



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

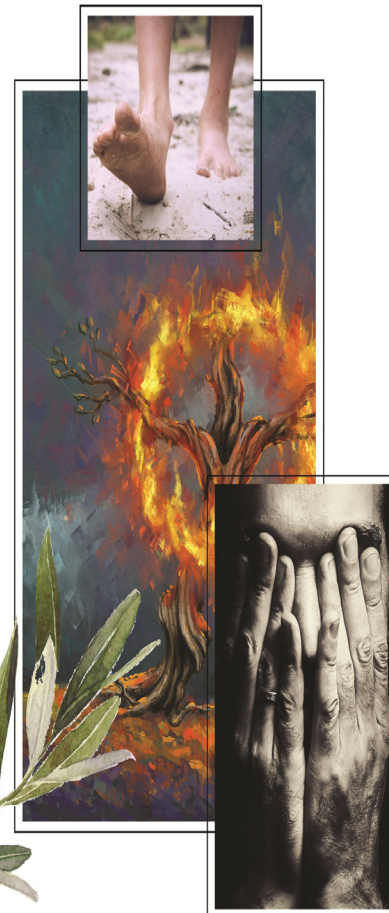
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses: 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM
Daily Masses: Tues. 6:00 PM & Wed.-Sat. 8:00 AM

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.



God called out to Moses from the burning bush and said, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

~ Exodus 3:4, 5

Scriptures for the Week

Monday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Alternate readings (Year A):
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6;
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have come to rescue them" (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15) or *Exodus 17:3-7*.

Psalms — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103) or *Psalm 95*.

Second Reading — Those who think they are standing secure should take care not to fall (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) or *Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*.

Gospel — I shall cultivate the ground around the fig tree and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future (Luke 13:1-9) or *John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]*.

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$ 8,242.00
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Special Collection	\$ 393.00

Sympathy

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

Family of Edward Babin

Family of Vicki Dabadie

This Week at I.C.C.

3/26 Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd
@ 5:30pm.

3/27 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th
@ 5:30pm.



Trevor Allement, Barbara Andre, Gary Aucoin, Joyce Aucoin, Herbert Brown, Inez Bueche, John David, Veronica Fusulier, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred Gremillion, Myrtle Ann Gremillion, Susie Gremillion, Deborah Fountain, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Lillie Betty Jarreau, Reid La-Comb, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Linda Olinde, Landon Pickin-son, 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,

Lord, teach us to pray. This request from the Gospel is closely related to something St. Paul said in his letter to the Romans: *We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.* These two lines regularly ring in my head when I go to pray. There is often a temptation to jump into prayer with whatever concerns I have for the day. Sometimes there is a litany of requests to be offered, from praying for those who have asked me to, to asking for virtue or strength for some dilemma. Occasionally, especially after experiencing some great blessing, there is the desire to excitedly praise God for his goodness to me. I am confident the Lord is happy when we share all this with him, like a father who is happy when his children want to share their day with him. Still, though, is there more to prayer than just us sharing a lot of concerns, petitions, or gratitude with the Lord?

According to St. Paul when the Holy Spirit prays he does so “with sighs too deep for words.” This tells me that prayer can be something inaudible. Not merely inaudible with our ears, but our minds as well. The Spirit prays with a *sigh*. I think of the deep sigh that two lovers might have when they embrace after a long separation. Like when a soldier returns to his family after a long tour, and he and his wife embrace and hold each other, breathing hard, but saying nothing. No words can express what they are telling each other in that moment. Is it possible for us to have a prayer like this with the Lord, where we allow for silence, because anything more, or less, would ruin the moment? This reminds me of a famous story about Mother Teresa. Once a reporter asked her what she says in prayer. She said she doesn’t say anything, she just listens. So the reporter asked, “What does God say to you?” Mother said God also *just listens*. Her prayer was a silent moment with the Lord, mutually listening, being attentive to one another. The saint once wrote, *We forget that in the silence of the heart God speaks, and from the fullness of the heart we speak. Only when we have heard him in the silence of our hearts, only when we have learned to listen to God in the silence of our hearts, only then can we say: I pray.*

A few weeks ago Pope Francis said *Silence is not reduced to the lack of words, but in being open to listen to other voices: That of our heart and, especially, the voice of the Holy Spirit.*

During Lent is a good time to renew our request to the Lord: *Lord, teach us to pray.* While he teaches us through the *Our Father*, he also teaches us by his example. As C.S. Lewis once said, *For most of us the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model.* What happened in Gethsemane? Our Lord prayed in quiet, while his disciples continued to fall asleep.

When we ask the Lord to teach us to pray, He has left us, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Church, who tells us how to pray the Mass. The *Roman Missal*, the big red book that tells the priest how to offer Mass, includes a lot of details that are not merely suggestions or options. It says *During Lent, it is not permitted to decorate the altar with flowers, and the use of musical instruments is allowed only so as to support the singing.* This has always been understood to mean and upholds the long tradition of not using the organ unless necessary to give the key and melody for the music being sung. As for style of music it says *The main place should be given, all things being equal, to Gregorian chant, as being proper to the Roman Liturgy.* This is the style of music we are using especially during Lent, for our Masses. And finally in regards to Latin, it says *it is desirable that they [lay people] know how to sing together at least some parts of the Ordinary of the Mass in Latin.*

I know the liturgy during Lent is awkward without the organ, with the chanted music, and the Latin. I know it is quiet, even silent at times. If you find this to be challenging or uncomfortable – good. The disciples found Gethsemane to be challenging. The Lord found the 40 days in the desert to be challenging. That is prayer. We have to remember that we do not know how to pray as we ought, and therefore the Lord has taught us how to pray, and still does, through his Church.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd