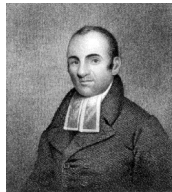


THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

Lemuel Haynes



Lemuel Haynes is credited as the first credentialed Black clergyman in the United States, and is considered the first minister to lead a white congregation. Haynes was born on July 18, 1753 in Hartford, Conn. to a Black father and white mother. Abandoned at five months of age, Haynes was raised by an indentured servant who worked in the home of a farmer in Granville, Mass. From a young age, Haynes showed proficiency in reading and religion, drafting sermons and delivering them at a local church. After gaining his freedom at 21, Haynes joined the Minutemen Militia who fought in the Revolutionary War.

After the war, Haynes returned to Granville and built his own farm while continuing to study theology. In 1780, Haynes was licensed to preach and ministered at the Congregational Church of Granville, making him the first Black minister to lead a white congregation. In 1785, Haynes was fully ordained, becoming the nation's first Black ordained minister.

Haynes married a white school teacher, Elizabeth Babbitt, and they had at least 10 children together. Haynes drew criticism from many for his Federalist views and for speaking on the behalf of Blacks in the country by saying they deserved equal rights to whites. Before passing in 1883 at the age of 80, Haynes' final words have served as a point of inspiration for Christians over the years.

“Christ is my all. His blood is my only acceptance. My pains are great, but blessed be God, they are not eternal. I long to be in heaven,” Haynes told a fellow reverend and friend.

One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change.  
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 Financial Advisory Committee.

To Whom Do We Go

Adult Formation: Lovenia Watson.....778-1977  
Child Protection Coord: Andrea Toles.....(504)491-6556  
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  
Pantry/Food and Vouchers: .....774-3661  
Sacristan: Rogers Jackson, Jr. ....362-0907  
Traditional Choir: Deadra James Mackie.....772-3401  
Usher's Coordinator: Walter Ennis.....(504)427-6459



January 28, 2024



They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Mark 1:21-22

Today's Gospel is a typical day in the life of Jesus in which he carries out the main activities of his mission – teaching and healing. Jesus' authority is empowering and liberating, it is not oppressive or subjugating.

Can we welcome the same empowering and liberating authority of Jesus in our lives. Can we listen to his teaching by steeping ourselves in his Gospel message and experiencing his healing and liberation today. At some point in our lives people may feel themselves being brought to their knees by urges and forces that are too strong for them. They need to turn to a power above and beyond themselves. Jesus, with that power behind him, comes close to each one of us in his teaching, in the Christian community, in the Church. The teaching of Jesus is straight from his heart, from his relationship with God. I ask God to bless me so that all my words and actions profess my faith.

Although I may value the authority given by education, ordination or election, I consider how God's Spirit is given to me so that I, like Jesus, might minister healing and truth.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

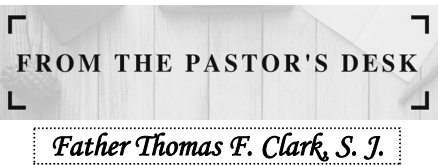
1565 Curtis Street - Baton Rouge, LA 70807  
Office Phone: (225) 775-7067 - Information: (225) 775-7062  
Fax: (225) 775-0775 - Email: clarktf2002@yahoo.com  
Web Site Address: www.immaculateconceptionbr.org  
Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church  
serving the family of God and feeding 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: Juliet Betts .....(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  
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., 12:10 PM  
Holy Day Masses:  
Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM and 12:10 PM

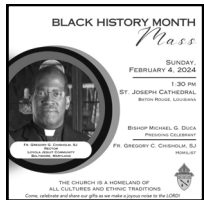


MINUTES  
PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES  
January 23, 2024

Eleven members of the Parish Council of Ministries and interested parishioners attended the meeting on January 23 at 6:30 PM. After an opening prayer and a review and acceptance of the minutes of the October meeting, the council had a spiritual conversation about the care of our planet inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*. From this conversation emerged the following reflections and recommendations. Climate change and the threats to the delicate balance of the resources of the earth are real. We are taking too much off the earth and not returning enough to keep things in balance. We have become accustomed to a certain level of convenience that includes disposable products, air and heating comfort, and the quick discarding of broken items. We need to develop an awareness of the impact that our daily actions have on the environment and make changes in our lifestyle. Even small and simple changes can be effective. Changes that we discussed are recycling, carpooling, eating less meat and more plant-based meals, using LED lights, and employing solar energy. Suggestions for implementing this on the parish level: bulletin announcement and social media post to educate and increase awareness, encourage one meatless meal a week during Lent, plant a vegetable garden, recycle items that are no longer used, provide a recycle drop off for old tech products, partner with existing programs, safe disposal of expired prescription drugs, be intentional about minimizing waste especially in food, our use of paper, and advocate for less reliance on fossil fuels.

