

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Established – 1863

Diocese of Tyler – Most Rev. Bishop Gregory Kelly  
201 N. Vale St. Jefferson, TX 75657  
Phone: 903-665-2869



## Our Mission

We, the Roman Catholic Community of Immaculate Conception Church, under the guidance and protection of Mary, Our Blessed Mother, recognize ourselves as disciples of Jesus Christ. We strive to be a prayerful, Eucharistic Family, open to the Power of the Holy Spirit and conscious of our mission to use our time, talent and treasure in service to our brothers and sisters.

### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m.

### Devotion of the Holy Rosary

Saturday @ 4:30 p.m.

Sunday @ 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m. (Unless otherwise noted)

### Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday @ 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday @ 9:00 a.m.

### First Friday Adoration & Benediction Schedule

Following 9:00 a.m. Mass

### First Saturday Mass @ 9:00 a.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 8:15a.m. – 8:45a.m.

Friday 8:15a.m. – 8:45a.m.

Saturday 4:15p.m. - 4:45p.m. Sunday 8:15a.m. – 8:45a.m.

### Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Zacharias (Zach) Kunnakkattuthara  
903-724-0865

### Associate Pastors

Rev. Father Isaac Oviedo

903-806-5164

Rev. Father Gabriel Uzundu

903-907-1446

### Immaculate Conception Parish Office

209 W Lafayette St

Phone: 903-665-2869

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Email: [icccjefferson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:icccjefferson@sbcglobal.net)

Church Website: <http://www.icccjeffersontx.org>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 21, 2025



## Why Stewardship

Receiving God's gifts gratefully  
cultivating them responsibly,  
sharing them lovingly in justice with others;  
returning them with increase to the Lord.

**Your generosity and time is greatly appreciated!**

## Offertory Collections

### Week of December 14, 2025

Total General Collection	\$2633.00
Regular Collection	\$2428.00
Online Collection	\$205.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$632.05

## Upcoming Special Collections

December 25, 2025- Caring for Priests  
January 1, 2026- Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

## Gift of Gratitude St. Vincent de Paul

WEEK OF 12-11-25

Food for the poor: # of cans & packages 54  
Families served: 16 (29 People)

Thank You, God, for your ongoing generosity; so that, we can  
work to provide for those in need.

Thank you for helping others in our Community!

St Vincent de Paul Meetings

9:30 a.m. Thursdays in the Food Pantry Room in the Parish Hall

Everyone is welcome to attend!

## Altar Care

Week of 12/22/2025 – Anita Hall

Week of 12/29/2025 – Marguerite Hawthorne

Week of 01/05/2026 – Charmaine Kresch

Week of 01/12/2026 – Sharon Verhalen

If you are interested in volunteering Email us at  
icccjefferson@sbcglobal.net

### Safe Environment

If you know or suspect that a minor or vulnerable adult is currently being  
abused or is in danger, immediately report it to state/local law enforcement or  
the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at (800) 252-5400  
or [txabusehotline.org](http://txabusehotline.org).

The Diocese of Tyler is committed to respecting the dignity of all persons  
and to helping anyone who may have been hurt or abused by a priest,  
deacon, religious, or anyone working in the name of the Church.

Any current or past cases of abuse involving Church personnel should be  
reported to civil authorities and also to the Victim Assistance Coordinator at  
(903) 266-2159 or [vac@dioceseoftyler.org](mailto:vac@dioceseoftyler.org).

## Lay Ministry December 2025

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Lector: Pam Watts

Eucharistic Minister:

Marguerite Hawthorne

Collette Dockery

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Lector: Ann Kauppi

Eucharistic Ministers:

Sharon Verhalen

Maria Velazquez

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Lector: Doc Dockery

Eucharistic Minister:

Johnette Grubaugh

Pam Watts

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Lector: Liz Opiela

Eucharistic Ministers:

Anita Hall

Ann Kauppi

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Lector: Johnette Grubaugh

Eucharistic Minister:

Theresa Beard

Marguerite Hawthorne

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Lector: Philip Verhalen

Eucharistic Ministers:

Kat Bellini

Jackie Traylor

Saturday, December 27, 2025

Lector: Collette Dockery

Eucharistic Minister:

Doc Dockery

Pam Watts

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Lector: Troy Hines

Eucharistic Ministers:

Colette Hines

Maria Velazquez

If you are interested in becoming a Lector, Eucharistic Minister,  
Altar Server, Usher, or Cantor please let us know.

Email us @ [icccjefferson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:icccjefferson@sbcglobal.net)



# Together We Pray

## Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers those who need prayers in our Parish Family and Community. (\* = Newly added)

### **Parishioners**

Anna Bode Family	Jo Miller
Rufe Brewton	Amil Murray
JR Procell	Ron Remedies
Maria & Cesar Chapa	Rebecca Cornett Sistrunk
Sharon Deangelo	Watts Family
Mary Dorgan	John Wix
Dawn Fuquay	Doris Wong
Artie Hawthorne	David Roberts
Troy Hines	Monica Bautista
Darrell Lensch	Mary Ann Haynes
Mike Lakey	Dennis Dozier
Fr Gabriel Uzundu	Walter Martin

### **Family & Friends**

Eliana Faith England	Lily Buckner
Trish Cancellare	Ginny Reordan
Jessica Sistrunk	Lance Reordan
LaVern Beard	Rev. Joseph Nasser
Lyndsey Dozier	Cody Jeffcoat
Sue Holt	Laura Wood
Todd Holt	Sharon Traina
Gerald Kennie	Paul Gonzalez
Roy Hunter	Rousell Morris
Hector Garza	Kenneth Hudson
Miguel Aranda	Marilyn Hines
Chris Wood	Mary Rike
Brandy Campbell	Rita Hatten
Melvin Williams	Jerry Hatten
Brad McEnley	Francisco Chaidez
Mary Dixon	Hailey Blunt

### **Active Military from our Community**

Juan Carlos Acuna	Kyrie Lay Redd
Mary Alder	Desire Robertson
Aubrey Sperier Arenavas	Salvador Sanchez Jr.
Kendall Benton	Haley Sellers
Gabriel Cantu	Perry Staten
Dillon Corpier	James Trachier
Winston J Jones	Joseph Trachier
Bo Dylan Jordan	Brent Westbrook
Matthew Kopecky	Joseph Woods
Dominick Pondant	Heath Zeigler

## Mass Intentions - December 2025

**Wednesday, December 17-** For the Repose of the Soul of Vivien Bellini  
(Requested by Jo Miller Family)

**Thursday, December 18-** For Robert & Janet Williams  
(Requested by Jackie Traylor)

**Friday, December 19-** For the Repose of the Soul of Margaret Austin-Bartlett  
(Requested by Kathy Tucker)

**Saturday, December 20-** For Austin Hines  
(Requested by Troy & Colette Hines)

**Sunday, December 21-** For the Parishioners of ICC  
(Requested by ICC)

**Tuesday, December 23-** For Brittany Hines  
(Requested by Troy & Colette Hines)

**Wednesday, December 24 6:00pm-** For Bernadette Gaston  
(Requested by Scott, Jennifer & Emery Stewart)

**Thursday, December 25-** For the Repose of the Soul of Vivien Bellini  
(Requested by Jo Miller Family)

**Friday, December 26-** For the Repose of the Soul of Mark Moore  
(Requested by Pam Watts)

**Saturday, December 27-** For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Saner  
(Requested by Ladies' Altar Society)

**Sunday, December 28 -** For the Parishioners of ICC  
(Requested by ICC)

**Tuesday, December 30-** For Emery Stewart  
(Requested by Scott & Jennifer Stewart)

**Wednesday, December 31-** For the Repose of the Soul of Lawson Ramsey  
(Requested by Pam Watts)

Please submit your mass intentions in the envelopes provided. Cards are available in the office to notify recipients and/or families of the intentions you have submitted for them.

## **Pope Leo Prayer Intentions December 2025 For Christians in areas of conflict**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

## A Message from Msgr. Zach

Dear Friends,

As we come to the final days of Advent, the Gospel presents us with one of the most intimate and tender moments in salvation history: Joseph's quiet struggle, his obedience, and his courageous "yes" to God. Matthew tells the story not from Mary's perspective, but from Joseph's—a man who loved deeply, listened carefully, and acted faithfully. And in this final Advent week, Joseph becomes a powerful model for our families.

The Gospel begins with a difficult and confusing situation. Mary and Joseph are betrothed, preparing for their life together, when Joseph learns that Mary is with child. Imagine the emotions, the questions, and even the fears that must have flooded Joseph's heart. Many families today know these moments—when life takes an unexpected turn, when plans shift, or when a challenge interrupts the comfort of routine.

Yet Joseph responds not with anger or self-protection, but with compassion. Before the angel appears, he already chooses the most loving path available to him. And after hearing the angel's message—"Do not be afraid"—he embraces God's will with trust. In Joseph, we see what it means to lead a family through humility, sacrifice, and deep faith.

Families today can learn much from Joseph's quiet strength. Our homes are often filled with busy schedules, responsibilities, and unanticipated challenges. Parents worry about their children's future; spouses navigate moments of misunderstanding; children face pressures at school and uncertainties in growing up. But Joseph reminds us that God is present in the midst of family struggles—not only in the joyful moments but also in the confusing ones.

Joseph listens. He pays attention to God's voice in the silence. How often do we allow ourselves to hear God in the midst of our family lives? Advent invites families to slow down—to pray together, to share meaningful conversations, to find moments of quiet where God can speak to our hearts. Like Joseph, we may not always understand God's plan immediately, but we can trust that His purpose is always rooted in love.

Joseph obeys. His "yes" is not loud or dramatic. He simply takes Mary into his home and welcomes the Child who is Emmanuel—God-with-us. In our families, obedience to God often looks like every day acts of faithfulness: being patient with one another, forgiving quickly, showing kindness, and choosing love even when it is difficult.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, the Gospel invites us to imitate Joseph's openness to God. May our families become places where Christ finds a home—where we listen, trust, and say our own "yes" to God's loving plan.

May this final week of Advent fill our homes with peace, courage, and the joyful hope of Emmanuel—God with us.

Wish y'all a Merry Christmas!

Your friend in Jesus,  
Msgr. Zach

*Dec 21 Responsorial: Psalm 24*

Let the Lord enter, He is king of glory.

*Dec 28 Responsorial: Psalm 128*

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.

# Community Happenings . . .



## *Decorating Church and Parish Center for Christmas*

We will be decorating both the Church and Parish Center for Christmas on Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> after the 9am Mass. If you are able, please come and help make our church look beautiful!



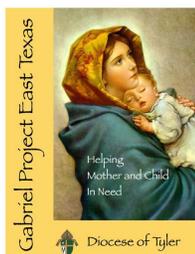
## RECONCILIATION SERVICES

ICC will have reconciliation service on **December 20 from 10am to 12pm.**

St. Joseph in Marshall will have theirs on **December 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm**

## Parish Center in Use Dec 26 and 27<sup>th</sup> for wedding

A young couple from Gilmer will be getting married at ICC on December 27<sup>th</sup>. They will be using the parish center on December 26<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> after their wedding. Please refrain from entering the Parish Center during these days.



## Gabriel Project East Texas

A Pro Life Ministry of the Diocese of Tyler  
Since 1995

PREGNANT AND NEED HELP?  
{Mujer Embarazada y Necesita Ayuda?}

The Catholic Church sees the birth of each baby as God's unfailing love. We offer immediate and practical help to any woman facing the challenges of an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy

888-300-5112 24/7

<https://gabrielprojecteasttexas.org>

## *Christmas Mass Times*

Christmas Eve Mass on December 24<sup>th</sup> will be at 6:00pm. There will be also be a Wednesday morning Mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am

Christmas Day Mass, December 25<sup>th</sup> will be at 9:00am

## BLESSINGS OF GRACE FOOD PANTRY

Blessings of Grace Food Pantry is needing additional volunteers from our parish to help with food distribution on 3rd Saturdays each month (9:30 am until 12:00pm) which includes lifting boxes of food and loading them into vehicles. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Liz Opiela at 903-742-9710.

## *Celebrating 50 years as a Priest!*

Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> Msgr Zach will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary!

“Almighty and merciful God, we offer You our sincere thanks and gratitude for Msgr Zach who has faithfully served You for 50 years. We thank You for the grace You have bestowed upon him and for the gift of his ministry. May Msgr Zach be blessed with strength and courage for the years ahead. May Your presence be with him, comforting and inspiring him as he continues his ministry. Amen.”

## *Bishop's Annual Appeal Update*

Our Goal for the Bishop's Annual Appeal is **\$16,000.**

Paid to date is **\$10,244.88**

Pledged so far: **\$12,875.08** which is 80.5% of our goal.

To meet our goal: **\$3124.92.**

If you have not yet made a pledge please prayerfully consider donating to this campaign.

# Community Happenings . . .

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent-LOVE

The message of the 4th week of Advent is full of hope and peace. It reminds us that *God is with us* not far away, but right here in our daily lives. This is the week when our waiting turns into welcoming. All through Advent, we have been lighting candles for hope, peace, joy, and now, love. The light of the fourth candle tells us that the time of promise is near, and that Jesus, our Savior, is coming soon.

The Advent week 4 message teaches us to prepare our hearts, not just our homes. It invites us to open our hearts to others, to forgive, and to love more deeply. God's love came down to earth through a child gentle, humble, and full of grace. When we understand this message, we see that Christmas is not just a story from long ago, but a living truth that still shines in every act of kindness today.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, the Light of the World. As we light the fourth candle of love, let its flame remind us of Your promise. May this light warm every heart that feels cold or alone. Bless our family and friends with peace and hope. Fill our homes with joy as we prepare to welcome Jesus, our Emmanuel, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.



## Welcome

to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church! We are so happy you are here with us!



Are you interested in becoming a parishioner here or do you need more information about becoming Catholic? Please contact the church office at 903-665-2869 or email at [icccjefferson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:icccjefferson@sbcglobal.net)

## St. Joseph – March 19th

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture.

We know he was a carpenter, for the Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" He wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb.

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. The angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his, but he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife.

When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, and fled to Egypt with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back.

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of this child entrusted to him. When Jesus stayed in the Temple we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days for him. We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son for over and over the people of Nazareth say of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?"

Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry.

Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.



# Rosary Schedule and Marian Feast Days December, 2025



**WEDNESDAY, DEC 3RD**

ROSARY @ 6:00 P.M

**MONDAY, DEC 8TH**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 10TH**

ROSARY @ 6:00 P.M

**FRIDAY, DEC 12TH**

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 17TH**

ROSARY @ 6:00 P.M

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 24TH**

ROSARY @ 5:30 P.M (TIME CHANGE)

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 31ST**

ROSARY @ 5:30 P.M (TIME CHANGE)