with the world. The “oxygen masks” that transmit God’s grace to us are first and foremost the sacraments, and then piety (prayer and devotional life), the sacramentals (e.g. holy water, holy images and statues, etc.), and the “transcendentals” of truth, beauty, and goodness. If the Church, in her members, does not put these on, then she will suffocate from a lack of grace, and be unable to help anyone else.

Just as one must have food before they can feed the hungry, if we want to assist others in living a holy life, then we must do what makes our own lives holy: participating in and receiving the sacraments, prayer, devotional life, reading scripture, studying the faith, seeking out deeper truths, not being satisfied with banality but wanting beauty, and longing for higher goods rather than easy mediocrity.

When a person is not receptive to grace they are not capable of doing anything supernaturally – spiritually – beneficial or good; for themselves or for others. The theological virtues, for example, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, do not have their origin in human nature, but in divine inspiration. Grace both purifies and empowers the soul. When temptation rises to help other while not being exposed to grace ourselves our Lord might say How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,’ when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother’s eye.”

Remember, put on your own oxygen mask, and then you will be free and empowered to assist others.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd

ACTIONS

Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.

—St. Anthony of Padua