

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass  
Part 67: Showing the Host

“Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” After his genuflection to Our Lord really present in the Most Holy Eucharist, the priest raises the chalice with the host and proclaims these words of St. John the Baptist (Jn 1:29). This part of the Mass is called the “Showing of the Host.”

The current General Instruction of the Roman Missal includes a paragraph on this part of the Mass: “Then the Priest shows the faithful the Eucharistic Bread, holding it over the paten or over the chalice, and invites them to the banquet of Christ; and along with the faithful, he then makes an act of humility, using the prescribed words from the Gospels” (GIRM, 84). There is really a communication going on here. Like St. John the Baptist, the priest is proclaiming the presence of the Lord Jesus and pointing him out so that everyone may know he is with us. Then the priest extends an invitation to those who are able to partake in this special gift, the Holy Eucharist.

An Invitation and a Gift

“Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” As Edward Sri indicates, “these words are taken from a climactic moment in the book of Revelation and indeed, the entire Bible (Rv 19:9).” The scene is set as the great multitude in heaven is singing together the Lord’s praises. Sri continues, “And the angel instructs John to write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb’ (Rv 19:9). What is the festive supper of the Lamb? It is the Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist. First of all, the supper and the Lamb bring to mind the Passover supper in which Jews would sacrifice a lamb and eat of it as the main course of the meal... But this passage tells us something even more dramatic. In Revelation 19:6-9, the Lamb is revealed to be a bridegroom! And that means this Passover supper is a wedding feast. The Bridegroom-Lamb is Jesus, and the Bride represents us, the Church, whom Jesus is coming to wed... When you hear those words at Mass, do you realize that you are receiving a wedding invitation? You are being called to participate in the marriage feast of Jesus and his Church” (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, pp. 138, 140).

We are so blessed by his invitation and the gift of Jesus himself. What do we do now? The only right thing to do is to be honest with the Lord about his generosity and recognize that without his grace and mercy, we could never be worthy of such a gift. Thankfully for us, the words of the centurion from the Gospel (see Mt 8:8) summarize well what our response should be. After the showing and “Lamb of God,” the priest and the people respond, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

Our Response and Reception

As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, “We respond to this invitation of the priest to receive the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist with humility. Like the centurion servant who recognized himself unworthy to have the Lord ‘under his roof’ to heal his child, it calls to mind our humility—and the Lord’s divine majesty that He can do this work despite our weaknesses” (A Study of the Mass, p. 19). As Edward Sri notes, these words of the centurion are also a prayer that “expresses a great faith that surpasses many others in the gospels and amazes even Jesus: he believes Jesus can heal from afar, simply by speaking his word... Jesus praises this man for his faith. Just like the centurion, we recognize our unworthiness to have Jesus come under the ‘roof’ of our souls in holy communion. Yet just as the centurion believed Jesus was able to heal his servant, so do we trust that Jesus can heal us as he becomes the most intimate guest of our soul in the Eucharist” (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, p. 142).

The Diocese of Peoria reminds us: “it is for this reason that Jesus came into the world, as ‘people who are well do not need doctors, sick people do!’ ‘I have come to seek out those who are lost!’ In the Holy Eucharist, Jesus seeks us out! He comes to our doors and He knocks. Our reception of Communion is an opportunity to allow Him into our hearts...” (A Study of the Mass, p. 19).

The Lord Jesus, of course, knows our failings. That he wants us anyway is what makes his love so powerful and so amazing. That he would offer his very Body to us is even more amazing. It is natural for us to desire to repay a kindness, but what do we do when the kindness is the greatest gift in the history of the world? Thankfully, the rest of the Mass will help us to know what to do!

For Reflection:

1. Pray with the account of Jesus healing the centurion’s servant in Mt 8:5-13. If desired, extend your meditation to include the accounts of other healings and miracles in the rest of this chapter. Reflect on your own identification and/or connection with one or more of the persons who encounter Jesus, and ask for the healing you need at this time.

2. Reflect on what may be blocking the door of your heart or obstructing the Lord Jesus’ entrance. Make it a point to receive the Sacrament of Penance to prepare yourself to welcome Jesus more freely and fully in Holy Communion.

*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.			

