

**DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES**  
Established April 25, 1980

The Most Rev. Glen John Provost, D.D.  
Bishop of Lake Charles

**PARISH STAFF**

- Rev. Father Rommel P. Tolentino  
Pastor
- Rev. Fr. Ruben Buller, In Residence
- Rev. Deacon Christopher Fontenot  
Pastoral Assistant
- Mr. Robert Marcantel  
Music Director
- Mrs. Marlene Mullenix  
Organist
- Ms. Sue Burke  
Receptionist
- Mrs. Lavonne "Cookie" Dennison  
Secretary
- Mrs. Pam Menou  
Bookkeeper
- Mr. Philip Ardoin  
Maintenance
- Mrs. Christi Jarreau  
Principal ICCS
- Mrs. Monica Broussard  
Youth Director

[immaculateconceptioncathedral.com](http://immaculateconceptioncathedral.com)  
Listen to the 9:30 a.m. Mass on  
KLCL AM 1470 or KJEF AM 1290

**935 Bilbo Street † P. O. Box 1029 † Lake Charles, LA 70602 † (337) 4367251 † Fax (337) 4367240**

**MASSES**

Saturday Anticipated 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30 a.m.  
9:30 a.m.  
11:15 a.m.  
(Extraordinary Form) 5:00 p.m.  
Monday Friday 12:05 p.m.

**NOVENA**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Before 12:05 Mass on Tuesday

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Friday 11:00 Noon; Saturday 3:00 pm  
30 minutes before all other Masses.  
Or call office for appointment.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

A PreBaptism class must be  
attended before the celebration of  
Baptism. These classes are held the  
4th Tuesday of January, March,  
May, July, September and  
November. Arrangements for  
celebration of Baptism may be made  
by calling the parish office after

having attended the Baptism Class.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

Arrangements should be made at  
least six (6) months before the  
wedding date by calling the parish  
office. An appointment must be  
made for a premarriage interview.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS.**

An ongoing process of formation  
and education is provided for

anyone who is interested in  
inquiring into the Roman Catholic  
faith. The RCIA process is  
available throughout the year to  
those who are seeking initiation  
into the church as well as for those  
nonCatholics seeking more  
information about the Roman  
Catholic church. Information  
concerning participation in the  
RCIA process may be obtained  
through the parish office.

# Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

**From the  
Pastor**© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Dear Parishioners,

My sincerest gratitude to all those who sent me Christmas cards and all kinds of Christmas gifts, including novena Masses and prayer bouquets. I am touched by your thoughtfulness and overwhelmed by the outpouring of your love and support. May God reward your kindness and generosity! I prayed for you this Christmas Season, and I felt the power of your prayers for me as well. A very wise priest once told me that the prayers of the priest for his parishioners are certainly important, but the prayers of the parishioners for their priest are equally important. Let us continue praying for each other.

Before the Christmas Season ends this Sunday with the celebration of the Epiphany of Our Lord, I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to our beautiful Christmas liturgies: the Altar Society and Décor Committee for elegantly beautifying our church; the ICCS Children's Choir for pleasantly singing at our Christmas Eve Mass; the Cathedral Chorale for the amazing Christmas concert and for helping lift our hearts and voices to God at our beautiful Midnight Mass; the Traditional Latin Mass Choir for providing exquisite music at our Extraordinary Form Mass on Christmas Day and the Solemn Pontifical Mass; everyone who helped with the reception for the Pontifical Mass; Bishop Provost, Father Buller and the seminarians who assisted at the Midnight Mass; the music directors, cantors, musicians, Altar Servers, Sacristans, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers, etc. who served all our Masses. I thank everyone for your hard work and dedication.

In the last couple of weeks, we examined compelling arguments from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition for identifying the birth of Christ on December 25. This week, we'll conclude this topic by presenting Pope Benedict XVI's argument, then a brief note about Epiphany and the theological significance of the Adoration of the Magi (Source: [taylormarshall.com](http://taylormarshall.com)).

In 2000, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger wrote in his book *The Spirit of the Liturgy* that a Jewish tradition holds that Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac on Mount Moriah on March 25. Mount Moriah is Jerusalem (see 2 Chron 34:1), and March 25 is the date on which Christ was crucified on the solar calendar (Easter like the Mosaic Passover is calculated by a lunar phenomenon). I think that you can see that there is a geographical and temporal parallel here. We see that the Father willingly offers His only-begotten Son.

Cardinal Ratzinger also noted that March 25 was thought to be the first day of creation. Hence, March 25 has a cosmic significance. His Eminence also describes how the zodiac and Aries relates to this cosmic significance in the Spring, but that is a bit too much for our purposes. The important thing is that March 25 was the traditional date for the creation of the world, for the sacrifice of Abraham, and for the sacrifice of God the Son.

On pages 107-108, Cardinal Ratzinger makes the observation that the day of Christ's death was also reckoned as the day he was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. March 25, then was the annunciation of Gabriel. Add nine months to that and you arrive at December 25 as His birthday.

Ratzinger then dismisses what he calls "these old theories" that teach that December 25 was chosen to cover over pagan holidays. Rather, the Holy Father recognizes December 25 as the true birthday of Christ the Lord. He expands that this alignment of meanings has liturgical significance.

Also, Pope Benedict XIV argued in 1761 that the church fathers would have known the correct date of birth from Roman census records.

**Adoration of the Magi Proves Christ's Divinity**

Church history is plagued by the recurring heresy which denies that Christ is fully God. The most insidious attempt to push this false theology on the Church occurred in the fourth century. The heresiarch Arius galvanized a majority of influential clergy and laity as the so-called *nouvelle théologie* of budding Christendom. Arius wrongly taught that the Son of God was not eternal with the Father and that the Son of God was therefore created. This entailed that the Son of God does not share the same divine substance as God the Father. As you know, the Catholic Church condemned these errors at the Council of Nicea (325) and the First Council of Constantinople (381).

Contrary to the claims of the heretics, the adoration of the Magi toward the Christ Child proves that this tiny Jewish baby is much more than a created person. Christ had not proved Himself by any external deeds. He did not possess any external wealth or power. This reveals that the Magi perceived the infant to be a Divine Person, God Himself.

In a sermon on the Epiphany of Christ, Saint Augustine explains: "Though many kings of the Jews had been born and died, none of them did the Magi seek to adore. And so they who came from a distant foreign land to a kingdom that was entirely strange to them, had no idea of showing such great homage to such a king as the Jews were wont to have. But they had learnt that such a King was born that by adoring Him they might be sure of obtaining from Him the salvation which is of God."

The Magi were kings, royal men. They were familiar with kings and the Christ Child exhibited none of the earthly traits of a king. Rather, Christ's credentials came from a supernatural star. This proved to the Magi that this Child was the Lord and Creator of the Stars and therefore the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The Magi were no Arians.

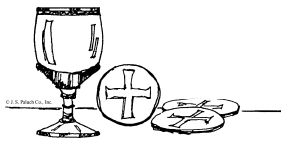
Pope Saint Leo the Great writes "they might seek with more ardent faith Him, whom both the brightness of the star and the authority of prophecy revealed" (Serm. xxxiv). *Cont'd. next page.....*

‡ THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ‡

How amazing it is that Gentile kings, once idolatrous men, were the first to bend their knees in homage while the rulers and priests of Israel ignored Christ and then sought to kill Him. Herod and the apostate Jews of that time were, then, the first Arian heretics. They were the first to deny the divinity of Christ by their actions. The Magi, on the other hand, were the very first defenders of Catholic Orthodoxy. By their arduous journey and beautiful gestures, they acted out what St Athanasius and the Cappadocian Fathers defended by word and by pen.

I am surprised that no one has ever written an icon like this. Wouldn't it be rather stunning to have an icon in which the Three Magi as "adorers of the divinity" were paralleled with St Athanasius, St Gregory Nazianzus, and St Basil as "defenders of the divinity"? Gifted icon writers of the world...get to work.

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**THE SCHEDULE OF 40 HOURS DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE**

**DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES, will be held in churches of the Central Deanery in January.** From January 9th to 12th, adoration will be here in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception as follows.

- January 9 (Tuesday)——12:30—9:00 P.M.
- January 10 (Wednesday)——6:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.
- January 11 (Thursday)——6:00 A.M.-12:00 Midnight

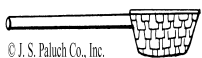


**Catholic Mission Trip...The Abrazando Cristo Mission Trip for 2018 will be July 6-15 to Nicaragua.** Cost of the trip is \$2,150. and covers air and ground transportation, meals, lodging, tips, taxes, retreat, and mission shirts. For information please contact Felicia Borel at 337-477-1236 or [Felicia.borel@lcdiocese.org](mailto:Felicia.borel@lcdiocese.org). Registration fee of \$300 is due by January 16th to secure a seat.



**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, January 13th & 14th —Bishop's Services Appeal (BSA). We have collected \$33,933 since September, 2017 and still owe \$5,652 toward our quota.**

Christian Giving



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**Offertory Collection for the weekend of December 30th and 31st..\$13,869.00**

**Remember: You may also make your contributions online by using a credit/bank card by visiting our website...[immaculateconceptioncathedral.com](http://immaculateconceptioncathedral.com)**

**THIS WEEK**

- January 07....Youth Group meets, 5:00-6:30 P.M., Ave Maria Hall, Topic: Long Live the King**
- January 09.... Come Lord Jesus (women)—9:30 A.M., Library**
- January 10.....Cathedral Choir Practice, 6:00 P.M.**  
..... RCIA 6:00 P.M., Library
- January 11.....Come Lord Jesus (Men), 6:00 A.M., AMH**  
.....Holy Hour of Reparation, 11:00-12:00 P.M.
- January 12..... G.N.A.T.S meets—9:30 A.M.—Library**



*Weddings* Our Cathedral Faith Community extends its Best Wishes and Congratulations to **Maria Mendez and Jacob Troutman** who were united in Christian Marriage on **Saturday, December 30, 2017**



**FULLY ALIVE!** Attention all young adults in the Diocese of Lake Charles: FULLY ALIVE! is a Catholic community of non-student young adults, 18-39 years old. Join the Facebook group: "FULLYalive! Lake Charles" [www.facebook.com/groups/107344226572108](http://www.facebook.com/groups/107344226572108) or email [fullyalivelakecharles@gmail.com](mailto:fullyalivelakecharles@gmail.com) with name, age, email, phone & contact information.

**And...CSU (Catholic Singles United)** is a group of single adults, ages 40-65, who meet monthly for spiritual, social and service activities. Come out and enjoy the fellowship, build relationships with people who share a common life experience, and let's share the journey together. Contact Becky at 337-936-3538 or [beckysee51@gmail.com](mailto:beckysee51@gmail.com) for more information. Come join other Catholic singles in the diocese!



**St. Louis Catholic High School Great Tuition Giveaway\$**

Win tuition for one year at SLCHS! Expires August 1, 2019. Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased online at [slchs.org](http://slchs.org) or at the school office, 1620 Bank Street. Drawing will be held on February 2, 2018...You need not be present to win and the prize is transferrable! This is a wonderful investment in a child's future. Call 436-7275 or email [aatkins@slchs.org](mailto:aatkins@slchs.org) for more information.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS**

There will be a Mass for those with special needs and their families at **St. Louis Catholic High School on Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 11:00 AM.** Father Brian King will be the celebrant.



**A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing after Abortion** presented by Fr. Nathan Long, Margie Long and the diocesan team will be Friday, February 9th to Sunday, February 11th—discussions, spiritual exercises, Sacrament of Reconciliation, memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. Cost \$215. Call 337-439-7400 Ext 317 or email [rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org](mailto:rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org).



**SATURDAY, January 06... (4:00)—Dorothy “Dot” Gallagher; Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Vincent, Sr.; Floyd Vincent, Jr., Vida Pumpelly and Willadene Rawley; Hidalgo, Fazzio Families (living and deceased).**

**SUNDAY, January 7...(7:30) - “Pro Populo” (For the People)  
9:30) - Joseph & Anna Rita Scalisi; Daniel Ieyoub; Vivian Langley; Patsy Dupré Miller; Mary Sue Thompson; Paul Stephen Theriot; Ashley Feldes; Concetta & Curtis Caradone, Sr. & Curtis Cardone, Jr.; Jill Claney.  
(11:15) - Joy Gaspard and Family  
(5:00 PM—Extraordinary Form) - Marjorie Conner**

**MONDAY, January 8... (12:05)—Clint Thibodeaux (5:30 P.M., Extraordinary Form)—Tressie Kinney**

**TUESDAY, January 9...(12:05) - Fred & Lauretta Fluitt**

**WEDNESDAY, January 10...(12:05) —Everett Wild**

**THURSDAY, January 11...(12:05) —Theresa (Lou) Castete (living).**

**FRIDAY, January 12...(12:05)—Tony Pecorino**

**SATURDAY, January 13...(4:00) - Gladys & Delma Devillier; Monsignor Wayne Richard; Joseph A. & Louise Bertrand and Gerald Simmons; Kellie Moss & Family (living)**

**SUNDAY, January 14...(7:30) - “Pro Populo” (For the People)**

**(9:30) —James P. Martin; Albert “Rabbit” Manuel, Edna, Sidney & J.H. Broussard; Angela K. Johnson; Christi Jarreau & Family (living); Coonie Richert; Randall Caraway  
(11:15) —E.J. Gaspard & Family  
(5:00 PM—Extraordinary Form)---Jesse Robert “Bob” Navarro**




**RESPECT LIFE—FUNDRAISER—CLERGY COOKOFF....** is scheduled for Saturday, January 20th, 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.— The Arcade Amphitheater. Family Friendly! Silent Auction, Caricature Drawings, Pops and Rocket Ice Cream, Carnival Foods, Face Painting. Music furnished by Fr. Ed Richard and his Bluegrass Band and the St. Louis High School Marching Band. Tickets: \$50.00 (Free admission for children under 12 years). Trinity Package: Donations of \$400 or more receive eight tickets, a beautiful handmade gift basket and a personal thank you card from Bishop Provost. Supported Ministries include: Rachel’s Vineyard; Grief to Grace; and Natural Family Planning.



**JANUARY AT THE SAINT CHARLES CENTER**

**“Profession of Faith” presented by Sr. Diane Depwe** on Tuesday, January 16 from 6:00—9:00 PM. This will be the first of several teachings on the *Catholic Catechism*. This evening of reflection is to help us understand what and why we believe the way we do. Please register by Friday, January 12 by calling 855 -1232 or at **stcharlescenter.com**. Suggested donation is \$20. per person.



**Please remember to pray for all those in the military who are serving our country as well as those veterans who have served in the past.**



**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**  
**January 8—14, 2018**

Monday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28 or Mk 1:14-20 and Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

**Pray for Our Friends Who Are Ill**



Rosa Adams; Sam Ange, Jr.; Steven Scott Ardoin; Gloria Bennett; Dean Broussard; Stephen Broussard; Jerry Cain; Jim Cain; Emily Carleton; Poddy Champeaux; Denise Collette; Wade Davis; Claudia Dyle; Dee Elter; Patrick Gallagher; Ty Griffen; Diane Hagerty; Michelle Hart; Brenda Hoback; Jessica Hulin; Mary Jeffers; Gary Johnson; Darrel Jones; Janet LaBiche; Cheryl Lecompte; Helen Lecompte; James Leger; John Lavern; Della Lemaire; Marie Lupo; Melanie Lupo; Elizabeth Louviere; Amanda Martin; Barbara McCombs; Ronnie Mesh; Julie Moon; Betty Mueller; Ola May Natali; Larry Parker; Sue Parker; Rory Partin; Ben Perry; William P. Richard; Mari Rieth; Bevo Rome; Marian Rome; Cammie Shaddock; Chris Stemmann; Lucas Terracina; Warren Thomas; Monica Thomason; Gay Young; Martha Young

***If you would like to add or remove a name, please call the church office at 4367251. Please let us know if a person has recovered or is deceased.***

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR DIOCESE**

St. Louis Catholic High School Principal—Visit [slhs.org](http://slhs.org) and click on "Principal Search."

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School Principal—Visit [lodiocese.org](http://lodiocese.org) for an application and information.

St. Martin dePorres Religious Education Department full time secretary—contact [ddonahoe@smdpcatholic.com](mailto:ddonahoe@smdpcatholic.com).



You are invited to join the Southwest Louisiana Substance Abuse Ministry (SWLA SAM) at St. Theodore Catholic Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. It is a safe, confidential place for those who are afflicted with an addiction or affected by the addiction of a loved one. You are not alone!