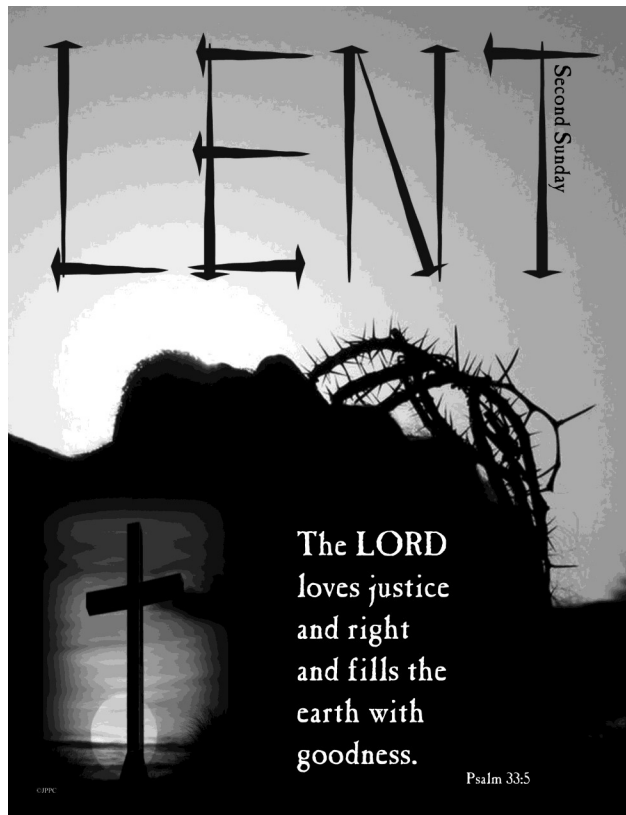


The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

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 Lent, February 28, 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



Often times God’s purpose and will seem strange and incomprehensible, as in the beginning of today’s first reading when Abraham is asked to sacrifice his only son. Isaac was to be the one through whom God would grant Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, and was himself a gift from God in Abraham and Sarah’s old age. Yet Abraham intends to follow God’s will even when he may not understand the purpose or reasoning behind it. He remembers that he is called to be faithful to the covenant that God has established with him. He remembers that his loyalty is to the giver, God, not the gift, Isaac, and thus is rewarded. A reminder to us that we are called, even when it seems difficult and incomprehensible, to place our trust in God’s love.

Peace, Fr. Mike

Spiritual Reflection
2nd Sunday of Lent



“Here I am!” he answered.”- Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, “Here I am, Lord,” when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say “Here I am, Lord,” when a neighbor needs our help, when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it’s not convenient for us. Discipleship is not always easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable .



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 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

Monday, March 1st

7:00 am **For the People of IHM Parish**
 8:30 am **Juliette Lewis+** By John & Tracey Foley

Tuesday, March 2nd

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

Wednesday, March 3rd

7:00 am **For the People of IHM Parish**
 8:30 am **Randy Middleton+** By Patricia Markey

Thursday, March 4th

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

Friday, March 5th

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

Saturday, March 6th

7:00 am **For the People of IHM Parish**
 8:30 am **Michael Reeves+** By his Family
 5:00 pm **For the People of IHM Parish**

Sunday, March 7th

8:00 am **Mike Citrano+** By John & Tracey Foley
 10:00 am **Joseph DiGirolamo+** By the Franciscus Family
 12:00 pm **Agnes Reilly+** By her 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+
Paul Joseph Bschorr+

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 28th:




For the Intentions of
 Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Flowers for the Blessed Mother



For the week of February 28th:
For the intention of:
The Swisher - Kiley Family



Sanctuary Light: Week of February 28th:
 For the intention of
 Pat Dillon+
 Requested by Mary Graham



Middle school is an exciting time for students, it's full of change and questions. Reading novels and poetry in middle school gives students the opportunity to develop empathy and better understanding of others, and to explore the world around them. Students at the Academy have been reading some wonderful books and exploring the world of poetry.

5th grade has been reading a classic book about friendship, *The Bridge to Terabithia*. They learned about story element, character development, cause and effect, and making predictions. They also discussed how their own experiences help them relate to the characters.

6th grade read the Twilight Zone's *The Monsters are Due on Maple Street* as a play. As they read it aloud, they learned about how dialogue advances the plot, conflict resolution, and how fear can affect a crowd of people. Students then compared and contrasted the original Twilight Zone television episode with the play. Soon, the class will start reading the novel *Wonder*. They are looking forward to leveraging the close reading skills they are developing and applying it to a non-fiction work.

Students in 7th grade recently completed a poetry project. Reading and analyzing poetry can seem difficult and intimidating for many students. After selecting a poet and three poems by their chosen author, the students utilized the TP—FASTT (Title, Paraphrase — Figurative language, Attitude, Shift, Title, and Theme) sequence to analyze the poem. This framework gives the students a useful process to analyze poetry. They examine subject, purpose, and audience through this method and start to enjoy reading poetry. They also completed a biography on the author. To complete the unit, the class will have a poetry reading and each student read a favorite poem aloud in class.

The 8th grade students are getting ready to read a choice of dystopian novels. The students can choose from *The Hunger Games*, *Maze Runner* or *Divergent*. These types of novels encourage students to start to think about philosophical questions and reflect on society. They will break up into study groups as they read and analyze the books. They will then watch the movies that were created from the books and compare and contrast them.

**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 a 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 you 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 March 6-7**

Saturday/ Sunday	Lectors	Extra-ordinary Ministers	Presider
5:00 pm	Zucosky	Good-Piga Speth Clark	Fr. Mike
8:00 am	Banasiak	R. Wagner Coquia	Fr. Rob
10:00 am	Schiller	Carlino Deacon Jack McCann	Fr. Mike
12:00 pm	O'Connor	Kiley McGuinness	Fr. Valentine

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



**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

February 21, 2021

Weekly Budget Need:	\$ 10,784.32
Collection	9,853.00
Parish Giving:	3,699.59
(includes TEXT to GIVE)	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 2,768.27
Fiscal Year To Date:	
Budget	\$ 366,666.88
Actual:	326,540.31
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (40,126.57)

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.



IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group Virtual Meeting Saturday March 6th at 9:15AM

The next meeting of IHM's men's scripture study and discussion group will take place "virtually" on Saturday, March 6th, 2021, at 9:15AM on ZOOM. All men of the parish (as well as neighboring parishes) are welcome. We will discuss Sunday's (the 7th) 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



Calendar of Events at IHM

Sunday, February 28th

5 pm—BOLD Youth Group Lent Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 1st

Tuesday, March 2nd

1 pm - Rosary Meeting

7 pm - Dive into Lent Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 3rd

9:30 am - Centering Prayer Meeting

10 am - 12 pm—Food Pantry Distribution

Thursday, March 4th

7:30 pm - Women's Prayer Group Zoom Meeting

Friday, March 5th

Saturday, March 6th

9:15am - Men's Scripture & Discussion Zoom Mtg

Sunday, March 7th

5 pm—BOLD Youth Group Lent Zoom Meeting

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](https://www.instagram.com/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.

