

Service Opportunities

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

ALTAR SERVERS: Every parish is enriched through the dedication and service of altar servers. St. John Berchmans, the patron saint of altar servers, once miraculously appeared (20 miles from here) in Grand Coteau. Children who have made their First Communion may contact Joey or Cynthia Bordelon for more information. St. John Berchmans, pray for us.



ALTAR LINENS: Clara Darbonne purifies the altar cloths, irons them, and mends torn vestments. If you're interested in sewing and washing, please contact her or the office.



ALTAR SOCIETY: Our Altar Society seeks to imitate the Mother of God by serving God and His Church by fostering reverence for the holy House of God. They help with its proper adornment and clean the church with the help of other volunteers. They provide various parish receptions and render assistance to the priest whenever necessary. They occasionally take field trips to learn about the faith. The Altar Society is open to any woman of the parish who wishes to participate.



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION: Fr. Jared and/or Karen Ducote instruct couples on the theology of Baptism and help parents and godparents prepare for the serious commitment of raising their children in the faith.



BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE: Our Bereavement Committee is divided into different rotations that prepare food and deliver it to the local funeral homes to support our parishioners in the grief process. If you are interested in joining this ministry of comforting families, please contact the office, Clara Darbonne or Annetta Lee.



BOOK CLUB: This is a **wish list ministry**. Father Jared would like to have periodic book clubs in people's homes. The hope would be to have 5 to 7 groups meeting for 5 to 7 sessions and consisting of 5 to 7 people each. Summer time or Advent or Lent are possibilities. Hosts would invite friends and neighbors to join their book club in their home. It's a great way to build church community, include others, and grow in faith. If you're interested in evangelizing in this way, Fr. Jared can provide you with more information (cheap books) and even questions to discuss during the sessions.



CATECHISTS AND AIDES: Catechism, our religious teaching program, is taught to school age children to learn the basics of the faith. Teachers are assigned a grade level and aides are used to assist them. Please contact our director of religious education, Betty Sparks, or the church office if you are interested in helping foster the religious formation of our youth.



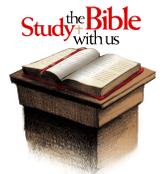
CHURCH CLEANERS: Visitors are impressed with the interior of our church – the fact that it smells “new” and is in pristine condition. Thank you to all the church cleaners, who volunteer behind the scenes. If you are interested in being on a rotation of cleaners and are not part of the Altar Society, please contact the office or Ethel Landreneau.



CHOIR: St. Paul advises to sing “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” Music ministers teach, encourage, inspire, and lead by example. We are extremely blessed to have a talented mix of adults and children in our choir. Practices are usually held on a weekday evening. For more information, contact Amanda Bertrand or call the office.



COME, LORD JESUS! *Come, Lord Jesus* is a Catholic Bible study program. The Scripture study portion of the meeting uses readings for the upcoming Sunday Mass. Immaculate Conception Church has two groups. They meet Tuesdays at 3:30 and 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. They welcome new members. For more information contact Agnes LeBlanc or the office.



DÉCOR COMMITTEE: Volunteers have fun decorating our church for religious holidays. They rotate floral arrangements during Ordinary Time and for special events. Volunteers are welcome. For more information, contact Karen Ducote or the office.



DRE: Our Director of Religious Education, Betty Sparks, has taken on the responsibility of overseeing and coordinating the catechism program for the parish. She makes disciplinary decisions and shapes the catechism policies/curriculum.



EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE: The Evangelization Committee discusses methods of outreach. We still need a Director of Evangelization and an initiative to reach the un-churched and those who don't regularly attend Mass.



Creative ideas are welcome. Father Jared would like to see the Evangelization Committee implement the book study program and movie program, and invite

newcomers to join Come Lord Jesus. Please speak to Toby Bertrand or Father Jared if you're interested in learning more or have helpful ideas.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Extraordinary Minister's function is to distribute Holy Communion, either within Mass or by taking it to a sick person. In order to serve, you need to be mature in your faith, have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. If married, the marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church. Ministers undergo an instruction/ training with Father Jared or Ethel Landreneau on the dos and don'ts of being a minister of Communion. Contact Father if interested.



HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: Parishioners serve the needs of the shut-ins. We want them to know they are in our prayers and that they are worth visiting. If you know someone who can't make it to church, because of illness, please speak with Fr. Jared or Shirlene "Beansie" Matte to have them added to our homebound list. This is one of those ministries where people often say they received more than they gave. To become a volunteer, speak with Father.



LANDSCAPING: A group of men and women from our parish volunteer their ideas, energy, and tools to keep our campus beautiful. They rotate weeks of watering and weeding. In July 2014 and September 2015 our parish received the Garden of the

Month award thanks to these go-getters. To volunteer, contact Norma Plattsmier or the office.

MARRIAGE MENTORS: Father prepares couples for marriage through private meetings, but would be open to help from



mentor couples who could offer the practical application of living marriage vows. Toby and Amanda Bertrand attended the training session for "In Home Marriage Prep" and have worked with one engaged couple so far. All involved really enjoyed it. If you're interested in being a mentor couple, speak with Toby, Amanda, or Father.

MONEY COUNTERS: Volunteers count the collection each



week and prepare bank statements. Because of diocesan policy this cannot be done by parish staff or the pastor. Confidentiality about individual contributions is a must. We currently have enough dedicated counters.

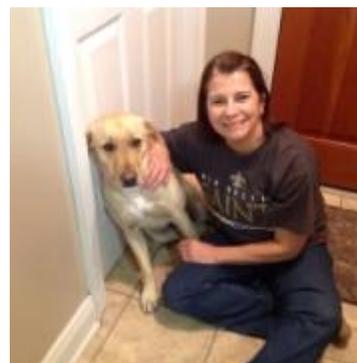
MOVIE HOSTS: Father Jared owns a number of Christian DVDs and would like to continue having periodic movies shown in the hall. Hosts and hostesses would be needed to promote the event, pop popcorn, and set up. This is an inexpensive way to enjoy and learn about our faith and the lives of the saints.

If you're interested in evangelizing in this way, speak to Karen Ducote or Fr. Jared.



NURSING HOME MINISTRY

Denise Doucet leads a rosary on Monday and Wednesday at 3:30pm at Heritage Manor Nursing Home. She would be happy to have others join her in praying with our local neighbors.



Susan Simoneaux visits Our Lady of Prompt Succor with her dog, Dixie. Dixie is a registered therapy dog.

Susan discusses scripture verses with the residents.



PARISH COUNCIL: Catholic pastors consult advisory councils. The work of the Parish Advisory Council is pastoral planning. Currently, we have enough council members; however, if you have

concerns about anything in the parish, please speak to one of these representatives about it. Their names can be found on the bulletin cover.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: This is a possible future goal for our parish. No firm decision has been made on it. If you have a strong interest in seeing this happen, please contact our office.



PROLIFE MINISTRY: June Inhern is our pro-life coordinator. If you're interested in defending human dignity and protecting life from womb to tomb, speak with her or Father Jared about ways to

help. This ministry seeks to promote prayers for human life as well as disseminates information about the prolife cause.

PROPERTY INSPECTOR: Two heads are better than one and so are two opinions and two set of eyes. From time to time Father Jared needs someone with experience maintaining property to advise him on roofing, plumbing, electrical, and pretty much everything else on our campus. Father can use your input.



READERS: Readers proclaim the Word of God, make announcements before Mass and read the petitions. Readers should be mature, speak loudly and clearly, and also understand the words they are proclaiming. They are ministers and as such should be in good standing with the Catholic Church, weekly recipients of Holy Communion, and if married, be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.



ROSARY GROUPS: Our parish has a number of groups devoted to praying the rosary together weekly. For information on local rosary groups, contact Fr. Jared.



SACRISTANS: The sacristan prepares for liturgical celebrations by arranging the books, setting up for Mass, changing the altar cloths, and making sure the AC/heat are on. They also and pick up the sacred vessels after Mass.



Currently, we are blessed with enough sacristans.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR: Our Safe Environment

Coordinator works closely with the pastor and Director of Religious Education to ensure that anyone in the parish having regular contact with minors (i.e., anyone under 18 years of age) has completed all required



training and attained necessary clearances. Margaret Lafleur is our Safe Environment Coordinator.

RCIA: The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program at Immaculate Conception offers an opportunity to learn more about our Church teachings and prepares adults to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Contact Father Jared and let him know your individual situation and sacramental needs. He looks forward to working with you.



USHERS: Our ushers greet people as they enter church, designate gift bearers, take up the collection, and hand out bulletins. In a sense they are ministers of hospitality. If you're interested in being an usher, speak with Fr. Jared

WEBDESIGNER: If you've got techie skills, we can use them. Father Jared would like to get a Widget counter on the webpage. Also, we need access to a Youtube or Vimeo account to post videos. It would be great to post clips of testimonies from parishioners.

