

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

PRAYING THROUGH THE SUMMER MONTHS

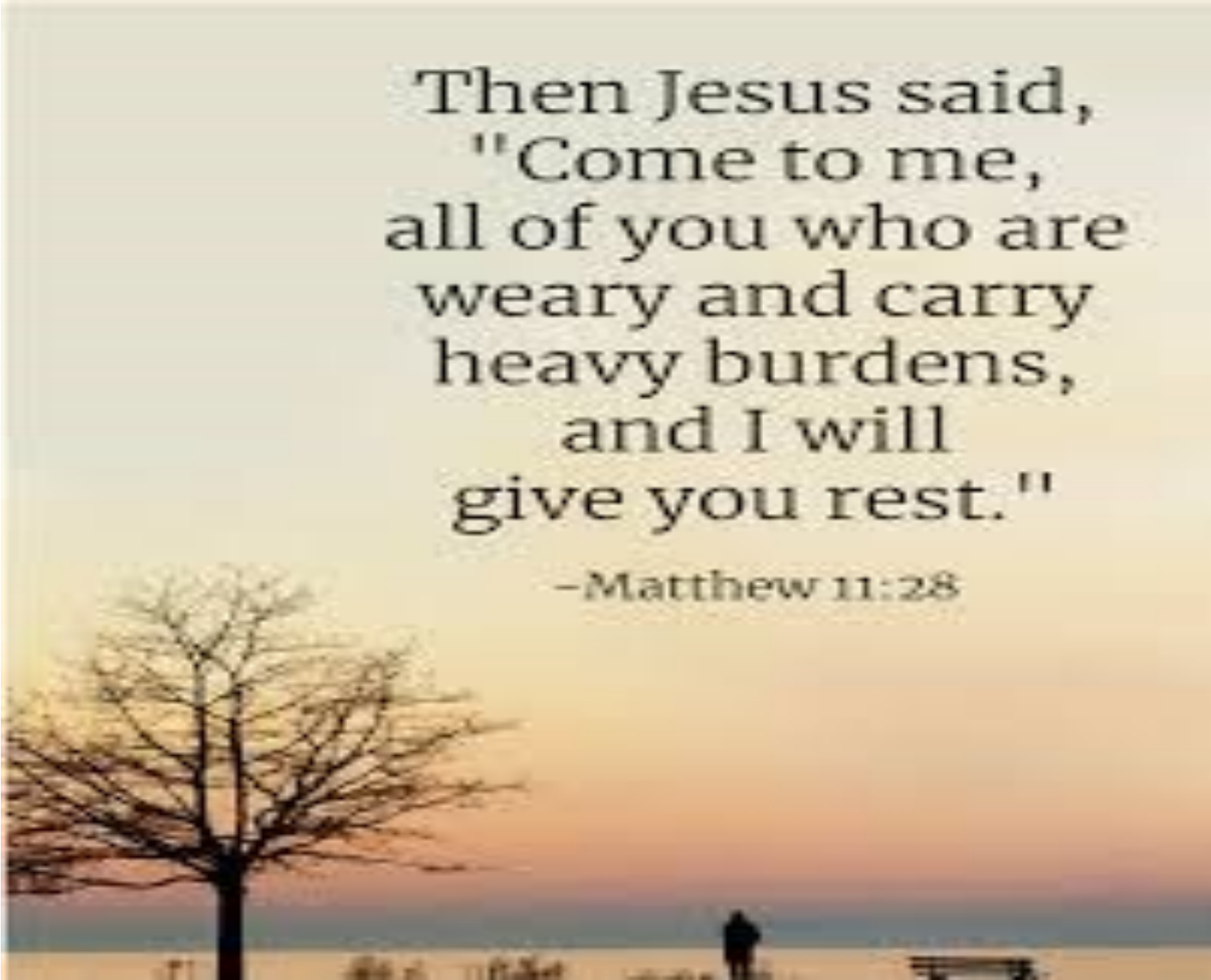
During this month of July, hopefully our schedules are relaxed, and we can take some time for reflection and prayer. I want to suggest to you two ways to deepen your personal prayer and draw you into a closer relationship with Jesus.

