

*The People of God called to form the Christian Community of*  
**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**

*23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 5th, 2021*



**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

Mass will continue to live stream on Facebook & our Website:  
[www.ihmparish.net](http://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

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



Website: [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)  
Facebook: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church | Instagram: [ihmparish\\_sp](https://www.instagram.com/ihmparish_sp)

## A Note from Father Mike

We all long to hear the word “*Ephphatha!*” be opened. We desire to open our minds and hearts more and more to Jesus. Yet, when we experience the presence of Christ in a intense and intimate way we tend to want to stay in that moment, much like the crowd in the Gospel reading. They were stuck in the moment of the miracle and were unable to see beyond the sign to the reality of who was among them. Jesus is not only healing the man, but also manifesting the presence of God in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy.

We too must look beyond the immediate experience of Jesus and allow that experience to change our lives and thus grow in faith and holiness. An encounter with Christ is an opportunity for transformation, and all such encounters should lead us to a deeper relationship with Christ and a greater desire to serve Christ in the ordinary encounters we have each day with one another.

Peace, Fr. Mike



### MASS BOOK FOR 2022 IS NOW OPEN



Immaculate Heart of Mary has opened the 2022 Mass Book! Staff will not be available to take mass requests over the phone or in person.

Please fill out the order form that is available on the IHM website (printed copies are in the plastic box outside of the Nazareth Center) and drop it off with a \$10 (per mass) donation in the black mailbox in front of the Nazareth Center. We will process the masses in order of receipt and we will do our best to fulfill your requests. We will call you with any questions and to confirm your order. There will be a limit of 4 masses per person. Please indicate if you need to send a card. We will arrange for you to pick up the cards at the entrance to the Nazareth Center. You may also order a Sanctuary Candle or Altar Bread and Wine for the week at a cost of \$20. Options are included on the order form.

#### Our Mass schedule is as follows:

Saturday (Anticipated): 5 pm  
 Sundays - 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 noon  
 Weekdays and Saturdays: 7:00 am and 8:30 am  
 National Holidays - 9:00 am  
 Holy Days - 7:00 pm, 7:00 am, 12 noon, 7:00 pm  
 \* Schedules are Subject to Change

## Updated Directives for Covid-19 Pandemic

**Introduction:** Given the reinstatement by the Bishops of New Jersey of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and the lessening of restrictions from the state, the following is provided as an immediate update to the May 25 directives.

**STILL IN EFFECT:** Masks will no longer be required for fully vaccinated persons. **If not fully vaccinated, persons are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidance and wear a face mask in public settings.** Masks are still required on public transit and in health care settings, prisons, child-care facilities and schools, among other places. People will no longer be required to socially distance indoors or outdoors, although unvaccinated persons should continue to maintain a safe distance from others. These directives apply to all indoor and outdoor events.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS:** All ministries may return to full service – altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Masks are no longer required for all vaccinated ministers, including those distributing Communion (Priests, Deacons, and EMs). However, masks may be worn for those who prefer to wear one during the liturgy.

**COMMUNION:** While Communion on the tongue is now permitted, for the safety of the priests, ministers and other communicants, we encourage continued reception of communion in the hand. At this time, Communion from the cup should not be distributed to the assembly.

**SIGN OF PEACE:** The invitation to share the Sign of Peace should continue. Parishioners could be reminded that it is not required to touch during the sign of peace.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Ushers may take up the collection at the proper time or baskets may be placed at the entrance of the church for the collection.

(Beginning July 17, 2021)

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:** The procession to present the gifts of bread and wine and the collection can be resumed. (Beginning July 17, 2021)

**BAPTISMAL FONTS:** Baptismal fonts and holy water receptacles may be filled.

**MUSIC:** Vaccinated music ministers (cantors, choirs, etc.) do not require masks or shields. Music ministers who are not vaccinated should wear a mask. All musical instruments are permitted. Hymnals are now permitted.

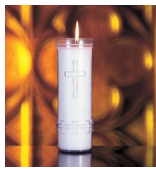
**SANITIZING:** The cleaning and sanitizing of churches and common spaces should be done regularly. It is not required after every liturgy.

**PARISH MEETINGS:** Parish meetings in person may resume. Those vaccinated are not required to wear masks for indoor meetings nor are they required to maintain social distancing. The same recommendations for Mass apply to those not vaccinated.

Mass Intentions		September 5 - September 12, 2021	
<b>Saturday September 4</b>			
7:00 am For the People		By The People	
8:30 am Domiciano V. Capity+		By Cunchita Capity & Daughters	
5:00 pm Rose & James Donovan+		By The Carman Family	
<b>Sunday September 5</b>			
8:00 am Robert J. Bergen Birthday		By Mary Jane Bergen	
10:00 am Mary Marvosa+		By Lucille & Walter Lawson	
12:00 pm Robert Seery+		By Eileen Guidi	
<b>Monday September 6</b>			
9:00 am Mary, George & Georgina Good		By Janice Good Piga & Bob Piga	
<b>Tuesday September 7</b>			
7:00 am Joseph & Anna Eisenbeil+		By Joan (Daughter)	
8:30 am Alma C. Lopez+		By Donna Ayers	
<b>Wednesday September 8</b>			
7:00 am Guy Lazur+		By Christine Lazur	
8:30 am Jack Clark+		By His loving wife Terry	
<b>Thursday September 9</b>			
7:00 am Sr. Barbara Howard+		By SST	
8:30 am Judith Fusillo+		By Maria Fusillo	
<b>Friday September 10</b>			
7:00 am Jack Foulks+		By Marion, Marc, Julianne, Kevin, Steven & Elise	
8:30 am Nitsa Kyprianou+		By Janet Frazier	
<b>Saturday September 11</b>			
7:00 am For the People		By The People	
8:30 am 9/11 Victims & Families		By The Parish	
5:00 pm Mary Marvosa+		By Joanne Wroblewski	
<b>Sunday September 12</b>			
8:00 am Frank Dombrowski Sr.+		By Ed & Maggie Dombrowski	
10:00 am Mary Marvosa+		By Betty & Tony Perfilio	
12:00 pm Margaret Doyle+		By Mary Graham	



**The Altar Bread & Wine**  
*(week of September 5th)*  
For the intention of:  
**Barbara Apgar**  
Birthday Anniversary




**Sanctuary Light**  
*(week of September 5th)*  
For the intention of:  
**Mary Marvosa+**  
Requested by  
The Wroblewski Family



**Flowers for the Blessed Mother**  
*(week of September 5th)*  
**"Members of my family"**  
Requested by  
Bea Scully

**Remember Our Sick**

- |                 |                     |                  |                         |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| John Allen      | Frank Chimento      | Anna Koch        | Diana Scariati          |
| Rose Badala     | William Consovoy    | Jillian Lapidus  | Elisa Silversey         |
| George Becker   | Colm Cosgrove       | Eileen Lynch     | Bernard Slaza           |
| Larry Biunno    | Edward Clark        | Maureen Lynch    | Beverly Sopp            |
| Fran Boglioli   | Ray Clark           | Bill Malone      | Ryder Francis Spillane  |
| Erin Brennan    | Sarah Dubay         | Owen Mike McCabe | Paul Szeke              |
| Samantha Bridge | Albert Fischer, Jr. | June McManus     | Phyllis Szeke           |
| James Brown     | Emily Fleming       | Christine Morris | Carole Ventre           |
| Kevin Brown     | Mary Foster         | Thomas Moore     | Daniel Ventura          |
| John Burkert    | Nicole Griffin      | Marlene Mosko    | Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen |
| Anna Cassella   | Maureen Grossman    | Hilda Pizza      | Stephen Voorhees        |
| Paul Cassidy    | Kathleen Herron     | Diane Pricken    | Rose Wirt               |
| Matthew Cassio  | Juliann Junio       | Susan Rozborski  | Christy Ward            |



**Remember Our Departed**  
**Joseph Dittus**  
**Mary Marvosa**  
**Charles "Chuck" Specht**



**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.





### **Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina** Meetings will resume on Zoom September 9

Centering prayer is a contemplative method of prayer which helps you deepen your personal relationship with the Lord, using Lectio Divina, Reflection and Meditation. This prayer is also known as “The Prayer of Quiet” or “The Prayer of the Heart”. It’s talking less and listening more, as you allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. The words you pray do not matter as much as in the spirit you pray them. It’s a way of reading and listening and discerning with the “eyes of your heart.” **“BE STILL, KNOW, I AM GOD”** If you would like to experience this prayer method which helps to deepen your spiritual journey with the Lord we meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30am on Zoom starting September 9th. Please call Phyllis at **908-264-7456** for further information and to receive the Zoom link.

### **Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina Workshop** Saturday September 25th | 9am to 10:30am on Zoom

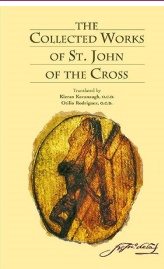
Centering prayer is a CONTEMPLATIVE form of prayer, utilizing Lectio Divina, Reflection, Meditation and Silence. It’s a prayer method that has been used since the time of the Desert Fathers and Mothers. It’s a way of LISTENING deeply, and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. It is also known as “The Prayer of Quiet” or the “Prayer of the Heart” and is a way of going beyond the written word so as to hear “The Whispers of God”. It helps to develop a deep, intimate, PERSONAL, RELATIONSHIP with the Lord. As well as helping TO DISCERN what the message is for you, whether you are reading scripture, other inspirational readings, listening to music, walking in nature, or living what life sends. We will hold this meeting on Zoom. There will be Reflection material in a BOX on the table in front of the Nazareth Center, beginning September 16th, marked “Centering Prayer”, for you to pick up and REFLECT upon and journal the thoughts you would like to share when we meet on September 25th @ 9:00am. Please contact **Phyllis Manno** at **908-264-7456** to register for the Zoom link no later than September 12th. Reflection information will be ready for pick up by September 16th at the Nazareth Center. Thank you!

### **IHM Men’s Scripture & Discussion Group**

LIVE, In-Person Meeting. **Saturday September 11, 2021 @ 7:30AM** in the Church Basement. Coffee & Light Refreshments will be served! The meeting will last about an hour. This is a great opportunity to meet like-minded men of the Parish in a low pressure environment while gaining a better understanding of the Gospel. That will make attending Sunday Mass much more interesting and rewarding!

*“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” JAMES 2:5*

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.



Continuing our on-going series with our Christian Mystics we continue with **Saint John of the Cross**. Our seminar is 1 hour and begins at 7:15 pm and ends 8:15pm. Our first book is **The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross**. Our first session **September 21, 2021** at 7:15pm.

I can get The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross at 50% discount if it is ordered by the end of August so please contact me at **FrRob@ihmparish.net** or see me after Mass on Sunday.

### **9th Grade Confirmation Preparation 2021-2022**

Please note that we are planning for all gatherings to be in person at the parish. If we need to go virtual at any point due to the covid situation, we will. Saturday night meetings begin at 4:30pm in the Nazareth Center. From there we will attend the 5pm Mass together, followed by a light supper and special program. Rachael Flanagan, our parish Youth Ministry Director, will be conducting the programs for the 9th graders.

**Saturday, September 25th:** Ordinary Time - Covenant Ceremony & Parent/Candidate Supper & program (4:30 - 7:30pm)  
**Saturday, December 11:** Advent Gathering - (Gift of the Incarnation) (4:30 - 7:30pm)  
**Saturday, January 8:** Christmas Gathering - God's Call (Gift of Vocation) (4:30 - 7:30pm)  
**Saturday, February 12:** Pre-Lent Gathering - (Gift of Self ~ Guys/Girls Night) (4:30 - 7:30pm)  
**Saturday, March 12:** CONFIRMATION RETREAT on site at IHM (10am - 4pm)  
**Saturday, April 30:** Easter Gathering - (Gift of the Holy Spirit) (4:30 - 7:30pm)

We look forward to accompanying you and your children during this final year of preparation for Confirmation! Peace & blessings,  
**Mary**

Minister Assignments - September 4 - 5			
Saturday/ Sunday	Lectors	Extra-ordinary Ministers	Presider
5:00 pm	Zucosky	- Torzewski - Good-Piga	Fr. Val
8:00 am	Sullivan	- Wagner - Coquia	Fr. Rob
10:00 am	Fortunato	- Carlino - Deacon Jack	Fr. Val
12:00 pm	Kiley	- Wagner - O'Connor	Fr. Mike

**IHM Parish Information**

**Religious Education:** 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) 889-4123 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](http://www.ihmparish.net)  
Like us on Facebook: **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**  
Follow us on Instagram: **ihmparish\_sp**



**Rosary Altar Society News**

*“Carry a crucifix in your pocket or in your purse. Holding it in your hand at times throughout the day can be a healing, physical reminder of the forgiveness that flows from above. Rub your fingers gently over the body of Christ crucified. Remember His dying words: “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” Experience the grace of knowing that His forgiveness far surpasses yours, and His strength is available to you. He releases the past and helps you fix forward.”*  
- Allen R. Hunt

1. We will be having a recruitment event on September 11-12. There will be a display table outside the front of the church after each Mass. All ladies are invited to stop by to see a display of what Rosary Altar Society is about AND TO PICK UP A TAKE-HOME GOODY BAG!
2. Last call to reserve your place at the September 14th - Welcome Back Pizza/Bingo Party with MaryAnne Sopko at 908-322-0279. Starting with Mass at 6pm.
3. To insure that there is no delay in receiving your new 2021-2022 Rosary Directory, please send your \$25 dues to Barbara Apgar at 427 LaGrande Ave, Fanwood, NJ 07023.
4. Please stop by the Adoration Chapel and visit with Our Lord, as we begin this month of September. Thank you. A quote from Bishop Fulton Sheen - *“God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because God loves us.”*

We are still praying for you, our parish, and the world!

Thank you and God Bless!  
**MaryJane**

**The IHM Women’s Prayer Group**

Will begin the 2021-2022 season with a meeting via **Zoom** on **Thursday, September 9 at 7:30PM**. The evening will focus on revealing who Mary Magdalene was. We think of her as The "Other" Mary, and the first to witness the Resurrection, but we will explore her role as a "biblical feminist" and perhaps closest friend to Jesus. All women are welcome to join!

Please email Tracey Foley at [tefoleyihm@gmail.com](mailto:tefoleyihm@gmail.com) if you would like to participate (and have not joined our distribution list previously.) You can also let Tracey know if you have been receiving the prayer group emails but would prefer not to. Just let us know your preference. Prayer connects us all. If you have a special intention, please let us know and you will be lifted up in prayer.

Collection Report		August 29, 2021
Weekly Budget Need:		\$11,300.00
Collection:		6,632.00
Parish Giving:		2,369.99
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,298.01)
<b>Fiscal Year to Date:</b>		
Budget		\$101,700.00
Actual:		\$ 95,109.59
Surplus/(Deficit)		(6,590.41)
<b>Rolling 4 Week Averages:</b>		
Average Collection:		\$ 9,803.10
Average Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,496.90)

**The IHM Food Pantry Needs Donations!**



Demand for food & toiletries has been increasing as we work our way through the COVID pandemic recovery. Items needed include non-perishable food items, personal toiletry items and baby products.

Please bring your donations to the back of the church. Place the items in the red bins near the back doors. You may also drop donations off at the Nazareth Center. **Thank you for your generosity!**

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Salmon
- Toothpaste
- Canned Fruit Juice
- Soap
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Feminine Products
- Hot & Cold Cereals
- Baby Products
- Boxed Potatoes
- Diapers
- Snacks
- Deodorant
- Rice
- Mac & Cheese
- Cake Mix
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Cooking Oils
- Canned Veggies
- Tomato Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Coffee
- Canned Beans



**Archbishop's Annual Appeal**

The 2021 Annual Appeal is now underway. We have \$61,704.75 already pledged. Our goal is \$69,693.00. (88.26% of goal.)

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](http://www.rcan.org/sharing) Thank you for your prayers and support.

**EVENT CALENDER**

<b>Sunday</b> <b>September 5</b>	
<b>Monday</b> <b>September 6</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>September 7</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>September 8</b>	10am - 12pm - Food Pantry Distribution
<b>Thursday</b> <b>September 9</b>	
<b>Friday</b> <b>September 10</b>	
<b>Saturday</b> <b>September 11</b>	
<b>Sunday</b> <b>September 12</b>	9am - Holy Name Society Meeting 10am - 12pm - Food Pantry



**2nd Collection: The Catholic University of America**  
September 11-12



For more information please visit [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)



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Follow us on Instagram: [ihmparish\\_sp](https://www.instagram.com/ihmparish_sp)

**Want to donate but don't have any cash on hand?**

Parish Giving is fast, safe & secure. Scan the QR code with your smart phone or tablet. This code will link you directly to our Parish Giving website. No sign-up required. Just click the "Pay Now" button. Thank you for your continued support to our community!

