

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 34; Collection and Procession

It’s time to pass the basket for the Offertory. For many people, the word offertory might make us think simply of the money offerings we place in the collection basket. While that certainly is part of the typical Sunday offertory, this is also an important spiritual moment for uniting ourselves to the offering on the altar.

The Collection in the Early Church

The practical details of this part of the Mass have looked different at various points in history. In earlier times, the gifts would typically be things that people brought from their homes. People would bring all sorts of food, along with bread and wine, and gifts for the poor (money or otherwise). These gifts would all be brought up and then sorted. The bread and wine were used for the Mass, some food and money were given to the priest to provide for him, and the remainder of the food and money were divided up and given to the poor. So, one can see that even in the earliest times, this part of the Mass was about offering and giving. In our modern day, to simplify the offertory, the ushers collect money. This money still symbolizes our gift: what we give to God for the Mass (bread, wine, candles, etc., are purchased for the Mass), what we give to provide for the needs of the priest and the upkeep of the church, and what we give to provide for the needs of the poor and those less fortunate. As the ushers prepare to collect the offerings, we can take a look at our lives, all that we have, all that the Lord has provided for us. We can show our gratitude and thank the Lord by offering a portion of what we have back to him for the good of the Church and others.

Along with the collection, the bread and wine (and water in some places) are brought forward, just as in the days of the early Church. Around the year 150 A.D., St. Justin Martyr describes this part of the Mass by saying simply: “bread, water, and wine are brought” (Understanding the Mass, p. 109). The gifts are brought forward by members of the faithful. Whether it is the ushers, family members who requested the Mass intention, or other parishioners, whoever brings the gifts forward represents the whole congregation, bringing forth our offerings to God.

An Offering of Spiritual Gifts

As we think about our practical or material gifts during this part of the Mass, we should not overlook the opportunity to also offer spiritual gifts. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was known for asking priests to leave room on the paten for her intentions. One priest also recalled her saying that she would place her heart on the paten so that it would be near Jesus in the Mass. If we think about this part of the Mass, offering the gifts we have in thanksgiving to God and in union with Jesus, it is true that one of the best offerings we can make is ourselves! Along these lines, Charles Belmonte teaches, “Together with Christ, we offer everything that we are and all that we possess, all that we have done or try to do. We offer our memory, intelligence, and will; our family, profession, hobbies, success, sufferings, failures, and worries; and our aspirations, [joys and hopes], and spiritual communions. Likewise, we offer our small and big mortifications: all those acts of love we performed yesterday and as many as we plan to perform today” (Understanding the Mass, p. 110).

If you haven’t thought about the offertory in this way before, I encourage you to think about including your personal spiritual offering along with whatever you drop in the basket. It certainly is a great way to join to the prayers the priest offers at the altar spiritually and a great way to deepen our unity with the perfect offering of Jesus!

For Reflection:

- Respond to Father Luke’s invitation by considering what spiritual offering(s) you will offer at the next Mass in which you participate.
 - At least once a year, take time to reflect on the portion of your material or financial wealth you give during the Offertory. Compare this offering to various expenses in your life. Ask Jesus to help you identify what you can generously give. In addition to your financial offering, consider how Jesus may be inviting you to give of yourself to parish life in other ways.
 - Have you ever been privileged to represent the congregation by bringing forward the gifts during the offertory procession? Thank God for that experience. If not, pray about the opportunity to do so and inquire at your parish about how you can participate in the offertory procession.
- 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: 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
Contact Parish office for more information					



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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 –Friday 8:30AM
First Friday of the Month
Eucharistic Adoration 5:30PM
Friday Daily Mass 6:30PM

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.

PASTORAL COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR	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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Parish Office: 361-643-4505 ✱ Pastoral Emergency: 361-543-0503




Jesus said:
"I am the good shepherd.
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
John 10:11

Fourth Sunday of Easter ✨April 21, 2024 ✨Cuarto Domingo de Pascua

Mass Intentions

For The Week



SATURDAYApril 20, 2024

5:30PM:†Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)
†Will Silva (Friends)
†Alvaro Lopez Sr. (Juan & Rosario Cantu)
†Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Minerva Lopez)
†Concepcion, †Ester, †David Rangel (Family)
†Margarito, †Alejandra, †Jesse Guerrero, †David Sanchez (Family)

SUNDAYApril 21, 2024

8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Juan Manuel Lozano (Family)
†Ernest Chapa Jr (Family)
†Eva Corona (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
†Fidel Labeaga (Genoveva Labeaga)
†Irma Perales (Family)
†Jose Javier Mendoza, †Pedro Cardoza (Family)

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
†Santos Garcia Jr (Mom and Brothers)
†Cora Hernandez (Marcos & Elsa Ortiz)
†Yolanda Lomas Cavazos, †Eddie Chapa, †Ruben Lopez (Raymond Flores)
†Anselmo, †Guadalupe †Anselmo Jr Sanchez, †Loy Avila

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

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

TUESDAYApril 23, 2024

5:30PM: †Michael Guajardo Rojas (Christina Rojas)

WEDNESDAYApril 24, 2024

8:30AM: Special Intentions for Joshua Martinez

THURSDAYApril 25, 2024

8:30AM: Special Intentions for Ana Anaya

FRIDAYApril 26, 2024

8:30AM: Special Intentions for Christina Reyna

SATURDAYApril 27, 2024

5:30PM: Confirmation Mass

SUNDAYApril 28, 2024

8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Estefana Menchaca (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
†Irma Perales (Family)
†Jose Javier Mendoza, †Pedro Cardoza (Family)
†Salvador Arnold Solis Jr, †Arnaldo & †Elvira Solis
†Esteban & †Candelaria Ortiz

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
†Santos Garcia Jr (Mom and Brothers)
†Anselmo, †Guadalupe †Anselmo Jr Sanchez, †Loy Avila
Special Intentions for Aiden Acosta (Crawley Family)

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

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


WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP	
Envelope Collection	\$1,894.00
Loose Collection	\$755.00
Children’s Collection	\$8.00
Building Fund	\$60.00
Online Giving	\$480.00
Collection Total - April 13/14	\$3,197.00

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 April

20/21 - Retired & Infirm Priests

27/28 - Catholic Home Missions Appeal





† 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, Rafael Baez Rosa Barrera, Estevan Cantu Jr., Elisa Claudio, Johnny Cruz, Sandra Davila, Dominic DeLeon, Nora Dishman, 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, 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. Apr. 27 Sun. Apr. 28	Lector 	Extra Ordinary  Ministers
5:30PM	Confirmation	Juan
8:00AM	Armando	Carmen
10:00AM	Gabriel	Cindy
12:00PM	Jesse C	Lucy

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

SAVED BY THE ONE WHO WAS REJECTED

Some city teenagers often scorn and reject farm kids. Yet it’s no exaggeration to say that humanity owes its life to farmers who care for the world’s crops and livestock. This week’s scriptures remind us that Jesus was as rejected as a shepherd, a farm boy, yet we owe our very lives to him.

In this Sunday’s reading from the Acts of the Apostles Peter tells the people that salvation comes through Jesus Christ, the one who was rejected. In John’s letter we hear that we have become God’s beloved children through Jesus, whom the world did not know. Lastly, in the Gospel Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd who “lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). Will you join Jesus in laying down your life for God’s beloved flock?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:
Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: St. George; St. Adalbert
Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
Acts 12:24 –13:5a; Ps 67:2,3,5,6&8; Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: St. Mark
1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Friday:
Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday:
Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32;1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8


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

Gabriel & Cindy Gomez
Ernest & Lupe Alvarado



CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

The rock the builders rejected became the cornerstone on which our salvation depends. Sped some time identifying areas of your life where you have felt rejected, and invite Jesus to transform them into opportunities for growth.

SALVADOS POR AQUEL QUE FUE RECHAZADO


Algunos adolescentes de la ciudad suelen menospreciar y rechazar a los chicos del campo. Sin embargo, no sería una exageración decir que la humanidad les debe la vida a los agricultores que cuidan los cultivos y el ganado por todo el mundo. La Sagrada Escritura para esta semana nos recuerda que Jesús fue rechazado como pastor, como chico del campo, sin embargo, a él le debemos la vida.

En la lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles de este domingo, Pedro les dice a las personas que la salvación viene por Jesucristo, que fue rechazado y crucificado. En la carta del apóstol san Juan escuchamos que nos hemos convertido en los hijos amados de Dios por Jesús, a quien el mundo no conoció. Por último, en el Evangelio Jesús se describe como el buen Pastor: “yo doy la vida por las ovejas” (Juan 10:11). ¿Te unirás a Jesús para dar tu vida por el rebaño amado de Dios?

MOTHER’S DAY NOVENA

Envelopes for the Mother’s Day Novena are located in the Entrance of the Church and in your offering envelope mail-outs. The Novena will begin on Sunday, May 12th (Mother’s Day) During the Nine days Masses will be offered for All Mother’s Living or Deceased.

HOUSE OF FAITH FOOD PANTRY



The Food Pantry will be OPEN again on Wednesday, April 24th from 4-6pm.. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Diana Moreno at 765.7696.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Confirmation & 1st Holy Communion Important Dates

Confirmation - Saturday, April 27th - 5:30PM Mass

1st Confessions - Saturday, May 4th - 10AM; Church

1st Communion Mass - Saturday, May 4th - 5:30PM Mass

ABOUT TODAY’S 2ND COLLECTION
RETIRED & INFIRM PRIEST COLLECTION

Money from the Retired and Infirm Priests Collection provides for the long-term funding needed by the welfare fund, to enhance the monthly benefits to our retired priests in perpetuity and to assist in the special health care needs of the infirm and retired priests of our diocese. Contributions to this special collection enable them to continue their ministry in a variety of pastoral settings, as well as provide financial assistance for the challenges they face with advanced age and failing health.

Special Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for April

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

