

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 25; A Deeper Look at the Homily

This week, we look more closely at the Homily. As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, the homily “serves as an integral link between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Before the apostles recognized Jesus in the ‘breaking of the bread,’ he explained the Scriptures to them, ‘filling their hearts with a burning desire.’ The homily strives to kindle a fire of love for God and His Church. As a ‘bridge’ it draws us deeper into the mysteries we celebrate—most especially the mystery of the most Holy Eucharist” (A Study of the Mass, p. 9). So, as you can begin to see, the homily is really packed with a number of important goals!

Inspiration from the Church Fathers

One of the earliest written descriptions of the Mass is from St. Justin Martyr, who was writing a little earlier than 165 AD. As he describes the prayers and meaning of the Mass, I am always struck by how similar they are to our celebrations today. It is a great testament to the guiding work of the Holy Spirit and continuity of our Catholic faith and liturgy. When St. Justin describes the homily, he talks about how the leader exhorts the people to imitate the good things they have just heard. All these centuries later, preachers are still following this same pattern. The priest may use different kinds of homilies for different circumstances, taking into account what the people are like, what they know already, what kinds of involvement they have, what types of concerns are currently happening on the local level, etc. All of these elements will affect both what the faithful need to hear and how well they will understand it and live it out each day. No matter what the circumstances, and no matter what the background of the people is like, all homilies really have one thing in common: Jesus Christ who died and rose for us and our life in him. A wise old seminary professor once said, “If you never say anything else in the pulpit except Jesus loves you and wants you to be with him, the main essentials will always be in every homily.”

A Bridge Between the Two Halves

So, our focus should always be on Christ, his love for us, and what that means in our lives. We focus on Christ’s four-fold presence to us at every Mass: he is present in the Word of God, in the priest, in his assembled people, and especially in his Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist in a most unique way. We focus on Jesus through the Scriptures and God’s loving Word to his people. We focus on Jesus dwelling among us, offering himself for our sins, rising in triumph, and continuing to be with us through the Holy Eucharist. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1346, states: “The liturgy of the Word and liturgy of the Eucharist together form ‘one single act of worship’; the Eucharistic table set for us is the table both of the Word of God and of the Body of the Lord.” It is important to remember that the Mass is not just a sequence of unrelated events: it is a perfect unity in Christ. The first half helps us get to know God (and ourselves), nourishing our faith in God; the second half helps us unite with him in body and soul. The hope of the homily, then, is to help bring these two halves together so that the faithful can go out into the world and really live the life of Christ.

For Reflection:

1. Read about St. Peter’s first “homily” and its impact in the account from Acts 2:14–41. Commit to more attentive listening to the homily the next time you participate in Mass, and ask for the grace to put the lessons of the homily into action in your own life.
2. On the journey to Emmaus, two disciples experience their hearts burning within when the Risen Lord Jesus interprets the Scriptures for them (see Lk 24:13–35). A Gospel acclamation preceding this Gospel passage implores, “Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; / make our hearts burn while you speak to us.” Make this prayer your own as you prepare to participate actively in the Liturgy of the Word, including the homily.

This article was written by: Fr. Luke Spannagel and posted on the National Eucharistic Revival Blog website.



| Baptisms: | Reconciliation | Marriage | Quincerañeras | Anointing of the Sick | Communion to the Sick / Homebound |
|---|--|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| By Appointment only Contact Parish office for more information | Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 4-5pm and on request | By appointment only: Contact parish office at least 6 months prior to proposed date. | Must be enrolled and actively participating in Religious Education Classes | Anytime; contact the parish office | Pastoral Visit: 1st Friday of the Month / Contact the parish office |



First Sunday of
Lent

February 18, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church
Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



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| Rev. Andrew Hejdak <i>Pastor</i> David D. Solis Jr. <i>davids@iccgregory.org</i> <i>Administrative Asst.</i> John Womack & Co. <i>Bookkeeper</i> OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 10:00am - 4:30pm FAITH FORMATION Noreen Saenz <i>reoffice@iccgregory.org</i> <i>Director of Religious Ed.</i> David D. Solis Jr. <i>Asst. Director of Religious Ed.</i> Belen P. Moreno <i>Asst. Director of Religious Ed.</i> Religious Ed. Office Hours Wednesdays 4:30 - 8:45pm | WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET Daily 3:00 pm Chapel ST. JUDE NOVENA Tuesdays 6:00 pm BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays 7:00PM (Español) Thursdays 7:00PM (English) R.E. building LA HORA DE DIOS PRAYER GROUP Fridays 6:00 pm Church NEW TO THE PARISH? Interested in registering with us? Ask the ushers for a registration form, welcome to the parish. If you would like to become involved with one of the ministries or organizations here, you can find contact numbers on this bulletin MASS INTENTIONS <i>ALL Mass intention requests should be submitted to the parish office. For Intentions to appear in the Bulletin they must be submitted by 4:00pm Tuesday. Donation of \$5 per intention is suggested.</i> | PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT Mike Lopez 438.9054 FINANCE COMMITTEE Javier Solis 229.4653 SACRISTANS Jesse Gomez 229.0102 Juan Rodriguez 229.5515 Raymond Flores 215.3542 CHOIR COORDINATOR Naida Rios 774.3778 COMMUNION MINISTERS Jesus Garza 704-2269 ALTAR SERVERS David D. Solis Jr. 643.4505 ALTAR SOCIETY Nena Garcia 774.2604 LECTORS Jesus Garza 704-2269 USHERS Ramiro Peña 222-8857 BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE Aurora Leal 229.6956 BLESSED MOTHER SOCIETY Sylvia Gomez 228.0822 DIVINE MERCY APOSTLES Sonya Torres 730.6165 HOUSE OF FAITH FOOD PANTRY Diana Moreno 765.7696 Adriana Bernardo 543.7642 IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY Nydia Tamez 688.0333 PRAYER & PRAISE GROUP Jeronimo Garcia 704.2136 SACRED HEART SOCIETY Amelia Flores 443.9811 ST. JUDE NOVENA Jerry & Ofelia Rivera 876.7147 |
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107 Church Street

PO Box 108

Gregory, TX 78359

facebook.com/ICGregory

www.iccgregory.org

Parish Office: 361-643-4505

Pastoral Emergency: 361-543-0503



The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

Mark 1: 12-13

Mass Intentions
For The Week



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|---|--|
| SATURDAY February 17, 2024 | |
| 5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family) †Sylvia Chavez (Ramiro Chavez) †Guadalupe Lopez (Dora Torres) †DeAndrea Abraham (Rose De La Cruz) †Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Minerva Lopez) †Ruben, †Juanita & †Lisa Cortez (Family) †Margarito & †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez (Paula Guerrero) | |
| Special Intentions for David Family (David & Angel Emrich) | |
| SUNDAY February 18, 2024 | |
| 8:00AM: †Jose Javier Mendoza (Family) †Juan Manuel Lozano (Family) †Jose Lara (Daniel Lara) †Richard Ortiz (Family) †Alvaro Lopez (Family) †Federico & †Dora Peña (Family) | |
| 10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family) †Eddie Perez (Family) †Ernest, †Roy & †Meisha Hinojosa (Family) †Rebecca Rodriguez Vargas & †Olivia Villegas (Family) †Robert & †Olivia Escobedo (Avila Family) †Eulojia Avila (Avila Family) | |
| Special Intentions for David Family (David & Angel Emrich) | |
| 12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family) †Adrian G. Flores (Family) †Cora Hernandez (Marcos & Elsa Ortiz) †Oralia Cavazos (Cavazos Family) †Lelia Guzman (Family) †Juan Flores Jr. (Family) †Aaron Gobble (Family) | |
| Special Intentions for Adrian, Alex & Jose F. Flores (Lucy Guerrero) | |
| TUESDAY February 20 , 2024 | |
| 5:30PM: Anniversary Blessings for Jesse & Sonya Torres Special Intentions for David Family Special Intentions for Bryan Hartnett | |
| WEDNESDAY February 21, 2024 | |
| 8:30AM: †Eugenio Flores (Family) | |
| THURSDAY February 22, 2024 | |
| 8:30AM: †Santos & Jorge Martinez (Gladys McDonald) | |
| FRIDAY February 23, 2024 | |
| 7:00PM: †Mercedes Ortiz (Solis Families) | |
| SATURDAY February 24, 2024 | |
| 5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family) †Sylvia Chavez (Ramiro Chavez) †Joaquin Lopez (Dora Torres) †Alvaro Lopez (Juan & Rosario Cantu) †Dorn Dover (Rose De La Cruz) †Esteban & †Candelaria Ortiz (Esteban & Lydia) †Margarito & †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez (Paula Guerrero) | |
| SUNDAY February 25, 2024 | |
| 8:00AM: †Jose Javier Mendoza (Family) †Jose Lara (Daniel Lara) †Richard Ortiz (Family) †Federico & †Dora Peña (Family) | |
| 10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family) †Eddie Perez (Family) | |

| WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP | |
|--|-------------------|
| Envelope Collection | \$1,900.00 |
| Loose Collection | \$869.00 |
| Building Fund | \$113.00 |
| Online Giving | \$180.00 |
| Collection Total - February 10/11 | \$3,062.00 |

*Thank you for your faithfulness, your generous support, and sharing of your gifts with Immaculate Conception Church.
May God bless you now and forever.*

Special Collections for the Month of February

17/18 - Black & Indian Missions



Special
Offering

† Belief - Trust - Faith †

Prayer is the most powerful against trials, the most effective medicine against sickness and the most valuable gift to someone we care for.

Please pray for the sick of the parish, especially:

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| Valerie Aleman, Guadalupe G Alvarado, Victoria Arredondo, Paula Avila, Rosa Barrera, Estevan Cantu Jr., Elisa Claudio, Johnny Cruz, Sandra Davila, Dominic DeLeon, Yvonne Ellison, Adela Escobedo, Adan Flores Jr. Aurora Flores, Chris Flores, Eudelia Flores, Guadalupe Flores, Juanita Flores, Jesus Garza Jr., Xavier A. Gallegos, Violet Guerrero, Esmeralda Hernandez, | Jorge Hernandez, San Juanita Hinojosa, Mr. Kalich Jerry Lopez Sr., Raul Lucio, Teresa Lucio, Jose Antonio Lopez Jr, Jaime Jimenez, Margie Medina Adolfo Menchaca Jr., Alejandro Mora, Anastacio Mora, Noemilio Mora, Augustin Moreno III, Angie Ochoa, Carmen Ortiz, Yvonne Ortiz, Anita Peña, Emilio Peña Sr., Luis Peña Jr., Ramiro Peña, Martha Perales, | Johnny Pereida, Elva Rivera, Jerry Rivera Sr., Julia Rodriguez, Sergio Rodriguez, Yolanda G. Rodriguez, San Juanita Saenz, Bernice Sanchez, Adan Salazar, Armando Salazar, Gracie Salazar, Stephanie Salazar, Raymond Smith, B Solis, Dora Tagle, Gloria Treviño, Joe Treviño, Sara Treviño, Ramona Vasquez, Alex Zambrano Sr., Alex Zambrano Jr., Gerri Zambrano |
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NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS SCHEDULE

| Sat. Feb. 24 Sun. Feb. 25 | Lector | Extra Ordinary Ministers |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 5:30PM | Chelo, Gabby | Juan |
| 8:00AM | Armando | Carmen |
| 10:00AM | | |
| 12:00PM | | Lucy |

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

If there is one word that stands out in today's readings, it is "covenant." God's faithfulness and goodness serve as examples to us of how to live. Genesis tells the story of Noah and of God's covenant not only with all people, but with all of nature. Never will the cleansing waters of the flood bring their destructive power to all the earth again. The sign, the reminder to both God and nature, is the rainbow in the heavens.

The psalm reminds us of this compassion of God, and begs God to remember us, not because of our goodness, but because of God's goodness and fidelity to the promise. God shows us how to be good, not by decree, but by example.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: *St. Peter Damian*

Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: *Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*

1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

Friday: *St. Polycarp*

Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: *Second Sunday of Lent*

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

TRAVELING IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY

In preparation for our centennial celebration in 2026, we have a image of Divine Mercy that will be traveling from home to home over the next several years. The mission of this is to pray for all our parish families. If you would like to have this image visit your home, see the sign-up book in the entry of the church.

TRAVELING DIVINE MERCY IMAGE

Pray for the following families that will be hosting the Traveling Divine Image this week

**Vanessa Avila
Isidro & Maria Garza**

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How will I minister to others during these forty days of Lent?
Who is in need of my help?

Special Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for February

For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



PERSONAS DE LA ALIANZA

La palabra que sobresale en las lecturas de hoy es la palabra "alianza". La fidelidad y la bondad de Dios nos sirven como ejemplo de cómo debemos vivir. En Génesis aparece el relato de Noé y de la alianza de Dios no sólo con las personas sino con la naturaleza. Las aguas purificadoras del diluvio nunca más descargarán su poder destructivo en toda la tierra otra vez. La señal, el recordatorio para Dios y la naturaleza, es el arco iris en el cielo.

El salmo nos recuerda esta compasión de Dios y le implora a Dios que se acuerde de nosotros, no por nuestra bondad, sino por la bondad de Dios y su fidelidad a la promesa. Dios nos muestra cómo ser buenos, no por decreto, sino dándonos el ejemplo.

BISHOP'S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Commitment Weekend for this year's appeal will be February 17th and 18th. The theme for 2024 is "Do Everything for the Glory of God". If you have not made your pledge please prayerfully consider. Your support of the appeal supports Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Faith Formation, Clergy, Families, Those in Need and Parishes.

Consider a recurring online pledge. Scan the QR code to be taken to the BSA website to learn more about the appeal.



HOUSE OF FAITH FOOD PANTRY



The Food Pantry will be OPEN again on Wednesday, February 28th from 4-6pm.. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Diana Moreno at 765.7696.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS


During the Season of Lent, all are invited to join for the Stations of the Cross at 6:30pm immediately followed by Daily Mass at 7:00pm Join us as we make our "Way of the Cross" every Friday of Lent in the Church.



SHARING IN THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

From Death To Life

A 6-WEEK LENTEN VIDEO SERIES WITH BISHOP MICHAEL MULVEY, DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI

 DIOCESECC.ORG/LENT