



Father Thomas F. Clark, S.J.

ADVENT GIVING TREE

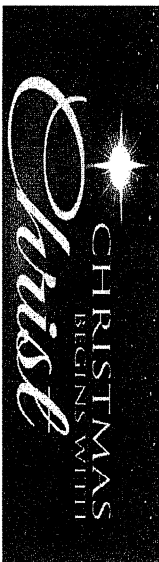
Our annual Advent Giving Tree will be available this weekend. We will be helping out residents of Colonial Manor Nursing Home on Old Hammond Highway, the Elissalde Community Home where Leola Jones-GIVING TREE Dauphine is Director, and some families that Pam Jackson is assisting. All gifts must be returned wrapped and with the ornament with the person's identification number attached by Wednesday, December 18. Please bring your gift on a weekday because of the Sunday celebrations for the Blessing of the Church. Bring your gift to the Ministry Building. Thank you for your generous support of those in need this Christmas.

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL

The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul at Immaculate Conception will be collecting items from parishioners to distribute to the homeless shelters in the Baton Rouge area. We will be collecting items in the Activity Center on December 8th during the Friends and Family celebration. The shelters are in need of the following items:

- Personal Hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap and deodorant)
- Towels (various sizes)
- Towel shwies
- Socks (Children and adult sizes)

Additionally, we are recruiting new members to join our society; applications are available in the back of the church and in the Activity Center.



LOOKING AHEAD: CHRISTMAS 2019

Tuesday, December 24, 4:00 PM:
Vigil Mass of Christmas
Wednesday, December 25, 12:00 AM:
Midnight Mass
Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 AM:
Mass of Christmas Morning

Life is short, live it!
Love is rare, grab it.
Anger is bad, dump it.
Fear is awful, face it.
Memories are sweet, cherish them.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

DAY OF PRAYER ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

To mark the 66th Anniversary of the original Dedication of our church on Friday, December 13 and to prepare for the Blessing of the Church on December 15, Father Clark invites members of the parish to spend some time in prayer in the church before Jesus present in the Eucharist. There will be sign up sheets asking you to commit to an hour of prayer in the church. Perhaps ministry groups or a group of friends will want to arrange for an hour together. Our goal will be to have at least two people in the church from 9 AM to 8 PM.

iGiveCatholic 2019 for MLK Catholic Student Center

Giving Tuesday for iGiveCatholic is Tuesday, December 2. Martin Luther King Catholic Student Center will be participating again this year. To make a donation to support MLK, go to www.igivecatholic.org. Search for the Diocese of Baton Rouge and then for MLK Catholic Student Center. All contributions will be gratefully received.

MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

The Peter Claver Family Choir invites all men and women of the parish to join them for the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 PM in the church starting December 3. For more information contact Gerald Berzati @ 225-276-4674.

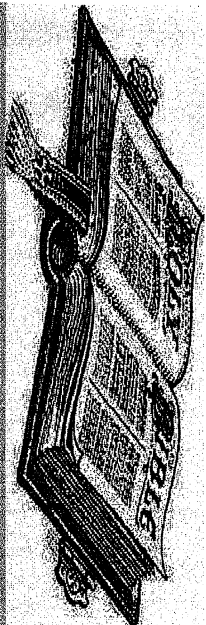
WALKING WARRIORS HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

HEALTHY TIDBIT: National Handwashing Awareness is recognized throughout the week of December 1-7. The *Four Principles of Hand Awareness* were endorsed by the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians in 2001. Routinely washing your hands sounds like a “no brainer” but if it were practiced frequently by all, there would be a reduced spread of colds and flu which result in increased cases of absenteeism from school or work, hospitalizations and deaths. Please follow these handwashing rules every day: 1. Wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating. Use hand sanitizer as an alternative. 2. Do not cough into your hands. Cough into your elbow or a tissue. 3. Do not sneeze into your hands. Sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. 4. Thoroughly wash or sanitize your hands after putting your fingers in your eyes, nose or mouth. henrythehand.com