The first suggestion is a **DAILY EXAMEN** of how things are going in your life. Take about 15 minutes each day to review the previous twenty-four hours recognizing how God has been present in the ordinary events of the day, when you got in the way of God's presence, and how you can make the next twenty-four hours in sync with God's presence. Follow these steps:

- 1. Presence:** Quiet yourself down and let go of distractions as best you can. Acknowledge the presence of God. God is waiting for you to come into his presence. Imagine him looking at you with a long and loving gaze.
- 2. Grace:** Pray for the grace to understand how God is active in your life.
- 3. Review:** Review your day, recall specific moments and the feelings you experienced. Identify when you felt the presence of God. It may be only in retrospect that you realize God was in a conversation, a coincidence, an event. Thank God for his presence.
- 4. Sorrow:** Remember the negative or hurtful moment of the day. Pray for understanding and healing. Did I contribute to the negativity? What could I have done differently. Did my ego get in the way of God? Ask for forgiveness, healing, and growth.
- 5. Tomorrow:** Look forward to the next 24 hours, asking God for guidance and greater collaboration with his plan for you.

The second suggestion is **LECTIO DIVINA**, which is a way to pray with Scripture. Choose a passage from the Bible. The Gospel of the day is a good starting point. Calm yourself from the pressure and worries of the day. Acknowledge God's presence. He is already present waiting for you with a long, loving gaze.

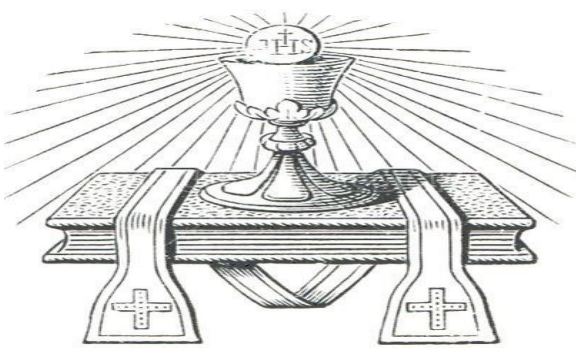
- 1. READ:** Slowly and attentively, read a short Scripture passage two or three times so that you understand what is happening and what it is saying. Pay close attention to a single word or image that stood out for you.
- 2. REFLECT:** Consider why that word or phrase stood out for you. What is happening in your life that resonates with that word or image?
- 3. RESPOND:** Have a direct conversation with God as a friend speaks to a friend and using your own words. Speak honestly. Tell God what you are feeling, what you need, and offer praise and thanksgiving.
- 4. REST:** Sit in silence and rest in God's loving presence without needing to say any more words. Let God's grace wash over you and listen to how the Spirit speaks to you through your heart.



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 5, 2026

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. (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



WELCOME FATHER JUAN RUIZ, SJ

Welcome to Father Juan Ruiz, SJ, who is with us while Father Clark is away. Father Juan is a vocation promoter for the Central Southern Province of the Jesuits, and he is based in Houston. We are grateful for his generosity in helping this summer with the Masses and pastoral needs. If you need Father Juan for any pastoral need, you may contact him through the parish office at 225-775-7067.

CONRATULATIONS TO THE JUNIOR KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS

Last weekend our Junior Knights and Junior Daughters participated in the 2026 Louisiana State Junior Conference in Opelousas. The Juniors proudly represented as a unit, earning second place in the Conference Quiz Bowl through teamwork and dedication. Special congratulations to Aja Freeman for her campaign for State Recording Secretary. Although she did not win, she ran a great campaign and represented the court with confidence, courage, and grace. Congratulations to Junior Knight Jacques, who was sworn in as Louisiana State Parliamentarian, and to Knights Jacob Freeman and Andrew Wilson, who were initiated as Third Degree Knights of Peter Claver. Thanks to Commander Gerald Berzat and Counselor Andrea Toles and all the chaperones who assisted with the weekend.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR CHURCH

As the fiscal year closed on June 30, thank you to all the parishioners who so faithfully and generously support the parish with your offertory donations. For the fiscal year 2025-2026, you donated \$578 479.49 to the Sunday Offertory and \$52,245.98 to the Building Fund. Your generosity makes it possible for us to pay our operating costs entirely from the Sunday Offertory. We are consistently whittling down our debt from the renovation of the church in 2019. We have reduced our \$700,000 debt by \$422,946.20. Our remaining balance is \$277,053.80. The whole parish are partners in ministry with our St. Vincent de Paul Food pantry and the MLK Catholic Student Center by your donations to those funds. Your continued generosity helps us to keep on doing what we are doing, and to find new ways in which to serve God’s people.

COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE PROGRESS

Work will continue in the next two weeks to complete the installation of the solar energy in the Parish Activity Center. We will be ready to serve during prime-time hurricane season as we pray that we will not need to use it. We are planning for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, August 15. We will also be canvassing the neighborhood to let folks now that this resource is available. We are also planning pop-up events in our parking lot in August with the dual purpose of advertising our Community Lighthouse and rallying our neighbors to get out the vote in November.

KPC/KPCLA SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The Knights of Peter Claver Knights and Ladies Auxiliary, Council and Court invite you to support the School Supply Drive benefiting Crestworth Elementary School, Progress Elementary School, and Baton Rouge Alternative School. Donations may be made before or after Mass in the church foyer by cash, check, or Cash App (\$jedwards820) through Sunday, July 5. Thank you !!!!



JAECI	HARRIS	7/6
CYNTHIA	OGBU	7/6
ALECIA	RIDEAU	7/6
JOSEPH	HIGGINBOTTHAM	7/7
VONETTA	MEYERS	7/7
BARBARA	ROBERTSON	7/7
KINGSTON	ANDERSON II	7/8
SCOTT	CLARK	7/8
MICHAEL	GREEN	7/8
MELANIE	GRIFFIN	7/8
AMBER	JONES	7/8
FELICIA	GATHE	7/9
BRITTANY	BROWN	7/10
ZONTREA	CRUMP	7/10
STEVEN	JOHNSON	7/10
ANTHONY	NIXON	7/10
DIAMONIQUE	RICHARD	7/10
MARY ANN	RUSSEL	7/10
REGINALD	BERRY	7/11
IDA	MAIDEN	7/11
PAMELA	MARTIN	7/11
CLARENCE	RAMBO, III	7/11
MERCEDES	SENEGAL	7/11
AUSTEN	DUBRIEL	7/12
MELANIE	MILLER	7/12
LUNDYN	PLAIN	7/12
CARL	THIERRY	7/12



BEWARE OF EMAIL AND TEXTING SCAMS

There is a new scam via email that everyone needs to watch out for. You may receive an email with a fake party invitation disguised as Evite, Punchbowl, or Google Calendar link. When you attempt to open the invitation, you are diverted to a fake log in page designed to mimic Gmail. When you enter your credentials, scammers can access your password.

Do not open any suspicious emails or texts. Do not agree to buy any gift cards no matter who it is asking you. A red flag is pressure to act quickly, share personal information, send money, or grant access to your devices or accounts. Ask yourself would a family member, a friend, or a pastor really make this kind of request? Talk with the trusted person in person or on phone by a number or email that you usually use to communicate with them. Do not use a link or a phone number contained in the suspect email or text.

**Weekly Mass Readings
July 5th-July 12th**

Sunday
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Zechariah 9: 9-10
Romans 8: 9, 11-13
Matthew 11: 25-30

Monday
Hosea 2: 16, 17c-18, 21-22
Matthew 9: 18-26

Tuesday
Hosea 8: 4-7, 11-13
Matthew 9: 32-38

Wednesday
Hosea 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12
Matthew 10: 1-7

Thursday
Hosea 11: 1-4, 8e-9
Matthew 10: 7-15

Friday
Hosea 14: 2-10
Matthew 10: 16-23

Saturday
Memorial of Saint Benedict, Abbot
Isaiah 6: 1-8
Matthew 10: 24-33

Sunday
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 55: 10-11
Romans 8: 18-23
Matthew 13: 1-23