

REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

ADVICE FROM A MARRIAGE COUNSELOR:

10 HILLS I WILL DIE ON AS A LICENSED MARRIAGE THERAPIST

By Takisha Brooks

1. “Happy Wife, Happy Life” is one of the laziest things we ever taught couples. A marriage where only one person’s peace matters is not peaceful. It’s just quiet on one side.
2. Most “communication problems” are not just communication problems. They are safety problem. People don’t shut down because they lack the words. They shut down because their nervous system stopped believing it was safe for them to use them.
3. There is no such thing as a 50/50 marriage. We are partners on a journey of life together. Sometimes the scale tips to either side. Just remember you were meant to carry the load together.
4. You cannot out source your marriage to a therapist. A therapist can hand you the tools and the language, but the repair happens at your kitchen table on a Tuesday, not in session. Coaching points the way. You still must walk it.
5. Couples do not fall out of love. They fall out of the habit of turning toward each other. Love rarely leaves in one dramatic moment. It leaves in a thousand small ones nobody thought to protect.
6. Roommate phase is not love dying. It’s intentional disappearing. It’s Your Wake-Up Call! You didn’t stop caring. You stopped choosing. And the good news in that is simple: what got chosen away can be chosen back.
7. “We’re staying together for the kids” is teaching your kids exactly what to tolerate in their own marriage someday. They are not watching what you say about love. They are studying what you accept.
8. Most resentment is just an unspoken expectation wearing a costume. Your spouse is not a mind reader, and quietly waiting for them to become one is a slow form of self-sabotage.
9. The covenant was the beginning, not the finish line. “I do” was day one. The real vow gets renewed in the ordinary moments when staying soft is the harder choice and you make it anyway.
10. Conflict is not the threat to your marriage. Avoidance is. Couples who “never fight” are often just two people who quietly decided it wasn’t worth bringing things to each other anymore. Distance dressed up as peace is still distance.

“For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

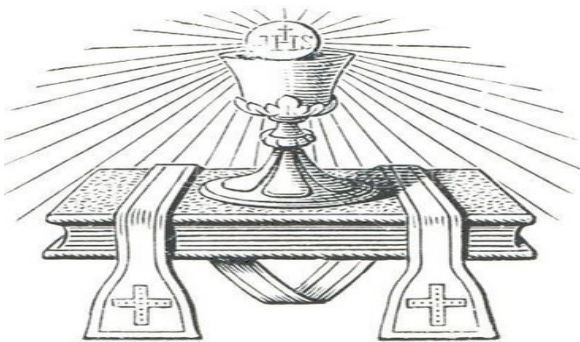
Matthew 18:20



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 6, 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.*

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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.



LABOR DAY SEPTEMBER 7

On Monday, we celebrate Labor Day. The Parish Office will be closed in observance of the holiday. However, we will celebrate Mass at 12:10 PM in the MLK Catholic Student Center chapel. The holiday is a good time for us to remember that Catholic Social Teaching took shape with Pope Leo XIII 's encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, on the rights of workers. Rooted in the Gospels, the Pope upheld the rights of workers to safe working conditions, a living wage, and the right to organize in unions. Leo XIII was rejecting the inhumane and unsafe conditions in which workers were forced to endure during the Industrial Revolution at the turn of the XX century. On Labor Day, we acknowledge the sacredness of work and workers as partners in the work of God’s creation. We affirm the dignity of every human person and their right to work and earn a just living.

COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE RIBBON CUTTING ON SEPTEMBER 14

We will celebrate our Community Lighthouse on Monday, September 14 at 4:00-5:30 PM in our Parish Activity Center. A light reception will begin at 3:30, PM. We expect many of our public officials including Bishop Duca, Mayor Sid Edwards, and Councilor Anthony Kenney. Please come out and celebrate this opportunity for Immaculate Conception to serve our neighborhood and community.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP ON SATURDAY, SEPT 12

On Saturday, September 12, we will participate in our Community Clean Up by picking up trash and litter around our church and down Scotland Ave and Scenic to Scotlandville Square. Please come to our parking lot at 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 12 and we will begin our community service. If any students need community service hours, we will be able to sign for them.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION BEGINS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Parish School of Religion begins on Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM. Registration is still open. Registration forms are available in the foyer and on our parish website, www.immaculateconceptionbr.org Remember that participating in Sunday Mass is an essential part of religious formation. It is either MASS AND CLASS or CLASS AND MASS. **If you have to choose between Mass or class, choose Mass.**

THANK YOU, BISHOP DUCA

Thank you to Bishop Duca who has generously come to the assistance of the Martin Luther King Catholic Student Center with financial help to replace one of our air conditioning/heating units. We appreciate his generosity and support.

Happy Birthday September

Andrea Harleaux	September 7
Thaddeus Allen	September 8
Joshua Bell	September 8
Ahmond Futrell	September 9
Lauren Jackson	September 9
Knakita Llorens	September 9
Donnie Daigre	September 10
Bryanna Decuir	September 10
Arionne Dubriel	September 10
Epiphany Lacour	September 10
Tyrone Lewis Annie	September 10
McKnight Rita White	September 10
Alex Wilson	September 10
Albert Clark	September 10
Michael Daigre	September 11
Rogers Jackson, Jr.	September 11
Antonia Lewis Teara	September 12
Dargin Patrick Fabre	September 12
Nicholas Joiner	September 12
Dominic Morgan, Sr.	September 12
Harold Rideau Elton	September 12
Derouen, Il Marlese	September 12
Harris Vanessa Pero	September 13
Sallie Wright	September 13

100 DAYS FOR SCOTLANDVILLE

The city of Baton Rouge Public Works will focus on projects in Scotlandville starting October 1. They will use the issues that have been reported to 311. During the month of September, Scotlandville residents, please take the time to call 311 and report issues that need to be fixed,e.g., trash piles, blighted houses, overgrown lots, discarded tires,business fronts, abandoned cars, standing water, potholes, etc. Make sure you have the case number associated with your report. They will be only responding to issues reported to 311.

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

Weekly Mass Readings

September 6th- September 13

Sunday

Twenty-Third Second Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 33: 7-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18: 15-20

Monday

Twenty -Third Week in Ordinary Time

1 Corinthians 5: 1-8
Luke 6: 6-11

Tuesday

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Micah 5: 1-4a
Matthew 1: 1-16, 18-23

Wednesday

Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest

1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Luke 6: 20-26

Thursday

1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13
Luke 6: 27-38

Friday

1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22b-27
Luke 6:39-42

Saturday

1 Corinthians 10: 14-22
Luke 6: 43-49

Sunday

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27: 30--28:7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18: 21-35