

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

VOL. 39 ISSUE 51

Catholic Church † Mission of the Sacred Heart

865 Hatchell Lane (70726); P.O. Box 1609 Denham Springs, Louisiana 70727 Phone (225) 665-5359 Fax (225) 665-4422 churchoffice@icc-msh.org www.icc-msh.org

December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday
Of Advent

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank M. Uter	Pastor
Rev. Amal Raj, I.M.S	Associate Pastor
Ronnie Dugas	Parish Administrator
Mike Chiappetta	Permanent Deacon
Peter Schlette	Permanent Deacon
Rudy Stahl	Permanent Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.	
Sundays	7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,	
9:00 a.m. (MSH),	11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.	
Monday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday 8:30 a.m.		
Tuesday	6:00 pm followed by	
	Novena/Benediction	
Holy Days	As announced	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

BAPTISMS: Notify Parish Office during pregnancy. Instruction for parents and godparents is required.

MARRIAGE: Contact the Parish Office at least six months before desired date.

PRAYER LINE: (confidential ministry) Contact Ms. Pat Pastor at 664-1097.

CARE OF THE SICK: Emergency calls answered immediately. Home visitation for the sick and shut-in weekly and upon request. Hospital visits weekly and upon request.

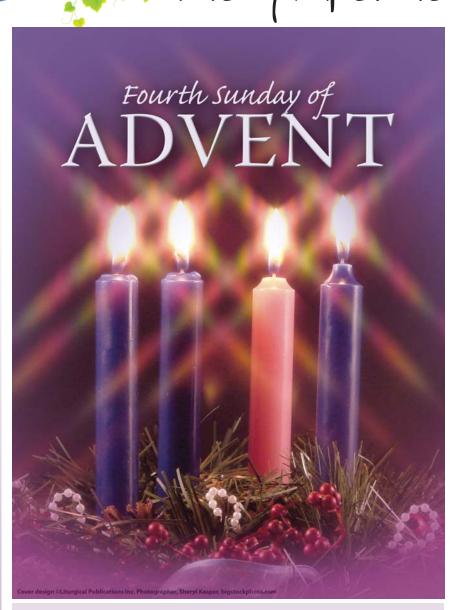
CHRISTIAN BURIAL: Please make arrangements by calling the Parish Office.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL: TEMORARILY CLOSED

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Contact Allison Renfrow at 665-1424.

Information or news for *The Grapevine* (published weekly) should be called in to the Parish Office at least two weeks prior to the event.





MISSION STATEMENT

Immaculate Conception Church Parish and the Mission of the Sacred Heart is a welcoming community, centered in the Eucharist, rooted in faith, growing in fellowship, and sharing in unity the mission Christ entrusted to us.



This week at a Glance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Mass/Church 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Mass-ICC/C; MSH 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Mass/Church

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
PSR Grade 9/Main Hall/FFC
Retrouvaille Follow-up/FFC-211
PSR Grade 10/Main Hall/FFC

4:00 PM - 5:45 PM Youth Choir/Church 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Mass/Church

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Patriotic Rosary/Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Mass/Church

9:15 AM - 2:00 PM Early Learning Center/T Bldg.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA Meeting/FFC-112

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:15 AM - 2:00 PM Early Learning Center/T Bldg. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA Meeting/FFC-112

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM Reconciliation/Church
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Mass/Nov/Bene/Church
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir/Church

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Mass/Church

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Children's Choir/Main Hall Reconciliation: The Light is On

for You/C

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Mass/Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 AM - 8:25 AM Reconciliation/Church

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Mass/Church

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA Meeting/FFC-112

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Charismatic Prayer Group/Church

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM AA/FFC-112

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24-CHRISTMAS EVE

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA Meeting/SH

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass/Church 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass/Church

11:30 PM - 1:00 AM Midnight Christmas Mass/C

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25-CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Christmas Mass/Church 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Christmas Mass-ICC/C: MSH

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Christmas Mass-ICC/C; MSH 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Christmas Mass/Church

REMINDER: NO 6:00 PM MASS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

"The Light is On for You" Wednesday, December 21, 2016

from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception

(also available at 2 area churches

Our Lady of Mercy and St. George, Baton Rouge)

Question of the Week

Matthew1:18-24-What do you find most interesting in Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus?

Parish Life + Upcoming Events



More than any other time in the history of our parish, families need our prayers. On Saturday, December 31st, Immaculate Conception Church will open its doors to host **A DAY OF PRAYER FOR PARISH FAMILIES**. We will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end about 3:45 p.m. We are asking parishioners to join our effort to pray for every family of the parish.

- Choose the time that fits best into your schedule—stay as long as you like.
- When you arrive, we will give you a number of prayer cards. You specify how many.
- These prayer cards have a prayer for healing, a picture of the Holy Family and the name of an ICC family and its members.
- Sit in church, in the presence of Jesus, and pray for each family by name.
- The prayer takes less than 30 seconds to read making it possible to pray for 30 to 60 families in one hour.

This DAY OF PRAYER gathers us, in hope and solidarity, to instill comfort, change hearts, stir enthusiasm, and foster a more real and personal relationship with Jesus and his flock. If you can commit to this day of prayer, please notify us by either calling the office at 665-5359 or email pcowart@me.com. We want to ensure that we will have enough people to pray for all 4000+ families before 4:00 Mass begins. You are also welcome to drop by even if you haven't contacted us. However, it is helpful to let us know in advance. Please invite others who are willing to help. With just a small effort, the Holy Spirit will accomplish great things.

Consideration of our Christian Commitment: Awaiting Fulfillment

This Sunday as we begin the Fourth Week of Advent, St.



Joseph is presented to us as a model of trust, to guide us through these last weeks of Advent. It is beautiful how all who were associated with the first Christmas were asked to trust – Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men. All trusted and acted on their trust. May they and their faith based trust guide us into Christmas and the

Christmas Season.

This is one of those years in which we have a full Fourth Week of Advent. Of course that means that the evening Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent will not be celebrated. Instead we have the Christmas Vigils.

Many have asked about Deacon Pete and how things were going with him and Ruth, their health and home. I had the opportunity to visit with him last weekend, as he was transferred from New Orleans where he and Ruth had been staying these past months. At the time of the flood, Deacon Pete had surgery for cancer in his lungs, and the surgery and flood all came at the same time. He had the surgery in New Orleans where he and Ruth were staying with their son. The surgery went well, but he is recovering from the chemo. He was at the Lake when I visited him, and he hoped by Christmas to be back with Ruth in their home. Let us keep them and their family in our prayers.

Our parish staff had our annual outing the second week



of Advent. This year we went to St. Michael the Archangel Church in Convent where we celebrated the Eucharist, had a tour and short presentation on the history of the parish and then a holiday luncheon at Hymel's. Our staff has always been a top notch staff and works together beautifully, but these past months have been exceptional



and as for many of you, very challenging. But they more than rose to the occasion. I would like also to say a special word of thanks to Lota Lamonica who assumed a lion's share of our parish's ministry to the flood victims. She has been our contact person with those in need and their contact with the parish, helping us set up different programs that were needed, when they were needed, moving from clean up, to rebuilding and finally refurnishing. I join with the staff in thanking her for her efforts on our behalf. She has not only been a blessing to those who came to us, but also to the staff and to me.

The parish Christmas Cards to parishioners got into the mail last week and I hope by now you have received them. This year a good friend of mine, Joyce Jackson, did a pen and ink sketch of the Gate of Mercy, the Memorial to the Oblate Fathers and Brothers and their ministry among us. The cards arrived from the printer the first week of August and were stored in the closet in my office. Well, like most of us, the cards have their own story. On August 13, they were flooded along with everything else under two feet of water in the Administration Building. At left is a



photograph of the cards on August 15, when we were cleaning out the offices and beginning the process of gutting out walls. I had placed the first load of wet cards in a wheelbarrow

in preparation for their trip to the road. I made several trips with cards that day, but was on the phone with the printer by the end of the week asking for a reprint. The photograph above was for the insurance man, not a souvenir photo! A lot of the cards needed to be readdressed, evidence that many of our families were still not in their homes. Much has happened since then, and I hope things are moving along with all of you also as we move toward Christmas.

If all goes right, this should be our first week with the refurbished pews – new ends, middle supports and kneelers. We appreciate your patience over these past months. With the arrival of the pews, the Cry Room is expected to be opened again. Work continues on other rooms associated with the church and around the campus. Presently we have no word as to when the Adoration Chapel will reopen and Fr. Raj and I will not be back in the rectory till sometime early next year. I have heard day by day from some that they are returning to their homes. I pray that wherever you are, like Mary and Joseph, your loving and faith-filled trust will open your hearts and lives to a good and graced Christmas. Let us keep one another in prayer. Love,



This Week . Parish Life . Formation . Youth Events



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

PRAYER FOR R.C.I.A.

"O God, we thank you for implanting the gift of faith in our human hearts. We thank you for sending Jesus, your Son, as the fullness of your love. May His life and mission lead us to share

in your divine life. Today we ask you to bless in a special way all catechumens and candidates who have generously responded to the invitation of Jesus: "Come, follow me." Help them to persevere in their journey of faith despite any difficulties. Bless all those who minister through the R.C.I.A. process so that, under the guidance of your Holy Spirit, they may lead others to a life of faith in Jesus Christ. Grant that all parishioners will take an active role in bringing new members into the Church. Call us all to a renewal of our faith, and inspire us all to be your light in the world. AMEN. "

REMINDER: R.C.I.A. sessions will resume Sunday, January 8 at the 9:00 Mass. We hope everyone has a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Parish School of Religion News Dates to Remember!

PSR Classes 6th-10th grade:

- 9th Grade—December 18; 12:30-2:00 p.m.
- 10th Grade—December 18; 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- 6th Grade—January 8; 12:30-2:00 p.m.
- 7-8 Grade—January 8; 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- 9th Grade—January 15; 12:30-2:00 p.m.
- 10th Grade—January 15; 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Anyone in 6th-10th grade who missed the December classes, please call the office at 665-5926 for make-up classes.

Winter Break for 1-5 Grade & For Mission of the Sacred Heart: December 15, 2016-January 22, 2017

Confirmation Students: Don't forget reconciliation during Advent (See Page 2 for complete schedule).

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

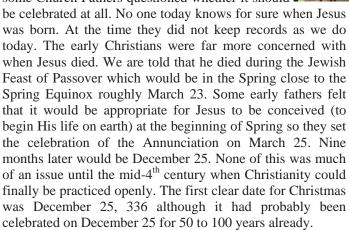




Stump the Deacon!

Was Jesus really born on December 25?

This question has been debated for 2,000 years and some Church Fathers questioned whether it should be calcharded at all. No one today knows for our will



Deacon Rudy Stahl

Looking Ahead at 2017

February 18-22 Parish Mission: Fr. Philip Chircop

March 1 . Ash Wednesday Masses: 8:30 a.m., Noon, 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Bible Studies are coming back in January! Please watch for dates in the near future.

Parish Life • Stewardship



December 17, 2016-December 25, 2016

SATURDAY: 12/17/16

4:00 p.m. Sam Guzzardo†; Chuck Harrison & Family†; Viola Hondroulis†; Kathy Alello†; Maria H. Nguyen†; Pamela Bushnell†; Louise McKinney†.

SUNDAY: 12/18/16

7:00 a.m. M/M John Durand†; Bill Collier†; Craig Chapman, Jr.†; Lloyd Degeneres†; Donald Lavigne and Jeremy Berthelot†; Flood Victims and Donors; Special Intention.

9:00 a.m. Kert Guidry†; Mary Angona†; Victor Angona†; Mary Guidry†; A. J. Angona†; Phillip John Bilski†.

9:00 a.m. (MSH) Parishioners

11:00 a.m. Dane Bananno†; Butch Calmes†; Chuck Sturm†; Joseph S. Pham†; Jean Meyers†; William and Josephine Rex†.

6:00 p.m. Lucille O'Neill†; Lacey LeBlanc†; J. W. Zaunbrecher†.

MONDAY: 12/19/16

8:30 a.m. Alex Theriot, Jr.†.

TUESDAY: 12/20/16

6:00 p.m. Bishop Robert Muench.

WEDNESDAY: 12/21/16 8:30 a.m. Ordean Saucier†. THURSDAY: 12/22/16 8:30 a.m. June Landry†.

FRIDAY: 12/23/16

8:30 a.m. Pauline Hebert[†]. SATURDAY: 12/24/16

4:00 p.m. Sylvia Pulizzano†; Robert Adams, Jr.†; Kathy Alello†; Noah & Winnie Lachney, Sr.†; Sam

Guzzardo†; Joe Genusa†; George Guzzardo†; Noah & Maudry Lachney, Jr.†; Lindell Gill, Sr.†; Rosie Genusa†; Josephine Guzzardo†; Brooklynn LeBlanc†; Louise McKinney†;

Phillip John Bilski†.

7:00 p.m. Garrett Minard†; Maria Nguyen & Thi Mon†; Keith David Budde, Sr.†; Dominic T. Nguyen†.

SUNDAY: 12/25/16

12:00 a.m. Dane Bananno†; Ron Rinker†; Katherine Silvio Gravatt†.

7:00 a.m. M/M Albert Boudreaux, Sr.†; M/M Craig Chapman, Jr.†; M/M Emmett Floyd†; Cecile Lorio†; Lloyd DeGeneres†; Felix Boudreaux†; M/M Albert Boudreaux, Jr.†; Lucille O'Neill†;

Special Intention.

9:00 a.m. Toney Stikeleather†; Mary Guidry†; Louis "LJ" Berthelot†; Butch Calmes†; Donald

Lavigne & Jeremy Berthelot†; J. W.

Zaunbrecher†.

9:00 a.m. (MSH) Edwin Lohr†; Victor Silvio†.

11:00 a.m. Parishioners.



CHURCH SANCTUARY LAMP: 12/18/16—12/24/16 burns in memory of M/M GEORGE GUZZARDO.



Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

The name Emmanuel means, "God is with us." This is a title we use for Jesus frequently during the Advent

and Christmas season, but its impact should stay with us throughout the year. The Incarnation, God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ, broke into our world in a profound manner that means that God is not only with us, God is us. The relationship offered to you and I by God is now more intimate and meaningful because of the birth of Jesus Christ. God is truly with us and our goal is to be truly present to him at all times. To be prayerful is an important characteristic of an Everyday Steward. It means more than reciting prayers and setting aside ten minutes a day. Our goal is to experience the presence of God throughout the day in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of living. Offering all the actions and moments of the day to God as we awake, and then examining our day before we go to sleep at night, help lead us closer toward that goal. When we begin to sense God's presence at all times, and we realize that being with God does not mean one of us has to be talking all the time, then we can truly attest to our reality in a quiet voice at any time, "Emmanuel, God is with us."

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

December 10/11, 2016

Stewardship

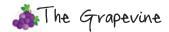
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Identified offertory givers:	\$	16,253.00
Visitors/unidentified:	\$	2,958.16
Christmas Flowers:	\$	693.00
Christmas Offer:	\$	55.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	1,144.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	130.00
Catholic Life Center:	\$	20.00
Total Collected:	\$	21,253.16

JULY 1, 2016 TO DATE

Actual Income:	Þ	561,411.59
JULY 1, 2016 TO DATE		
Actual Expense:	\$	595,711.14
Surplus/Deficit	\$	-8,233.75
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$	373.00
Building & Maintenance:	\$	1,993.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$	30.00
Retirement for the Religious:	\$	1,942.00

Donation made to The Building Fund given in memory of: Winton Waguespack by Kathy deGeneres



Outreach

Getting Through the Holidays While Grieving

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4

The holiday season can be a mixture of feelings, especially if you are grieving the loss of a loved one. Celebrations take on a different meaning as you work through the many emotions of grief. It is so hard to think about gifts and fun and holidays when a loved one has died. Whether the loss is recent or old, you have to determine what kind of celebration and remembrance is right for you. Tackling the holidays after a loss is a work in progress. Make changes that feel right to you and honors those you have lost.

There are steps you can take, however to help give the holidays a new meaning. The holidays can become a time of peace and reflection, a time to cherish the gift your loved one has been-and continues to be-in the life of your family. Here are a few ideas that may help you begin the journey.

- Be patient and realistic. Often our high expectations lead to frustration at this time of the year. You are grieving so be kind and gentle with yourself. Leave the word *ought* out of the holiday season. Plan ahead so you are not overwhelmed. Grieving makes it hard to concentrate so make lists and prioritize what is the most important to you.
- Listen to your heart and acknowledge your limits. Spend some quiet time acknowledging your needs and desire. Share them with family and friends and have them share with you what their needs are. Say "no" and make your "yes" tentative. If it is too much to decorate the whole house, lawn etc., just decorate one room or one corner. Don't drown your grief in food and alcohol but also do not deny yourself the pleasures of good food and companionship out of a sense of guilt. Take care of yourself and listen to your body.
- Adapt cherished traditions. Don't scrap the whole idea of the holidays because of feeling overwhelmed. Do small things like make a donation of a gift or money to a charity; try new twist to old traditions-have dinner on Christmas Eve instead of Christmas day. Do whatever feels right for you and your family.
- Allow the tears to come, but look for joy amidst the **pain.** Unpacking the holiday decorations will mean unpacking not only warm, loving memories but heartaches as well. Don't deny yourself the gift of healing tears. Sometimes all we can remember are the painful details surrounding our loved one's death. This holiday season, try to also remember all the wonderful moments of your loved one's life.
- Focus on the spiritual dimension of the holidays. In your own time and when it feels right, focusing on the underlying religious meaning of this time may help refashion the holidays. In this season of light, remember the light your loved one has brought to your life. Light a special candle-not in memory of a death, but in celebration of a life and a loved shared.

(Source: "Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One' by Darcie D. Sims)

Worship + Dire



We express our sympathy and prayers to Trang-Dinh Pham on the death of mother, MARIA NAY-THI Sympathy PHAM; to the Messenger family on

the death of their mother and grandmother, **JOSIE MESSENGER**; to Cindy Taylor on the

death of her nephew, DENVER DENISON; and to the family and friends of **GENEVIEVE VALENTI** and **MARIE** GROSS.

Readings for the week of 12/18/16

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33/Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2/Lk 1:46-56 Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89/Lk 1:67-79 Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1

-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 ©Liturgical Publications Inc.

CHURCH OFFICE-(225) 665-5359; (HOURS: M-F, 8 A.M. 5 P.M.)

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Michelle Holmes; mholmes@icc-msh.org Bulletin Editor/Website: Mrs. Elaine Matherne; elamath@icc-msh.org

Receptionist: Mrs. Denise Gibson; dgibson@icc-msh.org Parish Nurse: Mrs. Stephanie Gaudin; nurse@icc-msh.org

LITURGY—(225) 665-5359

Liturgy Coordinator: Deacon Rudy Stahl; deaconrudy@icc-msh.org

Liturgy Coordinator Assistant/Baptism Coordinator:

Mrs. Sherry Leger; sleger@icc-msh.org

Adult Formation: Deacon Rudy Stahl; deaconrudy@icc-msh.org

R.C.I.A. Coordinator:

Mrs. Judy Graphia; 665-5359; jgraphia@icc-msh.org

MAINTENANCE OFFICE—(225) 665-2281; EXT. 206

Mr. Harry Stelly; Mr. Fred Adams; Mrs. Joni Hebert; Ms. Kerry Brown

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION OFFICE -(225) 665-5926

OFFICE HOURS DURING SCHOOL SESSIONS:

2nd and 3rd Sundays: 12:00 Noon-4:00 P.M.; Monday and Wednesdays: 12:00 Noon-7:30 P.M.;

Tuesday: 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Coordinator for Grades 1-6:

Mrs. Barbara Normand; bnormand@icc-msh.org

Coordinator for Grades 7-10:

Mrs. Gwen Richard; gcrichard@icc-msh.org

Parish School of Religion Secretary/Site Child Protection Officer: Mrs. Jane Stahl; jstahl@icc-msh.org

Youth Minister: Mr. Kevin Acord; acordkp@gmail.com

EARLY LEARNING CENTER-(225) 664-8968

ELC Director: Mrs. Mandy Haley; elc@icc-msh.org Asst. Director: Mrs. Karen Smith; elc@icc-msh.org

St. Vincent de Paul—(225) 665-1623