



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.



September 27, 2020

Jesus said

*to the chief priests
and elders of the people,
“Amen, I say to you,
tax collectors and prostitutes
are entering into the
kingdom of God before you.”*

Matthew 21:31

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Scriptures for the Week

Monday: Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a;

Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51

Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10bc-15;

Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14;

Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14ab; Mt 18:1-5

Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24

Sunday: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 27, 2020

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus.
— Philippians 2:5

Your Stewardship

Collections \$ 9,418.00

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.

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, Earl Jarreau, Sr., Laura Jarreau, Sharon Jarreau, Tess Jarreau, Reid LaComb, Kevin LeBlanc, Kay Lee, Larry Lee, Janice Marks, Doug Matte, Rob Melacon, 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, Anna Graves Smith, Timmy Smith, Sr., James Thames, Sonny Trabeaux, Ainsley Wolf.

This Week at I.C.C.

09/27 Rel. Ed Grade 11th
@ 9:30am.

09/29 Rel. Ed Grade 2nd
@ 5pm.

Sympathy

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

Family of **Danny Jarreau.**

Family of **Jason Johnson, Sr.**

BAPTISMS

We welcome to our Parish Community:

Emrie Gayle Landry, child of Nicholas Lee Landry & Jackie Maydell Brinkley.

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,

“Believe that you may understand” (St. Augustine). “Faith seeking to reach the intellect” and “I believe that I may understand” (St. Anselm). “Let us hasten from faith to knowledge. Let us endeavor so far as we can, to understand that which we believe” (Richard of St. Victor). These similar quotes from important theologians of the Church’s history offer us a worthwhile challenge: to use the God given gift of reason to better understand that which we profess by faith. And these quotes come with an implicit point: the better we understand that which we believe, the better we will be at believing.

Now, there are two caveats that need to be made. First, certain mysteries of our faith are never going to be completely understood by anyone. The realities of God are beyond even the most brilliant human intellect. But that does not mean that one cannot or should not have an interest in studying and considering these mysteries to understand their meaning at least to the level of that person's ability.

Secondly, seeking to understand the articles of faith on a more intimate level is not something merely for "intellectuals", theologians, or clerics to worry about. Our religion, we believe, is both a divinely revealed religion (i.e. contains mysteries which can only be known by God's revelation to man through Scripture and Sacred Tradition and require the grace of faith), and a rational religion (i.e. it does not contradict human reason and some beliefs can be reached with sound reasoning by the human mind). To remain in only one of these spheres – faith or reason – is an incomplete Christianity. And while not everyone is going to have the ability or resources to dedicate themselves to the same level of study that others may have, this does not mean that any believer should not have an interest or make an effort to understand their religion. Authentic love of someone longs to know the beloved better. If we really are faithful to Jesus and love him, then we should want to know him more.

I've experienced in some Catholics a willingness to quickly dismiss something the Church teaches with little or no effort made to understand that teaching. Somewhat surprising is how carelessly people will volunteer the information to a priest that they reject an article of faith or morality. "I don't believe in purgatory." "I see nothing wrong with using contraception." "I don't believe in confession." I have heard these and many more. But often when asked *why* a person believes as they do, they have no real rational explanation nor can they tell you why the Church teaches what she does. Instead most of these contrarian beliefs are rooted in sentiment. They believe what they do because that is what they *want* to be true. They do not want purgatory to be real because they want their loved ones to go straight to heaven. They see no problem with contraception because they used contraception themselves. They do not believe in the sacrament of confession because they do not want the burden of honestly examining their conscience and confessing to a priest for absolution. In situations like this it is clear that if sincere "belief seeks understanding," then understanding is not sought out by someone whose beliefs are insincere. Rather than trying to understand the Church's belief so as to form their faith properly, they remain ignorant of the Church's arguments, and thus hold to their erroneous beliefs without challenge.

When I encounter this kind of obstinacy coupled with ignorance I think of the phrase coined by Jonathan Swift (of *Gulliver's Travels* and *A Modest Proposal* fame): "Reasoning will never make a man correct an ill

opinion, which by reasoning he never acquired." In other words, if one comes to a belief without use of reason, then reason will do little to change one's mind. This does not have to be true, but it certainly is if a person refuses to listen to reason.

The Church has reasons for everything she believes and teaches. She has constantly sought to better understand that which God has revealed to her, and that faith seeking understanding has borne great fruit from some of the greatest minds of world history *and* some of the most holy saints. Catholics who hastily dismiss Church teaching without making an effort to consider where she points to in divine revelation (scripture *and* sacred tradition) coupled with natural reason are refusing to even hear those saintly doctors of the Church because they would rather believe what is preferable to them without a challenge. This is not only intellectually lazy and insincere; it is also potentially destructive to their relationship with God.

We would hopefully give the benefit of the doubt to a master mathematician when he tells us the result of some complex calculus problem. This does not mean we cannot work the problem out ourselves if we are able to and seek to understand it. Do the calculus. If you get a result that differs from the expert, do not assume he is wrong. Compare notes. Ask questions. Look at where the two processes diverge. And accept the result that proves to be from the soundest process. It makes no sense to reject the expert mathematician's result while also refusing to make an effort to do the problem yourself or understand how he came to his result. In cases dealing with faith and morality, the Church is the expert, and her members should seek to better understand her teaching because to do so is a demonstration of authentic faithfulness, which always longs to not only believe something, but to understand, too.

The Church remains profoundly convinced that faith and reason "mutually support each other"; each influences the other, as they offer to each other a purifying critique and a stimulus to pursue the search for deeper understanding. – Pope St. John Paul II (*Fides et Ratio*, 100)

Totus Tuus,
Fr. Todd Lloyd



Information Page

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