



# 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.

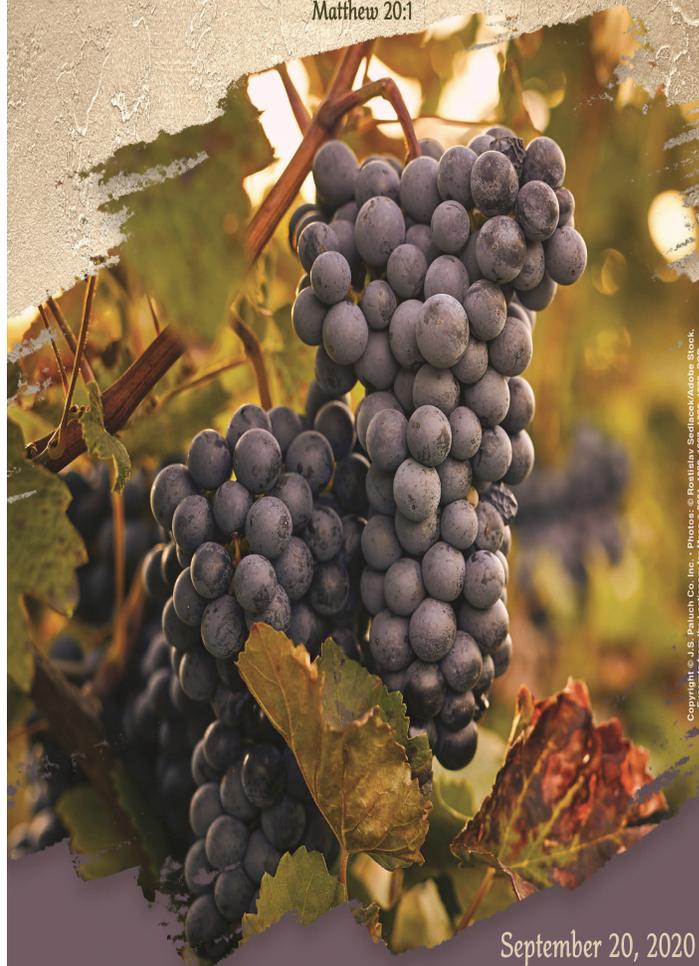
**Reconciliation:** Tues. 5:00 PM & Sat. 3:00 PM

**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.

The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner  
who went out at dawn  
to hire laborers for his vineyard.

Matthew 20:1



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September 20, 2020

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Scriptures for the Week

**Monday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

**Tuesday:** Prv 21:1-6, 10-13;

Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday:** Prv 30:5-9;

Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday:** Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc;

Lk 9:7-9

**Friday:** Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4;

Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday:** Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17;

Lk 9:43b-45

**Sunday:** Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11 [1-5];

Mt 21:28-32

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**September 20, 2020**

Turn to the LORD for mercy;  
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

— Isaiah 55:7b

## Your Stewardship

Collections        \$ 9,612.40

## 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, Shirley Blauvelt, Kyle Cabalero, Linda Cheek, Lee Joseph Comeaux, Brittany Costello, Jean David, Brilynn Davis, Ronald Decuir, Wanda Decuir, Shannan Everett, Deborah Fountain, Robert Geier, Jr., Alfred Gremillion, Joe Guarino, Pamela Vicknair Harrington, Lyndon Lynn Hernandez, Danny Jarreau, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura 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, David Patin, John Gary Patin, Jr., Abigail Politz, Shelby Porche, Dotti Purpera, Michael Roche, Hank Ryan, Hunter Schurba, Lou Sherman, Timmy Smith, Sr., James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Ainsley Wolf.

## This Week at I.C.C.

**09/20 Rel. Ed Grade 11th**  
@ 9:30am.

**09/22 Rel. Ed Grade 2nd**  
@ 5pm.

## Humility

No human being is too big to be humble,  
but some human beings are too small.

—Anonymous

## Sympathy

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

Family of **Mary Eula Knapps**.

Family of **Brad Patin**.

Family of **Lillian Rosar**.

Family of **Michael Brandon Schapaton**.

## BAPTISMS

*We welcome to our Parish Community:*

**Stella Marie Fabre**, child of Justin Neil Fabre & Hannah Michelle Fabre.

**Owen Michael Mougeot**, child of John Paul Mougeot & Catherine LeJeune Mougeot.

**Whitney Marie Pourciau**, child of David Randall Pourciau & Ashley Territo Pourciau.

## Hurricane Laura Disaster Relief Diocese of Lake Charles

The Diocese of Baton Rouge is launching a campaign to help support the recovery efforts of those who have been affected by Hurricane Laura.

Immaculate Conception will be accepting donations to help with this cause. If you would like to donate items, you may drop them off in Room #2 in the Activity Center. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you can place it in the Sunday collection or bring it by the parish office. Please note that donations of food, clothing and personal items are **not** being accepted at this time.

