

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 68: Holy Communion

As we continue through the Communion Rite, the long-anticipated moment has arrived. Finally, it is time for Holy Communion! This is the moment we have been preparing for throughout the whole Mass. Whenever I think about the joy of Holy Communion, I remember very vividly the thrill of my First Communion. I think of the song we all learned and the wonderful party afterward. But I especially remember the moment of Communion. Although I was small at the time, in second grade, I remember feeling a special closeness to God that I never had felt before. I don’t know if I grasped what Holy Communion meant on an intellectual or even theological level, but I certainly felt a true spiritual union with our Lord.

As Fr. Joseph McGloin teaches, “The word ‘communion’ is almost self-explanatory. Literally, it means ‘union with.’ It suggests a sharing, a mutual participation. Holy Communion, is, then, an intimate sharing in the life of Christ” (How to Get More Out of the Mass, p. 128). That is exactly what takes place in Holy Communion. We receive the Precious Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ into our bodies, and he unites us with himself. Unlike regular food which becomes part of our bodies, the Eucharist unites our bodies to the Lord. Fr. McGloin continues, “While the other sacraments bring us the grace of Christ, this one brings us the grace of Christ himself along with himself. Truly, a person with any faith in Christ would be foolish to neglect this great gift” (How to Get More Out of the Mass, p. 133).

Participating in Christ’s Perfect Sacrifice

Did you notice he said sacrifice? Hopefully, this word reminds us of one of the names for the Mass—the Holy Sacrifice. As we have journeyed through the Mass, we have noted that the Mass is a true sharing in the Last Supper and in the Cross of Jesus. In the Mass, we are invited to participate in the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus. Fr. Guy Oury tells us how sacrifice and Holy Communion fit together in the Mass. He says, “The Mass is a sacrifice but also a repast, or rather, a sacrificial repast. It would not have meaning, at least not the meaning given it by the Lord, were it not also Communion.” He goes on to say, “The meal symbolizes the union between the God of the covenant and the people of God.”

This becomes clearer if we look at meals and feasts in Jewish history. According to Fr. Oury, “In the [Traditional Jewish] meal God is present as a tablemate, invisible to be sure but still present. He lives with human beings, shares their common interests, and welcomes them as intimates. People are the invited of God... At the time of Christ, the image of a feast was one of the most common to portray the kingdom that was to come. The Lord used it repeatedly in the parables. It stood for the kingdom of heaven both in the terrestrial form that is the Church and in the ultimate and definitive form that is paradise. The Eucharist itself was instituted in the context of a sacred meal, that of Passover” (The Mass, pp. 105–6).

The Greatest Celebration of All Time

See how Holy Communion is so much more than just a meal? True, it is a Sacred Meal, Holy Thursday, the Last Supper, where we are guests of the Lord, who gives of his very self for our nourishment. But, this meal is also the sacrifice of the Cross, where our sins are overcome and conquered once and for all. The meal is also an anticipation of the heavenly banquet, where we will celebrate with the Lord and the Communion of Saints forever. Finally, this special meal is also a means of unity among the faithful—the Body of Christ, the Church. With all this meaning, the Eucharist is the greatest celebration of all time. Not only are we present at this wonderful celebration, but many of us are also invited to receive the Lord in the Eucharist. In the weeks ahead, we will look more closely at receiving Communion properly, who can receive Communion, different forms of Holy Communion, and what to do when we aren’t able to receive Our Lord.

For Reflection:

1. Reflect on God’s promise through Isaiah to provide a feast “for all peoples” (see Isa 25:1–9). Thank Christ for his sacrifice present in the Mass, and make Isaiah’s prayer your own: “let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!” (Isa 25:9).
 2. Deepen your awareness of the Old Testament ritual feasts that prepared the way for Christ as described in Leviticus (see Lev 23). Discuss with your family or community how to strengthen the centrality of the Mass in your weekly or daily life.
- 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: 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	<i>Pastoral Visit:</i> 1st Friday of the Month / Contact the parish office
Contact Parish office for more information					



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church
Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
Luke 3:3

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 VICE-CHAIR
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



Mass Intentions For The Week



SATURDAY December 7, 2024
5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)
†Ruben Torres (Dora Torres)
†Juanita Portales Torres (Torres Family)
†Eva Corona (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
†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)
†Alfredo, †Angelita & †Ramiro Flores (Adela Escobedo)
†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

MONDAY December 9, 2024
6:30PM: †Rev. Paul Okros, M.S.F. (Parishioners)

TUESDAY December 10, 2024
5:30PM: Thanksgiving to St. Rita (Torres Family)

WEDNESDAY December 11, 2024
8:30AM: Parishioners of Immaculate Conception

THURSDAY December 12, 2024
8:30AM: Birthday Blessings for Minerva Lopez (100th)

FRIDAY December 13, 2024
8:30AM: Thanksgiving to St. Charbel (Torres Family)

SATURDAY December 14, 2024
5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)
†Fidencio Lopez (Dora Torres)
†Fred Levine (Rose De La Cruz)
†Estefana Menchaca (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
†Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Minerva Lopez)
†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez

SUNDAY December 15, 2024
8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz (Family)
†Irma Perales (Family)
†Eva Corona (M/M Manuel Menchaca)
10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)
†Santos Garcia (Family)
†Eddie Perez (Family)
†Viola B. Solis (Jessica Adame & Family)
†Ernesto, †Roy, †Meisha Hinojosa (Hinojosa Family)
†Guadalupe Garcia (Veronica Garcia)
†Gloria Kristel, †Jessika Marie Cadriel (Veronica Garcia)
†Maria Gloria Soto, †Lino Cruz (Veronica Garcia)

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP	
Envelope Collection	\$2,289.00
Loose Collection	\$1,403.00
Christmas Flower Donations	\$248.00
Thanksgiving (Nov.27/28)	\$189.00
Online Giving	\$355.00
Collection Total - Nov. 30/ Dec.1	\$4,484.00

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. Dec. 14 Sun. Dec. 15	Lector Lectors	Extra Ordinary Ministers
5:30PM		Juan
8:00AM	Esteban	Amparo
10:00AM	Brenda	Ophelia
12:00PM	Alma	Lupe A.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

INCREASE

God is clear in the Bible when he tells us what the goal of life is—namely, *to love*. Now, this command is simple but far from easy. If love is supposed to be our goal, how do we get there? Love is not just the destination, but also the journey. So how do we get better at loving every day?

In the first reading, the Jews are living in exile and feeling forgotten. The prophet Baruch is sent to be a voice of hope for the future. The psalm reminds us of all God *has done* as a way of increasing our gratitude in the present and building hope for the future. St. Paul is telling the Philippians in the second reading that they must continue to move forward in love, that their goal should be for love and virtue to increase move and more!

What does all this have to do with the Gospel, you ask? Because when Jesus comes, perfect Love takes flesh. This is the moment we have all been waiting for and for which history was preparing our hearts. Advent is the building of anticipation toward this event—the drawing near to Love coming (down) to us. Christ's birth, life, and death are the apex of human history. Love has come!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Gn 3: 9-15; Ps 98: 1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 26-38

Tuesday: *Our Lady of Loreto*

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: *St. Damasus I*

Is 40: 25-31; Ps 103; 1-4, 8,10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,

Friday: *St. Lucy*

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: *St. John of the Cross*

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: *Third Sunday of Advent*

Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

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
Arnold & Lucinda Martinez

AUMENTAR

Dios es claro en la Biblia cuando nos dice cuál es el objetivo de la vida: *amar*. Ahora bien, este mandato es simple, pero no fácil. Si se supone que el amor es nuestro objetivo, ¿cómo llegamos allí? El amor no es solo el destino, sino también el viaje. Entonces, ¿cómo podemos mejorar en amar cada día?

En la primera lectura, los judíos viven en el exilio y se sienten olvidados. El profeta Baruc es enviado para ser una voz de esperanza para el futuro. El salmo nos recuerda todo lo que Dios *ha hecho* como una forma de aumentar nuestra gratitud en el presente y construir esperanza para el futuro. San Pablo les dice a los filipenses en la segunda lectura que deben seguir avanzando en el amor, que su objetivo debe ser que el amor y la virtud aumenten, ¡y más!

¿Qué tiene que ver todo esto con el Evangelio? Porque cuando Jesús viene, el Amor perfecto se hace carne. Este es el momento que todos hemos estado esperando y para el cual la historia estaba preparando nuestros corazones. El Adviento es la anticipación de este acontecimiento, el acercamiento al Amor que desciende hacia nosotros. El nacimiento, la vida y la muerte de Cristo son la cumbre de la historia humana. ¡El Amor ha llegado!

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, sometimes I fail to see how richly you bless me. Make me mindful of the abundant ways you pour grace into my life today. Give me insight through your sacred Word so that I can respond with gratitude to the great things you have done, are doing, and will do for us. Amen.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Jesus Christ is perfect Love in the flesh. Love is not just an abstract idea or sentiment but, rather, tangible and real and seen through our actions. As we move toward Christmas, what are one and two tangible actions or acts of service you can commit to that would offer Christ's love to another in a practical way? Write down your commitment for the final two or three weeks of Advent. Ask someone to hold you accountable for this commitment.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious . Please give generously.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 17th - 6:30pm
Prepare yourself for the Christmas Season by going to confession.

Special Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for December
For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

