

THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:

Fifth of Seven: Work and Workers

The rights and duties of workers are woven throughout modern Catholic doctrine. In *Rerum Novarum* in 1891, Pope Leo XIII built upon the concepts of human dignity and that work is much more than a market commodity to articulate specific rights. These include freedom to receive and spend wages; integrity of family life, including support of children; and wages sufficient to support “thrifty and upright” workers and, by implication, their families. Leo also enunciated the right to form workers’ associations (unions) and to strike.

Leo underscored rights to reasonable hours, rest periods, health safeguards, safe working conditions, and special provisions for women and children; freedom to attend to religious obligations; and no work on Sundays or Holydays. Workers also must work well and conscientiously, not injure employers or their property, refrain from violence, and be thrifty and prudent.

In 1965, Vatican II underscored the dignity of human labor in supporting workers and families and as a way in which humans “are a partner in bringing God’s creation to fruition” and are “associated with the redemptive work itself of Jesus Christ, who conferred an eminent dignity on labor when at Nazareth He worked with His own hands.” The council confirmed a “family wage” this way:

Finally, payment for labor must be such as to furnish a man with the means to cultivate his own material, social, cultural, and spiritual life worthily, and that of his dependents.

In 1981, Saint John Paul II in *Laborem Exercens* focused on workers and work, the essential key to the whole social question.” John Paul argued that, through the *Genesis* work-mandate “to subdue the earth,” humans image their Creator and share God’s creative action. For this reason, unemployment is a triple assault on a person, limiting the ability to support oneself and family, undermining the capacity to contribute to the common good, and spiritually assaulting one’s dignity as co-creator with God.

The pontiff clarified many rights drawn from Catholic teaching. First was “suitable employment for all who are capable of it,” and, when unavailable, provision of unemployment benefits by employers or, upon their failure, the state. Just remuneration for work by a head of family must “suffice for establishing and properly maintaining a family and for providing security for its future.” This means a family wage or other measures such as family allowances for child-raising parents.

John Paul insisted that there must be no age or gender discrimination. Benefits must include health care, coverage of work accidents, inexpensive or free medical assistance for workers and families, old age pensions and insurance, and appropriate vacations and holidays. Trade and professional unions retain the right to organize, act politically, and to strike “within just limits.” The pope affirmed the dignity of agricultural labor, rights of persons with disabilities to appropriate training and work, and the right to emigrate to find work.

Three decades later in *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict underscored workers’ centrality in the economy: “...the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity...” Further, work must be freely chosen, workers respected without discrimination, workers’ organizations (unions) allowed, and child labor prohibited. Work must allow family needs to be met, including education, provide “enough room” for personal and spiritual development, and guarantee decent retirement.

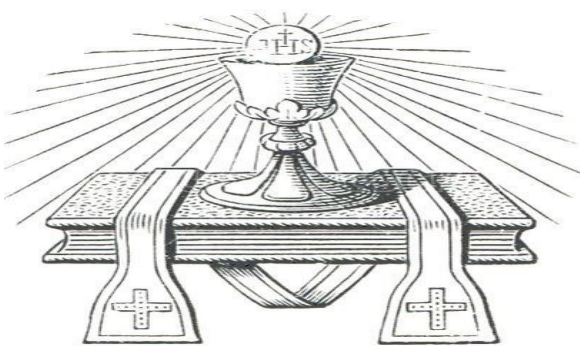
-Father Fred Kammer, SJ



The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Sunday October 26, 2025

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.(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.



BLESSING OF GRAVES AT SOUTHERN MEMORIAL AND HEAVENLY GATES
ALL SAINTS DAY AND ALL SOULS DAY

Next weekend, November 1-2, we celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. When a holy day falls on a Saturday or a Monday (except for Dec 8 and Dec 25), it is not a day of obligation. Since we do not have a daily Mass on Saturday, we will observe All Saints at our weekend Masses for All Souls Day.
The Blessing of Graves will take place at Southern Memorial Gardens on Sunday, November 9 at 3:30 PM. The Blessing of Graves at Heavenly Gates will take place on Sunday, November 16 at 3:30 PM.



CALLING ALL ICCC SCHOLARS TUTOURING OPPORTUNITIES

We're excited to share that our church will soon be offering tutoring for our children and youth! Several of our members who are experienced teachers have graciously volunteered their time to help support our students. Parents, please use the QR code. By scanning the code and completing the brief survey, you'll help us plan effectively. We're currently exploring the possibility of offering two one-hour tutoring sessions each week. Thank you for partnering with us as we invest in the growth and success of our young scholars. We look forward to hearing your feedback!

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES MINUTES ~ OCTOBER 21, 2025

The Parish Council of Ministries met on Tuesday, October 21, with eleven chairpersons and interested parishioners attending. After the opening prayer and the review and acceptance of the minutes of the May meeting, Father Clark gave an update on progress that has been made in the parish. We signed a contract with Together Louisiana for the establishment of a Community Lighthouse in our Activity Center. Solar panels will be installed in November. We will use the power generated to be a respite center for the neighborhood in the event of a prolonged power outage. At the MLK Center we have installed a new roof, and work will begin soon on the renovations of the bathrooms. New shrubbery has been planted around the rectory. The Parish Picnic will take place this Sunday. Andrea Toles has managed to pay for the cost of the picnic through sponsorships and donations. Ron Q Lewis and Darryl Dupuy are completing an inventory of all parish equipment and furnishings as required by the diocese. Betty Wells and her team have created a St. Vincent de Paul "boutique" with legacy clothes for the benefit of our neighbors. Our new secretaries, Renae and John, are doing an excellent job and have managed a smooth transition. We will be offering a tutoring program for youth in our church with teachers in the church serving as tutors.

Father Clark presented to the council a wish list of offerings to the parish. He asked the council to rank the suggestions in top three priorities. The highest-ranking suggestion was the formation of a tri-parish youth group to support youth's faith formation after Confirmation in the seventh grade. Other suggestions that received top rating were sending sympathy, get well, and thinking of you cards to parishioners, forming a social group for those who have recently lost loved ones or are caregivers, inviting parishioners on an ACTS retreat, offering life skills workshops in end-of-life issues, insurance, credit, and home repairs. Other suggestions were regular time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection group on *Dilexi Te*, parish online directory.

The Advent Giving Tree will be available Nov.1 to Dec. 7. Georgia Jenkins and Brenda Smith will coordinate the parish conference call line. Confirmation age change is underway with 10 and 11 grades being confirmed this year. The development of the Community Lighthouse team is ongoing. The meeting adjourned with a final prayer by Georgia Jenkins.



ORSICINI	BEARD	10/28
DENIS	DELAY	10/28
NWAEZE	UNAEZE	10/28
TUHLIA	WILLIAMS	10/28
NICOLE	MARTIN	10/29
JOYCE	PATIN	10/29
DYLAN	RICHARD	10/29
MARY	HANEY	10/30
ALBERT	HERD	10/30
NORMA	LEWIS	10/30
CHINWE	AGHADINUNO	10/31
GERALDINE	CHAVIS	10/31
WALTER	LEDOUX	10/31
STEPHEN	LLORENS	10/31
KEMBERLY	ALLADA	10/31
CAROLYN	DAIGRE	11/1
PAULINE	DARJEAN	11/1
MONICA	WILTZ	11/1
QUIARA	COLLOR	11/2
ROBERT	GREIG	11/2
JANICE	HIGGINBOTTHAM	11/2
BELVA	ROBERTSON	11/2
MARY	WASHINGTON	11/2

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MASS

The annual Black Catholic History Month Mass will take place 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.

LADIES AUXILIARY ANNUAL RED BEANS AND 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

TRADITIONAL CHOIR JAZZ BRUNCH \$10.00

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

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

Both fundraisers are being held in the Parish Activity Center

Come for the music, stay for the fellowship!

Mass Readings
October 26-November 1

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-18
2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18
Luke 18: 9-14

Monday

Romans 8: 12-17
Luke 13: 10-17

Tuesday

Feast pf Saint Simon and Jude, Apostles

Ephesians 2: 19-22
Luke 6: 12-16

Wednesday

Romans 8: 26-30
Luke 13: 22-30

Thursday

Romans 8: 31-39
Luke 13: 31-35

Friday

Romans 9: 1-5
Luke 14: 1-6

Saturday

Solemnity of All Saints

Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14
John 3: 1-3
Matthew 5: 1-12

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Commemoration of ALL the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

Wisdom 3: 1-9
Romans 5: 5-11
John 6: 37-40

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH
WILL HONOR OUR VETERANS

On Sunday, November 9, Saint Paul the Apostle warmly invites all veterans from Immaculate Conception and Saint Francis Xavier church parishes to join us for the 10:30 AM Mass.

Veterans are asked to proceed in at the start of Mass and stay afterward for a group photo.