

Reflections from Father Sean Toole, SJ

It is always a blessing to return to the community here at Immaculate Conception Church! I have been visiting for more than ten years now, usually as a fellow congregant but occasionally as a guest presider. Fr. Clark requested that I write about the ministry of the Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Foundation (DTRF), as the Jesuits recently missioned me to serve full-time as the DTRF's inaugural Descendant Outreach Coordinator. From its headquarters in downtown Baton Rouge and with Immaculate Conception parishioner Cheryl E. Hall serving as the Chairperson of its Board of Trustees, the DTRF offers the Church and the world a groundbreaking example. As we know, God makes a way out of no way. Despite a brutal, dehumanizing history, Jesuits throughout the United States and Descendants of those once enslaved by the Jesuits have found a way forward, guided by the Spirit.

Five years ago, the DTRF launched to the public with a pioneering idea: that the path to justice need not be an adversarial battle. Instead, we asked what might be possible if Descendants and Jesuits worked hand in hand not to correct an unchangeable past, but to build a new moral framework for reconciliation. In these last five years, we have moved from ground zero to full stride ... receiving \$42 million in donations and an additional \$8 million in pledges to date, awarding scholarships to Descendants pursuing every form of higher education, enabling elders to age with dignity in their own homes, and creating spaces where silence gives way to healing.

In partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the DTRF's Descendant Scholarships program has provided \$579,500 over the past two years to partially fund Descendants studying at 40 colleges (including Southern University), supporting 24 scholars in 2024-25 and 53 scholars in 2025-26, with over 80 scholars anticipated for 2026-27.

Starting in 2025, the DTRF's Aging with Dignity program has supported modifications at 13 homes in four states (including Louisiana), permitting Descendant elders to live in their homes more safely with handrails, grab bars, wheelchair ramps, stair lifts, and other improvements.

Through its Community Healing program, the DTRF has joined with a number of agencies to benefit various communities where Descendants seek to live and thrive. Partners have included the One Fair Wage campaign, Dialogue on Race Louisiana, the Los Angeles Urban League, and a national exhibition from The Stories of Us.

Along with our colleagues, Cheryl and I invite you to connect with the DTRF at descendants.org to see for yourself what a new model for restorative justice looks like in practice. If you or a loved one would like to learn more about, participate in, or otherwise support any DTRF programming, you are always welcome to reach out to me at toole@descendants.org or call 225.515.4305.

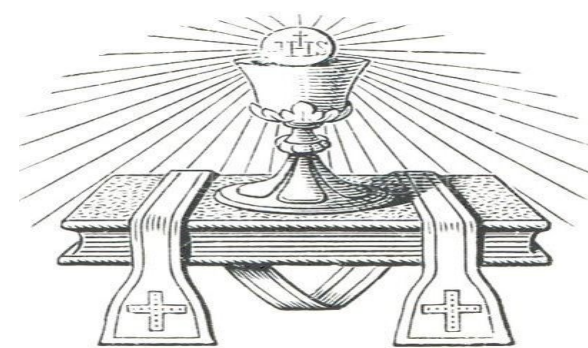
Peace and blessings,
Sean Toole, SJ



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ JULY 12, 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.(504) 343-9195
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
OCIA 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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP ROBERT BOXIE

Bishop Robert Boxie was ordained a bishop on Tuesday July 7 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. He will serve an auxiliary bishop of that Archdiocese. He is a native of Lake Charles, Louisiana from Sacred Heart Parish there. Most recently he has been the chaplain at Howard University. May God bless his ministry as bishop!

COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE INSTALLATION UNDERWAY

The installation of the solar power for our Community Lighthouse is underway and is scheduled to be completed in a couple of weeks. We are tentatively planning for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, August 15. During the Saturdays of August we are planning pop up rallies in our parking lot to let our neighbors know about the Lighthouse and to encourage everyone to get out the vote in November. Stay tuned for more details.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

As we approach the prime time for hurricanes, now is the time to get ready. Check your supply of batteries, flashlights, and lanterns. Have a plan ready in the event that you have to evacuate. Have important documents including insurance and medical papers in one place. Stock up on water and non-perishables.

Get ready and pray we do not have to use them!

Please make sure that the church has a copy of your contact information, especially newer parishioners. If we have an emergency, we want to be able to contact you to make sure you are OK and if you need anything.

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

This quarter's Parish Council of Ministries meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. Minutes and agenda will be provided as the date approaches.

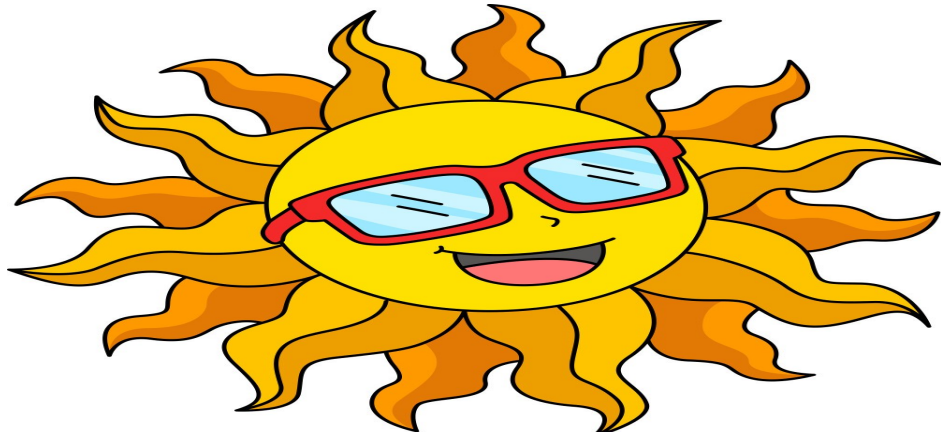
SOUND QUALITY ON THE LIVESTREAM

We are aware of the recent audio issues on our Sunday Mass livestream and sincerely apologize for the inconvenience. Our team is actively working on a complete sound system upgrade, which will be installed this August, to ensure a better experience for our at-home worshippers. Thank you for your continued patience.



TRE	GRAY	7/13
KISSI	HIGGINBOTTHAM	7/13
ALEXIS	PATIN	7/13
MICHAEL	BROUSSARD	7/14
REGINALD	GUIDROZ	7/14
JAMES	AMBROSE, JR.	7/15
KAREN	CHEVIS	7/15
JEROME	DUGAS, SR.	7/15
DARRELL	DUPUY	7/15
THOMAS	HULBERT	7/15
BETTY	WELLS	7/15
ANREA	WILLIAMS	7/15
SHAWN	CHEVIS	7/16
MARLEI	FRANKLIN	7/16
RICHARD	MATTHEWS	7/16
DEAUNDRE	WILLIAMS	7/16
ROLANDO	URBINA	7/16
DENAIR	WADDELL	7/16
KYIA	YOUNG	7/16
WANDA	ANDERSON	7/17
TALIYA	EDMOND	7/17
GARRY	LEWIS	7/17
RONNIE	BELONA	7/18
BRIAN	CHARLES	7/18
KEVIN	PERRY, JR.	7/18
BOBBIE	SAM	7/18
CYNTHIA	SAMPEY	7/18
BRENDA	SMITH	7/18
FITZGERALD	SPENCER	7/18
CHARLES	THOMAS, SR.	7/18
TRACIE	ABRAHAM	7/19
TRINITEE	DUNN	7/19
PATTI	DURIO	7/19
RICKY	ENCALADE	7/19
KEVIN	GRAY	7/19
JERMAINE	MEYERS	7/19

“Stay Cool and take precautions to avoid heat related injuries.”



**Weekly Mass Readings
July 12th—July 19th**

Sunday
Fifteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8: 18-23
Matthew 13: 1-23

Monday
Isaiah 1: 10-17
Matthew 10: 34– 11:1

Tuesday
Memorial of Saint Kateri
Tekakwitha, Virgin

Isaiah 7: 1-9
Matthew 11: 20-24

Wednesday
Memorial of Saint Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Isaiah 10: 5-7, 13b-16
Matthew 11: 25-27

Thursday
Isaiah 26: 7-9, 12, 16-19
Matthew 11: 28-30

Friday
Isaiah 38: 1-6, 21-22, 7-8
Matthew 12: 1-8

Saturday
Micah 2: 1-5
Matthew 12: 14-21

Sunday
Sixteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19
Romans 8: 26-27
Matthew 13: 24-43