

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 77: Concluding Rites and Blessing

Strengthened by the true presence of Jesus and following the Prayer after Communion, we are truly ready to go out into the world. What happens before moving from our pews to our cars? That would be the Concluding Rites. As The General Instruction of the Roman Missal lays out, “To the Concluding Rites belong the following: **(a)** brief announcements, should they be necessary; **(b)** the Priest’s Greeting and Blessing, which on certain days and occasions is expanded and expressed by the Prayer over the People or another more solemn formula; **(c)** the Dismissal of the people by the Deacon or the Priest, so that each may go back to doing good works, praising and blessing God; **(d)** the kissing of the altar by the Priest and the Deacon, followed by a profound bow to the altar by the Priest, the Deacon, and the other ministers” (GIRM, 90).

Many parts of the Concluding Rites mirror what we did at the very beginning of Mass, including the priest’s greeting and response from the people: “*The Lord be with you.*” “*And with your spirit.*” What happens next, though, is special to the end of Mass. It also happens to be one of my favorite things about being a priest: **blessing the people.**

What Is a Blessing?

Our Catechism of the Catholic Church glossary includes a definition for Blessing: “A blessing or benediction is a prayer invoking God’s power and care upon some person, place, thing, or undertaking. The prayer of benediction acknowledges God as the source of all blessing” (CCC, p. 868). Furthermore, “Among sacramentals, blessings (of persons, meals, objects, and places) come first. Every blessing praises God and prays for his gifts. In Christ, Christians are blessed by God the Father ‘with every spiritual blessing.’ This is why the Church imparts blessings by invoking the name of Jesus, usually while making the holy sign of the cross of Christ” (CCC, 1671).

I love being able to ask God’s strength, help, and protection upon people through blessings. As the Catechism indicates, the act of blessing turns toward God and acknowledges all the good that comes from him and then asks a share of that good for a particular purpose. This is drawn out more clearly through the Solemn Blessings and prayers over the people that can be used at the end of Mass. When one of these is used, the Deacon or Priest will give an instruction after the priest’s greeting and people’s response: “Bow down for the blessing.” This instruction directs us to adopt a posture that prepares us for receiving the blessing from God through the ministry of his priest.

Examples of Blessings Used at Mass

Let’s look at some different blessing options for this part of the Mass. The Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time II, echoing the words of Philipians 4:7, reads:

P: May the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God,
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

R: Amen.

P: And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R: Amen.

As mentioned above, the priest may also use one of the Prayers over the People, such as #17:

P: Bestow increase of heavenly grace on your faithful, O Lord; may they praise you with their lips, with their souls, with their lives; and since it is by your gift that we exist, may our whole lives be yours. Through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

P: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R: Amen.

Multiple Blessing Options for Mass

These are just some of the twenty Solemn Blessings and 28 Prayers over the People that are in the Roman Missal. That’s a lot of blessing possibilities! As the Roman Missal indicates, these blessings can be used at the discretion of the priest. There are some that are specifically laid out for Major Solemnities like Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter. But there are also many which can be used at any Mass.

Next time you are at Mass and the priest uses one of these special blessings, try to notice the ways the text acknowledges the goodness of God, and then be ready to receive a special strengthening help from our loving Lord!

For Reflection:

1. As Fr. Luke suggests, next time you are at Mass, listen attentively to the words of the Solemn Blessing or Prayer over the People. Unite your heart with the intentions the prayer expresses. If the celebrant simply blesses the people in the Name of the Trinity, consciously receive the strengthening which this blessing imparts.
2. Reflect on the gift and tradition of blessings in our Faith by praying with Genesis 49, in which Jacob blesses his 12 sons. Pray in particular with Gen 49:25–26, which recalls the many ways God blesses us. Next time you participate in Mass, await the Concluding Rites with anticipation of receiving this blessing from God through the ordained minister.

This article was written by Fr. Luke Spannagel and published on the National Eucharistic Revival Blog Webpage.

Jesus said to Simon, and lower your nets for a catch." Luke 5:4



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 9, 2025



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 VICE-CHAIR

Javier Solis 229.4653

CHOIR COORDINATOR

Naida Rios 774.3778

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ALTAR SOCIETY

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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

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PRAYER & PRAISE GROUP

Jeronimo Garcia 704.2136

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Parish Office: 361-643-4505

✱ Pastoral Emergency: 361-543-0503



Mass Intentions
For The Week



SATURDAY February 8, 2025

5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rodolfo V Moreno)
†Doug Dalton (Rose De La Cruz)
†Mary Neph (Family)
†Jose & †Francisca Landeros (Family)
†Esteban & †Candelaria Ortiz (Esteban & Lydia Ortiz)

SUNDAY February 9, 2025

8:00AM: †Federico & Dora Peña (Oscar & Odilia Reyes)
†Richard Ortiz Sr. (Family)
S.I. for Divine Mercy Apostles

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Gilbert & Elvia Hernandez)
†Ernest, †Roy & †Meisha Hinojosa (Hinojosa Family)

†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez (Family)

12:00PM: †Lelia Guzman (Family)
†Juan C Flores Jr. (Family)
†Emilio Pena Sr. (Pena Family)
†Adrian G Flores (Family)
S.I. for Joe, Adrian, & Alex Flores (Family)

TUESDAY February 11, 2025

5:30PM: For the Parishioners of Immaculate Conception

WEDNESDAY February 12, 2025

8:30AM: †Zoila Nunez (Minerva Rodriguez)

THURSDAY February 13, 2025

8:30AM: Deceased of the Parish

FRIDAY February 14, 2025

8:30AM: †Jovita R Lara (Salinas, Garcia, Acuña Families)

SATURDAY February 15, 2025

5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Rodolfo V Moreno)
†Dorn Dover (Rose De La Cruz)
†Alejandro, †Minerva & †Johnny Lopez
†Robert & †Marion Schicker (Family)

SUNDAY February 16, 2025

8:00AM: †Federico & Dora Peña (Oscar & Odilia Reyes)
†Richard Ortiz Sr. (Family)

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Gilbert & Elvia Hernandez)
†Juan Manuel Hernandez (Saenz Family)


†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez (Family)

12:00PM: †Lelia Guzman (Family)
†Juan C Flores Jr. (Family)
†Andrew Guerra (Saenz Family)
†Emilio Pena Sr. (Pena Family)
†Adrian G Flores (Family)
†Elida V Garcia, †Candelario Zavala (Garcia Family)
S.I. for Victoria Garcia (Garcia Family)
S.I. for Joe, Adrian, & Alex Flores (Family)

Special Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for February

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.




WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Envelope Collection	\$2,108.00
Loose Collection	\$793.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$579.00
Online Giving	\$375.00
Collection Total - Feb. 1/2	\$3,855.00

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

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO BE TAKEN TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE'S ONLINE GIVING PAGE



2024 Contribution Statements

If you would like to receive a copy of your 2024 contribution statement for your income tax purposes. Please contact the Parish Office or send an email to davids@icgregory.org so we can prepare your statement.

† 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. Feb. 15 Sun. Feb. 16	Lector 	Extra Ordinary Ministers 
5:30PM	David	Louis
8:00AM	Esteban	Amparo
10:00AM	Brenda	Ophelia A
12:00PM	Alma	Lupe A.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

Does God think too much of us? Does God expect more than we are capable of doing? The answer to the question lies in another question—namely, “Who designed whom?”
God is the divine designer. He created us. He knows what we are and are not capable of doing, and he knows what he has called us to do. So, when we doubt ourselves, we doubt God’s faithfulness in providing for us. Isaiah may have volunteered for prophetic service in the first reading, but that didn't mean he was ready until God qualified him. (On a side note, Isaiah would have a hard time “praising” God, as the psalmist invites us all to do, with burnt lips following the ember incident.) St. Paul was obviously aware of his own sin and ineptitude, which he outlines nicely for the Corinthians while adding that it is was God who made him worthy by the blood of the Cross.
Simon Peter, in the famous scene from the gospel, not only realizes but announces his own unworthiness to God. He believes himself to be worth little and capable of even less. But Jesus doesn't tell him to get out of the boat; instead, he invites Simon to put out into the deep. God only sees what we do not. He’s calling us to depths we are capable of, if only we trust him.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: St. Scholastica
Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Our Lady of Lourdes
Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday:
Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday:
Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30


Friday: Ss. Cyril and Methodius
Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday:
Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-4abc, 5-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10

Sunday: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 17:5-8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

BISHOP’S STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Commitment Weekend for this year’s appeal will be February 15th and 16th. The theme for 2025 is “Be Pilgrims of Hope and builders of Peace”. If you have not made your pledge please prayerfully consider. You support of the appeal supports Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Faith Formation, Clergy, Families, Those in Need and Parish-es.
Consider a recurring online pledge. Scan the QR code to be taken to the BSA website to learn more about the appeal.



¿Piensa Dios demasiado en nosotros? ¿Espera Dios más de lo que somos capaces de hacer? La respuesta a la pregunta se encuentra en otra pregunta, a saber: “¿Quién diseñó a quién?”. Dios es el diseñador divino. Él nos creó. Él sabe lo que somos y no somos capaces de hacer, y sabe lo que nos ha llamado a hacer. Por lo tanto, cuando dudamos de nosotros mismos, dudamos de la fidelidad de Dios en proveer para nosotros. Isaías puede haberse ofrecido como voluntario para el servicio profético en la primera lectura, pero eso no significa que estuviera listo hasta que Dios lo calificara. (Como nota al margen, a Isaías le resultaría difícil “alabar” a Dios, como el salmista nos invita a todos a hacer, con los labios quemados después del incidente de la brasa). San Pablo obviamente era consciente de su propio pecado e ineptitud, lo que describe muy bien para los corintios al tiempo que agrega que fue Dios quien lo hizo digno por la sangre de la Cruz.
Simón Pedro, en la famosa escena del evangelio, no solo se da cuenta sino que anuncia su propia indignidad ante Dios. Él se cree poco valioso y capaz de menos aún. Pero Jesús no le dice que baje de la barca, sino que lo invita a remar mar adentro. Dios sólo ve lo que nosotros no vemos. Nos llama a las profundidades de las que somos capaces, si tan sólo confiamos en Él.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord Jesus, you called the simplest of fishermen to be your companions. You overwhelmed them with your abundance and revealed to them your great glory—which led them to have no desire but to leave all that they had to follow you. Give me the courage to have this same response when you call. May I trust you and leave all that I have to follow you. Amen.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Jesus promises us the best—true and complete happiness. He would never ask us to do anything that would not be for our benefit eternally. This week, pray for an increase of trust in God and his plans for your life, as well as for the courage to say yes to whatever he asks of you.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 5th is Ash Wednesday

Below is the Schedule for this day

8:30AM - Mass & Imposition of Ashes

12:05PM:- Liturgy of the Word and Imposition of Ashes

6:30PM: - Mass & Imposition of Ashes

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to join us as we walk the way of the cross on Fridays at 6:30pm during the Lenten Season. Immediately followed by Friday Daily Mass in the Church.

TRAVELING IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY

Pray for the following family that will be hosting the Traveling Divine Image this week

Wyman & Rachel Crawley