



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit, We Live the Good News of Christ  
Through Worship, Community, and Stewardship*

820 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. Seattle, WA 98122

[www.icseattle.org](http://www.icseattle.org)

Parish Family with: St. James Cathedral and Christ Our Hope

**March 8, 2026**

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**



**Reading 1: Exodus 17:3-7**

**Responsorial Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)**

*"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."*

**Reading 2: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

**Gospel: John 4:5-42**

### **Pray for our Parishioners**

**Healing Prayers** for Ann Imbert, Se'Vera Dowe, Henry Alazas, Roger Franz and Father Dominic Nwokedi

*Please contact the parish office at 206-322-5970 or [bulletin@icseattle.org](mailto:bulletin@icseattle.org) to add a parishioner's name or your family's name to our weekly prayer's list.*

# From the Pastor's Desk | March 8, 2026

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL | IMMACULATE CONCEPTION | CHRIST OUR HOPE

Dear Friends,

One of my oldest memories of being shaped and formed in our faith is Saturday afternoon confessions. Soon after I received my first confession and first communion in March of 1965, I began a practice that was common among my peers. Every other Saturday I would go to our church to stand in line to go to confession. There would typically be two or three priests hearing confessions and we would self-regulate the lines, keeping them about the same length.

There would be adults and children lining up and many of us had our preferences. The children typically liked going to one of the younger priests. They seemed a bit more approachable. But, we would go to whomever ended up being available when our turn came.

Early on I remember being a bit scared, but for the most part, as time went on, I didn't mind going to confession. In my experience as a child and into my teen years, I felt a sense of cleansing and being freed from the bad things I had done since my last confession. When I reached my college years I was going less frequently, but when I went, it was a good experience. I remember one time in particular, in my early twenties, how profoundly healing the sacrament was for me.

Some of you may know the story of Pope Francis and how as a young man, a particular celebration of the sacrament changed the direction of his life. The way he described the experience was that God's love and mercy, expressed through the priest who happened to be at the church that day when the young Bergoglio stopped in, was overwhelming and he was never the same.

I recalled those experiences – my own and that of others like Pope Francis – as I prepared to celebrate First Reconciliation with children in our Faith Formation program at St. James at the end of January. I was aware (and this has been my practice each time I celebrate first reconciliation with anyone, children and adults, to call these experiences to mind) of how important this first experience of the sacrament can be in a person's life.

I am also aware, sadly, of how a bad experience with a priest in this sacrament can be formative as well. I know of people who, because of a particularly bad experience in the sacrament, have stopped going to confession and some have even left the Church. This reality is also in the back of my mind each time I celebrate the sacrament with people. I know the potential for great healing and the potential for

turning people away. God's desire, and the desire of the Church is that anyone who approaches the sacrament has the former experience.

Lent, along with Advent, are times in the life of the Church and in the lives of individual believers, that lend themselves to an examination of conscience, becoming aware of our sins and our desire to repent, and celebrating God's forgiving love. **Next Saturday, March 14, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, a number of priests will be available at the cathedral to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.**

I invite you to consider making the celebration of the sacrament a part of your Lenten journey. I know that for myself, an intentional reflection on my journey with the Lord is key to a good celebration of Easter. An examination of conscience can help me to become aware of how I have responded to God's love, God's grace in my life. In that examination I also become aware of how I have fallen short, how I have sinned in turning away from God's love and grace.

That sin manifests itself in the way I have treated others and in the way I have treated my relationship with God. This reflection, this examination of conscience is not intended to make me feel unloved or unlovable. On the contrary, preparing for the sacrament in this way can help me to experience the overwhelming love of God who "proves his love for us that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

If it has been a long time since you have celebrated the sacrament in individual confession, you may be a bit anxious about the format or saying the right thing or knowing the right prayers. Not to worry! We will have a handout for you next Saturday that will help guide you through the celebration. In addition, the priest will help you and walk with you through the ritual.

Whether you come next Saturday or find another time to encounter the Lord in this way during Lent, I hope you will know the nearness of God's healing, forgiving love in this sacrament. May we all arrive at Easter aware of how God's merciful love can conquer all the brokenness and sin in our lives and in the life of our world.

Peace,

  
Father Gary Lazzeroni  
Pastor

## The Life of Our Community



Dear children, let us not love with words or speech  
but with actions and in truth. - 1 John 3:18

Hey everyone! It's almost time for our next **Youth Mass on Palm Sunday (March 29th)**, and we **NEED YOU** to help us make it awesome! 🙌 Whether you're into reading (lectoring), helping with gifts, singing in the choir, ushering, or even altar serving, we want **YOU** to be part of the Mass.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and serve God. If you want to join us, please complete the [Youth Mass Participant Form](#) or scan the QR code by **March 8th** to sign up and let us know how you'd like to help.

Don't worry if you've never done it before—everyone is welcome! 😊

Plus, mark your calendars because we've got more Youth Masses coming up:

**May 31**

**August 30**

**November 29**



Let's show our love for God and our community by serving together!

~ Immaculate Conception Church Youth Group

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP Hospitality** - Need sponsor for the 3rd Sundays. We are looking for **individuals, families, groups of friends, or ministries** to sponsor our **Sunday Fellowship** on the following dates: **March 15, April 19, May 17 and Jun 14**. This is a beautiful opportunity to build community by offering light hospitality after Mass. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the parish office at [office@icseattle.org](mailto:office@icseattle.org) or call **206-322-5970**.

**NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP** - Open to anyone who has a family member with a mental illness, meets **online on 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the month and in person on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of the month** at St James Pastoral Outreach Center, 1:30-3pm. *Registration: [helpline@namiseattle.org](mailto:helpline@namiseattle.org)*

**MENTAL HEALTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - Presented by the Mental Health and Wellness Ministry, Stations of the Cross with a focus on mental health concerns, held after 12:10pm mass on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> in the Cathedral. All are welcome to attend!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL ENCOUNTER 2026 - March 21, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.** | Kennedy Catholic High School. All middle school students grade 6-8 are invited to this year's Middle School Encounter, a one-day, faith-filled event on Saturday, March 21 at Kennedy Catholic High School.



*Easter Lily  
Envelopes  
are on the back  
table.*



Poverty can impact families and whole communities. Since 1975, Catholics across the US gave more than \$350 million to support our global family experiencing hunger.

**Where does your donation go?**

75% supports Catholic Relief Services around the world.  
25% helps fight hunger in your own community.

**Be sure to pick up your CRS Rice Bowl on the way out of church! Rice Bowls will be collected on April 2nd, Holy Thursday 7:00 pm Mass. OR Donations can be made on our Church's website.**

## Upcoming Events

<b>Mar 13 (Fri)</b>	6:00PM	Station of the Cross & Soup Supper continues until march 27
<b>Mar 14 (Sat)</b>	1-4PM	Day of Reconciliation at St. James Cathedral
<b>Mar 16 (Mon)</b>	6:00PM	Spring Bible Study begins
<b>Mar 26 (Thu)</b>	2:00PM	Zoom Community Conversations - RSVP to Maria Laughlin, <a href="mailto:mLaughlin@st.james-cathedral.org">mLaughlin@st.james-cathedral.org</a>
<b>Mar 26 (Thu)</b>	7:00PM	Chrism Mass at St. James Cathedral
<b>Mar 29 (Sun)</b>	11AM	Palm Sunday and Youth Mass
<b>Apr 2 (Thu)</b>	7:00PM	Holy Thursday Mass at Immaculate Conception Church 5:30PM Potluck in Jean Moran Hall before Mass <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potluck Assignment by Last Name: <b>(A-F) Bread Dinner Rolls, (G-L) Salad &amp; Vegetables, (M-T) Hot Dish and (U-Z) Desserts.</b></li></ul>
<b>Apr 3 (Fri)</b>	7:00PM	Good Friday Service
<b>Apr 5 (Sun)</b>	11AM	<b>Easter Sunday Mass</b>

### MASS SCHEDULE:

11:00 AM SUNDAYS (10:30 Holy Rosary)

Also live streamed at

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmaculateConceptionSeattle>

8:00 AM SUNDAYS – Eritrean Community

**Pastor** – The Very Reverend Gary F. Lazzeroni

**Parochial Vicars** – Rev. Francis Thumbi &  
Rev. Sylvester Chanda

**Pastor Emeritus** - Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

**Deacon Joseph Connor** [deacon@icseattle.org](mailto:deacon@icseattle.org)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: M-F, 9 AM to 3 PM or By Appt. - call (206) 322-5970

Alice Davis x602 [paa@icseattle.org](mailto:paa@icseattle.org)

Pastoral Assistant for Administration and Facilities

Shanita Burrell-Stewart x603 [shanitasb@icseattle.org](mailto:shanitasb@icseattle.org)

Volunteer Coordinator

Grace Neri x601 [office@icseattle.org](mailto:office@icseattle.org)

Administrative Assistant

**Pastoral Council** Chair Maria Batayola, Connor Trapp,  
Deacon Joe Connor, Fred Verzosa, Marisa Harvey, and  
Sharon Pitre-Williams.

**Finance Council** Chair Jane Powers [jpowers@ewingandclark.com](mailto:jpowers@ewingandclark.com)

## Stewardship: Caring for Our Church and Community

### Year-to-Date Collection

### Stewardship of Treasure Report

As of 03.02.2025 - \$111,463.17

As of 03.01.2026 - \$124,125.05

**Blessings and Thank you!**

### REPORTING ABUSE

Helpline 800-446-7762 [helpline@seattlarch.org](mailto:helpline@seattlarch.org)

[protectandheal.seattlearchdiocese.org](http://protectandheal.seattlearchdiocese.org). Report any suspicion of abuse by any church personnel to the local law enforcement. Call the Helpline if you know of sexual abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee, or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle. The Archdiocese of Seattle has a longstanding commitment to transparency, accountability, and assistance to persons sexually abused by clergy or anyone working on behalf of the church.

For children's safety and victim assistance see

<https://preventionusccb.org/resources>

## ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH?

Many who attend Immaculate Conception church regularly and consider the ICC their parish have never officially registered. We strongly encourage you to register. Registered parishioners receive important mailings from the church, are able to celebrate their wedding at ICC, and their children may attend any of the Catholic Rainbow Schools at Parishioner rates. To register, visit [www.icseattle.org](http://www.icseattle.org) or use the QR code.



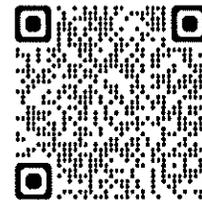
PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL | IMMACULATE CONCEPTION | CHRIST OUR HOPE

Dear Friends,

We are entering a new phase of discernment in Partners in the Gospel, focused on the question: **Who is God calling us to become?** An important starting point for our COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS is to ground ourselves in our current reality (use the QR code or visit <https://www.stjames-cathedral.org/Events/2026/17CurrentReality.pdf>). I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this information which provides important context for us to create a vision for the future.



There are many opportunities for you to participate and you should feel free to attend the one that best fits your schedule, no matter the location. **Please make joining in one of these COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS a priority this Lent!**

- Thursday, February 26 at 2:00pm **Zoom** (RSVP to Maria Laughlin, [mLaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:mLaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org))
- Thursday, February 26 at 6:30pm, Holy Names Room, Cathedral
- Sunday, March 1 at 10:15am (after 9:00am Mass), Christ Our Hope
- Sunday March 1 at 12:00pm (after 11:00am Mass), Immaculate Conception
- Thursday, March 5 at 6:30pm **Zoom** (RSVP to Deanna Tighe, [dtighe@christourhopesattle.org](mailto:dtighe@christourhopesattle.org))
- Sunday, March 8 at 6:15pm (after 5:00pm Mass) **in Spanish**, Christ Our Hope
- Sunday, March 15 at 10:15am (after 9:00am Mass), Christ Our Hope
- Monday, March 16 at 6:30pm, Holy Names Room, Cathedral
- Thursday, March 26 at 2:00pm **Zoom** (RSVP to Maria Laughlin, [mLaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:mLaughlin@stjames-cathedral.org))

When we gather, we are going to address the following three questions. I encourage you to give them some prayerful consideration before attending one of the sessions:

- What did you take away from the "Current Reality" report? What troubled, surprised, or encouraged you?
- What new groups of people are we being called to reach out to? Who have we not been serving?
- What ministries and/or programs do we want to enhance, or to begin, to fulfill our vision of who God is calling us to become? What existing ministries may God be calling us to reconsider or leave behind?

This process of entering into dialogue with each other and with the Holy Spirit will enable our community of faith to be more effective at sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we continue on the path of becoming one parish, our common baptism calls all of us to be co-responsible for shaping this vision under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. May we all enter into these conversations intentionally and prayerfully. We know that if we do our part, God will always be present to us, guiding us along the way.

Father Gary Lazzeroni, *Pastor*



# Pardon & Peace

## A GUIDE FOR CONFESSION

Many people have avoided celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, sometimes for years at a time, because they “don’t know what to do.” But confession doesn’t need to be scary or intimidating!

The following brief guide will help you understand how to celebrate the Sacrament individually.

### DAY OF RECONCILIATION for our Parish Family

Saturday, March 14, 2026  
1:00pm—4:00pm  
St. James Cathedral

## 1 Preparation

The celebration of this sacrament begins at home, with the private preparation you make. This preparation is called the *examination of conscience*. We look at our own lives, our relationships with others, and our relationship with God in light of the example of Christ, the Ten Commandments, and the Beatitudes. Usually, we know our sins all too well; the examination of conscience helps us to look at them in the light of the Gospel, and be better able to express them in confession.

**The Lord God says: “You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart.”** Is my heart set on God, so that I really love God above all things? Or am I more concerned about the things of this world? Are there false gods that I worship by giving them greater attention and deeper trust than I give to God? Do I keep Sundays and feast days holy by participating in the Mass with attention and devotion? Have I been willing to be known as a Christian in private and public life? Do I offer God my difficulties, joys, and sorrows? Do I turn to God in times of temptation?

**The Lord says: “Love one another as I have loved you.”** Do I genuinely love my neighbor? Or do I use other people for my own ends? Have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of my family by patience and genuine love? Have I been an obedient child—a good parent—a faithful spouse? Do I truly do all I can to help those less fortunate? Do I look down on other people because of race, class, or creed? Am I concerned for the good of the community in which I live, or do I spend my life caring only for myself? Have I been ready for forgive those who have wronged me, or do I harbor hatred and the desire for retribution?

**Christ our Lord says: “Be perfect as your Father is perfect.”** Where is my life really leading me? What use have I made of time, of health and strength, of the gifts God has given me? Do I use them to become more perfect every day? Have I been patient in accepting the sorrows and disappointments of this life? Have I revered my body as a temple of the Holy Spirit? Have I gone against my conscience out of fear or hypocrisy? Do I experience the freedom of the children of God, or am I the slave of forces within me?

## 2 Welcome of the Priest

You have the option of confessing your sins face to face, or of confessing anonymously. This is your choice. The priest welcomes you and then both you and he make the sign of the cross, saying, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Then in his own words the priest urges you to have confidence in God. Indicate your state of life (i.e. married, single, widowed, divorced), how long it has been since your last confession, and any other context that may help your confessor.

