

# REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

## PASCHAL JOY

This weekend we mark the Fourth Sunday of Easter. The Easter season lasts for 50 days until Pentecost Sunday on May 24. Lent gives us 40 days to fast, pray and serve; Easter gives us 50 days to rejoice and be glad. Sometimes we are better at Lenten penance than we are at Easter joy. Lent has a focus and a destination-Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday. Easter season kind of drifts to Pentecost. Maybe we should make Pentecost Sunday and the renewal of the gift of the Holy Spirit a focus for us in the weeks ahead.

I cannot think of a better way to deal with these turbulent and discouraging times than renewal in the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are knowledge, wisdom, gifts equip us to live our Christian life. I always say: knowledge you get from books, wisdom you get from life, put them together and you get understanding. These times certainly require fortitude—strength. It is not easy to persevere in faith. The opposite of faith is not disbelief. The opposite of faith is certainty. We all desire certainty—knowing what will happen and when. Life does not give us certainty. Only faith—trust in God—can sustain us. Counsel is good advice. The Holy Spirit puts good, wise people into our lives who can lead and guide us. They offer us good counsel. We are stubborn and want to do it our way. The Holy Spirit teaches us to listen and to be humble enough to take good advice. Piety is love of God. The Holy Spirit enables us to develop a deep and personal relationship with God. The basis of that relationship is love. We love God because he first loved us. At some point all our questions, doubts, skepticism, and desire for certainty all fall away, and we are left with love of God. God is love and love is the answer. I am pious when I show my love of God by deeds of service, prayer, and devotion. Wonder and awe in God’s presence (also called fear of the Lord) is taking time out to praise and worship for who He is. Just letting the power, majesty, and faithfulness of God overwhelm us. Wonder and awe in his presence is savoring the present moment. Just being mindful of the sacredness and preciousness of the present moment. Maybe it is in a sunrise or sunset, a beautiful flower, the face of a child, a word of kindness, a deed of service, a phone call from an old friend, the passing of a time of trial, a restful nap, a good movie, a beautiful song, good health, or just the joy of being alive. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to live in the present and savor the goodness of God.

This season of Easter brings many celebrations: Confirmation, First Holy Communion, Weddings, Mother’s Day, Anniversaries, Graduations, Dinners commemorating the end of sport, music, dance seasons, Farewell and Welcome Celebrations, Birthdays, Crawfish Boils, concerts, to name a few. Each of these events give us the opportunity to celebrate the goodness of God and this season of Resurrection and new beginning.

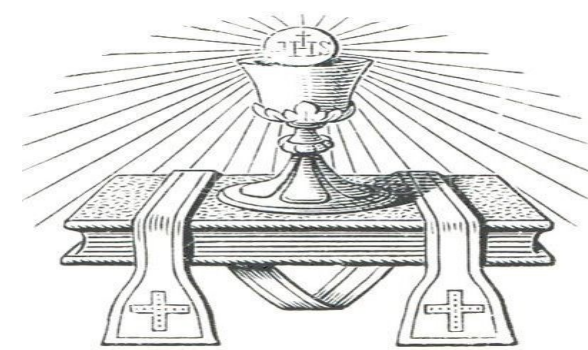
**Celebrate 50 days of joy in the Holy Spirit!**



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER~ APRIL 26, 2026

*Immaculate Conception Catholic Church*  
1565 Curtis Street - Baton Rouge, LA 70807  
Office Phone: (225) 775-7067 - Information: (225) 775-7062  
Fax: (225) 775-0775 - Email: clarktf2002@yahoo.com  
Web Site Address: www.immaculateconceptionbr.org  
*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**



## Weekly Announcements

### **CONFIRMATION THIS WEEK ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30 AT 7:00 PM**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this Thursday at 7:00 PM at Immaculate Conception Church. Bishop Duca will be with us to confer the sacrament. Please pray for our candidates and their families as they approach this important day. Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony to support our young people as they complete their Christian Initiation. Please keep them and their families in your prayers!

