

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

MS. OPAL LEE AND JUNETEENTH

Opal Lee, the “grandmother of Juneteenth,” was instrumental in the movement to make Juneteenth a federally recognized holiday in 2021. A lifelong educator in Fort Worth, Texas, she dedicated her career to shaping young minds and serving her community. A traumatic 1939 Juneteenth experience—when her family home was burned down by a mob, became a day that she and her family would never forget; however, it wasn’t a day that silenced her.

After Lee’s retirement from teaching in 1977, she shifted her focus to bettering her community. She helped advocate for those experiencing poverty and homelessness in the community, and she became a founding member of the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society and began her role of planning Juneteenth celebrations for her community. Thus began the chain of events that would lead to a very important moment in United States history.

In 2016, at the age of 89, Lee started her campaign to call for Juneteenth’s recognition as a national holiday. She started a symbolic journey from Fort Worth to Washington, D.C. Each day she walked 2.5 miles to symbolize the two and a half years that enslaved people in Texas waited to learn they had been freed after the Emancipation Proclamation. She was strong and resilient in her efforts, and along the way, she gathered a petition with 1.5 million signatures to present to Congress. After a lifetime of work and 154 years after the good news reached Galveston, Texas, Lee watched as President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth Independence Day Act on June 27, 2021.

From the National Juneteenth Museum website
Nationaljuneteenthmuseum.org

The JUNETEENTH Poem

While Juneteenth has no federally designated official poem, “We Rose” by Kristina Kay is widely recognized and frequently cited as the official poem of Juneteenth.

WE ROSE

From Africa’s heart, we rose
Already a people, our faces ebon, our bodies lean, we rose.
Skills of art, life, beauty, and family
Crushed by forces we knew nothing of, we rose
Survive we must, we did. We rose
We rose to be you, we rose to be me,
Above everything expected, we rose
To become the knowledge we never knew
We rose
Dream, we did
Act, we must.



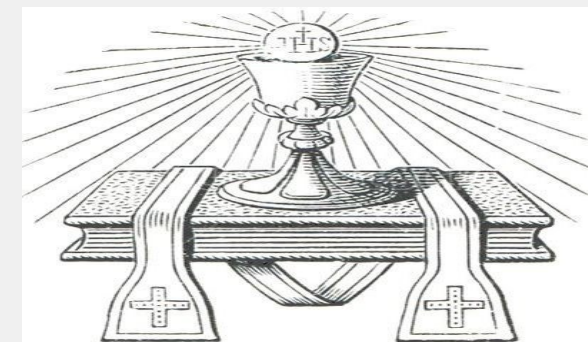
Then he said to his disciples,
**The harvest is plentiful
but the workers are few.**
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,
to send out workers into his *harvest field.*”

Matthew 9:37-38

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time June 14, 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.**

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IN RESIDENCE: Father Fred Kammer, S.J.(504) 343-9195
SECRETARY: Renae Welsh/John Edwards.....(225) 775-7067
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:
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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



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

On Thursday, June 18 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Southern University John B. Cade Library will celebrate Juneteenth with discussion panels, Culture Fest Freedom Market, Children’s Village, Genealogy and Family History Workshop, Self-publishing Workshop, Community and Non-Profit resources. The day begins with an Opening Celebration at 9:00 AM at the Leon R. Tarver II Cultural Center and Heritage Center. Opening Speaker: Judge John Guidrey, 2nd District of the Louisiana Supreme Court. To learn more about the Juneteenth celebration, go to www.subr.edu/juneteenth

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Next weekend as we celebrate Father’s Day, we will also commemorate Juneteenth at our weekend Masses with prayer and a recollection of the history of the holiday. You are invited to wear Juneteenth apparel or African dress to celebrate freedom, heritage, and hope.

JESUIT GUESTS DURING THE SUMMER

Father Juan Ruiz, SJ will be with us from June 28 to July 13 and Father Sean Toole, SJ will be with us from July 13 to 20 as Father Clark takes vacation and makes retreat.

Soon to be Father Dan Finucane, SJ, who was with us when he was a novice, will be ordained a priest in Saint Louis on June 13. We hope that he will visit this summer and celebrate Mass for us. Scott McKillup, Jose Lopez, and Cory Jackson will be in Baton Rouge to participate in the Dialogue on Race for Descendant Scholars and Jesuit Scholastics. I hope that they will be able to visit us for Mass while in town.

LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in the process of making up the July-December 2026 Lector and Eucharistic Minister schedules. Please email the office with any changes you want to make to your availability. Be sure to let us know about your preferred Mass at which you wish to serve. We are not always able to accommodate each request. Please be ready to seek replacements if you have a conflict. Thank you for your faithfulness to these ministries.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Vacation Bible School will be held on June 16, 17, and 18, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. Registration is open to Church members with children ages 4 through 12. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the Church and can be completed after each Mass or at home. Please return the completed as soon as possible.



SUSAN	STEWART	6/16
DIJAZ	TRUDELL	6/16
BRANDON	COLLINS	6/17
CYNTHIA	DOUCETTE	6/17
CYNTHIA	OGBU	6/17
KAYKITTY	WILLIS	6/17
WALTER	CALHOUN	6/18
RON	LEWIS	6/18
DOMINIC	MORGAN, JR.	6/19
CYNTHIA	BANKS	6/20
LAUREN	HIVES	6/20
EDWARD	YEARBY	6/20
OPHELIA	FOWLER	6/21
FAB	YOUNG	6/21
DONALD	BATISTE, JR.	6/21
VALENCIA	BREAUX	6/22
MELANIE	DECUIR	6/22
JAMES	ENNIS, JR.	6/22
AJA	FREEMAN	6/22
VALENCIA	JORDAN	6/22
JILLIAN	BROWN	6/23
MALAYA	DOUCET	6/23
STEPHANIE	EASTON	6/23
JACKIE	HIGGINS	6/23
SIDTREYELLE	TAYLOR	6/23

SAVE THE DATE! FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION!
Celebrate Our Kings and Heroes!
 Join us as we honor and celebrate the fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and father figures who make a difference in our lives.

- ◆ **Sunday, June 21, 2026**
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Parish Activity Center
- ◆ **Father's Day Breakfast**
FREE Haircuts

Hosted by the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies' Auxiliary and the Junior Daughters, Wilfred B. Ricard Court 116. All fathers and families are invited! Come enjoy good food, fellowship, and a special celebration honoring the men who lead, love, and inspire our community.

**Weekly Mass Readings
 June 15th-June 22nd**

Sunday
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Exodus 19: 2-6a
 Romans 5: 6-11
 Matthew 9: 36-10:8

Monday
 1 Kings 21: 1-16
 Matthew 5: 38-42

Tuesday
 1 Kings 21: 17-29
 Matthew 5: 43-48

Wednesday
 2 Kings 2: 1, 6-14
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday
 Sirach 48: 1-14
 Matthew 6: 7-15

Friday
 2 Kings 11: 1-4, 9-18, 20
 Matthew 6: 19-23

Saturday
 2 Chronicles 24: 17-25
 Matthew 6: 24-34

Sunday
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Jeremiah 20: 10-13
 Romans 5: 12-15
 Matthew 10: 26-33