



Loving God, I sense that all is your creation and everything, and all of us, are being drawn back toward your loving heart. Help me to be a person of peace, to speak about it in an uneasy world, and to live it among the people you have put into my life every day. Light in me a desire to prepare for your coming to stand in the darkness, waiting, eager and filled with joy. 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 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

**To Whom Do We Go**

- Adult Formation: Lovenia Watson.....778-1977
- Altar Servers: Bradley DeRouen .....218-8292 / 284-5970
- Child Protection Coord:.....Andrea Toles
- 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
- Ministry to the Sick: Gene Decuir.....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

**This Week's Prayer**

Lord, if we could see the future, it would be easy to have hope. Real hope is when we can't see the end of the road, but still trust you to lead us there. Amen.





Father Thomas F. Clark, S. J.

**THANK YOU FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS' SUNDAY**

**A NOTE OF Thanks!** Thank you to all who contributed to make our Family and Friends' Sunday such a beautiful and enjoyable day. We are very grateful to Bishop Cheri who, despite having just returned from Rome, was the celebrant and homilist of the Mass. Thank you to all the liturgical ministers, choir, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, and altar servers who ministered. Very special thanks to those who planned, prepared, and served the delicious dinner. Thanks to the Knights of Peter Claver, the Kitchen Crewe, the shoppers, the decorators and the Junior Knights and Daughters for serving the meal.

**TODAY IS THE MASS OF THE BLESSING OF THE CHURCH**

**Thankful grateful blessed** At 2:00 PM today, Sunday, December 15, we will celebrate the Mass of the Blessing of the Church with Bishop Duca as the celebrant. We will also welcome Bishop Muench, Fr. Derrick Weingartner, Fr. Hooks, and priests of the diocese and Jesuits who will be concelebrating. Please pray for God's blessing upon this important moment in the life of our parish.

**ADVENT GIVING TREE**

**The Giving Tree** Helping Those in Need There are some more tree ornaments with gifts for children that have been placed on the tree in the foyer. If you would like to help out, please take a name. All gifts should be returned by this Wednesday, December 18 to the Ministry Building. Thank you to all who have generously helped to make someone's Christmas brighter.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)**

**RECONCILIATION** On Thursday, December 19, there will be the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at Immaculate Conception Church from 5:00-7:00 PM. Make this sacrament of healing and forgiveness part of your Christmas preparations. Nothing will help us to enter into the true Spirit of Christmas more than a clean heart!



**Announcements and Upcoming Events**



**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday, December 24:**  
*Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4:00 PM*

**Wednesday, December 25:**  
*Midnight Mass at 12:00 AM*

**Wednesday, December 25:**  
*Christmas Morning Mass at 10:30 AM*

**Saturday-Sunday, December 28-29:**  
*Holy Family Sunday: 4:00 PM, 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM*

**Tuesday, December 31:**  
*Vigil of Mary, Mother of God at 4:00 PM*

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020:**  
*Mary, Mother of God at 10:30 AM*

**CHURCH BLESSING COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIRS**

**New Beginnings** In January, our commemorative booklet of the Blessing of the Church will be available. Allison Singleton has designed a t-shirt to mark the church's blessing. You may see a sample and place an order at the December 15 celebration. T-shirts will be available at a later date. The cost of a shirt will be \$15.00 Youth through Adult XL; \$18.00 2X-4X. **Profit from the shirts will go the Church Building Fund.**

**2020 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS**

**CALENDAR** The 2020 Josephite calendars will be available next weekend, December 21-22 at all the Masses and the weekend of December 28-29 as long as the supply lasts. So that everyone gets a calendar, please take one per household.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK IN JANUARY**

**Anointing the sick** Since our December has been so busy with our celebrations for the Blessing of the Church, we will have our communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in January at a date to be determined. If anyone feels the need to celebrate the sacrament now, please call Father Clark.

**Happy Birthday**

ELISSA	ENNIS	12/15
BRANDON	JOHNSON	12/15
CHRISTY	LEVALL	12/15
TERRI	MORRISON	12/16
DELLA	PERKINS	12/16
GLENN	THOMAS	12/16
KESHIA	RAMBO	12/16
MAURISSA	WIGGINS	12/16
JASON	WILSON, II	12/16
SUSAN	AKUJOBI	12/17
QUENTASHA	CRUMP	12/17
CATHERINE	FLENTROY	12/17
EDWINA	THOMAS	12/17
SARAH	CALHOUN	12/18
MARCUS	DOUCET	12/18
JOSEPH	PATIN, III	12/18
SYMIL	LEDOUX	12/19
CHAVELLE	MARTIN	12/19
STEVE	NOBLE	12/19
REBECCA	COX	12/20
DESMOND	HONORE	12/20
NICHOLAS	CLOYD	12/21
MALAYSIA	FOWLER	12/21
TIERANY	FOWLER	12/21
TIMOTHY	FOWLER	12/21
PYTHAGORAS	MONTGOMERY	12/21
BRANDEN	PORCHE, SR.	12/21
KENDRICK	SLAN, SR.	12/21
JASON	WILSON	12/21

**WALKING WARRIORS HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY**

**HEALTHY TIDBIT:** What would Jesus eat? The chief crops available in the Holy Land were wheat, barley, olives, grapes, legumes (lentils, chickpeas, fava beans), and vegetables (onions, leeks, garlic). Life was made sweeter with fruits like olives, grapes, dates, apples, watermelon, pomegranates, figs and sycamores. The main meats which were prepared occasionally and reserved for the wealthy were sheep, goats, and cattle; and more commonly, fish from the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee was served at dinner and to guests. Wine from grapes was the main beverage. Each day began with a light breakfast of bread or a piece of fruit. At midday, most would eat a lunch of bread, grain, olives and figs. The main meal, dinner, was a one-pot stew (a thick porridge of veggies and herbs) that was served in a common bowl and sometimes served with fish. Hospitality was an important value across the Mediterranean world, just like it is here in Louisiana. [loyolapress.com](http://loyolapress.com)



**Mass Readings**  
**December 15th - December 22nd**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
Is 35:1-6a, 10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10  
Gospel: Mt 11:2-11

**Monday**  
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25  
Gospel: Matt 21:23-27

**Tuesday**  
Gen 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72  
Gospel: Mt 1:1-17

**Wednesday**  
Jer 23:5-8; Psalm 72  
Gospel: Mt 1:18-25

**Thursday**  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71  
Gospel: Lk 1:5-25

**Friday**  
Is 7:10-14; Psalm 24  
Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday**  
Sgs 2:8-14; Psalm 33  
Gospel: Lk 1:39-45

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Is 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Rom 1:1-7  
Gospel: Mt 1:18-24

Forms for new parishioners or changes are located in the vestibule of the

**LET FR. CLARK KNOW HOW YOU ARE DOING**

**Cross** I always try to keep up with how parishioners are doing, especially during times of sickness and loss. Sometimes news gets by me or, being increasingly absent minded, I just forget! Please help me out by calling and letting me know how you are or anything that you would like me to know or pray for. I am never too busy to receive your call. Call my cell phone and please leave a message if you don't reach me. I welcome your sharing these things with me!

**GUEST PRIESTS OVER CHRISTMAS**

**Fr. Paul Duetsch** Father Clark is very grateful to two Jesuit priests, Fr. Paul Duetsch and Fr. Sean Toole, who will be with us during Christmas week to help with the Masses. Fr. Paul will be here from December 26-30 and Fr. Sean December 31-January 4. I know you will welcome them with your customary hospitality.