



# Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

**July 12, 2020**

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**Pastor** Arokia Raj Samala  
**Finance Council Chair** Rodney Bohr  
**RCIA** Tabitha Eggemeyer  
**Youth Director** Kathleen Barkley  
**Bulletin** [staci.kotara@gmail.com](mailto:staci.kotara@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Chair** Jason Eugea  
**Altar Society President** Joannie Kling  
**DRE** Nicole Kuehler  
**Bookkeeper** Sherri Wieberg

## **15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - HARDENED HEART CONDITION**

"One day a farmer went out sowing. Part of what he sowed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up." —Matthew 13:4

When rain and snow come down and water the earth, they make barren ground fertile, and fertile ground fruitful (Is 55:10). This fertile ground produces seed used for next season's planting or for making bread (Is 55:10). God's word is like that (Is 55:11). It does not return void but achieves these four ends — fertile ground, fruitful ground, seed, and bread (Is 55:11).

God's word will upgrade the soil of our hearts. Hardened footpaths or rocky ground (Mt 13:5) can be transformed into rich, fertile, and fruitful ground. In our times, this is the most practical effect of God's word. For a small minority of American Christians, the word of God is falling on open hearts, seeding and feeding our lives. But most Christians have hardened their hearts through sinful lives of selfishness and materialism (Ps 95:8). We need God's word to be used like salt thrown on icy blacktop. We need to create potholes in our hardened hearts and change rocks into soil.

One of the most practical and important Bible verses for American Christians with a hardened-heart condition is: "Thus have You prepared the land: drenching its furrows, breaking up its clods, softening it with showers" (Ps 65:11).

*Let us Pray: Father, send Your word to melt me (Ps 147:18).*

## Mass Schedule

Saturday.....5:30pm  
Sunday.....8:30am

Tuesday and Wednesday.....6:00pm  
Thursday and Friday.....7:30am

### Confession:

Saturday.....4:30-5:15pm  
Sunday.....7:55-8:15am  
or by appointment

1st Wednesday Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament.....7:00pm-10:00pm

## Information

Marriage Preparation: Contact Father Raj at  
least six months in advance.

Baptism: Call the rectory for an appointment.

Communion: Anyone unable to come  
forward for communion, let Father Raj know  
before Mass. Those ill or homebound, please  
contact Father Raj to arrange for communion  
to be brought to your home.

## Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 11.....5:30pm  
Special Intentions for Donnie Conrad

Sunday, July 12.....8:30am  
Special Intentions for Donnie Conrad

Tuesday, July 14.....6:00pm  
Irene Reinart by Mike & Marla Britten

Wednesday, July 15.....6:00pm  
Irene Reinart by Mike & Marla Britten

Thursday, July 16.....7:30am  
Irene Reinart by Mike & Marla Britten

Friday, July 17.....7:30am  
Kenneth Swayze by Mike & Marla Britten

## Pray for Our Sick

Brandi Sustaire, John Detten, Emma  
Detten, Celeste Connelly, Shamara  
Husemann, Bill Becker, Charleen Weller,  
Leonard Koetting, Alina Becker, Anna  
Marie Wink, Matthew Gary Britten, Doris  
Britten, Phillip Ollinger, Dee Martinez,  
Shane King, JoAnn Britten, Ann McNabb,  
George "Jiggs" Britten, Cobb Britten,  
Luke Acker, Doug Acker, Donnie Conrad,  
Sister Louise, and Schellon Major.

*Heavenly Father, we pray that You will  
lay your healing Hands upon all those  
who are sick.*

## Family Chalice Program

July 12.....Bill & Linda Bohr  
July 19.....Adela & Staci Kotara  
July 26.....Cobb & Kay Britten  
August 2.....Pam & Cassie Ashford  
August 8.....Cobb & Kay Britten  
August 16.....Rodney & Michele Bohr

## Stewardship Reports

### 07/05/2020 Stewardship Report

Individual	\$ 2,420
Loose	\$ 30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,450</b>

### 07/05/2020 Peter's Pence Collection

Individual & TOTAL	\$ 100
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### 07/05/2020 Building Fund

Individual & TOTAL	\$45,085.32
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## Liturgical Ministers

### **Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 5:30pm**

Lector: Kay Britten

Extraor. Com. Minister: Jan Britten

### **Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 8:30am**

Lector: Ron Kuehler

Extraor. Com. Minister: Tabitha Eggemeyer

### **Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 5:30pm**

Lector: Jason Eugea

Extraor. Com. Minister: Kevin Brown

### **Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 8:30am**

Lector: Nick Kuehler

Extraor. Com. Minister: Nicole Kuehler

### **Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 5:30pm**

Lector: Kay Britten

Extraor. Com. Minister: Jan Britten

### **Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 8:30am**

Lector: Cliff Britten

Extraor. Com. Minister: Sandie Hickey

## Church Cleaning for July

Marla Britten, Debbie Ollinger, Sandra Britten, Mary Treadwell, Pam Ashford, Tami Keese, Cara Ashford, Sharon Britten, Sherri Wieberg, Waymth Britten, Lori Connelly, Nicole Kuehler, Loretta Britten, Tabitha Eggemeyer, Shelley Britten and Britney Britten

## Announcements

As we navigate the changes of our parish life through this pandemic, sign up for Flocknotes to receive notifications by email or text.

You can sign up on our parish website [immaculateheartgroomtx.com](http://immaculateheartgroomtx.com) or text "IHMary" to 84576 from your mobile device.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 11.....Kaitlyn Tucker  
July 12.....Owen Britten, Caden Tucker  
July 13.....A: Keith & Kathleen Barkley  
July 14....Nicholas Bohr, Karen Conrad Fisher  
July 16.....Cassie Ashford, John Connelly,  
and Brett Friemel  
July 17.....Ben Britten

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## Church's Foundation for Devotion to Precious Blood of Christ

First letter of St. Peter, verses 18-19. Says Peter: "You know that you were redeemed from the vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, not with perishable things as silver or gold but with the Precious Blood of Christ as the Lamb without blemish and without spot." Unquote Peter.

There are certain words and phrases in the revealed statement that we have just read that we should begin to unravel in order to understand something of the depth of meaning behind those two simple words, Precious Blood. Peter begins by reminding the faithful to remember the hardest thing in this life for us is to remain mindful of the truths of faith. Because what we believe on God's revealed Word is twice removed from the common experience that we have in this world. What we believe is first of all not immediately perceptible to the senses. Moreover, what we believe is not even penetrable to the naked reason. The word, remember, is an imperative: keep in mind. Arouse your faith in what and how you were redeemed. And it is the how we were redeemed that is the foundation stone of the mystery of the Precious Blood. God took on a human nature so that in that human nature He could die. In order to die, the soul had to separate from the body. But for the Body to have the soul separate, the body itself had to be deprived of His Blood. Theologically speaking and physiologically speaking, the All-Holy Son of God who became Man to redeem us could only have died by being drained of His Blood. Christ, listen, could not have died of some disease. Christ could not have died because of some mortal illness. All illness, disease, the natural debilitating of the body is the result of sin. Let me emphasize this. All our illness, our disease, our sickness, our wasting away of our body for all of us this is our faith - is the result of our sinful nature. Not so with Christ. That draining of the human body of His Blood was the one way that Christ, Sinless Son of God and Son of Mary that He was, the one way that He could die.

Peter goes on: "we were redeemed, we were ransomed." What is Peter talking about? What is Peter saying when he says that we were redeemed? Literally it means "bought back". Having sinned before God, we incurred a heavy debt. The debt was death. But all of the deaths (plural) of all of the human beings since the beginning of time, we believe, would not have been adequate - again, it is our faith - would not have been adequate to ransom, to make up for, the infinite gravity of the sin not only of our first parents but by now the accumulated - what a low figure of speech - mountain of sin. Because an infinite being was in His Being offended by His creatures, only an Infinite Being could provide adequate ransom to redeem.

Peter goes on: "We were therefore not redeemed by anything corruptible". And you would think that Peter would find two better words than gold and silver. Because of all material things that are corruptible, two of the most incorruptible are gold and silver. But not even the most precious things that the world can provide, no other ransom, would have been adequate. But we have been redeemed, bought back, ransomed, by the Precious Blood of the Lamb of God. Try not to forget the title. Precious Blood is the revealed title, part of God's inspired biblical teaching in the first letter of the first Vicar of Christ.

Why does Peter identify the Blood of the Lamb of God as "Precious?" Well, it is surely Precious because it is the Blood of no human being. It is the Blood of the living God who took on human nature, capable of shedding His Blood. Why was the Blood of Christ Precious? Because it is the Blood of God who took on human nature in order to be able to suffer and to bleed and, let us add, in order to bleed to death. Why Precious? Because it is the Blood of the living God.