

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 Winder .....428-5981  
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

This Week's Prayer

Heavenly Father, you sent your messengers to tell of the birth of your Son, so that people might believe in Him. Open our ears to hear your call, repent of our sins, and seek our heavenly inheritance. May we profess Christ until we stand by his grace before the glory of your majesty; Grant this for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



December 10, 2023

PREPARE THE WAY

The Gospel of Mark

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

Mark 1:4-7

The dependable One is reaching out to us today through John the Baptist, inviting us to repent. John is preaching to the "chosen people" the very message they preached to others. None of us is superior to the others, there is no room for smugness, no room to look at others we consider inferior. Here is John's invitation to repent of our useless patterns of living, to be honest about ourselves, to stop maintaining an illusion of innocence. Doing this welcomes in the God of this Advent, the God who will be our dependable source for our newly-born life. If we are ever going to the manger, get to experience the "Spirit of Christmas," we need to pass through this deserted place, free ourselves of distractions, so that we can hear his call to put aside our guises of respectability and independence and claim our dependable God.

John the Baptist leads us in this Advent season to the one who is our Lord, whose birth we await and whose reign in eternity will never end. This is "the beginning of the good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1565 Curtis Street - Baton Rouge, LA 70807

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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

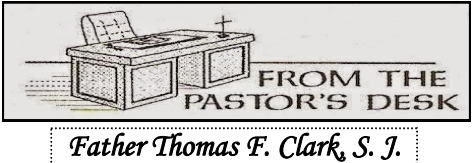
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12:10 PM

Holy Day Masses:

Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM and 12:10 PM



**70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF OUR CHURCH  
AND 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF RENOVATION**



This weekend, we remember the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church on December 13, 1953, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blessing after the Renovation on December 15, 2019. At Mass, we will thank God for his blessings and care over these 70 years. We will offer the Mass for our ancestors who built the church with their own hands and for all the deceased parishioners of our parish. There will be cake and punch in the Activity Center following the 4:00 PM Mass and the 10:30 AM Mass.

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**



We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on Sunday, December 17, at 2:00 PM. If you are experiencing illness or weakness, come and celebrate this sacrament of healing and strengthening. If you or a family member cannot come to the church for the anointing, please contact Fr. Clark and he will make a house visit.

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)**



There will be a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) on Wednesday, December 20, at 6:00 PM. We will begin with a brief prayer service and then there will be the opportunity for individual confession. Fathers Arockiam Arockiam, Josh Johnson, and Fred Kammer will join me for confession. For those who prefer an earlier time for confession, confessions will be heard from 1:00-2:00 PM on the same day.

**MLK SUNDAY MASS PAUSED DURING THE SEMESTER BREAK**



The Sunday Mass at MLK at 2:00 PM on Sundays will be paused during the semester break and will resume when the spring semester begins in January. We wish all the students safe travels home and a very Merry Christmas with their families at home. May God bring all our students back in January safely and ready for a new semester.



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Please take note of the Christmas Mass schedule as it is different from previous years.  
**DECEMBER 23-24: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: 4:00 PM** (Saturday Vigil) **and 9:00 AM** Sunday morning.  
**ONLY ONE MASS SUNDAY MORNING.**  
**DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE: 4:00 PM** Christmas Vigil Mass, **8:00 PM** Mass During the Night in Candlelight  
**DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS MORNING: 9:00 AM**  
**DECEMBER 30-31: Regular weekend Mass schedule: 4 PM, 8 AM, 10:30 AM**  
**DECEMBER 31: New Year's Eve: Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM** (incorporating elements of a Night Watch to celebrate the 160 Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.  
**JANUARY 1, 2024: New Year's Day: 9:00 AM**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE HOLY HOUR**

On Sunday, December 31 at 2:30-3:30 PM, there will be a Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance to give us the opportunity to reflect on the blessings and challenges of 2023 and look forward with hope to the blessings and challenges of 2024. The Vigil Mass will follow at 4:00 PM with its special commemoration for the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Plan to reserve some quiet time with the Lord as we celebrate the end of a year and the beginning of another.



**HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**



***Happy Birthday***

ERNEST	COLEMAN	12/10
LAWRENCE	NAVARRE, JR.	12/10
ANGELLE	JENKINS	12/11
AUBREY	JONES, JR.	12/11
JAYLA	PATRICK	12/11
ALFRED	WIMS	12/11
MARIE	MATTHEWS	12/12
JEFFREY	MOTEN	12/12
ANTHANOR	BRADFORD	12/13
RAHEEM	GRAY	12/13
BARON	ROBERSON	12/13
EDMONIA	CALLAHAN	12/13
OPHELIA	ALCORN	12/14
ALICE	BROWN	12/14
RICHARD	BROWN	12/14
RENEE'	WOODS	12/14
DICKSON	IDUSUYI	12/14
CORNELIUS	HARRIS, JR.	12/14
WILLIAM	LOCKMAN, SR.	12/14
ANDRE	NEWTON, SR.	12/14
ELISSA	ENNIS	12/15
BRANDON	JOHNSON	12/15
CHRISTY	LEVALL	12/15
KEONA	PATIN	12/15
TERRI	EDWARDS	12/16
DELLA	PERKINS	12/16
GLENN	THOMAS	12/16
KESHIA	RAMBO	12/16
MAURISSA	WIGGINS	12/16

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY CARSEN XAVIER WHITE**

*Belated Birthday Wishes for Carsen Xavier White - December 7th*

**KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER-COUNCIL #116**

**presents**

***"It's Christmas Time" - Dance***

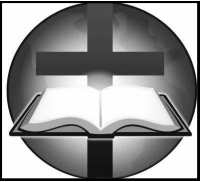
Music by The Millennia Band and Melvin Chavis "Zydeco Man"

Date: December 16, 2023 -- Time: 8:00 PM-11:30 PM

Place: Immaculate Conception Activity Center

1565 Curtis St., Baton Rouge, La. 70807

Donation: \$20.00 -- Dress: Casual



**Mass Readings**

December 10th - December 17th

**Sunday**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85; 2Pt 3:8-14

Gospel: Mk 1: 1-8

**Monday**

Is 35:1-10; Psalm 85

Gospel: Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday**

**Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe**

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13

Gospel Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday**

Is 40:25-31; Psalm 103

Gospel: Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday**

Is 41:13-20; Psalm 145

Gospel: Mt 11:11-15

**Friday**

Is 48:17-19; Psalm 1

Gospel: Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday**

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80

Gospel: Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Sunday**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1; 1 Thes 5:16-24

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**PRAYER WALK IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**



**Prayer Walk**

Father Clark invites parishioners to join him in a Prayer Walk in our church neighborhood on next Saturday, December 16 following the 4:00 PM Mass at approximately 5:30 PM. We will walk around our neighborhood with candles and offer prayers at several stops and maybe sing a Christmas carol or two to greet our neighbors and share with them our joy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY**



Mr. and Mrs. Claus and their workshop elves invite believers of all ages to join them on Sunday, December 17, at 3 PM in the Parish Activity Center for cookies, hot chocolate, picture taking, and The Polar Express Story Time.