

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Third Sunday of Lent

March 24th, 2019

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

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

- Monday – March 25th** – 5:00 PM – **Rosary for Our Country**
 – 5:45 PM – **Choir Practice**
- Tuesday – March 26th** – 6:30 AM Mass – Special Intentions
- Wednesday – March 27th** – 6:30 AM Mass – Special Intentions
 – 1:00 PM – **Rosary Making Class**
 – 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Eucharistic Adoration**
 – 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **CCD 9th & 10th Grade Class (Final Class)**
- Thursday – March 28th** – 6:30 AM Mass – Special Intentions
- Friday – March 29th** – 5:30 PM Mass – Lois Blanchard Anniversary Mass
 ✠ **Followed by Stations of the Cross** ✠
- Saturday – March 30th**

4:00 PM Mass – Brian T.Ortego, McKenzie Dupre, Claude & Lois Blanchard, Lionel & Belle Lafleur, Herman Hebert, M/M JB Hebert, M/M Albert Ortego, Sr., Aubrey Soileau, Daphne Simoneaux Janice Olivier, Poke Courville & Deceased Family, Charles Ruffino,

- Sunday – March 31st Fourth Sunday of Lent**
7:00 AM Mass –Cline & Frankie Fontenot, Clyde Soileau, Carlton J. & Mona F. Sylvester Olide Vidrine & Family,
9:00 AM Mass – For the People
10:00 AM CCD (Last Class)
11:00 AM (Holy Trinity)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

In today's Gospel Jesus offers his parable about last chances. The fig tree will have one last chance to bear fruit before it is cut down and destroyed. Good stewards realize that, like the fig tree, they are endowed with God-given gifts that are meant to "bear fruit" for God and neighbor. God has legitimate expectations of them. They also realize they do not know how much time they have left before the gardener returns for an accounting of their fruitfulness. How are we using our God-given gifts? How might we use our gifts to bear more fruit? The answer requires some urgency.

<p>3/30/2019 (4pm) EUCCHARISTIC MIN Clara Darbonne Jane Thibodeaux Eveline Soileau READER Madison Ardoin USHERS Raynold Soileau Marcus Decou Merlin Valin Volunteer ALTAR SERVER Matthew Vidrine</p>	<p>3/31/2019 (7AM) EUCCHARISTIC MIN Pauline Vidrine Mary Alice Blanchard Freida Dejean READER Norma Guillory USHERS Philip Dardeau Nicky Dejean Donnie Vidrine Allen Vidrine ALTAR SERVER Elliot Landreneau</p>	<p>3/31/2019 (9AM) EUCCHARISTIC MIN Pam Landreneau Jessie Howard Jim Soileau READER Yvette Howard USHERS Bruce Courville Gregory Doucet Benny Howard Gary Wilson ALTAR SERVER Michael Darbonne</p>
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OC CORNER

Congratulations to the OC Boys' Basketball Team and Coach Jeff Dupre for reaching the State Semifinals in Lake Charles, the first time in 40 years that the Vikings have made it this far in the basketball playoffs!

Please complete a very simple task for OCS each day! The school is listed with the Gulf Coast Bank's Community Rewards Program. Through March 29, you can register/vote for OCS in their contest where the top 10 non-profit organizations will win thousands of dollars. On first-time voting, you must enter your email address to have the access ID emailed to you. Once the ID is emailed, go to www.gulfbank.com/vote to cast your vote **DAILY** for OCS! We are in the final stretch! Ever considered a Catholic education for your child? Find out more by going to www.OCSvikings.com to look under Parent Resources and then Admissions. Financial aid may be available to those who qualify.

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.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Telling the story of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus was an important part of the early Christian's experience. In the late fourth century, people began making pilgrimages to the Holy Land, where they would follow the path that Jesus took to Calvary. During the Middle Ages, when outbreaks of war made it impossible for people to travel to the Holy Land, people created a Via Dolorosa, or "Sorrowful Way," in their towns and villages. They erected paintings or sculptures depicting the Passion of Christ along a processional route or inside a church. By the mid-18th century, the number of stations was fixed at 14 and the devotion known as the Stations of the Cross, also called the Way of the Cross, became widespread. JOIN US, every Friday of Lent as we pray the Stations of the Cross immediately following the 5:30 PM daily Mass.

SPRING ANTIQUE FAIR & YARD SALE

Many visitors come to Washington for the Spring Antique Fair. Parking will be available at our church for a suggested \$5.00 donation in an effort to defray parish expenses. If you can volunteer the weekend of April 12th to welcome visitors, cook and serve, bake and sell desserts, direct parking, etc., then please contact Ms. Norma Plattsmier or the office at 826-7396

HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

- **Holy Thursday** (April 18th) – 7:00 PM Followed by prayer at (IC)
- **Good Friday Service** (April 19th) – 3:00 PM at (IC)
- **Easter Vigil** (Saturday evening, April 20th) – 8:00 PM at (IC)
- **Easter Sunday** (April 21st)
 7:00 AM (IC), 9:00 AM (IC) & 11:00 AM (HT)



FIRST COMMUNION EVENTS



- **First Penance** with Fr. Matthew **to be announced**
- **First Holy Communion Mass** will be Sunday, May 12th during the regularly scheduled 9AM Mass here at Immaculate Conception Church.

DIOCESAN EVENTS:

Men of the Cross Retreat



Is a silent retreat hosted by Father Michael Champagne and the Community of Jesus Crucified. This silent retreat is for men who desire a deeper understanding of the Christian meaning of suffering. It will be held at Our Lady of Sorrows Retreat Center in St. Martinville, beginning at 6pm on Friday, April 5, 2019, and lasting through Sunday, April 7, 2019, at 3pm. For more information or to register, please contact Joey Dickerson at 337-526-1812.

Annual Mother's Day of Reflection

Will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at the Immaculate Center, 1408 Carmel Drive in Lafayette. The day will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 2:00 PM. The cost for the day is \$25.00, which includes lunch and materials for the day. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Douglas Deshotel. Pre-registration is required no later than April 30, 2019. Visit www.diola.org/marriage to register.



Women of Grace Retreat

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Lafayette, La. will be the host of the National Women of Grace Retreat June 21-23, 2019. Join Johnnette Benkovic Williams and women from around the country for a weekend of formation, fellowship, and fun! Discover God's plan for you as we explore our theme, "Embracing the Holy Duet: Mary and the Holy Spirit." Speakers include Johnnette Benkovic Williams, Father Christ Decker, Jack Williams, Thomas K. Sullivan and Kathleen Beckman. For more information or to register visit: <https://www.womenofgrace.com/>



OUR PARISH LIFE:

Monday's at 5:00 PM - Group 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.



Monday's at 5:45 PM - Church Choir Practice



Do you love to sing? Join our Choir! Enjoy friendship with others as you serve our parish. We need you and welcome you both "veterans" and new members! Come for a practice or two and give us a try!

Wednesday's at 1:00 PM - Rosary Making Class

The purpose of the Rosary Making Ministry is to make beaded cord rosaries, have Father bless them, and give them to ill people at the Opelousas General Hospital, the men's shelter, the local nursing homes, and for the second grade communion students, at both Immaculate Conception Church and Holy Trinity. Ruth Montgomery and Pauline Vidrine will oversee the rosary making at the Immaculate Conception Church. *Starting in April the classes will be every first and third Wednesday of the month.*



Wednesday's at 6:00 PM - Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

We will begin having Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday evening from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM.



Weekly Come, Lord Jesus! Groups

Come, Lord Jesus!

Is a weekly journey to study and meditate on the Sunday Gospels. We are blessed at Immaculate Conception to have four thriving Come, Lord Jesus! Groups already formed. Everyone is welcome and there is always room for additional people to join.

Tuesday: 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM – In the parish Hall
Wednesday: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM – In the parish Hall
Thursday: 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM – Mrs. Jane Dupre's Home contact her at 337-945-6881



For Parent Intercrossors & CLJ Youth

Wednesday: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM – Katie Fontenot's home contact her at 308-3541
 *The youth group meets separately from the adults. If you have a teen who would like to join or *Just come by to see what it's all about give Katie Fontenot a call at 308-3541*



PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

The purpose of the Prayer Blanket Ministry is to cover the recipient in prayers. Members of this ministry sew blankets in their homes while praying for those who will be receiving them. The Prayer Blanket will be blessed by Father and is a reminder of our parish's prayer for those who receive them. Blankets can benefit those suffering in body, mind, or spirit. 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.

PERIODIC UPDATE

Help us update our parish sick list. If you yourself or someone you care about should be added to our 2019 sick list in our parish bulletin, please contact the rectory so we can begin a roster. As a reminder the sick list is for those who are ill and not intended for general prayer intentions. Thank you!



REAL MEN PRAY THE ROSARY

An apostolate based in southern Texas called Real Men Pray the Rosary (RMPTR) promotes praying the Rosary "in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives" Founded in March 2009 by David Calvillo, a lawyer in McAllen, and his wife Valerie, RMPTR has flourished online – over 87,000 "likes" for its Facebook page to date – and continues as a vibrant movement with the publication of *Real Men Pray the Rosary: A Practical Guide to a Powerful Prayer*. RMPTR serves as a resource and as a catalyst to encourage praying the Rosary and for honoring our Blessed Mother. Check out their Face Book page Real Men Pray the Rosary and webpage <http://realmenpraytherosary.org/> for more information.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE PRIESTS THIS WEEK

Sunday: Rev. Harold Trahan **Thursday:** Rev. Gregory Usselmann, LC
Monday: Rev. Joseph Sai Tran, SVD **Friday:** Rev. Jason Vidrine
Tuesday: Rev. Eugene Tremie **Saturday:** Rev. Richard Vidrine
Wednesday: Rev. Stephen Ugwu
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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SEMINARIANS THIS WEEK

Sunday: Riley Maturin **Thursday:** Connor Poirrier
Monday: Stephen Melancon **Friday:** Seth Ransonet
Tuesday: Scott Mitchell **Saturday:** Michael Vidrine
Wednesday: Chad Peltier
Father, in your plan for our salvation you provide shepherds for your people. Fill your Church with the spirit of courage and love. Raise up worthy ministers for your altars and eager but gentle servants of the gospel. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

MARCH DEVOTION: The Month of St. Joseph

The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of March to St. Joseph and urges believers to pay special attention to his life and example. In the 20th century, several popes had a deep devotion to St. Joseph. Pope St. Pius X, pope from 1903 to 1914, approved a public lity, the "Lity to St. Joseph," while Pope John XXIII, pope from 1958 to 1963, wrote "A Prayer for Workers," asking St. Joseph to intercede for them.

The Catholic Church urges fathers to cultivate a devotion to St. Joseph, whom God chose to care for his Son. The church urges believers to teach your sons about the virtues of fatherhood through his example.

One place to start your devotional meditation is with a novena to St. Joseph. The "Novena to St. Joseph" is a good example of a prayer for fathers; while the "Novena to St. Joseph the Worker" is good for those times when you have an important assignment that you are trying to complete.



Prayer:

Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen

CLEANING COMPANY

Our dedicated scrubbers for the month of March include: Norma Plattsmier, Meryle Soileau, Karen Ducote, and Diane Wartelle. Thank you everyone! If you're interested in being on a monthly rotation cleaning crew, Please contact the office or Mrs. Ethel Landreneau.



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.