



# 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

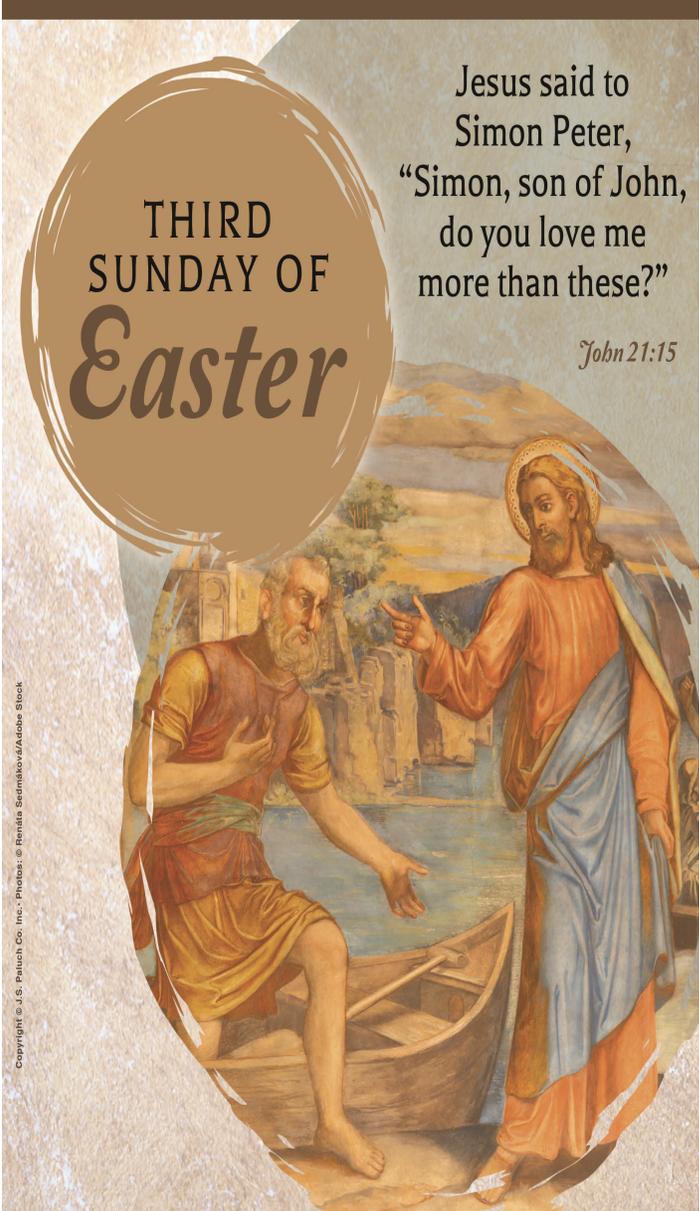
**Daily Masses:** Tues. 6:00 PM & Wed.-Sat. 8:00 AM

**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.



Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

*John 21:15*

THIRD  
SUNDAY OF  
*Easter*

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MAY 5, 2019

## Scriptures for the Week

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29  
Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35  
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40  
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51  
Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59  
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69  
Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

## Your Stewardship

Collection	\$ 8,191.00
Building Fund	\$ 120.00
Catholic Home Mission	\$ 452.00
Priest Retirement Fund	\$ 145.00

## 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.*

## This Week at I.C.C.

- 05/05 First Communion & Reception**  
@ 1pm.
- 05/07 Altar Society Meeting**  
@ 10am.  
**KC Meeting.**
- 05/08 Peer Bereavement Support Group**  
@ 5:30pm.

## Sympathy

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

*Family of Sandra Jarreau*

## Congratulations

To Forrest Dion & Jacie St. Romain who were married here on April 26, 2019.

