

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

I want to share with you some information and reflections on the Pastoral Care of the Sick. Caring for the sick is such an important ministry in the church that it has its own special sacrament, the Anointing of the Sick. This sacrament was formerly called Extreme Unction (or popularly, Last Rites) and was reserved for the final moments of life just before death. Now the sacrament is for the time of illness and is a prayer for healing and strengthening. It may be repeated as many times as necessary due to changes in physical condition or for the comfort and consolation of the one who is ill.

When a person is seriously ill and may be in danger of death it is better not to wait until the last moments but call a priest as changes in health begin. The sacrament provides strength not only for the one who is ill but also for the family and caregivers. One may also celebrate the sacrament before surgery of any kind. Before surgery tell me that you would like to be anointed. We can celebrate the sacrament after Sunday Mass or at another convenient time. Remember that some hospitals have priest chaplains. If you are unable to reach me, you can ask the hospital staff to call the Catholic chaplain.

There are prayers that we say at the time of death that include an Apostolic Blessing that grants pardon of all sin and punishment due to sin. Again, those are best done sooner than later. If a person can receive Communion as they transition, that Communion is called Viaticum and is food for the journey home to God. We do what we can do. If we cannot call a priest or a priest is not available, God's mercy provides whatever a person needs. God works through the sacraments but is not limited to the sacraments. All we need to do is ask God for mercy and mercy is granted.

I always want to be available to our parishioners when they are ill. I depend on family members or parishioners to let me know who is ill or in the hospital or would like a visit. Hospitals no longer notify churches about parishioners in the hospital. Eucharistic Ministers are always available to bring Communion to the sick and homebound.

We will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick on Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to come and pray for healing of the body, the mind, and the soul. Celebrating the sacrament communally gives a powerful witness to our common need for healing. To be with our brothers and sisters praying for healing helps us not to feel alone or isolated. We get a chance to pray for each other and to encourage one another. Remember, healing is not only physical but is also spiritual and mental. If we are good on the inside, we can manage anything on the outside!

-Father Thomas Clark

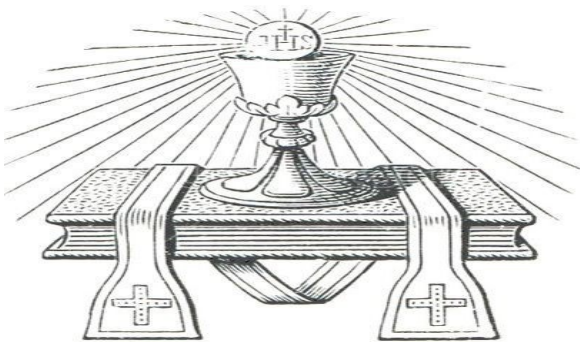
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 7, 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.



CHRISTMAS IN THE ‘VILLE

Come and celebrate Christmas in the ‘Ville on Sunday, December 7 from 4 PM to 8 PM at Scotland-ville Plaza at the corner of Scenic Highway and Scotland Ave. There will be a DJ, giveaways, activi-ties, and more! Come and celebrate the season with our neighbor's and community partners.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Sunday, December 21 at 2 pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 16 from 4 pm to 8 pm. There will be several priests available to hear confessions during that time.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who have brought in gifts for our Advent Giving Tree. We appreciate your generosi-ty, and the care that you took in selecting a gift and wrapping it so beautifully. You will make some-one happy this Christmas! Thank you also to Santa’s elves who have already begun delivering gifts!

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY ON THURSDAY THIS WEEK

Because Father Clark will be assisting with confessions at Saint Paul on Wednesday evening, our online Bible Study will meet **this week only on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 PM** via Zoom. Our **in-person Bible Study** will still meet at its **regular time on Thursday at 10:30 AM**.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Monday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 12:10 PM at the MLK Catholic Student Center and at 7:00 PM at the church. (Please note: When a holy day falls on a Saturday or Monday, it is not a day of obligation **EXCEPT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**. Therefore, **December 8 is a day of obligation to attend Mass**.

ADVENT SPIRITUAL READING

If you’re looking for inspiring spiritual reading during this Advent season, Father Clark recommends *Insane for the Light: A Spirituality for Our Wisdom Years* by Rev. Ronald Rol-heiser, OMI. This is the third book in his series on the stages of life. Rolheiser teaches that our first task in life is to “get ourselves together,” our second is to “give ourselves away,” and our third is to offer our death as a final gift to our loved ones by approaching it with peace, faith, and trust in eternal life. This book reflects deeply on the spirituality of growing older.

On his flight home from Lebanon, Pope Leo shared that his personal spirituality is shaped by the classic work *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence. This timeless book invites us to place everything in God’s hands and allow Him to lead. Several editions are available in contemporary English, as the original text dates back to the 1690s.

REMINDER: HYGIENE DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS

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



THEA	BURCHELL	12/8
GLORIA	MEYERS	12/8
DREXELL	FINLEY	12/9
LEOLA	DARGIN	12/9
JOYCE	LEDUFF	12/9
AKEYLIAH	OLIVER	12/9
CHANZA	VEAL	12/9
ERNEST	COLEMAN	12/10
LAWRENCE	NAVARRE, JR.	12/10
ANGELLE	JENKINS	12/11
AUBREY	JONES, JR.	12/11
JAYLA	PATRICK	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
ANDRE	NEWTON, SR.	12/14



REMINDER:
Eucharistic Ministers Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2025

There will be a meeting of the Eucharistic Ministers on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00 PM. Please make it a priority to attend.

Weekly Mass Readings
December 7th-December 14

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Romans 15: 4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Monday

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Genesis 3: 9-15, 20
Luke 1: 26-38

Tuesday

Isaiah 40: 1-11
Matthew 18: 12-14

Wednesday

Isaiah 40: 25-31
Matthew 11: 28-30

Thursday

Isaiah 41: 13-20
Matthew 11: 11-15

Friday

Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2: 14-17
Luke 1: 26-38

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11
Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13

Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

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



Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday December 24, 2025
4:00 PM and 8:00 PM

Thursday December 25, 2025
9:00 AM