

# REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

## THE TALE OF THREE TREES

Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first tree looked at the stars twinkling like diamonds above him and said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. People could fill me with gold, silver, and precious gems. They could decorate me with intricate carvings, and everyone would see its beauty." It will be the most beautiful treasure chest in all the world." The second tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on the way to the ocean and said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the seas and sail to unknown places. Everyone will feel safe because of the strength of my hull. I will be the strongest ship in the world!" Finally, the third tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and busy women worked in a busy town and said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of a hill and raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years past. The rains came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This looks like a strong tree." I can sell the wood to a carpenter." After being cut down, the tree was happy because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This looks like a strong tree." I can sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship. When the woodsman came upon a third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down, his dreams would not come true. A woodsman said, "I don't need anything special from this tree, so I'll just take it back with me."

When the first tree arrived at the carpenter's, they made it into a feed box for animals. It was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. They cut the second tree and made a small fishing boat. They cut the third tree into large beams and left them alone in a lumberyard.

The years went by, and the trees nearly forgot their dreams. Then one day, a man and a woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the feed box made from the first tree. As the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood, the tree could feel the importance of the event. Now the tree knew that it was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One man went to sleep. A great storm arose and the tree did not think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man. He stood and said, "Be calm!" and the storm stopped as quickly as it has begun. And suddenly the tree knew that he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

Finally, someone got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as people mocked the man who was carrying it. Later, they nailed the man to the tree and raised him up to die at the top of a hill. On the third day, the tree knew that God's love had changed everything.

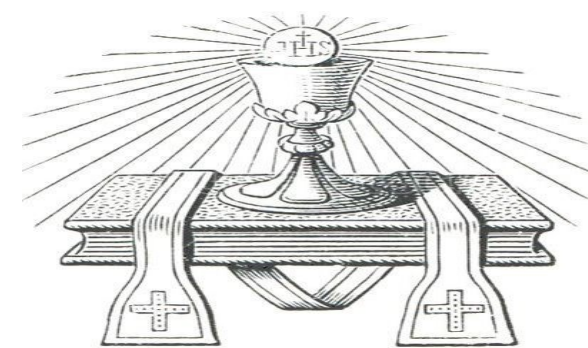
It made the first tree beautiful. It has made the second tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree made into a cross, they would always think of God. And that was better than being the tallest tree in the world.



## EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD April 5, 2026

*Immaculate Conception Catholic Church*  
1565 Curtis Street - Baton Rouge, LA 70807  
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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

### THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR EASTER CELEBRATIONS SO GLORIOUS

We thank all who contributed to making our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter so inspiring and uplifting. We thank Walterine Whitfield and the Beautification Committee for decorating the sanctuary so beautifully. Thank you, choirs, musicians, soloists, and directors for ministering to us in song. Our appreciation to our altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, videographers, parish staff, volunteers and most especially all who walked with Jesus in these sacred days. May God bless us all during these 50 days of Paschal Time. We had 40 days to fast, pray, and give alms. Now we have 50 days to rejoice and be glad.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY RECEIVED AND CONFIRMED

Congratulations to **Janice A. Higginbotham, Jesse L. Gray, and Vernon A. Langley, Jr.**, who were received into the full communion of the Catholic Church, were confirmed, and received the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, and **Jo Ann Jarid**, who was confirmed and received the Eucharist with them. They are no strangers to us for they have been worshipping with us for many years. We are delighted that they decided to make their communion with us formal. We have already and will continue to be enriched by their gifts.

We congratulate **April Brumfield and Dakarai Anderson on the baptism of their son, Kingston Dakarai Akil Anderson II**, which will take place on Easter Sunday at 10:30 AM Mass. Kingston is the grandson of Winston and Eleanor Brumfield. We rejoice to celebrate his Baptism on this Resurrection Sunday!

### OUR CANDIDATES FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

As we enter the Paschal Season, we look forward to our celebrations of First Holy Communion on May 9, and Confirmation on April 30.

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, Ariell 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!

### COMMUNITY CLEAN UP ON SATURDAY, MAY 18

There will be a community clean-up on Saturday, May 18 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.

### WELCOME JESUIT NOVICES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

We are pleased to welcome two Jesuit novices, **Eddie Crowder and Dominic LaMantia**, to our parish for the month of April. During their time with us, they will take part in our parish Masses, meetings, activities, visits to the sick, and other pastoral ministries. We trust that our Immaculate Conception family will extend to them a warm and heartfelt welcome.



ANACEN	MARTIN	4/6
COURAGE	IDUSUYI	4/6
JARED	NELSON	4/6
TYLER	ADDISON	4/8
MARQUISE	JOHNSON	4/8
PAMELA	LIVINGSTON	4/8
INDIA	ANDERSON	4/9
TREVOR	MCCRAY	4/9
GWENDOLYN	SMITH	4/9
DEBORAH	HUTCHIN	4/10
NICHOLAS	WELTON	4/10
MARY	BELLANGER	4/11
JOHNNY	JARVIS	4/11
DWINA	BUTLER	4/12



### 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

#### Attention – 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.

## Weekly Mass Readings April 5th-April 12th

### Sunday

### The Resurrection of the Lord The Mass of Easter Day

Acts 10:34a, 37-43  
Colossians 3: 1-4  
John 20: 1-9

### Monday

### Octave of Easter

Acts 2: 14, 22-33  
Matthew 28: 8-15

### Tuesday

Acts 2: 36-41  
John 20: 11-18

### Wednesday

Acts 3: 1-10  
Luke 24: 13-35

### Thursday

Acts 3: 11-26  
Luke 24: 35-48

### Friday

Acts 4: 1-12  
John 21: 1-14

### Saturday

Acts 4: 13-21  
Mark 16: 9-15

### Sunday

### Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 42-47  
1 Peter 1: 3-9  
John 20: 19-31