

THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:

Fourth of Seven: Option for the Poor

The option for the poor reflects the emphasis of Saint John XXIII one month before the Second Vatican Council that the Church present itself to the underdeveloped world as, “the Church of all, and especially **the Church of the poor.**” His point has been emphasized by every pope since then. Saint John Paul II used an apparent alternative “a preferential love of the poor.” He preached most strongly on this in his travels, including frequent use of Pope John’s phrase “the Church of the poor.” As John Paul once explained:

In seeking to promote human dignity, the church shows a preferential love of the poor and the voiceless, because the Lord has identified himself with them in a special way (cf. Mt. 25:40). This love excludes no one but simply embodies a priority of service to which the whole Christian tradition bears witness.

The appropriateness and tenacity of this concept in Catholic teaching in the past half-century invite us to understand more deeply the concept and its application.

I use “standing with the poor” to get at the underlying thrust of both “option for the poor” and “preferential love.” Standing with the poor carries the sense of an active stance, a definite choice, and a decision to cross over the line drawn between most of us and the marginalized pushed to society’s periphery. Standing with the poor recalls the Lord Yahweh who pitches a tent in the midst of God’s chosen people, who makes their suffering and hopes God’s own suffering and hopes. It suggests the *Emmanuel* of Jesus, God choosing to be one of us and then identifying with “the least among us” in the great judgment scene in *Matthew 25*.

The responses called for by this special love involve both individual outreach to those in need, often called *charity*, and responsibility to change society in the interest of greater social *justice*. In his writing about charity, Pope Benedict made a fascinating choice of what he called “the great parables of Jesus.” The three parables which he chose are the rich man and Lazarus in *Luke 16* (a favorite of Saint John Paul II in addressing audiences in prosperous nations), the Good Samaritan in *Luke 10*, and the Last Judgment in *Matthew 25*.

Commitment to justice flows from the love of God and neighbor. The bishops of Latin America put it powerfully, “Love is the soul of justice.” This loving justice calls us to transform society in ways that embody the preferential love for the least among us. We must address schools that do not educate, prisons that do not rehabilitate, a health care system that neglects many, systemic racial discrimination, inadequate and unaffordable housing, and economic systems that leave millions of men, women, and children very poor.

As the U.S. bishops explained in writing about economic justice, “Whether the problem is preventing war and building peace or addressing the needs of the poor, Catholic teaching emphasizes not only the individual conscience, but also the political, legal and economic structures through which policy is determined, and issues are adjudicated.” Both charity and justice are needed to embody the preferential love of the poor.

PRAY
And don't give up

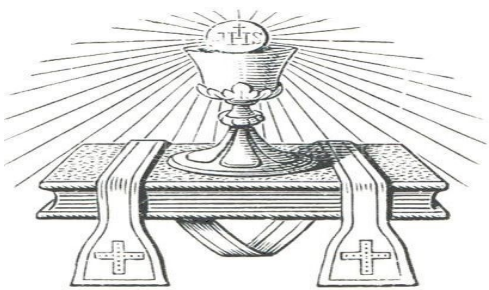
LUKE 18:1

Knowing-Jesus.com

The Twenty- Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Sunday October 19, 2025

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
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.(225) 774-3241
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 Day Masses:
Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM and 12:10 PM

Church Announcements

HBCU SUNDAY

Today we celebrate HBCU Sunday on this Homecoming Weekend. As Southern and other HBCUs have come under threats and have suffered disruptions during the semester, we want to show our support for the HBCUs, especially to current students who are experiencing these challenges. We welcome everyone wearing their school gear today!

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MASS

The annual Black Catholic History Month Mass will take place on Sunday November 2, 2025 at 5:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church. Bishop Duca will be the celebrant and Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Chicago, will be the homilist.

THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS FOR HOMECOMING SERVICE

Thank you to the Knights of Peter Claver who managed our parking lots and property during the Southern University Homecoming parade. Not only do they raise money for their scholarship fund, but they provide a service of protecting and managing our parish property. Thank you for your service!

PARISH PICNIC

Come celebrate our Parish Family at our annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 26 after the 10:30 AM mass until 3:00 PM. Enjoy great food, line dancing, trunk or treat, video gaming truck, snow balls, bounce house, outdoor games, line dancing, face painting, prizes, and much more!

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR DOOR PRIZES AT OUR PARISH PICNIC

We're seeking BINGO door prizes for our upcoming Family & Friends Church Picnic! Donations valued at around \$10 and/or homemade cakes are greatly appreciated. Please drop off your gift-bagged or boxed items by Sunday, October 26, either at the Parish Office in the Ministry Building or in the church foyer.

Thank you for your kindness and support!

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES MEETING ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 21

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council of Ministries on this Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. All chairpersons of parish ministries and organizations are asked to attend. You should have received minutes of the last meeting and an agenda via email.

BLESSING OF GRAVES AT SOUTHERN MEMORIAL AND HEAVENLY GATES

We will observe our annual Blessing of Graves at Southern Memorial Gardens on Sunday, November 9 at 3:30 PM. We will gather near the office for prayer together. You will receive a bottle of holy water with which you can go and bless the graves of your loved ones. The Southern Memorial staff graciously provides a reception for us at the end of the blessing.

We will bless the graves at Heavenly Gates on the following Sunday, November 16 at 3:30 PM.



SHYLON	MATTHEWS	10/20
ALISHA	JARRETT	10/21
JAMAL	ENCALADE	10/21
DONALD	SAULNY, SR.	10/21
HANNAH	WILLIAMS	10/21
EDDIE	YOUNG, JR.	10/21
JOSEPHINE	DUBRIEL	10/22
JOSEPH	HIGGINBOTTHAM	10/22
VERONICA	JOHNSON	10/22
SHELITA	LAMOTTE	10/22
STEPHANIE	ROSAYA	10/22
MILTON	ROSS, JR.	10/22
AMBRE	PORTER	10/23
DAPHINE	READO	10/23
BEVERLY	THOMAS	10/23
GLORIA	THOMPSON	10/23
BRENDA	WILLIAMS	10/23
VERLIE	WIMS	10/23
JACY	DYER	10/24
FREDERICK	EDWARDS	10/24
SABRINA	HARRIS	10/24
SHONET	HAYNES	10/24
KIARA	JOHNSON	10/24
CORRY	STEMLY	10/24
MARCIA	MARSELLUS	10/24
RENEKA	COLEMAN	10/24
SHERILYN	WRIGHT	10/24
LAJUANNA	JORDAN	10/25
DESMON	HUTCHIN	10/25
WILSON	READO	10/25
ANIKA	BELL	10/26
SOPHIE	BURRELL	10/26
JAYLYNN	HOWARD	10/26
AARON	JOHNSON	10/26
RONALD Q.	LEWIS	10/26
IDA	COOPER	10/27

SAVE THE DATE

LADIES AUXILIARY RED BEANS & RICE DINNER FUNDRAISER

The KPCLA Court 116 Red Beans and Rice Fundraiser is back!
Sunday November 2, 2025 ~12:00PM - 2:30PM
Join us for a delicious \$12 meal featuring:
Creamy Red Beans & Rice- Savory Sausage Link
Buttery Cornbread -Fresh Tossed Salad-Sweet Slice of Cake

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Traditional Jazz Brunch — \$10.00

Join us for a delightful morning of soft jazz music and a delicious Southern-style brunch featuring:
Scrambled Eggs · Grits · Sausage · Biscuits · Coffee · Juices

Saturday, November 15, 2025 ~ 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Parish Activity Center
Come for the music, stay for the fellowship!

Mass Readings **October 19-26**

Sunday **Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Exodus17: 8-13
2 Timothy 3: 14- 4:2
Luke 18: 1-8

Monday Romans 4: 20-25 Luke 12: 13-21

Tuesday Romans 5: 12, 15, 17-19, 20-21 Luke 12: 35-38

Wednesday Romans 6: 12-18 Luke 12: 39-48

Thursday Romans 6: 19-23 Luke 12: 49-53

Friday Romans 7: 18-25 Luke 12: 54-59

Saturday Romans 8: 1-11 Luke 13: 1-9

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-18 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14

CALLING ALL ICCC SCHOLARS

TUTOURING OPPORTUNITIES

We're excited to announce that our church will be offering tutoring for our children and youth! Several of our church members who are experienced teachers have graciously volunteered their time to support our students.

Parents, please take a moment to complete the survey by scanning the QR code provided. This will help us plan effectively. We are currently considering holding two tutoring sessions per week, each lasting one hour.

Thank you for helping us invest in the growth and success of our young scholars!