

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 38; Incense

As we continue through the Offertory of the Mass, we now come to the point where incense can be used. Some of us may like the incense, and others may not. Do you know what incense is made of and why we use it?

What is incense, and where does it come from?

According to the Catholic Source Book, “Frankincense... is the main ingredient in the incense used in today’s liturgies. A resin produced by a family of desert trees that grow in southern Arabia, it is derived from a sap that dries, forming crystalline lumps of an amber/gold color. For Christians, it has a rich prayer and purification symbolism. From the earliest Christian days, it has been associated with Christ, beginning with the Magi’s gift (Matthew 2:10–11). Even before that, the Jews regarded its rich spicy scent as a pure offering, pleasing to God” (p. 307). Charles Belmonte adds, “Incense is a resinous substance which, when placed upon glowing charcoal, gives off a balsamic odor as it burns. It had a place in Israelite worship; in fact, the psalmist compares our prayers to the smoke of incense, rising up to heaven. In the Book of Revelation, it is seen as a symbol of the prayers of the saints” (Understanding the Mass, p. 50).

Where is incense mentioned in the Bible?

Besides the Book of Revelation, incense is mentioned in the Book of Numbers 7:14 as part of an offering for the dedication of the altar. Deuteronomy 33:10 makes reference to “the smoke of sacrifice.” Exodus 30:34–38 describes blending aromatic substances with pure frankincense in equal parts, even describing how it should be ground into fine dust. In Revelation 5:8, St. John tells us the elders had “gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones.” In another reference, Revelation 8:3–4 describes an angel with a gold censer: “He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones... The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God...”

Hopefully, it is clear from these passages that there is a connection between incense and prayer and sacrifice. When incense is used in the Mass, there are times when it is clearly used to reverence people and things, which is especially clear when incense is used during the Offertory of the Mass. Referring to this part of the Mass, The General Instruction of the Roman Missal says, after the bread and wine are placed on the altar, “the Priest may incense the gifts placed on the altar and then incense the cross and the altar itself, so as to signify the Church’s offering and prayer rising like incense in the sight of God. Next, the Priest, because of his sacred ministry, and the people, by reason of their baptismal dignity, may be incensed by the Deacon or by another minister” (GIRM, 75). As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, “this particular incense shows a connectedness between the altar of sacrifice, those offering the sacrifice, and those uniting themselves to the sacrifice. Before being incensed we bow not only as a sign of reverence but as a sign of affirmation that, like the incense, we offer our lives to God and pray they be lifted up and transformed” (A Study of the Mass, p. 12).

Why is incense used at Mass?

One older priest once said to me that he loves using incense to honor holy people and holy things. As he sees the smoke rising, he is mindful that we are gathered together as God’s people in the Mass, joining Jesus in offering the perfect sacrifice to the Father. In the Mass, our prayers are joined together, and the incense gives us a visual reminder of those prayers being offered to God. He also mentioned he places one, two, or three spoons of incense (from the little container called an incense boat) onto the burning charcoal in the censer (sometimes called a thurible). For him, one spoonful calls to mind the Oneness of God; two spoonfuls point to the two natures of Christ (human and divine); and three indicate the three persons of the Trinity. For that priest, this is a simple way to recall core truths about God as we pray together in the Mass.

To summarize for us, Fr. Oury notes that incensing “is a mark of honor paid to the offerings that are going to become the Body and Blood of Christ. The honor extends to all the people participating in the celebration and to their offerings, which represent their life and work. Incensing is also a kind of petition, a deeply meaningful one. Through it we pray that the Church’s offering and the Church’s prayer may mount to heaven, to the presence of God above, like a veritable cloud of incense” (The Mass, p. 87).

For Reflection:

1. Read and pray with one or all of the Old Testament uses of incense Father Luke cites (Numbers 7:14, Deuteronomy 33:10, and Exodus 30:34–38). As you reflect on what you read, allow the historical uses of incense to enrich your understanding of the role of incense in the holy sacrifice of the Mass.
2. Reflect on the role of incense in Revelation 5:8 and 8:3–4. As you pray, privately or liturgically, imagine your prayers rising to God like incense.



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



Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



There appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.
Acts 1:11

Rev. Andrew Hejdak
Pastor

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

John Womack & Co.
Bookkeeper

PARISH 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.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

The Chapel is available to anyone 24/7 if you would like to spend time to visit with Jesus in the Eucharist. To get the door code contact the parish office or Fr. Andrew.

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

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
Adriana Bernardo 543.7642

PRAYER & PRAISE GROUP
Nydia Tamez 688.0333

SACRED HEART SOCIETY
Amelia Flores 443.9811

ST. JUDE NOVENA
Jerry & Ofelia Rivera 876.7147



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Pastoral Emergency: 361-543-0503



Solemnity of Pentecost ✨ May 19, 2024 ✨ Solemnidad de Pentecostés

Mass Intentions For The Week



SATURDAY May 18, 2024

5:30PM: Mother's Day Novena

†Guadalupe Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)

†Diana Schicker (Family)

†Pedro K Lopez (Patricia Solis)

†Abel G Garcia (Family)

†Fr. Gino (Rose De La Cruz)

†Maria Felix Aguirre (Gina Lopez)

†Esteban & †Candelaria Ortiz (Esteban & Lydia)

†Concepcion, †Ester and †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)

†Juan Obregon, †Maximino Acuna, †David Solis Sr

†Margarito & †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez

SUNDAY May 19, 2024

8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)

†Eva Corona (M/M Manuel Menchaca)

†Irma Perales (Family)

†Jose Manuel Lozano (Family)

†Herminia Lara, †Juana Garcia (Daniel Lara & Family)

10:00AM: Mother's Day Novena

†Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)

†Eddie Perez (Family)

†Santos Garcia Jr (Mom and Brothers)

†Marvin Emrich (David & Angel Emrich)

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)

MONDAY May 20, 2024

5:30PM: Mother's Day Novena

TUESDAY May 21, 2024

5:30PM: Special Intentions for Anna Anaya

WEDNESDAY May 22, 2024

8:30AM: for the parishioners of Immaculate Conception

THURSDAY May 23, 2024

8:30AM: Special Intentions for Linda Anaya

FRIDAY May 24, 2024

8:30AM: Special Intentions for Joshua Martinez

SATURDAY May 25, 2024

5:30PM: †Guadalupe Moreno (James & Mona Lacour)

†Alvaro Lopez Sr. (Juan & Rosario Cantu)

†Dorn Dover (Rose De La Cruz)

†Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Esteban & Lydia)

†Concepcion, †Ester and †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)

†Margarito & †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez

SUNDAY May 26, 2024

8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)

†Estefana Menchaca (M/M Manuel Menchaca)

†Irma Perales (Family)

†Salvador Arnold Solis Jr, †Esteban & †Candelaria Ortiz,

†Arnaldo & †Elvira Solis (Virginia Solis & Family)

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)

†Eddie Perez (Family)

†Santos Garcia Jr (Mom and Brothers)

†Petra Flores, †Teslesforo & †Petra Gomez, †Sovieda Gar-

cia, †Frank & †George Gomez

12:00PM: Thanksgiving to God;

40th Anniversary of Priesthood (Fr. Andrew)

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Envelope Collection	\$1,277.00
Loose Collection	\$907.00
Building Fund	\$270.00
Children's Collection	\$57.00
Online Giving	\$190.00
Collection Total - May 11/12	\$2,701.00
Catholic Communication Campaign	\$412.00

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generous support, and

Special Collections for the Month of June

8/9 - Building Fund

29/30 - Peter's Pence Collection





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

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Sat. May 25	Lector 	Extra Ordinary 
Sun. May 26		
5:30PM	Chelo, Gabby	Juan
8:00AM	Armando	Carmen
10:00AM	Gabriel	Cindy
12:00PM	Jesse C	Lucy

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

ALL ARE SENT

Fifty days after Easter Sunday we celebrate the fulfillment of all God's promises in the feast of Pentecost, a feast that has sometimes been called the birthday of the church. One last time we are reminded that we Christians have received the Holy Spirit, not for our own benefit, but to enable us to follow our Christian vocation.

The centerpiece of the scriptures for Pentecost is the account in Acts of the Apostles of the sending of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. The other readings for this Sunday help us to understand what it means to live out our Christian vocation. Paul's letter shows us the gifts and fruits that the Holy Spirit gives to us. John's Gospel reminds us that Jesus has sent all his disciples to share his forgiveness and peace, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-3, 5-7; Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions

Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: St. Rita of Cascia

Jas 4:13-17; Ps 49:2-3, 6-11; Mk 9:38-40

Thursday:

Jas 5:1-6; Ps 49:14-20; Mk 9:41-50

Friday:

Jas 5:9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12; Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII;

St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi

Jas 5:13-20; Ps 141:1-3, 8; Mk 10:13-16

Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity

Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

FR. ANDREW 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Join us next Sunday, May 26th as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Fr. Andrew's Ordination to the Priesthood. A special anniversary Mass will be celebrated at 12:00PM followed by a pot-luck reception in the parish hall.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

A change to the parish prayer list: any names on the list will remain on the list for six (6) weeks; after which names will be removed.

To add or remove names contact the parish office.

TRAVELING DIVINE MERCY IMAGE

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

Lucinda Tijerina

Raymond & Brenda Flores

TODOS SON ENVIADOS

Cincuenta días después del Domingo de Pascua, celebramos el cumplimiento de todas las promesas de Dios en el Domingo de Pentecostés, una celebración a la que muchas veces se ha llamado el cumpleaños de la Iglesia. Se nos recuerda otra vez más que los cristianos hemos recibido el Espíritu Santo, no para beneficio personal sino para permitirnos seguir nuestra vocación cristiana.

El eje de las lecturas para Pentecostés es el relato en los Hechos de los Apóstoles, cuando el Espíritu Santo es enviado a los discípulos. Las demás lecturas para este domingo nos ayudan a comprender qué significa vivir nuestra vocación cristiana. La carta del apóstol san Pablo nos muestra los dones y frutos que el Espíritu Santo nos concede. El Evangelio según san Juan nos recuerda que Jesús ha enviado a todos sus discípulos para que compartan su perdón y paz, por el poder del Espíritu Santo.

NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The Sacred Heart Society invites you to join them in reciting the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus beginning on Thursday, May 30th at 8:00am in the Church and will continue on the following days and times

Thursday, May 30th - Friday, May 31st - 8:00am

Saturday, June 1st - 5:00pm

Sunday, June 2nd - 7:30am

Monday, June 3rd - 9:00am


Tuesday, June 4th - 5:00pm

Wednesday, June 5th - 8:00am


Thursday, June 6th - 8:00am

Friday, June 7th - 5:00PM

Friday, June 7th is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



HOUSE OF FAITH FOOD PANTRY



The Food Pantry will be OPEN again on Wednesday, May 29th from 4-6pm.. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Diana Moreno at 765.7696.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Participate in the creative and renewing Spirit of God by fostering something new this week. Plant a seed, write a short story, sing a new song, redecorate a room, paint a picture, or do anything that allows you to bring about something that hasn't yet been done before. As you participate in this creative activity, invite the Holy Spirit to help renew you and those around you.

Special Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for May

For the formation of religious and seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

