



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK  
**Father Thomas F. Clark, S. J.**

**PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES MINUTES OF APRIL 17**

On Tuesday, April 17, twenty one chairpersons of parish ministries and organization as well as interested parishioners attended the Parish Council of Ministries meeting at 6:30 PM. After an opening prayer of excerpts from Pope Francis' exhortation *Rejoice and Be Glad*, the council reviewed and accepted the minutes of the January 30 meeting. Father Clark gave an update of the fundraising progress for the church renovation. As of April 15, we have received pledges of \$282,202.00. When we add the pledges to the money we already had in our Building Fund \$210,895.42, we have a total of \$493,497.42. Since September, 2017, \$172,876.48 has already been paid on pledges. This means that we are able to enter into the next phase of our project which consists of securing a loan of \$500,000 from the Diocese, having the architect draw up actual plans, seeking the approval of the Diocesan Building and Liturgical Commissions, putting the project out to bids and choosing a contractor, and begin construction (possibly in the fall of 2018?). Since we anticipate a construction period of at least 8 months, all weddings, funerals and baptisms will take place in neighboring churches. We have received an invitation from Mr. Hall Davis to use the chapel at his funeral home on Scenic Highway for Sunday morning Masses. He is offering this service free of charge. The council unanimously supported this proposal. Father Clark will seek permission of the Diocese for this. The Vigil mass will most probably be held in the Activity Center. Father Clark asked the council for feedback about the design of the renovation. The council expressed approval and support of the design. We then had a discussion about preferences for benches: whether we should restore the existing benches or get new benches. The council expressed strong support for keeping the current benches and restoring and repairing them. We will explore the possibility of new kneelers and book holders.

Father Clark reported on planning that is taking place in the Jesuit Central Southern Province. Immaculate Conception is playing an important role in this process. He encouraged the chairs of parish planning committees (Building, Youth Faith Formation, and Adult Faith Formation) to keep moving forward in their efforts. He commended the Communication Committee for their work in keeping our website current and interesting. Father Clark expressed appreciation for the impact that the Lenten book, *Rediscover Jesus*, has had on the parish. Many people expressed how much they profited from the book. A copy of Pope Francis' exhortation *Rejoice and Be Glad* was distributed. We will discuss it at our next meeting in April.

Members shared the following news and announcements: Confirmation retreat at Angola was a positive and powerful experience for the candidates; KPC Conference in Baton Rouge this weekend (April 21-22). Reggie Berry is running for state office; Ron Q. Lewis met Bishop Carmen at nursing facility in New Orleans; he sends his regards to the parish; Confirmation will take place on May 3. Our 8 candidates will join St Francis and St. Paul's for a total of 23; MLK Study Night on Tuesday, April 24; KPC Jr. Knights will be having an initiation soon; Saint Vincent de Paul Conference is looking for volunteers. Volunteers are needed for weekends, too.



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## FLOOD RECOVERY FAIR TODAY



After the 10:30 AM Mass today, April 22, we will have a special session in the Parish Activity Center for youth to aid them in their recovery from the flood. Is your child feeling angry? Frustrated? Sad? Unable to concentrate? Come to the Recovery Fair today following the 10:30 AM Mass.

## BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ON APRIL 23



We will resume Bible Study and our study of the Gospel of Mark on Monday, April 23 at 7:00-8:00 PM in the Parish Activity Center.

