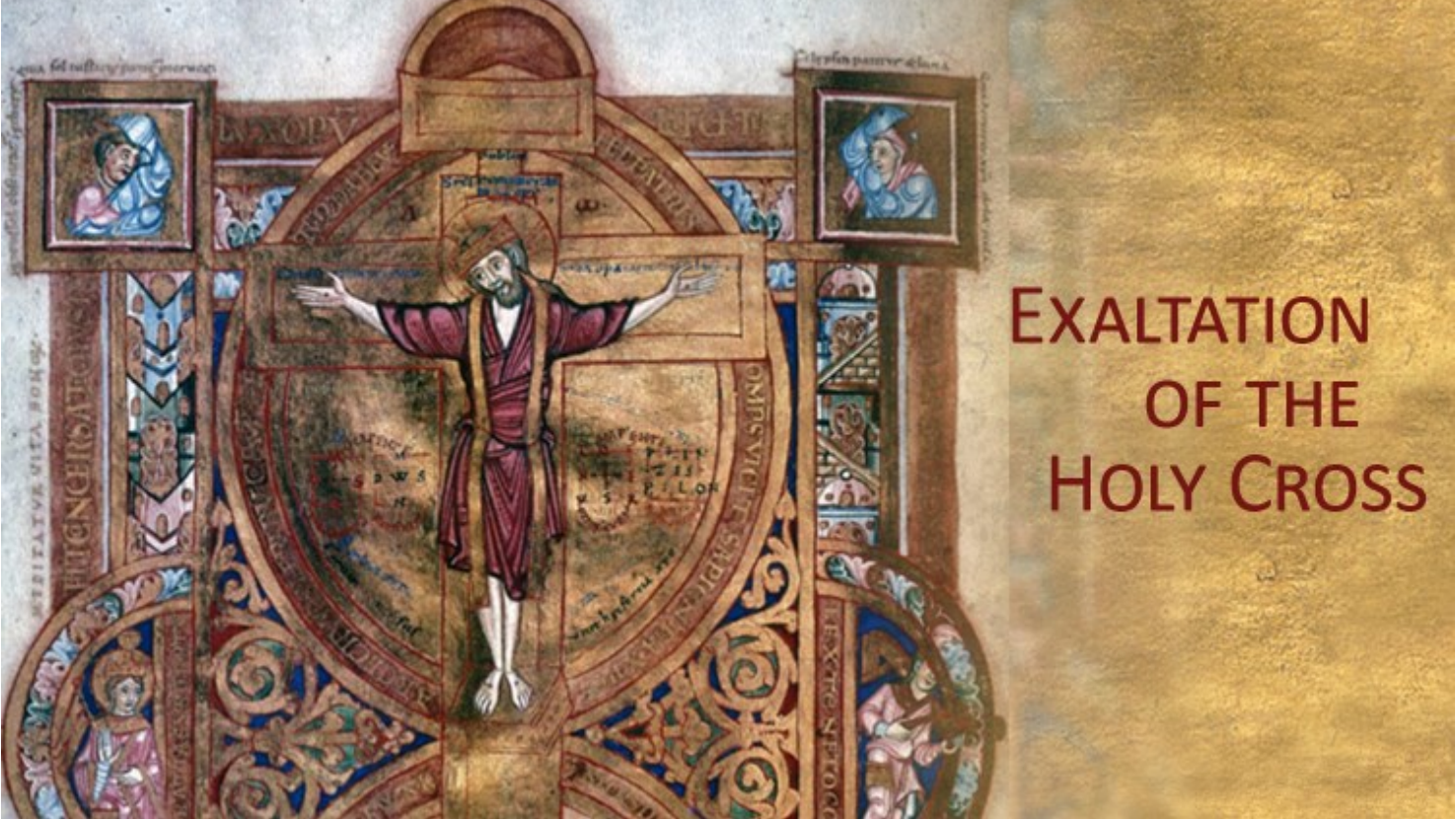


**The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ’s life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior’s tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses.

Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman. The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus’ head: Then “all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on.”

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica’s dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.



**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME      SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**

The Cross of Christ must permeate each one of us, transforming us and making us new. First and foremost, this happens when we open ourselves to the infinite mercy of God flowing from that selfless Sacrifice. It also occurs when we allow every one of our sufferings, the injustices we endure, the crosses, hardships, and most undesirable aspects of our lives to share in the redemptive power of Christ. We do this when we embrace Jesus’ commands to share in His sufferings, unite them with His own, and allow Him to bear an abundance of good fruit through us.

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” ([Matthew 16:24-25](#))

Instead, try to allow Jesus to enter those crosses, transform them, and use them for His glory, your good, and the good of others. Crosses in life should not be avoided; they must be transformed.

Although the suffering may remain, it must become redeemed suffering, thus bearing an abundance of good fruit in ways that only God can accomplish.

**Sacraments**  
**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):** Saturdays 3:00 PM and by appointment.  
**BAPTISMS:** To arrange and prepare for the celebration of Baptism, please call the Pastor to schedule an appointment. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Sunday afternoon.  
**FUNERAL:** Please call the parish as soon as possible to make arrangements for the Mass of Christian Burial.  
**VISITING THE SICK:** If you or a family member are sick or in the hospital, please call the parish so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated in the parish before hospitalization. Please call also to arrange for a Eucharistic minister to bring Communion to the sick. If you would like to request prayers for someone who is sick, please call **the** parish so that the name may be placed in the bulletin.  
**MARRIAGES:** Preparation must begin at least six months prior to the wedding. **Please** make arrangements with the parish before scheduling the reception.  
**ANNULMENTS/CONVALIDATION:** Please arrange a meeting with the Pastor to begin the process of celebrating your marriage in the Church.  
**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Catholics who would like to be registered as parishioners of Immaculate Conception and receive stewardship envelopes should call the parish secretary or fill out a form in the vestibule of the church.  
**RCIA:** Adults who desire to explore the possibility of becoming a member of the Catholic Church should contact the RCIA (Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults) team. Preparation usually begins in September and Baptism or Reception is celebrated at the next Easter Vigil.  
**TUITION ASSISTANCE:** Some financial aid for tuition assistance to Catholic schools is available to registered members of the parish. This is a one time grant of no more than \$1,000.00 to needy families to assist them during a time of financial crisis. Eligible families should write a letter to the Pastor who will evaluate the request with the Financial Advisory Committee.

<u>To Whom Do We Go</u>	
Rosary Call.....	617-769-8305
Child Protection Coord: Andrea Toles.....	(504)491-6556
Eucharistic Ministers: Beulah Decuir.....	(225)229-6076
Gospel Choir/Adult: Daphne Alex.....	(225)936-4051
Gospel Choir/Youth: Tara Winder .....	(225)428-5981
Hall Rental: .....	(225)775-7067
Ministry Council/Chair: Georgia Jenkins.....	(225)775-5824
Pantry/Food and Vouchers: .....	(225)774-3661
Sacristan: Rogers Jackson, Jr. ....	(225)362-0907
Traditional Choir: Deadra James Mackie.....	(225)772-3401
Usher’s Coordinator: Walter Ennis.....	(504)427-6459

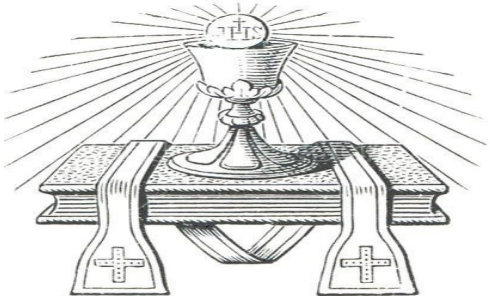


*Most glorious and triumphant Lord, You gave Your life for the salvation of my soul, using the most horrific act of cruelty as the means of Your redeeming grace. I open myself to that grace today and pray that You bestow it in superabundance.*

*I also pray that I will have the courage and wisdom to embrace my crosses every day of my life, uniting them to Your Cross, and trusting that You will use these sacrifices as a means of the further bestowal of Your love on the world. Saving Cross of Christ, have mercy on me. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen*

**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](mailto:clarktf2002@yahoo.com)  
Web Site Address: [www.immaculateconceptionbr.org](http://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**  
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 12:10 PM  
**Holy Day Masses:**  
Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM and 12:10 PM





**UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS AT ICCC AND MLK**

The roofs on the rectory and the MLK Center have been completed. Our next project is to take down the house at 1526 Curtis Street and convert the lot into a driveway into the Harding parking lot. We hope that the more visible and direct access to the parking lot will foster greater use of it. At MLK, our next project is to renovate the bathrooms, repair the damage to the chapel ceiling due to leaks, and hopefully have a few pennies left to buy new equipment for the center to support students in their studies

**TOGETHER BATON ROUGE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 16**

The annual Together Baton Rouge Delegate Assembly will take place on Tuesday, September 16, 6:00-7:30 PM at the Greater Mount Carmel Church at 1414 Sora Street. All members of TBR and anyone interested are welcome to attend.

**CHANGES TO THE OCT 12 MASS SCHEDULE FOR HOMECOMING PARADE**

**WE WILL HAVE MASS AT 10:30 AM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, THE DAY OF THE SU HOMECOMING PARADE.** The parade begins at 1:00 PM. We will finish Mass by 12 noon. Any parishioner who has parked in the parking lot for the 10:30 AM Mass may stay there for the parade at no cost. The Knights will sell parking places for the places free after Mass and on Harding. The reason for this change is that I hate to cancel Mass. It is enough to cancel Mass on Saturday, October 18 for the Homecoming Game, but too much to cancel on Sunday. Please share this information with others.

**SEPTEMBER: PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

September is prostate cancer awareness month. As a 10-year survivor of prostate cancer I advise all men over 50 (and forty-five when there is a high-risk factor) to have a PSA blood test when you do your regular blood work. Sometimes, doctors will try to talk you out of it saying that it is a slow-moving cancer and most people die of something else other than prostate cancer, but I disagree especially if you have a history of prostate cancer in your family. Prostate cancer is curable when it is detected early. The PSA test is the way to detect it early. Prostate cancer is no joke. There is a myth that it is not that bad or not that important. It is serious and it does make changes to your body. I am happy to talk to any man in the parish about my experiences to be of help and support to you. ---Father Clark

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH YOUR VACCINATIONS**

Since the CDC will no longer be sending vaccination reminders, please make sure to stay up to date with your immunizations to protect your health. Don't forget to get your flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines.

**UPCOMING ELECTIONS –GET OUT AND VOTE**

There are two elections scheduled for this Fall:

Early Voting: September 27 through October 4  
Election Day: October 11, 2025 *(Primary for District Judge 19th Judicial Court, ES1, Div 0)*

Early Voting: November 1 through November 8  
Election Day: November 15, 2025 *(thriveBR, Redistribution of funds to fill budget gaps)*

**“Stay sharp and informed—local elections are coming up!”**



LONDON	HUNT	9/14
LINDA	LEWIS	9/14
TANISHA	MATTHEWS	9/14
PATRICIA	THIERRY	9/14
ASHLEY	MARTIN	9/14
TYLER	WASHINGTON	9/14
CHINYERE	AKUJOBI	9/15
DESMON	BROWN	9/15
CHRISTOPHER	CROPPER	9/15
ANNA CLARE	WILSON	9/15
CLARENCE	CROPPER	9/16
SHALENA	DUGAS	9/16
TAMMIE	FORBES	9/16
ANTHONY	VERRETT	9/16
JENNIFER	DAVIS	9/17
FRANCES	HARDY	9/17
KENDRA	PAUL	9/17
JOHN	SULLIVAN	9/17
KEVIN	WALKER	9/17
EPHRAIM	WHITE, III	9/17
TIA	EDWARDS	9/17
SADIE	BONTON	9/18
CHARRISE	CROPPER	9/18
BARBARA	DUNBAR	9/18
MYLES	FABRE	9/18
BEVERLY	ROBERTS	9/18
THETA	WILLIAMS	9/18
BRANDON	BUTLER	9/19
TYLER	GRIFFIN	9/19
REGINALD	GUIDROZ	9/19
ANDRIDE	REESE	9/19
PETRA	SULLIVAN	9/19
LACEY	BODLEY	9/20
SHEILA	FLOYD	9/20
LORI	GREGORY	9/20
LIONEL	SMITH	9/20
REAGAN	NAVARRE	9/20



**WHAT’S THAT SMELL?  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LISTENING SESSION  
ON SEPTEMBER 30**

Earthworks.org hosts listening sessions throughout the EBR parish about environmental issues in our community. There will be a listening session on Tuesday, September 30 at 6:00 PM at the Jewel Newman Community Center.

Dinner will be served. The first ten attendees will receive a prize. Children are welcome.

Mass Readings  
September 14 –21

Sunday

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21: 4-9  
Philippians 2: 6-11  
John 3:13-17

Monday

Memorial of our Lady of Sorrows

1 Timothy 2: 1-8  
John 19: 25-27

Tuesday

Memorial of Saint Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishops, Martyrs

1 Timothy 3: 1-13  
Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday

1 Timothy 3: 14-16  
Luke 7: 31-35

Thursday

1 Timothy 4: 12-16  
Luke 7: 36-50

Friday

1 Timothy 6: 2-12  
Luke 8: 1-3

Saturday

The Memorial of Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

1 Timothy 6: 13-16  
Luke 8: 4-15

Sunday

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amos 8: 4-7  
1 Timothy 2: 1-8  
Luke 16: 1-13

**CALLING ALL YOUTH TO BE ALTAR SERVERS**

If you've received your First Holy Communion, we warmly invite you to consider serving as an altar server—a meaningful way to participate in the life of our parish and grow in faith. Interested in joining this special ministry? Please reach out to Father Clark at (225) 773-2036 or Andrea Toles at (504) 491-6556.