

Do This in Remembrance of Me, A Step by Step walk through the Mass
Part 81: Carrying Jesus with Us

As you go forth from Mass, is Jesus still with you? Is he really and truly present? As we mentioned previously, our Catholic faith teaches us that the Real Presence of Jesus remains in the Eucharist until the outward appearances of the Sacred Host and/or Precious Blood cease to be those of bread and wine as they are absorbed by our bodies. While there are different opinions on how long that actually is, most agree it is around 15 minutes. No doubt, that is a great reason to try and plan for a time of thanksgiving after the Mass. As we go forward, it is also great to keep in mind that, in a very real way, we are tabernacles with Jesus inside us during that time.

Imitating Mary in Receiving Communion

Edward Sri offers thoughts for meditation through the words of Pope St. John Paul II. Sri reminds us that when we have the Real Presence of Jesus in Communion, we are very much like Mother Mary with Jesus in her womb: “John Paul II noted a profound connection between Mary carrying Jesus in her womb and the person receiving communion. In a sense, we become like Mary every time we receive the Eucharist. ‘Mary lived her Eucharistic faith even before the institution of the Eucharist, by the very fact that she offered her virginal womb for the Incarnation of God’s Word.’ For nine months, Mary had the body and blood of Jesus within her. At Mass, we receive the sacramental Body and Blood of our Lord. ‘At the Annunciation, Mary conceived the Son of God in the physical reality of his body and blood, thus anticipating within herself what to some degree happens sacramentally in every believer who receives, under the signs of bread and wine, the Lord’s body and blood’” (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, pp. 142–3, Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 55).

As Sri notes, St. John Paul II went on to reflect upon what learning about the Mass and receiving Communion would have been like for Mother Mary. “What must Mary have felt as she heard from the mouth of Peter, John, James, and the other Apostles the words spoken at the Last Supper: ‘This is my body which is given for you’ (Lk 22:19)? The body given up for us and made present under sacramental signs was the same body which she had conceived in her womb!” Sri writes, “John Paul then beautifully drew out the unique meaning Holy Communion would have had for the Blessed Virgin: ‘For Mary, receiving the Eucharist must have somehow meant welcoming once more into her womb that heart which had beat in unison with hers...’ What a profound insight! Imagine Mary preparing herself to be reunited with her Son in this way. Imagine the loving attention she gave to Jesus in every Holy Communion. What a joy it must have been for her to have her Son dwelling within her again! May Mary be a model for us in the way we receive the Eucharist. Let us pray that we may ardently welcome Jesus in every Holy Communion as Mary received her Son. May the Eucharist cause our hearts to beat ever more in unison with Christ’s as Mary’s heart beat perfectly with his” (A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, pp. 142-3, Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 56).

Bearing Jesus’ Presence As We Go

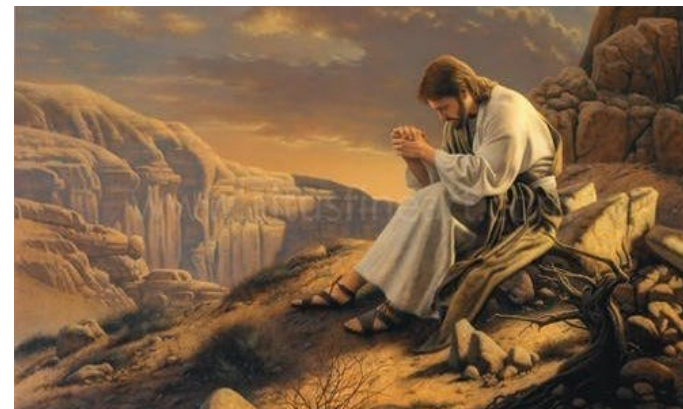
So beautiful! What a wonderful and rich meditation to think about as we recall with joy that Jesus is within us. While certainly more lighthearted, a similar realization comes from one of the funniest saint stories I have come across when reading about the Mass and the Eucharist. Fr. Stefano Manelli recounts that St. Philip Neri had two altar boys with lighted candles go to accompany a man who had left church right after Communion (Jesus Our Eucharistic Love: Eucharistic Life Exemplified by the Saints, p. 46). Can you picture it? How about the expression on that man’s face?! Of course, it may have been a corrective to the man to help him realize he shouldn’t be leaving Mass early. But it also really drives home the joyful realization that after Communion, Jesus is truly present with us for a time. As that man was walking forth from the Mass, St. Philip Neri had the altar boys carry candles because it was a Eucharistic Procession! If we could regularly have that realization of Jesus truly present with us after Communion, how different would our conversation and activity be as we go forth from Mass? How would we greet those we encounter? How would we navigate through the parking lot? What activities would we do next after Mass? How would we talk with those we encounter? May a greater realization of the gift of Jesus within us strengthen us to honor his presence in how we show his love!

For Reflection:

1. As you prepare to depart after Mass, ask the intercession of our Blessed Mother and St. Philip Neri to help you recognize and reverence Christ’s Eucharistic presence in yourself and others.
2. Consider making “visual contact” with the tabernacle after Mass as a way to acknowledge the Blessed Sacrament remaining in the church in union with your own presence as a tabernacle processing into the world. Find concrete ways of being a “sanctuary light” to awaken awareness of Christ’s presence.

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



First Sunday of Lent

March 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 –Thursday **8:30AM**
First Friday of the Month
Eucharistic Adoration 5:30PM
Fridays during Lent
Stations of the Cross 6:30PM
Friday 7:00PM

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



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
Chris Flores 244.0245

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

SACRED HEART SOCIETY
Amelia Flores 443.9811

ST. JUDE NOVENA
Jerry & Ofelia Rivera 876.7147

BL. CARLO ACUTIS YOUTH GROUP
Jesus Garza 704-2269



107 Church Street

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Parish Office: 361-643-4505

PO Box 108

Gregory, TX 78359


www.iccgregory.org

Pastoral Emergency: 361-543-0503



Jesus said to the devil, “You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the Test.”
Luke 4: 12

Mass Intentions
For The Week



SATURDAY March 8, 2025

5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Randy Moreno)
†Minerva Lopez (Sylvia Eudy)
†Angie Dippel (Rose De La Cruz)
†Esteban & †Candelaria Ortiz (Esteban & Lydia)
†Concepcion, †Ester & †David Rangel (Danny Rangel)

SUNDAY March 9, 2025

8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz Sr. (Family)
†Antonio Rodriguez (Georgina y Hijos)
†Odilia Martinez (Arnulfo Martinez)

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Ernest Menchaca)
†Cornelia Adame, †Maria Adame Flores (Ismiel & Jessica Adame)

†Margarito, †Alejandra Guerrero, †David Sanchez (Family)
†Ernest, †Roy & †Meisha Hinojosa (Hinojosa Family)

12:00PM: †Lelia Guzman (Family)\
†Alberico Garcia Jr. (Gracie Garcia)
Health of Maria Gomez
S.I. for Divine Mercy Apostles

TUESDAY March 11, 2025

5:30PM: S.I. for Amanda Avila, Yvonne Villarreal, Angel Villarreal

WEDNESDAY March 12, 2025

8:30AM: sick and homebound

THURSDAY March 13, 2025

8:30AM: Deceased of the Parish

FRIDAY March 14, 2025

7:00PM: S.I. for Chris Villarreal, Yvonne Villarreal, Nora Dishman

SATURDAY March 15, 2025

5:30PM: †Guadalupe V Moreno (Randy Moreno)
†Minerva Lopez (Sylvia Eudy)
†Johnny Bill (Rose De La Cruz)
†Mary Neph (Family)
†Lelia Guzman (Family)
†Johnny, †Alejandro Lopez (Family)

SUNDAY March 16, 2025

8:00AM: †Richard Ortiz Sr. (Family)
†Estefana Menchaca (Adolfo Menchaca Sr.)
†Antonio Rodriguez (Georgina y Hijos)
†Ezequiel Rodriguez (Rodriguez Family)
†Gloria Escobedo, †Alfonso Trevino (Sanchez Family)

10:00AM: †Estefana Menchaca (Ernest Menchaca)
†Anna Rodriguez (Family)


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

12:00PM: †Lelia Guzman (Family)
†Andrew Guerra (Family)
†Alberico Garcia Jr. (Gracie Garcia)
Health of Maria Gomez

Special Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP	
Envelope Collection	\$1,551.00
Loose Collection	\$803.00
Building Maintenance Fund	\$512.00
Online Giving	\$335.00
Collection Total - Mar. 1/2	\$3,201.00

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



Special Collections for the Month of March
8/9 - Black & Indian Missions
29/30 - Catholic Relief Services





† 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	Jorge Hernandez,	Julia Rodriguez,
Victoria Arredondo	San Juanita Hinojosa,	Sergio Rodriguez,
Paula Avila	Jaime Jimenez,	Yolanda G. Rodriguez,
Rosa Barrera	Jim Malloy	San Juanita Saenz,
Elisa Claudio	Mary Malloy	Bernice Sanchez,
Johnny Cruz	Adolfo Menchaca Jr.,	Adan Salazar,
Adela Escobedo	Alejandro Mora,	Gracie Salazar,
Aurora Flores	Anastacio Mora,	Raymond Smith,
Eudelia Flores	Noemilio Mora,	B Solis,
Guadalupe Flores	Lupe Moreno,	Dora Tagle,
Juanita Flores,	Angie Ochoa,	Gloria Treviño,
Luis Flores,	Anita Peña,	Joe Treviño,
Esmeralda Hernandez,	Ramiro Perales	Sara Treviño,
Fermin Hernandez	Jerry Rivera Sr.,	Gerri Zambrano

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS SCHEDULE		
Sat. Mar. 8 Sun. Mar. 9	Lector 	Extra Ordinary Ministers 
5:30PM	Jenevieve	Juan
8:00AM	Elisa	Pedro
10:00AM	Gabriel	Raymond
12:00PM	Jesse	Chelo

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND

ENTRY POINTS

It's easy to feel God is with us when life is going our way. Do we feel God's presence or trust in his promise, though, when things aren't going so well – when we feel isolated, or alone, or outnumbered? Its when it is most difficult to find God that we must remember how close he constantly is and promises to remain. Evil looks for those entry points of doubt and fear to make us question the very things we know to be true.

Moses had to repeatedly remind those who had been wandering for forty years that God had rescued them before and would remain faithful in his promise. The psalm reminds us that trouble accompanies life, and asking God to be with us in it all is not only allowed but encouraged. St. Paul reminds the Christians in Rome – and all of us, really – that God is near, and those who confess to know him and profess he is Lord will be saved!

The gospel reminds us, too, that even Christ was not free of suffering or temptation. God did not even spare his only Son of hardship. It is when we are alone in the spiritual deserts of life that we must have the faith and strength to believe God is still with us and, in time, we will hear his voice once again.

PUNTOS DE ENTRADA

Es fácil sentir que Dios está con nosotros cuando la vida va por buen camino. Sin embargo, ¿sentimos la presencia de Dios o confiamos en su promesa cuando las cosas no van tan bien, cuando nos sentimos aislados, solos o superados en número? Cuando resulta más difícil encontrar a Dios, debemos recordar cuán cerca está constantemente y promete permanecer. El mal busca esos puntos de entrada de duda y miedo para hacernos cuestionar las mismas cosas que sabemos que son ciertas.

Moisés tuvo que recordar repetidamente a quienes habían estado vagando durante cuarenta años que Dios los había rescatado antes y que permanecería fiel a su promesa. El salmo nos recuerda que los problemas acompañan la vida y que pedirle a Dios que esté con nosotros en todo no solo es permitido sino que se alienta. San Pablo recuerda a los cristianos de Roma (y a todos nosotros, en realidad) que Dios está cerca y que quienes confiesan conocerlo y profesan que es el Señor se salvarán.

El evangelio también nos recuerda que incluso Cristo no estaba libre de sufrimiento o tentación. Dios no le evitó a su único Hijo pasar por momentos difíciles. Es cuando estamos solos en los desiertos espirituales de la vida cuando debemos tener la fe y la fuerza para creer que Dios todavía está con nosotros y que, con el tiempo, volveremos a escuchar su voz.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:
Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:
Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:
Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday:
Ez 18:21-25; Ps 130:1-8;Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:
Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17 — 4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36



BAPTISMAL CLASS

We will be having our next baptismal class here on Thursday, March 13th at 7pm. You Must register for the class at the parish office, to attend.

TRAVELING IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY

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


Antonio & Maria Vasquez

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Come Holy Spirit; please grant me the wisdom to see the places you are present in my life. I ask for eyes to see the areas where the busyness of life gets in the way of my relationship with Christ. Please keep my feet firmly planted on the path he has designed for me and open my heart today to his Word. Amen.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

When Jesus was tempted, he turned to scripture. During this week, read the readings for daily Mass each morning (which you can find easily on www.usccb.com), and note one phrase to reflect on during the day, especially in the face of temptation.


Stations of the Cross 


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.

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

We will be having our Lenten Penance Service on Thursday, April 10th at 7pm. Several Priests will be here for confessions.



Easter Flower's 

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for Easter Lilies are located on the table in the entrance of the Church. If you would like to donate for the Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one, please pick-up a envelope on your way out after Mass.