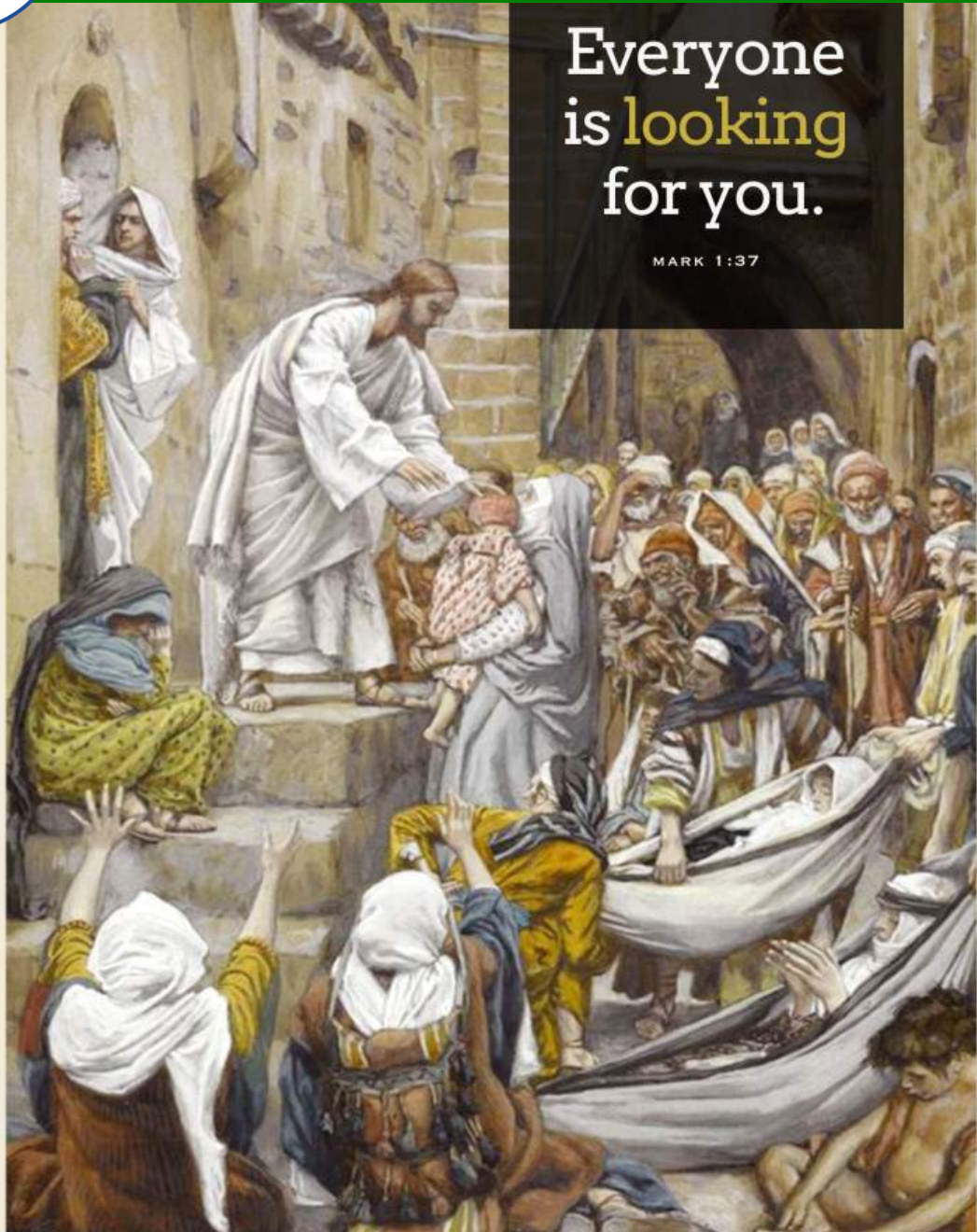




The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 4, 2024



Everyone  
is **looking**  
for you.

MARK 1:37

**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...

Often times our lives may seem like the drudgery that Job speaks of in the first reading. Despite all of our efforts nothing seems to change. We sometimes have the sense that nothing really matters. Yet the Gospel reminds us that there is always hope in Christ. Jesus gives us healing of body, mind and spirit just as he does for Simon's mother-in-law. Jesus brings us strength in showing us the need to pray, to be in a continual relationship with God.

Both Jesus and Paul bring us purpose in their call to follow Jesus and example of preaching the Good News. For Paul it is in the very act of sharing the Good News that we can participate in the Good News and experience God's healing love.

For Jesus it is to bring the healing love of God to reality in the lives of the people he encounters. In sharing and participating in the Good News we gain a sense not of despair, but of hope, as Job eventually learns, in God's everlasting love for us.

Peace, Fr. Mike

### The Eucharist in the New Testament and the Early Church



Eugene LaVerdiere

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 20th, 2024 at 7:15PM.** Please register at [FrRob@IHMParish.net](mailto:FrRob@IHMParish.net)

#### Minister Assignments: February 10 - February 11

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
2/10 5:00pm	Mulrooney	Chris Haight Dan Kelly Janice Good Piga	Fr. Rob
2/11 8:00am	Colm Keogh	Lou DiBella Geraldine Keogh	Fr. Mike
2/11 10:00am	MaryKate Schiller	Ed Sullivan (senior) David Diken Steve Aman Lou Zappo (cup)	Fr. Mike
2/11 12:00pm	Regina O'Connor	Chris Dill Jean Naugle	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 and Wednesday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
Tuesday, Thursday and 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 February 4, 2024 - February 11, 2024**

<b>Saturday February 3</b>	7:00 AM	William "Bill" Scholz+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Danny Kelly+ from Mom, Dad & Family
	5:00 PM	For the People of IHM Parish
<b>Sunday February 4</b>	8:00 AM	Claudine Tariche+ from the IHM Parish Family
	10:00 AM	Bob Swisher+ from Betty Swisher
	12:00 PM	Patricia Ehrlich+ from the Foley Family
<b>Monday February 5</b>	7:00 AM	Owen McCabe+ (1st Death Anniversary) from McCabe & O'Hearn Families
	8:30 AM	Kedar Kulkarni (living) Good health from Rekha Kulkarni
<b>Tuesday February 6</b>	7:00 AM	Geraldine Perfilio+ from Laura & Gregg Swidersky
	8:30 AM	George, Mary & Georgina Mae Good+ from Janice Good Piga
<b>Wednesday February 7</b>	7:00 AM	Dr. Paul McCormac+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Joseph Bobrowski+ from the Lundgren Family
<b>Thursday February 8</b>	7:00 AM	Charles Kiley+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Mary Libretti+ from Al Smith
<b>Friday February 9</b>	7:00 AM	Tom Decataldo (living) Thank you from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Charles Kiley+ from Connie Klock
<b>Saturday February 10</b>	7:00 AM	Kennedy Anne Horton+ from Nancy Schreck
	8:30 AM	Mary Jane Bergen+ from the Alpha Team
	5:00 PM	Richard Viggiano+ from Charles & Geri Barcellona
<b>Sunday February 11</b>	8:00 AM	For the People of IHM Parish
	10:00 AM	Juliette Lewis+ from the Lewis Family
	12:00 PM	Anna & Alex Tango+ from the Leporiere Family

**Special Intentions for the week of February 4 - February 11, 2024**

<p><b><u>Sanctuary Light</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Charles Kiley+</b> Requested by: Joy &amp; Stash Wanat</p>	<p><b><u>Altar Bread &amp; Wine</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Hospitality Team (living)</b> <b>Thank you!</b> Requested by: IHM Parish</p>	<p><b><u>Flowers for the Blessed Mother</u></b> In memory of: <b>Marie Dambrauskas+</b> Requested by: Barbara &amp; Joe Mrozek</p>	<p><b><u>Remember Our Departed</u></b> Irene Davern+ Dr. Paul McCormac+ Kathleen Mulrooney+</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 @ Holy Trinity Church**  
The six-week in-person sessions will be held at Holy Trinity Parish Center Chapel, 512 Westfield Ave, Westfield, NJ.  
**Starting Tuesday, March 12th until April 16th.** The sessions will occur on Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. To register please get in touch with Lori Arena, Parish Nurse at (908) 232-8137 x1006. Visit us online at [www.htrcc.org](http://www.htrcc.org)

