

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

JOSEPH M. STEWART INAUGURAL SPEAKER SERIES ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Last Tuesday, Father Fred Kammer, Eddie Crowder, Dominic Lamantia, and I had the pleasure of attending the Joseph M. Stewart Inaugural Speaker Series presented by the Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation. The speaker was Dr. Yohuru Williams, the Distinguished University Chair and Professor of History and the Founding Director of the Racial Justice Initiative at the University of Saint Thomas. He gave a fascinating talk on the work of racial healing and transformation. His command of history, dates, quotes, and his ability to make connections was amazing. These are some of my takeaways from the talk.

Indictment is also invitation. The conversations about the racial history in our country are difficult conversations because of the undeniable injustice, unspeakable violence and utter cruelty that are contained. White folks have an extremely hard time hearing this story. This resistance has been called “white fragility.” Although these conversations indict white America for its complicity in slavery and its financial, political, and social benefit from the dehumanizing of fellow human beings, these conversations also extend an invitation to hear the truth and let that truth set you free.

History has echoes. History that is not learned is repeated. United States history is the story of how slavery has morphed itself throughout time. Slavery never dies but finds ways to resurrect itself to fit the times. Jim Crow, lynching, discrimination in the housing and financial markets, over policing of black neighborhoods, the war on drugs, the disproportionate incarceration of black men, police involved shootings of black men and women, the rejection of DEI and affirmative action, and the gutting of the Voting Rights Act this past week by the Supreme Court are all ways in which slavery has changed its stripes and colors to stay alive.

Reactive remedies are quick fixes that do not scrape the surface of healing the deep wounds of racism, lost opportunity, denial of generational wealth, self-image, and lives destroyed. So many good intentioned efforts following the assassination of Dr. King were not thought through and were never adequately funded to be sustainable. The programs and promises made in the rush to react to the killing of George Floyd were so easily terminated when the present Administration turned against DEI policies. Effective healing and transformation must go deep.

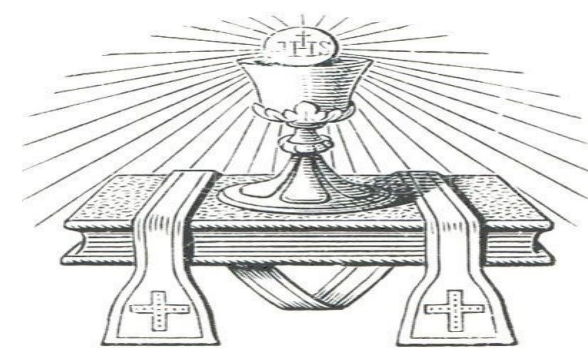
Dr. Williams’ lecture was a stirring call to not give up the fight for racial healing and transformation. He challenged us to let the work go deep and not settle for superficial window dressing. He concluded with a powerful image of a garden that sometimes needs to be paused, and other tasks performed until the principal crop can be planted again. In times like these with great resistance we do not give up the fight but do what can be done now to build organizational infrastructure ready to go when the opportunity presents itself.



Fifth Sunday of Easter~ May 3, 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
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



Weekly Announcements

THANK YOU FOR THE CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

Thank you to all who made our celebration of Confirmation so beautiful and inspiring. Our appreciation goes to our PSR coordinators, Gloria DeRouen and Stephanie Yearby, our Confirmation catechists, Reginald Berry and Kevin Walker. We thank the parents and families of our newly confirmed for their commitment to the Confirmation preparation, the sponsors who have committed themselves to walk with our young people on their journey of faith, and all the parish ministries and members for their support and prayers.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST MAY 9th

The Knights of Peter Claver will serve breakfast on Sunday, May 9, Mother's Day, between 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Masses in honor of our mothers. Please make plans to join in this fellowship and celebration of our mothers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON SATURDAY MAY 9th

Please keep in your prayers our candidates for First Holy Communion and their families as they prepare for the big day on **Saturday, May 9 at 10:30 AM**. Everyone is welcome to participate in the First Holy Communion Mass as a concrete way of supporting our young families.

Candidates for First Holy Communion

Adrian Augustine Silas Brisco Kyleigh Carter
Terry Jett Jrue Slan Sloane Williams

VOTE ON SAINT GEORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT ON MAY 15th

There is an important election on Saturday, May 15. One of the propositions will be to approve the establishment of a separate school district for the City of Saint George. For this proposition to pass it must win statewide **AND** in East Baton Rouge Parish. Early voting if from May 2-9. Please make sure you educate yourself on this proposition and make sure you vote!

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES MEETING ON MAY 19th

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council of Ministries on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. The minutes of the last meeting and the agenda for this meeting will be sent out as the date approaches. Chairpersons of parish ministries and organization are asked to make this meeting a priority.



SARAH	COLLINS	5/1
BRENDA	COOKS	5/1
AUSTON	JONES	5/1
JOSEPH	PATRICK	5/1
ANGELA	MARSHALL	5/2
DONALD	VICTORIAN	5/2
NICOLE	SQUARE	5/4
ERROLLYN	JACKSON	5/5
WILLIE	SANDERS	5/5
BARBARA	DENU	5/6
ASHLEY	GRISHBY	5/6
LAWRENCE	DIKE	5/6
KAYLA	WATKINS	5/6
MORGAN	RIGGS	5/7
MELISSA	RUSSELL	5/7
KIONDRA	SAMPEY	5/7
AARON C.	WHITE	5/7
TRACI	SMITH	5/8
DIANA	ALLISON	5/9
LATRESHA	CHAMBERS	5/9
ULYSSES	FRANK	5/9
THERON	LANE	5/9
ANTHONY	VERRE, JR.	5/9



Graduate Recognition May 24th

On Sunday, May 24, at the 10:30 AM Mass we will recognize and celebrate our graduates from graduate school, college, and high school for Summer and Fall, 2025, and Spring, 2026. Please provide name, school, degree, and future plans for these graduates who are members of Immaculate Conception Church. We want to congratulate and celebrate the success of our graduates.

Weekly Mass Readings May 3rd-May 10

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6: 1-7
1 Peter 2: 4-9
John 14: 1-12

Monday
Acts 14: 5-18
John 14: 21-26

Tuesday
Acts 14: 19-28
John 14: 27-31a

Wednesday
Acts 15: 1-6
John 15: 1-8

Thursday
Acts 15: 7-21
John 15: 9-11

Friday
Acts 15: 22-31
John 15: 12-17

Saturday
Acts 16: 1-10
John 15: 18-21

Sunday Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3: 15-18
John 14: 15-21