



# 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:** Tuesday 6:00 PM  
Wednesday - Saturday 8:00 AM

**Reconciliation:** Tuesday 5:00 PM  
Saturday 3:00 PM

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

**Care of the Sick:** For emergencies, please contact the priest immediately. Communion is brought to the sick weekly. Families of those who are sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office as soon as possible.

**Marriage:** Couples are asked to contact the priest at the beginning of the period of engagement or at least six (6) months prior to the desired wedding date.

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

*The Lamb who is in  
the center of the throne  
will shepherd them and  
lead them to springs  
of life-giving water.*

*Revelation 7:17*



May 8, 2022

## Scriptures for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10

**Tuesday:** Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

**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 1:15-17; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17

**Sunday:** Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

## A Special Thank You

The Baby Bottle Drive was a true success! Our parish collected a total of \$10,000 which will go to Woman's New Life Clinic in Baton Rouge to help provide health services, counseling and resources for women and families facing an unplanned pregnancy. Many thanks to all who contributed. It is only through your generous donations that we were able to make this happen.

## Your Stewardship

**Collections** \$ 11,196.00

**Building Fund** \$ 2,659.00

## 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; Kaleb Porche, P.F.C., Army; Zachary Carl Rollins, Marines.*

## Prayer Requests

Lynn Amond, Tim Amond, Evelyn Babin, Linda Beauvis, Joseph Leroy Bizette, Wanda Blanchard, Annie Bourque, Robin Casiano, Daryl Cazes, Kiersten Chandler, Lee Joseph Comeaux, Michael David, Noah David, Brilynn Davis, Betty Decou, Malachi Engen, Anna Grace Fremin, David Gauthier, Gloria H. Genusa, Ed Gomez, Elizabeth Gosserand, Joe Guarino, Laura Jarreau, Noah Jarreau, Kiely Johnson, James Joseph, Judy Joseph, Trey LaCour, Barbara Landry, Maria Lawrence, Ramie LeBlanc, Wyatt Leblanc, Julie Lee, Janey Lively, Margie Marionneaux, Janice Marks, Rob Melacon, Gerald Mire, Myra Moniotte, Brandon Oubre, Gregory Patin, Coral, Nate & Violet Pennison, Cody Reed, Hank Ryan, Ella Samuel, Keith Schapatone, Rev. Mike Schatzle, Anna Graves Smith, Leona Smith, Maxell Thompson, Jr., Harry Williams.

## This Week at ICC

**05/08 Happy Mother's Day!**

**05/10 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting**  
@ 6:30pm.

**05/11 Peer Bereavement Meeting**  
@ 5:30pm Rm.#2

**05/14 Supper & Substance Women's Brunch**  
@ 9am in Parish Hall.

## 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.

## Sympathy

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

Family of **Ryan Nicholas Irvine**.

## Supper and Substance Women's Brunch

Saturday, May 14, 2022

9am

ICC Parish Hall

## Vacation Bible School 2022 "Monumental"

Give kids a grand-new perspective as they go off-road for adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a ROCK SOLID faith for the road ahead!

**Date:** July 11-15

**Time:** 9:00am-Noon

**Ages:** children must be 4 years old  
by Dec. 31\* through entering 4th grade

**Registration Fee:** \$25.00

**Must be pre-registered before June 30th**  
\*limited space available

Registration & student volunteer forms are available in back of church or outside of Office of Christian Formation and can be dropped in the mail slot of Office of Christian Formation.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact **Skye Johnston @ 627-5819**.

## From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

To all moms, happy Mother's Day! Thank you for your gifts of love, service, and guidance. It is most often you, our mothers, who teach us how to be faithful to Christ. We cannot help but remember in this the gift of St. Augustine's mother, St. Monica. While St. Augustine lived his early life away from the faith and in sin, his saintly mother never ceased to pray for him and have hope. Her example and prayer was fruitful when God rewarded her perseverance with his conversion. This was not only a great gift for St. Augustine who moved to sanctity, but for the Church as well because he became one of the greatest theologians in the history of Christianity. This example really shows not only the influence mothers have with their children, but even more so their responsibility. Moms have the responsibility of being examples of gentleness, prayer, humility, and hopefulness.

Consider the example of another saint, the most important of all: the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is the *Theotokos* – God Bearer, or Mother of God. Through her our Lord entered human life and history on His mission to save us. Her role, though, as Theotokos does not stop on Jesus' birthday, but continues throughout the history of the Church. She is always directing us to Her Son, and baring Him to us. As she says herself in the gospel of Luke, "My soul magnifies the Lord."

The Blessed Mother is not merely the mother of Jesus but the mother of all Christians. Remember Christ's words from the cross to His beloved disciple: "Behold your mother." But Mary is not the noisy and demanding mother who must be heard and seen. Rather she is the meek and humble servant who says, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." In this statement she allows Christ into the world, and continues to do so by directing all the faithful to Him. This is the perfect example of Christian femininity and motherhood. That is why Saint Pope John XXIII's words in his first encyclical are so true: "The mother should form her children firmly and graciously by the mildness of her manner and by her virtue."

In no way does any of this mean that a mother does not have authority over her child, but rather that her authority is one that begins with receptivity before dominance. This can be seen even in the very physical act of procreation. Motherhood is a self-sacrificial and life giving relationship. Even after birth this service of the mother continues. While this is a physical reality, more importantly is the spiritual reality. A mother should be concerned with the spiritual life of her children. That is why Mary is most important not because she was physically Jesus' mother, but because she was faithful. Remember our Lord's response to the acclamation, "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you

nursed." He replied, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

This could also be related to another *kind* of mother we all have. We have our earthly mothers, our Blessed Mother, and finally we have our Ecclesial Mother – the Church. In his work *De Moribus Ecclesiae Catholicae* (*Of the Morals of the Catholic Church*) St Augustine says, "The Church is truly the mother of Christians." Her role, like all mothers, is to give us life (through baptism), to feed us (the Eucharist), to teach us the truth, to discipline us, and to orient us beyond herself to Jesus. And like other mothers one of the most important roles of her vocation is not merely to give us love, but to be an object of our love. Back in 2013 Pope Francis asked at a general audience, "Do we love the Church as we love our mothers, also taking into account her defects? All mothers have defects, we all have defects, but when we speak of our mother's defects we gloss over them, we love her as she is." Just as loving our earthly mothers gives us an identity and sometimes even purpose in life – keeping us from sin out of love for her – so too should it be with our mother the Church. Our love for her should give us identity and motivate us to be holy.

This is the great beauty of motherhood. You mothers have accepted and ushered the life of your child into the world physically. And more importantly, like St. Monica, Blessed Mary, and the Church, you continue to be life-giving through your example of prayerful obedience to the will of God.

Thank you. I commend you to our Lord through the humble and powerful prayer of Mary, the Mother of God.

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd



## **Information Page**

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**Special Instructions:** Until further notice, please send us only **400** printed bulletins. Thank you.