

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 Third Sunday in Advent, December 13, 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



John came to testify to the light, the coming Messiah who heals and strengthens, who frees the oppressed and brings joy. As disciples of Jesus we are called to do the same, to testify to the Christ, the Light. In grand events and small ordinary moments we are the instruments of Christ's healing, freeing, strengthening and joy filled presence in a world of darkness. Through our baptism and eucharist we are empowered to be the presence of Christ for one another, for family, friends, strangers and enemies. We wait together for the coming of our savior so that we may not only receive the healing, freeing and joy filled presence of Christ in our lives, but also to share it with each other.

Peace,

Fr. Mike

Scripture Reflection Third Sunday of Advent



"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" –

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship.

"Rejoice always" means place your trust in God;

He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running

conversation with God throughout the whole day,

every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances"

means even in bad situations, thank God.

Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others

in similar situations and shows our dependence on

God.

God.

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 time for gifts to the Church Basement: is Sunday, December 13th from 10am to 12pm. DO NOT leave gifts under the tree. Thank you very much!



Immaculate Heart of Mary Advent Confessions

This year Advent Confessions will be held in the Nazareth Center at the following times:

- Saturday, December 19th from 10 - 11 am in the Nazareth Center.
- Monday, December 21st from 7 - 8 pm in the Nazareth Center.

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 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

Monday, December 14th

7:00 am **Arlene Kacvinski+** By Claudette DeSiato
 8:30 am **James Kennedy+** By his Family

Tuesday, December 15th

7:00 am **Jake Cregg+** By Antoinette Guarna
 8:30 pm **Donald C. Coughlan+** By Rose Marie Halverson

Wednesday, December 16th

7:00 am **William Lawler+** By Evelyn Dougherty
 8:30 am **Milgros Droz+** By the Leporiere Family

Thursday, December 17th

7:00 am **Carol Henkels+** By Colm & Geraldine Keogh
 8:30 am **Deceased members of Sullivan Family+** By the Family

Friday, December 18th

7:00 am **Richard Blasi+** By Pat & Jim Feely
 8:30 am **Marie Mazzola+** By Joan & Anthony Panciello

Saturday, December 19th

7:00 am **Aurora Lioanag+** By the Lioanag Family
 8:30 am **Anthony Maimone+** By Antoinette Guarna
 5:00 pm **Robert Scully+** By his Family
 (10th Anniversary)

Sunday, December 20th

8:00 am **For the People of IHM Parish**
 10:00 am **James T. Grossman+** By his Wife and Family
 12:00 pm **Agnes Reilly+** By he family

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 13th:

For the intention of:
 Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish



Sanctuary Light: Week of December 13th:

The Sanctuary Light will burn for:

Dominick Verdic+
 Requested by: The Verdic Family

Flowers for the Blessed Mother



For the week of December 13th:

In Memory of the Wills

Mary Beth Cregg



This year, we will be creating a virtual parish Christmas Pageant at IHM! It will be a lot of fun, and your participation will make it a success! We want to join together to share the Good News of Our Savior's Birth! There are two ways to participate... feel free to do either one or both! Spread the word to extended family members and friends, they are welcome, too!

Send Us a Photo of Your Family's Nativity Scene - so many of us have cherished Nativity Sets that we lovingly set up to remind us of the story of Jesus' birth which is "The Reason for the Season!" Some of our Nativity sets have been handed down from generation to generation and are a deeply moving part of our Catholic Christmas traditions in our homes. (If you don't have a Nativity Set, perhaps this will be a good reason to purchase one and start your own family's tradition!)

Take a photo of your family's Nativity Set and email it to us! We will include it in an IHM slideshow that will accompany a reading of the Gospel of Luke's account of the Birth of Jesus. (<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122520-mass-at-night.cfm>) Feel free to include your family in the photo along with your Nativity Set. We hope to make this slideshow a great big "Christmas Card" for everyone in our parish! Everyone is welcome to submit a photo including extended family members and friends! The slideshow will be posted on the parish website and facebook page for Christmas Eve. **Deadline for sending photos via email: Tues., Dec. 15th!**

AND / OR

Create a Home Movie of Your Family's Own Christmas Pageant - based on the Gospel of Luke, and using your family's creative talents, make a video of your family's "at home" Christmas Pageant! It can be a simple telling of the Birth of Jesus (Gospel of Luke: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122520-mass-at-night.cfm>) with a visual presentation in whatever way you like! Let your creative juices flow and feel free to do whatever works for your family! We will post all videos on the parish website and facebook page for Christmas Eve.

Please send your Videos and/or photos by email to faithformation@ihmparish.net or maryclinton@ihmparish.net no later than Tues., Dec. 15th!

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".

Fall in the First Grade



The first trimester marking period recently ended at the Academy and our 1st grade students enjoyed their first steps into the grammar school environment. We have two 1st grade classes this year led by two dynamic, energetic teachers, and the students have shown an enthusiastic desire to learn.

Neighborhoods and communities are the focus of social studies at this part of the school year and each class has engaged in different lessons. Miss Brooks' class talked about the things that make up their neighborhood and community and what they liked best about both. Mr. Brooks' class recently completed a timeline project. The students created a poster marking the milestones in their life and learned how families, routines, and communities change over time.

Now, the students will focus on Advent and what it means to get ready for Jesus. Mr. Brooks' students will complete a Nativity triptych project featuring the Annunciation, the Nativity, and the Holy Family. The project will serve as a keepsake the students can use to celebrate Advent each year.

**Minister Assignments
Weekend of December 19-20**

Saturday/ Sunday	Lectors	Extra-ordinary Ministers	Presider
5:00 pm	Good-Piga	Staniec Torzewski Clark	Fr. Mike
8:00 am	Brennan	Banasiak Bagdonas	Fr. Valentine
10:00 am	McClellan	Zappo Deacon Jack Perfilio	Fr. Rob
12:00 pm	Kiley	O'Connor McGuinness	Fr. Mike

**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 a new account.

Rosary Altar Society:



We want to thank all who supported and participated virtually in the Rosary Society 's Christmas Party. Special thanks to Fr. Michael Ward for his continued support and technical help to make this possible! Much thanks to Erin Miller and her committee for putting together a Christmas party that was completely virtual. Not an easy task!! The episode of the movie "The Chosen One" that we watched certainly increased our desire to see more! Praying the rosary together is always uplifting. Congratulations to Pat Mazzucca, the winner of the Christmas Basket! As a result of your generosity we collected over \$1100 for the Missionaries of Charity. Thank you.

To all Board members, there will not be a meeting this month. It was scheduled for December 16th, Merry Christmas! Unfortunately, we have to postpone our annual January luncheon due to Covid-19, the winter weather and the rising numbers. Look out for a future date in 2021.

"Where the Rosary is recited there will be days of peace and tranquility." St. John Bosco. Now that we are in Advent, have you taken 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 is 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 signup link.

Presented by Immaculate Heart of Mary

Instructor: Allan Wright

Offertory Collection

December 6, 2020

Weekly Budget Need:	\$10,784.32
Collection:	8,395.00
Parish Giving: (includes TEXT to GIVE)	3,622..72
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,233.40
<u>Fiscal Year To Date:</u>	
Budget	\$248,039.36
Actual:	218,595.47
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$29,433.89)

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.

This weekend we are having a food drive, non-perishable food donations can be dropped off Sunday from 9am—1pm.

Thank you to everyone in the community who has donated food or money to the IHM Food Pantry. Thank you to 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 19th at 9:15 am**

The next meeting of IHM's men's scripture study and discussion group will take place “virtually” on Saturday, December 19th, 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 20th) 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 13th

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

Monday, December 14th

Tuesday, December 15th

Wednesday, December 16th

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

Thursday, December 17th

Friday, December 18th

Teen Adoration in Church

Saturday, December 19th

9:15 am - Men’s Scripture Discussion Zoom Mtg
10-11 am - Advent Confessions in the Naz. Ctr.
12 - 4 pm - IHM Food Drive
4 - 6 pm - Giving Tree Gift Drop-off

Sunday December 20th

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.