



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.

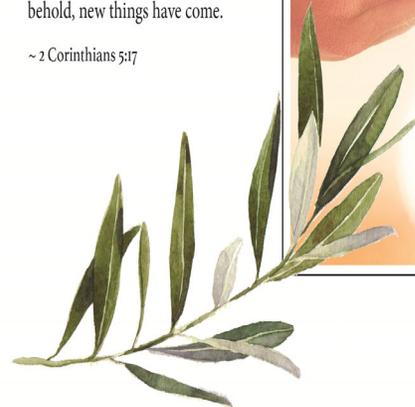
Reconciliation: Tues. 5:30 PM & Sat. 3:00 PM

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.



Whoever is in Christ
is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.
~ 2 Corinthians 5:17



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: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11
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 \$ 8,915.00



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 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.

This Week at I.C.C.

- 4/2 Ladies Altar Society**
@ 10:00 am.
Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd
@ 5:30pm.
KC Meeting.
- 4/3 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th**
@ 5:30pm.
Baptism Seminar
@ 6pm.
- 4/5 Stations of the Cross**
@ 6pm.

Sympathy

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

Family of Emerson LeBlanc

Family of Florence Langlois

Fill A Prescription

The St. Vincent de Paul "Fill a Prescription Drive" is accepting donations. The container will be on the table in the back of church until the end of April. Your donations help provide medication to the needy.

A NEW 6 WEEK BIBLE STUDY IS STARTING SOON!

Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross will take place every **Thursday** starting **April 11-May 16**. There will be a morning session beginning after the 8am mass and a 6pm evening session in the parish hall.

We ask that you please purchase your own copy of the book, *Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross*, by Edward Sri.

Let us join together as we embark on this journey to a deeper understanding of our Catholic faith.

In Christ,

One of the most memorable, and unsettling, scenes of movie history happens at the conclusion of *The Godfather*. As Michael Corleone's nephew is baptized, Michael takes the role as his godfather. As he makes the promises of baptismal faith on behalf of the infant, the scene cuts to violent murders of the Corleone family's enemies, at the order of Michael. I think the scene is intended to have double meaning. First, Michael is truly becoming *the godfather*, the patriarch, of the Corleone crime family, replacing his father. But he is also being "baptized" in a sense, as his first action as leader of this crime syndicate is to eliminate his enemies – the *original sins* he inherited from early generations.

While this scene made for cinematic gold, it is really disturbing. The religious overtones of this man who, while promising to reject Satan and all his works, and to embrace the truth of God the Father, his Son, and his Holy Church; all while several men are murdered at his will is clear hypocrisy and even evil. The contradiction of this scene helps to highlight something important: the role of godparents.

One of the new stresses for new parents today seems to be choosing godparents. Culturally it has become common to merely choose close friends or family members; people who the parents love and want to show some honor. While that is understandable, that is not the point of having godparents for the newly baptized. The Church clearly explains in Canon Law that godparents must "...be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken." And what is the role? They are those "who will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it." We all know what those obligations are: faithfulness to what the Church teaches, morality, and worship, including going to Mass. The Church only requires one godparent, and allows for only one male and one female godparent if there will be more than one.

Now, it begs the question, if a godparent is not living in such a way that fulfills the obligations of the faithful, how could they possibly be considered someone who helps someone else do that? If they do not believe in the faith (i.e. are not Catholic), or they live immorally or cannot receive sacraments (e.g. because they are married outside the Church), or they do not practice the faith at all (e.g. do not go

to Mass), then there is little hope that they can fulfill the function of godparent. As "good" as they may be, and as loved by the parents as they probably are, godparent they cannot be. While they may not be leaders of an organized crime family and ordering hits on people, it is still hypocritical to have them profess the faith and promise to help a person live a holy life if they do not believe it and live it themselves. We should all find that as contradicting and unsettling as watching that scene from *The Godfather*.

So what should we be looking for in godparents? Minimally, they must be 16 years old or older, Confirmed Catholics who are able to receive Holy Communion. They should also be faithful, believing all that the Catholic Church holds to be true and necessary for faith. They ought to practice the faith, meaning they receive the sacraments regularly (Mass on Sundays and days of obligation). And, ideally, they should have a *zeal* for the faith; meaning their personal relationship with the Lord and his Church causes them to desire and helps them to share the faith with others.

Unfortunately many people today might think they are not close to anyone who fits that description. I'd offer two suggestions: firstly, start associating with people who do – it would be better for your soul, too. Secondly, you do not have to be extraordinarily close to the person who will be the godparent. They do not have to be a best friend or favorite sibling. Neighbors, coworkers, cousins, aunts and uncles, and even grandparents *can* be godparents.

It should be important to all of us that godparents be capable of meeting the obligations. This helps to foster the faith and perpetuate it into the next generation. When people you know have children, make sure they know the obligations for godparents before they make hasty decisions that will ultimately disappoint them when they come to the priest and are told "that person cannot be a godparent." That is difficult for everyone involved, including the priest. Better to choose someone, from the start, who lives out their baptismal promises so that they can help the newly baptized do the same. Hopefully they will both become saints, rather than make a mockery of the role of godparent, as Michael Corleone did.

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd