



The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 14, 2024



*Come  
& you will see.*

JOHN 1:39

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



1571 South Martine Ave. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 Phone: (908) 889-2100  
Fax: (908) 889-9477 E-mail: [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 Fr. Mike...

Jesus invites the disciples of John to come and see, to enter into a deeper relationship with Him, to discover for themselves the mystery of God's love. Jesus invites each of us as well to come and see, to enter more deeply into an intimate and loving relationship with him. He calls us to discover and discern His love and call in our lives. Sometimes, like Samuel, it takes time and perseverance to more fully comprehend what God's will is and in what ways he calls us to serve Him and his people.

This week, at a gathering of Confirmation 2 candidates (9th graders) we spoke about the Sacraments of service (marriage and Holy Orders) and the need for discernment when trying to discover God's will for us as individual disciples. How, through the discernment process, we can learn a tremendous amount about God's love for us, our authentic love for ourselves and our love for others in the context of these vocations and sacraments and in the context of life in general. Each of us is invited into deeper discipleship and a more profound relationship with God, a relationship in which we learn to work with Christ in the building up of his kingdom in our hearts and the hearts of others. Peace, Fr. Mike



### What Is Wrong With This Picture???

Our latest Spirituality Seminar is hosting a limited two evening event on Saint Paul. Our presenter is Karen Schurtz. **Two Tuesdays: January 16 & 23, 2024.** This is on ZOOM so you can stay in the warmth of your home! We start at 7:15PM and finish up by 8:30PM. Please register by contacting Fr. Rob at [FrRob@ihmparish.net](mailto:FrRob@ihmparish.net)

If you want to do some pre-seminar reading, please read The Acts of the Apostle in your Bible.

### Minister Assignments: January 20 - January 21

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
1/20 5:00pm	Jim Brennan	Chris Zucosky Janice Good Piga	Fr. Rob
1/21 8:00am	Rich Banasiak	Pat Regal Karen Schwaneberg Rich Wagner (cup)	Fr. Mike
1/21 10:00am	Andy Davis	Steve Prato Heba Fortunato Jason McCann	Fr. Mike
1/21 12:00pm	Ed Sullivan (senior)	Erlinda Fajardo Gil Fajardo	Fr. Rob

## IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH IS SERVED BY

Rev. Michael G. Ward, K.H.S., Pastor  
 Rev. Robert Kunze: Weekend Assistant  
 Deacon Jack Lynch  
 John McGuire: Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation  
 Katie Wills: Director of Music Ministry  
 Tracey Foley: Business Manager

### IHM PARISH INFORMATION

Winter Office Hours:  
 Mon - Thurs 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Fri 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

#### Mass Intention Reservations:

Call or leave a message at the office (908)889-2100  
 or send an email to [office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net)

#### Religious Education:

[faithformation@ihmparish.net](mailto:faithformation@ihmparish.net)

#### Baptisms:

Please call the office at (908) 889-2100

#### 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](http://www.ihmparish.net) or in the Nazareth Center 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

#### 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. Call (908) 889-2100.

#### Reconciliation:

Saturdays: 4:15 - 4:45 pm  
 Arrangements can be made at any time for a private confession. Please call the office at (908) 889-2100

#### 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](https://www.instagram.com/ihmparish_sp)



### Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Monday - Wednesday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Thursday - Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Closed Saturday. Sunday. Holy Days & Holidays

For more information contact Kerby at:

[kpershay123@gmail.com](mailto:kpershay123@gmail.com) | 908-406-0493

## Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Schedule for Mass & Worship (schedules are subject to change)

Saturday (Anticipated) 5:00 PM  
 Sundays - 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 noon  
 Weekdays & Saturdays - 7:00 AM and 8:30 AM  
 National Holidays - 9:00 AM  
 Holy Days - 7:00 AM, 12:00 noon, 7:00 PM

Morning Prayer - Monday - Saturday at 8:15 AM  
 Rosary: Monday - Saturday after 8:30 AM Mass  
 Novena to the Miraculous Medal & St. Jude:  
 Saturdays after 8:30 AM Mass  
 Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:15 - 4:45 PM



**Mass Intentions For the week of January 14, 2024 - January 21, 2024**

<b>Saturday January 13</b>	7:00 AM	Rick Aiere (living) Thank you from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Rose Faccone+ from the Blum & Veglia Families
	5:00 PM	Joseph Buono+ from the Barcellona Family
<b>Sunday January 14</b>	8:00 AM	For the People of IHM Parish
	10:00 AM	Jimmy Malfetti+ from Mom & Dad
	12:00 PM	Carol Barrett+ from Thomas Barrett
<b>Monday January 15</b>	9:00 AM	Dorothy A. Bass+ from Donna M. Ayers
<b>Tuesday January 16</b>	7:00 AM	Rita Montalbano+ from the Sullivan Family
	8:30 AM	Nolan Craig+ from Bernie Whalen
<b>Wednesday January 17</b>	7:00 AM	Robert Lambertson+ from Lynne & Jim O'Connor
	8:30 AM	Rich & Eileen Wagner 60th Wedding Anniversary (living) from Rich & Heba Fortunato
<b>Thursday January 18</b>	7:00 AM	Maribeth Zamora+ from Ivan & Lorena
	8:30 AM	Nancy Dell Bene+ from Al Smith
<b>Friday January 19</b>	7:00 AM	Mary Frances Malone (living) Thank you from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Georges Saouaf+ from Rich & Heba Fortunato
<b>Saturday January 20</b>	7:00 AM	Jean Magerl+ from Bernie Beck
	8:30 AM	Claudine Tariche+ from the Skara Family
	5:00 PM	Betty Flammia Barnes+ from the Barcellona Family
<b>Sunday January 21</b>	8:00 AM	For the People of IHM Parish
	10:00 AM	Sr. Anne Stephen Hajducek, O.P.+ 107th Birthday from Mary Ann Sopko
	12:00 PM	Bessie Sullivan MD+ from the Sullivan Family

**Special Intentions for the week of January 14 - January 21, 2024**

<p><b><u>Sanctuary Light</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Anthony Mariash+</b> Requested by: Chimento Family</p>	<p><b><u>Altar Bread &amp; Wine</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Eileen &amp; Rich Wagner</b> <b>(living)</b> Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary</p>	<p><b><u>Flowers for the Blessed Mother</u></b> In memory of: <b>Arthur Sandiford+</b> Love your wife Elizabeth and Family</p>	<p><b>Remember Our Departed</b> All Souls+</p>
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**Kindly keep our parishioner's family and friends, with health and other challenges, in your prayers**

John Allen	David Connell	Mary Foster	Jillian Lapidus	Jaxson Rivera	Daniel Ventura
George Becker	Colm Cosgrove	Michele Gamako	Mary Frances Leon	Marisol Rodriguez	Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen
Fran Boglioli	Samantha Bridge	Nicole Griffin	Eileen Lynch	Susan Rozborski	Stephanie Vernace
Erin Brennan	James Brown	Ann Marie Harvey	William Maines	Dolores Rust	Stephen Voorhees
Anna Cassella	John Burkert	David Hens	Jim Malfetti	Diana Scariati	Ben Wheelock
Paul Cassidy	Ray Clark	Kathleen Herron	Bill Malone	Arty Shapiro	Evelyn Whitehorne
Matthew Cassio	Matt Donovan	Juliann Junio	Hilda Pizza	Elisa Silversey	
Peter Cavanagh	Albert Fischer Jr.	Marie Keller	Diane Pricken	Bernard Slaza	
Frank Chimento	Phyllis Fischer	Dorothy Klein	Carmela Resnick	Beverly Sopp	
Edward Clark	Emily Fleming	Anna Koch	Jacob Rivera	Ryder Francis Spillane	



**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.

**Bereavement Support @ St. Bartholomew Church**

If you have lost a loved one to death, we invite you to join us as we navigate this difficult journey. The group will meet on **Wednesdays from 7PM- 8:30PM** starting in April in the St. Bart's cafeteria. All are welcome to join. Please reach out to JoAnne at 908-889-7790 or Bernadette at 908-510- 0995, or contact Steven at: [sserafin@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:sserafin@stbartholomewchurch.org)

**Bereavement Support @ Church of the Little Flower**

Journey Through Grief - starting on 1/22. Mondays 7 - 8:30 PM  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABA722A1FB6-46988465-journey#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABA722A1FB6-46988465-journey#/)  
Grief Share - January 24 from 10 AM - 12 PM  
[www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABA722A1FB6-grief#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EABA722A1FB6-grief#/)  
Located at 290 Plainfield Ave. Berkeley Heights. 908-464-1585

## The Rosary Altar Society Update

### TIMELESS TREASURES By Dianne Cogar

A Winter's portrait, so bountiful, Nature's gift indeed... Though lurking are the lifeless flowers, Returned to earth as seed.  
 All sacred gifts sent unto us, Are made by God's own hands - And always, they are precious ones, To love just as He plans!  
 While lilies in the valley rest, And clad are crystal trees... A lifeless day revives the soul Through snowflakes on a breeze.  
 These heavenly troves to come our way, So beautiful, big or small... Will touch our lives through each new day - God's gifts... they're best of all!

- ♥ Thank you to those who attended our Annual Winter Luncheon on Tuesday. It was an afternoon filled with wonderful food and wonderful friends. Thank you to Max from Max's Pizza & Bistro for making our day so very delicious!
- ♥ Join us for our ON-SITE MINI-RETREAT on Tuesday February 6th beginning with 8:30 Mass, then the retreat discussion in the Nazareth Center at 9:00. Phyllis Manno will be hosting the discussion "Spiritual Freedom/Discipleship. Please contact Mary Anne Sopko 908-322-0279 to reserve your place. There is NO FEE for this wonderful half day of reflection.
- ♥ Our Annual SAN ALFONSO RETREAT is March 8-10, 2024. The Theme is "The Eucharist And The Hungers Of The Human Heart". The Cost is \$300 per person. A One Day Pass will be \$100. Please Contact Chris Haight 908-322-6462 for details. This is one of the most relaxing, and spiritually fulfilling events. Please consider attending.
- ♥ We welcome you to consider joining our wonderful Rosary Altar Society. For more information please contact Janice Good-Piga at 908-759-6729. Whether you can attend all or only some of our meetings and events, we know that you will find in very fulfilling.
- ♥ May your week ahead be a Blessed one filled with special surprises. Please remember to take a moment to breathe in the fresh, crisp air, and to thank God for all of the beautiful gifts that he showers upon us daily. May you find a renewed sense of peace and joy this NEW YEAR, and may your year be filled with hope, good health, and a yearning to be closer to God.
- You remain in our daily thoughts and prayers. May your Blessings be countless!!
- ♥ Janice



The next meeting of the Women's Prayer Group will be **Thursday night February 1st, 2024 at 7:30PM on ZOOM**. The topic will be "Rainbows and Covenants". Please contact Tracey at [tefoleyihm@gmail.com](mailto:tefoleyihm@gmail.com) for more details. Prayer connects us all!



Join us for Lectio Divina: Reflection, Discussion & Quiet. We will be taking a break for the winter. But Prayer Group will return Thursday March 7 from 9:30 AM until 10:45 AM. Contact Phyllis at [tman18912@comcast.net](mailto:tman18912@comcast.net) or call the office at 908-889-2100.



The next Men's Scripture & Discussion group meeting will be a VIRTUAL session on **Thursday night January 25, 2024 at 7:30 PM on ZOOM**. Contact David at [dndiken@aol.com](mailto:dndiken@aol.com) for more details.

Are you Spiritual? Seeking? Curious?

# COME & SEE





The Alpha Winter/Spring 13-week program begins at no cost to you

## Monday February 5, 2024

7:00 PM LIVE @ The Nazareth Center, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1571 South Martine Ave. Scotch Plains. Please register before 1/29/24. More details available at [www.ihmparish.net/alpha](http://www.ihmparish.net/alpha)



**DO YOU LIKE KNITTING?**  
 Knitters and crocheters as well as those who want to learn are welcome to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The completed prayer shawls will be distributed to the sick of our parish. Meetings are on the 3rd Sunday of every month, after the 10AM Mass. Starting on **Sunday January 21, 2024 at 11:00 AM in the Nazareth Center**. All are welcome! Contact Marion at [bergerma02@comcast.net](mailto:bergerma02@comcast.net) if you're interested.





## A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate: John McGuire

### Out of Order Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Pt. 2 Understanding

There are three gifts of the Holy Spirit that for the sake of memory can be grouped together (as long as you aren't trying to recite in the traditional order.) Those gifts are Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge. This week let's focus on understanding. We can start by breaking down the word, it is a compound word after all!

We have the words under and standing. We literally are faced with what stands underneath the surface. So how can we break this down as a spiritual gift?

Well, we can know about something without being able to know what makes it tick, or supports it. For instance, we can follow a celebrity on social media, in magazines, and see them act in a movie, participate in a high level sporting event. We may have secondary knowledge of their relationships, likes and dislikes, and the such, but we don't know their deeper thoughts, dreams, and ambitions. We know but don't understand.

Another example, we can walk on a floor. We can appreciate it for what it is, depending on it every day. Yet, unless we are the builder, or architect, we don't often think or have knowledge of the framing, or support structure that is underneath.

This gets philosophical so you may want to check out but... God created everything. By virtue of existing everything participates in God's substance. In other words, God the Creator and Architect is responsible for all creation, and therefore to understand all of Creation, we need the spiritual gift of Understanding.

So this week, let's pray for an increase in the gift of Understanding, for all of those who have been Confirmed, sealed in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and for all of those who are currently preparing to receive the sacrament! God Bless and have a wonderful week!

### Families of Faith Upcoming Events

- Sunday January 14 @ 10:00AM - 11:30AM  
Food Pantry Sunday
- Monday January 15 @ 9:00AM - 2:00PM  
MLK Day of Service/Senior Lunch & Bingo
- Friday January 19 @ Washington DC  
March for Life 2024
- Sunday January 21 @ after 10:00AM Mass  
Scotch Plains Community Baby Shower
- Monday January 22 @ 7:00PM - 8:30PM  
Confirmation [Year 1] Prep Session 3
- Sunday February 4 @ 8:45AM - 11:00AM  
Families of Faith February Gathering
- Sunday February 4 @ 9:30AM - 10:30AM  
Family Choir Practice
- Monday February 12 @ 7:00MM - 8:30PM  
Confirmation [Year 1] Prep Session 4



[www.facebook.com/groups/ihmyoungchurch](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ihmyoungchurch)



### Support the NJ Diaper Network!

We will purchase & deliver items directly to families in need.  
[www.bit.ly/njdiapernetwork](http://www.bit.ly/njdiapernetwork)



"Do your kids need affordable health insurance?"



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### Looking For Donations Of

- Baby Soap / Shampoo
- Diapers (size 3+)
- Baby Wipes
- Gently used car seats (not expired)
- Strollers
- Cribs
- Monetary Donations (Checks can be made out to IHM Parish)

Donations Accepted now through Baby Shower Event 1/21

## Come to our Baby Shower!

Bring your donations to the Church Basement following the 10am Mass on Sunday, January 21 and stay for cake, coffee & fellowship, and to hear about the mission of **Mercy House in Newark!**



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text/call Rachael @ 908-280-2893

## YOUTH MINISTRY SKI TRIP

### SKI TRIP 2024

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NEED MORE INFO? CONTACT RACHAEL FLANAGAN AT [IHMSP@BOLDYM.COM](mailto:IHMSP@BOLDYM.COM) OR TEXT/CALL 908-280-2893



Collection Report		December 31, 2023	
Weekly Target:		\$11,765.00	
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)		\$9,689.74	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,075.26)	
		January 7, 2024	
Weekly Target:		\$11,765.00	
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)		\$ 11,748.71	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(16.29)	
<b>Fiscal Year to Date:</b>			
Budget		\$326,760.00	
Actual:		\$311,431.43	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(15,328.57)	



**Christmas Collection to Date: 58,060.88**  
**Budget: \$65,000**

### IHM SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

<u>Sunday January 14</u> 10:00AM - Food Pantry Sunday (Open until 11:30am)
<u>Monday January 15</u> 11:00AM - MLK Senior Lunch & Bingo @ Nazareth Center
<u>Tuesday January 16</u> 7:15PM - Spirituality Seminar: St. Paul on ZOOM
<u>Wednesday January 17</u> 10:00AM - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30am) 7:00PM - Adult Choir Practice 7:30PM - Finance Council Meeting
<u>Thursday January 19</u>
<u>Friday January 19</u> ALL DAY - March for Life @ Washington DC
<u>Saturday January 20</u> ALL DAY - Saturday Basketball
<u>Sunday January 21</u> 10:00AM - Scotch Plains/Fanwood Community Baby Shower 11:00AM - Prayer Shawl Knitting Group Meeting



## Please JOIN US March For LIFE 2024

Washington, DC

Friday, January 19

Join the 1,000's at the most **UNREPORTED** event (by the media) that can change your life and someone else's!

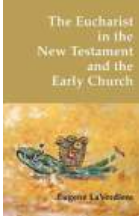
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 Carolyn @ 973-349-4626



In this year of Revival in Eucharistic Spirituality we shall be reflecting on the very roots of our Eucharist, the source and summit of our spiritual life. How did Christians refer to the Eucharist before it had that name? How was the Eucharist celebrated at the very beginning? There is no better way to prepare for Easter than to contemplate the biblical foundation of the Eucharist. **Beginning on Zoom February 13th, 2024 at 7:15PM.** Please register at [FrRob@IHMParish.net](mailto:FrRob@IHMParish.net)



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[www.ihmparish.net/parish-giving](http://www.ihmparish.net/parish-giving)



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