

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

AUGUST IS THE NEW SEPTEMBER

August is the new September. Whether we are in school or haven't been in school in years, the arrival of August and the new school year affects all of us. Not only is it the start of a new school year, but it is a return to regular schedules after a summer break. For our parish family it is also the beginning of a new parish year of ministry and activity. I am looking forward to many exciting opportunities that are presenting themselves to us. I cannot guarantee that we will be able to accomplish all, but we will certainly plant many seeds with the hope of a rich harvest.

I am most excited about the inauguration of our Community Lighthouse. This presents a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbors better and a concrete and valuable way of serving them. We will also benefit from solar power in our Activity Center which will be cost saving and a way of caring for creation.

I am committed to doing all that we can as a church to help with a historic voter turnout in November. The redistricting that took place in June resulted in the elimination of the second minority majority congressional district in our state. It shows how afraid they are of the Black vote that they will do everything they can to impede it. We got to oppose this effort with an increased voter turn out and elect the first Black senator from Louisiana since PBS Pinchback during Reconstruction. This is an opportunity to make history!

The campus police chief, Joycelyn Johnson, has brought to our attention that a number of Southern students face housing needs and food instability. All their money goes to tuition and fees with little leftover for housing and food. It is not uncommon for her officers to find students who live in their cars while they go to classes. She is working on an initiative to provide temporary housing. MLK will assist by offering a free Community Meal for all students on Thursday evenings to help students who can use a free meal. I am asking local churches, fraternities and sororities, and other groups to sponsor a meal once a semester. In addition, we are bringing to completion some modest renovations at MLK with a new roof, renovated bathrooms, and a computer room for students.

We will also sponsor a monthly information session after 10:30 AM Mass with topics such as protecting yourself against fraud, learning about AI, basics of home maintenance, planning for end of life (Everyone has got to do it!), Insurance 101, and other topics of interest.

Our spiritual growth is of utmost importance. I think that we are ready to start a Bible Study for SU students at MLK. I am hopeful that we have a core group who are interested. We are planning a three- or four-day silent retreat for members of the Black Catholic community in the dioceses of Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Of course, we will have our Lenten Tri-Parish Revival in Lent. Pray we get a revivalist. I am interested to know if any parishioners would like to make a commitment to an hour of Eucharistic Adoration once a week. I am always open to ideas and suggestions that will help your growth in the Lord.



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 2, 2026

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
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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:

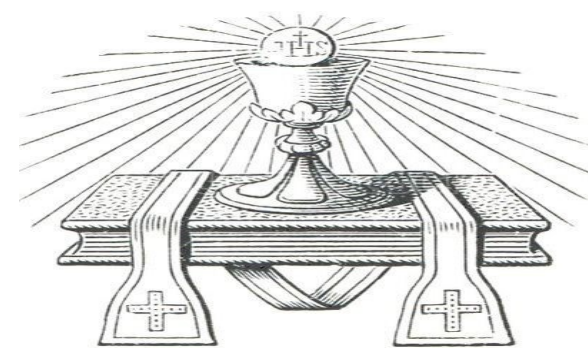
COORDINATOR: Gloria DeRouen(225) 936-8162

ASSISTANT TO COORDINATOR: Stephanie Yearby(214) 881-5663

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.



COMMUNITY MEETING ABOUT MID TERM ELECTIONS

Immaculate Conception Church is collaborating with the Power Coalition for Equity and Justice to host a Community Meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00PM in our Parish Activity Center. Members of the Black Legislative Caucus will be present to update us about the November election ballot, recent changes in voting and election law, and ways for community members to get involved and prepare for the next election. Please come to this important meeting.

COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE AND GET OUT THE VOTE RALLY ON AUGUST 22

On Saturday, August 22, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM we will have a Community Lighthouse and Get Out the Vote rally in our parking lot with music, food, and guest speakers. (The changes in the expected time of the Lighthouse installation have forced us to change the date.) Please support our effort to let our neighborhood know about the Lighthouse and to get the word out about the importance of the November elections and the need for a historic turnout to refute those who want to take the right to vote away or make it more difficult to vote.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR) – 2026-2027 REGISTRATION

Immaculate Conception Parish School of Religion (PSR) registration for the 2026-2027 school year opens August 1, 2026. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 13, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 10:15. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the Church and online at www.immaculateconceptionbr.org.

