

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

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HOMECOMING IN THE BIBLE

The word “Homecoming” is rich in meaning and can evoke strong emotions in us. It is always good to be able to go back to the places and people that have formed us and made us who we are today. We cannot always proceed forward in our life and not take time every so often to circle back and delight in memories of people, places and things that have blessed us. Of course, Homecoming is more than an annual alumni event. The Bible speaks of coming home. I want to reflect on three passages of the Bible that speak of homecoming with the hope that it might nourish our prayer and reflection.

THE PRODIGAL SON: LUKE 15: 11-32

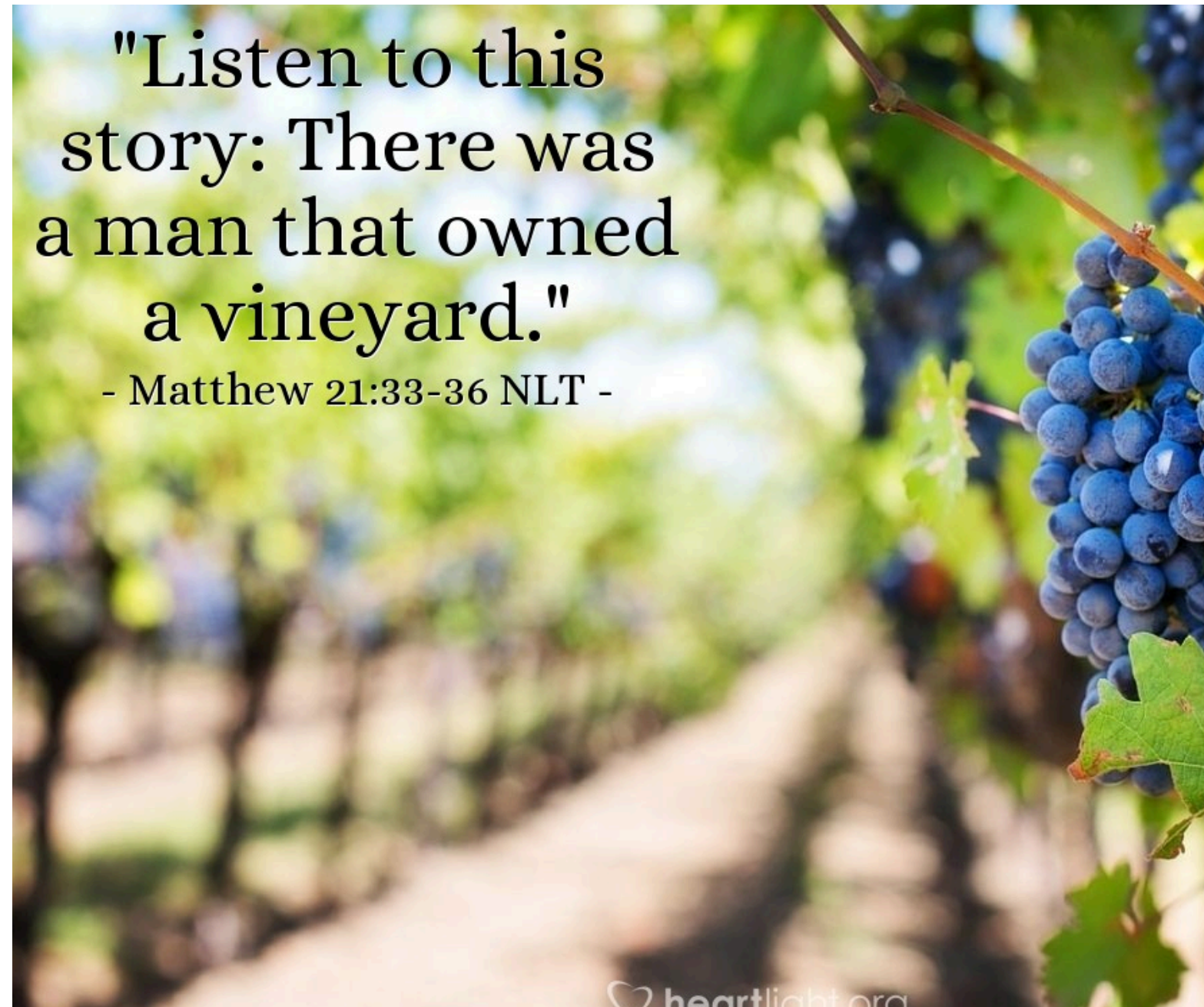
The most famous story of homecoming is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The son has now squandered everything. He had told his father that he would rather him be dead so he can get his inheritance. He has nowhere to go. He is reduced to feeding pigs. He has hit bottom. Sometimes a person must hit bottom before they can rise. He has a moment of insight and truth. He realizes that even hired hands at his father’s house are better off than he. He decides to swallow his pride, admit his wrong, and return and ask for forgiveness. He does not plan to ask if he can be received back as a son, but rather as a worker. The welcome of his father overwhelms him. His father does not require an explanation, an apology, nor does he make grovel, he embraces him and dresses him in the robe, sandals, and ring of a son. The father is God. That is how God welcomes us home when we realize that we cannot do it without him. No explanations, no shame, nothing but welcome. What a homecoming!

A NEW HOME: NAOMI AND RUTH: RUTH 1: 1-18

After Naomi’s husband and two sons died, she was left with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. They were traveling back to Bethlehem where there was food during the famine. On the way, Naomi urged them to return to their families because life with her would be too difficult. Orpah left but Ruth would not leave her. She said, “Do not press me to go back and abandon you! Wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die and there be buried.” Sometimes God brings us to a new home. Be it marriage, ministry, career, or friendship, we pitch our tent in a new place with new people who made us feel like family.

JESUS MAKES HIS HOME WITH US

The Gospels tell us that Jesus had no where to lay his head. (Mt. 8:20) He did not have a house, but he had many homes. He did not have his own family, but he was part of many families. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus open their home to Jesus. (Luke 10: 38-42) Matthew the tax collector invites Jesus to his home for a feast with tax collectors and sinners. (Mt. 9: 9-13) Jesus makes Zaccheus’ home his home by going to visit him to bring him salvation. (Luke 19: 1-10) John tells us that Jesus “pitched his tent” among us The Son of God made his home with us. (John 1: 14)

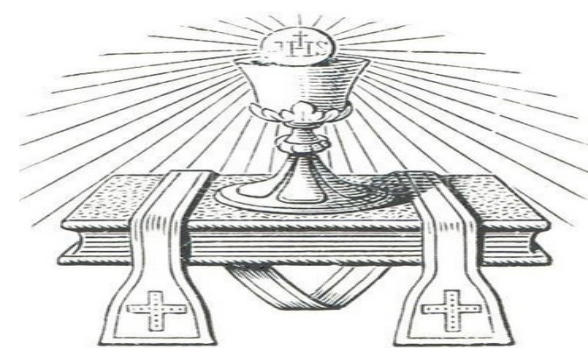


"Listen to this
story: There was
a man that owned
a vineyard."
- Matthew 21:33-36 NLT -

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ October 4, 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
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
OCIA 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: 8:00AM and 10:30AM

Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel
12:10 PM
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

Weekly Announcements

Homecoming Weekend 2026

As we prepare the bulletin on Wednesday, the weather forecast is for rain throughout the Homecoming weekend. We hope that the weather does not prevent everyone from celebrating. Thank you to the Knights for coordinating the parking that protects our property and keeps order. We hope that Southern students and alumni have been able to renew friendship and let memories warm their hearts. May all of us feel gratitude when we remember the people in our lives who made us what we are today and the doors that God has opened for us.

Clergy Formation Days October 5th-9th

Father Clark will be attending the Baton Rouge Clergy Formation Days this week from Monday through Thursday. Father Kammer will be celebrating the 12:10 daily Mass. Please pray for the priests of the diocese as we take time out to reflect upon our ministry and seek ways to grow in serving you, the Body of Christ in Baton Rouge.

Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 11

Next Sunday, October 11, we celebrate our annual Parish Picnic after the 10:30 AM Mass and until 3:00 PM. The picnic will take place in the parking lot and in the Activity Center. The picnic will go on whether it rains or shine. Come out and enjoy delicious BBQ, zydeco, games, face painting, inflatables, gaming truck, bingo, and much more. Come and celebrate how abundantly God has blessed us.

Knights of Peter Claver Annual BBQ Dinners, October 17

Tickets are on Sale now for the KPC BBQ Dinner. The cost is \$15.00 per plate. Tickets can be purchased after each Mass.

Menu

- One Chicken Leg Quarter
- Potato Salad
- Baked Beans
- Rice Dressings
- Bread & Dessert

For ticket information, contact Brian Abrams 318.564.0406 or Michael Wilson 225.939.2042

10th Anniversary of the Great Flood of 2026 Wellness Workshop Remembrance and Recovery, October 12th

Ten years after the event, many are still trying to emotionally recover from the Great Flood. Join residents of EBR and Livingston parish as we continue to process the aftermath. The workshop will take place at the Woodward EBR Library, 7711 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, 70806, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lunch will be provided. Register at the library or online.



- Angela Jackson — Oct. 5
- Mary Lawrence — Oct. 5
- John Smith — Oct. 5
- Gail Thomas — Oct. 5
- Allison Singleton — Oct. 6
- Jamar Ennis — Oct. 7
- Tyler Holiday — Oct. 7
- Benny Johnson — Oct. 8
- Ricco Riggs — Oct. 8
- Trene' Williams — Oct. 8
- Louevina Benjamin — Oct. 9
- Josephine Dubriel — Oct. 9
- Dana Johnson — Oct. 9
- Percy Kent — Oct. 9
- Ericka Sampey — Oct. 10
- Chad Samuel — Oct. 10
- Cathy Gray — Oct. 11
- Samuel Miller — Oct. 11

Community Meeting About the Amendments and Propositions on Monday, October 19

We will have a community meeting on Monday, October 19 at 6:00 PM in which we will discuss in depth the amendments and propositions that are on the November ballot. The change of date is to ensure that we have a good panel to be able to share valuable information. The November ballot requires preparation and study. This is a great way to make sure that you can vote with understanding. Make plans now for how and when you will vote. The best way to vote is during early voting, October 20-27, excluding Sunday, October 25.

Weekly Mass Readings October 4th-October 11th

Sunday Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Isaiah 5: 1-7
- Philippians 4: 6-9
- Matthew 21: 33-43

Monday Galatians 1: 6-12 Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday Galatians 1: 13-24 Luke 10: 38-42

Wednesday Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary Galatians 2: 1-2, 7-14 Luke 11: 1-4

Thursday Galatians 3: 7-14 Luke 11: 5-13

Friday Galatians 3: 1-5 Luke 11: 15-26

Saturday Galatians 3: 22-29 Luke 11: 27-28

Sunday Twenty-Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time Isaiah 25: 6-10a Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22: 1-14