REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER CLARK

A NEW CHURCH YEAR

On next Sunday, November 29, we begin a new church worship year with the First Sunday of Advent. Today, November 22, is the Feast of Christ the King, which brings to completion this current church year and our reading of the Gospel of Matthew. The year reaches a climax with the reading of Matthew 25, the Parable of the Shepherd King. One of the most important readings of the Scriptures, in this passage Jesus makes clear his presence among us especially in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the stranger, and the prisoner. Remarkably, Jesus says that whenever we help another, we are helping him. When we do not help another, we are refusing to come to his aid. Notice that those who help others do not need to know that are helping Jesus nor does their intention have to be to help Jesus. Just by helping another, we are serving Jesus. This passage underscores just how real the presence of God in Jesus is among us. He is truly Emmanuel; God is with us.

The Advent and Christmas seasons celebrate God's presence among us in Jesus. As we remember the birth of Jesus as a baby in the manger, we also desire to have a deeper understanding that his presence is in everyone and everything. Jesus did not leave us when he ascended into heaven. He became present to us in a new way. He filled the universe with this presence. Specifically, he chose to be most present in those who are in need. Ella Fitzgerald sang a song that said, "It's not the little things you do at Christmas time, but it's the Christmas things you do all year through." Advent and Christmas plant in our hearts the deep desire to recognize the presence of Jesus in the 365 days of 2027.

With the First Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary. The Lectionary is the book of Bible readings that are read at Mass during the year. The Sunday readings follow a three-year cycle, A, B, and C, Cycle A focuses on Matthew, Cycle B on Mark, and Cycle C on Luke. Readings from John are found in all three cycles. The Gospel of Mark, our gospel for the coming year, is the first of the gospels to be written. Mark was written in the early 70's, Matthew and Luke in the 90's, and John around 100. Mark wrote his gospel to encourage a Christian community who were suffering persecution. He wrote to remind them that Jesus himself was persecuted. God used the sufferings of Christ to bring salvation just as he will use our sufferings to save us. God does not always heal our sufferings and those of the world, but he always redeems them. Mark's Gospel teaches that Jesus is the Suffering Messiah who became the Glorified Messiah. God will transform what we suffer into our glory.

Advent is a season of joyful expectation and the bright light of hope amid the darkness of the world. Christan hope is not optimism or a positive outlook on life; it is a trust that God's promise of suffering being transformed into glory is real. If God said it, he will do it. My Chrisitan hope tells me that no matter how impossible it seems, no matter how little evidence there is, no matter how many times I have been disappointed in the past, God promise will be fulfilled. He will not disappoint. If it is delayed, wait for it. The book of Job says, "I know that my Vindicator lives!" A vindicator is one who shows that we were right. One day, God will reveal that those who waited for him were right. They were right to put all their trust in God no matter how futile it seemed. Hope does not disappoint.

Take full advantage of the season of hope and light. Renew your spirit during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Let the lights, the songs, and the good cheer of the season fill you up with hope grounded in God's promises in Jesus. Become a light of hope to others by encouraging them even on the darkest of days. Come, Lord, Jesus! Jesus, our Hope and our Light!

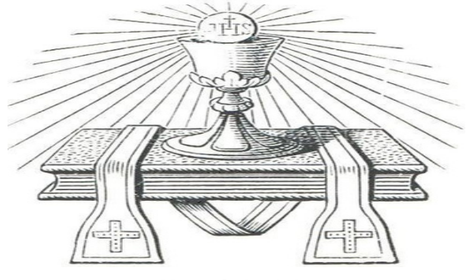


OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Sunday November 22, 2026

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
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Office Phone: (225) 775-7067 - Information: (225) 775-7062
Fax: (225) 775-0775 - Email: clarktf2002@yahoo.com
Web SiteAddress: www.immaculateconceptionbr.org
Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church
serving the family of God and feeding the soul of the Community.

PASTOR: Father Thomas F. Clark, S.J. .....(225) 775-7067/(225) 773-2036
INRESIDENCE: Father Fred Kammer,S.J.....(504) 343-9195
SECRETARY: Renae Welsh/John Edwards.....(225) 775-7067
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:
COORDINATOR: Gloria DeRouen .....(225) 936-8162
ASSISTANT TO COORDINATOR: Stephanie Yearby .....(214) 881-5663
OCIA COORDINATOR: Cathy Glover .....(225) 772-6099
MLK/SU CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER:
Joyce Johnson - Wilfred Johnson ....(225) 775-8691



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: *4:00 PM*
Sunday Mass: *8:00AM and 10:30AM*

Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel
12:10 PM
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

We wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving Week! Let us be intentional and focused on being grateful for all God's gifts to us. Thank God for the little things, the ordinary everyday blessings that we sometime take for granted. Blessings on all our children and youth who are off from school this week, may they be safe and be refreshed. Traveling blessings for all who are enroute to family and friends. May there be no problems with air travel. May God bless us all in the way that we need to be blessed at this time in our lives.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

We will celebrate Mass on Thanksgiving morning at 9:00 AM. There is no better way to begin the holiday that at the celebration whose name is Thanksgiving, the Eucharist. We will gather around the Table of the Lord before we gather around our family tables. Let us be nourished with the Word and with the Body and Blood of the Lord.

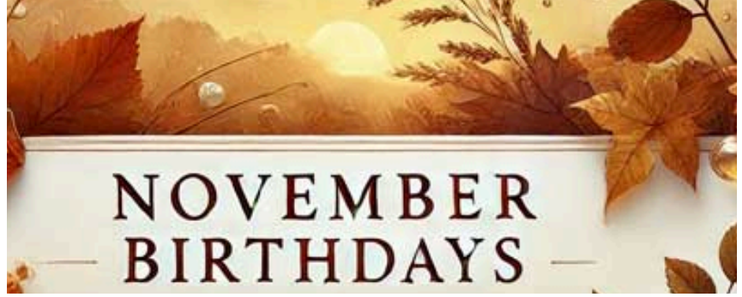
JOHN B. CADE LIBRARY EXHIBIT ON THE BLACK WOMEN OF THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT

The John B. Cade Library at Southern University is presenting an exhibit on the Black women of the Six Triple Eight who solved the problem of the back logged mail during World War II. The exhibit will last until the end of November. The exhibit marks the beginning of a signature campaign to have a commemorative stamp in honor of these women who never received recognition for their accomplishment nor a parade when they returned home. HBCUs are joining in this effort and the HBCUs of the SWAC are highlighting their alumnae.



SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Get ready for a sprinkle of Christmas magic at our Gingerbread Wonderland Christmas Party on **Sunday, December 13, from 12:30-2:30 PM** in the Parish Activity Center. Everyone is invited. Mr. and Mrs. Santa will make a special guest appearance and be available for photographs. Come join us as we rejoice on Gaudete Sunday at the nearness of the Lord! On the morning of December 13, PSR families are invited to join together for a special Christmas activity during the regular PSR time.



KOURTNEY BUTLER 11/23
LINDA BROWN 11/23
REGINA WILSON 11/23
RYAN KNIGHT 11/24
ANDRES AUGUSTINE 11/25
JACQUE HILL, JR. 11/25
REBECCA JOHNSON 11/25
RAVEN JONES 11/25
TONY BARTHELEMY 11/26
CHERYL EDWARDS 11/26
SHANNON HARRIS 11/26
RENEE MCGEE 11/26
RANDALL THOMAS, JR. 11/26
SYLVINA THOMPSON 11/26
VIRGINIA GREEN 11/27
INDIA HAYES 11/27
JONATHAN VICTOR 11/27
TASHARVIS ELLISON 11/28
SHAZLY JONES 11/28
VERA DECUIR 11/29
D'LANA FRANCOIS 11/29
KAREN TUGGLE 11/29
ALBERT JOHNSON, SR. 11/30
BERNARD WASHINGTON 11/30



RUNOFF ELECTION ON SATURDAY, DECEMEBR 12

The elections are not over! A runoff election will take place on Saturday, December 12. Important elections for congress, school board, justice of the peace, and more are still waiting to be decided. Please go to geauxvote and click on My Ballot to see what races are on your ballot as they are different for various locations. This election is as important as the November 3 election. Let's finish the job!

Weekly Mass Readings
November 22nd- November 29th

Sunday
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Ezekiel 34: 11-12,15-17
1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28
Matthew 25: 31-46

Monday
Revelations 14:1-3, 4b-5
Luke 21: 1-4

Tuesday
Memorial of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Rrevelation 14: 14-19
Luke 21: 5-11

Wednesday
Revelation 15: 1-4
Luke 21: 12-19

Thursday
Thanksgiving Day
Sirach 50: 22-24
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Luke 17: 11-19

Friday
Revelations 20: 1-4, 11-21:2
Luke 21: 29-33

Saturday
Revelation 22: 1-7
Luke 21: 34-36

Sunday
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b: 64: 2-7
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 33-37