Thank you for your generosity and support in helping those most in need.

## From The Pastor's Desk

In Christ,

Among the things that have changed in the Church over the past several decades is the practice of penitential prayer and fasting. Unfortunately many people forget that these practices exist and never offer days of penance. This is an important part of our life as Christians and Catholics that we should take seriously. The *Code of Canon Law* states: *Can. 1249 The divine law binds all the Christian faithful to do penance each in his or her own way. In order for all to be united among themselves by some common observance of penance, however, penitential days are prescribed on which the Christian faithful devote themselves in a special way to prayer, perform works of piety and charity, and deny themselves by fulfilling their own obligations more faithfully and especially by observing fast and abstinence, according to the norm of the following canons.-*

In order to achieve the “common observance of penance” the Church currently requires all Catholics to observe every Friday (except when there is a solemnity) as a day of penance. The norm is that everyone of the age of 14 and up must abstain from meat on Fridays. But the universal law gives permission to bishops’ conferences to adjust what the practice of penance is – but not when penance must be done. In the United States we are not required to make abstaining from meat our penance except during Lent. We can choose some other form of penance, but must do a penance of some kind. Abstaining from meat is still the most customary among Catholics who actually observe this requirement because it is traditional, objective, and practical. I would encourage anyone who is not already observing this practice to do so, or *at least* do some penance (abstain from something else?) as is required of all of age Catholics.

The other requirement by law is the days of fasting. There are currently only two a year: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of fasting binds all adults between 18 and 60 to abstain from all food for the whole day, with the exception of one meal excluding meat.

There are other days that are customarily observed as penitential days, and on which Catholics used to fast. The 1917 *Code of Canon Law* that preceded the current one stated: *(Canon 1252) Fast and abstinence are prescribed on the following days: Ash Wednesday, the Fridays and Saturdays in Lent, Ember days, the Vigils of Pentecost, of the Assumption, of All Saints Day, and of Christmas Day. Fast only is ordained for all the other days of Lent. On Sundays and holidays of obligation, except on a holiday in Lent, there is neither fast nor abstinence, and if a vigil that is a fast day falls on a Sunday the fast is not to be anticipated on Saturday but is dropped altogether that year. The Lenten fast and abstinence cease at twelve o'clock noon on Holy Saturday.*

These communal penitential customs were observed by the Church for several centuries until our own time. Fasting before a feast day is a helpful preparation. It acknowledges our sorrow for sin and dependency on God in anticipation of celebrating some great mystery by which our sins are forgiven and God gives us an abundance of what we need. Imagine how much more festive the feast days are when you have fasted the day before!

Also mentioned are Ember days. The word “Ember” comes from the Latin phrase *Quatuor Tempora*, meaning “four times”. Ember days were four sets of three days of fasting that fell during the natural seasons of the years. On the week of Ember days, Catholics would fast on Wednesday (the day Jesus was betrayed), Friday (crucified), and Saturday (in the tomb). Their purpose was to ask God (through the prayerful sacrifice) for the needs of humanity related to that season, specifically a fruitful harvest, to thank him for his bounty, and to teach us moderation in use of his creation. The dates for the Ember days are the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after St. Lucy’s feast day (December 13); after the First Sunday of Lent; after Pentecost Sunday; and after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of September (this was traditionally after the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross – Sept. 14 – but adjusted during a liturgical reform in 1960). Due to their connection to seasonal harvest, the Ember days were also days of prayer for priests (cf. Matt 9:38 and Lk 10:2), and it was once the law of the Church that priestly ordinations would occur on the Saturday of Ember days.

While Ember days and most other days of fasting are no longer obligatory for Catholics, they are still a good and pious practice that we should all consider taking on partially or in full. We constantly need reminding that we are not the Lord of creation. We should be willing to sacrifice a portion of creation to the One who has given it to us. Seasonal fasting is a good way of offering penance for human sinfulness by which we lost the Garden of Eden, and as we live in such a bountiful season in human history thanks to his mercy. Willingness to fast shows our belief that we cannot live by bread alone, but rely on God for all things. And just as fasting before a feast day helps emphasize the joy of that day, so too does fasting seasonally in this life help us prepare for the joyful feasting of the life to come.

*Thus says the LORD of hosts: The fast days of the fourth, the fifth, the seventh, and the tenth months will become occasions of joy and gladness, and happy festivals for the house of Judah. So love faithfulness and peace! – Zacharias 8:19*

Totus Tuus,  
Fr. Todd Lloyd

## **Information Page**

**Church:** Immaculate Conception Church  
12364 Hwy 416  
Lakeland, Louisiana 70757

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 158  
Lakeland, Louisiana 70757

**Office Phone:** (225) 627-5124

**Contact Person:** Suzanne M.

**Contact Email Address:** igbay@aol.com

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**Special Instructions:** Until further notice, please send us only **250** printed bulletins. Thank you.