



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
Deacon: Bob McDonner
Business Manager: Patti Aguillard
Religious Education: Dina Tunstall
Music Coordinator: Jody Doucet

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses: 7:00, 9:00, and 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. 5:30 PM & Sat. 3:00 PM

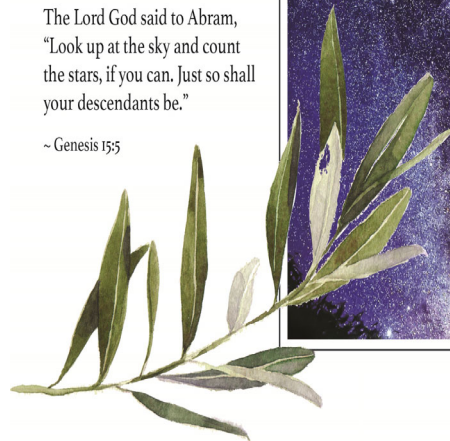
Marriage: Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement or at least six months prior to the projected date of marriage.

Baptism: Celebrated monthly. Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptism preparation is required.



The Lord God said to Abram,
"Look up at the sky and count
the stars, if you can. Just so shall
your descendants be."

~ Genesis 15:5



Scriptures for the Week

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9
Alternate readings (Year A): Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

Your Stewardship

Collection \$ 8,833.50
Building Fund \$ 370.00
Special Collection \$ 501.00

BAPTISMS

We welcome to our Parish Community:

Trace Joseph Steib, child of Evan Joseph Steib & Kristian Fabre Steib.

Shrimp Etouffee *Annual Preschool Fundraiser*

March 22, 2019

Lunch: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Dinner: 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Plate includes: shrimp etouffee, green beans, coleslaw, bread & cake square

Price: \$8.00 per plate

Walk-ins welcome!

For more information call
Ms. Skye at (225)627-5819.

This Week at I.C.C.

- 03/17 St. Patrick's Day**
03/18 KC 4th Degree Meeting
@ 6:00pm.
03/19 Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd
@ 5:30pm.
03/20 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th
@ 5:30pm.
KC Officers Meeting.
03/22 Annual Preschool Fundraiser.



Trevor Allement, Barbara Andre, Gary Aucoin, Joyce Aucoin, Edward Babin, Jr., Herbert Brown, Inez Bueche, John David, Veronica Fusulier, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred Gremillion, Susie Gremillion, Deborah Fountain, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Lillie Betty Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Linda Olinde, Landon Pickinson, Dottie Purpera, Horace Ransome, Lou Sherman, Sonny Trabeaux.

BLESS OUR TROOPS

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; Quinton T. Gaspard, P.F.C., Army.

In Christ,

Last week I mentioned in the homily the three pillars of Lent which counteract the three fold concupiscence, or temptations of man. The three temptations are desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes, and pride. Our Lord encountered these three temptations explicitly when the evil one confronted him at the end of his forty days in the desert. He was tempted to eat (flesh), false worship for the possession of the world (eyes), and on top of God's Temple demand the angels to serve you (pride). The pillars of Lent which join our Lord in battling these temptations are prayer (pride), fasting (flesh), and almsgiving (eyes).

These three temptations and the resistance against them are an important part of the life of the Church. When we are aware of these and look for them, we might find them in other places, not just in Lent. For instance men and women who are members of religious orders (Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, Carmelites, Benedictines, etc.) take three vows called the evangelical counsels. They are poverty, chastity, and obedience. Notice that these three vows are explicitly and radically counters to the three temptations. Poverty is the radical dedication to living without any attachments to material and created goods. Like almsgiving, this resists the temptation of the desire of the eyes. Chastity, like fasting, is the radical dedication to not serving the fleshly desires. And obedience is a radical promise to be humble, resisting pride by trusting the leadership of your superiors.

These three are also, in a different way, present in the promises made by a diocesan priest. We promise to pray daily the Liturgy of the Hours. We promise obedience to the bishop and his successors. We promise celibacy. And, while we do not take a vow or promise of poverty (because unlike religious we live in the world and have expenses), we are expected by Church law, which we also promise to observe and uphold, to live in "simplicity." Simplicity primarily means that we do not work to amass great wealth through other work and that we live basically at the same material level as the people where we serve.

You might also find the resistance of the

three temptations in the precepts of the Church. They are: *You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation. You shall confess your sins at least once a year. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.* At least one precept could be applied as a resistance against each temptation. Pride is combated by observing all of them with obedience, but specifically in praying Mass and confessing sins. The flesh is resisted through fasting and abstinence. And the eyes (greed) are resisted by the generosity in supporting the needs of the Church.

This last precept, support of the Church, which is similar to our Lenten almsgiving, or the religious' poverty, or the priests' simplicity, is the most tangible of them all. We are all required to supply, materially, for the Church's mission. This includes the material support of the parish which we belong to.

As I mentioned last Sunday, you should all be receiving in the mail a letter from me. I am asking for your help. Our parish is embarking upon a campaign called *Our Family, Our Faith, Our Future*. These letters will communicate some goals we have in the parish which include specifically physical plant issues. The spiritual and charitable mission of the parish cannot continue healthily without well kept and safe buildings and staff. I'm asking you to help; to fulfill the Church precepts; and to resist the temptations of selfishness. I hope you will read the letter and prayerfully consider responding accordingly. If you have already gotten the letter and responded, thank you! I am confident you will all respond generously, and help our parish to continue to grow and be a vibrant community for generations to come.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd