

Dear Padre,

Are the readings at the beginning of Mass equal to the celebration of the Eucharist?

The Mass is celebrated in two major parts: the **Liturgy of the Word** and the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**. These parts complement each other in a balance of word and sacrament. In his 2004 apostolic letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine* (Stay With Us Lord), Pope St. John Paul II described these complementary elements. Using the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the night of Easter Sunday, the Pope likened the two parts of the revised liturgy to these disciples' journey. First, Christ breaks open the word for them, preparing their hearts with an interpretation of the Scriptures. Then, they recognize Christ as they break bread.

The Liturgy of the Word, proclaimed and preached well, allows time for silence and reflection on the wisdom offered. It becomes the necessary overture for the celebration of thanks and praise and the gift of the sign and sacrament to follow. Parishes are called to take the Liturgy of the Word most seriously and to bring it to a new level of proclamation. Pope St. John Paul II admonished all involved, but especially preachers, to cherish the word and preach it so the depths of the mysteries celebrated may be recognized and received into the burning hearts of Christians. In this context, the Scripture readings are given a prominence they didn't have in the older Roman rite. ●

From *The Eucharist: 50 Questions from the Pews* by Fr. Richard Fragomeni, PhD (816994), © 2009 Liguori Publications



GOOGLE GEMINI

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16



That Our Wounds Might Be Quickly Healed

ANN M. GARRIDO

Some years ago, I took a crash course in chaplaincy. Chaplains are often called on to accompany people through life's gloomier seasons—be it in a hospital, in a nursing home, in prison, or following a disaster. As you might imagine, our training involved sessions on how to best alleviate the isolation and despair many people experience in these places and situations. Pray with people? Invite them outside into nature? Make sure physical discomfort is mitigated? All of these are good practices, my chaplain supervisor emphasized, but research indicates that the quickest way to lift the heaviness many feel is to get them involved in alleviating the suffering of others.

I suspect neither Isaiah nor Jesus would have been surprised by this research. In today's first reading, Isaiah says that if we feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, if we clothe the naked and care for our family members in need, we will know what it means to have light in the midst of darkness, and our gloom will melt away as if under the noonday sun. Similarly, Jesus describes our good deeds as being like light, meant to be shared generously with others.

In recent years, we have seen an uptick in depression and anxiety, even among the young. We can be tempted to focus more inwardly on our own lives, our own griefs and shortcomings. Self-awareness is certainly a good trait to have! But, perhaps counterintuitively, today's readings remind us that our "wounds shall quickly be healed" more readily when we focus on the needs of others. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In a divided and troubled world, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk together in unity. The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice, and peace will return once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves but walking alongside one another. Not greedily exploiting this world but cultivating it and protecting it.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 7, 2025



MILJAN ZIVKOVIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday February 9 Weekday 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Mk 6:53-56	Thursday February 12 Weekday 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Mk 7:24-30	Saturday February 14 Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Mk 8:1-10
Tuesday February 10 St. Scholastica, Virgin 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Mk 7:1-13	Friday February 13 Weekday 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Mk 7:31-37	Sunday February 15 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 15:15-20 1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
Wednesday February 11 Weekday 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Mk 7:14-23		

Reflect

Why does helping another lift our own spirits?



"Your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed."

ISAIAH 58:8



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

1303 E. Reelfoot Ave. Union City, TN 38261

www.icuctn.org

731-885-0963

icuctnmaster@gmail.com



Saturday, February 7: 4:00 pm

Rest of the Soul of Heather Jenkins (Family)

Sunday, February 8: 8:00 am

People of the Parish

Monday, February 9: 8:00 am

For living & deceased members of the Ray family
(Neil & Van Ray)

Friday, February 13: 8:00 am

Rest of the soul of Heather Jenkins (Atwill Family)

Rest of the soul of Lawrance Harmon (Pat Harmon)

Saturday, February 14: 4:00 pm

Rest of the Souls of Rudy & Carloyn Vallee (Vallee Family)

Sunday, February 15: 8:00 am

People of the Parish



Sunday, February 8:

PRE Class 9am

Confirmation Retreat & Parent Meeting

11am-3pm

Wednesday, February 11:

Our Lady of Lourdes Mass 8am

w/ Anointing of the Sick following

OCIA 5:30pm

Ladies Guild Gathering 6pm

Sunday, February 15:

NO PRE Class—President's Day

Monday, February 16: Church Office closed

Tuesday, February 17:

Adult Bible Study 10am

Wednesday, February 18:

Ash Wednesday Masses

IC-8am & 7:15pm

St. Jude 5:30 pm

Sunday, February 22:

PRE Classes 9am

Spanish Stations of the Cross 9am

2027 Confirmation Student Parent Meeting 10:30am

Parish Offertory

Weekly Budget: \$5,400

February 1, 2026



Regular Collection: \$ 3942

Online Giving: \$ 706
(\$ 752)

Parish Improvement \$1540

Families giving with Envelopes or Online Giving: out 178

Thank you for your generosity & support!



WAYS TO GIVE



Online Giving



Eucharistic Ministers

&

Lectors



February 14 & 15: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lector:

4:00 pm: Winnie Logan

8:00 am: Laura Bustos Sanchez

Eucharistic Minister:

4:00 pm: Sue Holzner

8:00 am: Brenda Piazza

Please call the church office if you are interested in being a Lector or Eucharistic Minister while growing in your faith.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Assumption Memorial Garden Cemetery

Columbarium Niches for Cremains \$1,600.00 per Niche
contact parish office (731) 885-0963 Niche Face Plate
Engraving Compliments of Edmaiston-Mosley Funeral
Home (731) 885-1033 Curtis Monument Company (731)
352-5769 & The Wall Family

Immaculate Conception Parish Staff:

Office Hours: 9:00am—2:00pm

Pastor: Fr. Carl Gregorich

Bookkeeper/Reception: Leticia Maldonado

Tuesday & Thursday 9am—2pm

Religious Education Director: Teresa Vallee

Communications/Technology: Lillie Vallee

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays 5pm

Knights of Columbus: 3rd Degree: Mike Morel

4th Degree: Jason Batchelor

Ladies Guild: Janell Gegg

Meal Ministry: Brenda Piazza

Rosary Prayer Group: Sundays 7:30am Lillie Vallee

Sick Card Ministry: Sue Holzner 731-335-0502

Flocknote: icuctn.flocknote.com/register

FORMED.org: Sign up as a parishioner & use the church zip code franciscanathome.com
Catechetical Institute: Sign up under the Memphis Diocese

Facebook: facebook.com/icuctn

Bulletin Deadline: Noon on Monday

Wishing all of you a Happy and

BLESSED

February Birthday!

May your special day be filled with joy, sweet memories, relaxation, and God's blessings.



The Atlar Candles are for the Norman & Kathy Davis families.

*Altar Linens Month of February: Pat Harmon
Thank you for your service to our parish!*

Holy Sacraments Offered

Baptism: Arrange by appointment three (3) months before the desired date of baptism with the Office.

First Eucharist: Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.

Confirmation: Arrangements made with the Religious Education Director.

Confession: Saturdays 3:15pm—3:45pm

Matrimony: Arrangements must be made six (6) months before the wedding date with the Parish Office.

Marriage Blessing: Contact the parish Priest.

Marriage Annulment: Contact the parish Priest.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Office.

Holy Orders: Contact the Parish Priest.

Sagrados Sacramentos Ofrecidos

Bautismo: Organizarlo por medio de una cita con la oficina parroquial tres (3) meses antes de la fecha deseada de bautismo.

Primera Comunión: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.

Confirmación: Arreglos hechos con el Director de Educación Religiosa.

Confesión: Sábados 3:15pm—3:45pm

Matrimonio: Los arreglos deben hacerse seis (6) meses antes de la fecha de la boda con la Oficina Parroquial.

Bendición Matrimonial: Comuníquese con el párroco.
Anulación de Matrimonio: Póngase en contacto con el párroco.

Unción de los Enfermos: Comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial.

Órdenes Sagradas: Póngase en contacto con el párroco.



Names on the prayer list for family and friends will be removed on monthly basis. They will not be put back on until requested. Please notify church office to remove or add a person or

email: icuctnmaster@gmail.com

Parishioners

Lupita Berner
Richard Burpo
Beverly Canale
Willis Hayslett
Pamela Jenkins
Terry Johnson
James Judge
Martha Lattus
Pat Martinek
Barbara Pituch
Tom Pituch
Maria Searcy
David Sergerson
Marilyn Stigler
Del Torro
Paul Werner, Sr.
Katie Young

Friends & Family

John Akers
Heather Bacon
Butch Bugby
Karen Canale
Robert Chmielewski
Joseph Forner
Judy Gainwell
Edward & Glenda Griffith
Judy Guillory
Geri Hinson
Mayci Hogg
Frank Hutchinson
Jennie Jeffery
Dave Johnson
Rhonda Jones
Steven Kreis
Layla Karlz
Linda Lattus
Mary Jo Lattus

Nancy Long
Brian Maddox
Ma. Isabela Mandujano
Fr. Jim Martell
Josh McKinnis
Linda Moore
Gabby Moss Family
Barbara Parker
Logan Ricketts
Liliana Sanchez
Debra Spillers
Teresa Sadler
Liliana Sanchez
Ashley Taylor
Grace Townsend
Dottie Grace Tibbs
Doris Ann Toon
Doris & Van Veach
Joe Young

**2026 Annual Catholic Appeal
Commitment Weekend is
February 21-22**

This year's theme is **Hearts Poured Out in Love**. This flows directly from Bishop David's episcopal motto, *"I will give you a new heart,"* and the call of our Strategic Pastoral Plan to live the Anointed Life. Renewed by Christ's love, our hearts are transformed and poured out in generous service and stewardship for the mission of the Diocese.

Parish Goal: \$24,804

**Hearts Poured Out in Love
Corazones derramados en amor**

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

CAMPAÑA CATÓLICA ANUAL
DIÓCESIS CATÓLICA DE MEMPHIS

2026

Ladies Guild Join use for
Ladies'
FELLOWSHIP
Wednesday, February 11th @ 6 pm in the
Activity Building
Bring something chocolate for a fun Valentine's game!

Grémio de Damas Únete a nosotros
para la CONFRATERNIDAD de Damas
Miércoles 11 de febrero a las 6 p. m. en el
Edificio de Actividades.
¡Trae algo de chocolate para un divertido juego de San Valentín!



BINGO DE PALOMITAS
DE MAÍZ

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
Wednesday, February 11
Mass at 8am
Join us from Mass & administering the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick



Visio Divina "PRAYING with SACRED ART"
a retreat with
DEREK ROTTY

March 27-29

Head into Holy Week with Derek Rotty, author of "Praying with Sacred Art," on a fascinating retreat to learn how sacred art is used for prayer, not just admiration. Like "lectio divina" transforms scripture into dialogue with God, "visio divina" turns beauty into an encounter with the Creator.

Includes lodging and meals.
\$285 SINGLE **\$360** DOUBLE

OUR LADY QUEEN OF *peace*
GET MORE INFORMATION + REGISTER TODAY!
olqpretreats.com

¿Acaso estas siendo llamado?
Sabado, 21 de Febrero | 10:00 am
Iglesia de Santa Maria-Jackson

Acude a la sesión de información para ver si tu estas llamado a servir al Señor en la Iglesia del Oeste de Tennessee y se parte del próximo grupo de Diaconos

Are you being called?
Saturday, February 21 | 10:00 am
St. Mary Catholic Church-Jackson

Come join an informational session to see if you are called to serve Him in the Church of West Tennessee & be a part of the next Deacon Cohort

FAITH FORMATION
LIFELONG AND ONGOING

THE GREAT ADVENTURE
Hebrews
The New and Eternal Covenant

Tuesdays at 10 am
This study will be \$40 per person
Sign up by Sunday, February 8 to order the books.
This will be 8 sessions, about an hour & a half long. Plan to begin February 17.
Sign up in the Narthex

Wednesday, Feb. 18 Mass Times
Immaculate Conception:
8 am & 7:15 pm
St. Jude: 5:30 pm
Miércoles, 18 de febrero
Inmaculada Concepción:
8am y 7:15pm
San Judas: 5:30 pm





The Knights are asking the Ladies of the parish to help provide desserts for the upcoming Fish Fries.



February 27th,
March 13th, &
March 27th



Los Caballeros piden a las Damas de la parroquia que ayuden a proporcionar postres para el próximo Pescado Frito.



27 de febrero,
13 de marzo y
27 de marzo

'Waste Time' with Jesus This Year

Feb 3, 2026 7:00:00 AM | by AnneMarie Miller

AnneMarie Miller considers the benefits of letting children spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist. As I was babysitting a friend's children one evening, I noticed that although most of the kids quickly settled in with books or toys, one child was wandering around the living room. Immediately, I rushed over and asked if she needed help finding something to do. She politely thanked me and explained that she wanted to look around and think about things before selecting an activity. In my haste to ensure that everyone was entertained, I had forgotten that children often benefit from taking time and space to think, plan, and decide what they want to do. Years later, I think of this incident when I see people rush children in and out of church for quick visits with Jesus in the Eucharist. I'm always grateful when people bring their kids to be with Jesus, and a short visit with Jesus is better than no visit! If a family only has five spare minutes to visit Jesus, offering those five minutes to God is a huge gift and blessing. However, I've noticed that, sometimes, we keep visits short because we don't think our kids can handle more than five minutes. Whether based on our own experiences or the experiences of others, **we believe that we can only bring our kids to pray in church if we keep them fully engaged and entertained the entire time.**

Bored at Adoration

Our culture places a huge emphasis on keeping kids entertained. Shows and movies geared towards children are increasingly flashy and fast-paced. Screens surround us, and noise fills our communities. We feel the pressure to keep our kids engaged and attentive and offer them books, toys, or activities to prevent them from saying, "Mom, I'm bored." We bring this approach to church. I wonder, though: **What would happen if we stopped trying to entertain our kids and simply let them sit with Jesus, even if they grow bored?**

Different experts in psychology and child development discuss how boredom is good for kids. Boredom often prompts children to think deeply and get creative. Instead of constantly responding to external stimuli and commands, children have a chance to simply be. They can, like the young girl I once babysat, look around and think about things. When we let our kids be with Jesus for an extended span of time, and don't keep them constantly entertained, they have a chance to simply be with Jesus. They may grow bored, but what better place is there to be bored than with Jesus?

The Gift of Time

If we bring our kids to church or the Adoration chapel for several minutes at a time, we may feel awkward or frustrated if we don't actively engage or entertain them for the entire time. Feeling pressured by the expectations of others, we may think we need to reprimand a child who isn't looking at the Monstrance or is wiggling in his or her seat. However, **if we step back and simply give the gift of time to our kids, God will move in their hearts.** We may not see spiritual fruits from this prayer time, but we can trust that God will care for our kids and draw them to Himself. We can trust that God is at work, even when we can't see His movements.

Several years ago, [Pope Francis famously encouraged parents to "waste time" with their kids.](#) By "wasting time" together, parents and children could play and grow in their relationships together. Inspired by Pope Francis's words, can we let our children "waste time" with Jesus? Can we bring them to church for extended visits with the Blessed Sacrament? If we feel discouraged, let's remember: Time with Jesus is never truly wasted.



AnneMarie Miller



Catholic Mom
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

"You are the light of the world" - Matthew 5:14

Holy matrimony is a vocation of light, illuminating the world with faith and fidelity. Renew your commitment with your spouse in prayer.

Visit: www.memphisvocations.com
Or call the Office of Vocations at 373 - 1244



"Ustedes son la luz del mundo" -Mateo 5:14

El santo matrimonio es una vocación de luz que ilumina el mundo con fe y fidelidad. Renueven su compromiso con su cónyuge en oración.

Visita: www.memphisvocations.com
O llama a la Oficina de Vocaciones al 373 - 1244

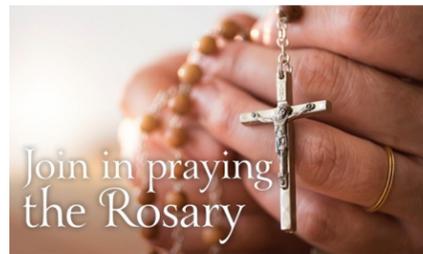


¿Listo(a) para responder al llamado? Contáctanos: VocationsDirector@vocations.cdom.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT 5PM
AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ACTIVITY BUILDING

Join us in
praying
the Rosary
on Sunday
mornings



at 7:30am before Mass.

Tax Documents
are in the
Narthex.
Pick them up at
your convince.



Our 2026 Mass Intention Book has several openings for this new year. Please stop by the church office to reserve your intention for your loved ones, both living & deceased.

Nuestro Libro de Intenciones de Misa 2026 tiene varios días disponibles para el próximo año. Pase por la oficina de la iglesia para reservar su intención para sus seres queridos, tanto vivos como fallecidos.