



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

March 24th – March 25th

P.O. Box 130 – 411 Ware St., Groom, TX 79039

Tele. & Fax: 806.248.7584,

Cell Phone: 806.316.4146

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor: Arokia Raj Samala – Parish Council: Jason Eugea

Finance Council Chair: Rodney Bohr, Altar Society President: Debbie Ollinger

RCIA: Tabitha Eggemeyer, DRE: Nicole Kuehler,

Youth Director: Kathleen Barkley, Bookkeeper: Sherri Wieberg

Parish Email: immaculateheartgroom@gmail.com Website: immaculateheartgroomtx.com



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION - THE PUNCH LINE

"Clearly this Man was the Son of God!" —Mark 15:39

Mark, in his Gospel, portrays Jesus as abandoned by all. The priests turn against Him (Mk 15:1-3). Soldiers mock Him (Mk 15:16-20). So do the thieves crucified on either side of Him (Mk 15:32). His disciples fall asleep while Jesus is praying in the garden, then they abandon Him and flee when He is arrested (Mk 14:37ff, 50). Judas even betrays Him while pretending to show affection for Jesus (Mk 14:45). Finally, after suffering hours of agony, Jesus quotes Psalm 22:2, possibly to confirm the sense of utter abandonment, and then dies.

At the foot of Jesus' cross stands the Roman centurion, a military man who commanded one hundred soldiers. He bore the responsibility of certifying to the Roman leadership that the crucified men in his charge were truly dead. The centurion had undoubtedly observed numerous crucifixions, and was accustomed to observing the ignominious death of defeated enemies. Jesus' crucifixion likewise pointed to abject failure and abandonment. By human standards, we would expect the centurion to exclaim: "What a failure! What a fraud! He got what He deserved." Instead the centurion declared, "Clearly this Man was the Son of God!" (Mk 15:39)

The centurion's declaration is the "punch line" of Mark's Gospel. Get the point. Accept Jesus as Lord, Savior, and God. Then live in a manner worthy of one for whom God has died. Have a Holy Week.

"But Palm Sunday tells us that [...] it is the cross that is the true tree of life." Pope Benedict XVI

Masses & Information

Monday, Thursday, Friday.....7:30 a.m.
Saturday:.....5:30 p.m.
Sunday:.....8:30 a.m.
Wednesday:.....6:00 p.m.
Confession: Saturday.....4:30-5:15 p.m.
Sunday:.....7:55-8:15 a.m. or by appointment
First Wednesday Adoration.....7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
MARRIAGE PREPARTION: Contact Father Raj at least six months in advance.

BAPTISMS: Call the rectory for an appointment.

COMMUNION to shut-ins or the ill, call Fr. Raj at 248.7584 or 316.4146

Anyone who cannot come to the communion rail during Mass should let Father Raj know before Mass. Those who are ill or shut in should contact Bill Homer, if you would want communion brought to your home during the week or on weekends.

Masses Intentions

Sunday, March 25--8.30 a.m. Sambo Kotara By Mary Kotara
Monday, March 26--7:30 a.m. Sambo Kotara By Mary Kotara
Wednesday, March 28--6:00pm Stations of the Cross by Children
Holy Thursday, March 29--7:30p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday, March 30--7:30pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday, March 31--8:15p.m. Easter Vigil

Church Cleaning for March

Sandie Hickey, Marcia Conrad, Donna Barnett, Melanie Britten, Janice Koetting, Michele Bohr, Rita Lister, Connie Britten, Susan Britten, Rita Poor, Vanessa Eugea, Krista Johnson, Marissa Clement, Melanie King Britten, Lucita Hinson, and Dayna Britten

Pray for Our Sick

Brandi Sustaire, John Detten, Emma Detten, Tammy Bivens, Celeste Connelly, Schellon Major, Ralph Hutsell, Shamara Husemann, Bill Becker, Jim Eakin, Charleen Weller, Leonard Koetting, Alina Becker, Anna Marie Wink, Gary Collins, , Willie Mae Barnett, Dylan Stafford, James Weinheimer, Alice Britten, Alan Acker, Sherry Koetting, Georgann Hinson, Dale Brooks, Pam Bouse, Eileen Asher, and Margaret Heinrich

Family Chalice Program

March 24/25 Jerry, Melanie, and Trent Britten
March 31/ April 1 Cobb and Kay Britten
April 7/8 Nick Kuehler Family

Birthdays

March 25th Doris Britten, Russell Conrad and Jessica Britten
April 2nd Lucille Britten
April 3rd Emma Darlene Britten

Anniversaries

Stewardship Reports

Individual	\$2,490.00
Loose	\$ 284.00
Children	\$ 19.00
Total	\$2,793.00
3-18-18 The Catholic Relief Collections	
Individual	\$ 580.00
Loose	\$ 274.00
Total	\$ 854.00

Building Fund 3-18-18

Total \$ 220.00

Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, March 24th, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Servers: Phineas and Kacie
Lectors: Jason Eugea
Extraor. Com. Minister: Vanessa Eugea

Sunday, March 25th, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Servers: Owen and Derek
Lectors: Cari Weinheimer
Extraor. Com. Minister: Joanie Kling,
Melanie K. Britten, and Tabitha Eggemeyer

Holy Thursday March 29th at 7:30p.m.

Servers: Damon and Stephen
Lectors: Ron Kuehler
Extraor. Com. Minister: Michele Bohr and

Good Friday March 30th at 7:30p.m.

Servers: Zayden, Braxton and
Carrigan
Lectors:
Extraor. Com. Minister: Michele Bohr and
Joannie Kling

Easter Vigil 8:15p.m. March 31st

Servers: Zayden, Braxton, Derek, &
Ryan
Lectors: Jason Eugea and Cliff Britten
Extraor. Com. Minister: Susan Britten

Easter Sunday Mass 8:30a.m. April 1st

Servers:
Lectors:
Extraor. Com. Minister:

Saturday, April 7th, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Servers: Derek and Tucker
Lectors:
Extraor. Com. Minister:

Sunday, April 8th, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Servers: Jackson and Wesley
Lectors: Nick Kuehler
Extraor. Com. Minister: Nichole Kuehler,

Announcements:

Hello Parish Family,
Mike, myself and our children are hosting a 60th Birthday party for Mike. It will be Saturday March 24th after the 5:30 mass in our Parish Hall . We will serve a meal, ice tea, and birthday cake. B.Y.O.B. Bring the kids and let's party! R.S.V.P. by March 16th to Marla 806-223-8803.

Divine Mercy Schedule –

Good Friday – March 30th after Mass - Debbie Ollinger

For all mankind, especially sinners

Easter Vigil – Any time during the morning

For the souls of priests and religious

Easter Sunday – following Mass - Melanie Britten

For all devout and faithful souls

Monday, April 2nd – following Mass or other time during the day **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** For all those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know him

Tuesday, April 3rd - 6:30 p.m. Debbie Ollinger

For the souls of separated brethren

Wednesday, April 4th - after 6:00 Mass – CCD Classes

For the meek and humble souls and the souls of children

Thursday, April 5th – Following Mass or other time during the day

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

For the souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy

Friday April 6th – Following Mass or other time during the day

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

For the souls who are detained in Purgatory

Saturday April 7th – 9 am - Joannie Kling

For the souls that have become lukewarm

Sunday April 8th – Divine Mercy Sunday, following Mass – Chaplet of the Divine Mercy CD – Debbie or Melanie will start this.

Christian Mothers:

April 21st is the East Deanery Spring meeting at our Place!! Please mark this on your calendars and set up your babysitter now. The fee is \$30 which includes lunch and great speakers are being lined up. We received superior ratings on our hosting the Fall Diocesan Convention. Please come and enjoy this Saturday with ladies of our deanery. I will be updating the information on the speakers and items.

Announcements:

*During Lent the Station of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 6:30pm.

*March 29, Holy Thursday Mass at 7:30pm

*March 30, Good Friday, the Lord's Passion at 7:30pm

*March 31, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at 8:15pm

*April 01, Easter Sunday Mass at 8:30am.

***Why does our Easter Vigil Mass have to be so late in the evening?**

As we draw closer to Easter, I want to speak of the Easter Vigil Mass in the life of the Church while also addressing the question of why it starts late.

In the liturgical year, it is the Sacred Triduum that stands as the high point of the entire liturgical year as the Triduum commemorates the Lord Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. For it is in these mysteries that Christ accomplishes His redeeming work of freeing us from sin and gifting us with a share in His eternal kingdom. This "triduum" contains the three separated, but deeply connected moments of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night after dark on Holy Saturday. In fact, these three moments are so intimately connected that they are kept as one liturgy (and hence this is why the Mass on Holy Thursday and the service on Good Friday do not conclude with a blessing or dismissal and why the service on Good Friday and the Easter Vigil Mass do not begin with a Sign of the Cross and greeting).

To the Easter Vigil itself, the Church's description of this Mass in the Roman Missal calls it "the greatest and most noble of all solemnities." For it is at this Mass that the Church meditates on the history of our salvation (as given through the chosen Scriptural passages – of which there are seven Old Testament readings, along with a short passage from Paul's letter to the Romans, culminating in the proclamation of the particular Gospel account of the resurrection for the given year in the lectionary cycle [which this year will be from Mark]). In addition, at this Mass wherein the Paschal Candle is blessed (that symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World), we celebrate Jesus' resurrection that destroys the darkness of sin. All who believe in this mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection are invited to share in that light of Christ through baptism (or the renewal of baptism for those who have already received baptism). Finally, our celebration culminates in the participation in the Eucharist as the memorial of these great mysteries given to us by Jesus Himself to celebrate until He returns in glory.

That this Mass is celebrated at such a late hour is simply in relation to the directive that it is to take place "during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak on Sunday." Once more, the image of Christ as the true light that overcomes and destroys the darkness is of prime significance. To most fittingly be drawn into this mystery, the Church in her wisdom recognizes that the actual darkness of

night gives the most proper setting to witness the light of Christ shining in the darkness – once more symbolized by the Paschal Candle.

On a practical level, our late start time is carried out so that we might rightly keep the symbolic meaning of the light shining in darkness. The Roman Missal's reference to the vigil not beginning until "after nightfall" suggests that this Mass take place well after sunset when the sky is completely dark. In practice, the U.S. Bishops have suggested that a timeframe of 45 minutes to one full hour after "civil twilight" should be the earliest time for this vigil to begin – that is, at least one hour and 15 minutes to one hour and 30 minutes after sunset. Other sources say it should not begin until after the hour that astronomers call "astronomical twilight," which is usually about one hour and 45 minutes or more after sunset. Given the scientific reasons for the late start, might I conclude with this encouragement: that this Mass IS THE CULMINATION OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR and there is no other Mass like it. Of all the Masses every year, no Mass comes close to the importance of this Easter Vigil in its symbolism and celebration of Christ's saving work accomplished in us. Thus, I encourage all to come and worship at the Easter Vigil Mass – to celebrate the central moment of our salvation in Jesus Christ and share even now the joy that we await in His return.