

# REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

## BIBLE STUDY THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (The Gospel for December 21)

### Matthew 1: 18-25

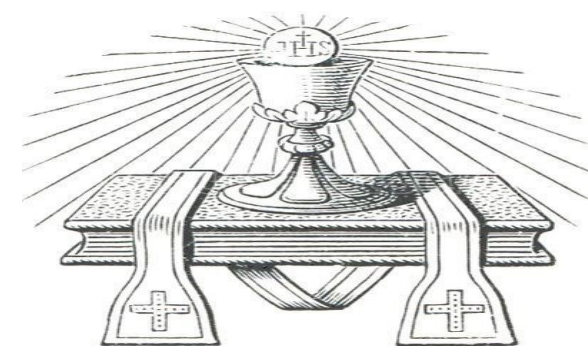
- ♦ Matthew tells the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of Joseph.
- ♦ Joseph is a good man. Although the Law says that Mary should be stoned to death because it appears that she has been unfaithful to Joseph, he decides to divorce her quietly to save her from the death penalty.
- ♦ Joseph has a dream. Another Joseph, the son of Jacob, also had dreams that got him into trouble with his brothers but saved him from Pharaoh's prison. Joseph is in the line of the ancestors to whom God communicated through dreams. A dream in the Bible is a metaphor for a religious experience in which God communicates with a human being.
- ♦ In the dream, an angel tells him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife because she is with child by the Holy Spirit. The angel gives the child the name Jesus, which means Savior. The angel's announcement fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 7: 14. The child will be Emmanuel which means "God is with us." The Gospel of Matthew will end with Jesus' promise to be with us always until the end of time. He truly is Emmanuel.



### Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 21, 2025

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**  
1565 Curtis Street - Baton Rouge, LA 70807  
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Web Site Address: [www.immaculateconceptionbr.org](http://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:** 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  
**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  
12:10 PM  
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.



### MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

We wish everyone a very happy, holy, and peaceful Christmas season. If you are traveling, may your journey be smooth and your arrival safe. May God bless all our families with good health, safety, and peace of mind. May we know that the greatest gift of all is Jesus whose birth we celebrate. May the Prince of Peace bring a just and lasting peace to our world. May the New Year renew our hope and bring about a change for the better.

### DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

**PARISH OFFICE:** During the Christmas holidays, the parish office will be closed from December 23-January 2. During that time Father Clark will be available. Please use his cell phone number.

**DAILY MASS:** Mass will be celebrated at 12:10 PM at the MLK Catholic Student Center chapel. However, there will be no daily Mass on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

**SUNDAY STUDENT MASS:** This Mass has been paused until the students return to campus on January 11, 2026.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER GRADUATES

Congratulations to our Fall 20205 Graduates. We are proud of you! We celebrate your success with you and look forward to what the future holds for you! Please let us know of any other graduates so we can acknowledge them!

La'Donna Turnipseed Allen  
Megan Abraham  
Morgan Abraham  
Tristyn DeRouen  
Tyler Hatch  
Keith Jackson  
Layla Johnson



### MLK BIRTHDAY

We will celebrate the Birthday of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 19, 2026 with Mass at 9:00 AM followed by breakfast in the Parish Activity Center. Please plan to attend and honor the memory of this Drum Major for Justice whose message is needed now more than ever.

### MARDI GRAS BALL AT THE MLK CENTER

Mark your calendar! Join us for a Mardi Gras Ball at the MLK Catholic Student Center on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Enjoy an evening of food, dancing, and festive celebration. Please plan to attend and support the ministry of the MLK Center for our Southern University students.



TREMEL	WILLIAMS	12/23
VINCENT	GREGORY	12/24
CALEB	HAWKINS	12/24
MARLON	LANDRY	12/24
NOELLE	CLOYD	12/25
KAIDEN	COMBS	12/27
KYRI	HOOKS	12/27
INGA	KING	12/27
MELISSA	SMITH	12/27
ERIC	STIEFF	12/27
DAJON	TRUDELL	12/27



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve**  
Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM  
Mass during the Night in Candlelight 8:00 PM

**Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day**  
Morning Mass: 9:00 AM

**Saturday-Sunday, December 27-28: Solemnity of the Holy Family**  
Vigil: 4:00 PM, Morning: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

**Wednesday, December 31: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
New Year's Eve: 4:00 PM in the Spirit of a Night Watch  
New Year's Morning: 9:00 AM

**Saturday-Sunday, January 3-4: Epiphany of the Lord**  
Vigil: 4:00PM, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

### **Weekly Mass Readings December 21st thru December 27th**

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

#### **Monday**

1 Samuel 1: 24-28  
Luke 1: 46-56

#### **Tuesday**

Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24  
Luke 1: 57-66

#### **Wednesday**

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Luke 1: 67-69

#### **Thursday**

#### **The Nativity of the Lord**

#### **Christmas**

Isaiah 9: 1-6  
Titus 2: 11-14  
Luke 2: 1-14

#### **Friday**

#### **Feast of Saint Stephen, First**

#### **Martyr**

Acts 6: 8-10; 7:54-59  
Matthew 10: 17-22

#### **Saturday**

#### **Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

1 John 1: 1-4  
John 20: 1a and 2-8

#### **Sunday**

#### **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14  
Colossians 3: 12-17  
Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23