## Flowers

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

## 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**.

## BIBLE STUDY

*Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross* will take place every **Thursday** from **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,

Recently a politician said something to the effect that “God is not political.” The point was primarily that Christianity does not belong to or side with a certain political leaning or party. People from any party or leaning can be Christian and that Christians can belong and hold to differing political ideologies. This politician’s goal was to garner more support from religious people despite the disordered lifestyle this particular person lives and promotes. Truthfully, what this politician wants to do is rationalize and normalize the idea of Christians supporting things that are objectively contrary to Christianity.

While this use of the name Christian is vulgar, it does offer a good question to consider: Is God political? The short answer is...yes. The Greek word *polites* means “citizen”; and the related word *politikos* refers to affairs of the citizens, particularly the collection of citizens. When ancient Greeks, such as Aristotle, used this word, they meant it in reference to the City State, which was the basic political structure of their day. The answer to the question is “yes” because God is interested in human beings. He created us, loves us, guides our history, and even saved us from sin. He established an ancient kingdom with a political structure called Israel. That kingdom foreshadowed His Church, which we believe is the perfect kingdom, the Kingdom of God. Based on basic definitions, God is interested and involved in politikos. Ultimately there will only be one kingdom, and God Himself will be the King.

But is God political in the more popular sense? No, He does not belong to a certain party or political leaning, ideology, philosophy, red states or blue states. All things belong to God. Our Lord and King Jesus Christ has dominion of the world. No one has dominion or exclusive claims over Him. This being so, the ultimate goal of politics, as far as Christians must be concerned, is to achieve the will of God. Our political affiliations, opinions, agendas, etc., must be informed, aligned, and directed by the Truth of God, as revealed by Jesus Christ.

The popular sense that this politician meant “God is not political” is true. *But*, it is possible for a political party to be objectively contrary in its agenda to the will of God. Communist and National Socialist parties in the past are examples of parties whose agenda are irreconcilable with Christianity. Active members of such a party who claim to be Christian have a conflict in their lives. Either they are merely Christians in name only, or are very odd members of their political party who do not support its agenda. Usually it is the former. No political party is perfectly aligned to the will of God, and therefore no Christian can prioritize their party’s agenda over the faith and morals of the Church.

A distressing trend is the inversion of religion and politics. It is not an exaggeration to say that some people are obsessed with politics. Everything they believe and do is informed by and filtered through their political ideas.

Some are unable to do anything without injecting or reading into it their sociopolitical agenda. Unfortunately this includes their religion – if they have one. The truth is, for people like this, politics is their religion. While they can make claims of faith, their politics dictate what that faith and moral life will be. Any political leaning, right and left, liberal and conservative, is capable of this error.

We should all examine ourselves. What we believe, how we live, what we consider acceptable behavior in society, or supportable positions of politicians must all be directed by our faith in Jesus Christ and the teachings of His church; the Catholic Church. The true faith cannot conform to political parties, or sociopolitical issues (e.g. racial, economic, sexual, “gender”, environmental, defense/war, immigration, guns, etc.). An over emphasis or obsession with any single issue or political agenda can distort the way we see everything else, including the faith. We must put on the lenses of Christ, and look at everything with eyes of faith. God may not be political in the popular sense, but He is in the real sense. He is attentive and concerned with how we live as citizens, both in earthly kingdoms and in His Kingdom. If our priority is not our citizenship in His Kingdom, we will lose that citizenship. *Our citizenship [politeuma] is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. – Phil 3:20*

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd

## PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR AN END TO INFANTICIDE

The U.S. Senate recently failed to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act—legislation that prohibits infanticide by ensuring that a child born alive following an attempted abortion would receive the same degree of care to preserve her or his life and health as would be given to any other child born alive at the same gestational age. Please join us in prayer for an end to infanticide.

***“Jesus, Lord of Life, transform the hearts of all elected leaders to recognize that infanticide is wrong and must not be tolerated. Open hearts and minds to recognize and defend the precious gift of every human life.”***

*“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.”*

— *Revelation 5:12*