



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.

JUNE

21

2020

*What I say to you
in the darkness,
speak in the light;
what you hear whispered,
proclaim on the housetops.*

Matthew 10:27



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scriptures for the Week

Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Ps 60:3-5, 12-13; Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36; Ps 48:2-4, 10-11; Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17

Day: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1-3, 13-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Mt 7:21-29

Friday: 2 Kgs 25:1-12; Ps 137:1-6; Mt 8:1-4

Saturday: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Ps 74:1b-7, 20-21; Mt 8:5-17

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a; Ps 89:2-3, 16-19; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42



Happy Father's Day!

**From Fr. Todd & Staff
at Immaculate Conception Church**



Your Stewardship

Collections \$ 7,970.50

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.

06/21 Happy Father's Day!

Vacation Bible School 2020

Register now for our exciting family friendly "SPLASH CANYON HOMESCHOOL VBS" Where kids confidently celebrate that God is with us on life's wild ride. You'll teach them that God saves us through Jesus and gives us life and hope every day and forever.

Date: July 13-17

Packets will be prepared and include all materials needed to bring your at home worship to a whole new level... with singing, dancing, crafting and storytelling.

Packet Pickup: July 10th
8am-12 or 5:30-7:30pm

Registration Fee: \$10

Ages: children must be 3 years old by Dec. 31 through entering 4th grade
**Must be pre-registered before June 30, 2020*

*Registration forms available outside
Office of Christian Formation.
For more information please contact
Skye Johnston @ 627-5819.*

From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

Last week's bulletin continued a reflection on how our religion has inherited from Judaism a sense of sacredness. Things, places, vestments, words (or language), people, etc., dedicated to the worship of God are considered sacred, or "set apart". There should be no mingling of the sacred with the profane. That bulletin concluded by looking at how the sanctuaries in our churches are set apart traditionally through structures like altar rails.

The altar rail not only plays the role of accentuating the sanctuary as sacred. It also has the practical use of allowing people to more easily kneel when receiving Holy Communion, which is why it is also commonly called the "communion rail". This traditional posture for receiving Holy Communion is always an option for Catholics.

Kneeling in the presence of God is something else we have inherited from Judaism. According to Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, a.k.a. Pope Benedict XVI, in his book *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, *The Hebrews regarded the knees*

as a symbol of strength, to bend the knee is, therefore, to bend our strength before the living God, an acknowledgment of the fact that all that we are we receive from Him. In important passages of the Old Testament, this gesture appears as an expression of worship. He goes on to give some examples which include even King Solomon kneeling to pray at the Temple. One powerful reference he offers is from Psalm 22 (i.e. the Psalm Jesus prays from the cross) which says at its conclusion, *Yes, to Him shall all the proud of the earth fall down; before Him all who go down to the dust shall throw themselves down.*

This inherited posture of the Jews before God is naturally taken up by the very first Christians. The Acts of the Apostles tells us how Saint Peter (9:40), Saint Paul (20:36), and the whole Christian community (21:5) pray on their knees. Receiving Holy Communion is the single most important act of prayer a Christian can make.

Ratzinger goes on to say that *The man who learns to believe learns also to kneel, and a faith or a liturgy no longer familiar with kneeling would be sick at the core. Where it has been lost, kneeling must be rediscovered, so that, in our prayer, we remain in fellowship with the apostles and martyrs, in fellowship with the whole cosmos, indeed in union with Jesus Christ Himself.* Some years after writing those words Pope Benedict would go on to require reception of Holy Communion on the tongue while kneeling at his Papal Masses. It was explained in the Vatican newspaper that “The form adopted by Benedict XVI is meant to highlight the force of this valid norm for the whole Church”.

It is still common to find altar rails in churches throughout the world, including even locally in our own diocese. Nonetheless, there are many places where they have been removed since the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council. It is helpful to know, however, that no document of the Second Vatican Council or official document of the Church since then has ever called for the removal of altar rails. In 2008 Cardinal Arinze, as prefect for the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (i.e. authority on liturgy in the Vatican), comically said, “The Church from Rome never said to remove the altar rails, but if you can find any document from Rome saying to remove the altar rails I’ll give you a turkey.” The documents of the Church make very clear that the faithful always have the option to kneel for reception of Holy Communion. For some people, however, choosing this option is a practical impossibility where there are no rails to assist them.

The option of kneeling at the altar rail to receive Holy Communion is a beautiful and pious way to show our belief in the Eucharist. It is really and truly the living Jesus Christ. Holy Communion is Divine Food given to us from heaven as we kneel where heaven and earth meet in our church sanctuary. Certain foods have special ways of eating them. We all know that there is a *right* way to eat boiled crawfish. The Most Blessed Sacrament, as the

most sacred Food we will ever consume, also must have a sacred way of receiving.

Standing alone to receive Holy Communion, as is common today, can cause us to lose the communal sense of being fed as the Catholic family from our mother, the Church. When people are given the option to kneel at an altar rail, as one priest put it, *there is a brief time to contemplate the artistry of the altar, the tabernacle, the Crucifix, and the entire sanctuary. They pause, even if only for a few seconds, as the priest efficiently distributes the Hosts. The priest is moving and working hard in his fatherly task. Shoulder to shoulder, the faithful receive from the table of the Lord as a family. There is no rush to depart* (Fr. Jerry J. Pokorsky, March 16, 2019, www.thecatholicthing.org).

The two functions of the altar rail, to set the sanctuary apart and assist in kneeling for Holy Communion, help to achieve a Catholic liturgical principle called *lex orandi, lex credendi* – the law of prayer is the law of belief. Pope Benedict XVI also added *lex vivendi* – is the law of living. The external action of *praying* in a certain way through and with our church architecture and physical posture manifests and improves right *belief* in what happens during Mass, and Who is on the altar, in the tabernacle, and being given to us during Holy Communion. This belief helps us to better *live* lives of sanctity.

When the option to kneel at an altar rail is available, the external signs reveal something profound. When we kneel on the earth, we are but poor beggars and sinners waiting for the Lord of heaven to assist us. When he comes, he lowers himself and comes down to us. He lovingly gives himself to us. Jesus, the Son of God and our Bridegroom, makes his dwelling not only among us, but in us. And by this we are able to stand upright as a living sanctuary, now set apart from the rest of the earth, for the glory of God.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd

St. Mary of False River Adoration Chapel Update

In anticipation of re-opening the Chapel we would like to take advantage of this time to update our Adorer information and to change the multiple entrance codes that have been in use for several years to a single code.

If you are a current Adorer or one who periodically visits our chapel, we will need the following information: ***Name, Address, Phone Number where we can reach you (Cell and/or Home phone); whether or not you are a committed adorer, and the day/time you have committed to.***

This information can be emailed to **Sr. Mary Anne at mhebert@stmarysfr.org** or give information to receptionist in the Parish Office.