

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

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2026: THE YEAR OF REDISTRICITNG

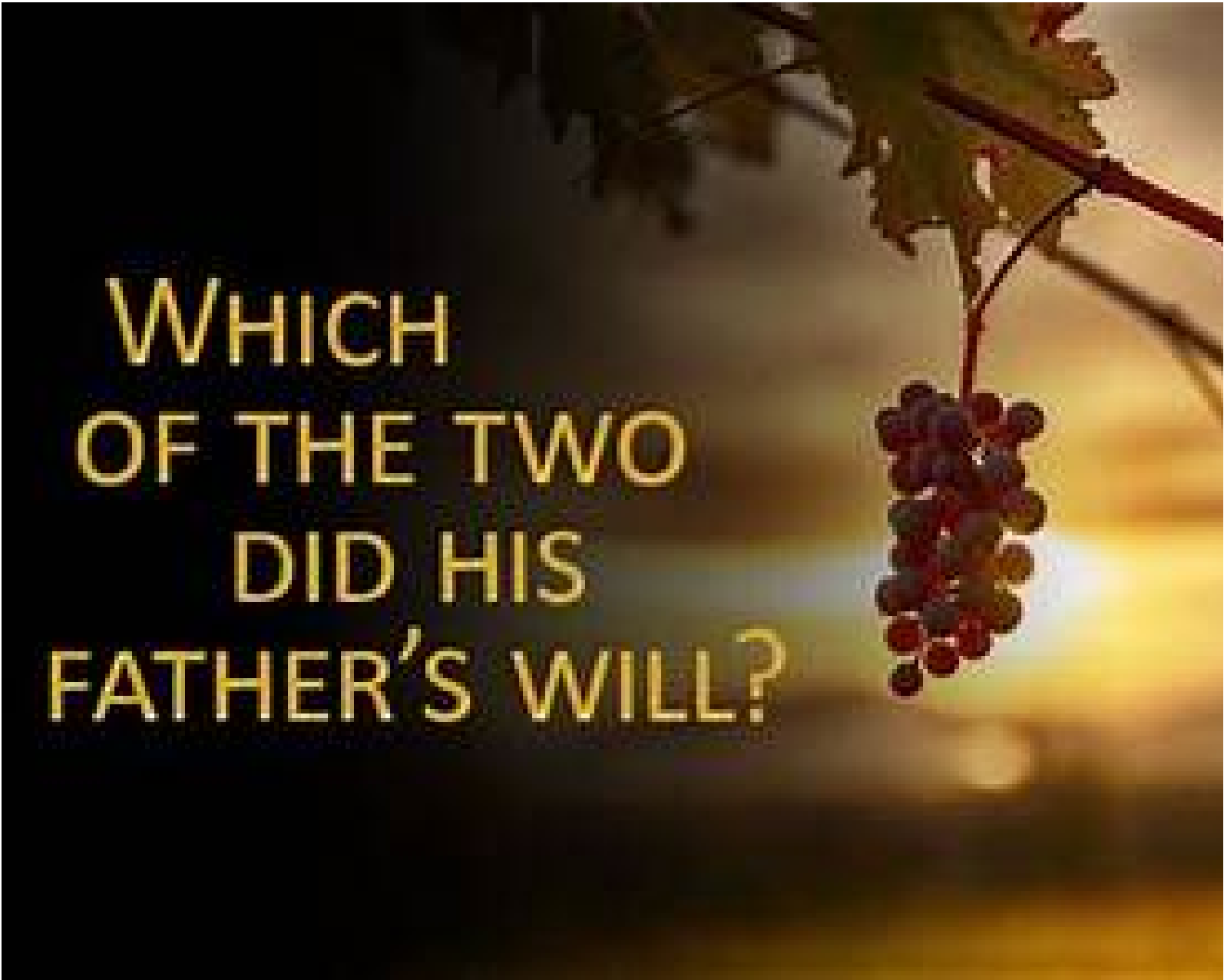
As we approach election day on November 3, let us review the history of how we went from two majority Black congressional districts to one. I hope that the story will energize voters to get out and vote.

