

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

RENEWING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

At the Easter Vigil and Easter morning Masses we will renew our baptismal promises and be sprinkled with the water of baptism. This is an especially important moment and the culmination of our Lenten prayers, fasting, and service. By renewing the promises made at baptism, we rededicate ourselves to being disciples of Jesus. We also commit to live the life of baptism more intentionally and fervently. This is a time to commit ourselves to the growth that we have desired and experienced during Lent. Where have you grown during Lent? Make it a permanent part of your life. In this way, you take off the old person and put on Christ. Let us walk in the newness of life.

IS IT EASTER OR RESURRECTION SUNDAY?

In recent years, it has become popular to call the Sunday of the Lord's Rising "Resurrection Sunday" instead of "Easter Sunday." Which is correct? They both are correct and, in fact, there are many names for this most important feast of Christianity. The name "Easter" derives from an Anglo-Saxon word *Eastrun* or *Eastron* or *Eastran* and is like a German word, *Ostern*. This may be related to an Anglo-Saxon goddess named *Eostre*. Early Christians often took pre-Christian feasts and "baptized" them into Christian feasts. For example, the winter solstice, the darkest time of the year, on or around December 21 was Christianized to become the birth of Christ, the Light of the Word. The goddess *Eostre* was the goddess of renewal, fertility, and light after winter. Christians used that name to mark the feast of new life and birth in Baptism. There is no scandal in this. It was Christians transforming old feast days into Christian feasts with Jesus giving new meaning to old celebrations.

A more common name for this great feast throughout the Christian world is "Pasch" or "Pascha" which means Passover. The feasts of the passion of Christ and the Jewish Passover feast have always been linked. Jesus was crucified during the feast of Passover. The Last Supper was a Passover (Seder) meal. Early Christians understood that Passover prefigured the death and resurrection of Jesus. The angel passing over the houses where the blood of the lamb was sprinkled points to our salvation from sin and death by the blood of Christ. From Pasch we get the word "Paschal" which refers to the Easter season and the candle that represents Christ risen from the dead and burns at Masses during the Easter season and at every baptism and funeral. We name the passion, death, resurrection, and sending of the Spirit the Paschal Mystery. The official name for Easter found in our liturgical books is the Sunday of the Resurrection.

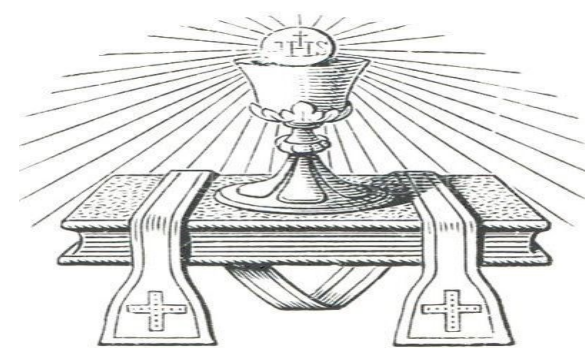
So, no matter what you call it—Easter, Pasch, or Resurrection Sunday, it celebrates Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, risen from the dead, the conqueror of sin and death, who lives forever and will die no more, who shares with us his own divine life and raises us up along with him to live a new life.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord ~ March 29, 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
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.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026

PALM SUNDAY

Masses at 4:00 PM, 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM
 (Interfaith Blessing of Palms at Scotlandville Square at 9:30 AM)
 Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 AM Mass

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM
 Washing of the Feet
 Procession of the Blessed Sacrament
 Adoration until 10:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord 3:00 PM
 The Passion according to John
 Solemn Universal Prayer
 Veneration of the Cross
 Holy Communion

HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil 8:00 PM
 Blessing of the Fire
 Liturgy of the Word
 The Christian Initiation of Adults
 First Eucharist of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY

The Mass of the Resurrection
 8:00 and 10:30 AM with Renewal of Baptismal Promises

HOW TO PARTICPATE IN THE HOLY WEEK LITURGY

Palm Sunday: Come to Scotland Square for the Interfaith Blessing of Palms between 8:00 and 10:30 AM Masses.

Holy Thursday: At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, bring a bell to ring during the Glory to God, have your foot washed, spend an hour of adoration with Jesus in the Eucharist following the Mass until 10:00 PM.

Good Friday: Keep silent before and after the service, refrain from conversations in the church, help pass the cross from the rear of the church, take off your shoes for the Veneration of the Cross.

Easter Vigil: bring a bell to ring during the Glory to God, welcome the new members of the church who will make a profession of faith, and celebrate Confirmation and Eucharist. Bring a small bottle to bring home Holy Water.

Easter Sunday: welcome guests and make them feel at home, renew your baptismal promises as the culmination of your Lenten observances.

WELCOME JESUIT NOVICES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

We are pleased to welcome two Jesuit novices, **Eddie Crowder** and **Dominic LaMantia**, to our parish for the month of April. During their time with us, they will take part in our parish Masses, meetings, activities, visits to the sick, and other pastoral ministries. We trust that our Immaculate Conception family will extend to them a warm and heartfelt welcome.



WARNER	ANDERSON	3/30
JANIA	GARNER	3/30
EVER	JARREAU	3/30
TONYA	JOINER	3/30
GLADYS	PAUL	3/30
KYLA	WILLIS	3/30
MALAKI	ASKEW	3/31
BRANDON	BELONA	3/31
BRADLEY	DEROUEN, JR.	3/31
MELTUS	DIKE	3/31
ALTON	HAYNES	3/31



BYRON	CORNELIOUS	4/1
WILFRED	JOHNSON	4/1
JOY	DIKE	4/1
JEREMY	MINOR	4/2
VINCENT	GREGORY, III	4/2
MARCUS	FLENOIR	4/3
DOROTHY	HALL	4/3
TARAHNA	LEWIS	4/3
MARVEL	MARTIN	4/3
SETH	WILLIAMS	4/3
KHLOE	GREGORY	4/5
MARIE	JACKSON	4/5
LARRY	KNIGHT	4/5
KEISA	MATHIS	4/5
WALTERENE	WHITFIELD	4/5



OUR CANDIDATES FOR RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

We joyfully extend our congratulations and prayerful support to our candidates for full communion in the Catholic Church:

Janice Alexander Higginbotham, Jessie L. Gray, and Vernon A. Langley, Jr. They will make a profession of faith, receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and share in the Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

We also celebrate **Joanne Jarrid**, who, having been baptized Catholic, will be confirmed and receive Holy Communion at the same liturgy.

These faithful friends have been part of our community for many years. How truly blessed we are that they now wish to make their membership in the Catholic Church official!

**Weekly Mass Readings
 March 29th– April 5th**

Sunday

Palm Sunday of the Lords's Passion

Matthew 21: 1-11
 Isaiah 50: 4-7
 Philippians 2: 6-11
 Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

Monday

Holy Week

Isaiah 42: 1-7
 John 12: 1-11

Tuesday

Isaiah 49: 1-6
 John 13: 21-33, 36-38

Wednesday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a
 Matthew 26: 14-25

Thursday

Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Last Supper

Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14
 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26
 John 13: 1-15

Friday

Good Friday of the Lords's Passion

Isaiah 52: 13-53: 12
 Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9
 John 18: 1-19: 42

Saturday

Holy Saturday at Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Genesis 1: 1—2:2,
 Exodus 14:15-15:1,
 Ezekiel 36: 16-28,
 Romans 6: 3-11,
 Matthew 28: 1-10

Sunday

**The Resurrection of the Lord
 The Mass of Easter Day**

Acts 10: 34a-37-43
 Colossians 3: 1-4
 John 20: 1-9