



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, and 11:00 AM

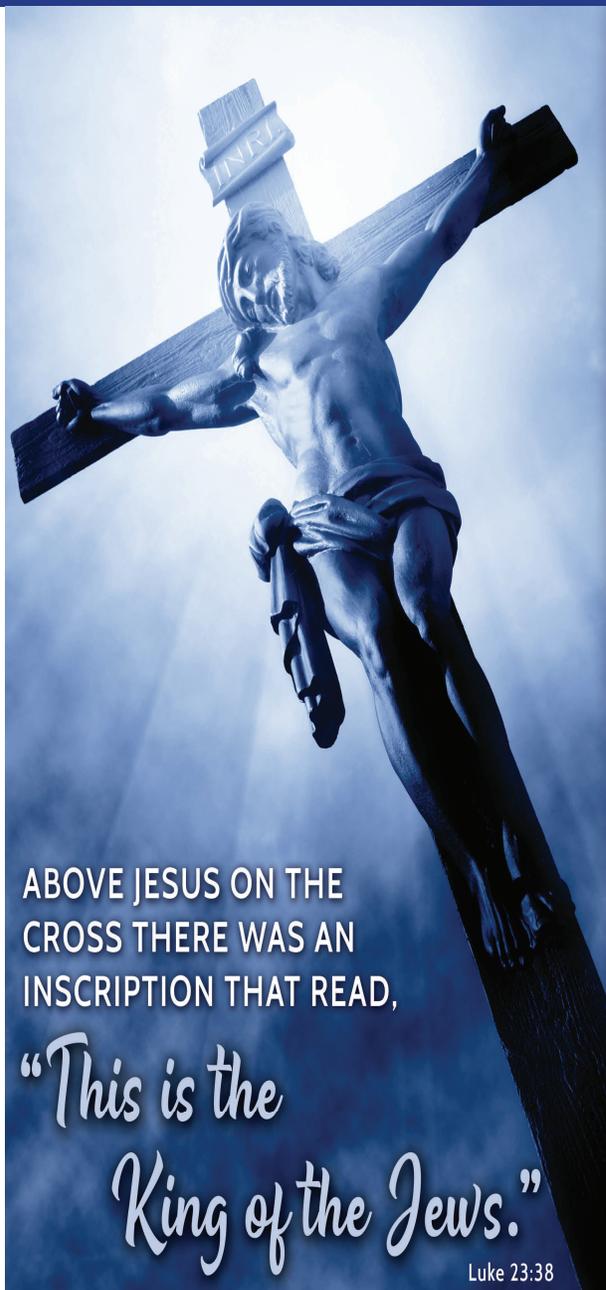
Daily Masses: Tues. 6:00 PM & Wed.-Sat. 8:00 AM

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.



ABOVE JESUS ON THE
CROSS THERE WAS AN
INSCRIPTION THAT READ,

*"This is the
King of the Jews."*

Luke 23:38

NOVEMBER 24, 2019 · OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Scriptures for the Week

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28
Thanksgiving Day, Suggested:
Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; I Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday, November 27th**, at **6pm**.

Your Stewardship

Collections \$ 7,028.00
Building Fund \$ 130.00

Prayer Requests

Aguillard Family, Leslie Aguillard, Trevor Allement, Janelle Amond, Numa Aucoin, Shirley Blauvelt, Herbert Brown, Kyle Cabalero, Charles Chustz, Sadie Collins, Lee Joseph Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Jean David, 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, Yvonne Lazare, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Troy Menier, Doug Matte, Gail Metz, David Mohr, Sheldon Moses, Vickie Mounger, Phyllis Naquin, Linda Olinde, Corey Patin, John Gary Patin, Jr., Nora Porche, Shelby Porche, Dotti Purpera, Hank Ryan, Hunter Schurba, Lou Sherman, James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Ainsley Wolf.

God 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.

- 11/25 No Rel. Ed Class.**
11/26 No Rel. Ed Class.
PAL Meeting
@ 6pm Rm#2.
11/27 No Rel. Ed Class.
Thanksgiving Mass
@ 6pm.
11/28 Happy Thanksgiving!
11/29 Parish Office Closed.
11/30 Christmas Party For The Elderly
@ 11am - 3pm in Hall.

Thanksgiving Food Bank

The ICC Food Bank is busy making preparations for Thanksgiving. Each year we give the Food Bank participants a special Thanksgiving box that has a turkey. Anyone wishing to help by making a monetary donation, please contact **Kris Chustz** at **620-7507**.

