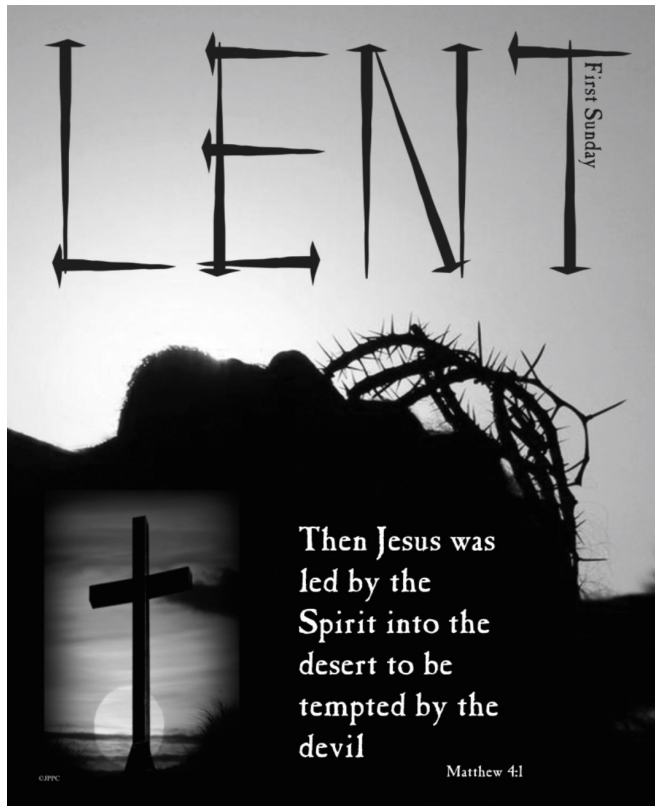


The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

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 First Sunday in Lent, February 21, 2021



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



Jesus immediately goes into the desert after His baptism by John, and is put to the test. As we begin the holy season of Lent it is a good reminder that we go into the desert with Jesus, not necessarily to be put to the test, but rather to separate ourselves from the many distractions in our lives. It allows us to concentrate on our relationship with Christ and improve our ability and desire to live out our faith. It is an opportunity for us to look at our own discipleship, and to see where we can continue to grow in our individual relationship with Christ as well as our relationship with Christ with others. Jesus spent time in the desert preparing for his public ministry which commences immediately upon his return from the desert. We spend our Lenten journey preparing for the renewal of our baptismal promises, renewing our commitment as part of a faith community and the celebration of Easter.

Peace, Fr. Mike

Spiritual Reflection 1st Sunday of Lent



"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...." - Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.



Archdiocese of Newark 2021 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. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially," or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

3. 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.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 30, 2021.**

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

Mass 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, February 21st

8:00 am For the People of IHM Parish
 10:00 am Vinny Bonaccolto+ By the Bonaccolto
 12:00 pm Ruben Razal+ By the Family

Monday, February 22nd

7:00 am For the People of IHM Parish
 8:30 am Rosemarie O'Neill+ By Rosemarie McCallion & Kathleen McCarthy - Nieces

Tuesday, February 23rd

7:00 am For the People of IHM Parish
 8:30 am Bella Pershay+ By Betty Swisher

Wednesday, February 24th

7:00 am For the People of IHM Parish
 8:30 am Juliette Lewis+ By Betty Swisher

Thursday, February 25th

7:00 am For the People of IHM Parish
 8:30 am For the People of IHM Parish

Friday, February 26th

7:00 am Mary Kelly+ By Family
 8:30 am Good, Kurapka, Dawid & Piga Families (living & dec'd)
 By Janice Good-Piga & Bob Piga

Saturday, February 27th

7:00 am For the People of IHM Parish
 8:30 am Bessie Sullivan+ By the Lundgren Family
 5:00 pm For the People of IHM Parish

Sunday, February 28th

8:00 am Robert Kelly+ By Eleanor Duddy+
 10:00 am Gerald McAuley+ By Colm & Geraldine Keogh
 12:00 pm Marc Eric Fusillo+ By the LoBrace Family

Remember Our Sick

John Allen	Juliann Junio
Rose Badala	Eileen Lynch
Larry Biunno	Maureen Lynch
Fran Boglioli	Owen Mike McCabe
Erin Brennan	June McManus
Samatha Bridge	Christine 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	Jack Pricken
Colm Cosgrove	Susan Rozborski
Edward Clark	Bernard Slaza
Ray Clark	Beverly Sopp
Dorothy D'Angelo	Ryder Francis Spillane
Marie Farrell	Paul Szecker
Albert Fischer, Jr.	Carole Ventre
Emily Fleming	Daniel Ventura
John Foley	Sr.Elizabeth Vermaelen
Mary Foster	Stephen Voorhees
Nicole Griffin	Christy Ward
John Heiling	



Remember those who have died:
Juliette Lewis+

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 February 21st:



For the Intentions of
 Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish



Sanctuary Light: Week of February 21st

For the intention of
 John Rohrs+
 Requested by Jack & Josie Foley

Flowers for the Blessed Mother



For the week of February 21st:
 In Thanksgiving to
 Our Blessed Mother and St. Jude

Requested by Betty & Tony Perfilio



Winter days at the Academy

Winter days are far from tedious at the Academy. The past two weeks have seen the students working diligently in class, having a fun visit from a friend, and celebrating some achievements.

Recently, students in grades 2-8 began the NWEA Map Growth Testing. These tests measure achievement and growth in math, reading, language usage, and science. Results will provide our teachers with the information needed to help target instruction for each of our students.

Second grade had a wonderful visit with Fr. John Paladino. He read "The Invisible String" to the class. The book gives a message to all that in today's uncertain times, although we may be separated from and can't spend time with the ones we care about, love is the unending connection that binds us.

Our annual Valentine's Day celebration brought cheer and joy to the whole school. Students in all classes celebrated with a dress down day, class parties, and a raffle. Traditional events like this are important for our students well-being, especially in this time of social distancing when we cannot be together as much outside of class.

Congratulations to 7th grader Lola Martinson! Miss Martinson was recognized by The Alliance for Young Artists And Writers for her Science Fiction/Fantasy story, "Journey to the Land Above". The Alliance is a national organization that identifies students with exceptional artistic and literary talent. We are so proud and wish her success in all of her creative endeavors!

**A 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.



Iron Lent: Lenten Series for BOLD

High School Teens, dive DEEP into Lent this year in a special 6 week series called "Iron Lent" These will take place on Zoom:

- Sunday, Feb 28: 5-6pm
- Sunday, March 7: 5-6pm
- Sunday, March 14: 5-6pm
- Sunday, March 21: 5-6pm
- Sunday, March 28: 5-6pm
- Sunday, April 11: 5-6pm

Contact Rachel Flanagan at ihmsp@boldym.com if your are interested!



Union Catholic has emerged as one of the premier, unique and innovative Catholic High Schools in NJ. We have a 100% college acceptance rate, a culture of service that nurtures future leaders, an innovative tablet program, classes that are offered on six different learning levels to foster our students' individual needs and so much more

For more information please visit our website: www.unioncatholic.org or call 908-889-1600.



DIVE INTO YOUR FAITH THIS LENT!

Join our five part Zoom speaker series from 7 - 8:30 pm each Tuesday of Lent. We will kick off on:

February 23rd - What is Catholicism?

Dr. Jeffrey Morrow is Professor of Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University. He will help us explore the gift of our Catholic faith; a convert to Catholicism, he brings a wonderful perspective on this gift.

There will be 5 different speakers in all. There is no cost, but registration is required. For a full list of speakers and to register please visit our website: www.ihmparish.net.

Questions: Email maryclinton@ihmparish.net or engagingdisciples@ihmparish.net or contact IHM Nazareth Center Office @ 908-889-2100.

**Minister Assignments
Weekend of February 27-28**

Saturday/ Sunday	Lectors	Extra-ordinary Ministers	Presider
5:00 pm	Mulrooney	Good-Piga Clark Zucosky	Fr. Rob
8:00 am	Keogh	Gibbons Wagner	Fr. Valentine
10:00 am	Wills	McCann Deaon Jack Carlino	Fr. Rob
12:00 pm	Foley	Kiley McGuinness	Fr. Mike

Rosary Altar Society:



As we have entered Lent, I hope that you are staying safe and taking advantage of the many programs that IHM is providing for us during this Holy Blessed Season. As I have said before there are The Stations of the Cross and the Rosary. But you may ask yourself, “Where do I stand in my relationship with God? Do I need to turn back to God today?”— just a thought.

Our general membership meeting is on March 2nd at 1pm on Zoom. I invite all of you to come and listen to “How to recognize a scam and to protect yourself.” The presenter is Claire McGuinness, Mary Graham ‘s granddaughter. This is Claire ‘s project for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Please email me if you wish to attend this enlightening program at mjgbergen@verizon.net and I will send you the Zoom link. Thanks again, Father Mike for your assistance.

In the original 2020-2021 program for the Rosary Society, we scheduled a presentation by Jamie Novak, author of “Keep This Toss That”. When we can meet in person again she will do the program. However, I do get “Tuesday Tips “ from her, anyone wishing these tips can email me and I will forward them to you.

The Adoration Chapel is open and Jesus is waiting for you to visit Him in the quiet. For the code call Erin Miller, Betty Swisher, or MaryJane Bergen. We are praying for you, our parish, and the world. Thank you and stay safe!

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



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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

February 14th

Weekly Budget Need:	\$10,784.32
Collection:	4,952.00
Parish Giving (includes text to give)	3,869.75
Surplus/(Deficit):	(1,962.57)

Fiscal Year to Date:

Budget	\$355,882.56
Actual	312,987.72
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$42,894.84)

2021 Annual Appeal to Date - for Archdiocese of Newark - \$14,585.00

Goal - \$69,693.00 (20.93% of goal)

Thank you for your generosity!

Archbishops Annual Appeal



The 2021 Annual Appeal is now underway. We have \$14,585.00 already pledged. Our goal is \$69,693.00. The outpouring of support from many parishioners like you helps sustain the important ministries across the Archdiocese of Newark. If you have yet to give, please pick up a pledge form at the back of the church or visit www.rcan.org/sharing.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

**IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group
Virtual Meeting Saturday
February 27th at 1:00 PM - Note the time change**

The next meeting of IHM's Men's Scripture Study and discussion group will take place “virtually” on Saturday, February 27th, 2021, at 1:00 pm on ZOOM. All men of the parish (as well as neighboring parishes) are welcome. We will discuss Sunday’s (the 28th) 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 will 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, February 21st

Food Pantry Sunday

Monday, February 22nd

Tuesday, February 23rd

Wednesday, February 24th

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

Thursday, February 25th

Friday, February 26th

Saturday, February 27th

1:00 pm - Men’s Scripture & Discussion Zoom Mtg

Sunday, February 28th

For more information please visit
www.ihmparish.net



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



**Follow us on Instagram at:
ihmparish_sp**

Women’s Prayer Group Meeting

The next Women’s Prayer Group meeting will be via Zoom on Thursday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. The theme of our meeting will be Prayer: As a Process, as a Pilgrimage. All women are invited to join us!

If you are new to the group and would like to participate, please email Tracey Foley at tfoleyihm@gmail.com so we can add you to our distribution list.

