



G O S P E L M E D I T A T I O N

Matthew 4:1-11

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— Father John Muir

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday—Lv 19:1-2,11-18/Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday— Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday— Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday— Est C:12,14-16, 23-25/ Mt 7:7-12
- Friday— Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday— Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
- Sunday— Gn 12:1-4a/ Mt 17:1-9

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 5pm: Lector: John Garioto
Minister: Genevieve Welch, Barb Taddeo
Robert Groeling
Server: Mary Perez

Sunday 7:30am: Lector: Dee Ketchum
Minister: Denise Palmer
Server: Dj Williams

Sun 9am: Lector: Donald Wirz
Minister: Patsy Pence, Josie Hernandez
Nancy Tulchinsky
Server: Leo Wirz

Sun 11:15am:

Lector: Religious Ed
Minister: Josie Hernandez, Lourdes Langford
Lorri Zamzow
Server: Mary Perez

Upcoming Events

February 26— Pastoral Meeting 5:30pm
Finance Meeting 6:30pm

March 29— Palm Sunday

AA Meetings are offered in our parish hall each
Sunday 7pm and Wednesday 6pm

Prayer Requests

If you or a member of your family would like our faith community of Immaculate Conception Church to join you in prayers for special needs, call the parish office. Names will be removed periodically. If your loved one has been removed and is still in need of prayers please let us know.

Please take some time this week to remember the following in your prayers: Don Velasquez, Gia Garioto, Jesus Cedillo, Teresa Villareal, Maggie Garcia Ellen Emma. Ofelia Aguirre, Phyllis Cruz, Kathleen Connolly, Wes & Betty Brookshire, Patrick Dooling, Kathleen Mitchell, John Mitchell, John Garioto, Michael Mitchell, Steve Markowski, Nicole Wong, Lily Klauer, Eric Gibson Miranda Lee, Isaac Lee, Diane Alves, Nancy Pence, Angelita Aguirre, Nancy Appenzeller, Matt Acconero, Isaias Perez, Sally Stephenson, Oscar Carrillo, Margie LeGrand, Nicholas Matos, Tanner Ullon, Jeff French, Vince Milazzo, Colleen Aguirre, Martin Vallejo, David Shields, Presley Dias, Anita Pedrazzi, Jude Wong, Octaviano Luna, Joe Postigo, Johnny Bernio, Corylan Stranski, Kay Soares, Doris Stubben, Gigi Cutillo, Juliana Barrios, Evelyn Scally, Ramiro Acevedo, Loise Callens, Joey Dias, Phillip Cosentino, Donna Howe, Dian Markowski, Rogerio Moitoso, Frank & Teresa Viera, Sharon Hawkins, Loly Munro, Dee Ketchum, Deana Dyson-Miller, Lisbeth Flores, Emma Herrera, Rohit Sharma, David McGovert Sr., Daniel Lee, Altagracia, Drea Cedillo, Jesus Cedillo, Mary Lou Armbruster, Oralia Alvarez

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased: Bernadette Vacarreja, Mike Oconnell, Adeline Rianda

Catholic Trivia— Just for Fun

Question: According to the Acts of the Apostles, who was selected to replace the Apostle Judas?

Answer: St. Matthias
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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

February 15, \$ 2,608.94

Thank you for your very generous and continued support to the parish!



Parish News!!!

- Our Livestream Sunday 9am Mass can be found on our YouTube page.
- Each Friday morning prior to the 8:30am morning Mass you are welcome at 8:00am for prayer of the Holy Rosary.
- AED's are located at the entrance to the church to the right of the stairs under the choir loft and also in the hall near the front door.
- We are looking for ministers, lectors and servers for our Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 11:15 am and our Saturday 5pm Masses. If you would like to help serve during Mass, please contact the office for more information.
- **We are starting to collect filled Easter eggs.** This is for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We are in need of a lot of eggs for all the children in our parish. Please drop them off in the office or after any mass.
- **Stations of the Cross**— Please join us in the church every Friday at 6pm during Lent for our Stations of the cross.

W.I.N.G.S. (Women in God's Spirit)

In St. Benedicts Hall, 1200 Fairview Road, from 9:30am to 11:30am on Wednesday, **February 25th** Sandra Herbert of the Carmel Mission will present **The Eucharistic Miracles According to St. Carlo Acutis.** Wings encourages individual spiritual growth through a balance of prayer, scripture, reflection, life sharing and fellowship. Every woman of our parishes is warmly invited.

Donation Letter Reminder— 2025

Donation letters for 2025 have been mailed. If you did not receive your letter or notice any discrepancies, please contact the parish office at your convenience. We will be happy to review your statement, make any necessary corrections, and update your records.

We are sincerely grateful for your generous donations and continued support of our parish. Your contributions make a meaningful difference in our parish and community life.

Thank you for all that you do. God bless you.



Guidelines for Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence: a penitential practice consisting of refraining from the consumption of meat and is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14yrs of age and older. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and each Friday during Lent. Parents are encouraged to see that children who are not bound by the obligation to fast are led to appreciate and authentic sense of penance.

Fast and Abstinence: in addition to abstinence, fasting is to be observed by every Catholic between ages of 18-60yrs old. On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be eaten but should not equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted but liquids are allowed. Days of Fast and Abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious conditions they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their conditions.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 21
5:00pm

†Mike O'connell *req. by: Barb Hawkins*

Sunday, February 22
7:30am

Parishioners of ICC

9:00am

†Felipe Velazquez *req. by: Family*

†Raymond & †Hazel Sarringhaus
req. by: Joan

11:15am

†Mike O'connell *req. by: Lil Casillas*

Monday, February 23
8:30am

Steve & Trinh Umfleet

Tuesday, February 24

No Services

Wednesday, February 25

No Services

Thursday, February 26

8:30am

Health of Rohit Sharma

req. by: Dr. Sharma

Friday, February 27

8:30am

†Christine Cutillo *req. by: Wong Family*

†John L Sanders *req. by: Grunnagle*

Coffee & Donuts

Join us this weekend after the Sunday 9am Mass for coffee and donuts.

Everyone welcome!



Religious Education Update:

Director : Dee Ketchum

1st Communion: Feb 28th

Confirmation: Feb 22 the 2nd year class serves the 11:15 Mass .

O.C.I.A class for adults (18+) who want to complete their Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Faith. Sacraments include Baptism, and /or First Communion and/or Confirmation.