



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
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

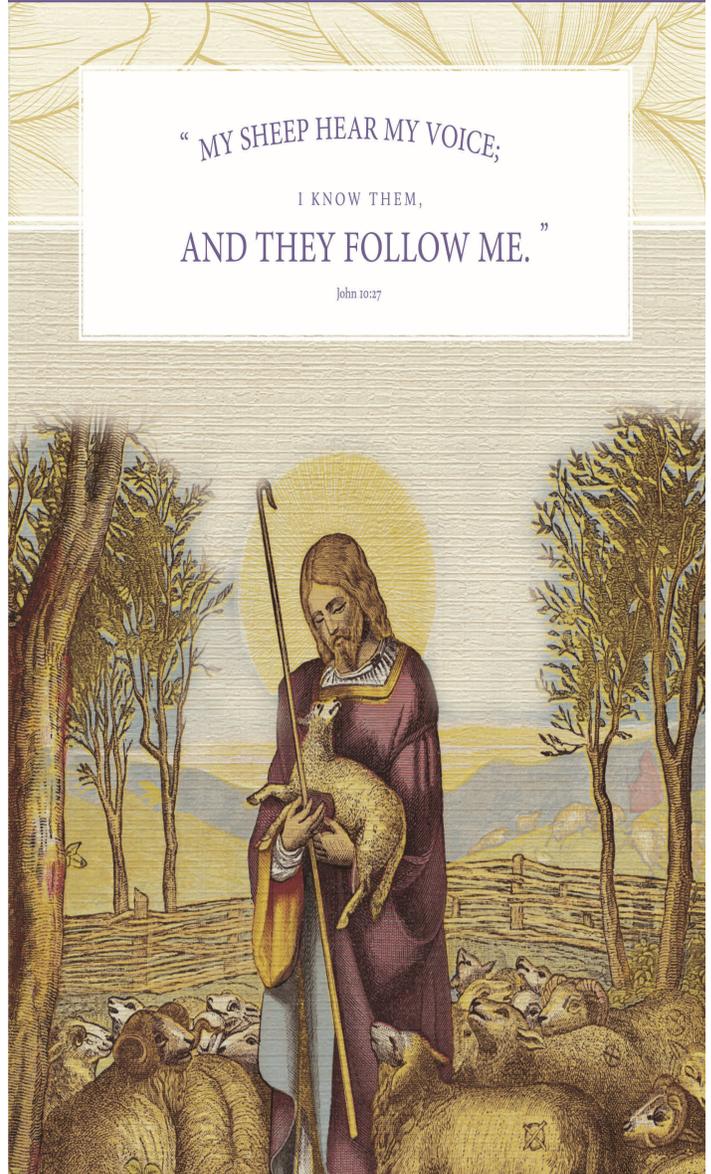
Marriage: Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement or at least six months prior to the projected date of marriage.

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

May 12, 2019 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

“MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE;
I KNOW THEM,
AND THEY FOLLOW ME.”

John 10:27



Scriptures for the Week

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday: Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Your Stewardship

Collection \$ 10,610.00
Building Fund \$ 2,994.00

Prayer Requests

Trevor Allement, Barbara Andre, Joyce Aucoin, Herbert Brown, Inez Bueche, Kyle Cabalero, Sadie Collins, John David, Ronald Decuir, Shannan Everett, Deborah Fountain, Veronica Fusulier, Robert Geier, Jr., Garrett Grafia, Alfred Gremillion, Debbie Gremillion, Myrtle Ann Gremillion, Susie Gremillion, Lyndon Lynn Hernandez, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Lillie Betty Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Troy Manier, Pam Melon, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Linda Olinde, Landon Pickinson, Dotti Purpera, Hank Ryan, 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; Major Jordan Morris; 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.

Happy Mother's Day!

*From The Staff of
Immaculate Conception*

This Week at I.C.C.

05/12 Happy Mother's Day!

05/14 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
@ 6:30pm.

Flowers

Flowers on the altar this weekend have been donated by the Ladies Altar Society in honor of all mothers, both living and deceased, of the ICC Parish family.

BAPTISMS

We welcome to our Parish Community:

Claire Elizabeth Dunlap, child of Justin Charles Dunlap & Kristina Verzwylvelt Dunlap.

Vacation Bible School

Date: June 10th-14th

Time: 9:00am-Noon

Cost: \$25.00

Must be pre-registered before
June 1, 2019.

