



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

P.O. Box 158, LAKE LAND, LA 70752

PARISH OFFICE: 627-5124 | RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: 627-5819

IMMACULATECONCEPTIONLAKE LAND.COM

## STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. C. Todd Lloyd

**Business Manager:** Patti Agui llard

**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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF

Lent

MARCH 8, 2020

*From the cloud came  
a voice that said,  
"This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am  
well pleased;  
listen to him."*

*Matthew 17:5*

## Scriptures for the Week

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

**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 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

Collections \$ 10,563.88

Building Fund \$ 1,405.00

## A Vocation View

### Second Sunday of Lent – March 8, 2020

Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days and nights. We can take His example, begging the Lord of the Harvest for an increase of Church vocations. If you think God is calling you, call **Fr. Andrew Merrick** at (225) 336-8778, [amerrick@diobr.org](mailto:amerrick@diobr.org).

## God Bless Our Troops

Please remember all of our troops overseas, especially members of Immaculate Conception Parish Family:

*Jules Craig Cifreo Air Force.; Samuel Edward Guidroz, Navy; Quinton T. Gaspard, P.F.C., Army.*

## Prayer Requests

Aguillard Family, Leslie Aguillard, Trevor Allement, Janelle Amond, Tim Amond, Numa Aucoin, Shirley Blauvelt, Herbert Brown, Kyle Cabalero, Lee Joseph Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Jean David, Brilynn Davis, Ronald Decuir, Landon Dickinson, Shannan Everett, Deborah Fountain, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred Gremillion, Judy Gremillion, Susie Gremillion, Lyndon Lynn Hernandez, Audrey Jarreau, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Lillie Betty Jarreau, Sharon Jarreau, Tess Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Troy Menier, Doug Matte, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Helen Olinde, Linda Olinde, Corey Patin, John Gary Patin, Jr., Shelby Porche, Dotti Purpera, Hank Ryan, Hunter Schurba, Lou Sherman, James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Ainsley Wolf.

## This Week at I.C.C.

**03/08 Daylight Savings Time Begins.**

**03/10 Rel. Ed Grades 1st & 2nd**  
@ 5:30pm.

**No PAL Meeting.**

**Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**  
@ 6:30pm.

**Divine Mercy Novena**  
@ 6:30pm.

**03/11 Rel. Ed Grades 3rd-5th**  
@ 5:30pm.

**Peer Bereavement Meeting**  
@ 5:30pm Rm #2.

**03/13 Way of the Cross**  
@ 6pm.

## Way Of The Cross

(Friday Evenings During Lent)

6pm

## Holy Family Catholic Church St. Joseph Altar

Saturday, March 14th, 2020  
2:30pm

## Safe Haven Sunday

## Equipping the Family & Safeguarding Children

Immaculate Conception Church is setting aside this weekend, **March 7th-8th**, as **Safe Haven Sunday** in order to give focused time and resources to address the harmfulness of pornography and other online threats to marriages, family life and culture.

Today's awareness day is celebrated through prayer and a reflection within the context of the Mass. After Mass, each individual and family will be given **Covenant Eyes' book, Equipped: Smart Catholic Parenting in a Sexualized Culture**. This book includes a unique seven-day text-to-opt-in program: The Equipped 7-Day Challenge. This Challenge provides practical tips any caring adult can take to create safer digital environments for themselves and our young people.

Thank you for celebrating with us! If you have any questions about this awareness weekend, please visit [www.immaculateconceptionlakeland.com](http://www.immaculateconceptionlakeland.com).

## From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

There are several instances in the gospels when Jesus is approached by frantic parents of ill children. There is Jairus whose daughter was dying, and actually did die (Mt 9; Mk 5; Lk 8), the Syrophenician woman whose daughter was possessed (Mt 15; Mk 7), the man whose son's possession threatened his safety with violent convulsions (Mt 17; Mk 9; Lk 9), and there is the royal official from Capernaum whose boy was near death (Jn 4). In all of these instances the Lord healed the child at the request of the parent. Parents are a unique kind of spiritual mediator for their children. The Lord works through parents who have recourse to him, and in most instances it is made clear that it is the parent whom the Lord is having pity for, and whose faith made the difference in the healing of their child.

