



Holy Rosary Parish



3600 Travis Street - Houston, Texas 77002

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil - Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m. (Latin)
11:00 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
3:15 p.m. (Vietnamese)
5:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m. (Vietnamese)

Time Out Room may be used
Sunday during
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Masses
in the Parish Center

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

12:05 p.m.
5:15 p.m.

ROSARY

Recited weekdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. at 4:45 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Weekdays 15 minutes before
all weekday Masses

EVENING PRAYER

Weekdays after
5:15 p.m. Mass in Sacristy

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Fridays 12:45 - 5:00 p.m.
Benediction 5:05 p.m.

PRIESTS ON STAFF

Fr. Joseph Konkel, O.P. Ext. 107
Pastor
Fr. Juan Torres, O.P. Ext. 103
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Isidore Vicente, O.P. Ext. 104
Parochial Vicar

Adjunct Staff

Fr. William Brenda, O.P. Ext. 102
Fr. Albert Moraczewski, O.P.
Ext. 102

In Residence:

Fr. James Burke, O.P.
Fr. Austin Green, O.P.
Priory 713-526-6322

PARISH OFFICE

First Floor Parish Center
(entrance in courtyard) Rm.100
3617 Milam Street
Office hours:
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Phone 713-529-4854
Fax 713-522-3967

Extensions:

101 - Parish Secretary
105 - Director of Music
108 - Parish Bookkeeper
109 - Special Projects Secretary
110 - Wedding Coordinator

E-mail:
office@holYROsaryparish.org

MAILING ADDRESS

3600 Travis Street
Houston, TX 77002

RELIGIOUS ED. CENTER

3535 Louisiana Street
713-526-4389
Marisa Mendoza, D.R.E.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 6, 2008

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & CONVALESCENT Louise Bering, Denise Akeroyd Scanlin, Mary Wil-loughby, Marion Spiers, Virginia Geaslin, Fr. Albert Moraczewski, O.P., Fr. William Brenda, O.P. and the Friars of Holy Rosary Priory.

COFFEE AFTER MASS will be served today, April 6th, in the Parish Hall, Room 200. All are welcome. Please join your fellow parishioners for some social moments.

HERE'S WHAT'S COOKING ... for April 9th, Meatballs w/spaghetti, green salad, dessert, coffee and tea, will be served on Wednesday, after the 12:05 p.m. Mass in the Parish Hall, Room 200. Welcome. **Please note that there will be no take-outs available for Wednesday lunches until further notice.**

DO YOU NEED YOUR 2007 ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT? Tax time is upon us. - Please call the parish office, 713-529-4854 ext. 109 or drop by during parish office hours, Monday - Friday, 9:30 - 4:30. We will mail your statement if requested.

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION FOR PARENTS: The next session for parents will be **Saturday, April 12, 2008** from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the library of the Parish Office Building, Room 106. This Baptism preparation session, given by Father Vicente, is for parishioners of Holy Rosary Parish only. Please call the office to register, 713-529-4854 ext. 101.

OPENING SPANISH MASS IN NEW CO-CATHEDRAL There will be an Inaugural Mass in Spanish that will be celebrated on **Wednesday, April 9th, 2008**, at 7:00 p.m., Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1115 St. Joseph Parkway.

THE LIGHT WEIGH, founded by Suzanne Fowler, is a Catholic Bible study/video series without weigh-ins that gets you healthy physically and spiritually. A group is presently forming to meet weekly. For more information, please contact Josh Teel at 570-406-2498.

ST. THOMAS H.S. SUMMER 2008 SPORTS CAMP: St. Thomas High School will be holding several sports camps this summer for rising 5th-9th grade boys, featuring soccer, baseball, basketball, rugby and many more programs. For more information please contact Athletic Director Kurt Page at 713-864-6348 or kurt.page@sths.org. You can also download the brochure at www.sths.org.

125th GRAND REUNION: - The Dominican Sisters of Houston will hold a *Grand Reunion* on the Mother-house grounds from 1-5 p.m. **Sunday, April 13th**. Food, drinks, fun, games and music will make this a family event to remember, casual attire. For more information and to RSVP, send an e-mail to reunions@domhou.org or call 713-440-3711.

"CATHOLIC LIFE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE": A 15-minute radio program, hosted by Fr. Austin Green, O.P., is aired every Sunday morning at 5:30a.m. (KWWJ-AM, 1360, Baytown) & 6:45 a.m. (KYOK-AM, 1140, Conroe). April 13th topic, *What are you looking for?*

RAFFLE: Help support our Dominicans! The Gala Committee will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses in support of the Dominican priests and brothers. First prize is an Hermès sterling silver necklace and matching bracelet, second prize is a fabulous trip to Costa Rica for one week, Club Del Mar Condo, with \$1,000. towards air fare, and third prize is a Hammaoam "Botamir" Persian Rug, size 4' x 2" X 2'x2" . Tickets cost \$25 a piece, or 5 chances for \$100. Purchase tickets from a committee member and see our raffle display in the vestibule of the church. Thanks for your support!

SOUTHERN DOMINICAN GALA: The 2008 Southern Dominican Gala, which will honor the *Archdiocesan Catholic Chaplain Corps.*, is fast upon us, and the Gala Committee would like to extend an invitation to all our parishioners here at Holy Rosary. This year's festive Gala will begin at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8th at the Houstonian**, and will include a silent auction, dinner, live music and dancing. Funds raised by the Gala are used right here for the building projects at Holy Rosary parish; also in support of the education of Dominican Seminarians, as well as for the care of our elderly Dominican priests and brothers. Ticket costs range from \$200 to \$1,000 for individuals, and from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for tables of ten. If you are interested in receiving an invitation, contact Carole in the parish office at 713-529-4854 ext. 109 **before April 29th**. The Gala Committee hopes to see you there in support of our very worthy cause!

THE HOLY ROSARY KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS, Council 11023 invite all parishioners to an appreciation party for *Arthur Mason, Carolyn Mattax, and Scott Holhouser* **next Sunday, April 13th from noon-2 PM** in the parish hall, room 200. Please join us as we honor these parishioners who served Holy Rosary's music ministry for over 31 years.

TRI-SCHOOL CATHOLIC GALA (St. Charles Borromeo, St. Rose of Lima and Seton Junior High) with guest speaker Mr. Jim McIngvale, Mattress Mack, April 12th at 6:30 p.m. Dinner and program begins at 7:00 p.m., individual tickets \$55. Please support this important event. For further information and to RSVP please call 281-447-2132.

MARIAN DAY CELEBRATION - Watch for exciting announcement in next week's bulletin.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER KONKEL: Fr. Brenda will be taking it easy for a few weeks after medical tests which revealed some congestion in the lungs. Your prayers for his health and well-being will be greatly appreciated.

BLESSED IMELDA LAMBERTINI, 1322-1331

“Patroness of First Communicants” (Designated thus by St. Pius X)

In the hagiography of the Dominican Order is included the story of Blessed Imelda Lambertini, a little girl of only nine years whose story in two ways is similar to that of Enoch in the book of Genesis where it says of him, “Enoch walked with God. Then he was seen no more because God took him.” (Gen. 5, 34) This little Imelda was taken to himself by God at the time of her first communion. Both the patriarch and the little Imelda ‘walked with God’, that is, each had a strong bond of love with God and pleased his heart. God took each of them, but differently. God took the whole of Enoch, body and soul, “He vanished from the earth.” God took little Imelda’s soul, and left her body for the veneration of the faithful.

The Lambertinis were a noble Italian family in Bologna of the fourteenth century when Imelda was born in 1322. Her father was a count, and the family included many well-known religious, including a famous Dominican preacher, a Franciscan mother foundress, and an aunt of Imelda’s who founded a convent of strict observance in Bologna.

Imelda was an only child and is somewhat delicate health yet she grew up surrounded by the love of parents and relatives. She was a pious child and when old enough used to attend the Dominican church for Mass and for Compline. Her mother taught her to sew as well as to prepare and bring food to the poor. Because of her natural piety it was no surprise to the family when at the age of nine she asked to be allowed to live with the Dominican nuns at their convent cloister in Val di Pietra, close to Bologna. Since the nuns were willing to accept her—such an arrangement seems not unusual at that time—the parents reluctantly but willingly gave this much-loved daughter to the service of God in the convent.

Little Imelda was welcomed by the sisters and, with some limitations, took part in their community life. She wore the habit but could not take part in the midnight Office (community prayer) nor receive Holy Communion. The age for First Communion at that time was about twelve or fourteen.

She did not have playmates but made up for the lack of company by reading about the saints from the books in the convent library, usually large illustrated manuscripts in those pre-printing days. She was particularly intrigued by the story of St. Agnes the martyr, who was not much older than Imelda when she died for the faith. One day Agnes appeared in a vision, and Imelda was delighted. In fact, Agnes seems to have visited Imelda several times, and they talked of the things of heaven.

Yet there was still a great longing in Imelda’s heart to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. At Christmas this was a particular cross for her but she had to be content with prayers to the infant in the manger and in the tabernacle. Then came spring and the great feast of Easter. Imelda thought this might be the time she would be allowed to receive our Lord and, as she had done in the past she asked the mother superior, but the answer was still no because she was too young. Yet Imelda still felt that strong urge to receive our Lord in the sacrament of the altar and dared to ask again for permission to receive. The mother superior was inclined to assent to the urgent plea of the little 9 year old girl but when she referred the request to the chaplain his answer was a flat ‘no, she is too young.’

That seemed to end the matter, but little Imelda did not stop with her request to the mother superior and the chaplain. She expressed the longing of her little heart to the Heart of him who knows the secrets of all hearts. She did this not for a few minutes or for an hour or two, but it was a longing expressed with particular desire in the days leading up to the feast of our Lord’s ascension into heaven. The day before this feast of Ascension Thursday, Imelda had received permission to remain in her place in the chapel after Mass to spend a longer time in meditation on the great mystery that would be celebrated the next day.

For some time after Mass was finished the sister sacristan was busy putting out candles and then putting away the things used in the Mass. She hardly had time to notice the small figure kneeling quietly and praying after all the others had left the chapel to go to breakfast.

It was some sound that caused the sister sacristan to take another look at the little girl praying in the chapel, and to her great amazement she saw a light in front of Imelda with a host suspended in the air in front of her. She rushed to get the superior and the chaplain. When they arrived, followed by many in the convent who had heard what was happening, the chaplain slowly approached, reverently took the host and gave Imelda the Communion that she so longed for. How could he refuse to give Communion when our Lord himself had indicated that he wanted Imelda to receive him in Sacrament? With the Communion, the light disappeared and things returned to normal so all departed from the chapel, leaving Imelda to her thanksgiving. After an appropriate interval, the superior went back to the chapel to call Imelda to breakfast. She lightly touched the tiny kneeling figure, then realized that not only had Imelda received the Lord in Communion but that he had taken her soul to himself, leaving her lifeless body for the veneration of the faithful.

You may ask, as many have before you, why little Imelda had not been declared a saint for she was certainly pleasing to God. The answer is that no historical records about her are available. The convent where she lived and all its records as well as its gravestones have long since disappeared. A former Dominican Master General, Emmanuel Suarez, in reply to a question about Imelda’s canonization replies, “If we had historical records to prove her existence we could canonize her tomorrow.” Her cause has been introduced, miracles have been worked in her name, one of the latest in 1928 when she cured a woman of meningitis. The lack of historical records does not mean she never existed. It means that the Church cannot publicly list her as a saint. Something similar happened to St. Christopher. The Church took him off the public list of saints because of a lack of historical records, but people still pray to him and he still works miracles. The same is true of Imelda. Pope St. Pius X, “the Pope of First Communion”, gave her the title of patroness of First Communicants, relying on popular devotion to her and even miracles worked in her name. Although we cannot officially call her a saint we still can pray to her and especially ask her to increase our faith and love of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we adore him in the Tabernacle and particularly as we receive him in Holy Communion.

Reference:

St. Dominic’s Family, by Sister Mary Jean Dorcy, O.P., TAN pub., 1983
Prepared by Father Austin Green, O.P.