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”  
Luke 21: 36



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



Rev. Andrew Hejdak <i>Pastor</i>	<b>WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>PASTORAL COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR</b> Mike Lopez 438.9054
David D. Solis Jr. <i>davids@iccgregory.org</i> <i>Administrative Asst.</i>	<b>DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET</b> Daily 3:00 pm Chapel	<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR</b> Javier Solis 229.4653
John Womack & Co. <i>Bookkeeper</i>	<b>ST. JUDE NOVENA</b> Tuesdays 6:00 pm	<b>SACRISTANS</b> Jesse Gomez 229.0102 Juan Rodriguez 229.5515 Raymond Flores 215.3542
<b>PARISH OFFICE HOURS</b> <b>Monday - Friday</b> <b>10:00am - 4:30pm</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> Tuesdays 7:00PM (Español) Thursdays 7:00PM (English) R.E. building	<b>CHOIR COORDINATOR</b> Naida Rios 774.3778
<b>FAITH FORMATION</b>  Noreen Saenz <i>reoffice@iccgregory.org</i> <i>Director of Religious Ed.</i>	<b>LA HORA DE DIOS PRAYER GROUP</b> Fridays 6:00 pm Church	<b>COMMUNION MINISTERS</b> Jesus Garza 704-2269
David D. Solis Jr. <i>Asst. Director of Religious Ed.</i>	<b>NEW TO THE PARISH?</b> 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	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b> David D. Solis Jr. 643.4505
<b>Religious Ed. Office Hours</b> Wednesdays 4:30 - 8:45pm	<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b> <i>ALL Mass intention requests should be submitted to the parish office.</i> For Intentions to appear in the Bulletin they must be submitted by 4:00pm Tuesday. <i>Donation of \$5 per intention is suggested.</i>	<b>ALTAR SOCIETY</b> Nena Garcia 774.2604
<b>WEEKEND MASSES</b> <b>SATURDAY (Vigil) 5:30PM</b> <b>SUNDAY (en Español) 8:00AM</b> <b>10:00AM &amp; 12:00PM</b>	<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL</b> 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.	<b>LECTORS</b> Jesus Garza 704-2269
<b>WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE</b> Tuesday (en Español) 5:30PM Wednesday –Friday 8:30AM <b>First Friday of the Month</b> <i>Eucharistic Adoration 5:30PM</i> Friday Daily Mass 6:30PM		<b>USHERS</b> Ramiro Peña 222-8857
		<b>BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE</b> Aurora Leal 229.6956
		<b>BLESSED MOTHER SOCIETY</b> Sylvia Gomez 228.0822
		<b>DIVINE MERCY APOSTLES</b> Sonya Torres 730.6165
		<b>HOUSE OF FAITH FOOD PANTRY</b> Diana Moreno 765.7696 Adriana Bernardo 543.7642
		<b>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY</b> Nydia Tamez 688.0333
		<b>PRAYER &amp; PRAISE GROUP</b> Jeronimo Garcia 704.2136
		<b>SACRED HEART SOCIETY</b> Amelia Flores 443.9811
		<b>ST. JUDE NOVENA</b> Jerry & Ofelia Rivera 876.7147



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Parish Office: 361-643-4505 ✱ Pastoral Emergency: 361-543-0503





Mass Intentions

For The Week



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)

†Guadalupe Garcia (Veronica Garcia)

†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)

†Emilio Pena Sr (Family)

TUESDAY

December 3, 2024

5:30PM: Thanksgiving to St. Philomena (Torres Family)

WEDNESDAY

December 4, 2024

8:30AM: Parishioners of Immaculate Conception

THURSDAY

December 5, 2024

8:30AM: Thanksgiving to St. Jude (Torres Family)

FRIDAY

December 6, 2024

6:30PM: Deceased Members of Sacred Heart Society

SATURDAY

December 7, 2024

5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)

†Ruben Torres (Dora Torres)

†Juanita Portales Torres (Torres Family)

†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez

SUNDAY

December 8, 2024

8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)

†Irma Perales (Family)

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

†Santos Garcia (Family)

†Eddie Perez (Family)

†Loy Avila (Avila Family)

†Jesse Avila, †Ariana Ramirez (Avila Family)

†Guadalupe Garcia (Veronica Garcia)

†Gloria Kristel, †Jessika Marie Cadriel (Veronica Garcia)

†Maria Gloria Soto, †Lino Cruz (Veronica Garcia)

†Sovieda, †Francisco, †George and †Miguel Gomez (Raymond Flores & Family)

12:00PM: †Janie Galvan (Family)

†Lelia Guzman (Family)

†Adrian G Flores (Family)

†Juan C Flores Jr. (Family)

†Emilio Pena Sr (Family)

Special Intentions for Divine Mercy Apostles

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Envelope Collection

\$2,219.00

Loose Collection

\$1,174.00

Christmas Flower Donations

\$130.00

Building Maintenance Fund

\$20.00

Online Giving

\$445.00

Collection Total - Nov. 23/24

\$3,988.00

Retirement Fund for Religious

\$25.00

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



Special Offering

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. Dec. 7

Sun. Dec. 8

Lector



Extra Ordinary Ministers



5:30PM

Louis

Amelia

8:00AM

Elisa

Pedro

10:00AM

Jenevieve

Raymond

12:00PM

Gabby

Alma

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

GOD PREPARES US

Jesus Christ had a mission on earth: to save us. That’s literally what his name means; Jesus (*Yeshua* in Hebrew) literally translates to “God saves.”

In the first reading, God promises us a “just shoot,” commonly translated righteous Branch”, out of the line of (King) David. Jesus is this brand out of David’s family tree; David is an ancestor of Jesus’s earthly father, St. Joseph.

In the second reading, St. Paul encourages the souls living in Thessalonica to live like Jesus – the blameless one. Why? So they would ultimately be saved.

Judgment day will come, as St. Luke’s gospel reminds us. There will be signs and warnings, but those who know *and follow* Jesus won’t need to fear. The trick is to live as if your life could end tomorrow. No one knows the day or the hour, so we are to live each day as if it is our last – not sinful or selfish, but holy and blameless.

It might seem, at first glance, as if these readings move quickly from “good news” to “bad news” but only if you’re not following the Lord. As the psalm reminds us, the Lord is “good and upright” and “shows sinners the way.” He “guides” and “teaches” us. In these references we see that God is a Savior who wants to do just that – to save us! We cannot lose hope but, rather, should lean into his love and mercy. The season of Advent is not all about Christmas. During Advent we focus on the battle between good and evil, light and darkness, life and death. God is come to save us. Let us humbly ask for his help.

DIOS NOS PREPARA

Jesucristo tuvo una misión en la tierra: salvarnos. Eso es literalmente lo que significa su nombre; Jesús (*Yeshua* en hebreo) se traduce literalmente como “Dios salva”.

En la primera lectura, Dios nos promete un “retoño justo”, comúnmente traducido como “retoño justo”, de la línea del (rey) David. Jesús es esta rama del árbol genealógico de David; David es un antepasado del padre terrenal de Jesús, San José.

En la segunda lectura, San Pablo anima a las almas que viven en Tesalónica a vivir como Jesús, el inocente. ¿Por qué? Para que finalmente se salven.

El día del juicio llegará, como nos recuerda el evangelio de San Lucas. Habrá señales y advertencias, pero quienes conocen y *siguen a* Jesús no tendrán por qué temer. El truco es vivir como si tu vida pudiera terminar mañana. Nadie sabe el día ni la hora, por lo que debemos vivir cada día como si fuera el último, sin pecado ni egoísmo, sino santos e intachables.

A primera vista, puede parecer que estas lecturas pasan rápidamente de las “buenas noticias” a las “malas noticias”, pero solo si no estás siguiendo al Señor. Como nos recuerda el salmo, el Señor es “bueno y recto” y “muestra el camino a los pecadores”. Él nos “guía” y “enseña”. En estas referencias vemos que Dios es un Salvador que quiere hacer precisamente eso: ¡salvarnos! No podemos perder la esperanza, sino que debemos apoyarnos en su amor y misericordia. La temporada de Adviento no se trata solo de Navidad. Durante el Adviento nos centramos en la batalla entre el bien y el mal, la luz y la oscuridad, la vida y la muerte. Dios ha venido a salvarnos. Pidamos humildemente su ayuda.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:

Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: *St. Francis Xavier*

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: *St. John Damascene*

Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: *St. Nicholas*

Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: *St. Ambrose*

Is 30: 19-21, 23-26; Ps 146:1-6; Mt 9: 35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: *Second Sunday of Advent*

Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord Jesus Christ, as we begin this new liturgical year, I give you thanks for your justice and mercy, I do not deserve such great gifts, but you give them freely. Help me to understand justice and mercy as they apply to my life and those close to me, and please forgive me for the times that I have failed to offer justice and mercy to others. Guide my heart and mind closer to you today. Amen.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

How can you tangibly seek or return to the Lord in humble prayer in the coming week to better prepare your heart to receive Christ at Christmas? Write down one step you can take and commit to it.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 17th - 6:30pm

Prepare yourself for the Christmas Season by going to confession.





FIRST FRIDAY: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION & MASS

Join us **THIS Friday, December 6th for first Friday.** Sacred Heart Society will recite the rosary at 5:00PM. Eucharistic Adoration at 5:30PM in the Church Followed by Friday Daily Mass at 6:30PM.