Happy Birthday

KEVIN	GILLIE
CHRIS	HODGE
SUMMER	ZILATIS
HELEN	TAYLOR
SHANITA	VANCE
ELAINA	HARLEAUX
SHAWN	WALLACE
RITA	BARTHELEMY
TEDRICK	NIXON
JODI	SLAN
TRINITY	SMITH
LINDA	BANKS
NZINGA	BERRY
MICHELE	BURBANK
THOMAS	HIVES, JR.
CHRISTI	HODGE
PRISCILLA	BRADLEY
JAMES	BROWN
BRADLEY	DEROUEN, SR.
CHRISTOPHER	HUNT, JR.
JACQUELINE	MARSELLUS
ANTHONY	MORGAN, SR.
GENIEVA	RICHARD
GLORIA	THOMAS
MADISON	VITAL
HUNTER	WILLIAMS
NOEL	CHRISTY
VIOLA	FABRE
ANN	FENELON
PAT	HIVES
PAMELA	HONORE
REESE	JONES
STEPHANIE	PRICE
MICHAEL	WILSON
ANDREA	VANCE
MARY	WASHINGTON



Mass Readings
December 1st - December 8th
First Sunday of Advent
Is 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Rom 13:11-14
Gospel: Mt 24:37-44
Monday
Is 4:2-6, Psalm 122
Gospel: Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday
Is 11:1-10, Psalm 72
Gospel: Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday
Is 25:6-10a, Psalm 23
Gospel: Mt 15:29-37
Thursday
Is 26:1-6, Psalm 118
Gospel: Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday
Is 29:17-24, Psalm 27
Gospel: Mt 9:27-31
Saturday
Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Psalm 147
Gospel: Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a:6-8
Second Sunday of Advent
Is 11:1-10, Psalm 12, Rom 15:4-9
Gospel: Mt 3:1-12

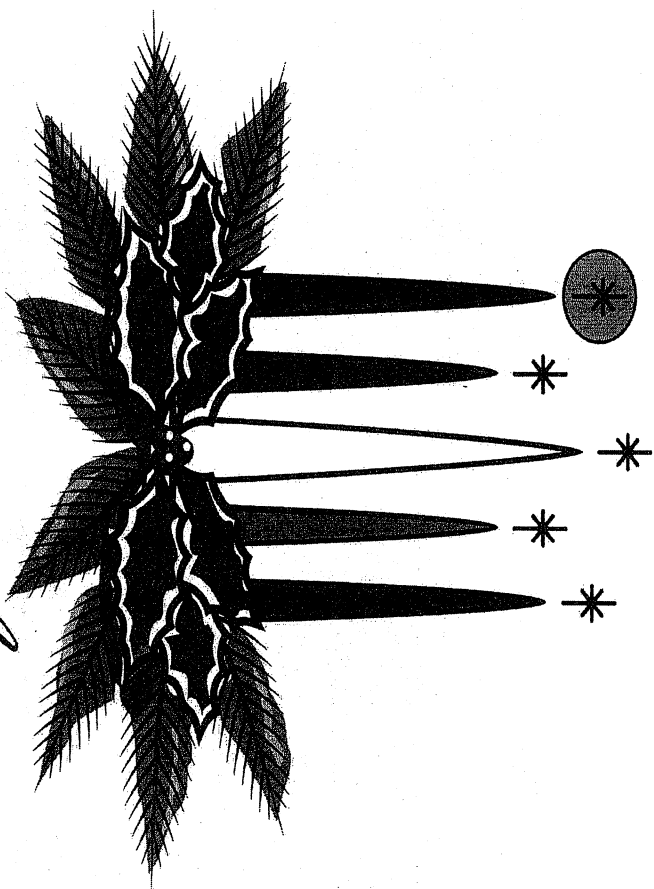
Faith & Fellowship

CELEBRATION OF

THE BLESSING OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, December 1, 4:00 PM: Interfaith Praise and Worship with the Southern University Gospel Choir and local pastors. Reception to follow in the Parish Activity Center.
Sunday, December 8, 10:30 AM: Family and Friends Sunday with Bishop Cheri as celebrant. Parish dinner to follow in the Activity Center.
Friday, December 13, 9:00 AM-8:00 PM: Day of Prayer on Anniversary of Original Dedication
Sunday, December 15, 2:00 PM: Blessing of the Church, Bishop Michael Duca, celebrant. Reception to follow in the Activity Center.