From Pope Francis' encyclical we reflected on how social and environmental degradation is interrelated. If we become pure consumers of the earth's resources and not stewards, then most likely we will be less concerned about the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ and be less concerned about sharing and serving. Our care for creation is rooted in our faith that creation is a gift of God entrusted to us to be cared for and valued. Our good stewardship is reflected in our care for all God's children by sharing the good of this earth.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL



Next Sunday, February 4, at 1:30 PM, Bishop Duca will celebrate Mass to commemorate Black History Month. Let us fill the cathedral! Father Clark asks that you not attend Mass at Immaculate Conception on that day, but make the Cathedral Mass your Sunday Mass. The Diocesan Gospel Choir will sing; the KPC will turn out; there will be involvement from the Black parishes. In these days, when Black History is threatened, devalued, re-written, and silenced, we must give a strong witness to its importance. **OUR MASS SCHEDULE NEXT WEEKEND AT ICCC WILL BE 4:00 PM VIGIL MASS and 8:00 AM MASS. THERE WILL BE NO 10:30 AM MASS. Please spread the word.**

OUR TRI-PARISH LENTEN REVIVAL



Our annual tri-parish revival in collaboration with Saint Paul the Apostle and Saint Francis Xavier will take place on Sunday to Tuesday, March 3, 4, and 5. The Sunday service will begin at 4 PM, and the other two services will begin at 6:00 PM. Our revivalist will be Father Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.

ADULT CONFIRMATION ON PENTECOST SUNDAY



If anyone over the age of eighteen has not had the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, you may prepare to celebrate the sacrament which will be celebrated by Bishop Duca on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 10:30 AM at Saint Joseph Cathedral. If you would like to be confirmed on that day, please see Father Clark and he will arrange your preparation.

KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER AND COURT #116 FISH DINNERS



*Fried Catfish, Potato Salad, Sweet Peas, Slice Bread and Dessert*

Fridays: February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, and 22

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church - Activity Center -1565 Curtis St. Baton Rouge, La.

\$15.00 per plate: 10am – 2pm

For orders and deliveries, please contact: *Jessica Semien-Olive - (225) 270-5454 -- David Dartez- (225)288-3437*



Happy Birthday

JACIEN	DOTSON	1/28
ABRAM	HAYNES	1/28
SONIA	ALLISON	1/29
ALRITA	FORD	1/29
SENTORIA	FOSTER	1/29
LAWRENCE	PAYNE	1/29
MILLIE	PRICE	1/29
COURTNEY	ROBINSON	1/29
RENITA JANE	BOUDREAUX	1/30
CAROLYN	CARTER	1/30
NICHOLAS	MONTGOMERY	1/30
CARRIE LEE	CHRISTY	1/31
RAYLAND	CRAIG	1/31
BRENT	DEROUEN	1/31
TRISTYN	DEROUEN	1/31
WILLIE	SANDERS, JR.	1/31
SHARYN	WILCOX	1/31
THERESA	WILLIAMS	1/31
JACQUELYN	THOMAS	2/1
JOYCE	GARNER	2/1
EARL	MARCELLE	2/1
BRANDEN	PORCHE, JR.	2/1
ALTON	STATION, JR.	2/1
JOSEPH	CARMEN	2/2
DARREN	LONDON	2/2
CALVIN	THIERRY	2/2
TYLER	NAVARRE	2/2
MAYA	URBINA	2/2
STEPHEN	ANDERSON	2/3
PHYLLIS	BROUSSARD	2/3
HOWARD	JOHNSON	2/3
CALVIN	MCCLINTON	2/3
BETTY	McGEE	2/3
JENNIFER	MONTGOMERY	2/3
SHERONDA	SOLOMON	2/3

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023

Parishioners who would like a copy of their church contributions for 2023, please fill out the form located in the vestibule of the church or call the parish office (225-775-7067) or send an email ([bettsec1@aol.com](mailto:bettsec1@aol.com)) to request a statement. If you donate online through We Share or Givelify, you can download a statement directly from those sites.



Mass Readings

January 28th - February 4th

Sunday

Dt 18:15-20; Psalm 95; 1 Cor 7:32-35

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28

Monday

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Psalm 3

Gospel: Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30--19:3; Psalm 86

Gospel Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Psalm 32

Gospel: Mk 6:1-6

Thursday

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chronicles 29

Gospel: Mk 6:7-13

Friday

Feast of The Presentation of The Lord

Mal 3:1-4; Psalm 24; Heb 2:14-18

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40

Saturday

1 Kgs 3:4-13; Psalm 119

Gospel: Mk 6:30-34

Sunday

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 147; 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mk 1:29-39

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE



Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is on February 14, not too far away. Our Mass schedule will be 7:30 AM (church), 12:10 PM (MLK), 5:00 PM Prayer Service (MLK), and 7:00 PM Mass (church). Ashes will be blessed and distributed at each Mass and service.

