

From the Pastor

Series on the Mass, Part 29: The Offertory: Orate Fratres

After finishing the "Suscipe Sancta Trinitas", the priest, while inclined slightly at the center of the altar, bows more profoundly and kisses the altar, then turns to the faithful as he does for the "Dominus Vobiscum" and says out loud: "Orate fratres." The remainder of the prayer is said silently as the priest turns back to the altar. This prayer is very similar to the "Dominus Vobiscum" in the actions of the priest and altar boy, but is more solemn since, in concluding the Offertory prayers, it leads to the Canon when our Lord will be made present in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The prayer varied in the history of the liturgy and our current text dates back to the 9th century. Some earlier variations had only the two words that are said out loud, which might explain why this practice continues.

The altar represents Christ and so, when the priest turns and says "orate fratres", it is essentially Jesus asking us to pray, just as He had asked the apostles to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. The priest uses the phrase "my sacrifice and yours" and not "our sacrifice" in the prayer, for though the sacrifice is profitable to both the priest and faithful, their roles are very different. The priest, with the powers of Holy Orders, acts in the person of Christ, taking His place to offer the sacrifice of the Cross. The faithful are present and unite themselves to the sacrifice as Our Lady and St. John did at the foot of the Cross. The priest takes the place of Christ and speaks the words of consecration the same way that our Savior spoke them on the night before He suffered. The faithful are witnesses to this sacrifice and should strive to unite themselves to it.

The prayer continues with the response of the altar boy: "May the Lord receive the sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of His name, to our own benefit, and to that of all His holy Church." The Mass is a sacrifice offered for the glory of God and His glory is increased by the sanctity of the faithful and of the whole Church, which the Mass favors.

When the priest turns toward the faithful to ask them to pray, he continues a full circle back to the altar. This is the first time he does so at Mass and it is, as Dom Gueranger comments, "like the priest is bidding farewell to the faithful" and to the things of the world as he is about to enter into the great prayer of the Canon, where he becomes an instrument in the hands of Christ .

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP

Confirmation & Covid Restrictions

Confirmation will be held Sat., Sept. 19, at 10 a.m. It will be limited to those receiving the sacrament, their sponsors and one parent each. Any more than that will exceed our 25% capacity. If restrictions are lifted, we can add more family members. There is a mandatory meeting/rehearsal for Confirmandi. They may choose either the Sun., Sept. 6, 2:30 p.m. session or the Sat., Sept. 12, 8:30 a.m. session. It is recommended that sponsors attend.

Announcements

Religious Items to be blessed are placed on the table located near the baptismal font. **Place your name on every item to be blessed. Pick up your items within one week** of dropping them off. Please read all the rules posted on the wall above the blessing table and on the parish website before dropping off your items..

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.

Knights of Columbus News

Star Council Award given to our Regina Caeli Knights of Columbus Council 17225 by the international organization! It is the top award for local councils and recognizes overall excellence in areas of membership, promotion of fraternal insurance benefits, sponsorship of faith formation programs and service-oriented activities. To join the KCs, contact Pete Loustalot, 832-466-7919.

The KCs are accepting pre-orders of BBQ brisket for pick up Sunday, Sept. 6. Cost is \$85. Contact John Wiechkoske, 713-208-7592, or Vince Dominic, 281-455-6737.

Tower of David Study Group sacramental classes start Tues., Sept. 29, 10 a.m.

To register your child under the Tower of David (TOD) program, please complete a CCD form on the hall table or online and write "TOD" at the top of the form.

TODAY:

- ~ **Spiritual bouquet card on the hall table for Cardinal DiNardo.** If you have not yet done so, please sign the spiritual bouquet card and include your prayer intentions on the sign up sheet.
 - ~ CCD & TOD registration continues for sacramental classes only. Deadline is Sun., Aug. 30. Forms and class schedule are on the hall table and the parish website CCD page.
 - ~ Please return CCD books used earlier this year by Aug. 30. There is a drop-off box in the hallway.
- Sun., Sept. 27, 9:15-10:00 a.m., fall semester of First Communion and Confirmation classes begin.

May God reward you!

We are deeply moved by the continuing support of the faithful during this crisis. 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.)

August 16, 2020, Eleventh 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

August 16 - 22, 2020

Sun., 8/16, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 7:30 a.m., Mariefe Mejia
- 8:45 a.m., Private intention
- 10:00 a.m., (High), Pro Populo
- 1:00 p.m., Private intention
- 5:30 p.m., Mariefe Mejia

Mon., 8/17, St. Hyacinth

- 6:15 a.m., Mariefe Mejia

Tues., 8/18, St. Agapitus

- * 6:15 a.m., **CANCELLED**
- 7:00 p.m., Tara Catherine Hanson †

Wed., 8/19, St. John Eudes

- 6:15 a.m., Alan Hanson
- * 9:00 a.m., **CANCELLED**

Thurs., 8/20, St. Bernard of Clairvaux

- * 6:15 a.m., **CANCELLED**
- 7:00 p.m., Isara Cabral †

Fri., 8/21, St. Frances Jane Chantal

- 6:15 a.m., Cecil C. Johnson †

Sat., 8/22, Immaculate Heart of Mary

- * 6:15 a.m., Private intention
- 7:30 a.m., Linda Ann Hill

* 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

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Malain, FSSP

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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. Daily Masses are live-streamed.

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. / Tues.-Thurs. 6:30 p.m. / Sat. 8:30 a.m.

Vespers **SUSPENDED**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

Wednesday, 6:40 p.m.