Unfortunately, the spiritual assistance that a parent can be to their children is matched by the spiritual danger a parent can also be. Parents, especially fathers, are like porters – door keepers – for their families. When he opens the door to God in his own life, the whole family can experience Divine power. When the door is opened to evil, the whole family can be exposed to that power as well. Three important examples from the Old Testament help to demonstrate this. Adam, the first father of all humanity, sinned and therefore all of humanity has fallen into sin with him. Abraham was faithful to God, and his covenant with God was inherited by his whole family, who became the Chosen People of God. Finally, King David is an example of both. When he lived faithfully, God made a covenant that would be passed on to his heirs; but when he sinned the penalty was also inherited by his progeny.

In our age, just as in the age of Jesus' visitation in Israel, parents have a unique kind of spiritual authority over their children's lives. Certainly any parent who is aware of this would want to guard their children from evil, and through their own faith, invoke the Lord to intervene against threats to their children. There is in our culture a great threat that we must be aware of. It is a pervasive evil spirit that is affecting countless numbers of families and individuals, young and old. It is one that, once invited into the house, is hard to banish. This is why parents must be especially on guard against this evil, so that their homes may be a *safe haven* for their families, especially their children. This evil power is called *pornography*.

According to a recent study, 40 million Americans say they regularly visit pornographic websites. 70% of men between the ages of 18-24 view pornography at least once a month. About one third of porn users are women. The average age of first exposure to pornography is now 11 years old. As many as 93.2% of boys and 62.1% of girls first see porn before they turn 18. Ad-

diction to pornography is widespread in our culture, even among those under the age of 18.

The evil of pornography warps the mind of its users, causing them to see others stripped of dignity, not in the image and likeness of God, but as objects of pleasure – instruments to be used and discarded. This selfishness can distort one's idea of intimacy, and therefore affects every kind of relationship they might have. It is the cause of broken marriages, disruption in relationships between parents and children, friends, and of course, with Christ.

Now is the time for parents to be proactive about the issue of pornography. The first step to this might be to ask ourselves a few personal questions. Is the media I use something I want to invite into the life of my children? Am I opening the spiritual door of my family to evil, or good? Based on my own activity and diligence in the life of my family, is our household a safe haven from the plague of pornography? And, finally, am I willing to make hard sacrifices so that my family may be protected from evil, and exposed to Jesus?

Bishop Duca has decreed that this Sunday is *Safe Haven Sunday* in our diocese. Every spouse and parent wants their home to be a safe haven for their loved ones. The bishop, as our shepherd and spiritual father, wants the same for us. The theme of this first annual Safe Haven Sunday in our diocese is "Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children." This awareness effort is meant to draw our attention as a community to the seriousness of the issues of pornography and to recommit ourselves to take steps that ensure our homes are safe havens for all.

In the back of the church, there are free resources to assist you with striving for healthy and holy marriages and families, including how to talk to your children about internet dangers. You can also begin learning by joining *The Equipped 7-Day Challenge: A Digital Crash Course* by texting **SECURE** to **66866** to receive seven days of digital tips. You are also encouraged to visit the website <https://cleanheart.online/diocese-baton-rouge-0> to find resources for families and individuals who want to keep their homes, and hearts, pure.

If this is something you already know to be a problem in your private life or family, do not lose hope. Be like the parents in the gospels who flee to Jesus in their desperation. He is willing to enter under our roofs, despite our unworthiness, and give us the words of healing. Make use of Christ's generous love. Go to confession. Have your home blessed. Destroy, delete, and throwaway any materials that are no longer welcome in your family life. Make use of tools to block and filter pornography on your own and your children's devices – including social media apps. And trust in Jesus' power to expel all evil spirits, and even to raise the dead to life.

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd