

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

REFLECTIONS ON BISHOP BOXIE’S ORDINATION

I watched the ordination of Robert P Boxie as Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, DC on live stream. I was impressed by the homily given by Cardinal Robert McElroy, the Archbishop of Washington, DC. Cardinal McElroy spoke about the challenges of being a bishop in the church today but he encouraged Bishop Boxie to also look on the joys of being a bishop. He had several turns of phrase that resonated with me not just in relation to a bishop but to all Christians on our journey.

FOOTPRINTS OF GRACE

He thanked Bishop Boxie for his ministry up this point in his life, especially as chaplain at Howard University. He referred to his impact as a priest as “leaving footprints of grace” behind him. As we reflect on our life’s journey, where have we left footprints of grace? The influence that we have had on family and friends that show forth our love of the Lord, our faith, and our being a person for others leaves footprints of grace wherever we have trod. Thank God for the footprints of grace that you have left in your journey and the footprints of grace that others have left for you.

NEW PATHWAYS ON OUR EARTHLY PILGRIMAGE

Cardinal McElroy told Bishop Boxie that his ministry as a bishop marked a new pathway on (his) earthly pilgrimage. What a beautiful way to think about the changes in our life. Often, we face changes, challenges, and crises with fear and anxiety. What if we managed our fear and anxiety by looking at our life as one continuous journey. Each change and challenge that comes is a new pathway on our earthly pilgrimage that we do not face alone because God walks with us. Every leg of the journey brings us closer to our destination which is our home in heaven.

SACRED CANOPY OF SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

Cardinal McElroy urged Bishop Boxie to always remember that many people will be praying for him. People whom he does not even know. He called this prayerful support a sacred canopy of spiritual support. Many people are praying for us. They are engaging spiritual energy that gives us faith, trust, and perseverance even in the most challenging times. Think of yourself as being covered by a sacred canopy that shields you from the storms of life. A canopy is more than an umbrella. A canopy reflects the overshadowing of God like the cloud of presence that accompanied the Israelites in the desert. Walk under your sacred canopy of spiritual support.

A DREAMER OF DREAMS

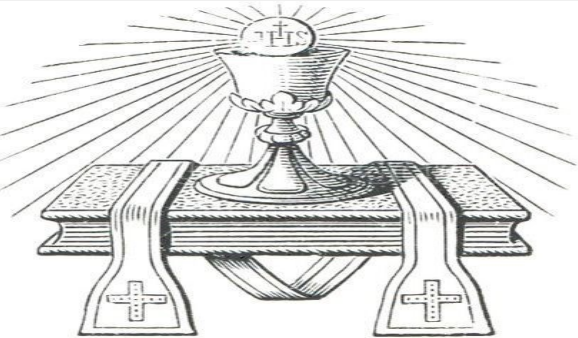
There are many reasons for distress and disappointment in the world today. Our battle is to not let obstacles deflate our spirits but that we be lifted by dreams of faith that arise in our hearts. These times in which we live call us to be Dreamer of Dreams. Do not let the struggles of our lives or the state of our country or the world define us. May we be defined by the dreams of faith that God plants in our hearts. We carry the face of God deeply imprinted in our hearts and the faith of folks around us deep in our soul.



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ JULY 26, 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



PROVINCIAL VISITATION

On Sunday, August 9, our new Provincial Superior, Father Andrew Kirschman, SJ, will be making his annual visit to our parish. He will be concelebrating at the 10:30 AM Mass.

COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE PROGRESS

Work continues on the installation of the solar energy system for the Parish Activity Center. We expect the system to be up and running by mid-August. We are now planning for a ribbon cutting ceremony in September. However, if there is a storm and power outage before then, we will be ready to go into operation. We are planning a pop-up event in our parking lot to advertise the Light-house and to get out the vote on August 15 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

If you would like to contribute to the Lighthouse, we welcome donations of cases of water, boxes of chips, breakfast bars, power strips, board games, playing cards, hand sanitizer, wipes, and charging cables.

TOWN MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

Immaculate Conception will host a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00 PM. Some Members of the Black Legislative Caucus will be present to give updates on redistricting strate-gies, mobilizing to get out the vote in November, election insights that impact the community. Stay informed! Be part of the solution!

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATED BY KPC

Thank you to the Knights and ladies of Peter Claver who supplied back to school supplies for Crestwood Elementary School, Progress Elementary School, and the EBR Readiness Middle School. We are proud of their service to the community and the education of our youth.

REMINDER: BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN AUGUST

Our weekly Bible Studies will resume on August 5 and 6 with Zoom Bible Study on Wednesday, August 5, at 7 PM, and in person on Thursday, August 6, at 10:30 AM in the Parish Activity Center.

REMINDER: 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.

STUDENT MASS AT SOUTHERN RESUMES ON AUGUST 16

The Student Sunday Mass at the MLK Catholic Student Center will resume on Sunday, August 16 at 2:00 PM. Please spread the word to family and friends attending Southern University this fall about this Sunday Mass and our daily Mass at 12:10 PM as well as our availability to students for pastoral support, a quiet place to study, and a shoulder to cry on when needed.

SUMMER SAFETY REMINDERS : May God bless you with a safe, healthy, and joyful summer. We look forward to seeing you at Mass and parish events throughout the season!



TIARA	JOHNSON	7/27
BERTHA	BEARD	7/28
EVAN	LEDOUX	7/28
TIMOTHY	DAIGRE	7/29
SHERLAN	DUNN	7/29
ROLANDA	JOHNSON	7/29
ROSHAWN	PRESTON	7/29
RAVEN	PRICE	7/29
ALEXANDRA	NEAL	7/30
KELSEY	WILLIAMS	7/31
PATRICK	BURLS	7/31
JESSICA	OLIVE	7/31
JANICE	ANDERSON	8/1
JARROTT	ANDERSON, SR.	8/1
LIONEL	ANDERSON	8/1
STEFFANI	BOURGEOIS	8/1
SHIRLEY	HENDERSON	8/1
RONALD	JOHNSON	8/1
JHAELYN	ODOM	8/1
WAYNE	STATION	8/1
SHANNON	VITAL	8/1
THOMAS	WALKER, III	8/1
BERNARD	WASHINGTON, JR.	8/1
NATALIE	CLARK	8/2
NITA	CLARK	8/2
DENISE	SANDERS	8/2

Southern University Homecoming Parade

Sunday, September 27 – 1:00 PM

Regular Sunday Mass will be celebrated as scheduled; however, Mass will be **expedited** due to the parade. Parishioners who park in the church parking lot before Mass may leave their vehicles there during the parade.

No Saturday Vigil Mass

Saturday, October 3

Please note that there will be **no Saturday Vigil Mass** on October 3.

Southern University Homecoming Game

Saturday, October 3 – 4:00 PM

The Knights of Peter Claver will be selling parking spaces as a fundrais-er to support their scholarship program.

Parish Picnic

Sunday, October 12 – 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun at our annual Parish Picnic. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Weekly Mass Readings

July 26th-August 2nd

Sunday

Seventeenth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12

Romans 8: 28-30

Matthew 13: 44-52

Monday

Jeremiah 13: 1-11

Matthew 13: 31-35

Tuesday

Jeremiah 14: 17-22

Matthew 13: 36-43

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Martha, Mary

and Lazarus

Jeremiah 15: 10, 16-21

John 11: 19-27

Thursday

Jeremiah 18: 1-6

Matthew 13: 47-53

Friday

Memorial of Saint Ignatius of

Loyola, Priest

Jeremiah 26: 1-9

Matthew 13: 54-58

Saturday

Memorial of Saint Alphonsus,

Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of

the Church

Jeremiah 26: 11-16, 24

Matthew 14: 1-12

Sunday

Eighteenth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55: 1-3

Romans 8: 35, 37-39

Matthew 14: 13-21