

## 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



**THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**  
**December 17, 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).

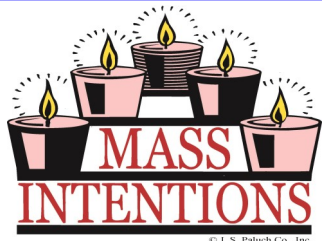
## SACRAMENTS

**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.



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**SATURDAY, December 16th**  
**5:30 p.m. Mass of Anticipation (English)**

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

**SUNDAY, December 17th**  
**(Gaudete Sunday)**

**8:00 a.m. Misa en Español**  
 Pro Populo

**12:00 Noon Mass in English**

+Maria del Rosario Martinez  
 +Sister Severin  
 +Esperanza (Hope) Trevino  
 +Carlota Gallegos

**MONDAY, December 18th**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**  
 +Danny Doyle

**TUESDAY, December 19th**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**  
 +Teofilo Garcia

**WEDNESDAY, December 20th**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**  
 +Fr. Daniel Horan

**THURSDAY, December 21st**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**  
 +Barbara Cooper

**FRIDAY, December 22nd**

**7:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass**  
 +Rosa Ruiz

**SATURDAY, December 23rd**

**5:30 p.m. Mass of Anticipation (English)**  
 +Helen Caughern  
 +Esperanza (Hope) Trevino  
 +Baldo & Alice Zamora  
 +Gregoria Ruiz

**TODAY'S WORD OF GOD**  
**December 17, 2023**

Through this season of Advent we are called to prepare for the Lord's coming by repenting of our sins, removing the obstacles that make it difficult for us to recognize his approach his approach, and remaining ever watchful for his arrival. But today we rejoice (in Latin, *gaudete*) because we focus on the knowledge that the One whom we await comes to embrace us, transform us, and redeem us. Gathered together in joy, we look forward, as always, to his coming.

On Gaudete Sunday a theme of joy runs through our readings. Isaiah, returning to the promised land after years of exile, describes the wonders God will accomplish. In the psalm we sing that our souls rejoice in our God. Paul closes his letter to the Thessalonians by reminding them to rejoice always. Finally, we hear John the Baptist testify that he is not worthy to even untie the sandal strap of the One who is coming, the light, the Christ. May the joy we hear in God's word rub off on us.

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

A lo largo de este tiempo de Adviento tenemos un llamado a prepararnos para la venida del Señor arrepintiéndonos de nuestros pecados, quitando los obstáculos que nos hacen difícil reconocer su cercanía y permaneciendo siempre en vela para su llegada. Pero hoy nuestra alegría (*gaudete* en latín) se debe por saber que Aquel a quien esperamos viene a abrazarnos, a transformarnos y a redimirnos. Nos congregamos hoy con alegría y anhelamos, como siempre, su venida.

En el domingo de Gaudete el tema de la alegría impera en todas nuestras lecturas. Isaías, una vez que ha regresado a la tierra prometida después de años de exilio, describe los prodigios que Dios llevará a cabo. En el salmo proclamamos que nuestro espíritu se alegra en Dios. Pablo cierra su carta a los tesalonicenses recordándonos que vivan siempre alegres. Finalmente, escuchamos a Juan el Bautista testificar que él no es digno ni de desatar las correas de las sandalias del que ha de venir: la luz, el Cristo. Que la alegría que escuchamos en la palabra de Dios se nos contagie.



**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 p.m. for six weeks. Registration will begin on December 10th. Please call the 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 p.m. Registration will begin on December 10th. Contact Queen of Peace office at 956-423-6341.

**NO CCD**

Sunday, Dec. 24th  
 & Sunday, Dec. 31st

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

Monday, Dec. 25, 2023  
 Monday, Jan. 1, 2024

**REUNION DE FRANCISCANAS**

Martes, 26 de diciembre, a las 7:00 p.m., en el edificio de la escuela de I.H.M.



**CHRISTMAS POSADAS**

We would like to invite all parishioners, families and friends to join us every evening at 6:30 p.m. Posadas will begin in the 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 - Posadas before Mass at 5:15 p.m .



**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



**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 p.m. Mass of Anticipation  
 Christmas Day - Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Bilingual Mass - 10:00 a.m.



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

New Year's Eve - Sunday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>  
 Bilingual Mass-5:30 p.m.  
 New Year's Day - Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Bilingual Mass -10:00 a.m.