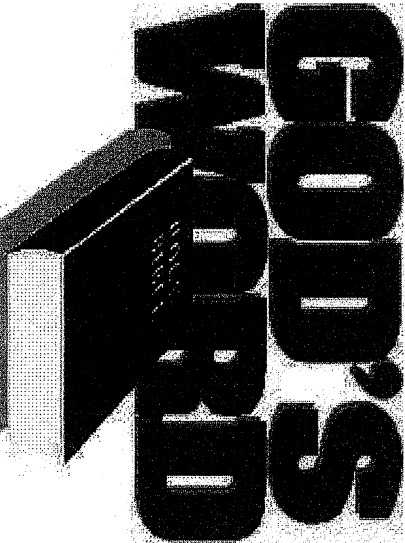
1ST SUNDAY OF Advent



Lord God, only you can see into my heart and know that under all the busy-ness of my life, there is a deep longing to make this Advent one that welcomes you more deeply into my own life. My heart desires the warmth of your love and my mind searches for your Light in the midst of the darkness. Help me to be a peacemaker this Advent and to give special love to those who disagree with me. Give me the strength and courage to forgive those who have hurt me. Help me to free my heart from the prison of my anger and hurt. Amen.

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 or 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.



This Week's Prayer
Lord, far too often I try to steer the course of my life without consulting you, and I always run into problems. Set me on a true course that will bring me closer to you. Amen.

To Whom Do We Go	
Adult Formation: Lovena Watson	778-1977
Altar Servers: Bradley DeRouen	218-8292 / 284-597
Child Protection Coord:	Andrea Toles
Eucharistic Ministers: Beulah Decur	229-6076
Gospel Choir/Adult: Daphne Alex	936-4051
Gospel Choir/Youth: Tara Winder	428-5981
Hall Rental: Juliet Belts	775-7067
Ministry Council/Chair: Georgia Jenkins	775-5824
Ministry to the Sick: Gene Decur	229-6076
Pantry/Food and Vouchers:	774-3661
Sacristan: Rogers Jackson, Jr.	362-0907
Traditional Choir: Theresa Carmen	921-7315
Usher's Coordinator: Walter Ennis	775-7332

YOU MUST BE PREPARED,
FOR AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT,
THE SON OF MAN WILL COME.
MATTHEW 24:41

FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2019

HIT THE RESET BUTTON

Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year and can be a time for us to embrace the light of God's love more deeply. If we realize that we are failing to live as we know we ought, let this season be a time to reset our commitment to living and growing as people of faith. While much of these next few weeks will be consumed by our preparations for Christmas, it is good for us to also take some time to take stock and commend our hearts and lives to Christ. Let us "stay awake" to Christ's higher purposes, not out of a sense of dread or fear of judgment, but rather in anticipation of the advent, or coming, of our Lord.

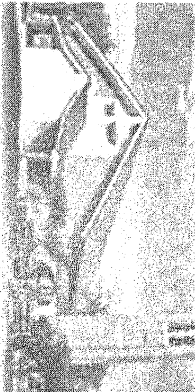
Today's Readings: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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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.

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SECRETARY: Juliet Belts 225-775-7067
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: 225-936-8162
COORDINATOR: Gloria DeRouen 225-614-4646
ASSISTANT COORDINATOR: Lori Gregory 225-772-6099
RCIA COORDINATOR: Cathy Glover 225-614-4129
MILK SU CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER: Joyce Johnson 225-775-8691/223-7302



Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Weekday Masses:
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 12:10 PM
Tues. and Fri. 7:30 AM
All Weekday Masses at the MILK Center Chapel
Holy Day Masses:
Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM and 12:10 PM