

# REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

## THE JUST WAR THEORY

The Catholic Church teaches that war is always a tragedy and must be avoided at all cost. War is tolerable only if it fulfills four conditions simultaneously. If a war satisfies three out of four conditions, the war is not justifiable. War must be avoided at all cost. Every non-military option like negotiation, diplomacy, and sanctions must be exhausted. It is not enough that they be considered and dismissed. The starting point is a presumption against war. Only when every alternative has failed may war be considered, but only if all the following conditions are met:

◆ **The damage must be lasting, grave, and certain.**

The aggressor's actions must be lasting, grave, and certain simultaneously. If it is grave but not lasting or certain, then it is not permissible. It must be certain. A war cannot be justified by intelligence reports that may or not be true. War cannot be undertaken for economic interests or territorial expansion. The bar is set high for a morally permissible war because the cost of war is high. The deaths of innocents cannot be seen as a necessary by product.

◆ **All other means must have failed.**

Every practical means of avoiding war must have been tried and failed. These means include diplomacy, negotiation, sanctions, international pressure, and legal remedies. They must be tried over a significant period of time and entered into in good faith with a desire that they work and war be avoided. A nation cannot go through the motions all the while thinking that war is the most expedient or profitable alternative.

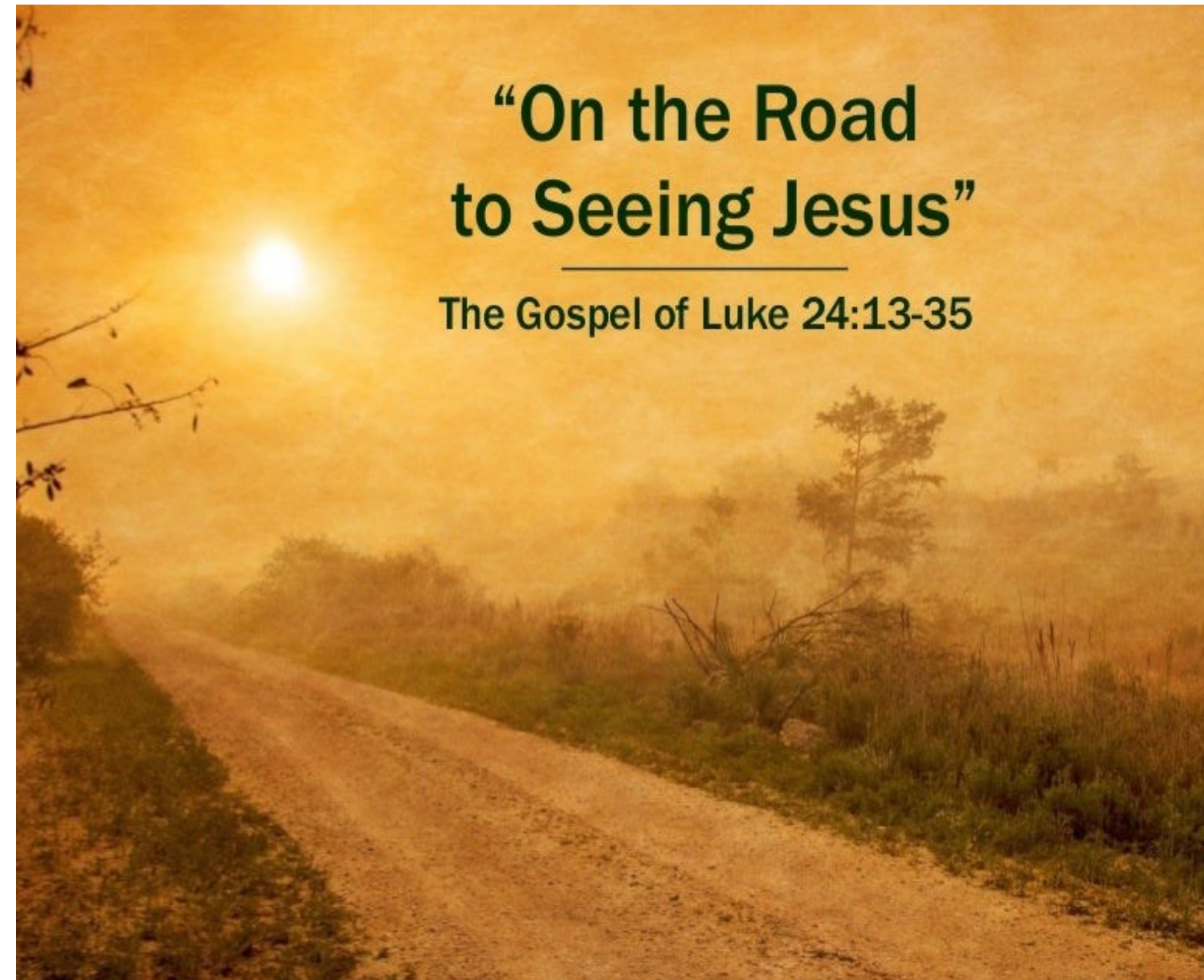
◆ **There must be serious prospects of success.**

There must be a reasonable and professional assessment that the war can achieve its goals and produce stable peace. It is not morally justifiable to send soldiers into an unwinnable war. Lives cannot be sacrificed for no good reason. A country cannot attempt to save face by continuing a war that cannot be won.

◆ **The cost must not exceed the good achieved.**

A war cannot produce evils that outweigh the evil that is to be eliminated. A war fought to expel an aggressor that leaves a territory ruined for generations, destroyed infrastructure, and people displaced cannot be justified. The modern day weapons of war produce mass destruction and endanger non-combatants. With the potential for the use of nuclear weapons, can any war ever be considered just? Unmanned weapons, like drones, are susceptible to error. The suffering of innocent civilians and the displacement of peoples must be considered when deciding if the means are justified by the end.

The teaching of the Church on the morality of war is demanding and strict. It should be because war is always a tragedy and produces widespread destruction and suffering. The Catholic Church's teaching on war gives us a moral lens with which to evaluate our country's reasons for undertaking war. We cannot give blind obedience to a government simply for patriotic or political reasons. As in all things, God's law comes first. It is a service to the nation to critique its war time policies to save lives and to not unleash worse evils.



## “On the Road to Seeing Jesus”

The Gospel of Luke 24:13-35

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER~ April 19, 2026**

*Immaculate Conception Catholic Church*  
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*Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church*  
*serving the family of God and feeding the soul of the Community.*

**PASTOR:** Father Thomas F. Clark, S.J. ....(225) 775-7067/(225) 773-2036

**IN RESIDENCE:** Father Fred Kammer, S.J. ....(504) 343-9195

**SECRETARY:** Renae Welsh/John Edwards.....(225) 775-7067

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:**

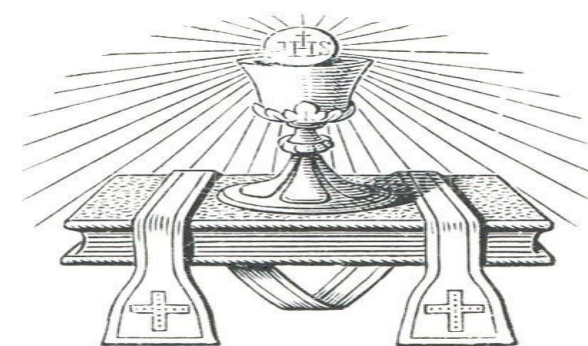
• **COORDINATOR:** Gloria DeRouen .....(225) 936-8162

• **ASSISTANT TO COORDINATOR:** Stephanie Yearby .....(214) 881-5663

**RCIA COORDINATOR:** Cathy Glover .....(225) 772-6099

**MLK/SU CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER:**

• Joyce Johnson - Wilfred Johnson .....(225) 775-8691



### Mass Schedule

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM**  
**Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM**

**Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel**  
**12:10 PM**

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.



## Weekly Announcements

### COMMUNITY CLEAN UP ON SATURDAY APRIL 25TH ( New Date)

There will be a community clean-up on Saturday, April 25 starting at 9:00 AM. We will be responsible for picking up litter in our neighborhood. If you are able, please plan to contribute a couple of hours to the beautification of our neighborhood. We will meet at the church.

### PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS

This weekend our First Communion candidates and their families joined together in a day of recollection in which they reviewed what they have learned about the Eucharist and made banners with their names on them and symbols of the Body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Our candidates for First Holy Communion are: **Adrian Augustine, Silas Brisco, Kyleigh Carter, Terry Jett, Jr., Jrue Slan and Sloane Williams.**

Our candidates for Confirmation are: **Tyler Addison, Clarke Carter, Miles Drummond, Ryan Gathe, Raheem Gray, Landen Gregory, Cameron Griffin, Robinson Jones, Evan LeDoux, Aariell Martin, William Martin, Jr., Kaidyn Patin, Julian Richard, Layla Richard, Kay Lee Shepard, Tylar Wilkins, Addison Wilson, Andrew Wilson, Anna Wilson and Tristen Wright.** Please keep them and their families in your prayers!

### Save the Date: Graduate Recognition May 24

We will recognize our graduates from high school, college, and graduate school on Sunday, May 24, at the 10:30 AM Mass. We will also be recognizing graduates from Summer and Fall, 2025.



### KPC Annual Scholarship Award

The **Wilfred B. Ricard Council 116 of the Knights of Peter Claver** is now accepting applications for its **16th Annual Scholarship Award**. This scholarship will be awarded to a **male applicant who is a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.**

Applications may be obtained **online through the church website**, picked up at the rear of the church, or requested by email at [monsieurjai@gmail.com](mailto:monsieurjai@gmail.com).

The application deadline is **April 26, 2026.**

### Education Assistance Award – 2026 Female Graduating Seniors

The **Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, Wilfred B. Ricard Court 116**, will provide Education Assistance Awards to **two (2) female students of the Catholic faith that attend Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Baton Rouge**, who have completed 4 years of high school (a graduate of the class of 2026), and plan to continue their education. **To be eligible for an award you must complete a Biographical Sketch Form and submit it to Lady Barbara Dunbar or Lady Barbara Denu no later than May 15, 2026.**

If you have questions, Contact Lady Dunbar at (225) 266-3354. Copies of the 2026 Guidelines and Biographical Sketch Form are available in the rear of the church and in the office of the church parish secretary.



DARRYL	HONORE	4/21
ANTHONY	BRADFORD	4/22
KAYLAN	LISTACH	4/22
CHLOE'	SHELMIRE	4/22
JOHN	THIBODEAUX	4/22
ANGELA	BALTAZAR	4/23
CONSTANCE	DRUMMOND	4/23
ALFRED	LEDOUX, JR.	4/23
TERRY	JETT, JR.	4/24
KERRY	MALTER	4/24
DAVID	PERKINS	4/24
MICHAEL	THOMAS	4/25
THELMA	BROWN	4/26
STEVEN	KNIGHT	4/26
ROBIN	RODDY	4/26
DAREN JAMES	BOURGEOIS	4/27
CARMEN	ROSAYA	4/27
DWAYNE	BANKS, SR.	4/28
ALBERT	DAIGRE, JR.	4/28
SHAWNTAY	MARTIN	4/28
AMBER	WILLIAMS	4/28
MAURICE	BURRELL	4/29
ANDRE	MCCULLIER	4/29
PATRICIA	ROBERSON	4/29
KOLI	SPEARS	4/29
CURTIS	BOWIE	4/30
MAURICE	GIVENS	4/30
ELLIS	HERRING	4/30



### IMPORTANT UPCOMING ELECTION ON MAY 16

We have an important upcoming election on **Saturday, May 16.** This will be a closed primary, meaning that you must be a registered Democrat or Republican to vote. On the ballot will be the primary elections for the Democratic candidate for US Senator plus several local propositions.

One of the propositions is to approve the City of Saint Geroge break away school system and separate it from the EBR school system. To be approved it must win statewide **AND** in East Baton Rouge Parish. **Early voting is from May 2-9.**

Please begin now to educate yourself about the issues involved.

## Weekly Mass Readings April 19th-April 26th

### Sunday

### Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14, 22-33  
1 Peter 1: 17-21  
Luke 24: 13-35

### Monday

Acts 6: 8-15  
John 6: 22-29

### Tuesday

Acts 7: 51– 8: 1a  
John 6: 30-35

### Wednesday

Acts 8: 1b-8  
John 6: 35-40

### Thursday

Acts 8: 26-40  
John 6: 44-51

### Friday

Acts 9: 1-20  
John 6: 52-59

### Saturday

### Feast of Saint Mark, evangelist

1 Peter 5: 5b-14  
Mark 16: 15-20

### Sunday

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41  
1 Peter 2: 20b-25  
John 10: 1-10