

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

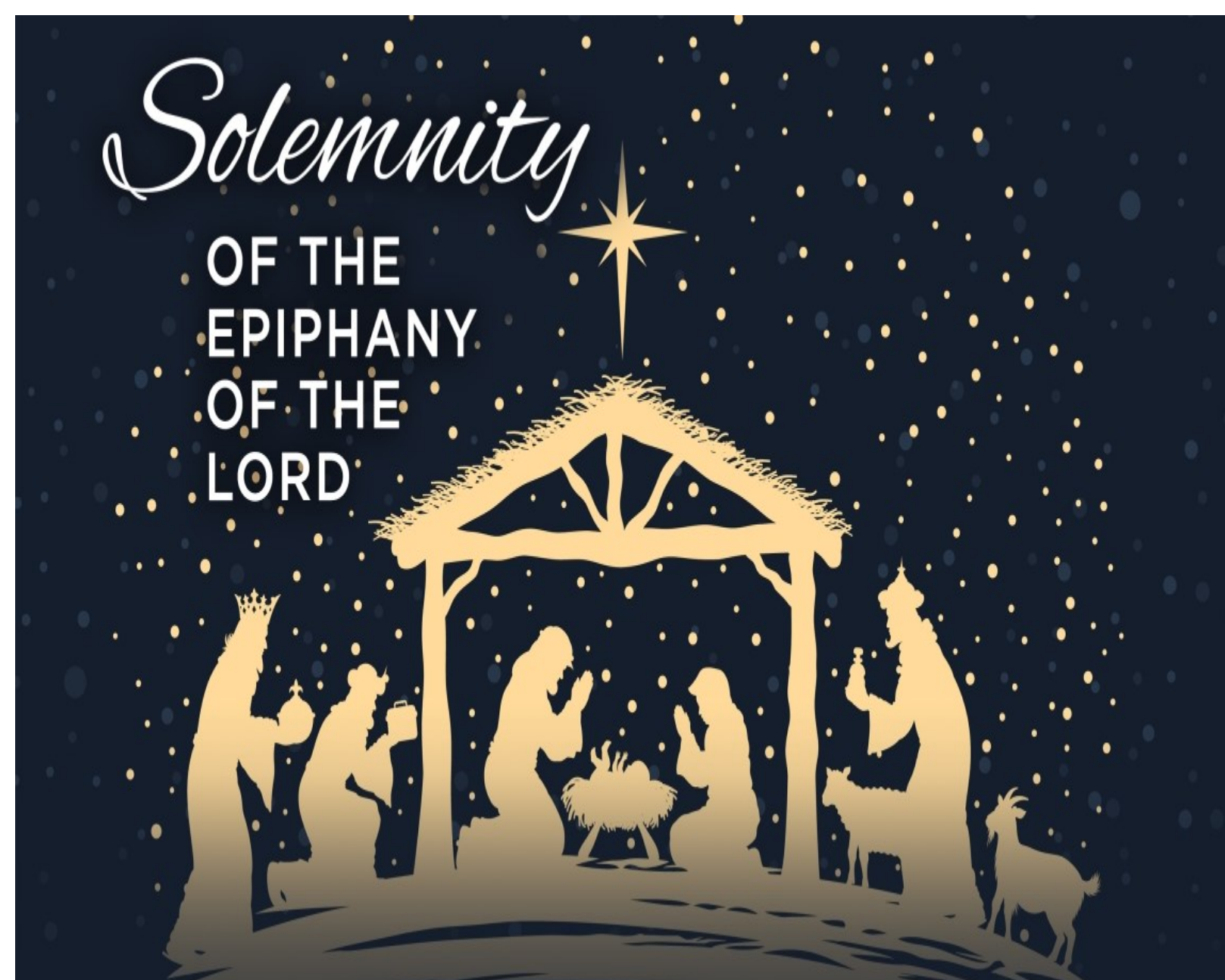
SOLAR ENERGY COMES TO SCOTLANDVILLE

As the New Year begins I am looking forward to the installation of the solar panels on the Parish Activity Center that will happen this month. As you know, this is being brought to us by Together Louisiana and Together Baton Rouge as part of the Community Lighthouse program. Our Activity Center will become a Community Lighthouse in the event of an extended power outage. We will be a respite center (not a shelter) where neighbors can come to recharge electronic devices, benefit from cooling or heating, get information, fellowship, and maybe receive a meal. An important part of this program is that we canvas the neighborhood now, well in advance of a need, and alert our neighbors that we have this resource and to find out if they have any special needs, e.g. medical equipment, that will need to be kept running during an outage. My hope is that this will strengthen the bonds between our church and our neighbors. In addition to having power in the event of an extended power outage, we will benefit from the solar energy all year. The Activity Center uses a lot of power. Our average monthly energy bill for that building is around \$1,000.00. We will be able to reduce that bill substantially. We will pay approximately \$250.00 per month into a fund that will provide for maintenance and updating of the system.

The solar energy is an important step in the care of creation. We know only too well in Louisiana that climate change is real and is making an impact on our world. The fierce storms that blow up over night and cause such destruction are result of the warming of the planet. The more we begin to use renewable energy the more we help our planet.

Pope Francis wrote an important encyclical called *Laudato Si* (Praise be to you, my Lord!) in which he pleaded with the world to begin to take greater care of God's creation and to preserve it for future generations. He linked the preservation of our natural resources with a commitment to create a new humanity in which we recognize our dependance on one another, deepen our awe and wonder at the marvelous work of God in creation, and work together to hand on this treasure to our children and grandchildren. Pope Francis writes: Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." The Pope goes on to say, "We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it...When the foundations of social life are corroded, what ensues are battles over conflicting interests, new forms of violence and brutality, and obstacles to the growth of a genuine culture of care for the environment. Our Community Lighthouse is our way of supporting and realizing the vision of Pope Francis and Pope Leo, who has committed himself to the care of creation in the footsteps of Francis.

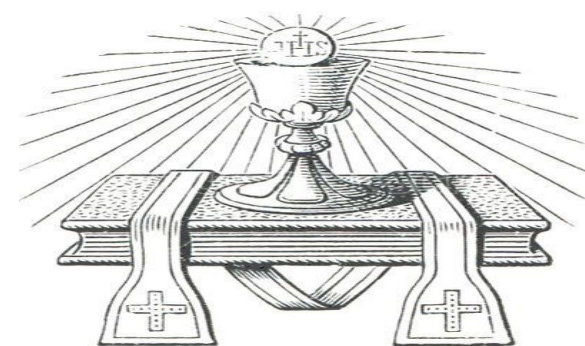
The installation of the system will begin in the next few weeks. We plan to have a public celebration of its inauguration in March. Please pray for the safety of the workers who will install the panels. May we use this resource for the greater glory of God and the building up of his Kingdom here in Scotlandville.



The Epiphany of the Lord ~ Sunday January 4, 2026

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: 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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we enter the New Year of 2026, May the Lord bless and keep all of us. May he make his face to shine upon every person. May he give us peace all over the world and especially in our hearts and homes.. We pray that 2026 is full of good health, safety, peace of mind, and freedom from worry. May there be a transformation of hearts in our country toward justice, equity, and inclusion of all.

FATHER CLARK AWAY THIS WEEK

Father Clark will be away this week. Father Fred will be celebrating the daily Mass at 12:10 PM. There will be no Bible Study this week. Bible Study will resume on January 14 and 15. The office will be open from 8:30 am to 4 pm each day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MATTHEW SEYMOUR AND BRYANNA DECUIR

Congratulations to Matthew Seymour and Bryanna DeCuir who will celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at Immaculate Conception Church as God bless them abundantly as they begin their married life together. May they be a sign to us of God's unconditional, forgiving, and faithful love.

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

The Parish Council of Ministries will meet on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

ARETHA	HUNT	1/4
EARL	MARCELLE, JR.	1/4
LEO	PAUL	1/4
SHEILA	BROCK	1/5
TORIA	QUINN	1/5
KAYLA	RICHARD	1/5
FELTON	DEROUEN	1/6
DEBBIE	JOHNSON	1/6
KIM	KELLY	1/7
MATTHEW	WINDER	1/7
AZRIEN-SHAI	MORGAN	1/7
JOI	BATES	1/8
MARCO	ALLEN	1/9
BRADFORD	LEWIS	1/9
MARK	HAYNES	1/10
KIM	HUDSON	1/10
JOSEPHINE	IDUSUYI	1/10
RUFUS	JACKSON	1/10
TODD	SAMUEL	1/10
ROOSEVELT	STEVENSON	1/10
CORII	WILLIAMS	1/10
ADDISON	WILSON	1/10
ANDREW	WILSON	1/10

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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. Your 2026 workbooks are available in the vesting room if you have not already picked yours up.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY

Bible Study will resumes on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7:00-8:00 PM on Zoom and on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 10:30 AM in the Parish Activity Center at 10:30 AM.

Weekly Mass Readings January 4th-January 11

Sunday

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2: 1-12

Monday

Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop

1 John 3: 22-4:6
Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25

Tuesday

1 John 4: 7-10
Mark 6: 34-44

Wednesday

1 John 4: 11-18
Mark 6: 45-52

Thursday

1 John 4: 19-5: 4
Luke 4: 14-22

Friday

1 John 5: 5-13
Luke 5: 12-16

Saturday

1 John 5: 14-21
John 3: 22-30

Sunday

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
Acts 10: 34-38
Matthew 3: 13-17