

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 18th, 2018

WHY THERE SHOULD BE SILENCE IN CHURCH

Holy Mother Church proclaims it to be so. Paragraph 45 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states: "Even before the celebration itself, it is commendable that silence be observed in the Church, in the Sacristy, in the Vesting Room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the Sacred Action in a devout and fitting manner."

It is disrespectful. Talking in Church is considered disrespectful of Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament. We are in the House of God, in the Presence of God Himself in the Tabernacle, not in a coffee shop. All our thoughts and words should be directed to Him.

It teaches disrespect. When children see adults talking, giggling, and laughing in Church, especially before, during and after the Holy Mass, instead of in prayer or in silent meditation it teaches them that it is acceptable behavior, thus further eroding respect for the Blessed Sacrament in the next generation. And it is hypocritical for parents to "shush" their children while they themselves continue to talk.

It is the Sacred and Holy of House of Almighty God. It is the Lord's Sacred House, which Jesus Christ taught was "a house of prayer" (Matthew 21:13) and thus should be used according to its purpose. It is unholy to turn the Holy House of God into a man-made place of socializing or gossiping. The Holy House of God, where dwells the Real and True Presence of God, must be treated with ongoing reverence. Talking in Church is a violation of justice against Almighty God, for Whom we should have the greatest reverence.

It is selfish. Talking while in the Church is a selfish act and it is a violation of the virtue of justice against neighbors who are trying to pray and meditate.

It is a violation of the virtue of Charity. Talking in Church is a violation of charity, since as Christians we should be going "out of ourselves" to look after others first. Unnecessary talk in the Church is a total disrespect for one's brothers and sisters in Christ who are trying to pray, and against the faithful who seek to grow in their spiritual lives. Talking in Church falls short of manifesting love, charity, kindness and self-control, which are fruits of the Most Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22) if a person crassly and knowingly disregards others trying to pray, or worst of all does so with malice or contempt, it could even be a mortal sin against charity.

Pray for a return to respect and reverence in the Holy House of God

- Monday – March 19th** – 5:00 PM – Rosary for our Country
- Tuesday – March 20th** – 6:30 AM Mass – Special Intentions
– 6:30 PM Confirmation Mass with Bishop Deshotel
- Wednesday – March 21st** – 6:30 AM Mass – Special Intentions
– 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Adult Choir Practice
6:00 PM – 7:00PM – CCD Classes,
First Confessions (**Last Class**)
- Thursday – March 22nd** – 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Children's Choir Practice
– 6:30 AM Mass – Brian T. Ortego, Lois Blanchard
Anniversary Mass
– 6:30PM – 8:30PM Adoration Thursdays
- Friday – March 23rd** – 5:30 PM Mass – Emile Richard Family,
Grace Richard
✠ *Followed by Stations of the Cross* ✠
- Saturday – March 24th**
4:00 PM Mass – Lois & Claude Blanchard, Jack Thibodeaux, Poke Courville
& Deceased Family, Aubrey Soileau, Mitzie Valin Brooks, J.O Beauxis & Family,
Ronald Carrier, For the Souls in Purgatory
- Sunday – March 25th**
7:00 AM – Mass – Brian T. Ortego, Clyde Soileau, Frank S. Fontenot & Family
9:00 AM – Mass – For the People
11:00 AM (Holy Trinity) Mass – Parishioners

Stewardship: 3/11 \$1,934.00
Thank you for your generosity!



HOLY WEEK LOCATION CHANGES

Please make note of the following changes for Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

- **Holy Thursday*** (March 29th) – 6:30 PM at Immaculate Conception (Prev. HT)
- **Good Friday*** (March 30th) – 3:00 PM at Holy Trinity (Prev. IC)
- **Easter Vigil*** (Saturday evening, March 31st) – 8:00 PM (IC)
- **Easter Sunday* (April 1st) – Regular Sunday Mass Schedule** ·
7:00AM (IC), 9:00AM (IC) & 11:00 AM (HT)

OC NEWS

The Scholastic Book Fair for grades 6-12 is being held this week in the high school library. Parents and family members are invited to support the book fair and encourage reading! Shopping hours are 7:15 am to 3:15 pm. You can also visit the Book Fair Homepage for information: <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/opelousascatholicschool>.

Congratulations to the OC Junior Beta Club for outstanding participation in the Junior Beta State Convention. The OC Junior Beta Club's Quiz Bowl Team made it all the way to the finals at the state convention!

