

From the Pastor

Series on the Mass, Part 26: The Offertory, Incense

At the High Mass, after the offering of the chalice and the two apology prayers, incense is used to incense the offerings, altar, priest and all present. Since the incense is blessed first, it is a sacramental, signifying that it will procure grace for those who use it well. The blessing begins with an invocation of St. Michael, who stands at the right side of the altar of incense, and all the elect that, through their intercession, our Lord may deign to receive its sweet fragrance. Sweet fragrance is a biblical expression (e.g., Ex. 29:18), signifying that God accepts the sacrifice. In scripture, the incense offered by the angels symbolizes their adoration, which rises unceasingly toward God (e.g., Rev. 8:3).

After blessing the incense, the priest incenses the bread and wine while saying: "May this incense which Thou hast blessed rise up to Thee, O Lord, and may Thy mercy come down upon us". The incensation and prayer have two senses: first, the bread and wine must be as pure as possible since they will become the Body and Blood of our Lord (fire is used to purify); second, we must honor God by giving a sweet odor to the things we offer Him. While saying this prayer the incense traces three crosses over the gifts and three circles. He then incenses the cross, relics if present and the altar while reciting part of Psalm 140, which speaks of the offering of our prayers to God like incense rising to heaven. And yet, how can our prayers rise to God if we have harsh words for our neighbor?



The sight of the incense rising should give us pause to reflect on our own prayers and need for purification. When the thurifer directs the incense toward the congregation, we should strive to purify ourselves and join our prayers to those of the Mass. St. Thomas Aquinas in *Summa Theologica* has a beautiful explanation of the use of incense at Mass: "the use of incense has reference to two things: first the reverence due to this sacrament ... secondly, it serves to show the effect of grace, wherewith Christ was filled as with a good odor ... and from Christ it spreads to the faithful by the work of His ministers ... and therefore, when the altar has been incensed on every side, then all are incensed in their proper order." (Pt. III, q. 83, a. 5 ad 2) Grace radiates out from the altar, which represents Christ and where our Savior will be present at the consecration.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP

Live Streaming of Daily Masses  Church Open, 7 a.m.-7p.m. daily
Confession Times. Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sat. 8:30 a.m. Also by appointment.

Announcements

UPDATED RULES! Religious Items to be Blessed are placed on the blessing table located next to the holy water dispenser near the baptismal font. **Place your name on every item to be blessed. Pick up your items within one week** of dropping them off and please verify your name is on every item you take. **Jugs of water will be blessed only** when water in the dispenser is replenished and blessed. Small water bottles may be filled from the holy water dispenser and will not be blessed. These rules are posted above the blessing table and on the website for easy referral. Learn how sacramentals work by reading Fr. Malain's short article, which can be found on the home page of the parish website.

Mass calendars are open. There is a limit on the number of Mass requests that will be accepted per family.

2020 DSF Campaign, 69% Funded. PARISH GOAL \$10,000. PLEDGED/GIFTED TO DATE \$6,855.

Each parish is required to meet its goal and a shortfall is paid from operating cash. Please mail in a completed pledge card or donate online at archgh.org/dsf. Thank you for participating in DSF.

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*Everyone is excited about the construction but please, no going onto the site.
It's for your safety and that of the work crews!*

Sat., July 25, 6:15 a.m. Mass is cancelled. Fr. Malain will be in Beaumont.

Parish Safety & Observation Team. Volunteers are needed to assist our safety personnel by acting as additional eyes and ears. Open to registered male or female parishioners, at least 21 years or older. Ex-military or peace officer experience a plus. This team will act separately from our ushers.

Our Catholic Community: An Online Program for 2020. This summer program for children in the parish will run through July. To enroll or learn more, go to the parish website home page for the link to the program.

Plenary Indulgence Possible for Pilgrimage Visit to St. Joseph Church in Houston, through Mar. 24, 2021. Church address, hours and conditions to be fulfilled to gain the indulgence is on our parish website.

May God reward you!

We are deeply moved by the continuing support of the faithful during this crisis. At the same time, we understand some may be impacted financially by the effects of the pandemic. As an all volunteer parish, our operating budget is as low as humanly possible, but there are inflexible expenses, such as utilities, that need to be paid and ongoing costs to build the Gatehouse. Please continue to make stewardship and capital campaign donations if you can. Donations may be made online or at the church.

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ParishSoft Online Giving is available for stewardship and capital campaign donations! Give online at the parish website using credit card or bank account. Gifts may be one-time or recurring, at your option. (PayPal is also available for the cap campaign.)

July 19, 2020, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Please read Rules for Mass in Pastor's Letter to Faithful (link on home page of parish website).

The daily Mass is live streamed and a link posted on the home page of our parish website for viewing throughout the day.

Liturgical Calendar & Mass Intentions

July 19 - 25, 2020

Sun., 7/19, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

7:30 a.m., Joseph Huang Da Ng †

8:45 a.m., Private intention

10:00 a.m., (High), Pro Populo

1:00 p.m., Private intention

5:30 p.m., Tadeo Caciano Luna †

Mon., 7/20, St. Jerome Emiliani

6:15 a.m., Joseph Huang Da Ng †

Tues., 7/21, St. Lawrence of Brindisi

* 6:15 a.m., Private intention

7:00 p.m., Jason Edward Sublett

Wed., 7/22, St. Mary Magdalene

6:15 a.m., Joseph Huang Da Ng †

* 9:00 a.m., Private intention

Thurs., 7/23, St. Apollinaris

* 6:15 a.m., Private intention

7:00 p.m., Joseph Huang Da Ng †

Fri., 7/24, St. Christina

6:15 a.m., Joseph Huang Da Ng †

Sat., 7/25, St. James the Greater

* 6:15 a.m., **CANCELLED**

7:30 a.m., Sydney Cordeiro †

* Mass is subject to cancellation if a second priest is not available. Advance notice will be posted in the bulletin whenever possible.



Parish Organizations **ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED**

Altar Guild - Juana Maria Olvera

Meets second Saturday of month after 7:30 a.m. Mass
altarsoc@reginacaeliparish.org

Altar Servers - Wayo Dorsey

Training second & third Sat. of month, 9-11 a.m.
altarserve@reginacaeliparish.org

CCD - Cheryl Hand; ccd@reginacaeliparish.org

Legion of Mary - Joseph Nwachukwu

Meets Mondays, 7 p.m.
nwachukwuju@yahoo.com

Little Flowers Girls' Group - Jennifer Wingate

Meets second Saturday of month, 9 a.m.

Men's Schola - Kyle Lartigue

Practice Thursdays, 7 p.m.
schola@reginacaeliparish.org

Pro-Life - Melody Reece, pro-life@reginacaeliparish.org

St. Philomena Toddler Group - Katherine Nwachukwu

Meets Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.
Text or call 832-744-4125.

Tower of David Study Group - Jennifer McDonald

Meets Tuesdays, 8:25 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Youth Group - Rev. Michael Malain

Meets second Sunday of month after 10 a.m. Mass

Welcoming Committee - Rae Bielakowski

welcome@reginacaeliparish.org

Work Crew - Matt Anderson

Saturday work projects at property
workcrew@reginacaeliparish.org

Contacts for other groups

Please check the bulletin boards or go to the parish website and click on Groups/Ministries

St. Joseph Hour for Holiness for men over 18 years struggling with sins against purity. Contact Fr. Van Vliet by email.

Sacraments - Please see parish website.

Infant baptism—contact parish at least one month before due date.

Marriage—contact parish eight months before proposed date.

Regina Caeli Parish

The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



Pastor: Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP

pastor@reginacaeliparish.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Malain, FSSP

frm Alain@reginacaeliparish.org

8121 Breen Dr., Houston, Texas 77064

Telephone: 832-328-0876

Hours: Mon. & Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Website: reginacaeliparish.org

Email: office@reginacaeliparish.org

Mass Schedule - *Please read Rules for Mass contained in the Pastor's Letter to Faithful. Link is on the home page of the parish website.*

Sundays	Temporary schedule provided on the back page of bulletin.
Mon., Wed., Fri.	6:15 a.m.
Tues., Thurs.	7:00 p.m.
Saturdays	7:30 a.m.

Adoration Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.

Confession Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Sat. 8:30 a.m.

Vespers **SUSPENDED**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

Wednesday, 6:40 p.m.