



**RULES & REGULATIONS FOR VESSELS ACCOMPANYING
THE 2026 NECHES RIVER EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION
September 19, 2026**



1. Texas law requires that all children 13 years of age and younger wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V PFD while underway on a vessel less than 26 feet long. The PFD must be fastened and of the proper size for the child. There must be enough PFDs in the boat for each participant.
2. All mechanically propelled vessels less than 26 feet must carry one B-1 U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher if any one or more of the following conditions exist:
 - ☐ Inboard engines.
 - ☐ Closed compartments and compartments under seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored.
 - ☐ Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with flotation materials.
 - ☐ Closed living spaces.
 - ☐ Closed stowage compartments in which combustible or flammable materials are stored.
 - ☐ Permanently installed fuel tanks. Fuel tanks secured so they cannot be moved in case of fire or other emergency are considered permanently installed. There are no gallon capacity limits to determine if the tank is portable. If the weight of a fuel tank is such that persons on board cannot move it, the Coast Guard considers it permanently installed. Mechanically propelled vessels 26 feet to less than 40 feet must carry two B-1 U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguishers. Vessels over 65 feet must comply with Federal Standards.
3. Every motorboat or vessel of Class 1, 2, or 3, shall be provided with an efficient whistle or other sound producing mechanical appliance.
4. Boats should be properly registered and meet Texas regulations.
5. Each boat must be equipped with a rope and anchor.
6. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Ice chests with water, soft/sport drinks, sandwiches and snacks are encouraged and can be consumed along the way as necessary, taking care not to consume snacks unnecessarily during the Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
7. The procession is a sacred event, behavior and dress should be like that of a Church event. No immodest shorts, halter tops, or tank tops.
8. No one is to pass the *PV Ivory Bill* carrying the Blessed Sacrament.
9. At Port Neches Park and Collier's Ferry Park, boaters in the procession are to anchor their boats, or maintain a safe distance from the *PV Ivory Bill* and the dock.
10. The *Ivory Bill* is equipped with a VHF, and will be monitoring channel 18 during the procession.
11. Keep 50 feet of space between you and the boat in front of you; do not get too close, but do not fall too far behind.
12. All boats accompanying the *PV Ivory Bill* should assemble off Port Neches Park for 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass will be at the park's pavilion and will begin at 9:00 a.m. The consecrated host will be brought to the *Ivory Bill*, and between 10:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., we will sail from Port Neches Park to Collier's Ferry Park, Beaumont.
13. Participants are encouraged to decorate their boats with the names of their respective Church Parishes, Organizations, Family Names or Crests.
14. Each participant must sign a liability waiver in order to participate.