

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24th 2017



Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday in observance of the Christmas Holiday



- Monday – December 25th**
8:00 AM Brian T. Ortego, Jude Thibodeaux, Curry Landreneau, Russell & Bea Ardoin, Edna & W.J. Plattsmier, Marie & Nicholas Gossen, Edith & Winnie Plattsmier, Onezia & Houston Jones
10:00 AM (HT)
5:00 PM Rosary for our Country
- Tuesday – December 26th**
6:30 AM – No Mass Today
- Wednesday – December 27th**
6:30 AM Special Intentions
6:00 PM – 7:00PM – No CCD Classes
- Thursday – December 28th**
6:30 AM – Special Intentions
- Friday – December 29th**
6:30 AM – Emile Richard Family, Grace Richard,
- Saturday – December 30th**
4:00 PM Mass – Brian T. Ortego, Leonce Lalonde, Jr., Aubrey Soileau, Merrill Dupre, Clara Belle & Lionel J. Lafleur, Herman Hebert, Lois & Claude Blanchard, Toodie Bailey, Poke Courvelle & Deceased Family,
- Sunday – December 31st**
7:00 AM – Mass – George Blanchard Anniversary Mass, Ashley Doucet Boyd,
9:00 AM – Mass – For the People
11:00 AM (Holy Trinity)

STEWARDSHIP:
12/17: \$2,350.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Fourth Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue,

then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

In today's Christmas Mass at dawn we hear from the Gospel reading that God has entered quietly into the world. Not into the great city of Jerusalem, but into a small village about five miles south. Not into a noble family, but to an outcast couple keeping the newborn in a manger. Not announced by royal edicts, but to common shepherds, the first human heralds of Christ's birth. As Christian stewards we simply allow Christ to live in us no matter what our circumstances happen to be. We allow Christ to share his love with us and reflect that love out to others. We now are the heralds of Christ's Incarnation. What an unimaginable gift from a generous Lord. Good stewards rejoice in this gift and give glory to God.



OC CORNER

Upcoming events to note include the "Future Student Day" on **January 11** from 12 noon to 2 pm for prospective students entering grades 6-11 in 2018-2019. Those interested in learning more about the school blessings are invited and encouraged to attend. OCS seniors depart for Washington, DC on **January 15** for the National Right-to-Life March. Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated **January 28-February 2**. The 19th annual OCS Tasters' Dinner and Auction event is set for **February 7** at the Opelousas Civic Center.

Classes will resume on January 8 after the Christmas holidays. The OCS family wishes everyone a Merry Christmas



Thank you to Mrs. Pam Landreneau and the Ladies Altar Society for organizing and hosting a lovely Christmas Social in our parish hall. We had a great turnout of wonderful people for a delightful evening.

NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

We will have our regular scheduled Sunday Masses on New Year's Eve. On New Year's Day Monday, January 1st we will have a 9AM Mass here at Immaculate Conception.



RUNNIN' REVS vs. SLAMMIN' SEMS BASKETBALL GAME

All are invited to the 12th Annual Runnin' Revs vs Slammin' Sems Basketball Game Wednesday, December 27th at 6:30 PM. This game between the priests and seminarians of the Lafayette Diocese has become a popular, fun-filled, family event that helps to promote and support priestly and religious vocations.

Tip-off is at 6:30 pm at Cathedral-Carmel School Gymnasium (848 St. John Street, Lafayette). Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children. Concessions will be available for sale.

Last year the Seminarians beat the Priests 36-29. Join us to see who will win this year! Hope to see you there!

12-30 - 4:00 PM
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
 Ruth Montgomery
 Catherine Courvelle
 Jane Thibodeaux
READER
 Claudia Blanchard
USHERS
 Herman Bidstrup
 Raynold Soileau
 Marcus Decou
 Merlin Valin
ALTAR SERVER
 Matthew Vidrine

12-31 - 7:00 AM
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
 Mary Ann Blanchard
 Brenda Baque
 Joey Bordelon
READER
 Norma Plattsmier
USHERS
 Phillip Dardeau
 Allen Vidrine
 Pauline Vidrine
 Donnie Vidrine
ALTAR SERVER
 Elliot Landreneau

12 - 31 - 9:00 AM
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
 Jessie Howard
 Pam Landreneau
 Rick Ortego
READER
 Katie Fontenot
USHERS
 Tommy LeLeux
 Nicky DeJean
 Mike Vidrine
 Bruce Courvelle
ALTAR SERVER
 Michael Darbonne



RETRouvaille WEEKEND

Retrouvaille is a program for troubled marriages. The weekend of January 1-5-2018 will provide a safe setting, encouraging couples to learn communication in marriage in a respectful manner. For more information and to register visit www.helpourmarriage.com.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Ladies of Everyday Missionaries (EverydayMissionaries.com) will lead us on our spiritual journey along with our keynote speaker Fr Derek Ducote. Music will be led by Angela McCann of Marksville. Please join us for a day of learning, understanding, encouragement and inspiration. Together we will explore how our acceptance to Gods Will can lead to a life with a deeper sense of purpose in God's plan with us. It will be January 13, 2018 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at St Peter's Catholic Church in Morrow, LA. For more information or to reserve a spot contact Toni Buller (337) 230-2964
(Registration forms are available in the Church Foyer.)

REMEMBER ME SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, January 15, 2018, 6:30 PM Remember Me is a faith-based support group for caregivers, family, and friends of individuals who are coping with dementia/Alzheimer's. No cost or registration is necessary; those who are in need of support are simply invited to come and share ideas and resources with one another.

The group meets in the Ministries Building of St. Elizabeth Seton Church (610 Raintree Trail, Lafayette 70507) every third Monday of each month. For more information contact the parish office at 337-235-1483.

PRO-LIFE RALLY & MARCH

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 9:30 AM this event is intended to be an interdenominational event, bringing together all Acadiana residents to raise one loud collective voice against the killing of innocent life. The rally will include musical performances by Christian artist Josh Blakesley, as well as a presentation by keynote speaker Joe Farris. Joe Farris has been speaking to Catholic audiences all over North America for the past 20 years, offering a consistent message of inspiration and hope. The march will begin at 11:30 a.m. when participants depart from the quad and head to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, where they will be greeted by Bishop Deshotel. The bishop will then conduct a special prayer service inside the Cathedral; the service will conclude with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

2018 DIOCESAN MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY MASS

The annual Diocesan Marriage Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Lafayette. The 2:00 p.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel.

Pre-registration by no later than February 15 is required for all couples who wish to be honored as they celebrate **25, 40, 50, 60, or more years of married life during 2018.**

Couples may register online at <http://diolaf.org/marriage-anniversary-mass>



DIRECTED RETREATS AT THE JESUIT SPIRITUALITY CENTER

The Jesuit Spirituality Center offers personally directed retreats. Participants may choose either a 5-day or 3-day option. The center specializes in these personally directed retreats, which are based on the

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. Solitude and silence are important aspects of the retreat experience.

For additional details, including cost and registration information, please contact the center at 337-662-5251 or visit online at www.jesuitspiritualitycenter.org.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION EVENTS

- **First Holy Communion Mass** will be Sunday, May 13th during the regularly scheduled 9AM Mass.
 - **First Penance** with Fr. Matthew will be during the children's regularly scheduled catechism class sometime in April.
 - **Confirmation Retreat** will be held Saturday, February 10th here at Immaculate Conception Church.
 - **Confirmation Mass** with Bishop Deshotel will be at Immaculate Conception Church on Tuesday, March 20th at 6 PM
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LOCAL BIBLE STUDY

Come, Lord Jesus! Is a weekly journey to study and meditate on the Sunday Gospels.

We are blessed at Immaculate Conception to have three thriving Come, Lord Jesus! groups already formed. Everyone is welcome and there is always room for additional people to join. Please call the office with any questions you may have.



Our meeting times are as follow:

Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM – In the parish Hall
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM – In the parish Hall
Thursday morning at 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Ms. Jane Dupre's home

PERIODIC UPDATE

Help us update our parish sick list. If you yourself or someone you care about should be added to our 2018 sick list in our parish bulletin, please contact the rectory so we can begin a roster. As a reminder the sick list is for those who are ill and not intended for general prayer intentions. Thank you!

SICK LIST

Mary LeDoux, Lyle Soileau, Baby Laura Savant, Leslie Deroche, Mitzi Valin Brooks, Shane Richard, Patricia Ann Richard, Peter Merritt, Gage Bihm, Vern Dvorak, Donald Johnson, Clyde Soileau, Dannie Ardoin, Patricia Fontenot, Dirk Soileau, Juanita Stelly, Christopher Joubert, Mcall Thibodeaux, Betty Sparks, Ken Miller, Jimmy Bertrand, Connie Benoit, Desi LaPoint, Percy LaPoint, Mark Brown, Voorhies Brown, Diane Fontenot, Phillip Pastorick, Rogers Louviere, Russell Humphries, Rickey Doucet, Tristan Estis, Dr. Amy Franchebois Bairnsfather, J.L. Pitre, Mrs. Jimmy Martin, Bernard Marks, Frieda Mayeux, Frankie Fontenot

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

Prayer Blankets can benefit those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. For those interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Jerry Mayeux at 308-3325 or Jane Dupre at 945-6881. If you have fabric you'd like to donate, it would be appreciated. *If you or a loved one would like a prayer blanket please call the ladies mentioned above or the church office.*



GROUP ROSARY

All are invited to a group rosary every Monday at 5:00 pm in church at Immaculate Conception. Prayers will be offered for our country and an end to violence in the world. Invite your friends and family.



SURVIVOR OF SUICIDE

The Jacob Crouch Suicide Prevention Services and the Office of Marriage and Family Life are forming a support group especially tailored for survivors of suicide. This group will provide a safe place for those who have lost a loved one to suicide to share their struggles, experiences, and pain as they struggle to regain hope and strength. The group will be facilitated by a licensed counselor and is open to all survivors of suicide over the age of 18. The group will meet on two evenings a month. Please call Kelley Chapman at 337 261 5653 for more information or to register.

Month of January: Jeanette Martin & Shirlene Matt



ARE YOU A NEW PARISHIONER?

Welcome to all new parishioners! We'd like to get to know you better. Please call or come by the office to complete a census form at your convenience. We look forward to serving you!

PARISH BULLETIN INFORMATION: Contact the bulletin editor (parish secretary) or bring information to the rectory. All information must be in by Monday. If your family or business would like to help support the bulletin by taking an ad, or remember a loved one "In Memoir" Please call: John or Peter Watson at 985-868-6804.
