



CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

100 MOUNTAIN AVE. | SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08876

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 10, 2026

May is the Month of Mary. Join us each weekday at 2 pm to pray the Rosary and honor our Blessed Mother in prayer. Let us gather in faith and devotion. All are welcome!

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



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 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, May 10

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

Monday, May 11

Acts of the Apostles 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, May 12

Acts of the Apostles 16:22-34; John 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 13

Acts of the Apostles 17:15, 22-18:1; John 16:12-15

Thursday, May 14

Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17

Friday, May 15

Acts of the Apostles 18:9-18; John 16:20-23

Saturday, May 16

Acts of the Apostles 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28

Mass Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp, Church

Charles & Ruth Delayo

Sanctuary Lamp, Chapel

Charles & Ruth Delayo

Altar Flowers

Charles & Ruth Delayo

Sunday, May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

7:30 am All Mothers, Living and Deceased

9:00 am All Mothers, Living and Deceased

11:00 am All Mothers, Living and Deceased

1:00 pm All Mothers, Living and Deceased

Monday, May 11

6:30 am Intentions of MaryAnne Joy

8:00 am William Cleary

Tuesday, May 12

6:30 am Mahoney Family

8:00 am Intentions of Ann Delayo

Wednesday, May 13

6:30 am Steve & Sophie Showed

8:00 am Ernesto Martinez

Thursday, May 14

6:30 am Intentions of Guiseppino Trentacoste

8:00 am Dean F. Pinciotti

Friday, May 15

6:30 am Chelesa Rivard

8:30 am Ronald & Mary Doney

Saturday, May 16

8:00 am Julia M. Mahar

5:00 pm People of the Parish

Sunday, May 17

The Ascension of the Lord

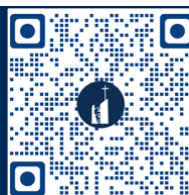
7:30 am Intentions of DeGuzman Family

9:00 am Ruth Adele Rodgers

11:00 am Louis Terraglia

1:00 pm Juan Garcia Aguilar

Scan the QR code or visit
immaculateconception.org/masses
to view this week's worship guide.



From the Pastor

A Reflection from the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Early in the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke describes a Church alive with unity and charity: the believers were “of one heart and soul...there was not a needy person among them,” for those who had resources laid them at the apostles’ feet, and each received according to need. While this tells us a great deal about daily life in the early church, it didn’t last long. Luke tells us that tensions and divisions emerged between Jewish and Greek believers over the daily distribution of food. You can almost hear the apostles’ exasperation when the complaint reaches them: *“It is not right that we should neglect the Word of God to serve at the table.”*

The solution to the problem arises from within the community itself. The apostles call forth seven men, “*diakonoï*,” or “servants” - what we now call deacons - entrusting them with the care of the community’s daily needs. In doing so, they preserve their own apostolic mission: that the Word be preached, that leadership is exercised, and that prayer remain central to the mission. Prayer and mission are never opposed; they are rightly ordered and shared, each forming the other.

This same issue presses upon us today. We might state it like this: Is the Church a cruise ship or a battleship? Is the parish a place where we come to be served, or a place where we are formed to serve? The question merits serious reflection in an age of consumerism and entitlement, and how it skews our understanding of the Church. Of course, we would like to think that the Church is not a cruise ship—offering us weekly entertainment and a buffet of beliefs from which we can select those that suit us. Nor is it a place where we can escape from the turbulence of the world by disengaging from it. The Church is a battleship. It is supposed to be a school of discipleship where we learn how to live in right relationship with Christ and, through the grace of the sacraments, cultivate the virtues which should mark the Christian life: humility, sacrifice, selflessness, and mission-driven service. Parishes are where faith becomes action and where our belonging calls for participation in the mission of the Church. Our times do not permit a passive Catholicism. They demand, quite simply, an “all hands on deck” approach to ministry.

Over the decades, we priests have become fewer in number, and though there are hopeful signs of renewal, many priests still carry heavy responsibilities and often do so alone and without help.

The First Deacons



stephen-philip-prochorus-nicanor-timon-parmmas-nicholas

Yet, our parishes face real needs - pastoral, spiritual, and material - and the resources needed are few. I have heard many priests echo the words of the apostles as they try to balance it all while striving to prioritize prayer, leadership, and the ministry of the Word.

Thanks be to God, many of the laity understand the difference between the cruise ship and battleship models of the parish. They know that ministry does not happen in the abstract, nor can the parish priest be expected to do everything and be everywhere. They know that the call to bring Christ to our times is a shared responsibility, and not the work of the clergy alone. They know it requires mission-driven disciples, men and women who are faithful, committed, and willing to serve our times, even in small and unseen ways. And so, they answer the call because they know they’re on the battleship. Because if the apostles do not preach, then who will? If the deacons do not serve, then who will? If ordinary disciples do not bring Christ to family, workplace, and community, then who will?

In the end, the question is no longer abstract. It is immediate, real, and deeply personal: *If not you, then who? If not today, then when?*

Servus,

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.

News & Events



JANUS Bereavement Support Group **TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 | 7:30 PM**

Dr. Barbara Ronca has announced that the **Tuesday, May 12**, meeting of the JANUS Bereavement Support Group will feature a talk on *"Good Food, Good Mood."* It will highlight various methods of food selection to help improve moods. Anyone who has experienced a loss through death, separation/divorce, loss of job, health, pet, self-harm, relocation, or loss of contact with children or grandchildren should plan to attend. There is no fee, but registration is requested with Dr. Ronca at **908-218-9062**. JANUS is a community service of Counseling and Therapy Services and meets at 7:30 pm, the second Tuesday monthly at 1124 Highway 202S, suite A2, Raritan, NJ. 08869

Altar Servers Needed **SATURDAY | MAY 16, 2026 | 9:00 AM**

Boys and girls in 4th grade and above who have received First Holy Communion are invited to become altar servers. Serving at the altar is a meaningful way to grow in faith, participate more fully in the Mass, and build friendships while serving our parish community. Join us for our next training session: **Saturday, May 16**, 9:00 am –10:30 am (parents are welcome). RSVP to Deacon David Lang at dlang@icsomerville.org.

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Mother's Day: May 9 - 10
Food Collection: May 16 - 17

Pray the Rosary Together **WEEKDAYS IN MAY | 2:00 PM**

Join the Rosary Altar Society in praying the Rosary during the month of May, a month dedicated to honoring Our Blessed Mother. The Rosary will be prayed at 2:00 pm on weekdays in the church, beneath the statue of the Immaculate Conception. (On Thursdays, we will gather in the Chapel). We invite you to join us in praying this powerful devotion, asking Mary to intercede for all of our intentions.

Sunday Morning Café **SUNDAY | MAY 17, 2026 | 10:00 AM**

The Sunday Morning Café is an opportunity for our parish community to enjoy light refreshments, good company, and a brief topical presentation on faith, liturgy, ethics and morality, spirituality, and other issues pertaining to Christian discipleship. Join us on **Sunday, May 17**, following the 9:00 am Mass, in the ICS cafeteria, where we'll meet until 11:30 am. No registration or sign-up is required - just come as you are!

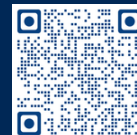
2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal ***Journeying Together in Faith, Hope and Charity***

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not made a pledge, there is still time to participate. Mail your gift to Diocese of Metuchen Bishop's Annual Appeal, PO Box 4000, Metuchen, NJ 08840-4000 or give online at <https://diometuchen.org/BAA>.

Summer Kickoff Celebration **SUNDAY | MAY 31, 2026 | 2:30 PM**

The Hispanic Committee invites all parishioners to a Summer Kickoff Celebration with hamburgers, hot dogs, and refreshments on **Sunday, May 31** at 2:30 pm on the Church grounds. Come celebrate the beginning of summer together!

Scan the QR code or visit
immaculateconception.org/events
to see more



Our Church

OFFERTORY FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH



February 2026 2025

In Pew, Mail-in Giving	\$ 64,637	\$ 58,515
Electronic Giving	\$ 31,963	\$ 30,633
Total:	\$ 96,599	\$ 89,148

March 2026 2025 (4 Sundays) (5 Sundays)

In Pew, Mail-in Giving	\$ 84,463	\$ 75,940
Electronic Giving	\$ 34,775	\$ 36,579
Total:	\$ 119,237	\$ 112,519

Offertory Budget/Expected for Month **\$ 96,797**

We are pleased to share that our offertory collections for February and March 2026 exceeded those from the same period last year. While the Ash Wednesday and Catholic Spirit collections were slightly lower this year, the Diocesan Clergy Retirement collection surpassed last year's total.

We are deeply grateful for your continued and generous support of our Parish family.

Please remember for convenient online giving visit <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-630>.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Ash Wednesday	\$ 3,888	\$ 5,176
Catholic Spirit	\$ 1,660	\$ 1,805
Diocesan Clergy Retirement	\$ 9,349	\$ 7,283

May Ministry

During the month of May, donations are being collected for the Pregnancy Aid and Information Center of Raritan. As an all-volunteer, all-donation center, they count on us to help them support local mothers and their children. Each week, they help upwards of 100 families and need the following items: new or gently used toddler clothing, diapers (especially sizes 4 – 6), baby wipes, toiletries (baby wash, baby shampoo, and diaper cream), and baby formula.

Each year, your generosity astounds those who volunteer at the Center, and we hope for the same support this year. Over the past year, the number of families has grown tremendously, so their needs have increased.

May Crib

A crib will be located in each of the Church entrances for donation collections. For larger baby equipment donations, please contact the Pregnancy Aid and Information Center of Raritan directly at **908-526-8121**.

For questions contact the Parish Office at office@icsomerville.org or **908-725-1112**.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Baby Bottles are being distributed after all Masses on the weekend of **May 9 and 10**. These bottles may be filled with loose change, currency, or checks. All the donations will support the Pregnancy Aid and Information Center of Raritan. Please return bottles before all masses on the weekend of **May 23 and 24**.

You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion.

- St. Pope John Paul II

Our Parish & Schools

BOLD Youth Ministry Corner
youth ministry by Bold Ventures



MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE CAMP
Join us for the ultimate camp experience!
Service | Faith | Friends | Fun

All Incoming 6th - 9th Graders
(Current 5th - 8th)
Monday, August 3 - Friday, August 7 | 9AM - 3PM
Hosted by Immaculate Conception Church
Camp Fee: \$195 per camper
(\$135 for each additional sibling)

uServe Camp brings campers to local service sites each morning, then back to the parish for lunch and engaging, faith-filled activities in the afternoon. It's a meaningful way to spend a week while making a difference in our community!

Register at boldym.com/BAB/uServe

Questions about the uServe Camp? Are you a parent who would like to help during the week? Please reach out to Paulina Garcia at BAB@boldym.com

Questions? Contact Paulina Garcia at BAB@boldym.com or 908-552-0620

Spice up your night at Taco Tuesday!

Tuesday, May 12th | 7:00-8:30PM
Immaculate Conception Church

Games, snacks, music, and plenty of time to hang out with friends, don't miss the fun!

Visit boldym.com/BAB/events to RSVP!

BOLD Middle Photo Scavenger Hunt!

Get ready for a night of fun and adventure! Grab your friends as we race to complete a photo scavenger hunt, with creative, funny, and faith-inspired pictures along the way.

All in Middle School
Thursday, May 21st | 6:30-8:00PM
St. Bernard's Youth Room

Don't miss out on this awesome night of laughs, fun and friendly competition! Please RSVP at boldym.com/BAB/events

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER
SUPPORTING ICS 8TH GRADE CLASS OF 2026

SPONSORED BY
SCRUB-A-DUB
CLEANING COMPANY
A Family Business Since 1994

SUNDAY MAY 17
9AM - 1:30PM
IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL
240 MOUNTAIN AVE
SOMERVILLE NJ 08876

ENTRANCE ON MOUNTAIN AVENUE
EXIT ON ROUTE 22 EAST

\$15
SUGGESTED DONATION



SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026 at 8:30 am

SPARTAN SPIRIT 5K



IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL
240 MOUNTAIN AVE SOMERVILLE, NJ

For sponsorships visit: <https://www.immaculatahighschool.org/5k>

The 2026 Spartan Spirit 5K will be run through the historic streets of downtown Somerville on Saturday, May 30, 2026, beginning at 8:30 am. The race will start and end at 240 Mountain Avenue. Funds raised through this event will directly support the financial aid efforts of our parish schools. Entry in the race entitles participants to post-race awards breakfast and beverage garden. Alumni and friends will have the opportunity to tour the high school campus following the race.



Register Today



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
or to enroll in our simple, automatic giving system, visit:
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-630>



HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MONDAY, MAY 11

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:00 am Mass, Chapel
2:00 pm Month of Mary Rosary, Church
7:00 pm Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena, Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 12

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:00 am Mass, Chapel
8:30 am - 3:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel
2:00 pm Month of Mary Rosary, Church
7:00 pm BOLD Youth Ministry, Cafeteria
8:00 pm Men's Evening Prayer, Chapel

Wednesday, MAY 13

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:00 am Mass, Chapel
10:00 am The Imitation of Christ, St. Anne's Room
2:00 pm Month of Mary Rosary, Church
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal, Church Music Office

THURSDAY, MAY 14

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:00 am Mass, Chapel
2:00 pm Rosary, Chapel
7:00 pm Filipino/American Association Prayer Group, Virtual
7:00 pm Immaculate Conception Choir Practice, Church

FRIDAY, MAY 15

6:30 am Mass, Chapel
8:30 am Mass, Church
9:00 am - 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel
2:00 pm Month of Mary Rosary, Church

SATURDAY, MAY 16

8:00 am Mass, Church
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Confession, Church
5:00 pm Vigil Mass, Church

SUNDAY, MAY 17

7:30 am Mass, Church
9:00 am Mass, Church
10:00 am Sunday Morning Café
11:00 am Mass, Church
1:00 pm Spanish Mass, Church

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
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
- 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE SICK:

Jozelle Acampado, Don Alaburda, Lou Bickel, Erin Calicchio, Wanda De Jesús Villafañe, Joseph Dina Sr., Louis Grosso, Lynette Klar, Diana Konopka, Lygia Lewis, Megan Lisner, Joseph Malinowski, Thomas Malinowski, Dave Myers, Mary Moody, Suzanne Petto, Christine Phillips, Amy Pitucco, Thomas Rucci, Sal & Jena Schellato, Phyllis Schmidt, and Robert Tocci

Gospel Today Sixth Sunday of Easter | John 14:15-21

Jesus says if we love God by keeping His commandments He will send the Holy Spirit, the unseen Spirit of truth, we **believe** is with us.

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*"If you love Me,
you will keep My
commandments."*

- John 14:15



We can't see the wind - only what
it moves, and we can't see the Holy
Spirit - only what it moves, in people!
Is the Holy Spirit moving in you? How?

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.

Jesus	H	C	R	J	P	G	U	N	R	E	G	M	F
Promises	L	O	V	E	R	W	O	H	C	S	H	O	W
Holy	A	M	L	S	P	I	R	I	T	O	R	V	D
Spirit	L	M	S	U	V	N	L	T	A	E	E	E	S
Unseen	W	A	N	S	E	D	U	N	V	G	N	S	P
Truth	A	N	A	T	A	C	C	E	P	T	E	H	M
Love	H	D	C	S	K	H	R	E	R	R	P	E	Y
See x6	E	M	E	L	E	N	G	S	O	U	E	L	S
God	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	N	M	T	O	I	E
Keep	E	N	V	E	P	P	D	U	I	H	P	T	L
Commandments	R	T	E	D	L	R	O	W	S	O	L	P	F
Believe	Y	S	S	E	Z	I	L	A	E	R	E	W	O
Lives	M	W	H	N	I	H	E	E	S	E	V	I	L
Moves													
Wind													
People													
Realize													
World													
Help													
Forever													
Show													
Myself													
Accept													
How													

Parish Office

The parish offices are located in the white building in front of the church. The parish office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 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.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Celano	Pastor	jcelano@icsomerville.org
Rev. Jerome Ocampo	Parochial Vicar	jocampo@icsomerville.org
Rev. Gustavo Rodriguez-Perez	Parochial Vicar	grodriguez@icsomerville.org
John R. Czekaj, ICS '62, IHS '66	Deacon	office@icsomerville.org
Reynaldo Lopez	Deacon	rlopez@icsomerville.org
David Lang, ICS '79, IHS '83	Deacon	dlang@icsomerville.org
Tuan Bui	Deacon	tbui@icsomerville.org
Katie Parsells, ICS '99, IHS '03	Principal, Immaculate Conception School	kparsells@ics41mtn.org
Ed Webber, IHS '99	Principal, Immaculata High School	ewebber@immaculatahighschool.org
Milton Ayala	Director, Maintenance	maintenance@ics41mtn.org
Beverly Gaffney	School/Parish Bookkeeper	bgaffney@ics41mtn.org
Gary Gavula	Director, Sacred Music	ggavula@icsomerville.org
Paulina Garcia	Bilingual Youth Minister	icc@boldym.com
Stacey Geary, IHS '91	Assistant, Marketing & Communications	sgeary@icsomerville.org
Michael Giangreco, IHS '06	Director of Technologies	mgiangreco@immaculatahighschool.org
Amberle Gilroy	Event Planning & Management	agilroy@icsomerville.org
Juan Carlos Gonzalez	Parish Catechetical Leader	jcgonzalez@icsomerville.org
Susan Odenthal	Interim Director, Advancement	sodenthal@icsomerville.org
Jo Anne Peppe	Business Manager	jpeppe@icsomerville.org
Rick Proctor	Director, Security	rproctor@icsomerville.org
Jenny Santiago	Bilingual Secretary, Children's Faith Formation	jsantiago@icsomerville.org
Colleen Young	Parish Secretary	cyoung@icsomerville.org

*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 o visite la oficina parroquial. Por favor, no dude en comunicarse y presentarse. ¡Nos encantaría conocerle!

Lecturas de La Semana

Domingo, 10 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pedro 3:15-18;
Juan 14:15-21

Lunes, 11 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 16:11-15; Juan 15:26-16:4a

Martes, 12 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 16:22-34; Juan 16:5-11

Miércoles, 13 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 17:15, 22-18:1; Juan 16:12-15

Jueves, 14 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 1:15-17, 20-26; Juan 15:9-17

Viernes, 15 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 18:9-18; Juan 16:20-23

Sábado, 16 de mayo

Hechos de los Apóstoles 18:23-28; Juan 16:23b-28

Intenciones de Misas

Lámpara del Santuario, Iglesia

Charles & Ruth Delayo

Lámpara del Santuario, Capilla

Charles & Ruth Delayo

Flores del Altar

Charles & Ruth Delayo

Domingo, 10 de mayo

Sexto Domingo de Pascua

Día de las Madres

7:30 am Todas las madres, vivas y fallecidas

9:00 am Todas las madres, vivas y fallecidas

11:00 am Todas las madres, vivas y fallecidas

1:00 pm Todas las madres, vivas y fallecidas

Lunes, 11 de mayo

6:30 am Intenciones de MaryAnne Joy

8:00 am William Cleary

Martes, 12 de mayo

6:30 am Familia Mahoney

8:00 am Intenciones de Ann Delayo

Miércoles, 13 de mayo

6:30 am Steve & Sophie Showed

8:00 am Ernesto Martínez

Jueves, 14 de mayo

6:30 am Intenciones de Guiseppino Trentacoste

8:00 am Dean F. Pinciotti

Viernes, 15 de mayo

6:30 am Chelesa Rivard

8:30 am Ronald & Mary Doney

Sábado, 16 de mayo

8:00 am Julia M. Mahar

5:00 pm Por el Pueblo de nuestra Parroquia

Domingo, 17 de mayo

La Ascensión del Señor

7:30 am Intenciones de la familia DeGuzman

9:00 am Ruth Adele Rodgers

11:00 am Louis Terraglia

1:00 pm Juan García Aguilar

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

Del Párroco

Una reflexión del Quinto Domingo de Pascua

Al comienzo de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, San Lucas describe una Iglesia viva en unidad y caridad: los creyentes eran *“un solo corazón y una sola alma... no había entre ellos ningún necesitado”*, pues quienes tenían bienes los ponían a los pies de los apóstoles, y cada uno recibía según su necesidad. Aunque esto nos dice mucho sobre la vida cotidiana en la Iglesia primitiva, no duró mucho tiempo. Lucas nos cuenta que surgieron tensiones y divisiones entre los creyentes judíos y griegos respecto a la distribución diaria de alimentos. Casi se puede escuchar la frustración de los apóstoles cuando la queja llega a ellos: *“No es justo que descuidemos la Palabra de Dios para servir a la mesa”*.

La solución al problema surge desde la misma comunidad. Los apóstoles eligen a siete hombres, *“diakonoí”*, es decir, *“servidores”* —lo que hoy llamamos diáconos—, confiándoles el cuidado de las necesidades diarias de la comunidad. Al hacerlo, preservan su propia misión apostólica: que la Palabra sea proclamada, que el liderazgo se ejerza y que la oración permanezca central en la misión. La oración y la misión nunca se oponen; están bien ordenadas y compartidas, cada una formando a la otra.

Este mismo tema nos interpela hoy. Podríamos plantearlo así: ¿Es la Iglesia un crucero o un buque de guerra? ¿Es la parroquia un lugar donde venimos a ser servidos, o un lugar donde somos formados para servir? La pregunta merece una seria reflexión en una época de consumismo y de sentido de derecho adquirido, que distorsionan nuestra comprensión de la Iglesia. Por supuesto, nos gustaría pensar que la Iglesia no es un crucero—que nos ofrece entretenimiento semanal y un “buffet” de creencias del cual podemos escoger las que nos convienen. Tampoco es un lugar donde podemos escapar de la turbulencia del mundo desconectándonos de él. La Iglesia es un buque de guerra. Está llamada a ser una escuela de discipulado donde aprendemos a vivir en una relación correcta con Cristo y, por la gracia de los sacramentos, cultivar las virtudes que deben marcar la vida cristiana: humildad, sacrificio, entrega desinteresada y servicio con sentido de misión. Las parroquias son donde la fe se convierte en acción y donde nuestra pertenencia nos llama a participar en la misión de la Iglesia. Nuestros tiempos no permiten un catolicismo pasivo. Exigen, sencillamente, un enfoque de *“todos a bordo”* en el ministerio.

Con el paso de las décadas, los sacerdotes hemos disminuido en número y, aunque hay signos esperanzadores de renovación, muchos sacerdotes aún llevan grandes responsabilidades y con frecuencia lo hacen solos y sin ayuda. Sin embargo, nuestras parroquias enfrentan necesidades reales —pastorales, espirituales y materiales—, y los recursos necesarios son pocos. He escuchado a muchos sacerdotes hacer eco de las palabras de los apóstoles mientras intentan equilibrarlo todo, procurando dar prioridad a la oración, el liderazgo y el ministerio de la Palabra.

The First Deacons



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Gracias a Dios, muchos laicos comprenden la diferencia entre el modelo de crucero y el de buque de guerra en la parroquia. Saben que el ministerio no ocurre en abstracto, ni se puede esperar que el sacerdote lo haga todo y esté en todas partes. Saben que el llamado a llevar a Cristo a nuestro tiempo es una responsabilidad compartida, y no solo tarea del clero. Saben que requiere discípulos con sentido de misión, hombres y mujeres fieles, comprometidos y dispuestos a servir en nuestro tiempo, incluso de maneras pequeñas y ocultas. Y así, responden al llamado porque saben que están en el buque de guerra. Porque si los apóstoles no predicán, ¿quién lo hará? Si los diáconos no sirven, ¿quién lo hará? Si los discípulos comunes no llevan a Cristo a la familia, al trabajo y a la comunidad, ¿quién lo hará?

Al final, la pregunta deja de ser abstracta. Es inmediata, real y profundamente personal: *si no tú, ¿quién? Si no hoy, ¿cuándo?*

Servo,

Rev. Mons. Joseph G. Celano
Párroco y Director de Escuelas

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Preguntas? Contacta a Paulina Garcia por BAB@boldym.com o al 908-552-0620



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Noticias y Eventos

ESTA SEMANA EN LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN

LUNES, 11 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:00 am Misa, Capilla

2:00 pm Rosario del Mes de María, Iglesia

7:00 pm Rosario y Novena de la Medalla Milagrosa, Capilla

MARTES, 12 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:00 am Misa, Capilla

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

2:00 pm Rosario del Mes de María, Iglesia

7:00 pm Ministerio Juvenil BOLD, Cafetería

8:00 pm Oración Vespertina de Hombres, Capilla

MIÉRCOLES, 13 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:00 am Misa, Capilla

2:00 pm Rosario del Mes de María, Iglesia

6:30 pm Ensayo de Campanas de Mano, Oficina de Música

7:00 pm Renovación Carismática, Capilla

JUEVES, 14 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:00 am Misa, Capilla

2:00 pm Rosario, Capilla

7:30 pm Grupo de Oración Juan XXIII, Cafetería

VIERNES, 15 DE MAYO

6:30 am Misa, Capilla

8:30 am Misa, Iglesia

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

2:00 pm Rosario del Mes de María, Iglesia

SÁBADO, 16 DE MAYO

8:00 am Misa, Iglesia

12:00 pm Ensayo del Coro Hispano, Oficina de Música de la Iglesia

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Confesión, Iglesia

5:00 pm Misa de Vigilia, Iglesia

6:00 pm La Hora Mariana, Virtual

DOMINGO, 17 DE MAYO

7:30 am Misa, Iglesia

9:00 am Misa, Iglesia

10:00 am Café de la Mañana del Domingo

11:00 am Misa, Iglesia

1:00 pm Misa en Español, Iglesia



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