

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

THE HEART OF LENT

We are entering into the heart of Lent. The Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent are the core weeks of Lent in which we read three particularly important Gospel stories that describe our own journey of conversion, illumination, and rebirth. We become members of the church and grow in union with Jesus through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Each Lent we relive this journey and deepen it. As members of the community prepare for baptism or reception into the full communion of the church, we walk with them and as they are baptized, we renew our baptismal promises at Easter. Our Lenten prayer and sacrifices prepare us to deepen our commitment and union with Christ.

The three Gospels we read are the Woman at the Well, the Man Born Blind, and the Raising of Lazarus, This Sunday we read the first of the three, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan Woman at the Well. Jesus has come to set this woman free by releasing her from the bondage of her past and the community's past of religious hatred and alienation. In the Bible, the well is where men go to meet a future wife. It is a public place where courtship can happen. Jesus, the bridegroom, seeks to woo this woman back into relationship/marriage with God. She comes to the well at noontime, the hottest part of the day, to escape the gossip of the townspeople and the prejudice of the Jews against Samaritans. Jesus breaks down these human barriers and reaching out to ask her for water, but all the time he wants to give her the living water of union with God. He invites her to acknowledge the truth of her life, that she has had five husbands, not so much to condemn her as a sinner, but rather to heal how she has been wounded by these broken relationships. Jesus is not judging her but loving her and inviting her into a deeper relationship with God. Her five husbands represent the five false gods that the Samaritans have worshipped. Now they can worship the true God in spirit and in truth. The woman now healed shares the good news with others who also come to believe in Jesus. The Samaritan town has been converted from what has held them bound. They have been set free to be united with the true God.

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we encounter Jesus who offers us life giving water that will set us free from our past. We acknowledge our past not to feel guilty and ashamed but to be set free. The Lord looks at each one of us with love and understanding. He does not condemn but invites us into deeper relationship with him.

Take time this fourth week of Lent to experience that you have been set free. You do not have to carry the burden of the past anymore. God is inviting you to release past hurts, grudges, and disappointment. Drink deeply of this life-giving water that Jesus offers and be the new creation that God wants you to be.

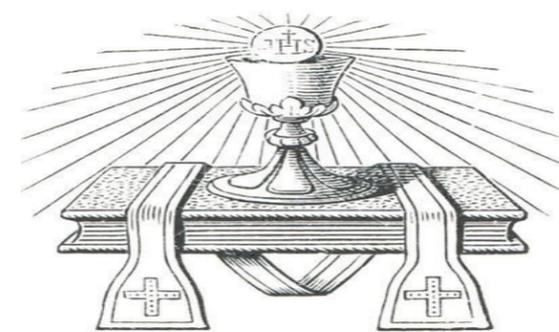
-Father Thomas Clark SJ



Third Sunday of Lent ~ March 8, 2026

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
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Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church
servicing 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.



THANK YOU FOR THE REVIVAL

Thanks to all who made our Revival so faith-filled and inspiring. We were truly blessed with the presence and the preaching of Father Kareem Smith. How awesome it was to be in worship and prayer with our fellow parishes, Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Paul the Apostle. Shout outs to the choirs, the lectors, speakers, ushers, and our hospitality team who provided the takeout snacks. Most of all we appreciate the amazing turnout of parishioners from all three parishes and your generosity to the offertory collection. May we all hold on to a blessing we received through the Revival and put it into action in our lives for ourselves and for others.

UPCOMING LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Daily Mass: Monday through Friday at 12:10 PM at MLK Chapel
Fridays: Mass 5:00PM Station of the Cross at 6:00 PM
Rosary on Conference Call: Wednesdays at 4:00 PM
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom and Thursdays at 10:30 AM in person
Anointing of the Sick: Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 PM
Reconciliation (Confession): Thursday, March 26 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2026

Palm Sunday: 4:00 PM, 8:00 AM, and 10:30 AM
Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 PM
Good Friday: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death 3:00 PM
Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil: 8:00 PM
Easter Sunday: Mass of the Lord's Resurrection 8:00 and 10:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK ON MARCH 15

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 PM. If you are experiencing illness of any sort, you are invited to celebrate this sacrament of healing of body, mind, and spirit. If anyone is unable to come to the church because they are homebound, please call Father Clark to arrange for a home visit.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) on Thursday, March 4, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Father John Fahey, CSSR, of Saint Pius Hispanic Ministry, Father Fred Kammer, and I will be available for confession.

FAMILY MORNING OF RECOLLECTION ON MARCH 28

The Parish School of Religion invites families of PSR to join in a Morning of Reflection in preparation for Holy Week and Easter on Saturday, March 28 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There will be separate sessions for parents and children and then a family project together followed by lunch. Please plan to join us as we explore ways of making PSR more family based.



JAI	BRUMFIELD	3/8
FR. THOMAS	CLARK	3/8
KEIONNA	COLEMAN	3/8
DALTON	BROWN	3/9
GUS J.	BUTLER	3/9
TEREZ	VANCE	3/9
PATRICK	BERZAT	3/10
CAMERON	GRIFFIN	3/10
ALVIN	LEWIS, JR.	3/10
ROBERT	MONTGOMERY	3/10
DENETTE	WELCH	3/10
JOY	MORGAN	3/10
ELSIE	POYDRAS	3/10
ROLAND	HARLEAUX, III	3/11
AIDEN	JONES	3/11
RAYETT	LOCKETT	3/11
CHARLES	SANDERS	3/11
MERCEDES	BROUSSARD	3/12
DEIWYN	DAIGRE	3/12
TIMIA	DAIGRE	3/12
ARIEL	JOHNSON	3/12
LAKEISHA	JONES	3/12
TONJA	THIERRY	3/12
RAVEN	SCOTT	3/12
ALONDRE	YOUNG	3/12
SALLIE	WILLIAMS	3/13
JEHUA	BURRELL	3/14
KEISHA	LACOUR	3/14
KRISTEN	SAM	3/14
BRAYLON	SAMUEL	3/14
TYLER	SAMUEL	3/14
KENDRIK	SCOTT	3/14
BRANDON	CUNNINGHAM	3/15
GEORGIA	JENKINS	3/15
CODY	MARTIN	3/15
LINDSAY	SAMUEL	3/15
CARL	THIERRY, JR.	3/15



CLAVER FAMILY FISH DINNER SALE

The Knights of Peter Claver and the Ladies' Auxiliary will be selling Fish Dinners on the Fridays of Lent. The menu consists of fried catfish strips, potato salad, peas, bread, and a dessert. **The cost is \$15.00.** Dinners are served from 10:00 AM until they run out.

**Weekly Mass Readings
March 8th– March 15th**

**Sunday
Third Sunday of Lent**

Exodus 17: 3-7
Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8
John 4: 5-42

Monday

2 Kings 5: 1-15ab
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday

Daniel 3: 25, 34-43
Matthew 18: 21-35

Wednesday

Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9
Matthew 5: 17-19

Thursday

Jeremiah 7: 23-28
Luke 11: 14-23

Friday

Hosea 14: 2-10
Mark 12: 28-34

Saturday

Hosea 6: 1-6
Luke 18: 9-14

**Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Lent**

1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Ephesians 5: 8-14
John 9: 1-41