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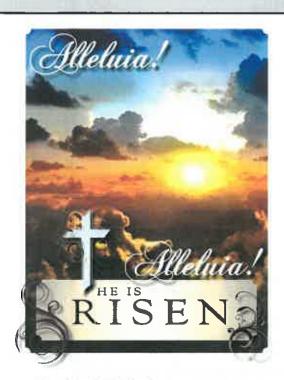
(806)

Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 Phone:

Martine Ave.

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The directive from Cardinal Tobin in light of what he calls "the rapidly changing landscape in dealing with the coronavirus:

Until further notice, public celebration of both Sunday Mass and daily Mass is suspended. This decision comes after exhaustive discussion and with an especially heavy heart."

Immaculate Heart of Mary Masses will be livestreamed on Facebook & our website: www.ihmparish.net.

Reconciliation is suspended unless extreme emergency.

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 & Eucharistic Adoration Chapel are closed until further notice. The Church building is also closed.

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
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Notes from Fr. Mike

What does it mean to have life? Certainly we are living bodies, but is that life? In the Gospel Jesus calls us to life in abundance. To have life in abundance means that we allow Jesus into our lives and to answer His call to love and service. Each of us has been called to be a disciple of Christ and to preach the Good News of God's love to all whom we meet. The best way for us to do this is by putting Christ first in all that we do, for it is only in Christ that we can hope to be successful and have life. This allows us to live our lives and our faith with great joy and great hope even in difficult times and situations. When we do things without Christ there still seems to be something missing, an emptiness that will not go away. To do things in Christ means to fulfill his call to love in any and all endeavors of our lives. In doing this we receive and experience life in abundance.

Peace.

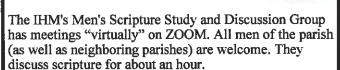
Fr. Mike

IHM Women's Prayer Group Thursday, May 7th at 7:30 p.m.

Please Join Us for
Our Virtual Prayer Gathering
If you would like to participate, please email
Tracey Foley at tefoleyihm@gmail.com,
so she can send you the link.



IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group Virtual Meetings



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 should 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.

Scripture Reflection Fourth Sunday of Easter

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ..." ACTS 2:38

How often do we take the time to discern what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is a give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is asking of you.



The Altar Bread and Wine the week of April 26th: For the Victims of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Archdiocese of Newark 2020 Lenten Regulations



1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

- 2. Fridays of the year outside of Lent are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self- denial as penance.
- 3. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the <u>1st Sunday of Lent, March 1</u> to <u>The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 7, 2020.</u>

*Canon 920 §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion once

Mass Intentions

The Masses listed below will be livestreamed on Facebook & on our website: www.ihmparish.net. The church building must remain closed due to the Covid-19 health crisis.

Sunday, May 3rd

10:00 am For the People of IHM Parish

John & Robert Stephanik+ By Karen & Jim Murphy Frank & Elsie Marcigliano+ By Janet & Emil

Manfredonia

James Lissemore+

By Irene Ciccarino

Monday, May 4th

8:30 am Joseph D. Orsini+ Anne M. Kunze+ By the Varela Family
By Tracey Foley & Family

Tuesday, May 5th

8:30 am Anthony Gionataiso+ Kenneth Blum Sr.+ By Joe & Donna Conforti By Blum & Veglia Families

•

Wednesday, May 6th 8:30 am Betty Lombardi+ By

By the Chimento Family

Margot Hinner+

By Heba & Rich Fortunato

Thursday, May 7th

8:30 am Patricia A. Abernethy+ Karen Mannix+ By May & Virginia
By Betty & Tony Perfilio

Friday, May 8th

8:30 am Mildred Poploski+ Pamela Suminski+ By Patricia & James Feeley

By her children

Saturday, May 9th

8:30 am Blanch Campbell+

By the Chimento Family

For the People of IHM Parish

Sunday, May 10th

10:00 am Jack Clark+

By his loving wife, Terry

Joseph P. D'Annunzio+

By Jack & Dorothy Foulks

James & Mildred Manfredonia+ By Janet & Emil

Manfredonia

James Lissemore+

By Maureen Grossman &

Family

Remember Our Sick

John Allen Juliann Junio Rose Badala Eileen Lynch Marion Barrett Maureen Lynch Larry Biunno Owen (Mike) McCabe Fran Boglioli Christine Morris James Brown Jim Morris Kevin Brown Jim McLean John Burkert June McManus John Byrne **Bob McMillion** Anna Cassella Margaret Mulroonev Matthew Cassio Timothy Murphy Donald Checchio Charlie Plungis Frank Chimento Madeline Pravata Colm Cosgrove Diane Pricken Edward Clark Joel Rivera Joe Clarke Susan Rozborski Ray Clark Jeannie Schroeder Elle Crofton Bernard Slaza Enrique Curbelo Beverly Sopp Dorothy D'Angelo Ryder Francis Spillane Denise Donnelly Paul Szeker Barbara Faccone Samuel Testa Albert Fischer, Jr. Carole Ventre **Emily Fleming** Daniel Ventura Mary Flynn Sr.Elizabeth Vermaelen Anna Franke Stephen Voorhees Mary Graham Christy Ward

Hospital Privacy

Annie Whitehouse

Norah Yokom

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.

+

Remember those who have died: Fr. John Morris+, Fr. John Salvas OFM Cap+, Antonio Ciullo+, Andrew Holowka+, Eileen Arnold+, Lee Achiron+, Elizabeth Wilner+, Ryan Mee+, Rose Yashay+

Sanctuary Light: Week of May 3rd: The Sanctuary Candle will burn for:

For the intention of Kenneth Blum Sr.+ Requested by the Blum & Veglia Families



Flowers for the Blessed Mother

Nicole Griffin

John Heiling



April & May 2020 flower orders have been canceled with Ponzio's Florist. They will be transferred to April & May 2021. The 2021 book will open officially on September 1, 2020. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us.

Important Information

IHM's Summer Academy 2020 A Note from Mary Clinton:



Dear Parents,

There are so many unknowns right now. Everything, everywhere is up in the air with regard to all programs in light of the coronavirus restrictions. I hope that you and your families are doing okay, it is a difficult time for sure. I ask you to please not delay in registering your child(ren) for the Summer Academy session you were planning to have him/her attend, or our Families of Faith program.

Here's why:

- -- Our Summer Academy sessions will take place no matter what: If we cannot meet on site at the parish, we will have "virtual" sessions during the same time frames. (Session #1 June 29 July 10; Session #2 Aug. 17 28). But, we need to take care to order and prepare sufficient supplies and identify sufficient catechists and volunteers, and we need to know the numbers of children to plan effectively.
- -- Families who are planning to register for our school year family model, *Families of Faith* program should also register now. This program has been well received by the families who participated this year. Should the corona virus restrictions continue into the fall (heaven forbid!), this program will run remotely as well and we will need time to plan effectively for the number of families who will participate.

It should be noted that any family who would like to participate in both Summer Academy and Families of Faith would be welcome, and would only pay one fee for both with an additional book fee of \$20/child. There was an email attached our Family Handbook so you can take a look at the description of the program.

A note about registration fees:

Please note that the registration fee is the same amount whether you choose Summer Academy or Families of Faith. (This year: \$175 for one/\$275 for two or more, and these can be waived in case of financial hardship.) In the past 5 years we have never set individual fees for different programs as the costs for all religious ed programs exceed the actual costs of the programs themselves (materials, salaries, utilities, etc.) with the balance being subsidized by the Sunday collection. This is why it is so important that we contribute to the weekly IHM collection if we are financially able, even during the coronavirus. We can mail it in or use our Parish Giving accounts. The Sunday collection is the financial life blood needed to keep the parish running. So, even with the suspension of Sunday worship during the coronavirus, the parish still has to pay its bills to keep the lights on just as we need to do at our homes! If you continue to be financially able during this coronavirus situation, please support your parish with your weekly Sunday donations.

Thank you for your help at this time to assist us in being ready for whatever comes our way this summer. Email me any questions/input you have to maryelinton@ihmparish.net. May God bless you and your family, friends and neighbors, and our Blessed Mother wrap you in her mantle of love and protection.

Peace & blessings, Mary

Faith Formation Zoom Classes

Although, we cannot meet in person, the Faith Formation Gatherings are being done via Zoom. We are very grateful to Rachael Flanagan, our youth minister, for taking the lead on working remotely.

May God bless us during this difficult time. May the Holy Spirit fill us with fight, hope and peace!

Spiritual Communion Prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You wee already there and unite myself wholly to YOU.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

BOLD Youth Ministries

Teens, would you like to join our weekly zoom call? We have a call every Sunday at 5pm. If you would like to participate, please call or text Rachel Flanagan at (908) 280-2893.

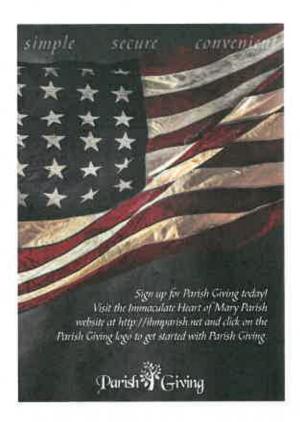
Live stream the Mass! IHM Daily Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook at 8:30 a.m. and available later on our website: www.ihmparish.net.

Service Trip to Pittsburgh, PA is July 19-24 Check your email for registration information. Registration has been extended to April 30th.



The Catholic Charities donation bin is temporarily closed due to the health crisis.

This is a temporary measure and we ask you to save all items for when we are operating again. We are so thankful for your generosity. Catholic Charities continues to reach out to the most vulnerable in our society. We pray for the safety of all as we confront this invisible enemy. Stay safe and healthy!



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:

Flowers for the Blessed Mother:
April & May 2020 flower orders have been canceled with Ponzio's Florist. They will be transferred to April & May 2021. The 2021 book will open officially on September 1, 2020. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us.

All Rosary Altar Society events are currently suspended including our Communion Mass and Breakfast at Shackamaxon Country Club, which we will reschedule. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for updates.

We are praying for you, our parish and the world.

Parish Information

Religious Education Classes

Questions? Faithformation@ihmparish.net

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

Adoration Chapel:

Temporarily located in the Nazareth Center. See page 6 for new hours. Chapel closed on Holy Days and Holidays. Please note, if SPF schools are closed due to bad weather, the chapel will be closed.

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

IHM Holy Name Society



Meetings are currently suspended, please keep an eye on the bulletin for updates. All interested men of the parish are invited to join us for breakfast. We serve eggs, sausage, crumb cake and coffee at every meeting.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

During the current health environment IHM Parish would like to reach out to support our neighbors in need of help. Our seniors and immune compromised neighbors are at the highest risk levels. As a result grocery shopping & medicine pick-up have been more difficult. Please join us in helping our community to stay healthy and become a buddy volunteer during this difficult time.

Call the office at (908) 889-2100 or email: office@ihmparish.net if you want to be a buddy or know someone in need.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Food Pantry

During this difficult time the IHM Food Pantry is still distributing food. 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.

Items most needed are paper products. Thank you.

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Just go to **smile.amazon.com**, search for Immaculate Heart of Mary Scotch Plains and then click on "select".

Calendar of Events at IHM

Sunday, May 3rd

5 p.m. BOLD Youth Ministry Zoom Mtg.

Monday, May 4th

Tuesday, May 5th

Wednesday, May 6th

11 a.m. - Food Pantry Distribution

Thursday, May 7th

7:30 p.m.—Women's Prayer Group Zoom Mtg.

Friday, May 8th

Saturday, May 9th

Sunday, May 10th

Food Pantry Sunday
5 p.m. BOLD Youth Ministry Zoom Mtg.



Like us on Facebook at:
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Mother's Day Novena

If you would like to honor your mother, grandmother or someone special, Mother's Day Novena Cards can be found in front of the Nazareth Center in the bin. The Novena will be prayed from May 10 - May 18.



Please take the card and return the donation envelope to the mailbox in front of the Nazareth Center.

Offertory Collection

April 26, 2020

Weekly Budget Need:

\$11,960.78

Collection:

6,930.00 : 2,209.25

Parish Giving (includes TEXT to GIVE): Surplus/(Deficit):

(2,821.78)

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Budget Actual \$514,313.54

Surplus/ (Deficit)

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