

The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 Phone: (908) 889-2100 FAX: (908) 889-9477 EMAIL: office@ihmparish.net

The Second Sunday in Advent, December 6, 2020



Immaculate Heart of Mary is now celebrating Mass in church on a limited basis, please see page 2 for details. Mass will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook & our website: www.ihmparish.net.

Reconciliation is now available on Saturdays from 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.. If you are in need of assistance or have questions please call or email the office. We are monitoring our phones & email and look forward to helping you in any way we can.

*The IHM Office is closed to the public until further notice.
The new Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is now open.*

*Served by: Rev. Michael G. Ward, K.H.S., Pastor
Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Robert Kunze, Weekend Assistant
Deacon Jack Lynch*

*Katie Wills - Director of Music Ministry
Mary Clinton - Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation
Website: www.ihmparish.net*

Like us on Facebook: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
Follow us on Instagram: [ihmparish_sp](https://www.instagram.com/ihmparish_sp)

MISSION STATEMENT

"We reach out to all through prayer and service, as we live our Catholic faith in Christ with Mary"

Note from Fr. Mike



In listening to Mark's description of John the Baptist in today's Gospel, his community would have called to mind the prophet Elijah (John's clothing and food are similar) whose coming heralded the coming of the Messiah, the exodus, the exile, and the return of the people of Israel to the promised land. He is indicating that Jesus will be the one who is to come, the Messiah, the Christ. He also helps them, and us, to understand what we must do in order to prepare for this great event. We must make straight the way, remove the mountains and valleys that are obstacle to the Lord's coming into our lives. One sure way to do this is by recognizing our own sinfulness, seeking God's mercy and then allowing that mercy to transform us as the people did with John the Baptist.

In confessing our sins we are no longer held back, we become free to love and receive love, the obstacles are removed and our hearts become open to the presence of Christ in our lives. We are better able to rejoice with awe at the coming of our Lord rather than fear and trembling. We hear the good news of God's salvation in Jesus Christ and experience the comfort of God's love more profoundly.

Peace,
Fr. Mike

Scripture Reflection

December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent



"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

The IHM Giving Tree Goes Virtual!



Thank you to all parishioners who have already signed up to bring items in for The Virtual Giving Tree this year.

If you have not signed up yet and would like to purchase a gift, please go to the parish website www.ihmparish.net and click on the "THE GIVING TREE GOES VIRTUAL" link.

Due to COVID19 restrictions please DO NOT WRAP GIFTS.

Drop off times for gifts to the Church Basement are either:

Saturday, December 12th from 4pm to 6pm OR
Sunday, December 13th from 10am to 12pm.

DO NOT leave gifts under the tree. Thank you very much!

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!

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 6th

8:00 am **For the People of IHM Parish**
 10:00 am **Claire Rita Lewis+** By the Lewis Family
 12:00 pm **Dominic Guarna+** By Antoinette Guarna

Monday, December 7th

7:00 am **Mario F. Cunha Sr.+** By the Varela Family
 8:30 am **Al Stefnagle+** By the Carlino Family
 7:00 pm **Gloria V. Marcketta+** By Priests & Staff

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, December 8th

7:00 am **In Thanksgiving for the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary+** By Jasmine Pierre
 12:00 pm **Anne & Stephen Hajducek+** By Mary Ann Sopko
 7:00 pm **Mary & George & Georgina Mae Good+** By Janice Good-Piga & Bob Piga

Wednesday, December 9th

7:00 am **Jake Cregg+** By Phyllis Manno
 8:30 am **Rick Holt+** By the O'Connor Family

Thursday, December 10th

7:00 am **Flavio Grasso+** By Women's Cornerstone
 8:30 am **Charles LaCerra+** By Jerry & Mary Mahony

Friday, December 11th

7:00 am **Arlene Kacvinski+** By Al Smith
 8:30 am **Robert Wallden+** By Fr. Mike & IHM Staff

Saturday, December 12th

7:00 am **Kate Devine+** By the Gelling Family
 8:30 am **Catherine Sanguiliano+** By the Petriello Family
 5:00 pm **Barbara, George Sr. & Gertrude Hughes+** By the Hughes Family

Sunday, December 13th

8:00 am **For the People of IHM Parish**
 10:00 am **Dominick Verdic+** By the Verdic Family
 12:00 pm **Dr. Frank Pecoraro+** By Mary Anne, Danielle, Will & Danica

Remember Our Sick



John Allen	Juliann Junio
Rose Badala	Eileen Lynch
Marion Barrett	Maureen Lynch
Larry Biunno	Owen Mike McCabe
Fran Boglioli	June McManus
Erin Brennan	Christine Morris
Samatha Bridge	Jim Morris
James Brown	Bob McMillion
Kevin Brown	Marlene Mosko
John Burkert	Danielle Nabinger
Anna Cassella	Hilda Pizza
Paul Cassidy	Charlie Plungis
Matthew Cassio	Diane Pricken
Frank Chimento	Susan Rozborski
Colm Cosgrove	Bernard Slaza
Edward Clark	Beverly Sopp
Joe Clarke	Ryder Francis Spillane
Ray Clark	Paul Szecker
Dorothy D'Angelo	Carole Ventre
Marie Farrell	Daniel Ventura
Albert Fischer, Jr.	Sr.Elizabeth Vermaelen
Emily Fleming	Stephen Voorhees
Nicole Griffin	Christy Ward
John Healing	



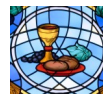
Remember those who have died:
Marge Malone+, Donald Checchio+

Hospital Privacy

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.

The Altar Bread & Wine for the Week of December 6th:

For the intention of:
 Janice Mitchell+
 Requested by Alice Schaffernoth



Flowers for the Blessed Mother



For the week of December 6th:

In loving remembrance of
Charles Takacs+
Requested by:
Barbara Apgar



Sanctuary Light: Week of December 6th:

The Sanctuary Light will burn for:

Roy Savoca+
 Requested by: Jean Savoca



Giving Thanks & Giving Back

Service to others is the hallmark of a Catholic Education. During this time of Covid- 19, and while maintaining social distance, the students of St. Bartholomew Academy are finding ways to give back.

St. Bartholomew Boy Scout Troop 203 and Cub Scout Pack 103 participated in Scouting for Food in early November. For two weekends, the scouts dropped off over 700 bags in the neighborhoods around the Academy and picked up over 110 bags. These donations were given to the St. Bartholomew Parish Food Pantry and the Fanwood Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. Later in the month, the whole school collected non-perishable food and other sought-after items, such as paper towels and toilet paper for the St. Bartholomew Parish Food Pantry. Recently, our 8th grade students participated in the Boxes of Joy project. Boxes of Joy is an annual Christmas gift ministry facilitated by Cross Catholic Outreach. The students chose a boy or girl and filled a shoe box size gift box with toys and other gifts that will be sent to children living in extreme poverty. The students are also looking forward to participating in the St. Bartholomew Parish wide ‘Stuff a Stocking’ program which benefits Overlook Hospital, Mercy House, Family Promise, and the St. Vincent De Paul Pantry.

During the prayer service, Ms. Harrigan, the Academy Principal, announced the November recipient of the St. Bartholomew State Farm Eagle Scholarship. This month, 5th grader Emily Langemen was selected as the recipient of the scholarship. Congratulations to Emily and thank you to Jason Bartlett from State Farm for sponsoring this scholarship program. This monthly scholarship is awarded to an S.B.A. student who is recommended by the faculty and meets the following criteria: Is a practicing Roman Catholic, in good academic standing, and demonstrates acts of kindness within your community. The award of \$300 will go towards their 2021/2022 school tuition.



All High School Teens and their families are invited to join IHM Parish for Friday Adoration in the Church!

Fridays in Advent: December 4, 11, 18

What better way to prepare for Christmas!

**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!



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”.



In Luke’s Gospel we read, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none.” Perhaps you will receive new clothing for Christmas. Why not donate your old clothing, linens, stuffed animals and small appliances to Catholic Charities? The donation bin is readily accessible on the Church’s grounds. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

**Minister Assignments
Weekend of December 12-13**

Saturday/ Sunday	Lectors	Extra-ordinary Ministers	Presider
5:00 pm	Clark	Good-Piga Zucosky Torzewski	Fr. Valentine
8:00 am	Keogh	Gibbons Dill	Fr. Mike
10:00 am	Davis	Diken Deacon Jack Carlino	Fr. Valentine
12:00 pm	O'Connor	McGuinness Sullivan	Fr. Rob

**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.

Rosary Altar Society:



Today, Sunday we are celebrating a first. We are having a totally virtual December meeting and Christmas Party. Many thanks to Father Mike, Erin Miller and her committee who have worked tirelessly to achieve this. Hope you can join us for the 10:00 Mass either live streaming, video or in person. Reminder, at 1:00 pm we will have a short meeting and then the movie "The Chosen One", the recitation of the Rosary and the drawing of the Christmas Basket. There will be a delivery of the goodie bags either before or after the party.

There is still time to make a donation for the Missionaries of Charity. Please send your donation check to Barbara Apgar at 427 La Grande Ave, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

"Where the Rosary is recited there will be days of peace and tranquillity." St. John Bosco

Now that we are in Advent, have you taken the time to stop by the Adoration Chapel and to remember who this season is about!

"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**



**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 sign up link.

Presented by Immaculate Heart of Mary

Instructor: Allan Wright

Offertory Collection

November 29, 2020

Weekly Budget Need:	\$10,784.32
Collection:	4,363.00
Parish Giving: (includes TEXT to GIVE)	2,510.42
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,910.90)

Fiscal Year To Date:

Budget	\$237,255.04
Actual:	206,577.75
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$30,677.29)

Thank you for your generosity!

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



In November the IHM Food Pantry fed 203 families or approximately 800 people. We also gave out 140 turkeys. Requests for food from the IHM Food Pantry are unprecedented. The line starts over an hour before the food bank opens. If you would like to make a non-perishable food or money donation you may drop it off behind the church in the red bins.

Next weekend we are having a food drive, please see the bulletin insert for more details.

Thank you to everyone in the community who has donated food or money to the IHM Food Pantry. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped collect, sort and distribute the food. You have truly made a difference!

**IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group
Virtual Meeting Saturday
December 12th at 9:15 am**

The next meeting of IHM's men's scripture study and discussion group will take place "virtually" on Saturday, December 12th, 2020, at 9:15 am on ZOOM. All men of the parish (as well as neighboring parishes) are welcome. We will discuss Sunday's (the 13th) scripture and then open the meeting up for discussion. The meeting will last about an hour.

ZOOM is a user friendly video conference call that can be accessed through smartphones, PCs or tablets.

You can also call into the meeting with a regular phone and participate without video. You need to get the details (phone number to call, computer link, etc.) ahead of time, so if you wish to participate please email David Diken at dndiken@aol.com for an invitation to the session.



Calendar of Events at IHM

Sunday, December 6th

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

Monday, December 7th

Tuesday, December 8th

Wednesday, December 9th

- 9:30 am - Centering Prayer Meeting
- 10 am - 12 pm - Food Pantry Distribution

Thursday, December 10th

Friday, December 11th

Saturday, December 12th

- 9:15 am - Men's Scripture Discussion Zoom Mtg
- 12 - 4 pm - IHM Food Drive
- 4 - 6 pm - Giving Tree Gift Drop-off

Sunday, December 13th

- 9 am - 1pm - IHM Food Drive
- 10 am - 12 pm - Giving Tree Gift Drop-off

For more information please visit
www.ihmparish.net

A Note from 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 self-knowledge.

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.