

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass  
Part 70: USCCB Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion

What are the Official Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion? Last time, we looked at the three requirements for receiving Communion: being a Catholic, in the state of grace, and observing a one-hour fast beforehand. To help people understand and to be clear, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops put together a listing of guidelines that would cover anyone who might happen to be at Mass. Sometimes you will see these guidelines printed on programs of special Masses or often on (or inside) the cover of the Missalettes. Since we covered them a bit last time, hopefully the first two sections will sound familiar. For a closer look at the USCCB guidelines, they are listed here:

**FOR CATHOLICS:** As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible ([Code of Canon Law] canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

**FOR OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS:** We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

**FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:** All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

**FOR NON-CHRISTIANS:** We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

What about those who are not able to receive Communion? As we can see here from the USCCB directives, we are asked to pray for true unity and a lessening of divisions. Recall that Jesus prayed for unity at the Last Supper, "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us" (Jn 17:20). It is the Lord's desire for us to be united together. It is a great challenge for us to be mindful of this prayer of Jesus and to be joined with him in praying for a true growth in unity. For those not able to receive Communion at this time, there is also what is called a prayer of Spiritual Communion. We'll take a closer look next week!

**For Reflection:**

1. Practice having a conversation with a non-Catholic or lapsed Catholic about the disposition necessary to receive Holy Communion. Develop an approach that respects truths about the Eucharist and expresses care and concern for the other.
2. Access an Examination of Conscience guide and make reflecting on your thoughts, words, and actions a nightly exercise. Familiarize yourself with opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance in your area, and make this sacrament part of your regular routine. If you have been away from this sacrament, schedule an appointment with a priest to discuss your situation.  
*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	<i>Pastoral Visit:</i> 1st Friday of the Month / Contact the parish office

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."  
Luke 1: 41-42



# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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.

<b>PASTORAL COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR</b>	Mike Lopez 438.9054
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR</b>	Javier Solis 229.4653
<b>SACRISTANS</b>	Jesse Gomez 229.0102 Juan Rodriguez 229.5515 Raymond Flores 215.3542
<b>CHOIR COORDINATOR</b>	Naida Rios 774.3778
<b>COMMUNION MINISTERS</b>	Jesus Garza 704-2269
<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	David D. Solis Jr. 643.4505
<b>ALTAR SOCIETY</b>	Nena Garcia 774.2604
<b>LECTORS</b>	Jesus Garza 704-2269
<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

PO Box 108

Gregory, TX 78359

www.iccgregory.org

Pastoral Emergency: 361-543-0503





Mass Intentions For The Week

**SATURDAY December 21, 2024**  
**5:30PM:** †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)  
†Gloria Lopez Tagle (Dora & Lupe)  
†David Solis Sr (Pat, David, Gabby)  
†Frank Hernandez (M/M Manuel Menchaca)  
†Jose O Lucio & †Steven S Garcia (Garcia)  
†Esteban & †Candelaria Ortiz (Esteban & Lydia)  
†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez  
Special Intentions for Rosi Hogan (Rose De La Cruz)

**SUNDAY December 22, 2024**  
**8:00AM:** †Richard Ortiz (Family)  
†Tomas Rangel (Gina Lopez)  
†Estefana Menchaca (M/M Manuel Menchaca)  
†Julio Morales (Minerva Rodriguez)  
†Jose Javier Mendoza, †Macias Cardoza (Family)  
†Margarita, †Manuela & †Leonardo Beltran (Family)

**10:00AM:** †Estefana Menchaca (Menchaca Family)  
†Santos Garcia (Family)  
†Eddie Perez (Family)  
†Guadalupe Garcia (Veronica Garcia)  
†Gloria Kristel, †Jessika Marie Cadriel (Veronica Garcia)  
†Maria Gloria Soto, †Lino Cruz (Veronica Garcia)  
†Eugenio & †Esperanza Esparza, †Rachel Hinojosa (Family)  
†Federico, †Benita, †Alberto, & †Arturo Flores (Anita Vela)  
†Nora, †Mike, †Miguel Ortiz & †Nelda Casas

**12:00PM:** †Janie Galvan (Family)  
†Lelia Guzman (Family)  
†Adrian G Flores (Family)  
†Juan C Flores Jr. (Family)  
†Emilio Pena Sr (Family)  
†Andrew Guerra (Saenz Family)  
†Jose O Lucio (Garcia Family)  
†Joaquin Lopez (Dora Torres)

**TUESDAY December 24, 2024**  
**11:00PM:** †Benita Flores (Adela Escobedo)  
†Federico, †Albert, †Arturo Flores, †Aurelia Ortiz (Anita Vela)  
†Joaquin Lopez (Esteban & Lydia Ortiz)  
Special Intentions for Federico Vela (Anita Vela)

**WEDNESDAY December 25, 2024**  
**9:00AM:** Thanksgiving to Jesus Christ (Edwards Family)  
**11:00AM:** †Andrew Guerra (Choirs)

**THURSDAY December 26, 2024**  
**8:30AM: NO MASS**

**FRIDAY December 27, 2024**  
**8:30AM:** Souls in Purgatory (Edwards Family)

**BAPTISMAL CLASS**

We will be having our next baptismal class here on **Thursday, January 9th at 7pm.** You **Must** register for the class at the parish office, to attend.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP	
Envelope Collection	\$1,604.00
Loose Collection	\$761.00
Children’s Collection	\$60.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$800.00
Christmas Flower Donations	\$95.00
Online Giving	\$405.00
<b>Collection Total - Dec. 14/15</b>	<b>\$3,725.00</b>

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generous support, and sharing of your gifts with Immaculate Conception Church.  
May God bless you now and forever.

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. 28 Sun. Dec. 29	Lector 	Extra Ordinary Ministers 
5:30PM	Chelo	Juan
8:00AM	Elisa	Janie
10:00AM	Brenda	Raymond
12:00PM		Jesse C.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

**LEAPIN’ FOR JOY!**

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you...would be fulfilled,” we hear in today’s gospel. Blessed we are indeed, who know the Lord and believe in his promises!

God is not reactive; he is proactive. God had a plan from the beginning, and even when we broke our end of the covenant (s) and foiled his perfect plans, he kept loving us. God made covenants. He sent prophets. He gave us signs and performed miracles. Century after century, God tried to love us and prepared us to receive his love.

Not only did God promise us a savior, as we see in the first reading and psalm, but a savior born of a woman! And God even goes so far as to tell us where he would be born—centuries beforehand! Christ came to do the will of the Father (evidenced in the second reading) through his mother, Mary, the immaculate one who herself lived to do the will of the Father.

God created a perfect plan to come and to save us through his Son—this is the greatest news, and it must be shared (as Mary does in the gospel) with urgency!

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday: St. John Kanty**  
Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Ps ; Lk 1:57-66

**Tuesday:**  
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

**Wednesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**  
**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

**Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

**Thursday: St. Stephen**  
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

**Friday: St. John**  
1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Saturday: The Holy Innocents**  
1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

**Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday, Dec. 24th - 11:00pm (Mass in the Night)**

**Wednesday, Dec.25th - 9:00am (Bilingual)**  
**11:00am (English)**

There will be NO Mass celebrated here on Thursday, December 26th.

**¡SALTAN DE ALEGRÍA!**

“Bienaventurados los que creyeron, porque se cumplirían las cosas que se les dijeron”, escuchamos en el evangelio de hoy. ¡Bienaventurados los que conocemos al Señor y creemos en sus promesas!

Dios no es reactivo, es proactivo. Dios tenía un plan desde el principio, e incluso cuando rompimos nuestra parte del pacto y frustramos sus planes perfectos, él siguió amándonos. Dios hizo pactos. Envío profetas. Nos dio señales y realizó milagros. Siglo tras siglo, Dios trató de amarnos y nos preparó para recibir su amor.

Dios no solo nos prometió un salvador, como vemos en la primera lectura y el salmo, ¡sino un salvador nacido de una mujer! ¡Y Dios llega incluso a decirnos dónde nacería, siglos antes! Cristo vino a hacer la voluntad del Padre (evidenciada en la segunda lectura) a través de su madre, María, la inmaculada que vivió para hacer la voluntad del Padre.

Dios creó un plan perfecto para venir y salvarnos a través de su Hijo: ¡ésta es la noticia más grande y debe ser compartida (como lo hace María en el evangelio) con urgencia!

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**


Lord, I give you thanks and praise today for all that you have promised me that has been fulfilled and for all that has yet to be fulfilled. May I always greet others with great joy and may I grow in knowledge of you and what you are continuously doing in my life. Mary, be my companion on this journey. Amen.

**CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK**

What has God taught you today through his Word? Share what you’ve learned with two people in the coming week. Share Jesus as though he were a really great friend and scripture as if it were a really incredible story.

**TRAVELING IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY**  
*Pray for the following family that will be hosting the Traveling Divine Image this week*  
**Gabriel & Cindy Gomez**

**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

 **Tuesday, December 31st - 5:30PM**  
(Vigil Mass)

**Wednesday, January 1st - 8:30AM**  
observed as a Holy Day of Obligation

*\*Note\* There will be NO Mass celebrated here on Thursday, January 2nd*

**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.

