

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: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Alternate readings (Year A):
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;
Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$12,006.44
Building Fund	\$1,958.00

Sympathy

The Sympathy Of Immaculate Conception Church Parish Family is extended to:

Family of Tim Miller.

Family of Martha Jarreau Albritton.

-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 Major, Air Force.

This Week at I.C.

- 3/12 Loaves/Fishes Mtg @ 6pm Rm 2.
- 3/13 Rel Ed Grades 1st-2nd @ 5:30pm.
Ladies Aux Mtg @ 6:30pm.
- 3/14 Rel Ed Grades 3rd-5th @ 5:30pm.
Peer Ber Grp Mtg @ 5:30 Rm 2
- 3/15 RCIA/RCIA-C.

The only candles that can be purchased starting Monday March 12th– Good Friday March 30th are the 5 day candles which can be found in the sacristy.

Reminder: Change clocks March 11th

Set Clocks Ahead



In Christ,

This Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent, is *Laetare Sunday*. As we move into the latter half of the Lenten season we are being encouraged by the lighter, more joyful tone of the liturgy to persevere in our Lenten observances. With this in mind, we return to the Holy Father's reflections on the Holy Mass.

In his eighth installment of catecheses on the Eucharist the pope turned to the Liturgy of the Word where we "listen to what God has done and still intends to do for us." The Holy Father reminds us that when we hear the readings we experience them "live" because "when the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his own word, proclaims the Gospel."

He addresses the issue of people talking during the readings. He said we should not talk at this time "because if you are chatting with others, you are not listening to the Word of God. When the Word of God is being read from the Bible... we must listen, open our heart because it is God himself who is speaking to us, and we must not think about other things or talk about other things." The Holy Father explained that the words of scripture are living words at Mass. "It is God, who through the reader, speaks to us and questions us, we who listen with faith." When we hear these words, if we listen with hearts open, they will have an effect in our lives. "God speaks and we listen to him, in order to then put into practice what we have heard." Pope Francis acknowledges that at times we lack understanding, as the readings can be difficult. Nonetheless, God speaks to us, and we must be "silent and listen to the Word of God," the pontiff said. Reflecting on the words "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" the Holy Father expresses how "the Liturgy of the Word is a 'meal' that the Lord prepares in order to nourish our spiritual life." He goes on to say, "Let us think about the richness of the Bible readings offered by the three Sunday cycles, which in the light of the Synoptic Gospels [Matthew, Mark, Luke] accompany us throughout the Liturgical Year: a great richness." Furthermore, the Holy Fathers says the Responsorial Psalm's "function is to foster meditation

on what was heard in the reading that precedes it."

Pope Francis also suggests that communion of the Church is fostered by uniformity to the readings as prescribed by the Church. "It is thus understandable," he said, "that some subjective choices such as the omission of readings or their substitution with non-biblical texts are forbidden." This rule applies to ritual Masses as well, such as weddings and funerals. We don't have the freedom to choose something other than the scripture readings that are prescribed by the Church for the Mass. He said "Substituting that Word with other things impoverishes and compromises the dialogue between God and his people in prayer." Also, for the sake of the dignity of Holy Scripture, the Holy Father stresses the need for good readers. It's critical to have people who know how to read well, without mumbling, and who are well prepared.

Pope Francis explains that this regular hearing of scripture is important for a good life. He said, "the Word of the Lord is of indispensable help so as not to get lost, as is clearly recognized by the Psalmist who, speaking to the Lord, confesses: 'Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.'" The pontiff asks, "How can we face our earthly pilgrimage with its difficulties and its trials without being regularly nourished and enlightened by the Word of God which resounds in the Liturgy?"

Finally, the Holy Father tells us that listening to the word is not enough; we must "welcome into our heart the seed of the Divine Word, allowing it to bear fruit." We must be the good soil of the Parable of the Sower that receives the word and lets it take root. "The action of the Holy Spirit which renders the response effective needs hearts that allow themselves to be fashioned and cultivated in such a way that what is heard at Mass passes into daily life, according to the admonishment of the Apostle James: 'But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.'" The Word of God must move from our ears to our hearts, and from our hearts "it passes to the hands, to good deeds."

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd