

**Know Before You Go**  
**May 2026 Baccalaureate Masses**

**Instructions for graduates who have registered to attend a Mass**

We are so excited to celebrate you and the hard work and dedication that have brought you to this milestone achievement in your life. Below you will find additional information and instructions for our Baccalaureate Masses, which will be held on Friday, May 8, at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word.

**TICKETS:** **Tickets are required for either Mass** and can be secured within the same link used to claim your Commencement tickets. Once we are at capacity for a Mass, that Mass time will close.

**UPDATE: As of 5/6, extra tickets for each Mass will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once we are at capacity, that Mass time will close and tickets for that Mass will be unavailable. Please access your tickets through the commencement portal you used previously. Do NOT send requests through email or leave requests on voicemail.** Additional guests beyond this number will be admitted if space remains in the Chapel at the time of each Mass and after ticketed guests have had a chance to enter. There is no waitlist. Should your plans change, please cancel your tickets so that other guests may take advantage of available tickets.

**Your claimed tickets are the registration for the Mass you select.** Please attend that Mass. If you have questions, please email us at [baccalaureate@uiwtx.edu](mailto:baccalaureate@uiwtx.edu) by the end of the day, **Thursday, May 7**. All staff will be working at the Baccalaureate Masses on Friday, so this email will not be monitored.

**LOCATION:** Both Masses will be held in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word, CCVI Sisters Motherhouse Chapel at 2:00 pm and 6:00 p.m. The Chapel of the Incarnate Word is the large, red brick building to the right of campus when you enter at Broadway and Burr Rd. It has a large steeple with angels at the top. There will be no other Masses held in any other space on campus.

**SEATING:**

- Seating is first-come, first-served to graduates and their guests for the liturgy they registered to attend. **Please attend the liturgy for which you have registered, as numbers are tracked so that we may accommodate as many people as possible.**
- Seats may NOT be saved. Hospitality ushers are instructed to uphold this. Please be respectful of their role in trying to account for all in attendance.
- Hospitality ministers will seat graduates and their families together starting at the front of the chapel. Please follow their direction.
- It is strongly encouraged that **graduates and guests arrive together** to ensure they are seated together.
- Once the Chapel of the Incarnate Word is filled, the doors will be closed.

**PARKING: See complete details on p. 3**

**DOORS OPEN:**

- **1:00 p.m. for the 2:00 p.m. Mass**
- **5:00 p.m. for the 6:00 p.m. Mass**

Staff will be located near the main stairs to the Chapel of the Incarnate Word. All graduates and guests must enter the Chapel from this area.

- It is strongly **encouraged that graduates and guests arrive together** to ensure you are seated together.
- Seating is first-come, first-serve to registered individuals. Hospitality ministers will seat graduates and their families together starting at the front of the chapel. Once The Chapel of the Incarnate Word is filled, the doors will be closed.

**ATTIRE FOR GRADUATES & GUESTS:** Graduation cap and gown. Per Chapel guidelines, no off-the-shoulder, strapless, or revealing attire. The Chapel floor is marble and there are steps to climb to access the building. Please consider wearing shoes that have support and will not put you at risk for slipping.

**DECORUM in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word:** While we realize this is a joyous occasion, please be mindful that we are celebrating in a sacred worship space. We kindly ask that cell phones and cameras be put away during the Mass, and that you listen attentively to the scriptures proclaimed and participate in the prayers and songs of the Mass. There will be opportunities for picture taking and more boisterous signs of affirmation after Mass.

**LIVESTREAMING:** Livestreaming is available:

<https://www.uiw.edu/commencement/baccalaureate-mass-livestream.html>

**ACCESIBILITY:** Elevator access is available by entering through the ground level (left of the main staircase). Additionally:

- **CLOSED CAPTIONING:** Closed captioning will be available.
- **SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS:** Interpreters will be located at the front of the Chapel. Please let a hospitality minister know if these services are needed. You can also indicate your need for this when you claim your tickets to attend one of the Masses.

**COMMUNION:** Please follow the directions of the hospitality ministers when entering the communion procession. When receiving communion, please consume the Eucharist in the presence of the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. The Eucharist may not be consumed elsewhere. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has provided guidelines on the reception of Communion: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/guidelines-for-the-reception-of-communion>

**LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS FOR COMMUNION:** A designated Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will provide low-gluten hosts for communion to those in need. You can indicate your need for this when you claim your tickets to attend one of the Masses.

**RECEPTION:** The Provost's Office and University Mission and Ministry invite all attending our Baccalaureate Masses to a reception immediately following at the Student Engagement Center. You can indicate your attendance when you claim your tickets to attend one of the Masses.

**COMPLETE DETAILS for COMMENCEMENT SPRING 2026** can be found at:  
<https://www.uiw.edu/commencement/index.html>

### **PARKING DETAILS FOR BACCALAUREATE MASS**

**GENERAL PARKING:** Parking is available in the following lots **and is FREE:**

- Burr Lot
- Davis Lot
- Fine Arts Lot
- Hildebrand Parking
- Founders Hall Parking

**NOTE:** The lot directly in front of the Chapel of the Incarnate Word will be closed to parking.

#### **IMPORTANT PARKING NOTES:**

**Campus Map:** <https://map.concept3d.com/?id=361#!m/70032?s/>

**ADA PARKING:** Those needing ADA parking should enter campus at the Broadway and Burr light and proceed to the ADA lot next to the admin building- the UIWPD officers will verify their placard and grant entry. If that lot fills up there are additional handicap parking spaces in the Burr, Davis, and Fine Arts lots. Golf carts will be available to transport guests as needed. (See below.)

- The Hildebrand gates will be open, but the 281 entrance and the areas at the top of the hill will have traffic from Residence Life move out day - so avoid using the 281 entrance.
- **Coned spaces are for event staff.** Those that park in a coned space without the proper placard are at risk of being towed.
- **Golf carts** will be available to transport guests as needed between the parking areas and the Chapel, and from the Chapel to the reception area.
  - For the 2 p.m. Mass, service will begin at **1:00 p.m.** and run through **2:00p.m.** Service will resume briefly after Mass from **3:00 – 4:00 p.m.** to take people to the reception in the Student Engagement Center (SEC)
  - For the 6 p.m. Mass, service will begin at **5:00 p.m. and run through 6:00 p.m.** Service will resume briefly after Mass from **7:00 - 7:45 p.m.** to take people to the reception in the Student Engagement Center (SEC).