The Giving Tree

Once again, the Ladies Auxiliary will be sponsoring **The Giving Tree**. The tree with the ornaments is located in the Activity Center. All gifts **MUST** be returned, under the tree in the hall, by **December 8th**. Please return the ornament with your gift. Thank you for your generosity in helping a child have a Merry Christmas.

Box For Socks!

Our 1st and 2nd graders will hold their annual drive to collect new socks for local nursing home residents. They are asking for your help so that they will have “**plenty**” of warm socks to bring to the residents.

Please drop off socks in the box outside the **Office of Christian Formation** by **Sunday, December 8, 2019**.

We appreciate your help and generosity in supporting this ministry.

Advent Seminar

This Advent, learn how to defend the Blessed Mother using the Bible! **Scott Smith** is giving a series of three talks in December based on his new book **Everything You Need to Know About Mary**. Scott will teach how the Virgin Mary is the New Eve, the New Ark, and the New Queen of Israel, respectively.

When: **Thursdays, December 5th, 12th & 19th**

Where: **Immaculate Conception Church**

Time: **6pm**

From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

One of the most critical aspects to maintaining justice in a society is the balanced limitations placed upon the state. A lack of limitations leads to tyranny. The early politicians of the United States understood the importance of limitations when they drafted what would become our Constitution's "Bill of Rights" – the first 10 Amendments. The very first limitation is placed on the state's ability to interfere in matters of religion: "Congress shall make no law respecting [pertaining to] an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

This establishes a limit to the very nature of the state by identifying something outside of its authority. All of the other limitations rely on the underpinning philosophy of this one: that the state does not have supreme authority over citizens. One can see how, if this limitation failed, so too would all others. If the state can moderate the religion of citizens, then it has authority over every aspect of their lives.

There is a flaw to this first amendment, if read a certain way. If by it one were to understand that religion has no place in the politics of the state, then that could and does cause an unnecessary and false dichotomy that people of faith cannot accept. While we appreciate the limitation on the state's ability to interfere with religion, this does not mean that one's faith life should have no bearing on their political life. Indeed, our religion should influence every aspect of our lives, including our politics.

In the time of the founding of this county it was common for countries to have established state churches, which would be subsidized by the state, and which were given official preference over other religions. In some cases there were penalties for not belonging to the state sanctioned church. It is unlikely that the founders could have predicted the direction the world was moving towards, though. It is no longer an established faith that one must concern themselves with, but rather an established *faithlessness*. And when religion is segregated from politics to the point of there being no religion allowed, the politics of the state becomes the *de facto* religion. Today, politics does not so much threaten to advance one religion or church over another, as much as it does threaten to become the one religion in and of itself. That is, not establishing a state religion, but establishing the state as the religion.

In 1925 Pope Pius XI established the *Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*, because of this very real threat of radical secularism. He saw that the growing trend of statism, culminating in Communism (e.g. Russia) and Fascism (e.g. Germany), was threatening to replace religion with politics. The states were beginning to demand of citizens a faithfulness that superseded their loyalty to anything or anyone else, including their religion.

This is still a threat in our own day. The less religious people become, the more they replace religion with worldly concerns. When someone ceases to concern themselves with the heavenly Kingdom, they become transfixed only on the earthly one. A concern for personal holiness is lost, and the greatest "sin" anyone can commit is offending the mob. Where in authentic religion one can act radically to achieve heaven, in the religion of state politics one can act radically to achieve political success – and any means are justified by that end. I dare to say that all this can be seen in the partisan politics of our nation-state today. Unfortunately even average citizens are duped into obsessing about politics thanks to the incessant coverage by media.

This Sunday we are reminded and profess that, as Catholic Christians, Jesus is our King, and that his rule demands our faithfulness to him above and in all things. This means that not even the state, her government, or politics has autonomy from or authority over our relationship with Jesus Christ and his Kingdom – the Catholic Church.

On this feast Pope Pius XI declared to the world that Catholics place priority on their faithfulness to Christ the King, and not to the nation-state's politics. He wrote: "If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God."

We Catholics only have one religion. It should influence every aspect of our lives. We should resist the temptation to become religiously faithful to any political party or agenda. We must place all things, including our earthly citizenship, in their proper place in regards to our relationship with Christ the King. While the state has no right to influence our faith life; our faith life has not only a right, but a duty to influence our political life. No citizen or politician can claim otherwise.

Ave Christus Rex! Hail Christ the King!

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd

