

The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

Note from Fr. Mike

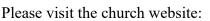


What does it mean to be watchful and alert? It can be described as a holy longing for Christ. When we listen to Isaiah we see that we are the work of God's hands, that we are called to be the instruments that God uses to bring about His kingdom. Each day, each moment needs to be guided by the will of God. It is allowing the grace of God to work in and through us that brings us the necessary strength, courage, awe and humility to build up His kingdom. Then we need not fear the end, rather we place our hope in the coming of Christ.

Peace,

Fr. Mike

The IHM Giving Tree Goes Virtual!



ihmparish.net to view the "Wish List" on Sign Up Genius. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase gifts until December 1st.

Please make checks payable to IHM Church and place "Christmas Gifts" in subject line. Checks can be sent to the parish office: c/o Maureen Pecoraro.

Thank you for helping others during this difficult time! God Bless you!

Scripture Reflection November 29, 2020 <u>First Sunday of Advent</u>



"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." - Макк 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Coats for Kids

Each \$20 donation provide a child with a brand new winter coat. \$220 pays for a case of a dozen coats. No donation is too small. What better way to give to charity when you the money goes directly to those in need?

Check donations should be made payable to the Knights of Columbus, Council #5730. Donations should be mailed to:

K of C #5730 PO Box 302 Scotch Plains, NJ 07076



Or donate online at www.mkt.com/kofc5730 Thank you!

Mass Update in Accordance with COVID-19 Guidelines

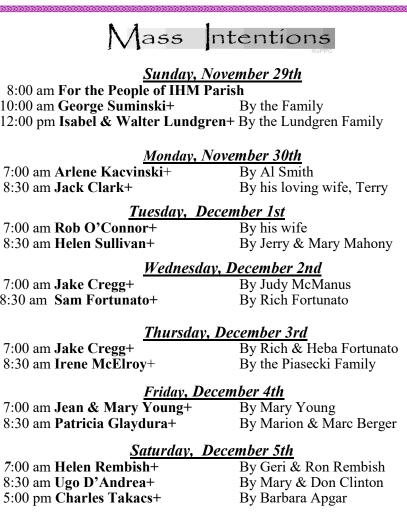
All Masses are now celebrated publicly in church with COVID 19 protocols. The 8:30 am daily Mass and the Sunday 10:00 am Mass will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook & on our website: www.ihmparish.net.

Remember the obligation to attend the Sunday Eucharist remains suspended until further notice. IHM will continue to livestream our Masses. In charity and love for our parishioners and clergy, please keep in mind the following protocols:

- In accord with national, state and local health directives, those who show symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been
 exposed to an infected person are not permitted to enter the church for 14 days.
- Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue or who are 60 or older are strongly encouraged to avoid the risks posed by attendance at public celebrations of the Mass.
- Masks must be worn while in the church. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the church, please use it when entering and exiting.
- Our church has been sanitized and is cleaned on a regular basis.

Space is limited as social distancing guidelines are still in place and must be followed. Reservations must be made to attend mass through our website or by calling the office at (908) 889-2100. Complete details can be found on our website: https:// ihmparish.net as well as the link to sign up for specific masses. Stay healthy!

The First Sunday in Advent



Sunday, December 6th

8:00 am For the People of IHM Parish 10:00 am Claire Rita Lewis+ E 12:00 pm Dominic Guarna+ E

By the Lewis Family By Antoinette Guarna

The Altar Bread & Wine for the Week of November 29th:

For the intention of:

For the People of IHM Parish





The Sanctuary Light will burn for:

Robert Seery+ Requested by: Ceil & David D'Agostino November 29, 2020



John Allen Rose Badala Marion Barrett Larry Biunno Fran Boglioli Erin Brennan Samatha Bridge James Brown Kevin Brown John Burkert Anna Cassella Paul Cassidy Matthew Cassio Frank Chimento Colm Cosgrove Edward Clark Joe Clarke Rav Clark Dorothy D'Angelo Marie Farrell Albert Fischer, Jr. **Emily Fleming** Nicole Griffin John Heiling

Juliann Junio Eileen Lynch Maureen Lynch Owen Mike McCabe June McManus Christine Morris Jim Morris **Bob McMillion** Marlene Mosko Danielle Nabinger Hilda Pizza **Charlie Plungis Diane Pricken** Susan Rozborski Bernard Slaza Beverly Sopp Ryder Francis Spillane Paul Szeker Carole Ventre Daniel Ventura Sr.Elizabeth Vermaelen Stephen Voorhees Christy Ward

Remember those who have died: Thomas Tremblay+

<u>Hospital Privacy</u>

Please remember that current privacy laws regarding patients in hospitals do not allow hospitals/pastoral care offices to contact parishes. If you or a loved one are in the hospital and want a priest to visit, please call the IHM office at (908) 889-2100.

Flowers for the Blessed Mother



For the week of November 29th:

In memory of : Mary and Thomas Brown Requested by: The Hennessy Family



Giving Thanks



Covid-19 has forced all of us to modify how we gather and celebrate but with a little creativity we can still come together. Usually our 8th grade students get together for monthly social hours. However, they have been unable to so this school year. Undeterred and determined, the students instead gathered outside on a chilly day for a prayer service and outdoor Thanksgiving lunch. The students started by expressing their gratitude to God for the gifts they have been given and prayed for those less fortunate. They were then served a traditional turkey dinner by several of the 8th grade parents. Despite the chill the students enjoyed coming together as a class.

We would like to share some of the students' reflections on what they are thankful for this year:

Morgan- Everything God did for us **Dominic-** My family, the food I am given, the roof over my head, my friends

Michelle- God for protecting my family and my grandma being healthy

Shelby- The roof over my head and good health

Christopher-My family, my friends, and how fortunate I am

Keyla- My family and the financial status we have **Naomi-** My family, friends, and all of the things I have **Michael-** My family and friends

Manuela- My family, my classmates, friends, hope, and love

Jadyn- My friends and family

Nia- My family, friends and health

Justin- My family, friends, and my education

AJ- God's blessing of my family and friends

Ella- My Family and friends

Luca- The great people around me that give me the opportunity to enjoy life and help me succeed.

Victoria- Being safe and healthy with my family during this difficult time. I am thankful to have everything that I could ever ask for, a caring and loving

family, friends, and a good education. **Megan-** for all my family and friends and that they are safe and healthy. I am thankful to be surrounded by people that love me and to be going to a nice school.

Donavan- My family and friends **Chelsea-** I am thankful that I have that opportunity to

go to an amazing school and that we are all healthy. I am also thankful for God's love and my family for helping me everyday! Immaculate Heart of Mary Advent and Christmas 2020

Paint a Pallet





Paint, reconstruct or create a pallet using the images and themes of Advent and Christmas. Use your own pallet or we can provide one. Use parts or the whole pallet. We will display them on the church property or you can display yours at home!

Share the faith, hope, joy and peace of Advent and Christmas!

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Do You Shop on Amazon.com?

If so, please choose Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scotch Plains through your AmazonSmile account. There is no cost to you and Amazon will donate a portion of the sale to IHM. Just go to **smile.amazon.com**, search for Immaculate Heart of Mary Scotch Plains and then click on "select".



Catholic Charities is deeply thankful for your positive response to the donation bin. As we all know, one way to give "thanks" is by "giving." Just as the Lord has given so many blessings, this is an ideal time to give any unwanted clothing to the Catholic Charities donation bin. Please note that in addition to all forms of used clothing we also welcome small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, toys, novels and children's books. Happy "Thanks-giving"!

Minister Assignments Weekend of December 5-6

| Saturday/ Sunday | Lectors | Extra- ordinary Ministers | Presider |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 5:00 pm | * Please check your email for schedule. | | Fr. Rob |
| 8:00 am | | | Fr. Rob |
| 10:00 am | | | Fr. Mike |
| 12:00 pm | | | Fr. Valentine |

A New Giving Option to Support Our Parish TEXT-TO-GIVE 908-224-3545

Text a dollar amount to (908) 224-3545; you will then be directed on how to proceed through your existing Parish Giving account or setting up an new account.

<u>Rosary Altar Society:</u>



The Rosary Christmas Party will start with Mass on December 6 at 10 am. Please register for Mass on sign up genius. At 1pm we will have a meeting via Zoom followed by a movie. Please see the bulletin insert for more details.

As always at our Christmas Party we have a collection for the Missionaries of Charity. They, more than ever, need our help. If possible please write a check for them and send it to Barbara Apgar at 427LaGrande Ave, Fanwood, NJ 07023. Thank you.

"The Rosary is the best therapy for these distraught, unhappy, fearful, and frustrated (Times) souls precisely because it involves the simultaneous use of three powers: the physical, the vocal, and the spiritual." Venerable Fulton Sheen.

"A world at prayer is a world at peace." Father Patrick Peyton. That's why we are praying for you, our parish and the world. Thank you.

Parish Information

Religious Education Classes Questions? **Faithformation@ihmparish.net**

Baptisms: Please call the office at (908) 889-2100.

Adoration Chapel:

The new Adoration Chapel is open. Contact Betty Swisher at 908 889-2100 for details. Chapel closed on Holy Days & Holidays.

Marriage:

Appointments should be made at least one year in advance. Contact the priest about a date and Pre-Cana information.

New Parishioners:

Registration forms available at www.ihmparish.net or in the office.

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound:

Please notify the parish office of those who are sick or homebound, in hospitals or are unable to worship. For urgent calls, contact 908 889-2100 at any time.

RCIA-Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults:

Religious education for adults who are either not Baptized or who are Catholic, but have not received all of their sacraments and would like to be Confirmed or receive Communion. We have flexible hours. Call 908 889-2100. All are welcome.

Reconciliation: Saturdays: 4:15-4:45 pm Arrangements can be made at any time for private confession. Please call the office.

Parish Schools:

St. Bartholomew Academy (908) 322-4265 Union Catholic Regional High School (908) 889-1600.

Website: www.ihmparish.net

Like us on Facebook at:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



11

Follow us on Instagram at:

ihmparish_sp

Bible Basics for Beginners Six Sundays via Zoom Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan 10, Feb. 7, March 7, April 25 11am - 12 noon



Check your email for signup link. Presented by Immaculate Heart of Mary

Instructor: Allan Wright

Offertory Collection

November 15, 2020

| Weekly Budget Need: | \$10,784.32 |
|--|---------------|
| Collection: | 4,433.00 |
| Parish Giving: (includes TEXT to GIVE) | 3,254.39 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (2,796.93) |
| Fiscal Year To Date: | |
| Budget | \$215,686.40 |
| Actual: | 190,861.34 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$24,825.06) |

Thank you for your generosity!

All Souls Mass & Novena



All our departed loved ones were remembered on November 2nd at our special All Souls Mass and we continue to pray for them during the novena.

We will display photos of our deceased loved ones in the church vestibule from All Souls Day until the First Sunday in Advent. If you forgot your loved one's candle, please call or email the office and we will arrange for you to pick it up.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Food Pantry **Needs Food and Money Donations**

We are seeing unprecedented requests for food at IHM. The line starts over an hour before the food bank opens. If you would like to make a nonperishable food or money donation you may drop it off behind the church in the red bins.

Thank you to everyone in the community who has donated food, money & time to the IHM Food Pantry. You have truly made a difference.



Calendar of Events at IHM

Sunday, November 29th

Monday, November 30th

Tuesday, December 1st

Wednesday, December 2nd 9:30 am - Centering Prayer Meeting 10 am - 12 pm - Food Pantry Distribution

Thursday, December 3rd

Friday, December 4th

Saturday, December 5th

Sunday, December 6th

10:00 am - Rosarv Christmas Mass 11:00 am - Bible Basics Zoom Meeting 1:00 pm - Rosary Meeting & Movie on Zoom



Website: www.ihmparish.net



Like us on Facebook at: **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**

A Note from Fr. Father Rob:

My long-awaited book has finally arrived! Its release was held up for almost a year due to pandemic issues. As I went through the courses for spiritual direction at Neumann University my foundational spirituality was in St Teresa of Avila's The Interior Castle. Going through any spiritual direction is an arduous task, ever mindful of the need for humility and deeper selfknowledge.

I have wanted to have a workshop on the spirituality of St Teresa. Now that this study guide is available, I shall start a virtual workshop beginning in January. Since there is the pre-order 40% discount, I thought I would share it for those who might be interested.

Men and women are invited to join. Please check the book out the website: www.ICSPublications.org.

Please contact me if you are interested in ordering this book and doing a workshop with me.