



CHURCH OF THE  
**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**

35 MOUNTAIN AVE. | SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08876



**PENTECOST  
SUNDAY**

**JUNE 8, 2025**

IMMACULATECONCEPTION.ORG | PHONE: 908-725-1112 | EMAIL: OFFICE@ICSOMERVILLE.ORG



**FOLLOW ALONG**



@icsomerville

## **Welcome to Immaculate Conception**

"Immaculate Conception is a parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. We seek to live the gospel as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. As stewards of our God-given gifts, we proclaim the Good News of salvation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are commissioned as apostles to transform all things in Christ."

**Whether this is your first Mass with us or you are a lifelong parishioner, we are so glad you are here. We hope Immaculate Conception can be a place for you to call home. If you are new here, check us out online at [immaculateconception.org](http://immaculateconception.org) or visit the parish office. Please do not hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself. We'd love to meet you!**

## **Readings for the Week**

### **Sunday, June 8**

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13;  
John 20:19-23

### **Monday, June 9**

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; John 19:25-34

### **Tuesday, June 10**

2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Matthew 5:13-16

### **Wednesday, June 11**

Acts of the Apostles 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Matthew 5:17-19

### **Thursday, June 12**

2 Corinthians 3:15-4:1, 3-6; Matthew 5:20-26

### **Friday, June 13**

2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 5:27-32

### **Saturday, June 14**

2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Matthew 5:33-37

## **Mass Intentions**

### **Sunday, June 8**

#### **Pentecost Sunday**

**7:30 am** Rose Gulick

**9:00 am** Pasquale & Maria DiSarno

**11:00 am** Jeanne & Ferdinand Lurski

**1:00 pm** Kathleen Hartmann

### **Monday, June 9**

The Blessed Virgin Mary

**6:30 am** Jeanne Geiman

**8:00 am** Marge Kozimbo

### **Tuesday, June 10**

**6:30 am** Ralph & Jacqueline Amatucci

**8:00 am** Fr. Robert Rivard

### **Wednesday, June 11**

**6:30 am** Raymond Tibok

**8:30 am** Jeannie Gryzysky

### **Thursday, June 12**

**6:30 am** Erma Maciolek

**8:00 am** John & Rose Kuzio

### **Friday, June 13**

St. Anthony of Padua

**6:30 am** Intentions of Cody Bohler

**8:00 am** Stephen & Bette Gavula

### **Saturday, June 14**

**8:00 am** Terry Harabin

**5:00 pm** For the People of our Parish

### **Sunday, June 15**

#### **The Most Holy Trinity**

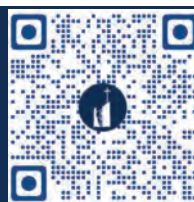
**7:30 am** All Fathers Living & Deceased

**9:00 am** All Fathers Living & Deceased

**11:00 am** All Fathers Living & Deceased

**1:00 pm** All Fathers Living & Deceased

Scan the QR code or visit  
[immaculateconception.org/masses](http://immaculateconception.org/masses)  
to view this week's worship guide.



# From the Pastor

## A Reflection from the Solemnity of the Ascension

The traditional site of the Ascension, located on the summit of the Mount of Olives, is marked by a small, rather unattractive, domed mosque. Originally, it was a small octagonal-shaped chapel, unroofed and unwalled, so that the person who entered it was given a panoramic view of the sky above and the city below. That skyward view was intended to cause the one who prayed in that place to consider the words of the angels to the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you look to the skies...?"

Why indeed? Why do we look above ourselves, beyond ourselves, at all? Why do you come to the Eucharist Sunday after Sunday, pray, and seek to be formed and nourished in the Word? Why do we look to heaven for all the human heart seeks while we remain here below?

Perhaps the answer to this question is found in the Book of Proverbs, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (29:18). We look to heaven for this vision, and the clarity of purpose it brings, because if we lose sight of Christ, the very reason for our being and its ultimate goal, we will surely perish.

The Ascension marks the end of the 40-day period in which the Risen Christ "showed Himself alive...and spoke to them (His disciples) about the Kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3). However, this "end" was a beginning. Jesus commissions the Church to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and then ascends to take His place at the right hand of the Father. But we should not think that the redemptive mission of Christ is now done. It is not. He goes to the Father in order to continue His saving mission, extending to people of every time and place, the salvation He has accomplished for us in and through His Church. In heaven, He is our high priest, constantly interceding for us and pouring out grace upon grace through the sacraments He gave us. But here below, His disciples are His instruments now; His voice is in their voices, His witness in theirs, even in their trials and sufferings.



When St. Maximillian Kolbe famously volunteered to die in another prisoner's place at Auschwitz, he was asked why he stepped forward. He said, "Because I am a Catholic priest." Maximillian's life was one of constantly "looking to the skies", that is, he looked to heaven for all things, even the grace to bear witness through his self-sacrifice. In this, the prayer of St. Paul was fulfilled in him. He lived a life "worthy of the call" and achieved "the full stature of Christ". We too are called to this same witness "because we are Christians", to nuance the words of Maximillian a bit, not necessarily in the same heroic self-sacrifice but in all the small, everyday ways we are called to love.

We look to the skies for the same grace, to know who we are as the sons and daughters of God, to catch a glimpse of that vision without which our lives lack the hope of the eternal, and to stay the course of faith, hope, and love through which we proclaim the abiding presence of Christ among us, even to the end of time.

Servus,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano".

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano  
Pastor and Director of Schools

To read past messages from the pastor, visit: [immaculateconception.org/news](http://immaculateconception.org/news).

# Meet Fr. Jerome Ocampo

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Fr. Jerome Ocampo, a native of the Philippines, was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Metuchen on Saturday, May 31, 2025.

Fr. Ocampo received his B.A. in Philosophy from St. Camillus College Seminary, Philippines, and his M. Div. and M.A. in Christian Ethics from Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ. He has served resident internships in several parishes in the diocese, the most recent being at the Church of St. Magdalen dePazzi in Flemington where he served as a deacon.

Fr. Ocampo has worked with both English and Spanish language communities and finds joy in all aspects of ministry, but especially in caring for the sick and those in health care institutions.

We welcome Fr. Ocampo to our parish and pledge him our prayerful support as he begins his priestly ministry with us.

## Children's Faith Formation

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### 2025 - 2026 CFF Registration Now Open!

Registration is now open for Children's Faith Formation (CFF) Fall Classes! Families can obtain a registration form online or from our Parish Office.

Registration Deadline: **September 15, 2025.**

All families registering their child for CFF must be registered parishioners. If your child is new to the program, please be sure to include a copy of their Baptism Certificate with your registration.

For more information or assistance, scan the QR code below or visit:

**[www.immaculateconception.org/childrensfaithformation](http://www.immaculateconception.org/childrensfaithformation)**.



We look forward to another wonderful year of faith-filled learning and growth!



To register for classes or to volunteer, please contact Karen Bohler, director of Children's Faith Formation, at **908-725-1112 ext. 1119** or **[kbohler@icsomerville.org](mailto:kbohler@icsomerville.org)**.

# News & Events

## Summer 2025 Schedule beginning Friday, June 13, 2025

Daily Mass:  
Monday - Friday: 6:30 am and 8:00 am, Chapel  
Saturday: 8:00 am

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am  
Spanish Mass: 1:00 pm

Parish Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Closed daily for lunch from 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

908-725-1112 or [office@icsomerville.org](mailto:office@icsomerville.org)

## Baby Bottle Boomerang

A heartfelt thank you to all who gave towards the Baby Bottle Boomerang for the **Pregnancy Aid Center in Raritan**. This year, we collected \$3,959 with 130 bottles returned. Your generosity helps hundreds of families throughout our area.

## Men's Fellowship

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025 | 7:30 AM**

The Men's Fellowship group meets on the second Saturday of the month from 7:30 am to 9:00 am in the Talbot Room. Join us for breakfast, prayer, a brief teaching, and spiritual discussion. All men 18 or older are welcome to join us on **Saturday, June 14**.

## Rosary Garden Volunteers

Do you enjoy the outdoors and have a heart for service? We are looking for volunteers to assist Deacon Frank Quinn with the care of our Rosary Garden. It's a beautiful space for prayer and reflection, and with your help, we can keep it looking its best. We invite you to devote just one hour of your time to assist with:

- Weeding
- Basic gardening
- General summer clean-up

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or simply willing to lend a hand, your help makes a big difference!

To volunteer or for more information, please contact the Parish Office. Let's work together to keep our Rosary Garden a peaceful and welcoming place for all.

## UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

**Peter's Pence: June 28 - June 29**

This collection is the annual Holy Father's Collection.

## Discipleship Night!

High school youth, deepen your faith at our upcoming Discipleship Night. Join us for refreshments, prayer, and support from other members of the BOLD community!

**Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> | 7:00-8:30 PM**  
Text Paulina to RSVP at (908) 552-0620



**MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE CAMP**

Join us for the ultimate camping experience!  
Service | Faith | Friends | Fun

**6th-9th Grade Students**  
**Monday, July 28 -**  
**Friday, August 1**  
**St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church &**  
**Local Service Sites**

Camp uServe will take campers to local service centers in the morning and then return to the parish property for lunch and a variety of fun and religious activities in the afternoon. It will definitely be a great way to spend a week and will also help our community!



**Calling all high school students, college students & parents!**

We can't do this without your support! If you're willing and able to volunteer (spending the day with us or driving campers to the service centers in the mornings), let us know!

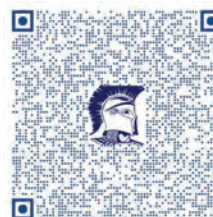
Questions about BOLD? Contact Paulina  
at [BAB@boldym.com](mailto:BAB@boldym.com) or text or call 908-  
552-0620



**SPARTAN  
SPIRIT  
5K**

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 21, 2025  
8:30 AM**

Begins and concludes at 240 Mountain  
Avenue, embracing the charm of our town.



[www.immaculatahighschool.org/5k](http://www.immaculatahighschool.org/5k)

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today Pentecost Sunday | John 20:19-23

Jesus appeared to the disciples in the locked room and said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." He was preparing them for their missionary work.

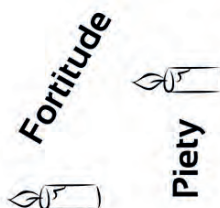
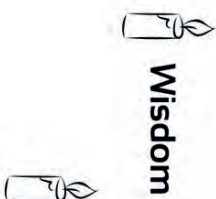
©2025 Bon Venture Services, LLC

The tongues of fire rested upon each disciple and they were "filled with the Spirit." Given the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, they were now ready to set out and spread the Good News. This was a new beginning, or birthday for the church.



## Birthdays come with gifts!

The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit were promised by Christ and are made known to us by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation.



Follow these directions to turn the cross into a gift box.

Color then cut on dotted lines - fold on light, solid lines into gift box, tape edges together, then the remaining edges.



Jesus died on the cross out of love for us. This same love gives us the Gifts of the Spirit to help us on our journey as disciples of Christ.



Color the bow red; **RED** is the color of Pentecost, the vestments of the priest and the color people wear to signify the **LOVE** and **FIRE** of the **SPIRIT**.

# Giving

Thank you! We are so encouraged by all of the ways that you respond to God's faithfulness and share your gifts. Gifts of prayer, time, and talent serve and support our community in so many ways. Your financial gifts are incredible acts of service that allow us to continue our mission and the work of the Church.

To give online, visit [immaculateconception.org/give](https://immaculateconception.org/give) or to enroll in our simple, automatic giving system, visit [faithdirect.net](https://faithdirect.net) and use code **NJ630**.



# Helpful Info

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COMMUNICATIONS

To get the latest news, photos, and stories, follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@icsomerville), and subscribe to our email list to get all the latest content delivered right to your inbox. Visit us online at [immaculateconception.org/subscribe](https://immaculateconception.org/subscribe) or scan the QR code to connect.



## NAVEX ETHICSPPOINT

The Diocese of Metuchen implemented an independent third-party reporting system initiative to provide a confidential method for the employees, volunteers, and parishioners to report suspected financial malfeasance in our parishes, schools, cemeteries, and diocesan institutions.

- Web: [diometuchen.ethicspoint.com](https://diometuchen.ethicspoint.com)
- Mobile: Scan the QR code to the right
- Hotline: 844-796-1296



## HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND?

Please notify the parish office at **908-725-1112** when a parishioner or family member is confined to their home, hospitalized, or entering a nursing home, so that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or a visitation to bring the Holy Eucharist can be arranged.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please have a family member or the individual contact us to have their name included on our prayer list. The request will be included for two months, unless otherwise notified.

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### MONDAY, JUNE 9

**6:30 am** Mass, Chapel

**8:00 am** Mass, Chapel

**7:00 pm** Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena, Chapel

### TUESDAY, JUNE 10

**6:30 am** Mass, Chapel

**8:00 am** Mass, Church

**8:30 am - 3:00 pm** Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel

**9:00 pm** Men's Evening Prayer, Chapel

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

**6:30 am** Mass, Chapel

**8:30 am** Mass, Church

**7:00 pm** Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Talbot Room

### THURSDAY, JUNE 12

**6:30 am** Mass, Chapel

**8:00 am** Mass, Chapel

**2:00 pm** Rosary for the Sick, Chapel

**7:00 pm** Filipino/American Association of Immaculate Conception Prayer Group, Virtual

### FRIDAY, JUNE 13

**6:30 am** Mass, Chapel

**8:00 am** Mass, Chapel

**9:00 am - 7:00 pm** Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel

### SATURDAY, JUNE 14

**7:30 am** Men's Fellowship, Talbot Room

**8:00 am** Mass, Church

**3:30 pm - 4:30 pm** Confessions, Church

**5:00 pm** Vigil Mass, Church

### SUNDAY, JUNE 15

**7:30 am** Mass, Church

**9:00 am** Mass, Church

**10:00 am** Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, St. Anne's Room

**11:00 am** Mass, Church

**1:00 pm** Spanish Mass, Church

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE SICK:

Joseph Acampado, Jozelle Acampado, Don Alaburda, Lou Bickel, Amy Cardinal, Donna Carney, Karen DeLaura, Ann Delayo, Larry & Elaine Dwyer, Anna Greco, Gene Grosso, Louis Grosso, Daniel Higgins, Eleanor Jackowski, David Kalisch, Lynette Klar, Diana Konopka, Megan Lisner, Joseph Malinowski, Thomas Malinowski, Christine Phillips, David Pietrowicz, Joe Pietrowicz, Frank Quinn, Ashling Rodriguez, and Robert & Pat Tocci

# Our Schools



CONGRATULATIONS **CLASS OF 2025**

Average  
scholarship  
earned per  
student\*  
**\$360,714**

\*Class of 2025



**SCHEDULE A SCHOOL VISIT TODAY**

[admissions@immaculatahighschool.org](mailto:admissions@immaculatahighschool.org) • 908-722-0200, ext. 1218



**IMMACULATA  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
FAITH • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • FRIENDSHIP

CONGRATULATIONS **CLASS OF 2025**

Academic  
excellence  
rooted in  
Catholic  
values.



**SCHEDULE A SCHOOL VISIT TODAY**

[mdeangelo@ics41mtn.org](mailto:mdeangelo@ics41mtn.org) • 908-725-6516, ext. 3



**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
SCHOOL**  
FAITH • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • FRIENDSHIP

# Parish Office

The parish offices are located in the white building in front of the church. For the summer months, the parish office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The office will be closed daily from 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm.



## OUR STAFF

Please know that all of us at the Church of the Immaculate Conception are here to be of service to you. Please never hesitate to seek our support whenever it may be needed. The parish office can be reached at **908-725-1112** or [office@icsomerville.org](mailto:office@icsomerville.org).

|                                  |                                                 |                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano      | Pastor                                          | <a href="mailto:jcelano@icsomerville.org">jcelano@icsomerville.org</a>                 |
| Rev. Jerome Ocampo               | Parochial Vicar                                 | <a href="mailto:jocampo@icsomerville.org">jocampo@icsomerville.org</a>                 |
| Rev. Gustavo Rodriguez-Perez     | Parochial Vicar                                 | <a href="mailto:grodriguez@icsomerville.org">grodriguez@icsomerville.org</a>           |
| Frank J. Quinn, ICS '62, IHS '66 | Deacon                                          | <a href="mailto:office@icsomerville.org">office@icsomerville.org</a>                   |
| John R. Czekaj, ICS '62, IHS '66 | Deacon                                          | <a href="mailto:office@icsomerville.org">office@icsomerville.org</a>                   |
| Reynaldo Lopez                   | Deacon                                          | <a href="mailto:rlopez@icsomerville.org">rlopez@icsomerville.org</a>                   |
| David Lang, ICS '79, IHS '83     | Deacon                                          | <a href="mailto:dlang@icsomerville.org">dlang@icsomerville.org</a>                     |
| Tuan Bui                         | Deacon                                          | <a href="mailto:tbui@icsomerville.org">tbui@icsomerville.org</a>                       |
| Katie Parsells, ICS '99, IHS '03 | Principal, Immaculate Conception School         | <a href="mailto:kparsells@ics41mtn.org">kparsells@ics41mtn.org</a>                     |
| Ed Webber, IHS '99               | Principal, Immaculata High School               | <a href="mailto:ewebber@immaculatahighschool.org">ewebber@immaculatahighschool.org</a> |
| Milton Ayala                     | Director, Maintenance                           | <a href="mailto:maintenance@ics41mtn.org">maintenance@ics41mtn.org</a>                 |
| Karen Bohler, ICS '72, IHS '76   | Director, Children's Faith Formation            | <a href="mailto:kbohler@icsomerville.org">kbohler@icsomerville.org</a>                 |
| Beverly Gaffney                  | School/Parish Bookkeeper                        | <a href="mailto:bgaffney@ics41mtn.org">bgaffney@ics41mtn.org</a>                       |
| Gary Gavula                      | Director, Sacred Music                          | <a href="mailto:ggavula@icsomerville.org">ggavula@icsomerville.org</a>                 |
| Paulina Garcia                   | Bilingual Youth Minister                        | <a href="mailto:icc@boldym.com">icc@boldym.com</a>                                     |
| Stacey Geary, IHS '91            | Assistant, Marketing & Communications           | <a href="mailto:sgeary@icsomerville.org">sgeary@icsomerville.org</a>                   |
| Susan Odenthal                   | Interim Director, Advancement                   | <a href="mailto:sodenthal@icsomerville.org">sodenthal@icsomerville.org</a>             |
| Jo Anne Peppe                    | Business Manager                                | <a href="mailto:jpeppe@icsomerville.org">jpeppe@icsomerville.org</a>                   |
| Rick Proctor                     | Director, Security                              | <a href="mailto:rproctor@icsomerville.org">rproctor@icsomerville.org</a>               |
| Jenny Santiago                   | Bilingual Secretary, Children's Faith Formation | <a href="mailto:jsantiago@icsomerville.org">jsantiago@icsomerville.org</a>             |
| Erik Schenk                      | Youth Minister                                  | <a href="mailto:icc@boldym.com">icc@boldym.com</a>                                     |
| Colleen Young                    | Parish Secretary                                | <a href="mailto:cyoung@icsomerville.org">cyoung@icsomerville.org</a>                   |

*For sacramental emergencies only that require the immediate attention of a priest call **908-698-9107**.*



## Bienvenido a la Iglesia Inmaculada Concepción

"La Inmaculada Concepción es una parroquia de la Diócesis Católica Romana de Metuchen, Nueva Jersey. Buscamos vivir el evangelio como fieles discípulos de Jesucristo. Como mayordomos de los dones que Dios nos ha dado, proclamamos la Buena Nueva de la salvación. Fortalecidos por el Espíritu Santo, somos comisionados como apóstoles para transformar todas las cosas en Cristo."

**Ya sea que esta sea su primera Misa con nosotros o que sea un feligrés de toda la vida, estamos muy contentos de que esté aquí. Esperamos que la Iglesia Immaculate Conception pueda ser un lugar para llamar hogar. Si es nuevo aquí, visítenos en línea en [immaculateconception.org](http://immaculateconception.org) o visite la oficina parroquial. Por favor, no dude en comunicarse y presentarse. ¡Nos encantaría conocerle!**

## Lecturas de La Semana

### Domingo, 8 de junio

Hechos de los Apóstoles 2,1-11; 1 Corintios 12,3b-7.12-13;  
Juan 20,19-23

### Lunes, 9 de junio

Génesis 3,9-15.20; Juan 19,25-34

### Martes, 10 de junio

2 Corintios 1,18-22; Mateo 5,13-16

### Miércoles, 11 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 11,21b-26; 13,1-3; Mateo 5,17-19

### Jueves, 12 de mayo

2 Corintios 3,15-4,1.3-6; Mateo 5,20-26

### Viernes, 13 de mayo

2 Corintios 4,7-15; Mateo 5,27-32

### Sábado, 14 de mayo

2 Corintios 5,14-21; Mateo 5,33-37

## Intenciones de Misas

### Domingo, 8 de junio Domingo de Pentecostés

**7:30 am** Rose Gulick  
**9:00 am** Pasquale y Maria DiSarno  
**11:00 am** Jeanne y Ferdinand Lurski  
**1:00 pm** Kathleen Hartmann

**Lunes, 9 de junio**  
La Santísima Virgen María  
**6:30 am** Jeanne Geiman  
**8:00 am** Marge Kozimbo

**Martes, 10 de junio**  
**6:30 am** Ralph y Jacqueline Amatucci  
**8:00 am** P. Robert Rivard

**Miércoles, 11 de junio**  
**6:30 am** Raymond Tibok  
**8:30 am** Jeannie Gryzynsky

**Jueves, 12 de junio**  
**6:30 am** Erma Maciolek  
**8:00 am** John y Rose Kuzio

**Viernes, 13 de junio**  
San Antonio de Padua  
**6:30 am** Intenciones de Cody Bohler  
**8:00 am** Stephen y Bette Gavula

**Sábado, 14 de junio**  
**8:00 am** Terry Harabin  
**5:00 pm** Por el Pueblo de nuestra Parroquia

**Domingo, 15 de junio**  
**La Santísima Trinidad**  
**7:30 am** Todos los Padres Vivos y Difuntos  
**9:00 am** Todos los Padres Vivos y Difuntos  
**11:00 am** Todos los Padres Vivos y Difuntos  
**1:00 pm** Todos los Padres Vivos y Difuntos

Solo para emergencias sacramentales que requieran la atención inmediata de un sacerdote, llame **908-698-9107**.

# Del párroco

## Una Reflexión para la Solemnidad de la Ascensión

El lugar tradicional de la Ascensión, ubicado en la cima del Monte de los Olivos, está marcado por una pequeña y poco atractiva mezquita con cúpula. Originalmente, era una pequeña capilla de forma octogonal, sin techo ni paredes, de modo que quien entraba en ella tenía una vista panorámica del cielo arriba y de la ciudad abajo. Esa mirada hacia el cielo tenía la intención de llevar a quien oraba en ese lugar a considerar las palabras de los ángeles a los discípulos: "Hombres de Galilea, ¿por qué se quedan mirando al cielo...?"

¿Pero por qué, en verdad? ¿Por qué miramos por encima de nosotros, más allá de nosotros mismos? ¿Por qué vienes a la Eucaristía domingo tras domingo, oras, y buscas ser formado y alimentado en la Palabra? ¿Por qué miramos al cielo en busca de todo lo que el corazón humano anhela mientras aún permanecemos aquí abajo?

Quizás la respuesta a esta pregunta se encuentra en el Libro de los Proverbios: "Donde no hay visión, el pueblo perece" (29:18). Miramos al cielo en busca de esa visión y de la claridad de propósito que ella aporta, porque si perdemos de vista a Cristo, la razón misma de nuestro ser y su meta última, sin duda pereceremos.

La Ascensión marca el final del período de 40 días en el que el Cristo resucitado "se presentó vivo... y les habló (a sus discípulos) acerca del Reino de Dios" (Hechos 1,3). Sin embargo, este "final" fue un comienzo. Jesús encomienda a la Iglesia proclamar el Evangelio a todas las naciones y luego asciende para tomar su lugar a la derecha del Padre. No obstante, no debemos pensar que la misión redentora de Cristo ha terminado. No es así. Él va al Padre para continuar su misión salvadora, extendiendo a personas de todo tiempo y lugar la salvación que ha alcanzado para nosotros en y a través de su Iglesia. En el cielo, Él es nuestro Sumo Sacerdote, intercediendo constantemente por nosotros y derramando gracia sobre gracia a través de los sacramentos que nos dio. Pero aquí en la tierra, sus discípulos son ahora sus instrumentos; su voz resuena en sus voces, su testimonio en el de ellos, incluso en sus pruebas y sufrimientos.



Cuando San Maximiliano Kolbe se ofreció voluntariamente para morir en lugar de otro prisionero en Auschwitz, le preguntaron por qué había dado ese paso. Él respondió: "Porque soy sacerdote católico". La vida de Maximiliano fue una de constante "mirada al cielo"; es decir, miraba al cielo en busca de todo, incluso de la gracia para dar testimonio mediante su autosacrificio. En él se cumplió la oración de San Pablo. Vivió una vida "digna del llamado" y alcanzó "la plenitud de Cristo". Nosotros también estamos llamados a ese mismo testimonio "porque somos cristianos", matizando un poco las palabras de Maximiliano, no necesariamente mediante un autosacrificio heroico, sino en todas las pequeñas y cotidianas maneras en que estamos llamados a amar.

Miramos al cielo por la misma gracia: para saber quiénes somos como hijos e hijas de Dios, para vislumbrar esa visión sin la cual nuestras vidas carecen de la esperanza de lo eterno, y para mantenernos firmes en el camino de la fe, la esperanza y el amor, a través del cual proclamamos la presencia constante de Cristo entre nosotros, hasta el fin de los tiempos.

Servus,

Handwritten signature of Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano  
Pastor and Director of Schools

# Conozca al Padre Jerome Ocampo

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El Padre Jerome Ocampo, originario de Filipinas, fue ordenado sacerdote de la Diócesis de Metuchen el sábado 31 de mayo de 2025.

El Padre Ocampo obtuvo su licenciatura en Filosofía en el Seminario Universitario San Camilo, en Filipinas, y su Maestría en Divinidad (M. Div.) y Maestría en Ética Cristiana (M.A.) en el Seminario de la Inmaculada Concepción en la Universidad Seton Hall, en South Orange, Nueva Jersey. Ha realizado prácticas pastorales en varias parroquias de la diócesis, la más reciente en la Iglesia de Santa Magdalena de Pazzi en Flemington, donde sirvió como diácono.

El Padre Ocampo ha trabajado con comunidades de habla inglesa y española, y encuentra alegría en todos los aspectos del ministerio, especialmente en el cuidado de los enfermos y de quienes se encuentran en instituciones de salud.

Damos la bienvenida al Padre Ocampo a nuestra parroquia y le ofrecemos nuestro apoyo en la oración mientras comienza su ministerio sacerdotal entre nosotros.

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## ESTA SEMANA EN LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN

### LUNES, 9 DE JUNIO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:00 am Misa, Capilla

### MARTES, 10 DE JUNIO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:00 am Misa, Iglesia

8:30 am - 3:00 pm Adoración Eucarística, Capilla

9:00 pm Oración Nocturna para Hombres, Capilla

### MIÉRCOLES, 11 DE JUNIO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:30 am Misa, Iglesia

### JUEVES, 12 DE JUNIO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:00 am Misa, Capilla

2:00 pm Rosario por los Enfermos, Capilla

7:30 pm Grupo de Oración Juan XXIII, Convento

### VIERNES, 13 DE JUNIO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:00 am Misa, Capilla

9:00 am - 7:00 pm Adoración Eucarística, Capilla

### SÁBADO, 14 DE JUNIO

8:00 am Misa, Iglesia

9:30 am Peregrinación del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Metuchen

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Confesión, Iglesia

5:00 pm Misa de Vigilia, Iglesia

6:00 pm La Hora Mariana, Virtual

### DOMINGO, 15 DE JUNIO

7:30 am Misa, Iglesia

9:00 am Misa, Iglesia

11:00 am Misa, Iglesia

1:00 pm Misa en español, Iglesia

2:00 pm Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos en Español, Salón Santa Ana



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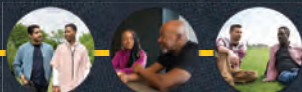
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