REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

On Tuesday, December 16, we will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) from 4 PM to 8 PM in the church. Four priests, Fr. Trey Nelson, Fr. Arockiam Arockiam, Fr. Fred Kammer, and myself will be available at various times during those hours. Since we are staggering confessions over four hours, there will be less wait time.

I want to encourage you to make use of this sacrament of healing. Nothing can compare with the feeling of freedom and a new beginning that you get after going to confession. It is a great way to prepare for the holiday season. You can get rid of sins, guilt, and remorse, so you can enjoy the holiday season with a light heart.

Confession is all about growth. Taking an inventory of myself as the year ends shows me how far I have come and how far I need to go. Conversion necessarily means acknowledging my sins, but that is only half the job. The other half is opening my heart and soul to God's grace so that I can grow. Confession is rejecting the past but it is also embracing the future. An important part of confession is naming how I want to grow. I identify the areas of my life where I can grow and improve to become my better self. If you haven't been to confession in a while, don't worry. The priest will help you. There is no judgement in confession. There is only the joy of your coming back to the Lord. Personally, I can truthfully say that I do not remember what people tell me in confession. I only remember that they want to improve and be the person God wants them to be.

The twelve step programs recognize the wisdom of confession. One of the twelve steps is to make a fearless inventory of oneself and share it with a trusting friend. That is what we do in confession, we make an inventory and share it with the priest who represents Christ. In confession, you encounter Christ the healer and Christ the Good Shepherd.

Confession reminds us that we are a work in progress. We need to keep working on ourselves. We have the power to change. We can grow. Don't just feel bad about yourself! Make a change and celebrate the new you!

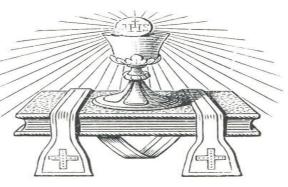
-Father Thomas Clark



Third Gunday of Advent ~ December 14, 2025

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/ IN RESIDENCE: Father Fred Kammer, S.J	(225) (225)	773-2036 774-3241
	SECRETARY: Renae Welsh/John Edwards		
	PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:	` ,	
1	 COORDINATOR: Gloria DeRouen 	(225)	936-8162
	ASSISTANT TO COORDINATOR: Stephanie Yearby		
	RCIA COORDINATOR: Cathy Glover		
	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.



THANK YOU FOR THE PSR ADVENT REFLECTION MORNING

Thank you to the families who came out for our PSR Advent Morning of Reflection. The youth were fully engaged in the Nativity Escape Room. Parents joined in a Bible Study on the biblical stories of the birth of Christ. We painted a picture of an Advent wreath. While we munched on pizza for lunch, Mr. and Mrs. Claus dropped by for a visit and photos. Thank you to the PSR team for their time and effort.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 16

On Tuesday, December 16, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) from 4 PM to 8 PM. There will be several priests available during that time for individual confession. There is no better way to prepare for Christmas than to unburden yourself of sins and excess baggage. Enter into the holiday season with a clean heart and a joyful spirit.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 21 AT 2 PM

We will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick on Sunday, December 21 at 2 PM. If you are experiencing illness or pain in body, mind, or spirit, come receive this sacrament of healing.

<u>LECTORS: PLEASE INFORM OFFICE OF ANY CHANGES IN CONTACT INFO OR MASS PREFERENCE</u>

As we begin to make up the new schedule for January-June, 2026, please call the office or send an email to immaculateconceptionbr@yahoo.com with any changes to your contact information or your preference for which Mass you serve at.

CALLING ALTAR SERVERS

If a young person has received their First Holy Communion and would like to be an altar server, please contact Father Clark and we will set up a time to practice. We need you to help to celebrate the Mass!

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve - December 24

- Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM
- Mass During the Night at 8:00 PM

Christmas Day – December 25

Morning Mass at 9:00 AM

Holy Family Sunday - December 27-28

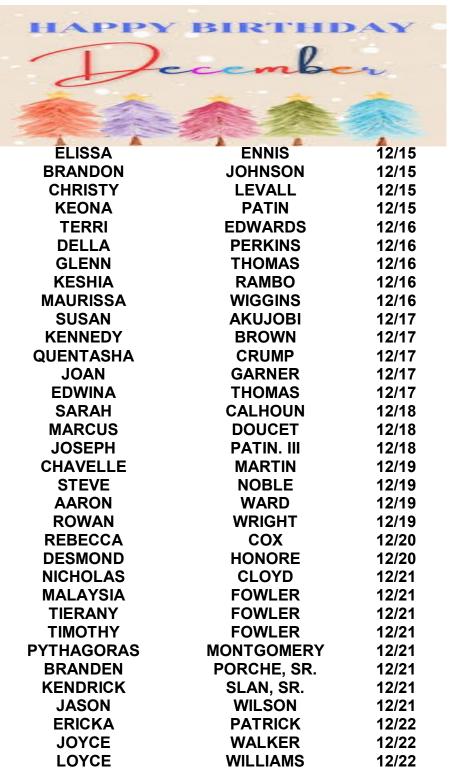
Masses at 4:00 PM, 8:00 AM, and 10:30 AM

New Year's Eve – December 31

Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM (in the spirit of the Night Watch)

New Year's Day - Mary, Mother of God - January 1

Morning Mass at 9:00 AM





REMINDER: HYGIENE DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS

We are still accepting donations of personal hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and other products. A donation box will be available until Sunday December 21, 2025. Thank you for your continued generosity. Your contact person will be Wanda Anderson.

Weekly Mass Readings December 14th-December 21st

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11

<u>Monday</u>

Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17a Matthew 21: 23-27

Tuesday

Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13 Matthew 21: 28-32

Wednesday

Genesis 49: 2, 8-10 Matthew 1: 1-17

Thursday

Jeremiah 23: 5-8 Matthew 1: 18-25

<u>Friday</u>

Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a Luke 1: 5-25

Saturday

Isaiah 7: 10-14 Luke 1: 26-38

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7: 10-14 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-24

SAVE THE DATE MLK BIRTHDAY

We will celebrate MLK Birthday on Monday January 19, 2026 with Mass at 9:00 AM followed by breakfast in the Parish Activity Center.

COMING SOON MARDI GRAS BALL AT THE MLK CENTER

Get ready! A festive Mardi Gras Ball is in the works for the MLK Center. More details will be announced soon — stay tuned, and remember, you heard it here first!