

## PROTECTING GOD'S PEOPLE

As God's people, we are called to celebrate, promote, and when necessary to defend the life and dignity of every person. We must treat everyone with respect, and do what we can to protect others from harm.

Suspected misconduct with minors by lay church personnel should be reported to the pastor of the parish, the principal of the school, or the head of the Catholic institution involved. Suspected misconduct with minors by a priest, deacon, or religious should be reported directly to the Bishop or Vicar General (P. O. Box 2279, Brownsville, TX 78522-2279; 956-542-2501). A form for a *Confidential Notice of Concern*, may be used, and obtained on request from the local pastor, school principal, institution head, or Diocese, or it may be downloaded from the Brownsville Diocese website ([www.cdob.org](http://www.cdob.org))

**Please be aware that it is a state law that anyone who suspects abuse or neglect of a minor must report it to local law enforcement officials or to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400.**

Our faith assures us that we will not be overcome by evil but will overcome evil with good (cf. Rm 12:21).

## PROTEGIENDO AL PUEBLO DE DIOS

Como el pueblo de Dios, cada uno de nosotros está llamado a celebrar, promover, y, si es necesario, defender la vida y la dignidad de todas personas. Tenemos que tratar a cada persona con respecto, y hacer lo posible para asegurar que nunca se dañe a los demás.

Una sospecha de mala conducta con los menores de edad, cometida por el personal laico de la iglesia, deberá reportarse al párroco de la iglesia, al director de la escuela, o al encargado de la institución católica en cuestión. Una sospecha de mala conducta con los menores de edad cometida por un sacerdote, diácono, o religioso deberá reportarse directamente al Señor Obispo o al Vicario General al (P.O. Box 2279, Brownsville, TX 78522-2279; 956-542-2501). Una forma para un *Aviso Confidencial de Inquietud (Confidential Notice of Concern)* puede obtenerse a través del párroco local, del director de la escuela, del encargado de la institución, de la Diócesis, o puede bajarse de la página oficial de Internet de la Diócesis de Brownsville ([www.cdob.org](http://www.cdob.org)).

**Por favor recuerde que hay una ley estatal que cualquier persona que sospeche el abuso o la negligencia hacia un menor de edad debe reportarlo a las autoridades oficiales locales o al Departamento de Servicios Familiares y Protectores de Texas (Texas Department of Family and Protective Services) al 1-800-252-5400.**

Nuestra fe nos asegura que el mal no nos vencerá, pero que venceremos al mal con el bien (cf. Rm 12:21).

## FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and friends, through our monthly Collection for the Poor, many families and individuals, of our area, are receiving some very much needed assistance. These items are an example of what is being provided to families/persons in need: Flour, Sugar, Oil, Beans, Canned Food, Oatmeal, Pasta, Rice, etc. ***In the month of November 2023, due to our parishioners' generosity, 80 families (170 adults and 83 children) received assistance.*** If you are interested in helping, please bring donations to our Sunday Masses or the parish office, during office hours (Mon.-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.). Now we are affiliated to the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank, and hope to serve our community better. For more information, please call our office. May the Lord reward your generosity and kindness!

## LET'S PRAY FOR THE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

For the families and care givers, for the Health Community System, Regina Peña, Angela Paita, Pepe Forina, Luisita Jimenez, Mary Helen Cano, Maggie & Ramon Cisneros, Lalita Davila, Francisca Jimenez, Jorge Garcia, Maria Zepeda, Alicia Hernandez, Esthela Gonzales, Olivia Mueller, Guillermo Lara, Sr., Guillermo Lara, Jr., Gloria Rubalcaba Mercedes Baez. **If you would like to request for the sick of your family to be included in our weekly list of Prayers for the Sick of Our Community, please call weekly, so that they may be included in this Prayer list..**

# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023

### Parish Staff

Rev. Robert Charlton, SS.CC., Pastor  
Rev. John Sawchenko, SS.CC., Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Ajit Baliar Singh, SS.CC., Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Paulo Lui Voreqe, SS.CC., Parochial Vicar  
Rev. George Gonzalez, PhD, In Residence  
Lou Montes, Secretary  
Blas Hernandez, Handy Man  
Sam Rosales, Sacristan

### Councils

Pastoral Council  
Finance Council  
Scholarships' Committee

### Ministries

Extraordinary. Ministers of Holy Comm.  
CCD Teachers & Assistants  
Choirs: English & Spanish  
Lectors: English & Spanish  
Altar Servers  
Ushers  
Homebound Ministry  
Nursing Home Ministry  
Adoration Committee  
Charity (Food Pantry)

### Prayer Groups

Asamblea, Oración y Alabanza (Español)  
Glory and Praise (English)

### Religious Education

Children's Catechism (CCD)  
Bible Class (English & Spanish)  
Adult Faith Format: English & Spanish  
Sacramental Preparation  
Baptismal Preparation  
Marriage Preparation

### Organizations

Guadalupanas Franciscanas  
I.H.M. Ladies' Club I.H.M. Men's Club  
Caballeros de San Jose  
Knights of Columbus

412 S. "C" Street, Harlingen, TX 78550

(956) 423-0855

Office Hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm  
(Monday thru Friday)

Web-page: [www.ihmc-hgn.org](http://www.ihmc-hgn.org)

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Weekdays:

Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m. Daily Mass  
First Friday: 7:00 a.m. Mass

**Saturdays: 5:30 p.m.** Mass of Anticipation for  
Sunday in English

**Sundays:** 8:00 a.m. Misa en Español,  
12:00 Noon Mass in English

**Holy Days of Obligation:** 7:00 am & 6:30 pm

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

First Friday: 8:00 to 11:55 a.m. (12:00 Noon Benedic-  
tion).

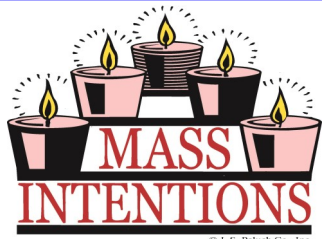
## SACRAMENTS

**Confessions:** Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. (or by appt.)

**Baptisms:** On first Sunday of every other month.  
Please, contact the parish office, ahead of time, for a  
copy of the policy and information on classes. Par-  
ents and sponsors of this parish need to attend the  
Baptismal Prep. Classes here, before receiving a  
letter to be sponsors & the Certificate of Attendance.

**Marriage:** Engaged couple needs to make an ap-  
pointment with the pastor, at least six months before  
the intended wedding date.

**Quinceañeras: (Not a Sacrament)** Candidates  
need to be members of IHM, attend Sunday Mass  
(regularly) and CCD Classes for the last two years, at  
this parish. Please, no exceptions.



**SATURDAY, December 9th**  
**5:30 p.m. Mass of Anticipation (English)**

+Juan O. Luna  
 +Ray Kirsch, Jr.  
 +Andres Leal & +Blanca Leal  
 +Elias Trevino

**SUNDAY, December 10th**  
**8:00 a.m. Misa en Español**

+Regino & +Maria Gonzalez  
 +Corina Gomez  
 +Isaac Villafranca  
 +Daniel Diaz

**12:00 Noon Mass in English**  
 Pro Populo

**MONDAY, December 11th**  
**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**

+Fr. Timothy Tolan

**TUESDAY, December 12th**  
**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**  
 The Deken Family

**6:30 p.m. Bilingual Mass**

+Maria Teresa Gonzalez  
 +Guadalupe Sanchez Serrano

**WEDNESDAY, December 13th**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**  
 Pat Holeva

**THURSDAY, December 14th**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**  
 Zak & Cori Salazar

**FRIDAY, December 15th**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**

+Roberto G. Gonzales

**SATURDAY, December 16th**

**5:30 p.m. Mass of Anticipation (English)**

+Daniel Lozano  
 +Roberto G. Gonzales  
 Sister Emily Morgan  
 Esperanza Garcia-80th Birthday

**TODAY'S WORD OF GOD**  
**December 10, 2023**

"Make straight his paths," Isaiah cried out, prophesying that the Lord would come to rescue and comfort the people of God. Centuries later, Mark quotes this call at the very beginning of his Gospel, presenting John the Baptist as the prophet who took this to heart, preparing the way for the Lord. Now, two millennia later, during this season when we prepare for the Lord's coming into our lives and into our hearts, how can we "make straight his paths"?

In today's reading, it is in the desert that Isaiah imagines a way of the LORD will be prepared. In the Gospel, it is from the desert that John the Baptist appears on the scene. Hearing these prophets today, let us contemplate our own spiritual deserts and listen for John's call for repentance. May we heed that call as we prepare for the Lord with the holiness and devotion we hear called for in the second reading, devoting ourselves to making holy our lives and our world in preparation for his coming.

**PALABRA DE DIOS DE HOY**  
**10 de diciembre, 2023**

Isaías clama que preparen el camino del Señor, "que todo lo torcido se enderece", y profetiza que el Señor vendrá a rescatar y a consolar al pueblo de Dios. Siglos más tarde Marcos cita ese clamor al mero comienzo de su Evangelio cuando presenta a Juan el Bautista como el profeta que tomó seriamente preparar el camino del Señor. Ahora, dos milenios después, durante este tiempo cuando nos preparamos para la venida del Señor en nuestra vida y en nuestro corazón, ¿de qué manera podemos nosotros hacer que "todo lo torcido se enderece"?

En la primera lectura de hoy, es en el desierto que Isaías imagina preparar el camino del Señor. En el Evangelio, es en el desierto que Juan el Bautista aparece en escena. Al oír hoy a estos profetas contemplemos nuestros propios desiertos espirituales y escuchemos el llamado de Juan al arrepentimiento. Tomemos en serio ese llamado mientras nos preparamos para recibir al Señor con la santidad y devoción que la segunda lectura nos exhorta, y dispongámonos a hacer de nuestra vida y de nuestro mundo lugares más santos en preparación para la venida del Señor.

**PARISH MEETING/BREAKFAST**

Parish Meeting at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on December 10th. All parishioners are invited to attend to hear from Father Bob about his vision for the parish as well as to share with the priests any thoughts or questions you have regarding the life of our parish. We encourage you to come and participate so you can get to know the priests and take part in the discussion. The meeting will take place in the hall next Sunday, December 10th, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. We are encouraging those who attend to bring breakfast with some to share.

**APOLOGETICS COURSE IN ENGLISH**

An Apologetics course will be offered this January here at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish. Classes will meet Monday nights at 6:30 pm for six weeks. Registration will begin on December 10th. Please call parish office.

**APOLOGETICS COURSE IN SPANISH**

An Apologetics course in Spanish will be offered this January at Queen of Peace. Classes will meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Registration will begin on December 10th. Contact Queen of Peace office at 956-423-6341.

**PASTORAL & FINANCE -COUNCIL MEETING**

Wed., Dec. 13th at 7:00 p.m., at the I.H.M. School Bldg.

**K. OF C. GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday, Dec. 16th at 9:00a.m., at the IHM School Bldg

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD JESUS (CHRISTMAS DAY) (A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) DECEMBER 25TH**

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - Bilingual Mass  
 5:30 pm Mass of Anticipation  
 Christmas Day, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> - Bilingual Mass 10:00 am

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY—HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - Bilingual Mass 5:30 pm  
 New Year's Day, January 1<sup>st</sup> - Bilingual Mass 10:00 am

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ANNUAL DRAWING WINNERS**

- 1st Prize - Marie Theis
- 2nd Prize - Juana Martinez
- 3rd Prize - Becky Leal
- 4th Prize - Pablo Hernandez
- 5th Prize - Eileen Hitchcock



**REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE AND CONFESSIONS**

**SUNDAY MASSES:**

- 5:30 p.m. Mass in English (Saturday)
- 8:00 a.m. Misa en Español
- 12:00 Noon Mass in English

**DAILY MASS (Monday thru Friday):**

- 7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass

**CONFESSIONS: Sat. at 4:00 p.m.**

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

- 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Masses



**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

(Tuesday, Dec. 12th)

As it has been our parish tradition, the group of Guadalupanas is inviting every one to Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the following events:

- 6:30 am—Mañanitas to Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 7:00 am—Bilingual Mass, followed by Coffee & Pan Dulce at the IHM School bldg.
- 6:30 pm—Bilingual Mass, followed by social gathering at the IHM School bldg.

**CHRISTMAS POSADAS**

We would like to invite all parishioners and friends to join us, every evening (6:30 p.m.) in church. The following organizations will be leading the Posadas:

- Dec. 16th - Beginning Posadas-All Parishioners
- Dec. 17th - CCD Teachers & Students
- December 18th - Choirs
- Dec. 19th - Caballeros de San Jose
- Dec. 20th—Knights of Columbus
- Dec. 21st - IHM Ladies Club
- Dec. 22nd - Franciscans
- Dec. 23rd - Guadalupanas
- Dec. 24th - Posada before Mass at 5:15 pm