

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass  
Part 26; How to Engage with the Homily

Why are Homilies so long anyway? To answer that question, we start by realizing that we don’t always understand the Word of God perfectly when we first read it. Whenever we read a Bible passage, we should ask ourselves: “What is God saying here?” Sometimes it is pretty easy to listen to God; sometimes, it is not so easy. Sometimes reading the Bible can answer questions that we have; sometimes reading only seems to bring more questions. We humbly recognize that understanding everything about God and us is not always super-easy. So, in humility, we realize we need help. That is where the preachers of the Word come in—those who have been given a special grace to help God’s people understand better his communication with us. With years of prayer and study, some preachers can become incredible resources, such as Cardinal Newman, who was known to preach on average about an hour and a half for every sermon!

Drawing Everyone Closer

In the homily, the bishop, priest, or deacon tries his best to help us hear what God is saying. We try to explain the Scripture and apply it to our lives in the local area. As we said last time, the whole point is to draw each heart in the congregation closer to Jesus. This is really important: the priest seeks out each heart. That is why sometimes the homily focuses on something you already know, do, or believe; that is why the homily might not always be perfectly on track with what you are thinking about. Because there are a lot of people in the pews with different backgrounds and experiences, preaching a homily that directly addresses everyone can be a little tricky. Have you noticed that sometimes the preacher says the same thing in a couple of ways? This is one way of helping different people to understand the same message.

Listening with Open Hearts

Make no mistake about it, though—the homily is not just the preacher trying to help people understand God’s message to us. One of the most important parts of the homily involves everyone sitting in the pews: all are invited to listen with an open heart. Each one is encouraged to follow the homily in his or her heart, taking in what is helpful and being on the lookout for the true needs of the heart. If we believe that God is working through the ordained clergy who are preaching, then there will always be something in the homily for us; we just have to listen for it.

Another important part of listening to the homily is an openness to being challenged. If we think we already know it all (or enough), our hearts won’t be ready to receive God’s message to us through the preacher. We have to be ready to admit that we don’t know everything and that we don’t always understand everything perfectly. Listening to the homily takes some humility. I recall one of the seminary professors at Mount St. Mary’s—Sister Joan—who had listened to decades of homilies day after day, including thousands by deacons in the seminary who were still learning their way. Even though she knew so much more than we did, even though at times it seemed we were trying her patience, she was always there in the front row, ready to listen attentively. What great humility! The preacher needs this same humility also, which is why we said above that he tries his best. Remember that when you hear something challenging, it is the preacher’s duty to proclaim the truth, and perhaps could be God calling you closer to his heart through the preacher’s very words.

This being said, we all know that the homily to the congregation is not always a spectacular touchdown pass. Sometimes we are distracted or tired. Sometimes we hope the preacher will speak on something in the readings that interests us, but he doesn’t get to it. Whatever the case, the Lord only asks us to give a good effort at true listening, knowing there will be something there that will help us. And when that wooden pew seat starts to get a little hard, just think of the people in years gone by who listened to homilies for hours on end and remind yourself: “Wow, it is almost time for the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful!”

For Reflection:

- 1. Pray with the account of the Deacon Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26–40. As you conclude your prayer, give thanks for those ordained ministers who help us understand and respond to God’s Word in Scripture.
- 2. Help yourself engage with the homily at Mass by approaching this portion of the Liturgy as a treasure hunt or “game” of “hide and seek.” What message has the Lord Jesus hidden for you in this 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	Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 4-5pm and on request	By appointment only:	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
Contact Parish office for more information		Contact parish office at least 6 months prior to proposed date.			



Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



Rev. Andrew Hejdak  
Pastor

David D. Solis Jr.  
davidss@iccgregory.org  
Administrative Asst.

John Womack & Co.  
Bookkeeper

OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Friday  
10:00am - 4:30pm

FAITH FORMATION

Noreen Saenz  
reoffice@iccgregory.org  
Director of Religious Ed.

David D. Solis Jr.  
Asst. Director of Religious Ed.

Belen P. Moreno  
Asst. Director of Religious Ed.

Religious Ed. Office Hours  
Wednesdays 4:30 - 8:45pm

WEEKEND MASSES  
SATURDAY (Vigil) 5:30PM  
SUNDAY (en Español) 8:00AM  
10:00AM & 12:00PM  
WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE  
Tuesday (en Español) 5:30PM  
Wednesday –Thursday 8:30AM  
FRIDAYS DURING LENT  
Stations of the Cross 6:30PM  
Friday Daily Mass 7:00PM

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  
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.

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



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



from the cloud came a voice,  
“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”  
Mark 9:7



Mass Intentions  
For The Week



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)  
†Rosa Maria Castro Perez, †Jesus Gusatavo Perez,  
†Jose Angel Castro Perez

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)  
†Eddie Perez (Family)  
†Loy Avila (Family)  
†Guadalupe Cavazos (Family)

12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family)  
†Adrian G. Flores (Family)  
†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 27 , 2024

5:30PM: Special Intentions for Bryan Hartnett  
†Anthony Aguirre

WEDNESDAY February 28, 2024

8:30AM: †James DiGioacchino (Ester DiGioacchino)

THURSDAY February 29, 2024

8:30AM: Special Intentions for Joshua Martinez

FRIDAY March 1, 2024

7:00PM: Deceased Members of Sacred Heart Society

SATURDAY March 2, 2024

5:30PM:†Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)  
†Sylvia Chavez (Ramiro Chavez)  
†Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Minerva Lopez)  
Special Intentions for Henry Thiagaraj (Emrich Family)

SUNDAY March 3, 2024

8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)  
†Eddie Perez (Family)  
†Oralia Cavazos (Family)  
†Cora Hernandez (Marcos & Elsa Ortiz)  
†Rebecca Rodriguez Vargas (Rodriguez Family)  
Special Intentions for CTS David (Emrich Family)

12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family)  
†Adrian G. Flores (Family)  
†Oralia Cavazos (Cavazos Family)  
†Lelia Guzman (Family)  
†Juan Flores Jr. (Family)

Special Intentions for Adrian, Alex & Jose F. Flores (Lucy Guerrero)


WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP		
Envelope Collection	\$1,333.00	
Loose Collection	\$743.00	
Ash Wednesday Envelopes	\$1,328.00	
Children’s Collection	\$7.00	
Online Giving	\$405.00	
Collection Total - February 17/18	\$3,816.00	
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	\$315.00	
Black & Indian Missions	\$349.00	

Special Collections for the Month of March

2/3 - Building Fund

9/10 - Catholic Relief Services

29 (Good Friday) - Holy Land Collection



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:

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. Mar. 2 Sun. Mar. 3	Lector 	Extra Ordinary Ministers 
5:30PM	Louis	Amelia
8:00AM	Esteban	Janie
10:00AM		Terri F
12:00PM	Lupe A	Josie

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

THE OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM AND JESUS

God tested Abraham by asking not for an ordinary sacrifice, which would have been a partial burning with the meat divided between God and the people and eaten by those who sacrificed, but for a holocaust, a total burning of the sacrificial animal. This type of sacrifice consecrated the entire offering to God alone. This is what God was asking of Abraham in offering his only son, Isaac. When Abraham demonstrated his obedience, that was enough. This story from today’s scriptures foretells the completion of the blood sacrifices of the old covenant in the new covenant: the blood of God’s own Son, offered to us on the cross and in the Eucharist. Abraham’s obedience foreshadows the obedience of Jesus to God’s promise of salvation. The obedience of Abraham is rewarded in the birth to him, through Isaac, of many nations. The obedience of Jesus is rewarded in the salvation of all people for all time.

LA OBEDIENCIA DE ABRAHAM Y JESÚS

Dios puso a prueba a Abraham pidiéndole no un sacrificio ordinario, el cual requería que se quemara parcialmente la carne y se dividiera entre Dios y el pueblo y fuera consumido por los que hacían el sacrificio, sino que le pidió un holocausto, la quema completa del animal expiatorio. Este tipo de sacrificio consagraba la ofrenda solo a Dios. Esto es lo que Dios le pedía a Abraham en su ofrenda de su único hijo, Isaac. Cuando Abraham demostró su obediencia, fue suficiente. El relato de la Sagrada Escritura de hoy predice la finalización de los sacrificios de sangre de la vieja alianza en la nueva alianza: la sangre del Hijo de Dios, la cual se nos ofrece en la cruz y en la Eucaristía. La obediencia de Abraham prefigura la obediencia de Jesús a la promesa de salvación de Dios. La recompensa de la obediencia de Abraham yace en el nacimiento, por medio de Isaac, de muchas naciones. La recompensa de la obediencia de Jesús yace en la salvación de todas las personas por los siglos de los siglos.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:  
Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: St. Gregory of Narek  
Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday:  
Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday:  
Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday:  
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46


Saturday:  
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent  
Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25


BISHOP’S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

We can radiate divine light like Jesus. When we receive Jesus into our hearts, he transfigures us. We can shine with his joy, love, and serenity. He wants to transfigure our whole parish! Please support our Bishop’s Stewardship Appeal so we can have all the resources we need to shine the way He wishes us to, so we can reach all those He longs for in our community. “I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6).

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.


Stations of the Cross

EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES

Envelopes are located in the entrance of the Church for Easter Flowers. This is a great way to remember a loved on during the Easter Season.

LENTE PENANCE SERVICE

We will be having our Lenten Penance Service on Wednesday, March 27th at 7pm. Several Priests will be here for confessions.



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.