CENTENNIAL NEWS



▪ **First Catholic Hospital** - On March 17, 1908, the first Catholic hospital in Southwest Louisiana was dedicated and opened in Lake Charles. Fr. Cramers, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Lake Charles, approached the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word for help to begin a hospital in the area. The sisters had recently established a hospital in Galveston, Texas. In 1908, "St. Patrick Sanitarium" was opened with 50 beds to serve the needs of the region. Later, the name would change to St. Patrick's Hospital, and is today known as CHRISTUS St. Patrick. 110 years later, the hospital continues to make known the healing work of Christ.

▪ **Second Centennial Deanery Mass** will be this week at St. Landry Catholic Church, our 2nd oldest canonically established Church in the Diocese, on March 23 at 6:30pm in Opelousas. All Clergy and Laity throughout the whole Diocese are invited to attend this Mass and reception with our Bishop Deshotel as we continue to honor and celebrate this Centennial Jubilee Year of our Diocese. This is an exciting year and it is good for all of us from all parts of the Diocese of Lafayette to come together for the Centennial Events to reflect upon our past and recommit to the future that God is leading us into. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

▪ **Jubilee Bible Marathon** – In honor of the Centennial of the Diocese of Lafayette 1918-2018, the Holy Bible will be read from cover to cover in the Square of St. Martinville beginning Wednesday, April 4th at 12:30pm to Sunday, April 8th at 4:30pm - 100 hours for 100 years!!! All are invited to come and participate in this Proclamation of the Foundation of our Faith. Come and marinate in the word. For more information or to sign up as a Reader, call Fr. Michael Champagne at 337- 394-6550. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as much as possible of this extraordinary event.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Today we hear the Gospel story of Jesus inviting his disciples into a great mystery with curious pronouncements: Those who love their lives just as they are will lose them. If a grain of wheat dies, it will bear much fruit...What does Jesus mean? The climactic event of Jesus' passion and death is drawing closer; a time when the great confrontation between Jesus and the powers of darkness take place. When Jesus is lifted up, he will draw all to himself. The Christian steward knows life can't be lived in complacency. We are called to die to self, bear more fruit, be raised up with Jesus. Jesus brings discomfort to those who are comfortable. Jesus urges us to give witness in his name. How will we respond?

03 - 24 - 4:00 PM	03 - 25 - 7:00 AM	03 - 25 - 9:00 AM
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Ruth Montgomery	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Sheila Carrier	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Rick Ortego
READER Jan Terhune (Reader S) Carl Fontenot (Reader C)	READER Donna Dardeau (Reader S) Norma Guillory (Reader C)	READER Yvette Howard (Reader S) Karl Reiners (Reader C)
USHERS Marlene Beauxis Marcus Decou Merlin Valin Herman Bidstrup	USHERS Phillip Dardeau Pauline Vidrine Allen Vidrine Donnie Vidrine	USHERS Gregory Doucet Jessie Howard Benny Howard Gary Wilson
ALTAR SERVER Matthew Vidrine	ALTAR SERVER Elliot Landreneau	ALTAR SERVER Michael Darbonne

CATECHISM YEAR

The diocese requires a certain number of hours each year per grade level. We will have successfully reached that number by Wednesday, March 21st. This will be the last catechism class for grades 1st through 10th for this school year. Thank you to the teachers and students for a great year.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION EVENTS

- **First Penance** with Fr. Matthew will be during the children's regularly scheduled catechism class Wednesday, March 21st
- **First Holy Communion Practice** will be Saturday, May 12th from 10:00AM – 11:00AM Parents should make every effort to attend practice with your child that morning.
- **First Holy Communion Mass** will be Sunday, May 13th during the regularly scheduled 9AM Mass.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

We are now accepting donations for Easter Flowers in Memory of Loved ones. If you'd like to make a donation, please put it in the collection basket in an envelope labeled Easter Flowers.

CHOIR NEWS

Our Church Choir is starting to prepare for Holy Week and the Lenten and Easter Seasons. If anyone is interested in joining and singing with the Choir for these holy seasons then please join us for practice March 17th from 9am to 10am. You don't need to know how to read music, just bring your heart and voice!

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION NORTH DEANERY

The Diocese of Lafayette Centennial Mass for the North Deanery will be celebrated on Friday, March 23 at 6:30 PM at St. Landry Catholic Church. Bishop Douglas Deshotel will be the main celebrant and homilist will be Bishop Jarrell. Several priests of the diocese will concelebrate. The St. Landry Church choir will be organizing the music for the evening. We want to invite all singers in the area to join in the celebration. Music will be provided for all who wish to sing.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to **John C. Reed and Lauren A. Deranger** who were married Saturday, March 10th, 2018 here at Immaculate Conception. Fr. Gary Schexnayder presided at their wedding Mass.

LOCAL BIBLE STUDY

Come, Lord Jesus! Is a weekly journey to study and meditate on the Sunday Gospels. We are blessed at Immaculate Conception to have three thriving Come, Lord Jesus! Groups already formed. Everyone is welcome and there is always room for additional people to join. Please call the office with any questions you may have. Our meeting times are as follow:

Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM – In the parish Hall
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM – In the parish Hall

Thursday morning at 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at Ms. Jane Dupre's home
You can reach her on her cell phone for directions at 337-945-6881



WEEKLY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS EACH DAY

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sunday: Rev. Francois Sainte-Marie, MIC **Thursday:** Rev. Nicholas Schiro, SJ

Monday: Rev. Garrett Savoie **Friday:** Rev. Paul Schott, SJ

Tuesday: Rev. William Schambough **Saturday:** Rev. Clinton Sensat

Wednesday: Rev. Gary Schexnayder



PRAYER IN DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE

God our Father, we give you thanks for the gift of marriage: the bond of life and love, and the font of the family. The love of husband and wife enriches your Church with children, fills the world with a multitude of spiritual fruitfulness and service, and is the sign of the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, for his Church. The grace of Jesus flowed forth at Cana at the request of the Blessed Mother. May your Son, through the intercession of Mary, pour out upon us a new measure of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as we join with all people of good will to promote and protect the unique beauty of marriage. May your Holy Spirit enlighten our society

to treasure the heroic love of husband and wife, and guide our leaders to sustain and protect the singular place of mothers and fathers in the lives of their children. Father, we ask that our prayers be joined to those of the Virgin Mary, that your Word may transform our service so as to safeguard the incomparable splendor of marriage. We ask all these things through Christ our Lord, Amen.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Connie Benoit, Jeffrey Stelly, Dr. Amy Franchebois Bairnsfather, Frieda Mayeux, Ray Levaha, Fr. Albert Nunez, Margaret Lafleur, Mcall Thibodeaux, Claudia Abell, Chip Ardoin, Vicki Chelette, Maurice Francois,

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

Prayer Blankets can benefit those suffering in body, mind, or spirit.



For those interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Jerry Mayeux at 308-3325 or Jane Dupre at 945-6881 if you have fabric you'd like to donate, it would be appreciated.

If you or a loved one would like a prayer blanket please call the ladies mentioned above or the church office.

MONDAY ROSARY

All are invited to a group rosary every Monday at 5:00 pm in church at Immaculate Conception. Prayers will be offered for our country and an end to violence in the world. Invite your friends and family.



MONTH OF MARCH:
Norma Plattsmier, Merryle Soileau
Karen Ducote, Diane Wartelle



SURVIVOR OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP

The death of a loved one is never easy and grief is experienced differently for everyone. The Jacob Crouch Suicide Prevention Services and the Office of Marriage and Family Life have formed a support group especially tailored for survivors of suicide. This group provides a safe place for those who have lost a loved one to suicide to share their struggles, experiences, and pain as they struggle to regain hope and strength. The group is facilitated by a licensed counselor and is open to all survivors of suicide over the age of 18 and meets on two evenings a month. Please call Kelley Chapman at 337-261-5653 for more information or to register

DIVORCE RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Office of Marriage and Family Life offers a 6-week divorce recovery program for those who have suffered from divorce/separation. Please visit our website, www.diola.org/divorcerecovery to register or to find out more information.

RETROUVILLE WEEKEND

Retrouville is a program for troubled marriages. The weekend provides a safe setting; encouraging couples to learn communication in marriage in a respectful manner. Visit the website for more information and to register www.helpourmarriage.com.

PROPER ATTIRE FOR THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Short pants, tank tops, flip flops, and tattered clothing are inappropriate for Sacred Worship of the Almighty Triune God. Thank you for cooperating in the effort to teach and return to modesty and reverence in the Holy House of Almighty God. Please be attentive to children's attire; we must teach the youth the importance of Sacred Reverence. Adults and children must never wear revealing tops, shorts, or tattered clothing while in God's Holy House. **"Certain fashions will be introduced which will offend our Lord very much..."** *Our Lady of Fatima in 1917*



WELCOME NEW PARISHIONER!

Welcome to Immaculate Conception Church! We are very glad you are here and pray that you become active in our vibrant church community where we love God, one another, our community, and our world with our thoughts and actions. If you are new to the parish, please complete a registration form which can be found on our website immaculate-conception-washington.org under "About, Contact Us" or you may come into the office. Please return the form either in the collection basket or to the parish office.

PARISH BULLETIN INFORMATION: Contact the bulletin editor (parish secretary) or bring information to the rectory. All information must be in by Monday. If your family or business would like to help support the bulletin by taking an ad, or remember a loved one "In Memoir" Please call: John or Peter Watson at 985-868-6804.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK



517 E. Prudhomme St.
942-7551