



IMMACULATE HEART OF *MARY*

Parish Mission + Mision Parroquial

*With Mary, we seek to know Christ better and to make him better known through our words and actions.
Con María, deseamos conocer mejor a Cristo y darlo a conocer por medio de nuestras acciones y palabras.*

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — FEBRUARY 7, 2021



**Our Lady of Lourdes
Feast Day — February 11**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland

The Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

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Mon-Fri Office Hours: 9 AM - 3 PM

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Pastoral Council Chair

George Muggee

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The Pastor's Page/Página del Pastor

Dear families of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Today's readings begin with a few verses from the book of Job. First, Job complains that his nights drag on endlessly. Then, worse yet, "**My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; / they come to an end without hope**" (Job 7:6). Not exactly encouraging, these lamentations, not when taken alone.

Most of us have been there, though, and the antidote is the "good news" that Paul found so compelling that "**an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!**" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Paul felt driven to announce the gospel to as many people as possible, "**to save at least some**" (9:22).

This good news is the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lifted Simon Peter's mother-in-law from her sickbed with a mere touch of his hand. "**The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons**" (Mark 1:33-34)). Our woes and demons are as real as Job's, and Jesus is our savior.

We came to understand this in our lives clearly in 2020. Many of us did not let the woes of the pandemic allow us to lose faith or find ourselves unable to hope. We were given the chance by our loving Father to trust in him and not be discouraged. As we continue to wait for a brighter day, do not fear, God is always with us.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Father Quang

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Queridas familias del Inmaculado Corazon de Maria,

Las lecturas de hoy comienzan con unos versos del libro de Job. En primer lugar, Job se queja de que sus noches se alargan indefinidamente. Y luego, aún peor, "**Mis días corren más aprisa que una lanzadera y se consumen sin esperanza**" (Job 7:6). No son precisamente alentadoras estas lamentaciones, no cuando se examinan por separado.

La mayoría de nosotros ha estado allí, sin embargo, y el antídoto es la "buena noticia" que Pablo encontró tan convincente que sentía que predicarla "**era su obligación. ¡Ay de mí, si no anuncio el Evangelio!**" (1 Corintios 9:16). Pablo se sentía impulsado a anunciar el Evangelio a tantos como fuera posible, "para ganarlos a todos" (9:22).

Estas buenas noticias son que el misterio de la vida, muerte y Resurrección de Jesucristo, que levantó a la suegra de Simón Pedro de su lecho de enfermedad con un simple toque de su mano. "**Todo el pueblo se apiñó junto a la puerta. Curó a muchos enfermos de diversos males y expulsó a muchos demonios**" (Marcos 1:33-34). Nuestros males y demonios son tan reales como los de Job, y Jesús es nuestro Salvador.

Llegamos a entender esto en nuestras vidas claramente en 2020. Muchos de nosotros no dejamos que los problemas de la pandemia nos hicieran perder la fe o no pudieramos tener esperanza. Nuestro amado Padre nos dio la oportunidad de confiar en él y no desanimarnos. Mientras seguimos esperando un día más brillante, no teman, Dios está siempre con nosotros.

Inmaculado Corazón Inmaculado de María, ruega por nosotros.

Padre Quang

Weekday Masses/Misas Diarias

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:0AM (English) - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 8:00AM (Bilingual)

Sunday Mass/Domingo Misa

9:00AM (English) - 10:45AM (Español) - 12:30PM (English) -
5:00PM -Traditional Roman Rite (Latin)

Confessions

Tuesdays 6:00PM - 7:00PM — Saturdays 3:30PM - 4:30PM

Prayers & Weekly Scriptures/Oraciones y Lecturas de la Semana

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK INTENCIÓNES PARA MISAS DE LA SEMANA

Sat. Feb. 6th

8:00 am † Guadalupe Chavez LaFranchi

Sun. Feb. 7th

9:00 am † Julie Halpin
10:45 am Eulogio & Catalina Oseguera -
Wedding Anniversary
12:30 pm † Alvin Cunanan
5:00 pm IHM Parishioners

Mon. Feb. 8th

8:00 am † Norma Alzona

Tues. Feb. 9th

8:00 am † Jesus Peres

Wed. Feb. 10th

8:00 am † Irmina Riccio

Thurs. Feb. 11th

8:00 am † Those who have died from COVID
& the families effected by COVID

Fri. Feb. 12th

8:00am Legion de Maria - Special Int.

Baptisms for the month of January

English:

Cameron Joseph Gromacki
Joshua Lawrence Megano
Russ Jerrick Meneses Mangahas

Spanish:

Mateus Luis Ruvalcaba
Santiago Isaac Guerra Taylor



Sick Relatives & Friends Parientes y Amigos Enfermos

Ryan McCloud, Ramon Antonio Toledo, Lyndsey Burrow,
Kay Aviani, Chris Heuer, Meghan Heuer, Jan Coopoer,, Louise
Delia, Anita Camera, Richard Grimes, Art Silvergleid, Jack
Quackenbush, Bob Rushworth *****

Roselia Santillon, Billy Silva, Larry Morales, Mary Lou Rodriguez,
Chita Moore, Frances Ramos, Teresa Burke, Mary Franchetto,
Rita and Richard Nahm, Andrew Riva, F. Albert Grosskopf SJ. ,
Shane Pearce, Dan Holmes, Eleanor Janson, Patrick Bowen,
Phillip Aiello, John Hesse, Jesus Oseguera, Janet Gonzalez,
Ryan Enos, Jose Santos-Silva, Ross Stevie, Greg Fasula, William
Smith., Romano Marchetti, Marge and Larry Cragle, Janet and
Ehrich Heitzmane, Frank Vargas, Aurora Tiangco, Michalina
Siedliski. Rick Souza, Gail Della Nina, Oscar Alvarez, Dan
Holmes, Shane Pearce, Solangue and Nicole Patino-Patroni,
Gloria Almeida.

If You would like a name added to the prayer list, please call the parish office at (925) 634-4154 or e-mail: bulletin@ihmbrentwood.com. At the end of each month you must call to place the name again on the list.

Ud. quiere añadir un nombre en esta lista, por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia al (925) 634-4154 o mande un correo electrónico al: bulletin@ihmbrentwood.com. Al final del mes, usted debe llamar a la oficina si desea que el nombre aparezca de nuevo.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Monday: 329: Gn 1:1-19 Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10,
12, 24, 35c Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 330: Gn 1:20—2:4a Ps 8:4-9
Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 331: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Ps 104:1-2a,
27-28, 29bc-30 Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 332: Gn 2:18-25 Ps 128:1-5
Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 333: Gn 3:1-8 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7
Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 334: Gn 3:9-24 Ps 90:2-4c, 5-6, 12-13
Mk 8:1-10

Sunday: 77: Lv 13:1-2, 44-26 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11
1 Cor 10:31—11:1
Mk 1:40-45

Lectura

Gloria

Gloria a Dios en el cielo,
Y en la tierra paz a los hombres
Que ama el Señor.

Por tu inmensa Gloria te alabamos,
te bendecimos,
te adoramos,
te glorificamos,
te damos gracias,
Señor Dios, Rey celestial,
Dios Padre todopoderoso.

Señor, Hijo único, Jesucristo,
Señor Dios, Cordero de Dios,
Hijo del Padre;
Tu que quitas el pecado del mundo,
Ten piedad de nosotros;
Tu que quitas el pecado del mundo,
Atiende nuestra suplica;
Tu que estas sentado a
La derecha del Padre,
Ten piedad de nosotros;
Porque solo tu eres Santo,
Solo tu Señor,
Solo tu Altísimo Jesucristo.
Con el Espíritu Santo
En la gloria de Dios Padre.
Amen.

Primera lectura

Jb 7, 1-4. 6-7

En aquel día, Job tomó la palabra y dijo:
"La vida del hombre en la tierra es visa de soldado
y sus días, como días de un jornalero.
Como el esclavo suspira en vano por la sombra
y el jornalero se queda aguardando su salario,
así me han tocado en suerte meses de infortunio
y se me han asignado noches de dolor.
Al acostarme, pienso: '¿Cuándo será de día?'
La noche se alarga y me cансo de dar vueltas
hasta que amanece.
Mis días corren más aprisa que una lanzadera
y se consumen sin esperanza.
Recuerda, Señor, que mi vida es un soplo.
Mis ojos no volverán a ver la dicha".

Salmo Responsorial

Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Alaben al Señor, alaben al Señor, que sana los corazones
quebrantados.

Segunda Lectura

1 Cor 9, 16-19. 22-23

Hermanos: No tengo por qué presumir de predicar el Evangelio, puesto que ésa es mi obligación. ¡Ay de mí, si no anuncio el Evangelio! Si yo lo hiciera por propia iniciativa, merecería recompensa; pero si no, es que se me ha confiado una misión. Entonces, ¿en qué consiste mi recompensa? Consiste en predicar el Evangelio gratis, renunciando al derecho que tengo a vivir de la predicación.

Aunque no estoy sujeto a nadie, me he convertido en esclavo de todos, para ganarlos a todos. Con los débiles me hice débil, para ganar a los débiles. Me he hecho todo a todos, a fin de ganarlos a todos.

Todo lo hago por el Evangelio, para participar yo también de sus bienes.

Evangelio

Mk 1, 29-39

En aquel tiempo, al salir Jesús de la sinagoga, fue con Santiago y Juan a casa de Simón y Andrés. La suegra de Simón estaba en cama, con fiebre, y enseguida le avisaron a Jesús. Él se le acercó, y tomándola de la mano, la levantó. En ese momento se le quitó la fiebre y se puso a servirles.

Al atardecer, cuando el sol se ponía, le llevaron a todos los enfermos y poseídos del demonio, y todo el pueblo se apiñó junto a la puerta. Curó a muchos enfermos de diversos males y expulsó a muchos demonios, pero no dejó que los demonios hablaran, porque sabían quién era él.

De madrugada, cuando todavía estaba muy oscuro, Jesús se levantó, salió y se fue a un lugar solitario, donde se puso a orar. Simón y sus compañeros lo fueron a buscar, y al encontrarlo, le dijeron: "Todos te andan buscando". Él les dijo: "Vamos a los pueblos cercanos para predicar también allá el Evangelio, pues para eso he venido". Y recorrió toda Galilea, predicando en las sinagogas y expulsando a los demonios.

Credo de Nicea

Creo en un solo Dios, Padre todopoderoso, Creador del cielo y de la tierra, de todo lo visible y lo invisible.

Creo en un solo Señor, Jesucristo, Hijo único de Dios, nacido del Padre antes de todos los siglos: Dios de Dios, Luz de Luz, Dios verdadero de Dios verdadero, engendrado, no credo, de la misma naturaleza del Padre, por quien todo fue hecho; que por nosotros, los hombres, y para nuestra salvación bajó del cielo, **y por obra del Espíritu Santo se encarnó de María, la Virgen, y se hizo hombre**; y por nuestra causa fue crucificado en tiempos de Poncio Pilato, padeció al tercer día, según las Escrituras, y subió al cielo, y está sentado a la derecha del Padre; y de nuevo vendrá con gloria. Para juzgar a vivos y muertos, y su reino no tendrá fin. Creo en el Espíritu Santo, Señor dador de vida, que procede del Padre y del Hijo, que con el Padre y el Hijo recibe una misma adoración y Gloria, y que hablo por los profetas.

Creo en una iglesia, que es santa, católica y apóstolica. Confieso que hay un solo bautismo para el perdón de los pecados. Espero la resurrección de los muertos y la vida futura del mundo. Amen.



Readings

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ,
Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

First Reading

[Jb7:1-4, 6-7](#)

Job spoke, saying:
Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?
Are not his days those of hirelings?
He is a slave who longs for the shade,
a hireling who waits for his wages.
So I have been assigned months of misery,
and troubled nights have been allotted to me.
If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?"
then the night drags on;
I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.
My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle;
they come to an end without hope.
Remember that my life is like the wind;
I shall not see happiness again

Reponsorial Psalm

[Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6](#)

Bless the Lord, my soul, who heals the brokenhearted.

Second Reading

[1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23](#)

Brothers and sisters:
If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,
for an obligation has been imposed on me,
and woe to me if I do not preach it!
If I do so willingly, I have a recompense,
but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a
stewardship.
What then is my recompense?
That, when I preach,
I offer the gospel free of charge
so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.
Although I am free in regard to all,
I have made myself a slave to all
so as to win over as many as possible.
To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak.
I have become all things to all, to save at least some.

All this I do for the sake of the gospel,
so that I too may have a share in it.

Gospel

[Mk 1:29-39](#)

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



February 7, 2021 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mk 1:29-39

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I remember taking my oldest son on a tour of a technical theater program at a state university. He had been considering an IT field - he's everyone's go-to whenever a technical issue arises. The theater professor said, "Enroll in our program only if you can't do anything else." The implication was clear: Choose this field if you love it so much you can't imagine pursuing a different career. My son tried a more practical direction, but ultimately came back to theater, where he thrived! I thought of this story when listening to Paul's Letter to the Corinthians: He preached the Gospel because he *had* to - excuse the double negative, but he could not "not" share the Good News with everyone he met! Once he encountered Jesus, he willingly devoted his life to sharing the story of love and salvation with all those whom he encountered - the weak and the powerful, rich and poor, saints and sinners. Let us pray that God helps us recapture the wonder the crowds must have felt in Jesus' presence - wonder that compels us to share the Good News, too.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Wherever you happen to live, imagine "the whole town gathered at the door." Even in the smallest of villages, that would be a big deal! So it was with Jesus, where crowds seemed to follow him wherever he went, wanting to catch a glimpse of this carpenter's son who cured the sick and drove out demons. When the disciples found him off by himself, praying, and told him "everyone is looking for you," Jesus tells them they need to move on to nearby villages. I sense an urgency in Mark's account of Jesus' movements, showing Jesus as compelled to reach as many people as possible during his public ministry. As I hear this, I think how easy it is for us Catholics to remain in our comfort zones - whether a favorite pew, the same core group of "parish friends," or even sticking with one ministry or one Mass time. But, as Jesus shows us, preaching the Good News - witnessing to the power of God in our lives - means we cannot stand idly by. We must share this news.

WITNESS What if we tried to emulate Jesus, albeit in a small way, by reaching beyond our "circles" to greet someone new at our parish, volunteer for the first time or in a different way, or - yes - sit in a different spot! In doing so, we can challenge ourselves to "stretch" a bit and welcome others into our world.

Oracion San Miguel

San Miguel Arcángel,
defiéndenos en la batalla.
Sé nuestro amparo contra la
perversidad y asechanzas del
demonio. Reprímale Dios,
pedimos suplicantes,
y tú Príncipe de la
Milicia Celestial,
con el divino poder de Dios,
arroja al infierno a Satanás
y a todos los espíritus
malignos que andan dispersos
por el mundo para la perdición
de las almas.
Amén.



Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection
against the wickedness and
snares of the devil.
May God
rebuke him we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the
Heavenly host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan
and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world seeking
the ruin of souls.
Amen

Information/Información



CONTRA COSTA FOOD BANK

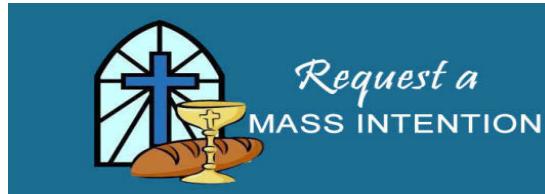
The Contra Costa Food Bank Mobile Produce Distribution Program distributes FREE produce on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the IHM parking lot from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm to families in need. This program is only for low-income families.

For more information, please call Ralph at: 925-437-3509.



We have security cameras throughout the Church and facility grounds at IHM.

Tenemos camaras de seguridad en toda la Iglesia y las instalaciones de ICM.



Go to our website to schedule your Mass intentions. You may schedule one per month and not exceed 12 intentions per year.

Vaya a nuestra página web para reservar sus intenciones de Misa(s). Puede reservar una por mes y no exceder de 12 intenciones para el año.

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Are you New to Immaculate Heart of Mary

We are a very vibrant and active parish in Brentwood whose mission is, "With Mary, we seek to know Christ better and to make him better known through our words and actions." We do this in a variety of ways through our several sacramental prep programs, social outreach, as well as our active ministries, Bible studies, and an energetic youth program. We also LOVE new parishioners. Even though we are unable at this time to gather for ministry meetings many of the ministries are finding ways to stay connected through Zoom.

If you are not yet registered, please call the parish office at 925-634-4154 and ask for Ana. She will be happy to mail you a registration form or you can go on line and register at: ihmchurch@ihmbrentwood.com.

We now have a code for the website **FORMED.ORG** - Simply open a web browser and type in: www.formed.org - Go to the lower right hand side and click on "Register" and follow the prompts. Our IHM code is: **CM7TFZ**

This is a dynamic website that has all things Catholic, on demand, all the time! Check it out!!!

Information/Información

St. Vincent de Paul for Friday's Food Pantry

For the weekend of February 14, 2021, please bring canned tuna and other meats. THANK YOU!

Para el fin de semana del 14 de febrero, 2021, por favor traigan atun y otras carnes enlatadas.
GRACIAS!!!

The Diocese of Oakland warns the public of an ongoing phishing scam involving emails and texts purportedly from Bishop Barber, diocesan priests or parish/Chancery staff. This scam has hit many parishes across the United States, as well as other faith communities. The Federal Trade Commission provided [information on this scam in July 2019](#). The email or text purports to be from a person the target knows, such as one's pastor, a parish staff member, the bishop or someone else from the Church. If the target responds to the fake email or text, the sender will follow up with a request for some sort of monetary assistance, often for gift cards, Google Play cards or iTune cards.

It is truly unfortunate cyber criminals will attempt to exploit the generous nature of our community. Sending emails or texts asking for cash or gifts cards is not how priests, parishes or the Diocese of Oakland seeks financial assistance for our work. Our priests here at IHM will never ask for any personal financial support or other forms such as gift cards. If you receive an email or text from a trusted church personnel asking for assistance, confirm by calling that person and do NOT respond to the email or text.

La Diócesis de Oakland advierte al público de una continua estafa de phishing que involucra correos electrónicos y textos supuestamente del Obispo Barber, sacerdotes diocesanos o personal de la parroquia/cancillería. Esta estafa ha afectado a muchas parroquias de los Estados Unidos, así como a otras comunidades religiosas. La Comisión Federal de Comercio proporcionó información sobre esta estafa en julio de 2019. El correo electrónico o el texto pretende ser de una persona que el objetivo conoce, como el párroco, un miembro del personal de la parroquia, el obispo o alguien más de la Iglesia. Si el objetivo responde al correo electrónico o texto falso, el remitente le mandaría a pedir una solicitud de algún tipo de ayuda monetaria, a menudo con tarjetas de regalo, tarjetas de Google Play o tarjetas de iTune.

Es verdaderamente desafortunado que los ciber criminales intenten explotar la naturaleza generosa de nuestra comunidad. El envío de correos electrónicos o textos pidiendo dinero o tarjetas de regalo no es la forma en que los sacerdotes, las parroquias o la Diócesis de Oakland buscan ayuda financiera para nuestro trabajo. Nuestros sacerdotes aquí en ICM nunca pedirán ningún apoyo financiero personal u otras formas como tarjetas de regalo. Si usted recibe un correo electrónico o un texto de un miembro del personal de confianza de la iglesia pidiendo ayuda, confirme llamando a esa persona y **NO** responda al correo electrónico o al texto.

FAITH DIRECT

"People rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart."
- 1 Chronicles 29:9

Our to-do lists can get lengthy during this season, but Faith Direct's eGiving program will give you one less thing to remember each week.

No more envelopes to find before you go to Mass, no more scrambling thru your purse for your donation.

Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: CA752. Thank you for your continued support.

SCHEDULE OF SECOND COLLECTIONS

February 21, 2021 - Maintenance Fund

February 28, 2021 - Bishop's Appeal

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FECHAS DE SEGUNDAS COLECTAS

21 de febrero, 2021 - Fondo del Mantenimiento

28 de febrero, 2021—Apelacion del Obispo

2021 Scholarships



Graduating High School Seniors

and Continuing College Students are reminded that the 2021 High School and College scholarships are available on the IHM Brentwood Website or at the parish office. Scholarships are due by April 10, 2021. A minimum of six High School graduates and one continuing college scholarships are available. **8**

Ministry Meetings/Reuniones de Ministerios

Confessions / Confesiones

Tuesday/Martes: 6:00 - 7:00PM
Saturday/Sabado: 3:30 - 4:30PM

Devotions/Devociones

Monday to Friday/Lunes a Viernes
7:30AM

Holy Rosary/Santo Rosario

+

Wednesday/Miércoles
8:30AM

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena Novena Madre del Perpetuo Socorro

+

Friday/Viernes
8:30AM

Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena Coronilla a la Divina Misericordia

Anointing of the Sick Unción de los Enfermos

Home Communion Comunión a los Enfermos

Contact a priest / llame a un sacerdote

+

Marriage/Matrimonios

Requires at least six month preparation
Requiere por lo menos 6 meses de preparación

Baptism/Bautismos

634-4154

+

Funerals/Funerales

Holy Cross Catholic Funeral Services
Servicios de Funerales Católicos
757-0658

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The Story of Our Lady of Lourdes

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin."

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Reflection

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters.

There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film *The Song of Bernadette*: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible."

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