In 2022, after the 2020 census, the state legislature passed a map with one Black majority congressional district. A group of Black voters claimed that the map violated the Voting Rights Act. A federal judge agreed with the plaintiffs and blocked the map. These plaintiffs appealed to the Supreme Court a ruling that prohibited the implementation of a remedial map for the 2024 elections. The Supreme Court declined the request. Then Governor John Bel Edwards vetoed a set of maps passed by the Legislature. A federal judge ruled that the state Legislature had to create a second majority Black district although the Supreme Court put the decision on hold until last year. In November 2023 an appeals court ordered the state to proceed with a second majority Black district. The ruling said that if the Legislature did not pass a new map by a certain date, the judge would draw the map. In January 2023, under the newly inaugurated Governor Jeff Landry, the legislature passed a map with the second Black majority district. Landry and Attorney General Murrell pushed for the legislature to act because they feared that a map drawn by the judge would not safeguard their priorities. The new map preserved the districts of notable Republicans, Speaker Johnson and House Majority Leader Scalese, but jeopardized the seat of Rep Garret Graves who was in disfavor.

As soon as the new map was passed, a group of twelve non-Black citizens filed a lawsuit against the state alleging that the newly created district was unconstitutional because it created “explicit, racial segregation of voters and intentional discrimination against voters based on race.” After a trial, a three-judge panel ruled in favor of the white plaintiffs. The state and the black voters from the original case appealed to the Supreme Court which heard initial arguments in March 2025. The court decided to hold over Callais v. Louisiana until the next session. The Court then told the parties that instead of hearing the Louisiana case, the Court wanted to hear arguments about the constitutionality of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act that used creation of majority minority districts as a remedy. Louisiana then switched sides and now argued that “race-based redistricting is unconstitutional.” This is equivalent to a defense attorney switching to become the prosecutor during the same trial!

The Supreme Court ruled in Callais v. Louisiana that redistricting based on race was unconstitutional but could be based on party affiliation. This led to the packed hearings at the State Capitol in May of this year in which hundreds of citizens testified to the need for two majority minority districts to represent the state even if party affiliation was the principal norm. The Republican majority ignored the public testimony and passed a partisan map that eliminated the second Black district.

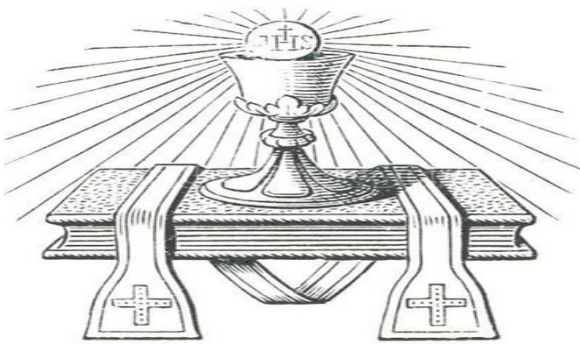
The Black Legislative Caucus has advised that the only remedy for this is by the ballot box. With a super-majority Republican legislature legislation will not pass. With the current Supreme Court, litigation will not change it. The ballot box is the only remedy. Louisiana historically has a dismal voter turnout. An historic voter turnout in November is needed. Louisiana is 50% Democratic. If a sizable number of voters turn out and vote, they can sway the elections. Voter turn out in November is crucial!



Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 27, 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
INRESIDENCE: 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

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING: PARADE AND GAME

Today, Sunday, September 27, is the Parade Day for the Southern University Homecoming. The parade begins at 1:00 PM. We are having our regular Mass schedule this weekend. The 10:30 AM Mass will be “expedited” so that parishioners can leave before roads are blocked off. If you are parked in the parking lot for 10:30 Mass, you may stay there for the parade.

Next Saturday, October 3, is the Homecoming Game. There will be no 4:00 PM Vigil Mass on Saturday. The Knights and Ladies will be selling parking spaces for the support of their scholarship funds.

CLERGY FORMATION DAYS OCTOBER 5th-9th

Each year the priests of the diocese engage in formation days for ongoing education. Father Clark will be attending these days from October 5th-9th . Father Kammer will be celebrating the daily Mass at 12:10 PM at the chapel at the MLK Catholic Student Center.

PARISH PICNIC ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Come out and celebrate our church family at our annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 11 after the 10:30 AM Mass until 3:00 PM. There will be food, drink, snowballs, zydeco, music, dancing, games, a gaming bus, a silent auction, raffle, face painting, bingo, and much more. Let us celebrate all the blessings of the Lord upon our church family. Family and friends welcome!

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Our Parish School of Religion has begun for the 2026-2027 session. You may still register by bringing your child to class and register them at the same time.

Religious formation has two inseparable parts: Mass and class. Please attend both on Sundays. Please do not go to class and then leave. **IT IS EITHER MASS, (8:00 AM) AND OR CLASS AND MASS (10:30 AM).**

If you must choose between class or Mass, CHOOSE MASS!

GET OUT THE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3

Prepare now to be sure that you cast your vote in the mid-term elections on November 3.

OCTOBER 5: LAST DAY TO CHANGE OR REGISTER IN PERSON OR BY MAIL

OCTOBER 13: LAST DAY TO CHANGE OR REGISTER ONLINE

OCTOBER 30: LAST DAY TO REQUEST A MAIL BALLOT

NOV 2: LAST DAY FOR MAIL BALLOTS TO BE RECEIVED

OCTOBER 20-27: EARLY VOTING BEGINS: **EXCLUDING SUNDAY OCTOBER 25**

NOV 3: ELECTION DAY. POLLS OPEN FROM 6:00 AM TO 8:00 PM.

Happy Birthday September & October

ANN	CHARLES	9/28
CARMEN	CHARLES	9/28
HENRY	CLAIBORNE, SR.	9/28
COSETTE	KAUFMAN	9/28
DOROTHY	MOTTE	9/28
SHEILA	NEWTON	9/28
CHARLES	BUTLER	9/29
REGGIE	HIGGINS	9/29
TESS	STIRGUS	9/29
PETER	ALBERT	9/30
JACIEN	BELEZAIRE	9/30
LAMIESA	BONTON	9/30
LORENZO	O'BRIEN	9/30
JEANINE	ENNIS	9/30
SYLVIA	QUINN	9/30
MICHAEL	COLEMAN	10/1
ALLISON	LLORENS	10/1
DINA	NEAL	10/1
ROSAYA	MORRIS	10/1
JOYCELYN	DEROUEN	10/2
JOANN	JARRID	10/2
JAMES	FREEMAN, JR.	10/2
BETHANY	JACK	10/2
LILLIAN	LEE	10/2
JUANITA	RIDEAU	10/2
TARIC	BEARD	10/3
RANDY	BOURGEOIS, II	10/3
KATRINA	FREEMAN	10/3
NICOLE	HARRIS	10/3
NORA	LISTACH	10/3
KAYLAN	PERRY	10/3
MARCUS	GRAY	10/4

100 DAYS FOR SCOTLANDVILLE

Baton Rouge Public Works will begin repair and cleanup projects in Scotlandville on October 1, responding only to issues logged through the Baton Rouge 311 System.

*How to Report Issues in September

Call 311: Residents must call 311 during September to submit neighborhood repair requests.

Save Case Numbers: Keep the case number for every report you make. Crews will only fix issues that have an active 311 case number.

* Common Issues to Report

Trash piles and discarded tires

Blighted houses and overgrown lots

Abandoned cars and poor business fronts

Standing water and potholes. Let’s take advantage of this opportunity and report needs during September.

Weekly Mass Readings September 27th-October 4th

Sunday

Twenty-Six Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18: 25-28
Philippians 2: 1-11
Matthew 21: 28-32

Monday

Job 1: 6-22
Luke 9: 46-50

Tuesday

Feast of Saint Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Arch Angels

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14
John 1: 47-51

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Job 9: 1-12, 14-16
Luke 9: 57-62

Thursday

Memorial of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Job 19: 21-27
Luke 10: 1-12

Friday

Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels

Job 38: 1, 12-21, 40: 3-5
Matthew 18: 1-5, 10

Saturday

Job 42: 1-3, 5-6, 12-17
Luke 10: 17-24

Sunday

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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