

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

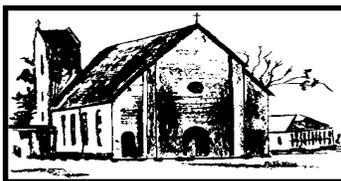
Sat. Vigil: 4:00 PM

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: 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: 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Ps 119:33-37,
40; Mt 7:15-20
Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-5, 8, 9; Mt 7:21-29
Friday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-5; Gal 1:11-20;
Jn 21:15-19
Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9;
2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
Saturday: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Ps 74:1b-7, 20-21;
Mt 8:15-17
Sunday: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13;
2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43
[5:21-24, 35b-43]

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$6,328.00
Electronic	\$1,361.00
Building Fund	\$138.00

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, 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.

6/27 KC Mtg.

6/29 Parish Office Closed.

Flowers

Flowers on the altar this weekend are in loving memory of Urbin & Lillian Olinde and Gloria LeCoq.

BAPTISMS

We welcome to our Parish Community:

Abigail Rose Butler, child of Terry & Alicia Butler.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

2018

“SHIPWRECKED”

Come and join us on an exciting adventure filled with fun, fellowship and faith, as kids find out that Jesus rescues them when life gets stormy!

Date: July 9-13

Time: 9:00am-Noon

Ages: 3 years (by Dec. 31)
through entering 4th grade

Registration Fee: \$25.00

Registration forms for participants and student volunteers are available outside of the **Office of Christian Formation**. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Skye Johnston @ 627-5819.

Must be pre-registered before June 30.
Limited space available for children that are 2 years old.

In Christ,

One of the most important and astonishing mysteries of our faith is the incarnation – that God became Man. The incarnation directly relates to what we believe about salvation, the sacraments, morality, and much more. Because of this belief in the incarnation beautiful art plays an important part in our faith lives. The incarnation helps us to understand that what is perceivable to the senses can be helpful to the soul. Jesus, who in his human nature can be seen, heard, and touched, points to what cannot be seen, heard, or touched: heaven, angels, the human soul, and even God himself. As St. Paul said about Jesus to the Colossians, *He is the image of the invisible God.*

Human beings are spiritual and corporeal beings. Ever since original sin our fleshly sense has dominated our spiritual sense. God wants to reverse this. He knew that in order to raise our minds above the created world to himself, he would have to come into the created world himself. Something similar is at work in beautiful art. When our senses experience beauty it can potentially raise our minds beyond the material thing to something that is above. Pope Benedict XVI said *Art is able to manifest and make visible the human need to surpass the visible, it expresses the thirst and the quest for the infinite. Indeed it resembles a door open on to the infinite, on to a beauty and a truth that go beyond the daily routine. And a work of art can open the eyes of the mind and of the heart, impelling us upward.* Some art, properly called “sacred art” in the Church, is more suited and specifically designed to raise our minds to God. Pope Benedict put it like this: *Some artistic expressions are real highways to God, the supreme Beauty; indeed, they help us to grow in our relationship with him, in prayer. These are works that were born from faith and express faith.*

Unfortunately throughout history there have been rejections of both the incarnation and the value of beautiful sacred art. Today this has taken the form of people trying to diminish the importance of sacred art by putting it in opposition to charity for the poor. The argument goes like this: *Poor people need material goods – art cannot satisfy material needs – art has monetary value – better not to spend that money on art and/or to sell what art we have towards taking care of the poor.*

While the sentiment to care for the poor is good, this is a false dichotomy. It forgets that human beings are both corporeal *and spiritual* beings. While we ought to care for the physical needs of the poor, that is not the whole human person.

Human beings, rich and poor alike, benefit from beauty. To dismiss this does not assist, but reduces the human dignity of a person. Our unique human dignity does not come from what we share with the animals but from what we share uniquely with God – a spirit which can perceive and appreciate something other than what satisfies our bodily needs. When people claim to be interested in the good of the poor by *only* providing for their physical needs, and that they do not need beautiful art, music, literature, architecture, etc., then they are treating the poor as less than human. This utilitarian attitude is a key flaw of our culture which evaluates everything based on how it will provide for physical needs without concerns for intellectual and spiritual needs of the human person.

When the Church is criticized for possession and use of beautiful and valuable goods I am reminded of the woman who anointed our Lord’s feet with costly oil. Judas took issue and said “It could have been sold for much, and the money given to the poor.” The Lord responded, “Why do you make trouble for the woman? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you; but you will not always have me.” The woman’s use of costly oil and the Lord’s response shows us how using beautiful and valuable goods to worship God helps to manifest physically our desire to give to God our best spiritually. The appreciation and offering of beauty is a catalyst for offering ourselves more fully to God. Anyone who, like Judas, rejects the need for beautiful sacred art implicitly rejects the identity of Jesus as God incarnate, and explicitly rejects the salutary effects of beauty on the human spirit.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd