

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023



740 S. Shamrock Avenue ~Monrovia, California 91016 -(626) 358-1166 -www.icmonrovia.org

SUNDAY MASSES MISAS DOMINICALES

ENGLISH
Saturday Vigil
5:00PM
Sunday
8:00 AM
10:00 AM
5:00 PM

(Livestream on
IC Monrovia
Facebook)

ESPAÑOL
Domingo
12:00 PM
7:00 PM

RECONCILIATION RECONCILIACION

Saturday/ Sábado

3:00-4:00 PM

WEEKDAY MASSES MISAS ENTRE SEMANA

ENGLISH
MONDAY – FRIDAY
7:30 AM
SATURDAY
7:30 AM

ESPAÑOL
LUNES-VIERNES
5:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS/ Horario de Oficina
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5PM
(626) 358-1166

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING MONROVIA, DUARTE AND BRADBURY SINCE 1905

Parish Staff

Rev. Joachim Lepcha—Pastor Rev. Deusdedit Naja — Associate Priest

Deacon (Retired) Michael 'Mike' Salcido — Deacon Ron Sanchez

Richard Soto: Business Manager-Bookkeeper

Marva A. Glean: Liturgical Director

Tim Bullara: Music Director ~ Mary Ann Brewer-Nolan: Annulments (626) 484-1355

Miriam Rojas: School Principal~ Ana Gutierrez: School Secretary

Margarita Mota: Director of Religious Education

Parish Office:(626) 358-1166

Immaculate Conception Mission Statement

We the faith community of Immaculate Conception, empowered by our Baptism, commit ourselves to live the Gospel message. Affirmed through the grace of our Eucharistic celebrations, it is our vision to reach out lovingly in prayer, formation and service.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF
Lent



I was blind
and now I see.

John 9:25

Declaración de la misión de la Inmaculada Concepción

Nosotros, la comunidad de fe de la Inmaculada Concepción, facultados a través de nuestro Bautismo, nos comprometemos a vivir el mensaje del Evangelio. Afirmado en la gracia de nuestras celebraciones Eucarísticas, es nuestra visión el poder alcanzarlos cariñosamente en oración, formación y servicio.

Religious Education/ Educación Religiosa

(626) 357-3010

12:00PM-8:00PM Tues-Fri

9:00AM-12:00PM Sat.

Immaculate Conception School

Mon.- Fri. 9AM-1PM (626) 358-5129 or

E-mail.: mrojas@icmonrovia.org

Please pray for Intentions of the Week**Por favor oremos por las Intenciones de la semana****Saturday March 18th****5:00PM English**

Dante Bucalaqui (L)
 Finngian Barnis (L)
 Kayla Khouzam (D)
 Ruth Foster (D)
 Christina Castaneda (D)

Sunday March 19th**8:00AM English**

Mary Estrada (L)
 Teodoro Muñoz (L)
 Marge Roth (D)
 Josefina Pantaleon (D)
 Barbara & Tom Moore (D)
 Celso & Josefa Garciano (D)

10:00AM English

Elizabeth Rios (L)
 Albert Rios (L)
 Alex Rios (L)
 Monica Rios (L)
 Veronica Rios (L)
 Jose Martin Reyes (D) B-Day

12:00PM Spanish

Gudelia Segundo (L) Salud
 Manuel Ramirez (D)
 Isabel Calles (D)
 Maria Calles (D)
 Leopoldo Guerra (D)
 Liborio y Auroa Alvarez (D)
 Enedina Salgado (D)
 Jose Guadalupe Estrada (D)

5:00PM English

Bill Raheb (L) Birthday
 Kayla Khouzam (D)

7:00PM Spanish

Salvador Rodriguez Muñoz (D)
 Federico y Maria Quinteros (D)

Monday March 20th**7:30AM English**

Mary Estrada (L)
 Kayla Khouzam (D)
 Anthony Silzeire (D)
 Eusebio Hernane (D)

5:00PM Spanish

Por todas las Maestra (L)
 Jose Refugio Quezada (D)

Tuesday March 21st**7:30AM English**

Mary Estrada (L)
 Kayla Khouzam (D)
 Victoria Academia (D)
 Celedonia Paguyo (D)

5:00PM Spanish

Leopoldo Guerra (D)

Wednesday, March 22nd**7:30AM English**

Mary Estrada (L)
 Kayla Khouzam (D)
 Cristina Aguinaldo (D)
 Celedonia Paguyo (D)

5:00PM Spanish

Maria de Jesus Cortez (L)
 Por las almas del Purgatorio

Thursday March 23rd**7:30AM English**

Sylvia Y. Tiomico (L)
 Mary Estrada (L)
 Kayla Khouzam (D)

5:00PM Spanish

Gloria Alvaro (L)

Friday March 24th**7:30AM English**

Mary Estrada (L)
 Lowell Lazaga (L)
 Kayla Khouzam (D)

5:00PM Spanish

Jose Angel Campos (D)

Saturday March 25th**7:30AM English**

Mary Estrada (L)
 Stella Licon (L) B-Day
 Francis Hoy (D)

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

- * For the health and safety of all our families.
- * All who work in the medical field or are first Responders.
- * For those who are suffering from COVID-19 and for an end to COVID-19.
- * For the priests of our parish Fr. Deus Najja and Fr. Joachim Lepcha
- * For all students at home and at school to stay strong and motivated.
- * For our community that they may see God's love and mercy during these difficult times.



We also pray for the sick and deceased of our community:

- | | |
|--|---|
| For The sick:
• Paula Mancera
• Lucia Yanez
• Judy Hernandez | For the Deceased:
• Alma de Jesus
• Edward Atencio |
|--|---|

Join us for Adoration every Wednesday And Friday after 7:30 a.m. English mass.

Acompáñenos en la Adoración todos los Miércoles, Jueves y Viernes antes de la misa en Español de las 5:00 p.m.



The Children of Light

Sometimes God seems like a weak light bulb far away blinking!!!! We experience a feeling of hopelessness and being left alone, and on a dark path! The degradation moral and spiritual life has affected all, and we look for some kind of redemptive rays of light in our lives. Anybody think about Jesus? What about Jesus who speaks about true light? He says, "*I am the light of the world.*" (John 8:12) The Gospel of John 9:1-41 narrates the event of man; who was born blind. He gave him vision, he felt born again, and he experienced new life in Christ, and he was out from darkness to light. According to the Gospel (John 9:7) something more spectacular happened to the man born blind, for Christ conferred on him, not only his physical sight but also his spiritual sight. He opened his inner eyes of faith and radiated his own light into the mind and heart of the blind man.

This Fourth Sunday of Lent brings this light that is called Jesus himself in our lives. Lent is the time for each of us to ask whether we are in the light or still in the dark. We need to realize that we are the children of the light, thus we have to lead a life of faith, hope, and charity. We are the children of the light, if "*We produce every kind of goodness, justice and truth,*" (Eph. 5:9) and commit ourselves to these values with courage. We cannot just overrule our shortcomings, and keep discussing only abstract questions of evil in the world; should like disciples who asked, whose fault it was that the man was blind? Is our faith so weak that it cannot see any good beyond our sorrows?

The time is drawing near for the renewal of our baptismal promises in the Holy Saturday Liturgy. Saint Paul assured us that the true light is in us, "*There was a time when you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.*" (Eph. 8:5) We all feel blind and in the dark, until we come to see in faith that Jesus really is the Light he offers. We are anointed in the Sacrament of Baptism, as a token of God's call to live and witness to the life of the children of the light.

Let us remember, however, that Jesus wants to heal our blindness. We need to ask him to remove from us the root causes of our blindness: self-centeredness, greed, anger, hatred, prejudice, jealousy, addiction to evil habits, hardness of heart, and unwillingness to change. Let us pray with the Scottish Bible scholar William Barclay, "*God our Father, help us see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly, day by day.*"

Father Joachim Lepcha

Los Niños de la Luz

!!!!A veces Dios parece una débil bombilla lejana parpadeando!!!! Experimentamos un sentimiento de desesperanza y de estar solos y, ¡en un camino oscuro! La degradación moral y espiritual ha afectado a todos, y buscamos algún tipo de rayos redentores de luz en nuestras vidas. ¿Alguien piensa en Jesús? ¿Qué hay de Jesús que habla de la verdadera luz? Él dice: "*Yo soy la luz del mundo*". (Juan 8:12) El Evangelio de Juan 9:1-41 narra el suceso de un hombre que nació ciego. Le dio la visión, se sintió nacer de nuevo y experimentó una nueva vida en Cristo, y salió de las tinieblas a la luz. Según el Evangelio (Jn 9,7), al ciego de nacimiento le sucedió algo más espectacular, pues Cristo le confirió no sólo la vista física, sino también la espiritual. Abrió sus ojos interiores de fe e irradió su propia luz en la mente y el corazón del ciego.

Este cuarto Domingo de Cuaresma trae esta luz que se llama Jesús mismo a nuestras vidas. La Cuaresma es el tiempo para que cada uno de nosotros nos preguntemos si estamos en la luz o seguimos en la oscuridad. Tenemos que darnos cuenta de que somos hijos de la luz, por eso tenemos que llevar una vida de fe, esperanza y caridad. Somos hijos de la luz, *Si "Producimos toda clase de bondad, justicia y verdad"* (Ef. 5:9) y nos comprometemos con estos valores con valentía. No podemos pasar por alto nuestros defectos, y seguir discutiendo sólo cuestiones abstractas del mal en el mundo; ¿discípulos que preguntaron de quién era la culpa de que el hombre fuera ciego? ¿Es nuestra fe tan débil que no puede ver nada bueno más allá de nuestras penas?

Se acerca el momento de renovar nuestras promesas bautismales en la Liturgia del Sábado Santo. San Pablo nos aseguró que la verdadera luz está en nosotros: "*En otro tiempo estabais en tinieblas, pero ahora sois luz en el Señor.*" (Ef. 8:5) Todos nos sentimos ciegos y a oscuras, hasta que llegamos a ver con fe que Jesús es realmente la Luz que ofrece. Somos ungidos en el Sacramento del Bautismo, como muestra de la llamada de Dios a vivir y testimoniar la vida de los hijos de la luz.

Recordemos, sin embargo, que Jesús quiere curar nuestra ceguera. Tenemos que pedirle que elimine de nosotros las causas profundas de nuestra ceguera: el egocentrismo, la avaricia, la ira, el odio, los prejuicios, los celos, la adicción a los malos hábitos, la dureza de corazón y la falta de voluntad para cambiar. Oremos con el biblista escocés William Barelay: "*Dios, Padre nuestro, ayúdanos a ver a Cristo con más claridad, a amarle más entrañablemente y a seguirle más de cerca, día a día.*"

Padre Joachim Lepcha



In Memory of

Reverend Paul Chuong Nguyen, S.D.B.

Sunrise: September 4, 1958 - Sunset: March 08, 2023

May He Rest In Peace



The [Solemnity of St. Joseph](#) is usually celebrated on March 19, but has been transferred to March 20 since the liturgy of the Lenten Sundays take precedence.

Saint Joseph occupies a special place among the cloud of witnesses in heaven.

"I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of [St. Joseph] which he has failed to grant... To other saints the Lord seems to have given grace to succour us in some of our necessities, but of this glorious saint my experience is that he succours us in them all..." (Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila)

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After thine example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death Amen.



This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling

communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

Esta semana realizaremos The Catholic Relief Services Collection para revelar el amor de Cristo a nuestras hermanas y hermanos más necesitados. Esta colecta ayuda a seis agencias católicas a proporcionar asistencia y apoyo a las comunidades que luchan por salir adelante y a trabajar por la paz y la reconciliación entre nuestras hermanas y hermanos marginados aquí y alrededor del mundo. Por favor, en oración, consideren la manera de apoyar a la colecta. Infórmense más acerca de la colecta en www.usccb.org/catholic-relief



IC STEM ACADEMY NEWS Immaculate Conception

STEM Academy is accepting registration for the 2023-2024 school year. To book a tour and meet our teachers, call the school office at (626) 358-5129. Please visit our website at www.icschoolmonrovia.org for more information. Do not let finances keep you away from an innovative Catholic education. Scholarships are available.

Mrs. Miriam Rojas
Immaculate Conception STEM Academy
"Innovation in Catholic Education"

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS IN THE CHURCH

Join us this Lenten Season every Friday at 6:30PM for the Stations of the Cross led by one of our Liturgical and group Ministries within our Parish community.

March 24; March 31.

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross or Via Crucis, commemorate Jesus's passion and death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict a moment on his journey to Calvary, usually through sacred art, prayers, and reflections. The practice began as

pious pilgrims traced his path through Jerusalem on the Via Dolorosa and is Franciscan in origin.

Come spend time on Fridays on the journey!



ESTACIONES DEL VÍA CRUCIS LOS VIERNES EN LA IGLESIA

Únase a nosotros en este tiempo de Cuaresma todos los viernes a las 6:30PM para el Vía Crucis dirigido por uno de nuestros ministerios litúrgicos y de grupo dentro de nuestra comunidad parroquial.

24 de Marzo; 31 de Marzo.

Las Estaciones del Vía Crucis, también conocidas como Vía Crucis, conmemoran la pasión y muerte de Jesús en la cruz. Hay 14 estaciones que representan cada una un momento de su viaje al Calvario, normalmente a través de arte sacro, oraciones y reflexiones. La práctica comenzó cuando los peregrinos piadosos trazaron su camino a través de Jerusalén en la Vía Dolorosa y es de origen franciscano.

¡Ven a pasar un rato los viernes en el viaje!



Querido Parejas,

Los invitamos a que se den el regalo de vivir un fin de semana con el Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial. Esta experiencia nos ayuda a tener una mejor comunicación como pareja y para que nos mantafanos enamorados como cuando eramos novios

Para mas información pueden llamar al numero de telefono

626-327-5131

Jesus y María Robles



In today's Gospel, as Jesus gives sight to the blind man. Through grace we are also transformed from not seeing to seeing and then Jesus sends us to help others see and to believe.

When you donate to St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's Spirit of love to those who are suffering
St. Vincent de Paul, Immaculate Conception Conference
c/o Immaculate Conception Parish
740 S. Shamrock Ave., Monrovia CA 91016

Donate online at:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=5JXD9AHBRZ568

Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul. Para comunicarse con San Vicente de Paúl, marque: (626) 358-1166.

2023 CATHOLIC MEN'S RETREAT



This coming March 24 - 26 our PARISH RETREAT FOR MEN will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in the city of Sierra Madre. The retreat begins Friday evening and concludes early Sunday afternoon. The lovely grounds and peaceful atmosphere of Mater Dolorosa make this the perfect place to get away. Plan to join a brotherhood of Catholic men on a weekend of spiritual growth and renewal.

Suggested Donation: \$275.00 (\$50 non-refundable deposit)

Facilitated by: Passionist Retreat Team

Register Online at <https://materdolorosa.org> or call retreat captain Patrick Moore (626) 221-1712 for more information

MONROVIA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

LENTEN FISH DINNERS

FRIED WITH SHRIMP AND FRENCH FRIES OR BAKED WITH CAJUN RICE. BOTH DINNERS INCLUDE COLESLAW.

Homemade Clam Chowder -\$6
Every Friday During Lent 5:30 - 7:30
Dine-In or Take Out Available

130 W. Pomona Ave Feb 24 - Apr 7
Monrovia ADULT \$18
(626) 359-6489 CHILD \$10

BENEFITING KOC ANNUAL CHARITIES

CASH ONLY

30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Shine His Light
2023 Annual Appeal

MAKE A 30TH ANNIVERSARY GIFT TODAY!

Visit TIMGIVE.org

TOGETHER IN MISSION
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

More than an average annual appeal

Together in Mission exclusively supports the most impoverished parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. This annual appeal is an opportunity for people to join in action – as one united family. Join us in celebrating the generational support that has been sustaining faith communities for 30 years.

Christian Meditation

Meditation is an inner journey of silence, stillness and simplicity. It is deeply rooted in Christian tradition, yet it is the missing contemplative dimension of Christian life today.



Also known as *contemplative prayer* or *prayer of the heart*, Meditation is the prayer of silence. We go beyond words, thoughts and images into the presence of God within our heart. We do not talk to God or think about God, but we are **being** with God in the present moment.

To begin, we have to learn to become still and attentive so we can enter into loving awareness of the Spirit of Jesus deep within our being. To assist us, we recite and focus on a sacred word or short phrase, a *mantra*. The mantra is a *means* to turn attention from ourselves and our thoughts and concerns, and *lead us to the deeper place within* where God dwells in silence. "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Various mantras may be used, but one of the earliest in our Christian tradition is *Maranatha*. This Aramaic word means, "Come Lord Jesus" and was used by St. Paul (1 Cor. 16:22) and St. John (Rev. 22:20). During the time of Meditation, we do not think of our mantra's meaning; rather, we repeat it, focus on it, listen to it.

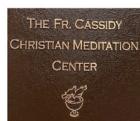
With all the noise and distractions of the world, silence is necessary, and silent prayer is possible for *all* of us. Meditation is simple, but not easy, so we just begin and then continue faithfully. In Meditation, we deepen our relationship with God who lives in our heart and experience deep peace and joy... "life to the full" (John 10:10).



Fr. Frank Cassidy (1935-2016) was our loving, prayerful, dedicated priest at Immaculate Conception Church for thirty years. During that time, he introduced our parish to Christian Meditation, taught it, and began weekly groups for practice, encouragement and study. These groups continue to meet and are part of a growing international group, The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). Please visit www.WCCM.org to find much more about Meditation and the WCCM.

You are welcome (no age or experience required) to come to The Fr. Cassidy Christian Meditation Center (church basement) to experience Christian Meditation with any of the groups. Father Cassidy often reminded, "Each time we sit down to meditate, we are a beginner."

Monday - Friday 6:45 - 7:15 a.m.
Wednesday 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. (English)
Thursday 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)



For more information, please come to a group or call our facilitators:
Donna Camou 626/297-9922 (English) and Clarisa Arostegui 626/823-0351 (Spanish)

Did you know?**Healing gardens for victim-survivors offer a way forward**

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles unveiled its first "Garden of Healing" for victim-survivors of sexual abuse, at the St. Camillus Center for Pastoral Care, near East LA. Its goal is to bring peace and comfort to those who have been victims of abuse. Inspiration for the garden came from a victim-survivor who has worked with Archdiocese's Victims Assistance Ministry for many years. To learn more, visit angelusnews.com/local/la-catholics/la-garden-of-healing-for-abuse.

¡Sabía que...?**Jardines de sanación para víctimas-sobrevivientes ofrecen un camino hacia adelante**

La Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles inauguró su primer "Jardín de Sanación" para víctimas-sobrevivientes de abuso sexual, en el Centro de Atención Pastoral San Camillus, cerca del este de Los Ángeles. Su objetivo es llevar paz y consuelo a quienes han sido víctimas de abuso. La inspiración para el jardín provino de una víctima-sobreviviente que ha trabajado con el Ministerio de Asistencia a las Víctimas de la Arquidiócesis durante mucho años. Para obtener más información, visite angelusnews.com/local/la-catholics/la-garden-of-healing-for-abuse.

**Stewardship**

March 12, 2023/12 de Marzo, 2023

We Give because He First Gave

Masses/Misas
\$11,025.00

Special Collection /Colección Especial
\$4,439.00

Mass Collection: from Bishop David O'Connell
Colecta de la Misa del Obispo David O'Connell
\$718.00

Total: \$16,182.00

**KEEP SUPPORTING THE CHURCH**

Church still pays utilities, insurance, staff, and other bills. Without your support the Church cannot function. Please consider maintaining your donations by mail or online Giving at:
<http://myowngiving.com/>
God bless you!