

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 63: Exchanging the Sign of Peace

Continuing with the Rite of Peace, how do we exchange the sign of peace? For a little more background on this part of the Mass, the Diocese of Peoria teaches, “This prayer reaffirms the holiness of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. The Church, insofar as She is the Bride of Christ, is holy and without blemish. While the Church remains holy, Her members are prone to sin and error, and so we beseech our Lord to look upon His Church with favor and grant us the peace and unity of the kingdom of heaven. Upon asking our Lord for this peace, the priest extends this peace to the congregation as he says: ‘The peace of the Lord be with you always!’ [The people reply] ‘And with your spirit.’ [The Deacon or Priest then says: “Let us offer each other the sign of peace.”] According to local custom, we exchange with one another a sign of peace. Typically, in the United States, the normative gesture is a handshake to those around us” (A Study of the Mass, p. 18).

An Expression of Christian Community

For more description of what happens after the words from the sanctuary, the Catholic Encyclopedia states, “It is then that the people of the assembled community turn to their immediate neighbors and exchange a greeting, a shake of the hand, or other sign of peace and friendship. This need not be an elaborate exchange. There are no ritual words to be said, some preferring to say: ‘Peace be with you’ or ‘the Peace of Christ be with you’ or ‘God bless you.’ The response may be equally simple. This kiss of peace, both as a sign of recognition of fellowship, respect, or friendship is essentially a sign of reconciliation, of expressing the mutual regard of Christian for Christian... St. Paul recognized this sign of peace as an expression of Christian community (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12). And St. Peter considered this greeting a sign of union with Christ, or Christ-like togetherness (1 Pt 5:14)” (Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 465).

Practical Gestures of Peace

While the deeper meaning of this gesture may be more clear for us, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal included a new paragraph addressing the practical gesture itself, which says, “As for the actual sign of peace to be given, the manner is to be established by the Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples. However, it is appropriate that each person, in a sober manner, offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest” (GIRM, 82). So, what is the norm for us? While we don’t have a defined standard, as mentioned previously, our typical local norm is a simple handshake with people that are nearby. Certainly, spouses, families, and others may have more intimate exchanges of peace such as a hug or a kiss. During times when people are being more cautious about illness and contact, a simple bow or a wave and a smile can be fine gestures of peace as well. Generally, I would encourage people to choose the sign that is comfortable for people around us. The main thing we want to remember is to make the gesture a real sign of peace, while at the same time not being too carefree or moving throughout the church, where we might risk being disrespectful to Jesus present on the altar (which is also why we shouldn’t have conversations at this time).

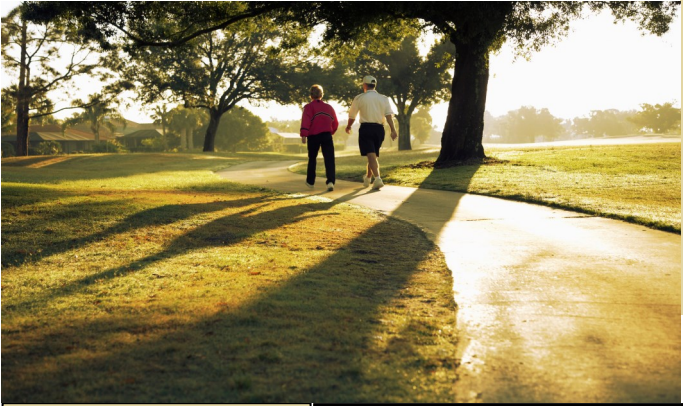
For a few more summary thoughts, the Diocese of Peoria says, “This rite of peace acknowledges a few things: forgiveness, humility and community. In Matthew, Chapter 5, our Lord taught us we must first be reconciled with one another before approaching the altar. We approach the altar to receive the Prince of Peace; His command is that we be peacemakers ourselves by forgiving others and asking pardon for our sins... It is also a gesture of the communal Spirit which resides in the Church. The gesture of peace signifies this ‘ecclesial bond’ that with Christ we are a community of believers and children of the same Father” (A Study of the Mass, p. 18). The next time you offer the Sign of Peace at Mass, whether a hug, kiss, handshake, simple bow, wave, or smile, think about what it truly means—what you truly want to offer to those around you—and how it helps prepare your heart for Jesus truly present in Holy Communion.

For Reflection:

1. Review the New Testament passages which feature a “holy kiss” or “loving kiss” as a greeting within the early Church (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thes 5:26; 1 Pt 5:14). Ask the intercession of those in the Communion of Saints who have shared this gesture throughout Church history for peace within the Church today and the extension of Christ’s peace in our mission to the world.
2. As part of your preparation the next time you participate in Mass, pray Psalm 122, which celebrates the gift of worshipping in God’s “house” and includes the phrase, “Peace be with you.”

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	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.	Contact parish office at least 6 months prior to proposed date.			



Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 3, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church
Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



Rev. Andrew Hejdak
Pastor

David D. Solis Jr.
david@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
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 November 2, 2024
10:00AM: All Souls Novena
5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)
†Estefana Menchaca (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
†Venus McElvany (Tim & Cres Swindler)
†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez
†Concepcion, †Ester, †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)
†Jose, †Elodia, †Joey & †Elva Valencia (Family)
Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe (Minerva Lopez)

SUNDAY November 3, 2024
8:00AM: All Souls Novena
†Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Macarrio Barrera (Rosa Barrera)
†Irma Perales (Family)
†Fidel & †Alma Labeaga (Genoveva Labeaga)
Health of Gabby Cantu (Raymond Lopez)
10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Santos Garcia (Family)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
†Lino Cruz Sr (Family)
†Gloria Cristel Cadriel (Mom & Siblings)
12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family)
†Lelia Guzman (Family)
†Adrian G Flores (Family)
†Juan C Flores Jr. (Family)
†Emilio Pena Sr (Family)
†Ray Villarreal Sr. (Elena Villarreal)

MONDAY November 4, 2024
5:30PM: All Souls Novena

TUESDAY November 5, 2024
5:30PM: All Souls Novena

WEDNESDAY November 6, 2024
8:30AM: All Souls Novena

THURSDAY November 7, 2024
8:30AM: All Souls Novena

FRIDAY November 8, 2024
8:30AM: All Souls Novena

SATURDAY November 9, 2024
5:30PM: All Souls Novena
†Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)
†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez
†Concepcion, †Ester, †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)
†Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Minerva Lopez)
†Jose & †Guadalupe Lopez (Dora Torres)

SUNDAY November 10, 2024
8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Irma Perales (Family)
†Eva Corona (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
10:00AM: All Souls Novena
†Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Santos Garcia (Family)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family)
†Lelia Guzman (Family)
†Adrian G Flores (Family)

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP	
Envelope Collection	\$1,865.00
Loose Collection	\$598.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$35.00
Online Giving	\$285.00
Collection Total - Oct. 26/27	\$2,783.00
Emergency Hurricane Relief	\$182.00

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 November

9/10 - Building Maintenance

16/17 - Campaign for Human Development

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

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS SCHEDULE		
Sat. Nov. 9 Sun. Nov. 10	Lector Lectors	Extra Ordinary Ministers
5:30PM		Juan
8:00AM	Elisa	Pedro
10:00AM	Jenevieve	Raymond
12:00PM	Chelo	Alma

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

GOD'S LAWS

God's laws are not intended to burden or torment us. Instead they are guideposts that point us in the direction of good living. Accordingly, good living requires loving God and loving one another. We should not follow God's laws out of fear of what might happen if we don't, but rather view them as a foundation for building relationships and trust with one another and with God.

The Shema prayer of Orthodox Jews is based on the reading from Deuteronomy today, "Hear, O Israel." Every morning people recite the prayer as a profession of their love for God and pledge their obedience to God throughout the day. They pass on their love of God to their children, from one generation to the next.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: St. Charles Borromeo
Phil 2:1-4; Ps 131:1bcde-3; Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday:
Phil 2:5-11; Ps 22:26b-30ab, 30e, 31-32; Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday:
Phil 2:12-18; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 14:25-33

Thursday:
Phil 3:3-8a; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 15:1-10

Friday:
Phil 3: 17- 4:1; Ps 122: 1-5;Lk 16: 1-8

Saturday: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

Sunday: Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 17:10-16; Ps 146:7-10; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44 [41-44]

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Jesus without hesitation, you remind us that we ought to love God with every ounce of our being. Help me to see where in my heart, soul, mind, or strength I am holding something back from you, as you are deserving of it all. Let me begin to love you more perfectly, so that I can also love my neighbor. Amen.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

The love we give to the Father and to our neighbor is, in the words of the scribe, "worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." No matter what worship we give to God, it is empty if it is not total love for him overflowing into actions of service for others. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you love God with your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Then, consider how it is reflected in your treatment of others. Identify the weakest aspect and bring it with you to the sacrifice of the Mass, asking Jesus to transform it into a more perfect love.

LAS LEYES DE DIOS

Las leyes de Dios no intentan atormentarnos o ser una carga. Al contrario, son señales que nos guían por el sendero de la buena vida. Por lo tanto, la buena vida requiere que amemos a Dios y nos amemos unos a otros. No debemos seguir las leyes divinas por miedo a lo que pudiera ocurrir si no las seguimos, más bien verlas como un fundamento sobre el cual construir nuestras relaciones y entablar confianza con los demás y con Dios.

La oración Shema de los judíos ortodoxos se basa en la lectura de hoy del Deuteronomio: "Escucha, pues, Israel". Cada mañana la persona recita la oración como una profesión de amor a Dios y un compromiso de obediencia a Dios a lo largo del día. Así transmiten el amor a Dios a sus hijos, de generación en generación.

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 family that will be hosting the Traveling Divine Image this week

Juan & Claudia Rementeria

BAPTISMAL CLASS

We will be having our next baptismal class here on **Thursday, November 14th at 7pm.** You **Must** register for the class at the parish office, to attend.

USHERS MEETING

The ushers will be having their monthly meeting **Tuesday, November 5th at 7:00PM** in the Religious Education Building.

If you are interested in joining the ushers ministry please make plans to attend or contact Ramiro Peña at 361-222-8857

LAS POSADAS

We have begun our search for "Yes" homes for our "Las Posadas" held on December 16th thru December 23rd. If you would like to host one of these nights please contact the parish office. So we can make arrangements.

Special Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for November

For anyone who has lost a child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.