

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

Thomas A. Dorsey



Thomas A. Dorsey was a thriving blues musician who was struck by tragedy in the thirties, thus inspiring him to focus primarily on religious music. Known as the “Father of Gospel Music,” the Georgia native was born on July 1, 1899.

Thomas Andrew Dorsey was born in the town of Villa Rica to a minister father and piano teacher mother, who taught him the instrument. Dorsey left home to become a professional session musician, much to the chagrin of his parents. He began studying formally at the Chicago College of Composition and Arrangement in order to obtain union scale wage as a musician in the city. From that point on, Dorsey found measurable success as a performer and songwriter, and he began penning songs about God and faith in the early ‘20s. In 1924, his knowledge of blues music pushed him to organize a band for Ma Rainey while also continuing to record songs himself.

In August 1932 while away working, Dorsey received horrible news that his wife and child died in childbirth. Wrecked by the news, Dorsey, in interviews, said God led him to the piano where he penned “Take My Hand, Precious Lord,” which has become his best-known work. The song has been performed masterfully by the likes of Mahalia Jackson, Aretha Franklin and in modern times by Ledisi for the “Selma” soundtrack. It was said to be Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s favorite song.

As gospel grew in scope and popularity, in particular the blues-influenced style Dorsey introduced to the masses, he began traveling the nation organizing choirs and teaching chorus arrangements. This inspired Dorsey to establish the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, serving as its president for six decades.

Dorsey was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1982, and he was also the first African-American elected to enter the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. In addition, Dorsey is the first African-American inducted into the Gospel Music Association’s Living Hall of Fame. His papers, including his writings, are preserved by Fisk University. Dorsey passed in 1999.



Sacraments

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

Saturdays 3:00 PM and by appointment.

BAPTISMS: To arrange and prepare for the celebration of Baptism, please call the Pastor to schedule an appointment. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Sunday afternoon.

FUNERAL: Please call the parish as soon as possible to make arrangements for the Mass of Christian Burial.

VISITING THE SICK: If you or a family member are sick or in the hospital, please call the parish so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated in the parish before hospitalization. Please call also to arrange for a Eucharistic minister to bring Communion to the sick. If you would like to request prayers for someone who is sick, please call the parish so that the name may be placed in the bulletin.

MARRIAGES: Preparation must begin at least six months prior to the wedding. Please make arrangements with the parish before scheduling the reception.

ANNULMENTS/CONVALIDATION: Please arrange a meeting with the Pastor to begin the process of celebrating your marriage in the Church.

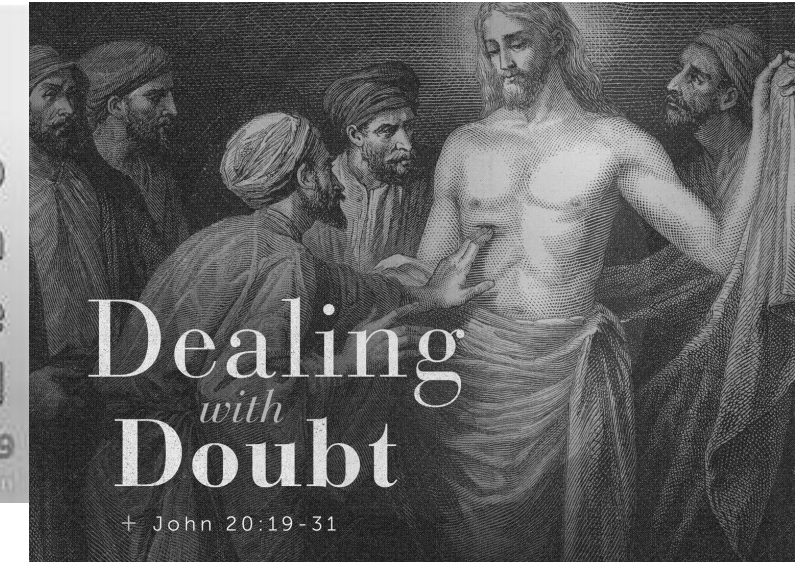
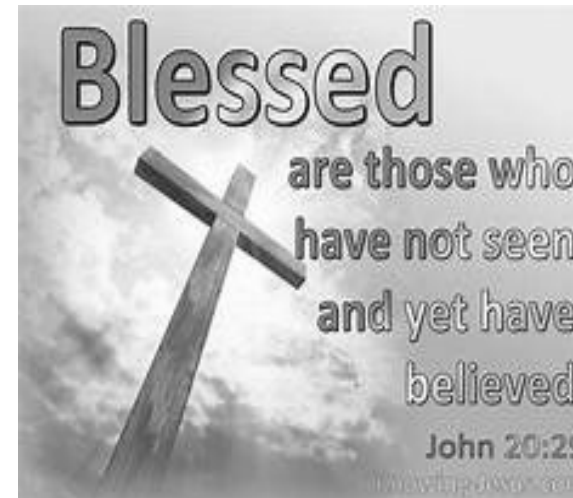
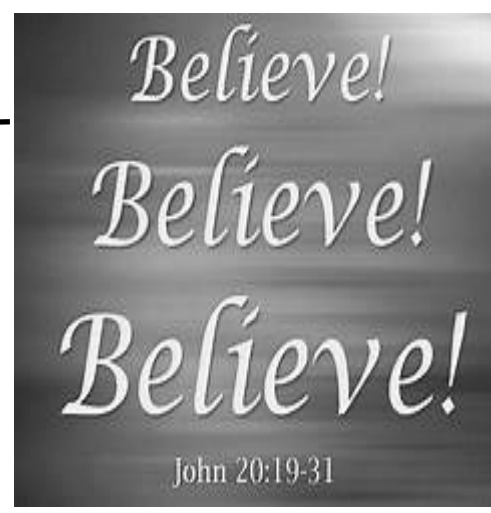
NEW PARISHIONERS: Catholics who would like to be registered as parishioners of Immaculate Conception and receive stewardship envelopes should call the parish secretary or fill out a form in the vestibule of the church.

RCIA: Adults who desire to explore the possibility of becoming a member of the Catholic Church should contact the RCIA (Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults) team. Preparation usually begins in September and Baptism or Reception is celebrated at the next Easter Vigil.

TUITION ASSISTANCE: Some financial aid for tuition assistance to Catholic schools is available to registered members of the parish. This is a one time grant of no more than \$1,000.00 to needy families to assist them during a time of financial crisis. Eligible families should write a letter to the Pastor who will evaluate the request with the Financial Advisory Committee.

To Whom Do We Go

Adult Formation: Lovenia Watson.....778-1977
 Child Protection Coord: Andrea Toles.....(504)491-6556
 Eucharistic Ministers: Beulah Decuir.....229-6076
 Gospel Choir/Adult: Daphne Alex.....936-4051
 Gospel Choir/Youth: Tara Winder428-5981
 Hall Rental: Juliet Betts.....775-7067
 Ministry Council/Chair: Georgia Jenkins.....775-5824
 Pantry/Food and Vouchers:774-3661
 Sacristan: Rogers Jackson, Jr.362-0907
 Traditional Choir: Deadra James Mackie.....772-3401
 Usher's Coordinator: Walter Ennis.....(504)427-6459



APRIL 7, 2024

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. John 20:19-20

We often read today’s gospel reading and focus on Thomas, the doubting disciple who needed to put his finger in the marks of the nails before he would believe. But this story is really about *all* of those fear-filled disciples, trembling behind that locked door, and wondering what it all means. This story is really about each and every one of us: trying to live a life worthy of our Lord and Savior; struggling with doubt, weighed down with fear, and constantly falling short of what we know that he expects from us. This story is also about how Jesus comes to us, in the midst of our doubts and fears and sin and guilt, to offer each and every one of us that simple word of grace, and mercy, and forgiveness. “Peace be with you,” says our risen Lord to us all. This gospel reading is really about the peace which surpasses all understanding; the peace which the world cannot give; the peace that can only come from our crucified and risen Lord; and the peace that comes when we most need it. Think back to a time in your life when you feel as though you have truly disappointed God. And now, imagine Jesus showing up at that very moment, and saying to you: “Peace be with you.” That is what our Lord does for each and every one of us. That, too, is what the miracle of Easter means for us.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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 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.(225) 774-3241
- **SECRETARY:** Juliet Betts(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

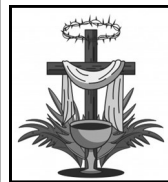


Mass Schedule
 Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM
 Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
 Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel
 Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12:10 PM
 Holy Day Masses:
 Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM and 12:10 PM



Father Thomas F. Clark, S. J.

THE BLESSING OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



As we reflect on our celebration of Holy Week and Easter, I am filled with gratitude. On behalf of the parish, I express my sincere appreciation to all who helped us to enter into the Paschal Mystery. Walterine Whitfield and the Beautification Committee outdid themselves in preparing the sanctuary for all the services from Palm Sunday through Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil and Sunday. Our music ministry lifted our hearts with music throughout the Triduum. Special thanks to Ladonna Turnipseed, Tara Winder, and the Traditional Choir for ministering to us on Good Friday and Easter Vigil. Thank you to the 8:00 o'clock Choir and the Millenium Band for singing at 8:00 AM Mass. Thank you to Nina Gray, the Gospel Choir, all soloists, cantors, and musicians who rendered us a glorious Easter Mass of the Resurrection. I am especially proud of our altar servers who came to practices and served so conscientiously during complex liturgies. Thank you to Andrea Toles for coordinating their schedules. Thank you to our lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, ushers, and videographers who graced our liturgies. Thank you to the parish staff who do many things behind the scenes and do it generously and joyfully. Thank you to Cathy Glover of the RCIA program who prepared Lacey and Knakita for their reception into the Church. Thank you to Lacey and Knakita for their generous response to God's call. Thank you to all who prayed for their prayer partner during Lent. We hope that you made the acquaintance of a new brother or sister in Christ in the process. Thank you to all who attended the services and filled your church with your prayerful spirit. May our celebration of the Lord's resurrection increase our sense of community, deepen our trust in God's plan for us, and make us rejoice with Jesus risen for our sake.

ADULT CONFIRMATION ON PENTECOST SUNDAY



If any person over 18 years old who has not had the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to do so and complete their Christian Initiation, please see Father Clark and we will make the necessary preparations for you to be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, at Saint Joseph Cathedral with Bishop Duca.

WELCOME TO COREY JACKSON, NSJ



This week we welcome Corey Jackson, who is a novice (in his first year of formation as a Jesuit). He will be with us until April 22. He will be joining us in our parish liturgies and activities. I know you will give him a warm welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLLEGIATE COUNCIL AND COURT OF KPC



We congratulate the men and women of Southern University who have established a collegiate council and court of the Knights of Peter Claver and the Ladies Auxiliary. On Saturday, April 6, at the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass, both the council and court will be present to thank God for this achievement and to pray for the grace to be of service to their brothers and sisters.



Faith Family Friends
for these we give thanks



FATHER CLARK'S BROTHER MOVING TO BATON ROUGE

I have decided to move my brother to Baton Rouge so that I can be closer to him and be of support to him. I ask for your prayers as we make this transition and I try to get him settled. God bless us all as we care for our families!

Happy Birthday

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| 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 |
| APRIL | BRUMFIELD | 4/13 |
| JIARA | STEPHNEY | 4/13 |

"SPRING INTO WELLNESS" FAIR ON SATURDAY APRIL 13



There will be a "Spring into Wellness" Fair on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in our church parking lot. We will be collaborating with Baton Rouge Metro Health to provide a fun event for our church and neighborhood as we learn valuable information. There will be music, free food, free Covid and RSV vaccines, free drawings, and free health screenings. The first twenty people to receive a Covid vaccination will receive a \$25 gift card. Come and join us as we "Spring into Wellness."

Real Families



Pray Together

Dear God, I want to take a minute, not to ask for anything from you, but simply to say thank you, for all that I have.



Mass Readings

April 7th - April 14th

Sunday

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118; 1 Jn 5:1-6

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

Monday

Solemnity of The Annunciation of The Lord

Is 7:10-14;8:10; Psalm 40; Heb 10:4-10

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday

Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93

Gospel: Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday

Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34

Gospel: Jn 3:16-21

Thursday

Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34

Gospel: Jn 3:31-36

Friday

Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27

Gospel: Jn 6:1-15

Saturday

Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33

Gospel: Jn 6:16-21

Sunday

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Psalm 4; 1 Jn 2:1-5a

Gospel: Lk 24:35-48



BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK APRIL 11-17

Black Maternal Health Week will be observed from April 11-17. Brenda Smith invites us to support and honor the lives of women who have died in childbirth or complications thereafter. The event is Sunday, April 14 at the Louisiana State Capitol at 1:00 PM. There will be a Resource Fair and a Kids Zone so that children can be entertained safely. Please consider attending this event and encouraging others to do so also.