



# 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

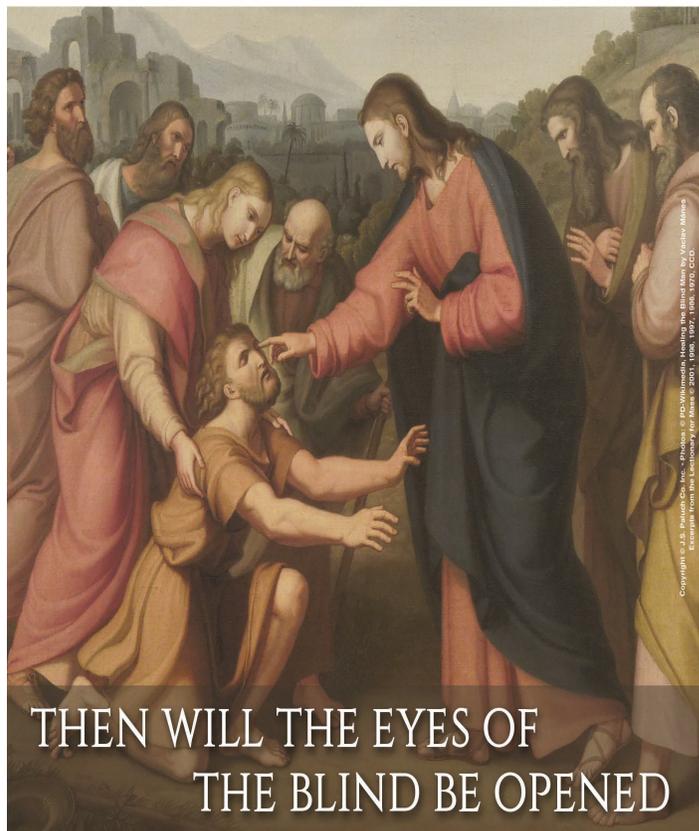
**Baptism:** Celebrated monthly. Please contact the Parish Office during early months of pregnancy. Baptism preparation is required.

**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.



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



THEN WILL THE EYES OF  
THE BLIND BE OPENED

the ears of the deaf be cleared;  
then will the lame leap like a stag,  
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6

SEPTEMBER

5  
2021

## Scriptures for the Week

**Monday:** Col 1:24 — 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass  
“For the Blessing of Human Labor,” nos. 907-911

**Tuesday:** Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19

**Wednesday:** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6  
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

**Thursday:** Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38

**Friday:** 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

**Saturday:** 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49

**Sunday:** Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

## Your Stewardship

Collections \$ 5,077.00

## Religious Education News

The Office of Christian Formation has a vacancy to fill in the teaching department for 4th grade religious education. We are looking for a caring person who may want to volunteer their time to help teach God’s word. If the spirit is calling you to help volunteer, please call **Dina Tunstall** at **627-5819**.

## 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

Leslie Aguillard, Daniel Allemond, Tim Amond, Roy Ancona, Evelyn Babin, Linda Beauvis, Blaine Benoit, Joseph Leroy Bizette, Kynlee Bueche, Robin Casiano, Daryl Cazes, Brilynn Davis, John Debetaz, Marie Debetaz, Betty Decou, Mary Doris Deculus, Alcide Delapasse, Carroll Devillier, Malachi Engen, Deborah Fountain, Anna Grace Fremin, Elizabeth Gosserand, Joe Guarino, Laura Jarreau, Noah Jarreau, James Joseph, Judy Joseph, Barbara Landry, Maria Lawrence, Ramie LeBlanc, Kevin LeBlanc, Janey Lively, Margie Marionneaux, Janice Marks, Rob Melacon, Myra Moniotte, Coral, Nate & Violet Pennison, Nancy Racca, Cody Reed, Hank Ryan, Keith Schapatone, Anna Graves Smith, Sonny Trabeaux, Harry Williams.

## This Week at ICC

**09/06 Happy Labor Day!**

## Baptisms

*We welcome to our Parish Community:*

**Gemma Grace Collette**, child of Eric Nicholas Collette & Teighlor Gonzales Collette.

**Sadie Grace Gomez**, child of Seth Matthew Gomez & Heather Helen Marcum.

**Hannah Marie Marcum**, child of Heather Helen Marcum.

## Sympathy

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

Family of **Elliott Bizette, Jr.**

Family of **Elgene Denson.**

Family of **Joseph Christopher Honore.**

Family of **Joseph Larry St. Romain.**

## Request For Help

Each year there are a few of our families, who, for one reason or another, we ask for help with paying their religious education fees. Registration fees are \$25.00 per child, but of course any amount you can contribute would be greatly appreciated. If you can help, please drop donations off at the Office of Christian Formation, in the front door mail slot. You may also mail donations to:

**Office of Christian Formation**

**Attn. Mrs. Dina Tunstall.**

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

**Thank you in advance for your help and generosity.**

## From The Pastor’s Desk

In Christ,

This article is a continuation of last week’s which described how the heresy of Pelagianism lives on in novel atheistic philosophies today. Pelagianism is the idea that human nature is not affected by sin and that grace is not needed for sanctification. Last week’s article explained the “noble savage” theory which romanticizes primitive man, and accuses the development of civilization, especially Christian civilization, with defiling man’s natural

innocence. The article continued by describing how Marxist Critical Theory is a related error which places the blame of any perceived injustice on the constructs of society as a whole, rather than on the sinfulness of those who make up society.

Marxist Communism in general and Critical Theory specifically tend to overemphasize humanity as a species, either for good or bad, to the diminishment of individual human beings. In other words, Communism disregards the potential good or bad of individual people as it obsesses about the good or bad of the collective humanity. This sometimes leads to a denigrating or extolling of whole groups of people, and a devaluing of individual liberties for the sake of the perceived common good.

More recently, Marxist Critical Theory has been further applied to certain subsets of society, such as Critical *Gender* Theory and Critical *Race* Theory. The premise of these more specified Critical Theories is that, even if people in the society are not consciously prejudiced, that the institutions, laws, economics, education, cultural norms, mores, art, media, politics, religion, and more are prejudiced, and therefore must be reformed and/or replaced with an egalitarian system. Again, it is not personal sin as a consequence of Original Sin that plagues humanity, nor right religion (i.e. Christianity) and grace that will be the remedy; but some construct of civilization that is the problem, and human progress away from that construct that is the answer. It is easy to see how in this kind of specific Critical Theory that certain groups are denigrated as others are extolled (e.g. all people of this race/gender are innocent victims and must be uplifted and celebrated; all people of this race/gender are guilty beneficiaries of prejudice and must be downgraded and disparaged).

Marxist Critical Theory is a great danger to peace in society. Rather than eradicating prejudice, it encourages animosity and suspicion between whole groups of humanity, reduces personal responsibility for those estimated as victims, heaps broad guilt upon those considered privileged, and advances double standards. It makes power and affluence the sole metrics by which human dignity may be evaluated. Instead of helping a fallen humanity, it espouses the deadly sins of wrath and envy.

On a personal level, it is a great obstacle to happiness because it teaches its adherents to evaluate everything in life and culture based on the principles of Critical Theory – us versus them, victim versus oppressor. In Marxism this is called the “class struggle” or “class warfare”. Activism for change becomes the purpose of life for some followers of Critical Theory, and everything they do – personally, socially, professionally, artistically, athletically, politically, and religiously – is motivated by the notion that injustice is pervasive and must be disrupted at every level. Enjoying life is hard for a person steeped in loathing towards the world they live in.

The Christian must reject the premises of the no-

ble savage and Marxist Critical Theory. The individual human person is capable of both evil and goodness; evil because of Original Sin and an abuse of freedom, and goodness because of God’s grace. Human nature is deformed and incapable of becoming perfect on its own individually or collectively. Civilization is not the starting point or cause of human imperfection. The ideas, opinions, decisions, and actions of the individual person are what determine the character of that person, not the categories of humanity in which they may fit.

Christian civilization, i.e. the Church, in as much as it exposes and promotes the unique ideas of Christianity in the world and disposes men to grace, advances the goodness of man rather than harms it. Individual conversion, repentance, and growth in virtue through grace is the only path towards a personal liberation from evil; and society’s best hope for combating real injustice and growing in real goodness is by being filled with individuals who do this and contribute their goodness to the culture.

Happiness of the individual Christian is not dependent on the conformity of the world to their ideology. Christians live with gratitude for the simple joys of life without scrutinizing everything in terms of injustice, rich and poor, us versus them, or oppressor and victim. Christians love their enemies and live to witness to the truth of Jesus Christ, not through self-aggrandizing “activism”, but through personal sacrifice for God and selfless service towards others. Christians are called to be joyful in the Lord always.

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. – Phil. 4:5-7*

*To be sure the disturbances which so frequently occur in the social order result in part from the natural tensions of economic, political and social forms. But at a deeper level they flow from man’s pride and selfishness, which contaminate even the social sphere. When the structure of affairs is flawed by the consequences of sin, man, already born with a bent toward evil, finds there new inducements to sin, which cannot be overcome without strenuous efforts and the assistance of grace. – Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et spes*, 25*

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.