

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass  
Part 71: Spiritual Communion

When we looked at the guidelines for receiving Communion, we noted that there are several circumstances where a person might not be able to receive Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, such as someone who doesn’t share the Catholic faith or belief in the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist; someone who does believe but is unable to receive because of illness; someone who is living outside the moral teaching of the Church; or someone who needs to partake of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Communion. For many in these situations, abstaining from receiving the Holy Eucharist can be a great sacrifice. What should we do when we aren’t able to receive the greatest possible gift in the world?

In the “Source and Summit of the Christian life,” we encounter Jesus, God with us, who offers us the greatest gift we could ever receive: himself. Without question, not being able to receive Communion can be an incredible challenge and sacrifice. The fact that this is a hard sacrifice is a good thing! The difficulty shows us where our hearts really are and that we understand the truth of the Eucharist. If we didn’t believe Jesus was really present, this sacrifice wouldn’t be nearly as hard to offer. Besides the genuine reverence we show for the sacrament, not being able to receive can offer us a unique opportunity to become even more aware of God’s presence in our lives and his call for us to turn away from sin and allow his grace to work in our lives. For those who are longing for the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, this time also offers the opportunity to practice making a “Spiritual Communion” to unite with Jesus in the Eucharist.

What Spiritual Communion Is

What is Spiritual Communion? As the Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion state: “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” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1996). This practice is called a Spiritual Communion. While reception of Holy Communion is incredibly significant and our fullest participation in the Mass, those who are not able to receive the Eucharist sacramentally can unite themselves spiritually to Christ through prayer. We can still pray and thank God in that moment for the wonderful love of Jesus and his saving sacrifice. We can acknowledge through prayer that we believe Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. We can express true longing from our hearts that we will be able to receive the Eucharist in the future. We can express the desire in the moment of being able to receive graces from Jesus in the Eucharist, even though we are unable to receive him sacramentally. So, those who cannot receive Communion can still gain spiritual fruit from the Mass, uniting themselves to Christ through desire and prayer.

At various times in our Church history, Spiritual Communion was really more the norm than the exception. Many saints lived during eras when reception of Communion was very rare, arising from many factors such as the legality of Christianity, the availability of priests, or a humble sense of unworthiness to receive our Lord. In his book The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Fr. Michael Muller talks about spiritual union with the Mass even from a distance: “It is well for those who can do so in the course of the morning to retire to their room nearly at the time which they know to be the hour when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered in the Church, and, after having implored the grace of God, to perform with recollection and fervor the duty of religion, to kneel down before the Crucifix, and with all the sentiments of devotion possible to unite heart and soul to the Heart of Jesus in the holy Mass, and then read or say the same prayers which they would have said had they been actually present in the church, never forgetting to make the spiritual Communion, which may be made in any place, and at any hour of the day or night” (The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, p. 392).

How to Make a Spiritual Communion

Spiritual Communion allows us all to be participating in the prayer of the Mass, either from our pew or from a distance. If you are unable to receive the Eucharist, just after the priest receives Communion (at what would be the normal time people come forward for Communion), you can tell Jesus in your heart of your desire to receive him. This can be in your own words or, if you prefer, this commonly known prayer from St. Alphonsus Liguori:

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Let me not be ever separated from You. Amen.

Our faith tells us that, by the grace of Christ, we will navigate the challenges of our lives. Let’s unite ourselves in mind and heart to Jesus this day, trusting in him and his love for us!

For Reflection:

- 1. Whether or not you receive Communion regularly, consider how you can integrate the practice of “Spiritual Communion” into your daily life, either at the time of a local daily Mass you do not attend, or when passing a Catholic church where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle.
- 2. If you do receive Holy Communion regularly, make an effort to be mindful of those who do not or cannot. The next time you prepare to receive Communion, pray that others will be able to do so, too.

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.				

Jesus said to his parents,  
“Why were you looking for me?  
Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”  
Luke 2: 49



The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph

December 29, 2024



Immaculate Conception Church  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi



<p>Rev. Andrew Hejdak <i>Pastor</i></p> <p>David D. Solis Jr. <i>davids@iccgregory.org</i> <i>Administrative Asst.</i></p> <p>John Womack &amp; Co. <i>Bookkeeper</i></p> <p><b>PARISH OFFICE HOURS</b> <b>Monday - Friday</b> <b>10:00am - 4:30pm</b></p> <p><b>FAITH FORMATION</b>  Noreen Saenz <i>reoffice@iccgregory.org</i> <i>Director of Religious Ed.</i></p> <p>David D. Solis Jr. <i>Asst. Director of Religious Ed.</i></p> <p><b>Religious Ed. Office Hours</b> <b>Wednesdays 4:30 - 8:45pm</b></p>	<p><b>WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET</b> Daily 3:00 pm Chapel</p> <p><b>ST. JUDE NOVENA</b> Tuesdays 6:00 pm</p> <p><b>BIBLE STUDY</b> Tuesdays 7:00PM (Español) Thursdays 7:00PM (English) R.E. building</p> <p><b>LA HORA DE DIOS PRAYER GROUP</b> Fridays 6:00 pm Church</p> <p><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</p> <p><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></p> <p><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.</p>	<p><b>PASTORAL COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR</b> Mike Lopez 438.9054</p> <p><b>FINANCE COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR</b> Javier Solis 229.4653</p> <p><b>SACRISTANS</b> Jesse Gomez 229.0102 Juan Rodriguez 229.5515 Raymond Flores 215.3542</p> <p><b>CHOIR COORDINATOR</b> Naida Rios 774.3778</p> <p><b>COMMUNION MINISTERS</b> Jesus Garza 704-2269</p> <p><b>ALTAR SERVERS</b> David D. Solis Jr. 643.4505</p> <p><b>ALTAR SOCIETY</b> Nena Garcia 774.2604</p> <p><b>LECTORS</b> Jesus Garza 704-2269</p> <p><b>USHERS</b> Ramiro Peña 222-8857</p> <p><b>BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE</b> Aurora Leal 229.6956</p> <p><b>BLESSED MOTHER SOCIETY</b> Sylvia Gomez 228.0822</p> <p><b>DIVINE MERCY APOSTLES</b> Sonya Torres 730.6165</p> <p><b>HOUSE OF FAITH FOOD PANTRY</b> Diana Moreno 765.7696 Adriana Bernardo 543.7642</p> <p><b>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY</b> Nydia Tamez 688.0333</p> <p><b>PRAYER &amp; PRAISE GROUP</b> Jeronimo Garcia 704.2136</p> <p><b>SACRED HEART SOCIETY</b> Amelia Flores 443.9811</p> <p><b>ST. JUDE NOVENA</b> Jerry &amp; Ofelia Rivera 876.7147</p>
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Parish Office: 361-643-4505 ✱ Pastoral Emergency: 361-543-0503





Mass Intentions For The Week

**SATURDAY December 28, 2024**  
**5:30PM:** †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno & Family)  
†Benito & Ynocencia Moreno (Dora & Lupe)  
†Arlene Acosta (Rachel Crawley & Family)  
†Estefana Menchaca (M/M Manuel Menchaca)  
†Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Esteban & Lydia)  
†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez

**SUNDAY December 29, 2024**  
**8:00AM:** †Richard Ortiz (Family)  
†Eva Corona (M/M Manuel Menchaca)  
†Teresa Chapa (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)  
**12:00PM:** †Janie Galvan (Family)  
†Lelia Guzman (Family)  
†Adrian G Flores (Family)  
†Juan C Flores Jr. (Family)  
†Emilio Pena Sr (Family)  
†Jose O Lucio (Garcia Family)

**TUESDAY December 31, 2024**  
**5:30PM:** †Glenn Jeronilla (Edwards Family)


**WEDNESDAY January 1, 2025**  
**8:30AM:** †Andrew Guerra (Saenz Family)  
Special Intentions for Guerra Family

**THURSDAY January 2, 2025**  
**8:30AM: NO MASS**

**FRIDAY January 3, 2025**  
**6:30PM:** Deceased Members of Sacred Heart Society

**SATURDAY January 4, 2025**  
**5:30PM:** †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rudy Moreno)  
†Gloria Lopez Tagle (Solis Family)  
†Pete Bliss (Rose De La Cruz)  
†Preciliano & Brigida Sabedra (Family)  
†Alejandro & †Johnny Lopez (Esteban & Lydia)

**SUNDAY January 5, 2025**  
**8:00AM:** †Richard Ortiz (Family)  
†Margarita, †Manuela & †Leonardo Beltran (Family)  
**10:00AM:** †Estefana Menchaca (Sylvia & Rogelio Zuniga)  
**12:00PM:** †Lelia Guzman (Family)  
†Juan C Flores Jr. (Family)



**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*

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP	
Envelope Collection	\$1,912.00
Loose Collection	\$753.00
Children’s Collection	\$25.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$20.00
Christmas Flower Donations	\$60.00
Online Giving	\$435.00
Collection Total - Dec. 21/22	\$3,205.00

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

**TRAVELING IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY**  
*Pray for the following family that will be hosting the Traveling Divine Image this week*  
**Genoveva Labeaga**

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. Jan. 4 Sun. Jan. 5	Lector 	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

**DESIRED**

God’s love is seen in the face that he wants us to be a family (as we clearly hear in the familial language of brothers, sisters, and Father in the second reading). He is trying to paint a picture about his desire for a real, ongoing relationship with us – he doesn’t just want a “Creator/creation” relationship with us but something far deeper. In the Holy Family, we see the necessity of a mother and father and the complementarity of their unique roles. In both readings, we see this picture coming into focus through marriage and family. Through these readings we hear about the virtues necessary to live a holy marriage and to raise a holy, godly family.

In the Gospel, we are given a glimpse into Christ’s early years as he was raised through the direction of a husband and wife. The Holy Family can teach us all about the love of God, regardless of our gender, marital status, or life’s vocation. We are to look to Jesus as the constant model for our behavior. Note his passion to grow in wisdom and knowledge, his respect and humble obedience toward his mother Mary and St. Joseph, and his unyielding seeking of the Father above all things.

The family is designed in the image of perfect love and the perfect family: the Blessed Trinity. The roles of bother father and mother are indispensable and, as exemplified in the Temple scene, rooted in mutual respect. As Mary humbly refers to Joseph even before herself, Joseph also remains humbly silent, allowing Mary, instead, to speak.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**  
1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Jn 2:36-40

**Tuesday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I**  
1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

**Wednesday: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**Thursday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen**  
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

**Friday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus**  
1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

**Saturday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**  
1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

**Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord**  
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**FIRST FRIDAY: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION & MASS**

Join us **THIS Friday, January 3rd** 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.

**DESEO**

El amor de Dios se ve en el hecho de que quiere que seamos una familia (como escuchamos claramente en el lenguaje familiar de hermanos, hermanas y Padre en la segunda lectura). Él está tratando de pintar un cuadro sobre su deseo de una relación real y continua con nosotros: no solo quiere una relación de “Creador/creación” con nosotros, sino algo mucho más profundo. En la Sagrada Familia, vemos la necesidad de una madre y un padre y la complementariedad de sus roles únicos. En ambas lecturas, vemos que esta imagen se enfoca a través del matrimonio y la familia. A través de estas lecturas escuchamos sobre las virtudes necesarias para vivir un matrimonio santo y criar una familia santa y piadosa.

En el Evangelio, se nos da una visión de los primeros años de Cristo mientras fue criado bajo la dirección de un esposo y una esposa. La Sagrada Familia puede enseñarnos todo sobre el amor de Dios, independientemente de nuestro género, estado civil o vocación de vida. Debemos mirar a Jesús como el modelo constante para nuestro comportamiento. Observemos su pasión por crecer en sabiduría y conocimiento, su respeto y humilde obediencia hacia su madre María y San José, y su búsqueda inquebrantable del Padre por sobre todas las cosas.

La familia está diseñada a imagen del amor perfecto y de la familia perfecta: la Santísima Trinidad. Los papeles de padre y madre son indispensables y, como se ejemplifica en la escena del Templo, tienen su raíz en el respeto mutuo. Así como María se refiere humildemente a José incluso antes que a ella misma, José también permanece humildemente en silencio, permitiendo que María, en cambio, hable.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

Lord, thank you for this day. Thank you for my family. Help me to imitate the Holy Family in my own home, and please bless my family with good health and safety. Please open my heart to this time of reflection so that I may know that I am your beloved child. Let me run to you with abandon and rest in the knowledge that you are a good Father. Amen.

**CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK**

Often, it can be so easy to take our family for granted. During the upcoming week, be thoughtful about how you interact with your family. Make sure to thank individual family members for what they do for you. Do some extra chores or follow through on a family member’s request without complaining.

**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.

**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.