## 3 Confession of Sins

Next the priest invites you to confess your sins. Occasionally, the priest may ask questions to help you in making a full confession. The confession of sins should be as complete as possible. That doesn't mean it needs to take a long time. The important thing is that the penitent "looks squarely at the sins he is guilty of, takes responsibility for them, and thereby opens himself again to God and to the communion of the Church in order to make a new future possible" (*Catechism* 1455).

## 4 Advice of the Priest

Sacramental confession is not therapy; the priest will not attempt to solve your problems for you. What he will do, however, is offer some advice to help you in starting a new life. He will also give you a simple "penance," which may take the form of prayer, self-denial, service to one's neighbor, or works of mercy.

## 5 Prayer of the Penitent

Next the priest invites you to pray an act of contrition. There are many different options for this prayer. You can learn one of the following by heart, or feel free to bring this sheet with you.

**My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have sinned against you, whom I should love above all things.**

**I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.**

or:

**Lord Jesus, you chose to be called the friend of sinners. By your saving death and resurrection free me from my sins. May your peace take root in my heart and bring forth a harvest of love, holiness, and truth.**

or:

**Father, I have sinned against you and am not worthy to be called your child. Have mercy on me, a sinner.**

## 6 Prayer of Absolution

Now the priest extends his hands over your head and prays the prayer of absolution, making the sign of the cross over you during the final words: "through the ministry of the church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." You respond, **Amen**.

## 7 Dismissal

Now the priest dismisses you. You respond, **Thanks be to God**. Go in peace!

Based on *Celebrating the Sacrament of Penance: Questions and Answers*,  
a publication of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Please join the Mental Health  
and Wellness Ministry to pray  
a special Lenten Stations of  
the Cross for mental health

March 13th Immediately following  
the 12:10 Mass

All are welcome!

For more information contact Anisa Ralls,  
Director of the Mental Health and Wellness Ministry  
at 206-382-4269 or [aralls@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:aralls@stjames-cathedral.org)



Join us for  
**You Are  
Not Alone:**  
Catholic Immigration  
Solidarity Gatherings

February 21  
St. Leo, Tacoma

February 28  
St. Joseph the Evangelist,  
Vancouver

March 14  
St. Charles, Burlington

All Dates: 9:30am–Noon

# NOVENA FOR FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON



(April 1, 1854 - July 9, 1897), baptized **Augustine Tolton**, was the first Roman Catholic priest in the United States publicly known to be black when he was ordained in 1886. A former slave who was baptized and reared Catholic, Tolton studied formally in Rome. He was ordained in Rome on Easter Sunday at the Cathedral-Archbasilica of St. John Lateran. Assigned to the diocese of Alton (now *Diocese of Springfield*), Tolton first ministered to his home parish in Quincy, Illinois.

Father Tolton celebrated his first public Mass at St. Boniface church in Quincy. He attempted to organize a black parish there, but over the years met with resistance from both white Catholics and Protestant blacks, who did not want him trying to attract people to another denomination.- He organized St. Joseph Catholic Church and school in Quincy, but ran into opposition from the new dean of the parish, who wanted him to turn away white worshippers from his services.

After reassignment to Chicago, Tolton led a mission society, St. Augustine's, that met in the basement of St. Mary's Church. He led the development and administration of the Negro "national parish" of St. Monica's Catholic Church, built at 36th and Dearborn Streets on the South Side, Chicago. The church grew to have 600 parishioners. Tolton's success at ministering to black Catholics quickly earned him national attention within the Catholic hierarchy.-"Good Father Gus", as he was called by many, was known for his "eloquent sermons, his beautiful singing voice and his talent for playing the accordion.

On In both 2010 and 2011 official investigation into Tolton's life and opening the Cause for his canonization has started. Let us pray for the success of his canonization to occur soon.

Please join the Tuesday Night Rosary Team via Zoom, as we pray a Novena, lasting nine days, prefacing the Birth of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton.

Time: Mar 23, 2026, 6:00 PM Pacific Time. Everyday, 9 occurrences.

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82640775522?pwd=w8hEyDb9R2trAZbhda7dGqp8dkJpik.1>

Meeting ID: 826 4077 5522

Passcode: 095410

For more information or digital copy of the novena, please contact SeVera Dowe, OCDS  
[mzseveradowe@comcast.net](mailto:mzseveradowe@comcast.net) | 206.295.4787



March 3, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Yesterday, an appellate court issued its ruling on the case regarding the state Attorney General's subpoena of records under the Charitable Trust Act. I want to take this opportunity to reiterate our original statements about this subpoena and make clear to everyone our position.

We share the same goals as the Attorney General: to prevent abuse and pursue healing for victims. As a way to continue healing for our Church and for victim survivors, we want to give a transparent accounting of the history without jeopardizing the privacy of victim survivors.

We are pleased to see that the court agrees that the subpoena from the Attorney General is indeed overly broad. For context, the original subpoena requested every receipt from all our parishes and schools from January 1, 1940, to the present. We believe this broad request would take months of effort to produce irrelevant documents and waste millions of dollars for us and for taxpayers. The court also appropriately recognized that the Attorney General's subpoena as written "would unconstitutionally infringe the Archdiocese's religious protections."

We remain, as we have from the beginning, open to working with the Attorney General's team to find a more balanced set of records to share — along with a guarantee for the privacy of victim survivors as we do not want the state's investigation to re-traumatize them in any way.

As I did with the former Attorney General, I invite our new Attorney General to meet and discuss how we can best partner to achieve our shared goals. As always, I remain,

In the Heart of Christ,

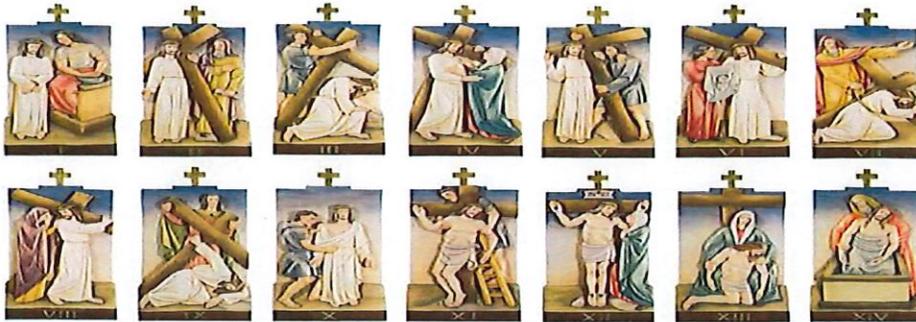
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne".

Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL  
Archbishop of Seattle



## *Immaculate Conception Church*

820 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Seattle, Washington  
206-322-5970 ~ office@icseattle.org ~ www.icseattle.org



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### LENT 2026

#### Greetings!

Join us every Friday during LENT at 6:00 PM for Stations of the Cross (Live, In Person)

Afterward, we gather with our parish community for a warm and simple **Soup Supper** in the spirit of LENT. **No meat on the menu.**

#### Schedule of Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper Host

<b>Feb. 20</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Legion of Mary</b>
<b>Feb. 27</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Family Choir</b>
<b>Mar. 6</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Young Adults</b>
<b>Mar. 13</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Gospel Choir</b>
<b>Mar. 20</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Pastoral Council</b>
<b>Mar. 27 -</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:00 PM (Living Stations)</b>	<b>Knights of St. Peter Claver</b>

#### More Information:

Fred Verzosa - ICC - Liturgy Commission Secretary [Fred\\_verzosa@yahoo.com](mailto:Fred_verzosa@yahoo.com) (206-953-3954 Text)