



IMMACULATE HEART OF *M*ARY

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.*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—DECEMBER 6, 2020



**Immaculate Conception
December 8**

500 Fairview

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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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George Muggee

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The Pastor's Page/Página del Pastor

Dear families of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "**Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?**" And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving *everyone* the chance to seek repentance.

God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "**straight highway**" for them across the desert.

We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.

As we are back to attending mass on the Plaza and dealing with the cold or at home watching the live stream masses we too must remember this is not a punishment from God. We are in Advent to prepare the way of the Lord. Use this time to remain in prayer, all the time remembering *that God is with us*.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Father Quang

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Queridas familias del Inmaculado Corazon de Maria,

En tiempos de grandes dificultades los burlones se mofan diciendo: "**¿Dónde está Dios? ¿Por qué no viene tu Dios a salvarte ahora?**". Y nosotros, gente de fe, respondemos casi igual como lo hizo Pedro en la segunda lectura de hoy: la "tardanza" de la segunda venida del Señor no es ningún tipo de castigo ni un fallo en la promesa divina, sino un signo de amor de la paciencia de Dios. Dios está dando a todo el mundo la oportunidad de buscar el arrepentimiento.

Dios no hace la vida más difícil. Más bien, una vez más disminuye la carga para los judíos exiliados que regresan a su país después del cautiverio en Babilonia. Fue Dios quien personalmente los guió, preparándoles una "**Carretera recta**" para ellos a través del desierto.

Nos unimos a nuestros antepasados en la fe, que esperaban poder ver al Escogido de Dios delante de ellos y que finalmente se dieron cuenta de que el Señor también caminaba a su lado.

Ya que volvemos a asistir a la misa en la Plaza y a lidiar con el frío o en casa viendo las misas en vivo, también debemos recordar que esto no es un castigo de Dios. Estamos en Adviento para preparar el camino del Señor. Usar este tiempo para permanecer en oración, recordando todo el tiempo que Dios está con nosotros.

Inmaculado Corazon de Maria, a ruego por nosotros

Padre Quang

Weekday Masses/Misas Diarias

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

Saturday Vigil Mass

5:00PM (English)

Sunday Mass/Domingo Misa

7:30AM (English) - 9:00AM (English) - 10:45AM (Español) - 12:30PM (English) - 2:00PM (Español)

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 INTENCIONES PARA MISAS DE LA SEMANA

SAT. DEC. 5TH

8:00AM + Karyna Joseph
+ Ernesto Martinez

SUN. DEC. 6TH

9:00AM + Frank Jacobs
+ Ryan Adler and Family - Health
+ Roberto Igasan
+ Rosalie Stagnitto
10:45AM + Immaculate Heart of Mary
+ Francis Becerra – Birthday
+ Nelle and Ricardo Henriquez –
52nd Wedding Anniversary
+ Agustin Garcia
+ Bonifacio Martinez
12:30PM + Ambrocio Papango
+ Alvin Cunanan
+ Bonifacio Martinez
5:00PM + Leonello Patrino-Patrioni

MON. DEC. 7TH

8:00AM + David Martinez
+ Primitivo Samudio

TUE. DEC. 8TH

8:00AM + Maria Cerda
+ David and John Macaluso

WED. DEC. 9TH

8:00AM + Beatriz Alinea
+ Wayne Garchow

THU. DEC. 10TH

8:00AM + Jacquelyn Esser
+ Maria Luisa Pena

FRI. DEC. 11TH

8:00AM + Philip Rajanayagam
+ Christopher Marlin O'Brien

Baptisms for the month of November

English: Krew Jagger Asturias,
Beatrice Kelsey Combong
Cordero, Lexington Kay Grillo, Jacob Alejandro
Hernandez, Gabriel Joseph Morfin, Zion Ary
Balingit Silva, Daniel John Zanarini, Dean Thomas
Zanarini.

Spanish: Emilio Gallardo, Francisco Ariel
Jimenez, Landon Villegas, Edgar Martinez
Resendez, Jovany Sanchez.



Sick Relatives & Friends Parientes y Amigos Enfermos

Ryan McCloud, Ramon Antonio Toledo, Kay Aviani, Mia Eternal,
Rosa Velasquez, Giselle Honore, Gina Lilly, Mary Spinelli, Bev
Casey, Stanley Etienne, Mary McCann, Jacqueline Reed,
Frances Brecht, Sean Bowen, Susan Rossillon, Kathleen
Hernandez, Corey Amesquita, Barbara Snider, Gloria Crabaugh,
Deacon Ron Horan, Barbara Crandell, Ryan Adler, Anita and Ed
Camera, Edu Sunga., Richard Grimes, Kim Wiley, Lois Valley
***** Mary Jeanne and Dave Brink, Debbie Morris, Debbie
Juarez, Therese Brantome, Eleanor Janson, Maria Luisa Guisar
Oseguera, Maria Guadalupe Espindola, Sotico Amboy, Connie
Madrid, Chris Heuer, Louise Dela, Mickey Eitner, Ida Gutierrez,
Elisa Heitzmann, Troy Moncada, Marge and Larry Cragle,
Romano Marchetti, James Halvorsen, Sandy Heinisch, Juanita
Cruz, Rose Marie and Michael De Marzo, Greg Fasula, Arlie
Blackshear, Mary and Larry Ratto, Michael Lopez, Peggy Scalise,
Beth Camola, Catalina and Eulogio Oseguera, Chris Kamola,
Jose Velez, Michelle Young, Juan and Patricia Galarza, Elena
Sanchez, Jan Cooper, Kate Friend, Margarita Orosco, Sandy
Gamble, Dolores McLean, Cecille Cansino, Joe Stiglich, Lana
Terry, Juanita Young, Art Silverglid, Chipa Moore, Lori Crommie-
Carrillo, Bob Rushworth, Elsie Martindale, Nicole and Solangue
Patino-Paroni, Amoni and Ike Afodu, Jim Pulliman, Lyndsey
Burrow, Kandy Aldana Selby, Michelle Brewster., Toni Martucci
McKnight, Isidro Martinez Nieves.

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: 181: Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9a-14
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: 689: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: 183: Is 40:25-31 Ps 104:1-4, 8, 10
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: 184: Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b
Mt 11:11-15

Friday: 185: Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: 690A: Zec 2:14-17 (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc,
19 Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: 8: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50,
53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Lectura

Primera lectura

Is 40, 1-5. 9-11

“Consuelen, consuelen a mi pueblo,
dice nuestro Dios.
Hablen al corazón de Jerusalén
y díganle a gritos que ya terminó el tiempo de su
servidumbre
y que ya ha satisfecho por sus iniquidades,
porque ya ha recibido de manos del Señor
castigo doble por todos sus pecados”.
Una voz clama:
“Preparen el camino del Señor en el desierto,
construyan en el páramo
una calzada para nuestro Dios.
Que todo valle se eleve,
que todo monte y colina se rebajen;
que lo torcido se enderece y lo escabroso se allane.
Entonces se revelará la gloria del Señor
y todos los hombres la verán”.
Así ha hablado la boca del Señor.
Sube a lo alto del monte,
mensajero de buenas nuevas para Sión;
alza con fuerza la voz,
tú que anuncias noticias alegres a Jerusalén.
Alza la voz y no temas;
anuncia a los ciudadanos de Judá:
“Aquí está su Dios.
Aquí llega el Señor, lleno de poder,
el que con su brazo lo domina todo.
El premio de su victoria lo acompaña
y sus trofeos lo anteceden.
Como pastor apacentará su rebaño;
llevará en sus brazos a los corderitos recién nacidos
y atenderá solícito a sus madres”.

Salmo Responsorial

Sal 84: 9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14

“Muéstranos, Señor, tu misericordia y danos tu salvación,
y danos tu salvación”

Segunda Lectura

2 Pd 3: 8-14

Queridos hermanos: No olviden que para el Señor, un día es como mil años y mil años, como un día. No es que el Señor se tarde, como algunos suponen, en cumplir su promesa, sino que les tiene a ustedes mucha paciencia, pues no quiere que nadie perezca, sino que todos se arrepientan. El día del Señor llegará como los ladrones. Entonces los cielos desaparecerán con gran estrépito, los elementos serán destruidos por el fuego y perecerá la tierra con todo lo que hay en ella. Puesto que todo va a ser destruido, piensen con cuánta santidad y entrega deben vivir ustedes esperando y apresurando el advenimiento del día del Señor, cuando desaparecerán los cielos, consumidos por el fuego, y se derretirán los elementos. Pero nosotros confiamos en la promesa del Señor y esperamos un cielo nuevo y una tierra nueva, en que habite la justicia. Por lo tanto, queridos hermanos, apoyados en esta esperanza, pongan todo su empeño en que el Señor los halle en paz con él, sin mancha ni reproche.

Evangelio

Mc 1, 1-8

Éste es el principio del Evangelio de Jesucristo, Hijo de Dios. En el libro del profeta Isaías está escrito: *He aquí que yo envío a mi mensajero delante de ti, a preparar tu camino.*
Voz del que clama en el desierto:
“Preparen el camino del Señor, enderecen sus senderos”.
En cumplimiento de esto, apareció en el desierto Juan el Bautista predicando un bautismo de arrepentimiento, para el perdón de los pecados. A él acudían de toda la comarca de Judea y muchos habitantes de Jerusalén; reconocían sus pecados y él los bautizaba en el Jordán. Juan usaba un vestido de pelo de camello, ceñido con un cinturón de cuero y se alimentaba de saltamontes y miel silvestre. Proclamaba: “Ya viene detrás de mí uno que es más poderoso que yo, uno ante quien no merezco ni siquiera inclinarme para desatarle la correa de sus sandalias. Yo los he bautizado a ustedes con agua, pero él los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo”.

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

First Reading

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power the Lord GOD,
who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

Reponsorial Psalm

Ps 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

"Lord, let us see your kindness, Lord let us see your
kindness".

Second Reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years
and a thousand years like one day.
The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard
"delay," but he is patient with you,
not wishing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,
and the earth and everything done on it will be found
out.
Since everything is to be dissolved in this way,
what sort of persons ought you to be,
conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,
waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be dissolved in
flames and the elements melted by fire.
But according to his promise we await new heavens
and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
Therefore, beloved, since you await these things,
be eager to be found without spot or blemish before
him, at peace.

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son
of God.
As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.*
A voice of one crying out in the desert:
*"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."*
John the Baptist appeared in the desert
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.
People of the whole Judean countryside
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem
were going out to him and were being baptized by him
in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.
John was clothed in camel's hair,
with a leather belt around his waist.
He fed on locusts and wild honey.
And this is what he proclaimed:
"One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his
sandals. I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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.

In Shadow as Well as Light An Advent Prayer

When the days grow longer,
Casting long, cold shadows
Allowing fear and despair into go our lives,
Let my light shine brighter.

When the task grows more wearisome
Filling valleys and flattening mountains
Building highways in the desert
Be the strength in my bones.

When I wait on you
And they shake their heads
Saying, "Have you not heard the news?"
Keep in my heart the great good news that makes
even the child in the womb leap with joy: Than you
are coming into the world.

May I praise you in shadow as well as light.
May I praise you in the winter as well as spring.
May I praise you in silence as well as song.
May I praise you in solitude as well as
companionship. May I praise you in illness as well as
health.

And when the last, glowing beam disappears over
the horizon
And darkness shrouds the land.
Give me the grace to say to all,
Despair not,
Morning is coming.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Amen

Tanto en la sombra como en la luz Una oración de Adviento

Cuando los días se alargan,
Proyectando largas y frías sombras
Permitiendo que el miedo y la desesperación se
apoderen de nuestras vidas,
Deja que mi luz brille más.

Cuando la tarea se vuelve más cansada
Llenando valles y aplanando montañas
Construir carreteras en el desierto
Sé la fuerza en mis huesos.

Cuando te espero
Y sacuden sus cabezas
Diciendo, "¿No has oído las noticias?"
Guarda en mi corazón las grandes buenas noticias
que hacen incluso el niño en el útero salta de alegría:
que tú vienes al mundo.

Puedo alabarte tanto en la sombra como en la luz.
Puedo alabarte tanto en invierno como en primavera.
Que te alabe en silencio y con canciones.
Que te alabe en la soledad y en la compañía.
Que te alabe tanto en la enfermedad como en la
salud.

Y cuando el último rayo brillante desaparezca en el
horizonte
Y la oscuridad envuelve la tierra.
Dame el grado para decir a todos,
No te desesperes,
la mañana está llegando.
Ven, Señor Jesús, ven.
Amén

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 seek-
ing the ruin of souls.
Amen

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | 2 Pt 3:8-14 | Mk 1:1-8

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

For kids, the weeks before Christmas seem to drag on forever; for many adults, they zip by way too fast (“Second week of Advent, already? Oh my!”). Fortunately for us, God is outside of time – he does not experience the temporal moments as we do. “With the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day,” Peter writes. “The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard ‘delay,’ but he is patient with you.” Just as we have the Advent season to prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, God gives us ample time to repent of our sins and grow in “holiness and devotion” as we prepare for his Second Coming. During this rich liturgical season of Advent, let us help prepare the way of the Lord through our words and actions.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Preparation. Preparedness. We use these words in Advent to mark our patient waiting for Jesus to come into our world. But while we are waiting, it is fitting to remember Peter’s question in the second reading: “What sort of persons ought you to be?” That is not simply an Advent question. And the answer is relevant to all days and times of life: Conduct yourselves with “holiness and devotion.” Right living and loving God and neighbor never go out of style. They are the answer to everything. Make wise choices. And, like John the Baptist, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” And perhaps one day, we can be transformed into the people God created us to be.

WITNESS Today’s psalmist prays: “Lord, let us see your kindness.” This Advent, be conscientious about your everyday interactions with the people around you, making God’s kindness visible and known to them.



Information/Información

St. Vincent de Paul for Friday's Food Pantry

For the weekend of December 13, 2020, please bring canned soups. THANK YOU!

Para el fin de semana del 13 de diciembre, 2020, por favor traigan .sopas enlatadas. GRACIAS!!!

The Catholic Daught'r of the Americas Immaculagt Heart of Mary, Court #2714

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA), one of the oldest and largest organizations of Catholic women in the Americas, is looking for a Treasurer that will help the Court organize its budget and finances. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is dedicated to the principles of "Unity and Charity", and we are in big need to fill the Treasurer's position in order to continue our charity work in an organized fashion. CDA has templates that the Treasurer will simply fill and follow. Also, a Treasurer is a Court officer and like other officers she receives a Robe for this position. If interested please call Marina Khayat, the Court's Regent at: 925-997-5927.

Also, if you are a Catholic woman who is 18 years or older and interested to become a member of the Court and join CDA, please contact the Regent.

You can also visit the CDA State website: <http://catholicdaughterscalifornia.org/> or the CDA National website: <https://catholicdaughters.org/> to know more about CDA.

Our patron is the Blessed Mother, and under her guidance members are united by their faith in Jesus Christ, in their devotion to the church and the Holy See.

Support Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary

Shop at **smile.amazon.com** and we'll donate to your favorite charitable organization, at **no cost to you.**

smile.amazon.com

SCHEDULE OF SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 13, 2020 - Christmas Flowers
December 20, 2020 - Maintenance Fund

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FECHAS DE SEGUNDAS COLECTAS

1 de diciembre, 2020 - Flores para la Navidad
30 de diciembre, 2020 - Fondo del Mantenimiento

Spirituality of The Lord of the Rings

In early 2021, we are going to offer a class on the Spirituality of The Lord of the Rings, the classic work of JRR Tolkien. In 1999, readers named it one of the best books of the millennium. The BBC named it one of the most inspiring books ever written! If it's been a while since you read it, dust it off and dig in. If you have never read it, get it and get ready for an adventure! The class will be based on the book not the films. More information will be coming, so start reading and keep an eye on the bulletin!

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.

Ministry Meetings/Reuniones de Ministerios

Confessions / Confesiones

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

Monday to Friday/Lunes a Viernes
7:30AM

Holy Rosary/Santo Rosario

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena **Novena Madre del Perpetuo Socorro**

Wednesday/Miércoles
8:30AM

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Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena **Coronilla a la Divina Misericordia**

Friday/Viernes
8:30AM

Anointing of the Sick **Unción de los Enfermos** **Home Communion** **Comunión a los Enfermos**

Contact a priest / llame a un sacerdote

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Marriage/Matrimonios

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

Baptism/Bautismos

634-4154

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Funerals/Funerales

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The Story of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

Reflection

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

Mary as the Immaculate Conception is the Patron

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