## NEW ALTAR SERVER PRACTICE



After many unavoidable delays, Father Clark is ready to initiate new altar server practices for young men and women who have made their First Communion and are at least in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Practices will begin on Friday evenings at 4:00 PM beginning on April 27 and continue through May. Father Clark will be in contact with those who expressed an interest last year. **New servers are welcome.**

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY STUDENT LATE NIGHT STUDY



On Tuesday, April 24, the MLK Catholic Student Center in collaboration with the Student Tutoring Services will host a Late Night Study night at the MLK Center from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Peer tutors as well as faculty tutors will be available to provide help. There will be free printing and internet access available. Snacks will be provided by the Saint Vincent de Paul Conference of our parish church. All students are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

## BLESSING OF STUDENTS BEFORE FINAL EXAMS



On Sunday, April 29, at the 10:30 AM Mass we will have a special blessing for all Southern University students and all college students as they approach final exams and the end of this semester. We will have special recognition for graduating students. Southern students will assist with the ministries of the Mass. We all pray for our students during this important time of year.

# Happy Birthday

ANTHONY	BRADFORD	4/22
KAYLAN	LISTACH	4/22
JOHN	THIBODEAUX	4/22
ANGELA	BALTAZAR	4/23
CONSTANCE	DRUMMOND	4/23
ALFRED	LEDOUX, JR.	4/23
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	BOURGEOIS	4/27
ROSAYA	CARMEN	4/27
DWAYNE	BANKS, SR.	4/28
ALBERT	DAIGRE, JR.	4/28
SHAWNTAY	MARTIN	4/28
AMBER	WILLIAMS	4/28

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR



Our annual community health fair, a collaboration of Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church, Great Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and Immaculate Conception Church, will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2018. This year Camphor Memorial is the lead church. Please volunteer to be a member of this planning community so that we can continue this tradition of collaboration and cooperation. Not only do we present a very helpful and educational event for the community, we also strengthen the bonds of our Christian fellowship with our neighborhood church partners. If you are willing to volunteer, please call Joseph Higginbotham at 225-931-6543.

## THANKS FOR KEEPING KFC LOT CLEAN

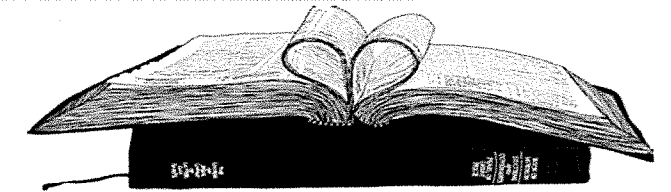


We express our gratitude to Wilfred Johnson and Lloyd Doucette, Jr. who took it upon themselves to spruce up the KFC lot for March. We appreciate this initiative!

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Wilfred B. Ricard Council 116 of the Knights of Peter Claver is accepting applications for our 9<sup>th</sup> annual scholarship award. We will award this scholarship to a **MALE APPLICANT** from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Applications for the scholarship can be picked up in the rear of the church, or by contacting the parish secretary. Questions/comments regarding this request should be directed to Aubrey Jones, advisor, Scholarship Committee at (504)810-3555 or via email at monsieurjai@gmail.com.



## Mass Readings April 22nd - April 29th

**Sunday**  
Acts 4:8-12; Psalm 118; 1 John 3:1-2  
Gospel: John 10:11-18

**Monday**  
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42  
Gospel: John 10:1-10

**Tuesday**  
Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87  
Gospel: John 10:22-30

**Wednesday**  
**Feast of St. Mark**  
1 Peter 5:5b-14; Psalm 89  
Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

**Thursday**  
Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89  
Gospel: John 13:16-20

**Friday**  
Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2  
Gospel: John 14:1-6

**Saturday**  
Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98  
Gospel: John 14:7-14

**Sunday**  
Acts 9:26-31; Psalm 22; 1 John 3:18-24

*Forms for new parishioners or changes are located in the vestibule of the church.*

## PRAY FOR OUR CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

On Wednesday, May 3 at 7:00 PM, our candidates for Confirmation from Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Paul the Apostle, and Immaculate Conception Churches will celebrate the sacrament with Bishop Muench at Saint Francis Xavier Church. Please pray for the candidates from our church:



Thai Alex  
Christopher Carter  
Nicholas Cloyd  
Tyler Griffin  
Desmond Honore  
Trinity Martin  
Shylon Matthews  
Matthew Winder

