

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. C. Todd Lloyd

Deacon: Bob McDonner

Religious Education:

Rachel Christ

Music Coordinator:

Jody Doucet

Sunday Masses: 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM

Sat. Vigil: 4:00 PM

Daily Masses:

Wed-Fri. Eucharist 8:00 AM & **Tues.** 6:00pm

Care of the Sick: Emergency calls immediately. The Eucharist is brought to the sick weekly. Families of those who are sick are encouraged to notify the Parish Office.

**P.O. Box 158
Lakeland, LA 70752**



**Parish Office 627-5124
Religious Education Office 627-5819
Immaculateconceptionlakeland.com**

Reconciliation: Saturday Vigil 4:00

PM. Saturday 3:00 PM and Tuesday 5:30pm

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 except during Lent & Advent. Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptism preparation is required.

Scriptures for the Week

Monday: I Cor 11:17-26, 33; Ps 40:7-10, 17;
Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday: I Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1-5;
Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: I Cor 12:31 — 13:13; Ps 33:2-5, 12, 22;
Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: I Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28;
Lk 7:36-50
Friday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Saturday: I Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14;
Lk 8:4-15
Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-8; Jas 3:16 —
4:3; Mk 9:30-37

Your Stewardship

Collection	\$8,454.47
Electronic	\$1,275.00
Catholic Un of Am	\$60.00

Sick List

Janelle Amond, Tootie Amond, Gertrude Bonaventure, Inez Bueche, John David, Robert Geier, Jr., Alfred Gremillion, Deborah Fountain, Ferd Fabre, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kaci McCamy, Gail Metz, Linda Olinde, Dottie Purpera, Lou Sherman, Gwen Trabeaux, Sonny Trabeaux.

-Prayer Request

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; Captain Jordan Morirs;; Lieutenant Stephen Burleigh, Jr.; MT2 Jacob Lamotte., Sgt. Greg Silva, Army; Jules Craig Cifreo Air Force.; Samuel Edward Guidroz, Navy.

This Week at I.C.

9/16 Rel Ed Classes 9th-11th @ 9:30am.
Relay for Life Bingo 2-5pm Hall
9/17 Rel Ed Grades 6th-8th @5:15pm.
KC 4th Degree Mtg @ 6pm.
9/18 Rel Ed Grades 1st-2nd @ 5:30pm.
9/19 Rel Ed Grades 3rd-5th @ 5:30pm.
KC Mtg.
9/20 Bible Study 9am or 6pm.
Rm 2 Activity Center.
9/23 Rel Ed Classes 9th-11th @ 9:30am.

Sympathy

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

Family of Rick Falgout.

Family of Leroy Foreman.

Family of Carmen Nolan.

Congratulations

To Nicholas Firmin & Amber LaPrarie who were married here on Sept 7, 2018.

Prayer for Hurricane Season

O God, our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed your order and returned to its former calmness, you are still the Master of land and sea. During this hurricane season, we turn to You. O Loving Father, spare us from past tragedies and protect us from future storms.
Amen.

In Christ,

As you know we have regular opportunities for adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament throughout the week in our parish. This has been an important part of my personal prayer life, and is also critical to the life of the Church. Many of the saints of the Church took time daily, sometimes hours, to pray before our Eucharistic Lord. St. Pope John Paul II especially had great dedication to this type of prayer, and encouraged it to the whole Church. He wrote in his encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* “The worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass is of inestimable value for the life of the Church. This worship is strictly linked to the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. The presence of Christ under the sacred species reserved after Mass – a presence which lasts as long as the species of bread and of wine remain – derives from the celebration of the sacrifice and is directed towards communion, both sacramental and spiritual. It is the responsibility of Pastors to encourage, also by their personal witness, the practice of Eucharistic adoration, and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in particular, as well as prayer of adoration before Christ present under the Eucharistic species.”

This last line of John Paul II is something we should take serious. It is not a matter of personal spirituality, but one of responsibility. It is not merely an optional devotion numbered among the many others, such as devotion to the saints and novena prayers. If we believe what the Church professes about the Most Blessed Sacrament, that it the real presence of Jesus Christ, then adoration should be a necessary part of our prayer life. Saint Alphonsus Liguori wrote “Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us”. If we desire for our parish to grow into a school of prayer, as John Paul II said in another place is what parishes should be, then we must all commit ourselves to worshiping the Lord in the intimate way. While other activities are helpful in a parish, a community that wishes to have true communion through the Lord “cannot fail also to develop this aspect of Eucharistic worship, which prolongs and increases the fruits of our communion in the body and blood of the Lord” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*).

Unfortunately, despite these examples and strong encouragements from the saints and popes, many Catholics fail to see the good or make the time for Jesus in this way. In our parish we now have many opportunities for adoration: an hour before each weekday Mass and the Saturday Vigil; Saturday mornings after the morning 8AM Mass; and half an hour before the 9AM and 11AM Mass. I’ve noticed that during these times, especially on Sunday, that many people, even if they are physically in the church before Mass, are still not using this time for adoration. Some seem completely oblivious to our Lord present on the altar. I strongly encourage everyone to follow these simple steps when coming into the church during adoration: enter the church in **silence and remain silent**; when crossing in front of or near our Lord acknowledge His presence by a reverent genuflection (or bow if unable to genuflect); and when getting to your place, kneel (if able) and pray before our Lord (tell Him you love Him, thank Him for your blessings, ask Him for forgiveness, ask Him for your needs, adore and worship Him).

These are difficult times in the Church. The whole Church is in need of prayer before the Lord, asking for purity and sanctity. In the Eucharist, more than anywhere else, will we find the needed grace to be the Church our Lord calls us to be. Consider these words of John Paul II: “The mystery of the Eucharist – sacrifice, presence, banquet – *does not allow for reduction or exploitation*; it must be experienced and lived in its integrity, both in its celebration and in the intimate converse with Jesus which takes place after receiving communion or in a prayerful moment of Eucharistic adoration apart from Mass. These are times when the Church is firmly built up and it becomes clear what she truly is: one, holy, catholic and apostolic; the people, temple and family of God; the body and bride of Christ, enlivened by the Holy Spirit; the universal sacrament of salvation and a hierarchically structured communion.”

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd