



# 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  
**Business Manager:** Patti Aguiard  
**Religious Education:** Dina Tunstall  
**Music Coordinator:** Jody Doucet

## MASS TIMES

**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00 PM  
**Sunday Masses:** 7:00, 9:00, & 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. 5:00 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 24

2020

## ASCENSION OF THE

*Lord*

MEN OF GALILEE, WHY ARE YOU  
STANDING THERE STARING AT THE SKY?  
THIS JESUS WHO HAS BEEN  
TAKEN UP FROM YOU INTO HEAVEN  
WILL RETURN IN THE SAME WAY AS YOU  
HAVE SEEN HIM GOING INTO HEAVEN.

Acts 1:11



## Scriptures for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33  
**Tuesday:** Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a  
**Wednesday:** Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19  
**Thursday:** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26  
**Friday:** Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19  
**Saturday:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25  
**Sunday:** Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39  
Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

## Your Stewardship

**Collections**            \$ 8,699.81

## Flowers

Flowers on the altar this weekend were kindly donated by Joe & Jean Porche and James & Mary Alice Robert of the Mes Bon Amis Club.

## God Bless Our Troops

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

*Jordan Todd Aguillard, Air Force; 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, Kevin LeBlanc, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Janice Marks, Doug Matte, Troy Menier, Gail Metz, Sheldon Moses, Linda Olinde, Corey Patin, John Gary Patin, Jr., Abigail Politz, Shelby Porche, Dotti Purpera, Hank Ryan, Hunter Schurba, Lou Sherman, James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Ainsley Wolf.

## This Week at I.C.C.

### Phase I

### Beginning Saturday, May 16, 2020

**Confessions:** Tuesday at 5pm & Saturday at 3pm.

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** 4pm

**Sunday Mass:** 7am, 9am & 11am.

**Sunday Mass Live Stream:** 9am.

**Tuesday Evening Mass:** 6pm.

**Wednesday - Saturday Morning Mass:** 8am.

Please be aware that everyone attending mass is **required** to wear a facemask and seating **will be limited** to **100** people per mass.

## Celebrate

### I.C.C. Sunday Mass Online

Please join Fr. Todd as he celebrates the Holy Mass, every **Sunday** at **9am**, via **live stream** on our **Parish Facebook** page.

Please go to [www.immaculateconceptionlakeland.com](http://www.immaculateconceptionlakeland.com) for more information.

## SAVE TIME AND DONATE ONLINE

Online Giving is now available for parishioners with **WeShare**, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and completely secure.

With **WeShare**, you can set up a recurring weekly or monthly transaction using your checking, saving, or credit card account. You can decide how much to give to any collection and make changes any time, day or night. Plus, you can leave your checkbook at home on Sundays.

If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please visit, <https://immaculateconceptionlakeland.weshareonline.org>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, call our parish office at 627-5124.

## From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

Anyone who has been around young people has probably noticed something: their eyes are always fixed on a small screen in their hand. It is not only young people, either. But many people of all ages are fixated on their smart phones. I am guilty of it myself. Our technology, as useful and helpful as it is, has become a big distraction. It is a challenge to the attention span for many. It is hard to sit through a dinner, a talk, Mass, prayer, a movie, or anything else that requires our attention, without being distracted by either someone else's smart phone, or the temptation to look at our own. "It buzzed... or did it buzz? I have to check. I might have missed something!" Sometimes it isn't the concern of missing something, but just the mere temptation to be looking at something that delights or entertains or informs. This persistent temptation to be distracted has affected many people's ability to focus and give attention to anything for very long.

This Sunday is the Ascension of the Lord. This feast challenges us to give our undivided attention to something. The Ascension reminds us that there is a heaven, that Christ has raised himself there, and that we are being drawn to Him. At the Ascension, like the disciples in the Acts of the Apostles, we should raise our eyes to heaven. There our Lord reigns over His Church, and that is where we want to go. It is the object and goal of our whole lives. But, like in everything, we often become distracted. It is not necessarily intentional. Most people, Christians, are not purposefully turning their attention away from heaven to earthly things, any more than when we do that with our smart phones. And yet, intentional or not, it is still wrong.

I recently read an article that speaks about the virtue of solicitude. Solicitude means care or concern for someone or something. Its opposite, a vice, is negligence. St. Thomas Aquinas says that negligence is a sin. Solicitude presumes a responsibility. To fail to give due attention to one's responsibilities is sinful. And depending on how serious, it could be a mortal sin, the saint says. Naturally, if we are negligent of something pertaining to our salvation, it is a mortal sin.

It is often thought that our separation from God in heaven requires intentionality. That one has to intend and choose to be separated from him. This belief disregards the virtue of solicitude. We must *intend* to go to heaven. It is hell, not heaven, that one can accidentally fall into. No one goes to heaven by accident. There is a quote accredited to the 12<sup>th</sup> century saint, Bernard of Clairvaux: "Hell is full of good wishes or desires." The author of that article I read points out that Jesus insisted on **solicitude**: "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Mt 24:42) "To watch," Pope St Gregory

comments, "is to cast away the darkness of sloth and negligence."

Immediately after this verse the Lord gives three parables that warn against negligence. The foolish virgins don't deliberately reject the bridegroom, but still fail to get into the wedding banquet because they were negligent. The man who buried his talent neglected to make money with it and was punished. And the goats, who are not mentioned to have deliberately harmed anyone or reject the Lord, but are still damned because of their negligence of the hungry, thirsty, sick, etc.

We all know that in other areas of life, negligence is a serious offence. Doctors and lawyers can lose their practice and be charged with a crime for neglect. It doesn't require intentional wrong doing. Why should it be any different for something more important – eternal life?

Ascension serves as a moment to ask ourselves if we are distracted, and not paying attention to what is our responsibility. Are we being negligent of our Lord's life in heaven and his requirements for us on earth? Are we practicing solicitude – intentional care and concern for Christ and heaven? While it may merely be rude to carelessly look at the smart phone during dinner, it could be a matter of eternal life and death to be distracted by the world, and fail to keep our focus on Christ in heaven.

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd

