

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is rooted in the history and culture of the African diaspora. During the social and political upheaval of the 1960s the holiday helped Americans of African descent reconnect to their African cultural heritage. Kwanzaa is celebrated for seven days, and each day celebrates one of seven core principles.

December 26 – Umoja (Unity)
December 27 - Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)
December 28 – Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
December 29 – Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
December 30 – Nia (Purpose)
December 31 – Kuumba (Creativity)
January 1 – Imani (Faith)

Setting the table during Kwanzaa is an important tradition that many African descendants who celebrate the holiday follow. The seven symbols of Kwanzaa that appear on the table are ears of corn; gifts; a straw mat; a cup that symbolizes unity; a candleholder; vegetables, fruits, and nuts; and seven candles that represent the holiday's seven key principles. Three candles are green, three are red, and one is black; the black candle stands for African people, the red candle stands for the struggles they have endured, and the green candle stands for the future and land (via History).

Kwanzaa provides the opportunity to be reflective during the week between Christmas and New Year. Kwanzaa is not a substitute for Christmas by any means. It is an enhancement of the holy season that reclaims the African heritage for those whose culture and history were robbed because of slavery. Which principle speaks the most to you? Reflect on how you can incorporate it in your New Year goals. Habari gani! (What's happening?) Kwanzaa!

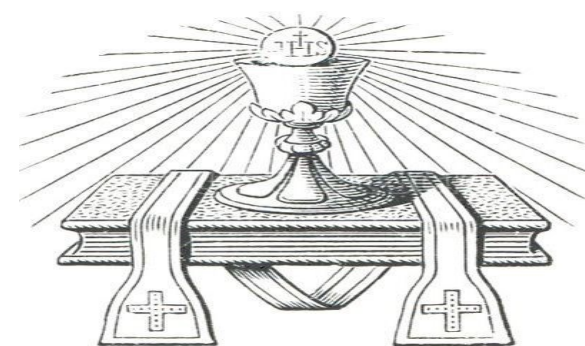


The Holy Family

First Sunday after Christmas Day ~ December 28, 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/(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.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE CHRISTMAS SO SPECIAL

Thanks to all who made our celebration of the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve and Day so special and inspiring. Thank you to Walterine Whitfield and the Beautification Committee for the beautiful decorations of the sanctuary, the choirs for filling our hearts with “a new song” with which to praise the Lord, the altar servers who ministered at the altar so conscientiously, the lectors who proclaimed the Word of the Lord and Eucharistic ministers who brought us the Body and Blood of the Lord, the ushers for their hospitality, the parish staff who did so many unseen and unsung things, the Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry for helping families of our community, the Advent Giving Tree elves who delivered gifts to youth and elders of our community, the Knights who provided Christmas cheer and dancing, all who signed up to deliver groceries to our brothers and sisters, and for the deeds of kindness that so many parishioners do for family and friends that nobody knows about, and for the faith, generosity, and hospitality that is the hallmark of Immaculate Conception Church. Let us continue to celebrate the Birth of Christ until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 11. Christmas is a season!

NEW YEAR’S EVE AND DAY: SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday evening, December 31, and Thursday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday at 4:00 PM and on January 1 at 9:00 AM.

The Vigil Mass on New Year’s Eve at 4:00 PM will incorporate elements of a Night Watch Service as we commemorate the ancestor’s vigil for the dawn of freedom on January 1, 1863. With readings, poems and song, and Scripture we will celebrate the gift of freedom and commit ourselves to its preservation in the challenging times in which we live.

SAVE THE DATE: MLK BIRTHDAY MASS AND BREAKFAST

We will celebrate the Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 19 with Mass at 9:00 AM followed by breakfast in the Parish Activity Center. The prophetic witness and moral courage of Dr. King need to be remembered and celebrated more than ever. Please plan to come out and join in our celebration.

SAVE THE DATE: MARDI GRAS BALL AT MLK

Please plan to join us as we celebrate Mardi Gras at the Martin Luther King Catholic Student Center on Saturday, January 24, 2026, with a festive Mardi Gras Ball from 8:00 -11:00 PM. Join us for good food, music, and dancing all for the benefit of the ministry at the MLK Catholic Student Center.

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council of Ministries on Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. Father Clark asks that all chairpersons of parish ministries and organizations make it a priority to attend. You will receive minutes from the last meeting and an agenda as the date approaches.



LARRY	KNIGHT, JR.	12/28
SENTORIA	FOSTER	12/29
TINA	JORDAN	12/29
SANDRA	WILLIAMS	12/29
RICHARD	DORSEY	12/30
KYLE	RIDEAU	12/30
JERMONE	SAMPSON, JR.	12/30
ANNETTE	PAUL	12/31
LAYLA	RICHARD	12/31
CORNEL	SIMS	12/31
BRENNA	VITAL	12/31



MELVIN	AARON, JR.	1/1
JEROME	DUGAS	1/1
MARCELLE	DUPUY	1/1
MICHAEL	DURHAM	1/1
CYNTHIA	EDWARDS	1/1
JEREMY	ENCALADE	1/1
EVELYN	HAYNES	1/1
TAVIA	LAZARD	1/1
GERARD	MORGAN	1/1
LAMONICA	BANKS	1/2
RONALD	BODLEY	1/2
CLAUDIA	BRUMFIELD	1/2
MERQUELDRA	DAIGRE	1/2
GINA	DOMINGUE	1/2
LESHAWN	HAINES	1/2
DEVIN	BARNES	1/3
JENNIFER	BROWN	1/3
CARRIE	CHRISTY	1/3
CYLER	PRATER	1/3

MEETING OF THE LECTORS

There will be a meeting of the Lectors on Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center.

All lectors are asked to attend. **Reminder:** Your 2026 workbooks are available in the vesting room if you have not already picked yours up.

Weekly Mass Readings December 28th-January 3rd

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Colossians 3: 12-21

Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23

Monday The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 John 2: 3-11

Luke 2: 22-35

Tuesday The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 John 2: 12-17

Luke 2: 36-40

Wednesday The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 John 2: 18-21

John 1: 1-18

Thursday Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of

God

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

Numbers 6: 22-27

Galatians 3: 4-7

Luke 2:16-21

Friday Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

1 John 2: 22-28

John 1: 19-28

Saturday 1 John 2: 29 - 3:6 John 1: 29-34

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Isiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN JANUARY

Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00-8:00 PM on Zoom and on Thursday, January 8 at 10:30 AM in the parish Activity Center at 10:30 AM.