Parents/Guardians enrolling more than one child, please complete a separate form for each child and return the form with the correct payment. If paying by cash or check, please use the envelope reserved for PSR and submit your payment in the collection basket when you attend Mass, or make your payment online at [Online Giving | Immaculate Conception Catholic Church](https://www.immaculateconceptionbr.org) (immaculateconceptionbr.org) using the steps printed on the registration form.

Registration for Pre-K/Kindergarten through 10th grade is \$25 for one child or the first child of a family, and \$15 for each additional child of the same family. There is an additional \$10 fee for each eligible child preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion or Confirmation in the Spring of 2027. The 2027 Confirmation group includes eligible students currently enrolling in grades 9th and 10th.

For additional information, please contact Gloria DeRouen 225- 936-8162, or you can email g1930@att.net., or Stephanie Yearby 214- 881-5663, or contact the Church office at 225-775-7067.

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

At all the Masses this weekend we will pray for a blessing upon all students, families, teachers, staff, and administrators as the new school year begins. We pray that all our parishioners involved in education will have a healthy, safe, and successful school year. May everyone’s focus be on learning, developing critical thinking skills, and discovering their passion. May each teacher see their students as Jesus sees them. May all staff and administrators lead their schools with vision and grace. May all families make adjustment to the new school year routines.



KENRIC	BOUDREAUX	8/3
JONI	DEROUEN	8/3
ANITRA	CARTER	8/3
JORDYN	HOWARD	8/3
NICHOLAS	RICHARD	8/3
MMAKU	UNAEZE	8/3
KIERA	BENOIT	8/4
THERESA	HAYNES	8/4
WALTER	CRAIG III	8/4
CHANDLER	LEBLANCE	8/4
LAKENYA	JOHNSON	8/5
KEI'ANNA	HOUSTON	8/5
LEANN	MORRISON	8/5
MARY	OLIVE	8/5
CRYSTAL	SAMPSON	8/5
AYANNA	ABADIE	8/6
DANIEL	DECUIR	8/6
DEVYNN	FLEURY	8/6
REGINALD	ABRAHAM	8/7
JO ANN	MARX	8/7
SHIRLEY	READO	8/7
TORIE	THOMAS	8/7
CHELSEA	CARMEN	8/8
ERICA	CARRIERE	8/8
TRINITY	MARTIN	8/8
DONTREA	MCCRAY	8/8
AUGUSTINE	MOORE	8/8
DYLAN	SMITH	8/8
AMBER	THIERRY	8/8
DWAYNE	WILLIAMS	8/8
GAYLYN	BELLAIRE	8/9
CATHY	PURSLEY	8/9
JASLYN	SMITH	8/9

PROVINCIAL’S VISIT ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 AT 10:30 MASS

Our new Provincial Superior, Father Andrew Kirschman, SJ, will make his annual visit to our parish on Sunday, August 9 at 10:30 AM Mass. Please come and welcome Fr. Drew to our parish.

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

This year the Feast of the Assumption of Mary falls on a Saturday. Whenever a holyday falls on a Saturday or a Monday, it is not a day of obligation. We will celebrate the feast day on Friday evening, August 14 with Mass at 6:00 PM in the church.

CORRECTION DATE: PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, October 11—12:00PM to 3:00 PM

Weekly Mass Readings
August 2nd - August 9th

Sunday <u>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> Isaiah 55: 1-3 Romans 8: 35, 37-39 Matthew 14: 13-21
Monday Jeremiah 28: 1-17 Matthew 14: 22-36
Tuesday <u>Memorial of Saint John Vianney, Priest</u> Jeremiah 30: 1-2, 12-15, 18-22 Matthew 14: 22-36
Wednesday Jeremiah 31: 1-7 Matthew 15: 21-28
Thursday <u>Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord</u> Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14 2 Peter 1: 16-19 Matthew 17: 1-9
Friday Nahum 2: 1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7 Matthew 16: 24-28
Saturday <u>Memorial of Saint Dominic, Priest</u> Habakkuk 1: 12-2: 4 Matthew 17: 14-20
Sunday <u>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> 1 Kings 19: 9a-11-13a Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 22-33