

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 66: Preparation of the Priest

As we continue our final preparation for receiving Communion, we may notice another time when it looks as if the priest may be talking to himself at the altar. Actually, he is praying! After the “Lamb of God,” the congregation kneels down in adoration of THE Lamb of God present on the altar—Jesus Christ really, truly, and substantially present. Meanwhile, the priest joins his hands, perhaps bowing slightly, speaks quietly to himself, genuflects, and then gets ready for the next part of the Mass. What is he doing?

This part of the Mass is called the private preparation of the priest for receiving Holy Communion. As is often the case, the name of this part of the Mass tells you exactly what is happening! Before Communion, the priest takes a few moments to prepare to receive Our Lord. According to the Diocese of Peoria, after the fraction rite, “the priest prays a prayer quietly to himself. This is done quietly because it is a personal prayer of the priest as he prepares for communion. The sacrament of the Eucharist is the only Sacrament a priest can administer to himself. This private prayer asks the Lord to forgive any faults and to keep him faithful to the teachings of the Church... After this private preparation, the priest genuflects in adoration” (A Study of the Mass, p. 19).

The Two Prayers of Preparation

The Roman Missal actually gives the priest two options for this private prayer, both equally beautiful and prayerful:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your Death gave life to the world, free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood, from all my sins and from every evil; keep me always faithful to your commandments, and never let me be parted from you.

Or

May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgment and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy.

Fr. Guy Oury observes that “the first of the two prayers begins the reminiscence of Peter’s confession at Caesarea Philippi and alludes to the Passion, which Christ foretold shortly after. The Eucharist is offered to us as an antidote to sin. It is, by Christ’s own will, the favored means of union with him” (The Mass, p. 116). The second prayer, while shorter, also reminds the priest just how much he needs our Lord in the Eucharist and calls him to strive to be a worthy and holy priest.

A Personal Moment of Prayer for the Priest

For me as a priest, taking time for these prayers is one of my favorite parts of the Mass. During much of the Mass, as we have been reviewing, there are many things for the priest to do and say. I am often aware that I am praying on behalf of the people who are present. I certainly give myself the challenge of helping people understand the gift before us and pray together better. For me, this moment is a short break where I am just praying to Jesus from my heart. Each of the prayers is truly meaningful. The first reminds me of a priest who was really influential when I was growing up. Sometimes, as an altar server, I could hear him pray these words; I was struck by his prayer asking God to help him stay faithful and never to be parted from our Lord. It sounded so humble but also confident: Lord, this is what I need, and I know You will do it. That same confidence is in the second prayer as I ask for protection and healing. The word remedy fills my heart with hope that this union with Jesus will truly bring my heart into deeper union with him... and help keep me there!

So, what should everyone else do while the priest is praying one of the above prayers? While it is just a brief moment, Charles Belmonte reminds us: “The personal preparation of the priest gives us the opportunity to prepare ourselves also in silence, without the noise of words but with an abundance of acts of love. We feel unworthy as the moment for receiving our Lord approaches. But we decide to go on because we know that he wants to remain in the consecrated species to be our nourishment and the cure for our weaknesses” (Understanding the Mass, p. 182). In a way similar to the priest’s preparation, this is a wonderful moment to ask Jesus to strengthen you in faithfulness and purity through the gift of Holy Communion. Let us prepare fervently at this part of the Mass, for the Lord is coming to us very soon in his Flesh and Blood, the Most Holy Eucharist!

For Reflection:

1. Watch for the private preparation of the priest when you participate in Mass. Receive this moment as an opportunity to pray for the celebrant, for yourself, and for all present as you prepare for Communion.

2. Consider praying with the words of the priest’s private prayer as a way of preparing for Mass.

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	<i>Pastoral Visit:</i> 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.			



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 24, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



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
	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



"I am the ALPHA and the OMEGA, " says the Lord God,
"the one who is and who was and who is to come, the
almighty."
Revelations 1:8

Mass Intentions For The Week

SATURDAY November 23, 2024
5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)
†Estefana Menchaca (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
†Diana Schicker (Family)
†Mia Emily Solis (Christi Solis)
†Terry & †Shirley Rombough (Tim Swindler)
†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez
†Concepcion, †Ester, †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)
†Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Esteban & Lydia)

SUNDAY November 24, 2024
8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Irma Perales (Family)
†David Solis Sr. (Family)
10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Santos Garcia (Family)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
†Gloria Kristel, †Jessika Marie Cadriel (Veronica Garcia)
†Maria Gloria Soto, †Lino Cruz (Veronica Garcia)
†Telesforo & †Petra Gomez, †Petra Flores (Family)
†Rachel Hinojosa, †Eugenio & †Esperanza Esparza (Family)
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)
†Maria Oralia Cavazos (Cavazos Family)

TUESDAY November 26, 2024
5:30PM: Thanksgiving to St. Expeditus

WEDNESDAY November 27, 2024
6:30PM: For the Parishioners of Immaculate Conception

THURSDAY November 28, 2024
8:30AM: Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY November 29, 2024
8:30AM: NO MASS

SATURDAY November 30, 2024
5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)
†Eva Corona (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
†Jeri Seeley (Rose De La Cruz)
†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez
†Concepcion, †Ester, †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)
†Lupe & †Paula Lopez (Dora Torres)

SUNDAY December 1, 2024
8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Irma Perales (Family)
10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Santos Garcia (Family)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
†Rebeca Rodriguez Vargas (Rodriguez Family)
†Gloria Kristel, †Jessika Marie Cadriel (Veronica Garcia)
†Maria Gloria Soto, †Lino Cruz (Veronica Garcia)
12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family)
†Lelia Guzman (Family)
†Adrian G Flores (Family)
†Juan C Flores Jr. (Family)

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP	
Envelope Collection	\$1,430.00
Loose Collection	\$868.00
Children’s Collection	\$18.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$70.00
Online Giving	\$395.00
Collection Total - Nov. 16/17	\$2,781.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$529.00

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 December

7/8 - Retirement Fund for Religious

14/15 - Building Maintenance Fund

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. 30 Sun. Dec. 1	Lector Lectors	Extra Ordinary Ministers
5:30PM	Louis	Amelia
8:00AM	Esteban	Janie
10:00AM	Jesse L	Terri F
12:00PM	Lupe A	Josie

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

CHRIST IS KING
On the final Sunday of the liturgical year we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. It’s easy to understand today’s scriptures as events that happened long ago and far away, or predictions that will come true somewhere, some day. But they invite us to claim Christ as our King here and now. Jesus’ words to Pilate in the Gospel remind us that his kingdom transcends time and place. And the prophecies from Daniel and Revelation give us reason to be faithful to Christ our King right here and right now.
By concluding the year with this feast we are proclaiming our faith that Jesus Christ is the one and only King over all seasons, all peoples, and all of creation. No matter what nation we belong to or what language we speak, he “has made us into a kingdom” (Revelation 1:6)—one people united in love and peace for all eternity.

CRISTO ES REY
El último domingo del año litúrgico celebramos la fiesta de Cristo Rey. Puede que entendamos las lecturas de hoy como acontecimientos que sucedieron hace mucho, mucho tiempo o predicciones que se harán realidad algún día en algún lugar. Pero en realidad nos invitan a aclamar a Cristo como nuestro Rey aquí y ahora. Las palabras de Jesús a Pilatos en el Evangelio nos recuerdan que su Reino trasciende el tiempo y el espacio. Y las profecías de Daniel y del Apocalipsis nos dan motivos para ser fieles a Cristo, nuestro Rey, aquí y ahora.
Al terminar el año con esta fiesta proclamamos nuestra fe en que Jesucristo es el único Rey de todos los tiempos, pueblos y de toda la Creación. Sin importar cuál sea nuestra nacionalidad ni qué idioma hablemos: Cristo “y ha hecho de nosotros un reino” (Apocalipsis 1:6), en un pueblo unido en el amor y la paz por toda la eternidad.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday: St. Catherine of Alexandria
Rv 14: 1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24: 1-6; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday:
Rv 14: 14-19; Ps 96: 10-13; Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday:
Rv 15: 1-4; Ps 98:1-3, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday:
Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100: 1-5; Lk 21:20-28
or for Thanksgiving Day
Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday:
Rv: 20: 1-4, 11-21:2; Ps 84: 3-6,8 ; Lk 21: 29-33

Saturday: St. Andrew
Rom 10: 9-18; Ps 19: 8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent, Year C, Cycle I
Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3: 12 - 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY

The Parish Office will be **CLOSED** on Wednesday, November 27th, Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Throughout the history of the Church, many men and women have been martyred for their rejection of earthly kings. One of these individuals is Blessed Miguel Pro, a priest who lived during a time of Catholic persecution in Mexico. He was framed for the attempted bombing of a former president and was sentenced to death without any legal process. Before he was shot, he loudly proclaimed, “¡Viva Cristo Rey!” or in English, “Long live Christ the King!” This week, call on the intercession of Blessed Miguel to help you proclaim Christ as King in your own life.

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 April 2025
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
Jesse & Maria Gomez

LAS POSADAS

We have begun our search for “Yes” homes for our “Las Posadas”. The following dates are still available: **Tuesday, December 17th, and Thursday December 19th**, If you would like to host one of these nights please contact the parish office. So we can make arrangements.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Jesus, you are the King of kings—King of mercy, love, peace, and goodness. Rid my heart of any ties to the kingdoms of this world that do not honor you. Place within me an ever-growing desire to make you the only King in my life, and help me to live in a manner that builds your kingdom here on earth. Amen

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.