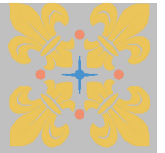


THE BAYOU  
**Messenger**



THE NEWS-BULLETIN FOR THE TRIPARISHES OF ST. JOSEPH, IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

*Faith*

**A voice of one  
 crying out  
 in the desert:  
 Prepare the way  
 of the Lord.**

Luke 3:4



**Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2019**

**ST. JOSEPH**

76950 Gum Street  
 Grosse Tete, LA 70740  
**HOLY MASS:**  
 Sunday: 9:00am

**IMMACULATE HEART OF  
 MARY**

11140 Highway 77  
 Maringouin, LA 70757  
**HOLY MASS:**  
 Saturday: 4:00pm  
 Tuesday — Friday: 8:30am

**ST. FRANCES XAVIER  
 CABRINI**

3523 LA. Highway 78  
 Livonia, LA 70755-0128  
**HOLY MASS:**  
 Sunday: 11:00am

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA MISSION**  
 4324 Railroad Avenue  
 Fardoche, LA 70732

**THE TRIPARISH PASTORAL CENTER**

Located at Immaculate Heart of Mary

225.625.2438 : phone  
 225.625.3513 : fax  
 225.308.9726 : emergency  
 pastoralcenter@triparishes.org : email  
 www.triparishes.org : web  
**Office Hours are Monday—Thursday  
 8:30am—3:30pm**

**THE MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8, 2019**

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
 Thursday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;  
 Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings  
 from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;  
 Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**DEVOTIONAL LIFE IN THE TRIPARISHES**

<b>MON</b>	Post-Mass	Prayer for the Gifts of The Holy Spirit	
<b>TUE</b>	Post-Mass	Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help	
	9:00am	The Holy Rosary	Home of Ruby Hafford
	4:00pm	Charismatic Prayer Group	St. Joseph Parish Hall
<b>WED</b>	Post-Mass	Devotion to St. Joseph	
	6:00pm	The Holy Rosary	St. Catherine of Siena Mission
<b>THU</b>	Post-Mass	Litany of Jesus Christ, Priest and Victim / Vocations	
<b>FRI</b>	Post-Mass	Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	

**Christmas 2019 Holy Mass Schedule**

**Tuesday, December 24 – The Vigil of Christmas**  
 4:00pm – St. Joseph, Grosse Tête  
 6:00pm – Immaculate Heart of Mary, Maringouin  
**Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day**  
 12:00am – St. Frances Cabrini, Livonia  
 9:00am – St. Joseph, Grosse Tête  
 11:00am – St. Frances Cabrini, Livonia

*Confessions will be heard 1 hour before all Masses.*

**Masses at St. Catherine of Siena**

Rosary starting at 5:30pm and Holy Mass at 6:00pm  
 Tuesday, December 10, 2019

**The Sanctuary Lamp Burns for These Intentions the Week of December 8, 2019**

**Immaculate Heart of Mary:** in loving memory of Mrs. Billie Denova  
**St. Joseph:** in loving memory Juanita George  
**St. Frances:** in loving memory of Sue Guidroz  
**St. Catherine:** in loving memory of Brian Gueho

**In Memoriam**

**Mrs. Billie Denova**, died November 28, 2019 and was interred in Immaculate Heart of Mary

*Eternal rest Grant unto her O Lord,  
 And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon her.*

**THOUGHTS ALONG THE WAY**

**FR. CHRISTOPHER DECKER**

Advent Greetings!

This weekend, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) falls on a Sunday. In the United States of America this is a principal solemnity for us since our country is dedicated to Our Lady under this title. If you've ever been to Washington, D.C., then perhaps you've been able to attend Mass or visit The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Its chapels and side altars contain beautiful mosaics of many of the different titles of Our Lady, a reminder of her intercession among the various cultures and peoples that make up our country. Contrary to popular belief, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception does not refer to Jesus' being immaculately conceived in the womb of Mary, but rather the moment of Mary's conception in the womb of St. Anne, Mary's mother.

While Jesus is certainly conceived without Original Sin, because He is God and therefore incapable of sin, Mary is given a singular grace by God whereby she is preserved from the stain (in Latin "macula") of Original Sin so that she may be a pure vessel in which Jesus can be born. This has been the belief of the Church from its earliest days; within the first 400 years of Christianity, the feast of "Mary the All Pure" appear in the liturgical calendars. While this is not explicitly stated in the Holy Scriptures, it's important to remember that the Bible is also book within the Living Tradition of the Church. Just as many of us have family albums (and iPhone albums!) of events that have occurred, there are many things that those snapshots suggest but are only made clear on either side of when the picture was taken. When the Archangel Gabriel declares "Hail, Mary! Full of Grace!" the Church understands that this is a greeting telling us that Mary need not receive a special grace to conceive of Jesus in her womb, but it has already been given by God. The official dogmatic declaration of Pope Blessed Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus* or "The Ineffable God", in 1854 makes this clear:

"We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which holds that the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace of the Omnipotent God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of mankind, was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin, has been revealed by God, and therefore should firmly and constantly be believed by all the faithful...."

The pope, as always, simply restates and in this case defines as necessary for belief as a faithful Catholic that Mary was conceived without sin. This was no new revelation to him, but rather a restatement of what Christians down through the ages from the very beginning of the Church have held to be true. And what does this mean for us? Blessed Pius IX also expresses his desired outcome for pronouncing this dogma:

"Let all the children of the Catholic Church, who are so very dear to us, hear these words of ours. With a still more ardent zeal for piety, religion and love, let them continue to venerate, invoke and pray to the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, conceived without original sin. Let them fly with utter confidence to this most sweet Mother of mercy and grace in all dangers, difficulties, needs, doubts and fears. Under her guidance, under her patronage, under her kindness and protection, nothing is to be feared; nothing is hopeless...[to Jesus] she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. What she asks, she obtains. Her pleas can never be unheard."

Never be afraid of asking Mary to take your prayers to Jesus. As she interceded for the couple at the Wedding at Cana, so also she continues to pray for us. In the United States this year, because the Solemnity falls on a Sunday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. The Solemnity is still transferred to Monday and Mass is offered, but the faithful are not obliged to attend. That said, if you're free on Monday morning at 8:30am, we'd be happy to welcome you to Immaculate Heart of Mary for Mass!

Ad Jesum per Mariam!



**YOUR STEWARDSHIP TO OUR PARISHES FOR  
NOVEMBER 24TH AND DECEMBER 1ST**

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Offertory Collection (Nov. 24th)	\$1,753.00
Offertory Collection (Dec. 1st)	\$2,108.00
Maintenance Fund	\$552.00

**St. Joseph**

Offertory Collection (Nov. 24th)	\$2,193.00
Offertory Collection (Dec. 1st)	\$2,284.00
Maintenance Fund	\$1,488.00

**St. Frances**

Offertory Collection (Nov. 24th)	\$2,254.00
Offertory Collection (Dec. 1st)	\$1,525.00
Maintenance Fund	\$1,321.00

**Made for Greatness!  
Youth and Young Adults in our TriParishes**

**TriParish 1st Reconciliation**

**1st Reconciliation** will be **December 12th at 6:00pm** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for all Catholic, Private and Public Students in 2nd Grade.

**Tri-Parish School of Religion Schedule**

**St. Joseph/Immaculate Heart of Mary**

**K—10th Grade** on Sunday, **December 15th** starting with 9am Mass at St. Joseph

**St. Frances**

**Jr/Sr High** on Monday, **December 16th**, from 6:00pm—7:15pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

**Elementary** on Tuesday, **December 17th**, from 5:00pm—6:30pm at St. Frances Parish Hall.

**TriParish Christmas Youth Gatherings**

**Elementary** Youth Gathering Sunday, **December 8th**, after the 11:00am Mass at St. Frances from Noon—2:00pm.

**Jr/Sr** Youth Gathering Friday, **December 20th**, from 6:00pm—9:00pm at St. Frances Parish Hall for Youth in grades 6th—12th.

**Christmas Décor Memorial Donations**

Donations are now being accepted for Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph & St. Frances Parishes. Please include names of those being remembered. Envelopes can be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the TriParish Pastoral Office.

**St. Frances Giving Tree**

Reminder: Deadline is December 15th. Please bring wrapped and tagged gifts to the Church. Remember to write your name and phone number on the form next to the tag number you have chosen.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Giving Tree**

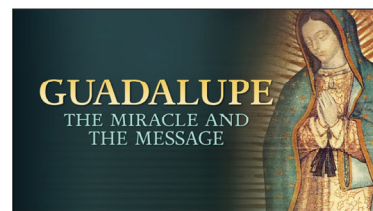
Reminder: Deadline is December 8th. Remember to attach the ornament to the gift.



Your generosity is much appreciated.

**FORMED**

PICK OF THE WEEK



**Guadalupe**

The Miracle and the Message

WATCH ON  
FORMED.ORG

**The Heart of the Evangelization  
of the Americas**

The most important event in the evangelization of the New World occurred in December of 1531. Over the course of four days, the Virgin Mary, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, appeared to an indigenous convert named Juan Diego. As a result of this encounter, the image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak). This gripping film explores both the inexplicable mysteries behind the image and the continued relevance of this Marian apparition to the modern world.

POWERED BY THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

**CLERGY, STAFF & SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION**

**Rev. Christopher J. Decker**  
Pastor  
[cdecker@triparishes.org](mailto:cdecker@triparishes.org)

**Rev. Amrit Raj, I.M.S.**  
Parochial Vicar  
[araj@triparishes.org](mailto:araj@triparishes.org)

**Margie Spina**  
Bookkeeper  
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**Elsie Mae Thompson**  
Executive Secretary  
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**Peggy Champagne**  
Director of Religious Education & Youth Ministry  
[pchampagne@triparishes.org](mailto:pchampagne@triparishes.org)

**RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)** is celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary on Saturday from 3:00—3:45pm. If you'd like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation outside the scheduled time, please call the office to arrange a time with the priest.

**MARRIAGE** Couples are asked to contact the priest at least six months before the desired date.

**BAPTISM** Celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month. A Baptismal Seminar is required before a baptism can be properly scheduled. Please contact the parish office during early months of pregnancy.

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK** Please call the parish office to arrange for Holy Communion or Anointing of the Sick.