

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 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
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56;
Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16; (procession)
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24;
Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$8,532.00
Building Fund	\$140.00
Easter Flowers `	\$560.00

Sick List

Jessica Berthelot, John David, Neil Daigle

-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.*

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH MILLER DARENSBOURG

FAMILY OF THE MONTH KERRY & LORETTA REVIERE

This Week at I.C.

- 3/20 Rel Ed Grades 1st-2nd @ 5:30pm.
3/19 St Joseph Mass @ 6pm.
3/21 Rel Ed Grades 3rd-5th @ 5:30pm.

KC & Ladies Auxiliary Fishball Dinner

Friday, March 23rd
11am.

\$8 per plate
Includes potato salad,
corn & bread

FAIR NEWS

Fair will be April 15th this year. We will
have games, country cooking, bingo, and
raffle. Children's bracelets are \$10 and
will be good for all day.

EASTER SCHEDULE

March 29th

Holy Thursday— 7:00 pm.

March 30th

Good Friday—3:00pm.
Stations of the Cross/Confessions
12Noon

March 31st

Easter Vigil—8:00pm.

April 1st

Easter Sunday-Regular Mass Schedule

In Christ,

We've reached the last two weeks of Lent. The liturgy during Lent has a more austere nature to it than the rest of the year. Some have probably found it to be a little *too austere*. Some of the characteristics of our Lenten Masses, such as less use of the organ or use of Latin, have already been covered in previous bulletins. The omission of the individual "Sign of Peace" has been particularly jarring for some.

Admittedly, because we are so used to it, it has felt odd not doing it these past few weeks. This perceived oddity can be an opportunity to reflect on what the sign of peace actually is. For the Rite of Peace, the Roman Missal says, "the Church entreats peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before communicating in the Sacrament." According to the Church's teaching, the sign of peace is not a liturgical form of "good morning" or even a sharing of personal affection between loved ones which can be a terrible distraction from Our Lord on the altar, but a witness to the Christian belief that true peace is a gift of Christ's death and resurrection, which we are participating in during Mass. A document produced by a Vatican study on the sign of peace states, "Christ is our peace, the divine peace, announced by the prophets and by the angels, and which he brought to the world by means of his paschal mystery."

This affirmation and sharing of the peace of Christ is achieved first and foremost through the exchange of peace between the priest offering Mass at the altar and the community. In union together the faithful receive and return a sign of peace to the priest who stands in for the whole Church and for Christ. In order to emphasize this sign of unity with Christ and his Church, the individuals *may* be invited to offer the sign of peace to one another. Despite the common place of it today, it is not obligatory. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (which gives the details of how Mass is offered) says that after the

Priest says "The peace of the Lord be with you always" and the people respond, then "...**if appropriate**, the Priest adds, *Let us offer each other the sign of peace.*" I am aware of some people who prefer not to exchange this sign of peace because it has become, at least for them, a distraction from the offering of Mass. If someone near you does not participate, do not take it personal. This is not a sign of personal affection anyway.

During Lent I've felt it appropriate to not invite the congregation to share the sign of peace for a few reasons. First, its omission helps us better reflect on what the sign of peace is supposed to actually communicate. Secondly, it *can* be a distraction and moment of irreverence in the midst of the holiest of moments; omitting it during Lent (a time of preparation for the Passion of Christ) can be a way to remind us to stay focused on the Cross, made present on the altar at Mass. Finally, abstaining from the individual sign of peace can call to mind the betrayal of our Lord by Judas: the traitorous kiss. We all know that the worst harm is done, not by those who are our enemies, but by those who we thought loved us, when they have taken advantage of that trust and love. This is what Judas did – he took advantage of the Lord's love for him. Our communal abstinence from the individual sign of peace can remind us of the damage done by insincere signs of love. During this season of self examination and penance we should reflect on how our own insincerity and presumption has been harmful to our relationship with Christ and his Church. Those closest to Christ, and the strongest avowed Catholic, can potentially do the worst harm when they are not loyal. Abstaining from this sign is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the unity of the Body of Christ, not merely in a superficial way, but through authentic faithfulness and charity.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd