

# 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.

Thursday 9:00am – 12:00pm

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

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

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 8, 2026



## 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 February 1, 2026

<b>Total General Collection</b>	<b>\$3947.00</b>
Regular Collection	\$3747.00
Online Collection	\$200.00
<b>Church in Latin America</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>
<b>Tyler Catholic Schools</b>	<b>\$502.00</b>

## Upcoming Special Collections

February 8, 2026- Those in Need  
February 18, 2026- Aid to Church Central Europe  
February 18, 2026- Ash Wednesday

## Gift of Gratitude St. Vincent de Paul

WEEK OF 01-29-26

Food for the poor: # of cans & packages 0  
Families served: 1 (1 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 02/09/2026 – Anita Hall

Week of 02/16/2026 – Marguerite Hawthorne

Week of 02/23/26 – Charmaine Kresch

Week of 03/02/26 – 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 February 2026

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Lector: Pam Watts

Eucharistic Minister:

Johnette Grubaugh

Theresa Beard

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Lector: Colette Hines

Eucharistic Ministers:

Maria Velazquez

Anita Hall

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Lector: Doc Dockery

Eucharistic Minister:

Marguerite Hawthorne

Collette Dockery

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Lector: Ann Kauppi

Eucharistic Ministers:

Liz Opiela

Sharon Verhalen

Saturday, February 14, 2026

Lector: Johnette Grubaugh

Eucharistic Minister:

Pam Watts

Theresa Beard

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Lector: Liz Opiela

Eucharistic Ministers:

Jackie Traylor

Kat Bellini

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Lector: Pam Watts

Eucharistic Minister:

Johnette Grubaugh

Marguerite Hawthorne

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Lector: Philip Verhalen

Eucharistic Ministers:

Colette Hines

Roger Opiela

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
*Mike Shaw	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	Laura Wood
Sue Holt	Paul Gonzalez
Todd Holt	Rousell Morris
Gerald Kennie	Kenneth Hudson
Roy Hunter	Marilyn Hines
Hector Garza	Mary Rike
Miguel Aranda	Francisco Chaidez
Chris Wood	Hailey Blunt
Brandy Campbell	Justin Rector
Melvin Williams	Mary Dixon
Brad McEnley	Jim Cordell
*Bryan McCracken	

### **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 - February 2026**

**Saturday, February 7 9:00am** – Elva Vanderpool  
(Requested by Jeanette Murray)

**Saturday, February 7 5:00pm** – For the Parishioners of ICC  
(Requested by ICC)

**Tuesday, February 10-** For Theresa Murray  
(Requested by Jeanette Murray)

**Wednesday, February 11-** For the Repose of the Soul of  
Polly Welch Werline  
(Requested by Jo Miller Family)

**Thursday, February 12-** For Edward Roy  
(Requested by Jackie Traylor)

**Sunday, February 15-** For the Parishioners of ICC  
(Requested by ICC)

**Tuesday, February 17-** For the Repose of the Souls of  
Bereaved Members of the Altar Society  
(Requested by Ladies Altar Society)

**Wednesday, February 18-** For the Repose of the Soul of  
Karen Cartier  
(Requested by Troy & Colette Hines)

**Thursday, February 19-** For Janet Seblini  
(Requested by Jackie Traylor)

**Saturday, February 21-** For the Parishioners of ICC  
(Requested by ICC)

**Tuesday, February 24-** For Fr. Juan Perez  
(Requested by Jeanette Murray)

**Wednesday, February 25-** For the Repose of the Soul of  
Polly Welch Werline  
(Requested by Jo Miller Family)

**Thursday, February 26-** For Pauline Mallory  
(Requested by Jackie Traylor)

**Saturday, February 28-** For the Repose of the Soul of  
Mary Saner  
(Requested by Ladies' Altar Society)

**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 February 2026**

### **For children with incurable diseases**

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

# A Message from Msgr. Zach

Dear Friends,

In the Gospel of Matthew 5:13–16, Jesus speaks to His disciples in words that are simple yet powerful: “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world.” These images would have been very familiar to the families gathered around Him on the hillside. Salt was a daily necessity in every household, used to flavor food and preserve it. Light was essential in homes that depended on small lamps to push back the darkness after sunset. By choosing these images, Jesus connects faith not to something distant or abstract, but to everyday family life.

When Jesus calls His followers “salt,” He is reminding us that our presence matters. In a family, even a small amount of salt can change the taste of a whole meal. Likewise, small acts of love, patience, and forgiveness can transform the atmosphere of a home. Parents know this well. A kind word after a long day, a calm response instead of anger, or a shared prayer before meals can preserve peace and strengthen relationships. When faith is lived quietly but consistently in family life, it gives flavor to everything else we do.

Jesus also warns that salt can lose its taste. This happens when families become so busy or distracted that faith is pushed to the margins. When prayer disappears, when Sunday worship becomes optional, or when values are shaped more by the world than by the Gospel, faith can lose its “saltiness.” The call of Jesus invites families to remain rooted in Him so that their witness does not fade. Faith, like salt, must remain active and present to be effective.

The image of light speaks just as clearly to family life. Jesus says that a light is not meant to be hidden but placed on a lampstand to give light to all. In the home, families are called to be places of light. Children learn what faith looks like not only from words, but from what they see lived out each day. When parents pray together, show compassion to those in need, and speak truth with love, they shine a light that guides their children. Even imperfect families can reflect God’s light when they try again each day to live the Gospel.

Light is especially important in times of difficulty. Every family experiences moments of darkness—illness, financial stress, misunderstandings, or grief. In such moments, faith becomes a guiding lamp. Trust in God, shared prayer, and mutual support help families see beyond the present struggle. By turning to Christ, families discover that His light is stronger than any darkness they face.

Jesus concludes by saying, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Family life itself becomes a form of evangelization. A household marked by love, respect, forgiveness, and service becomes a quiet but powerful witness to neighbors, friends, and the wider community. The goal is not to draw attention to ourselves, but to point others to God. In living as salt and light, families fulfill a beautiful mission. Through ordinary daily moments—meals, conversations, challenges, and celebrations—Christ continues to season the world with hope and to brighten it with His love.

Your friend in Jesus,  
Msgr. Zach

*Feb 8 Responsorial: Psalm 112*

**The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.**

*Feb 19 Responsorial: Psalm 119*

**Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

# Community Happenings . . .

## COLLECTING OLD PALMS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

If you have any old palms, please bring them to the church between now and Feb 15 and drop in the box provided in the foyer. These palms will be burned to make the ashes for the Ash Wednesday Mass on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Ladies' Altar Society Chili Lunch February 11

Members of the Ladies' Altar Society will be selling tickets for their annual chili lunch after all Masses. Tickets are \$15 each and include chili, drink and a home-made dessert.

Tickets are for dine-in or take out at the Parish Center. The chili lunch will be on February 11, 2026 from 11:00am to 2:00pm.



## A Special Thank You from Catholic Charities

"My heart-felt thanks to you (Msgr Zach) and all in Jefferson for their generosity in the second collection for Catholic Charities. Your giving hearts will bless the lives of many and I am most grateful."

Sincerely,  
Kathy & Staff

## Ash Wednesday Mass Times

Ash Wednesday is February 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be two Masses at 9:00am and 6:00pm.

Ash Wednesday is an obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

## Bishop's Appeal Commitment Weekend Feb 7-8

The Bishop's Appeal for Ministries 1<sup>st</sup> Commitment weekend is this weekend, February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. A video will be shown from the bishop. Afterwards, pledge cards will be passed out for you to prayerfully consider donating to this appeal.

## MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION FEB 14<sup>TH</sup>

St. Joseph is hosting a Mardi Gras Celebration on Feb 14 from 7:00pm-11:00pm in their parish hall. Tickets will be sold after the Masses this weekend, Feb 7-8. Tickets are \$15 per person.

## NO DAILY MASS WEEK OF FEB 9<sup>TH</sup> -13<sup>TH</sup>

All of the priests will be on a retreat the week of Feb 9-13, 2026. Therefore there will not be Mass or Communion Services offered any day that week.



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>

## Priests for Tomorrow Update for 2025

The 2025 Goal for the Priests for Tomorrow is **\$150,000**.

Paid to date is **\$78,210.00**

Pledged so far: **\$111,240.00** which is 52.14% of our goal and 70.31% of pledged amount

Pledged remaining balance: **\$33,030.00**.

# Grow in Faith

## *Why Catholics Stand, Kneel and Sit at Mass*

Most Catholics do these gestures automatically: Stand. Sit. Kneel. But very few know why we do them. Yet every posture at Mass is a theological statement, a physical expression of what the soul believes.

### *1. When we stand, we are a people ready to act*

Standing is the posture of respect, readiness, and resurrection. In ancient Israel, people stood before a king. At Mass, we stand because we are before the King of Kings. We are ready to listen and respond to God's Word.

This is why we stand:

- At the start of Mass
- During the Gospel
- During the Creed
- During the Lord's Prayer

Standing says:

*"Speak, Lord. Your servant is ready."*

### *2. When we sit, we are a people who receive and listen*

Sitting is the posture of a disciple learning from the Master.

We sit because: We are listening to the Liturgy of the Word. We are reflecting interiorly. We are letting the Word sink into the heart.

This is why we sit:

- During the First & Second Reading
- During the Homily
- During the Offertory

Sitting says:

*"Lord, teach me."*

### *3. When we kneel, we are a people who worship*

Kneeling is the most misunderstood posture, yet the most powerful. In the Bible, people kneel only before God.

Not angels. Not kings. Only God.

So Catholics kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer because the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Kneeling expresses Adoration, Humility, and Total Surrender.

This is why we kneel:

- During the Consecration
- After the Holy, Holy, Holy
- Before receiving Communion (in many places)
- During silent adoration

Kneeling is the only fitting posture when Heaven touches earth.

Kneeling says:

*"Lord, You alone are my God."*

## *St. Valentine – February 14th*

Saint Valentine is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love."

Not very much is known about his life. One common story about St. Valentine is that in one point of his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the Judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put Valentine and his faith to the test.

St. Valentine was presented with the judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for Valentine. Placing his hands onto her eyes, Valentine restored the child's vision. Judge Asterius was humbled and obeyed Valentine's requests. Asterius broke all the idols around his house, fasted for three days and became baptized, along with his family and entire 44 member household. The now faithful judge then freed all of his Christian inmates.

St. Valentine was later arrested again for continuing to try to convert people to Christianity. He was sent to Rome under the emperor Claudius Gothicus. The story tells that St. Valentine was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes. When Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity, Claudius became enraged and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded.

St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and Christianity and was executed outside the Flaminian Gate on February 14, 269. Other depictions of St. Valentine's arrests tell that he secretly married couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war. Another variation of the legend of St. Valentine says he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine."

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14.



## 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 [iccciefferson@sbc2global.net](mailto:iccciefferson@sbc2global.net)

# Marian Feast Days February, 2026



**WEDNESDAY, FEB 4TH  
ROSARY @ 6:00 P.M**

**WEDNESDAY, FEB 11TH  
ROSARY @ 6:00 P.M**

**WEDNESDAY, FEB 11TH  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

**WEDNESDAY, FEB 18TH  
ROSARY @ 6:00 P.M**

**WEDNESDAY, FEB 25TH  
ROSARY @ 6:00 P.M**

**WEDNESDAY, FEB 25TH  
OUR LADY OF VICTORY**