#### **Candidates for Confirmation**

<b>Tyler Addison</b>	<b>Clarke Carter</b>	<b>Miles Drummond</b>	<b>Ryan Gathe</b>
<b>Raheem Gray</b>	<b>Landen Gregory</b>	<b>Cameron Griffin</b>	<b>Robinson Jones</b>
<b>Evan LeDoux</b>	<b>Aariell Martin</b>	<b>William Martin, Jr.</b>	<b>Kaidyn Patin</b>
<b>Julian Richard</b>	<b>Layla Richard</b>	<b>Kay Lee Shepard</b>	<b>Tylar Wilkins</b>
<b>Addison Wilson</b>	<b>Andrew Wilson</b>	<b>Anna Wilson</b>	<b>Tristen Wright</b>

### **Please Pray for Candidates for First Holy Communion**

Please keep in your prayers our candidates for First Holy Communion and their families as they prepare for the big day on Saturday, May 9 at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to participate in the First Holy Communion Mass as a concrete way of supporting our young families.

#### **Candidates for First Holy Communion**

<b>Adrian Augustine</b>	<b>Silas Brisco</b>	<b>Kyleigh Carter</b>
<b>Terry Jett</b>	<b>Jrue Slan</b>	<b>Sloane Williams</b>

### **GODSPEED TO EDDIE CROWDER AND DOMINIC LAMANTIA**

Our novices, Eddie and Dominic, will be returning to the novitiate in Denver on the weekend of May 2-3. We are grateful for all they have done over the past four weeks. They have visited the homebound and the sick, helped in the food pantry, tabled in the Student Union at Southern, helped to train new altar servers, and assisted the Beautification Committee. Their time with us has been too short! We wish them well as they continue their formation in the novitiate and discern their vocation to the Jesuits.

### **PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES MEETING ON MAY 19**

Our next Parish Council of Ministries meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. Minutes and an agenda will be sent out as the date approaches.



<b>THELMA</b>	<b>BROWN</b>	<b>4/26</b>
<b>STEVEN</b>	<b>KNIGHT</b>	<b>4/26</b>
<b>ROBIN</b>	<b>RODDY</b>	<b>4/26</b>
<b>DAREN JAMES</b>	<b>BOURGEOIS</b>	<b>4/27</b>
<b>CARMEN</b>	<b>ROSAYA</b>	<b>4/27</b>
<b>DWAYNE</b>	<b>BANKS, SR.</b>	<b>4/28</b>
<b>ALBERT</b>	<b>DAIGRE, JR.</b>	<b>4/28</b>
<b>SHAWNTAY</b>	<b>MARTIN</b>	<b>4/28</b>
<b>AMBER</b>	<b>WILLIAMS</b>	<b>4/28</b>
<b>MAURICE</b>	<b>BURRELL</b>	<b>4/29</b>
<b>ANDRE</b>	<b>MCCULLIER</b>	<b>4/29</b>
<b>PATRICIA</b>	<b>ROBERSON</b>	<b>4/29</b>
<b>KOLI</b>	<b>SPEARS</b>	<b>4/29</b>
<b>CURTIS</b>	<b>BOWIE</b>	<b>4/30</b>
<b>MAURICE</b>	<b>GIVENS</b>	<b>4/30</b>



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. Deadline is May 15, 2026.** Contact Lady Dunbar at (225)266-3354



#### **Graduate Recognition May 24**

We will recognize our graduates from graduate school, college, and high school for Summer and Fall, 2025, and Spring, 2026, on Sunday, May 24 at the 10:30 AM Mass. Please provide information about graduating parishioners to Andrea Toles as soon as possible. We need graduate's name, school, degree, and plans. We are so proud of our graduates, and we want to celebrate with you your success!

#### **LITTLE WHITE BOOKS FOR EASTER**

Several people have asked about the Little White Books for easter. I did not order them this year because they were not very popular last year and we had a lot left over. If you would like to order one, you can from Little Books of the Diocese of Saginaw, Inc., [www.littlebooks.org](http://www.littlebooks.org) or 989-797-6653.

## Weekly Mass Readings April 26th– May 3rd

### **Sunday**

#### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 6: 1-7  
1 Peter 2: 4-9  
John 14: 1-12

### **Monday**

Acts 11: 1-18  
John 10: 11-18

### **Tuesday**

Acts 11: 19-26  
John 10: 22-30

### **Wednesday**

#### **Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**

Acts 12: 24-13: 5a  
John 12: 44-50

### **Thursday**

Acts 13: 13-25  
John 13: 16-20

### **Friday**

Acts 13: 26-33  
John 14: 1-6

### **Saturday**

#### **Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and the Doctor of the Church**

Acts 13: 44-52  
John 14: 7-14

### **Sunday**

#### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 6: 1-7  
1 Peter 2: 4-9