For more information, please
contact the Office of Christian
Formation at **627-5819.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In Christ,

Sometimes making a good moral decision can be complicated. It is likely that we have all found ourselves in a position where we had to really think and pray hard about what is the "right thing to do." Situations like that are usually less than ideal. We probably would rather not be in that situation to begin with. Nonetheless, if you have had that experience, it is a good sign that you actually do believe that there is a right and wrong, and that you want to do what is right. That being said, the desire to do good does not always lead to the good being done. Sometimes we discern wrongly what is right; and sometimes we do not have the willpower to do what is right, because it is usually more difficult than the wrong options.

There are two common errors that often lead

to immoral actions: *Consequentialism* and *Proportionalism*. A consequentialist maintains that the morality of an action should be evaluated solely by the possible consequences which the act could produce. Similarly, the proportionalist holds that an act is good if its consequences bring about the greatest good or least evil that is possible in a given situation. Both are essentially the idea that the ends can justify the means. **A** leads to **B**. **B** is perceived to be the best possible outcome in a situation. So the perceived good of **B** makes doing **A** acceptable, even if **A** is itself evil.

This is wrong. It is never acceptable to directly do an evil action, even to achieve a perceived good end. That a better good might come about does not make an evil action less evil; nor does good intention. Catholic Tradition has always affirmed that the moral quality of a human act is determined by an evaluation of the object (**A**), end (**B**), and circumstances (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1750). There are certain types of moral actions that are always evil, no matter the circumstances or consequences. We call this “intrinsic evil.” If something is intrinsically evil it cannot be done, even if it might avoid some calamity or produce some good. For instance, one cannot choose to kill an innocent human being in order to save ten. Murder, the killing of an innocent human being (different from self-defense, war or capital punishment), is intrinsically evil, no matter what it might help bring about or avoid.

As the *Catechism* teaches, “there are certain specific kinds of behavior that are always wrong to choose” (CCC 1761). If **A** is deemed to be contrary to God’s natural law and commandments, it is evil to willfully do it. No matter what, *it is a sin*. Acts such as (but not only) idolatry, murder (abortion, euthanasia, infanticide), suicide, and adultery are intrinsically evil, regardless of the possible consequences that they may produce or the ultimate end for which they are chosen. Therefore it is never acceptable to choose these evils, or even to contribute to or support others in doing so. For example, one cannot drive another to the abortion facility for an abortion, or assist a man or woman to enter into adultery. Even if it is believed that some good might come about (e.g. “I do not agree, but they’ll know I still love them”), *it is a sin*.

The often proportionalist decision to lead or assist others in sin is called *scandal*. The *Catechism* explains: “Scandal is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil...Scandal is a grave offense

if by deed or omission another is deliberately led into a grave offense. Scandal takes on a particular gravity by reason of the authority of those who cause it or the weakness of those who are scandalized... Scandal is grave when given by those who by nature or office are obliged to teach and educate others” (CCC2284-85) This means that parents of children, teachers of students, and especially clerics commit a grave sin of scandal when their teaching or action, or failure to do so (omission), contributes to someone they are responsible for believing sin acceptable. Despite our best intentions, such actions are incapable of being chosen out of charity. It is false charity to support others in evil. Sin is never good for oneself, one’s neighbors, or union with God.

When the man approached Jesus in the gospels, asking what to do for eternal life, the first answer the Good Teacher gives is to obey the commandments of God. This is not a complete Christian living, as even the man asks for more, but it is foundational. It is first. If someone is breaking the commandments of God, then it is pointless to tell them to do something more radical, like “give all your property to the poor and follow me.” The commandments of God, and the teaching of the Church that evil can never be chosen no matter what, is freeing. The truth of God’s commandments frees us to make moral choices when faced with hard situations. It relieves us of the moral arithmetic of *what might happen if I do this, that or the other thing*. Consequences of actions, while important, are sometimes impossible to predict with certainty. Therefore, when we are in morally difficult situations, we must choose to do what the Good Teacher says is first: follow the commandments. It may be challenging, it may bring about unwanted consequences, and it may require sacrifice; but it will help us attain eternal life.

“The commandments thus represent the basic condition for love of neighbor; at the same time they are the proof of that love. They are the *first necessary step on the journey towards freedom*, its starting-point. ‘The beginning of freedom’, Saint Augustine writes, ‘is to be free from crimes... such as murder, adultery, fornication, theft, fraud, sacrilege and so forth. When once one is without these crimes (and every Christian should be without them), one begins to lift up one’s head towards freedom’” (St. John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor* 13).

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd