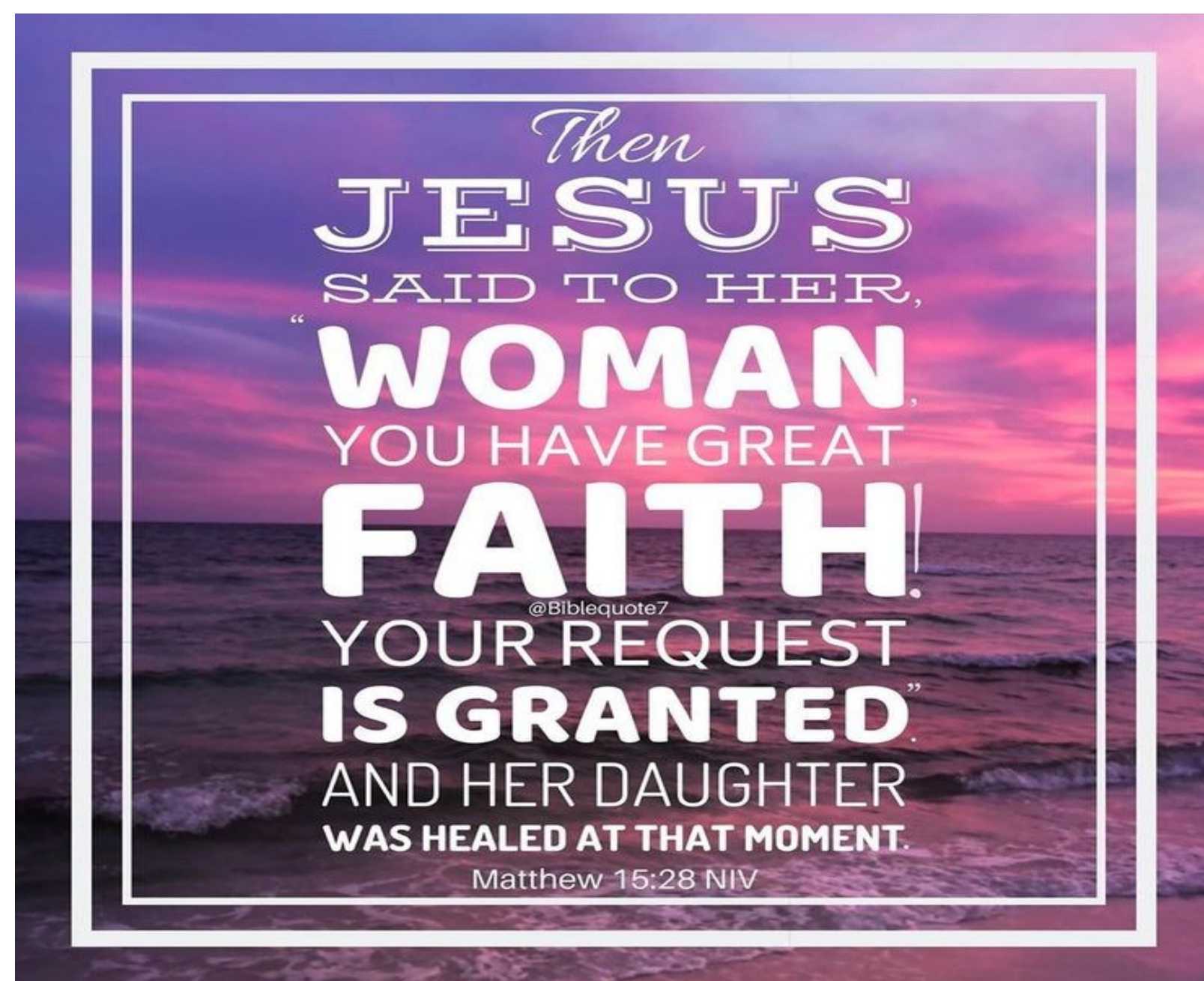


REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

TAKE AWAYS FROM OUR COMMUNITY MEETING

These are some takeaways from the Community Meeting we hosted with the Power Coalition last Tuesday, April 11, with the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus.

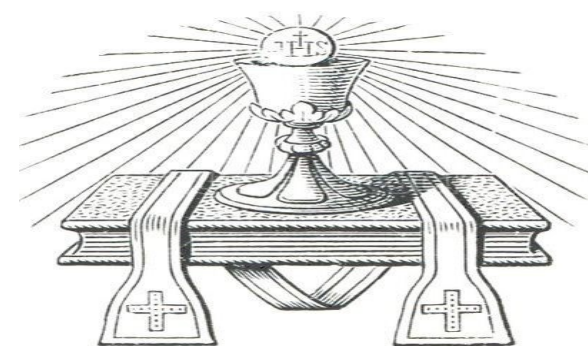
- The November ballot will be one of the longest ballots ever. It will include elections for US senate, US House of Representatives, District Judges, School Boards, Justice of the Peace, District Attorney, Mayors of Central and Zachary, Chiefs of Police in Central and Zachary, City Councils of Central and Zachary, and 10 Constitutional Amendments. That means you must do your homework before voting. You will have to make a serious effort to learn about the candidates and make your choice. Do not go into the ballot box cold.
- Each constitutional amendment deserves scrutiny. Unlike the past two elections, we cannot say vote all no or yes. There are resources provided by the Power Coalition for Justice and Equity as well as PAR (Public Affairs Research Council) at parlouisiana.org.
- Make sure you bring your drivers license or government issued identification card with you to the polls. Previously, if you did not have your ID, you would sign an affidavit and receive a preliminary ballot. Now, you will have to present your ID within 48 hours of the election. If the election is on Saturday, and they are closed on Sunday, then you only have 8 hours on Monday to present your ID in person. If you do not present your ID before end of day Monday, your vote is thrown out.
- VOTE EARLY: You never know what will happen on election day. There may be a family emergency, you may be sick, there may be storms or a flood, Vote early. Get it done.
- It is not enough to be registered to vote; you must also get out and vote. Voter turn out is significant. State government looks at voter turn out and decides what they can get away with. Black voter turnout in Louisiana is historically extremely low usually in 10% to 25% range. A significantly higher voter turn out sends a message. Georgia has two democratic senators and is on the verge of electing a Democratic governor because there is strong voter turnout. Tennessee just saw a high voter turnout in their last Tuesday primary because voters were determined to show their dissatisfaction with the elimination of the black congressional district that included Memphis. Louisiana needs to do the same.
- It is important to remember that the Supreme Court decision Calais v. Louisiana was part of a larger strategy to gut the Voting Rights Bill. The Supreme Court redefined the case to examine the constitutionality of the whole Voting Rights Bill and not just the Louisiana case. Chief Justice John Roberts has been looking for a way to overturn the Voting Rights Bill for the past twenty years. Rep. John Lewis is turning over in his grave!
- My own take away is that informational meetings like Tuesday's are very much needed. There is a real dearth of information about local political issues. There may be one article in the Advocate before an election about local candidates if we are lucky. It is necessary to have this kind of candid, public conversations about local elections and politics on a regular basis.



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 16, 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
OCIA 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.



THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOOD OF 2016

These days we prayerfully remember the Flood of 2016, ten years ago. We remember the heartbreak and trauma that so many experienced. We also remember the outpour of support and assistance that was shown to Baton Rouge. We remember all the volunteers who assisted gutting houses, cleaning, feeding, and those who donated money. We salute the determination and perseverance of those who rebuilt, remodeled, and fought with contractors to get the job done. Thank God for bringing us to where we are today. Trouble don’t last always.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WELCOME OF FATHER DREW KIRSCHMAN, SJ

Thank you to all who made Father Drew Kirschman, SJ, our Jesuit Provincial Superior of the Central Southern Province. He expressed his gratitude for being able to celebrate Sunday Mass with us and to greet parishioners before and after Mass. Thank you to the Parish Council of Ministries and the Financial Advisory Committee who met with him after Mass and did a wonderful job of giving him a picture of our parish church and community.

COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE AND GET OUT THE VOTE RALLY ON AUGUST 22

On Saturday, August 22 from 10 AM to 1 PM, we will host a pop-up rally in our parking lot to inform our neighbors about the Community Lighthouse that will serve as a respite center for the neighborhood/community in the event of a prolonged power outage after a storm. We will also use the event as an opportunity to urge people to get out and vote in November and the importance of these elections.

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

The Parish Council of Ministries will meet on Tuesday, August 25, at 6:30-7:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. Please note change of date). An agenda and minutes will be provided as the date approaches. Parish ministry and organization chairpersons are asked to make this meeting a priority.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR) REGISTRATION 2026–2027

Registration is open now! Classes begin Sunday, September 13, 2026, from 9:00–10:15 AM. Registration forms are available in the church foyer and online at www.immaculateconceptionbr.org.

Fees: \$25 for the first child, \$15 for each additional child, plus \$10 for students preparing for First Holy Communion or Confirmation. Complete a separate registration forms for each child and submit payment as directed on the form or through Online Giving. For information, contact Gloria DeRouen (225-936-8162), Stephanie Yearby (214-881-5663), or the Church Office at (225) 775-7067.



LATOYA	DOTSON	8/17
ELOISE	JOHNSON	8/17
CYNTHIA	ST. AMANT	8/17
RONETTA	BERRY	8/18
LAWRENCE	WILLIAMS, JR.	8/18
TIA	CARTER	8/19
ORLANDO	CHAVIS	8/19
SHARNET	NIXON	8/19
JENNIFER	CALDWELL	8/20
CHARLENE	JENKINS	8/20
MISTY	JOHNSON	8/20
BEATRICE	LEONARD	8/20
TYLA	DEROUE	8/21
RUBY	JONES	8/21
MARISSA	WALKER	8/21
MAYA	ANDERSON	8/22
TAMMY	GUERIN	8/22
JASMINE	RICHARDSON	8/22
IRMA	WILLIAMS	8/22
JASON	BRADFORD	8/23
JEFFERY	HOLIDAY	8/23
GERALDINE	MEYERS	8/23
JACQUELINE	YOUNG	8/23

Thank you

TO ALL YOU SUPPORTED OUR COMMUNITY MEETING

Thank you to all who supported our Community Meeting last Tuesday, August 11. Over 125 people attended the meeting. This shows how interested and focused people are for information about the November elections. We are grateful to our elected officials who attended: Sen. Regina Barrow, Rep. Barbara Carpenter, Rep. Edmond Jordan, Rep. Vanessa C. LaFluer, Rep. C. Denise Marcelle, Commissioner Davante Lewis, Councilor Anthony Kenney.

Thank you to Ms. Jackie Germany and Power Coalition for Justice and Equity, Andrea Toles for hospitality, volunteers who assisted with voter status search, Brenda Smith and Sigma Gamma Rho for hospitality and facilitating questions. Most of all, thanks to all who came out and made it their business to prepare for the November elections.

**Weekly Mass Readings
August 16th –August 23rd**

<u>Sunday</u> <u>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7 Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32 Matthew 15: 21-28
<u>Monday</u> Ezekiel 24: 15-23 Matthew 19: 16-22
<u>Tuesday</u> Ezekiel 28: 1-10 Matthew 19:23-30
<u>Wednesday</u> Ezekiel 34: 1-11 Matthew 20: 1-16
<u>Thursday</u> <u>Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church</u> Ezekiel 36: 23-28 Matthew 22: 1-14
<u>Friday</u> <u>Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope</u> Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Matthew 22: 34-40
<u>Saturday</u> <u>Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u> Ezekiel 43: 1-7ab Matthew 23: 1-12
<u>Sunday</u> <u>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> Isaiah 22: 19-23 Romans 11: 33-36