

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 48; The Epiclesis

Continuing now with the individual parts of the Eucharistic Prayer, we come to a really action-packed moment: the Epiclesis. What is the “Epiclesis”? How do we even pronounce it? (A common pronunciation is Epp-eh-clee-sis.) Charles Belmonte teaches, “In the Epiclesis, the priest requests God the Father to send the Holy Spirit so that the bread and wine offered may become Christ’s Body and Blood and so we may be able to celebrate the Eucharistic mystery, and to make all the effects of the sacrament operative in us. At the same time, the priest extends his hands, palms downward, over the chalice and host, and traces the sign of the cross over them. With this gesture, he asks God to pour his blessing over the gifts offered and to turn them into his Son’s body and blood” (Understanding the Mass, p. 135). That is a lot of action for a few quick words! This is an important moment because it gives us notice about what is soon to come: the changing of the bread and wine into the very Body and Blood of Jesus.

Why Bells Are Sometimes Used during the Epiclesis

According to the Diocese of Peoria, “The Epiclesis is the invocation of the Holy Spirit upon the gifts to be offered... It is through the power of the Holy Spirit who descended upon the apostles at Pentecost that the priest, through his hands, offers the human gifts and earthly elements to be consecrated into Godly gifts and heavenly realities. Often we may hear the ‘sanctus bell’ to call our attention to this invocation and calling down of the Holy Spirit” (“A Study of the Mass,” p. 14). This might be a good time to mention the use of bells which, depending on your local traditions, you may hear a few different times during the Eucharistic Prayer, including at the Sanctus, Epiclesis, elevation of the Body and Blood of Jesus after Consecration, and after the priest receives Communion. Why bells? Perhaps especially our students will recognize the importance of bells (or similar signals), which help call our attention to a significant moment. For me, during my school years, the lunchtime bell was always a welcome sound! Similarly, during the Eucharistic Prayer, the sound of a bell can direct our attention to important moments, such as kneeling in preparation for Jesus who is to become present, asking the Holy Spirit to make our gifts of bread and wine worthy for the sacrifice of Mass, looking upon our Lord truly present in adoration elevated above the altar, or in our immediate preparation for Holy Communion. Although some may note that the bell is a tradition from times past when people often didn’t know the language of the prayers, in humble honesty, many of us will recognize that we still often need a call to attention so we don’t miss these important moments.

A Prayer Asking for the Holy Spirit’s Help

Although we normally think of the Epiclesis as the calling down of the Holy Spirit in anticipation of the changing of the gifts into the Most Holy Eucharist, as is often the case with the prayers of the Mass, there is even more there. Fr. Guy Oury explains, “The sign of acknowledgment and acceptance by God will be fruitful union with the sacrifice... But there can be more than one reason for this prayer. It may be to ask for acceptance of the sacrifice. It may also be to ask for fruitful participation in the sacrifice through Holy Communion. Or it may be to ask for the Consecration” (The Mass, p. 100). The bottom line is that we know we need the Holy Spirit’s help! To celebrate the Mass faithfully, receive Communion faithfully, and live faithfully: for all these acts, we need the Holy Spirit.

So, the next time you hear that bell or see the priest extend his hands palms-down over the offering, remember that we are asking the Holy Spirit to sanctify the gifts and each one of our hearts!

For Reflection:

- 1. In preparation for your next Mass, ask the Holy Spirit’s help for fruitful participation in the liturgy.
- 2. During the time of the Epiclesis, unite your heart with the intentions of this prayer by asking God’s acceptance of the sacrifice, our fruitful participation in the sacrifice, and the fulfillment of the Consecration.

This article was written by Fr. Luke Spannagel and published on the National Eucharistic Revival Blog Webpage.



| 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 |



Sixteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July 21, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church
Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



When Jesus saw the vast crowd,
his heart was moved with pity for them,
for they were like sheep without a shepherd.
Mark 6: 34

Rev. Andrew Hejdak
Pastor

David D. Solis Jr.
david@icgregory.org
Administrative Asst.

John Womack & Co.
Bookkeeper

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

FAITH FORMATION

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

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

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
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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

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



Mass Intentions For The Week

SATURDAY July 20, 2024
5:30PM: †Guadalupe Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)
†Diana Schicker (Family)
†David Solis Sr. (Pat, David, Gabby)
†Rene Aaron Pena (Solis Family)
†Johnnie Bill (Rose De La Cruz)
†Lydia Zambrano (Family)
†Esteban & †Candelaria Ortiz (Esteban & Lydia)
†Concepcion, †Ester and †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)
†Margarito & †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez

SUNDAY July 21, 2024
8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Juan Manuel Lozano (Family)
†Alfredo Hernandez (Solis)
†Estefana Menchaca (M/M Manuel Menchaca Family)
†Aurora & †Jose Javier Mendoza (Family)
†Herminia Lara & †Juana Garcia (Daniel Lara & Family)

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Santos Garcia (Family)
†Lorna Gomez (daughter)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
†Martha & †Juanita Perales (Severo Perales)
†Ernesto, †Roy & †Meisha Hinojosa (Family)

12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family)
†Lelia Guzman (Family)
†Adrian G Flores (Family)
†Maria Oralia Cavazos (Cavazos Family)
†Emilio Peña Sr. (Annette Freeman)
†Jose O & †Anita Lucio (Family)

TUESDAY July 23, 2024
5:30PM: Special Intentions for Richard Maxwell

WEDNESDAY July 24, 2024
8:30AM: Special Intention for Isidro Garza

THURSDAY July 25, 2024
8:30AM: Special Intentions for Marc Maxwell

FRIDAY July 26, 2024
8:30AM: Special Intentions for Aracely Salazar

SATURDAY July 27, 2024
5:30PM: †Guadalupe Moreno (James & Mona Lacour)
†Johnny & †Alejandro Lopez (Esteban & Lydia)
†Concepcion, †Ester and †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)
†Margarito & †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez

SUNDAY July 28, 2024
8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Eva Corona (M/M Manuel Menchaca Family)
†Aurora & †Jose Javier Mendoza (Family)
†Jovita & †Lorenza Lara (Daniel Lara & Family)


10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Santos Garcia (Family)
†Lorna Gomez (daughter)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
†Guadalupe & †Martha Perales (Severo Perales)

12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family)
†Lelia Guzman (Family)


| WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Envelope Collection | \$1,757.00 |
| Loose Collection | \$758.00 |
| Children’s Collection | \$15.00 |
| Building Fund | \$240.00 |
| Online Giving | \$335.00 |
| Collection Total - July 13/14 | \$3,105.00 |

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 July
20/21 - Solidarity Fund for Church in Africa



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO BE TAKEN TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE’S ONLINE GIVING PAGE





† 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:

Names remain on the prayer list for two (2) months; after which they are removed, to add/remove a name contact the parish office.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Valerie Aleman, | Esmeralda Hernandez, | Sergio Rodriguez, |
| Victoria Arredondo, | Jorge Hernandez, | Yolanda G. Rodriguez, |
| Paula Avila, | San Juanita Hinojosa, | San Juanita Saenz, |
| Rafael Baez | Jaime Jimenez, | Bernice Sanchez, |
| Rosa Barrera, | Adolfo Menchaca Jr., | Adan Salazar, |
| Elisa Claudio, | Alejandro Mora, | Gracie Salazar, |
| Johnny Cruz, | Anastacio Mora, | Raymond Smith, |
| Sandra Davila, | Noemilio Mora, | B Solis, |
| Adela Escobedo, | Augustin Moreno III, | Dora Tagle, |
| Aurora Flores, | Angie Ochoa, | Gloria Treviño, |
| Chris Flores, | Carmen Ortiz, | Joe Treviño, |
| Eudelia Flores, | Anita Peña, | Sara Treviño, |
| Guadalupe Flores, | Luis Peña Jr., | Gerri Zambrano |
| Juanita Flores, | Jerry Rivera Sr., | |
| Violet Guerrero, | Julia Rodriguez, | |

| NEXT WEEK’S MINISTERS SCHEDULE | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Sat. July 27 Sun. July 28 | Lector  | Extra Ordinary Ministers  |
| 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

REST IN THE LORD

For several weeks we have listened to readings that have recounted just how arduous the work of prophets and disciples can be. In today’s Gospel, the Lord Jesus listens to the reports of those he had sent out “two by two” to minister to the people. After the apostles reported what they had done, Jesus, recognizing their fatigue, says, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile” (Mark 6:31). Perhaps this is what the Lord is telling his disciples in the year 2018 as well. We need to pause on our journey of discipleship and simply rest in the Lord. Sunday Mass provides many opportunities for quiet times, particularly during the periods of silence following the readings. Why not take the time today to allow the saving word of the Lord to penetrate your heart during those silent times? Ask the Lord to renew you in body, mind, and spirit for the arduous work of discipleship.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: St. Mary Magdalene
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday: St. Bridget
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday: St. Sharbel Makhlūf
2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28

Thursday: St. James
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 26:6-7ab, 8-11; Mt 13:10-17

Friday: Ss. Joachim and Anne
Jer 3:14-17; Jer 31:10-13; Mt 13:18-23

Saturday:
Jer 7:1-11; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Mt 13:24-30

Sunday: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15


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. You are welcomed to sign up for it more than once. The sign-up sheet is currently listed through December. Currently the image is scheduled to be picked up at the church on Saturday or Sunday and dropped off back at the church by Saturday (around the time of confessions).

Pray for the following families that will be hosting the Traveling Divine Image this week
Leandro & Angelica Vasquez

Special Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for July
For the pastoral care of the sick

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.



DESCANSA EN EL SEÑOR

Durante varias semanas hemos escuchado lecturas que relatan la difícil tarea de los profetas y discípulos. En el Evangelio de hoy, el Señor Jesús escucha lo que le cuentan los discípulos enviados “de dos en dos” a servir a la gente. Jesús, comprendiendo que están fatigados, les dice: “Vengan conmigo a un lugar solitario, para que descansen un poco” (Marcos 6:31). Quizás esto también es lo que el Señor les dice a sus discípulos del año 2018. Debemos hacer un alto en nuestro camino de discípulos y simplemente descansar en el Señor. La Misa del domingo brinda muchas oportunidades para la reflexión, en especial durante los períodos de silencio luego de las lecturas. ¿Por qué no dedicar algo de tiempo hoy a permitir que la palabra salvadora del Señor penetre tu corazón en esos silencios? Pídele al Señor que te renueve en cuerpo, mente y espíritu para que puedas continuar con la ardua tarea de ser un buen discípulo.


CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Jesus reconciles us to God and brings about peace. Today, reflect on an area in your life in need of Christ’s peace. Consider journaling about what is holding your back from allowing peace to enter that part of your life. Make a list of your anxieties and woes, and offer these to the Lord in prayer. As you continue throughout the week, pray for the grace to open your heart more fully to God’s peace.



HOUSE OF FAITH FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry will be OPEN again on **Wednesday, July 24th** from 4pm until we run out of supplies If you are willing to volunteer please contact Diana Moreno at 765.7696.



USHERS BREAKFAST TACO SALE

The Ushers will be selling breakfast tacos after the 8AM and 10AM Masses on Sunday, July 28th.

SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

This weekend we take up our collection to support the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. The people of Africa are joyous and faith-filled—but as the Church in Africa grows, the pastoral needs of the people also increase. Clergy formation, communications programs to bring the Gospel to remote territories, youth ministries that engage the next generation of disciples—these and all the Church’s needs are wide-ranging. The Solidarity Fund is an opportunity for our parish to stand with the people of Africa. Our contributions help them face these challenges and build lasting foundations of missionary discipleship.