**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)

## The Rosary Altar Society Update

### Gratitude

A grateful mind anchors you in place, to always see life from a gracious space, it calls in the energy that lifts you up, keeps you strong and fills up your cup, make it your foundation as you live your life, so that you always know where to go when you lose sight.

*Changing the Mind by M.D.*

♥ 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. There Will Be Tasty Refreshments!!! 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. As we approach our Lenten season, please take a few extra moments in your day to spend alone in prayer. Keep glancing out of your window for those precious cardinals! 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 March 7th, 2024 at 7:30PM on ZOOM.**

The topic will be "Why is there suffering?". Please contact Tracey at [tefoleyhm@gmail.com](mailto:tefoleyhm@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 [man18912@comcast.net](mailto:man18912@comcast.net) or call the office at 908-889-2100.



The next Men's Scripture & Discussion group meeting will be a LIVE session on **Saturday morning February 10, 2024 at 7:30 AM in the church basement.** Donuts & coffee will be served. Contact David at [dndiken@aol.com](mailto:dndiken@aol.com) for details.



THE ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY OF IHM INVITES YOU TO A RETREAT DAY OF PRAYER A MONASTIC WAY OF TENDING THE SOUL

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF SOME QUIET TIME TO COME AWAY WITH THE LORD TO REST, RENEW, REFRESH AND RE-ENERGIZE YOURSELF AS WE JOURNEY TOGETHER TO GROW IN OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, WE WILL REFLECT ON

### SPIRITUAL FREEDOM & DISCERNMENT

BE LOVINGLY ATTENTIVE TO YOUR SOUL, NOURISHING, REFLECTING AND REDISCOVERING YOUR SACRED TRUTHS AS YOU ENFLESH THE WORD

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**MASS - 8:30 AM in the Adoration Chapel  
COFFEE/TEA - 9:00 AM @ Nazareth Center  
RETREAT STARTS AT 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
@ Nazareth Center**

Please call Mary Ann Sopko to sign-up  
**908-322-0279**

OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 908-889-2100 BEFORE JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> TO REGISTER. PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER AND FOR US TO PREPARE THE SUPPLIES NEEDED. THANK YOU.

Are you Spiritual? Seeking? Curious?

## COME & SEE

**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)



**Men's Cornerstone Retreat  
March 8-9, 2024  
@ St. Bartholomew Parish  
[www.stbartholomewchurch.org](http://www.stbartholomewchurch.org)  
[/mens-cornerstone](http://mens-cornerstone)**



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

### Out of Order Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Pt. 5 Counsel

In times of legal challenge we seek good counsel. When we are in school we seek the support and guidance of a counselor. We have an innate sense that our own judgment can serve us well, but that external perspectives are helpful if not necessary.

We are all endowed with a conscience; a sense of what is right and wrong. While we possess this sense of events, it is not inerrant. The conscience requires that we inform it, through our reading, the preaching we hear, and doing the spiritual work of shoring up our understanding of right and wrong. We need to have a firm grasp on moral philosophy and even theology to be a proper judge.

The spiritual gift of counsel informs and fortifies our sense of right and wrong. It takes good judgment and a well formed conscience to another level. Have you ever witnessed an individual with an amazing sense of social justice, who was pained to see wrong doing in the world? This person likely was endowed with a strong sense of the spiritual gift of counsel. These people tend to be excellent examples to others, and spiritual directors, because they are more in tune with the Mind of God.

This week, let us pray that we can grow in the spiritual gift of counsel, so that we can better navigate a world that doesn't always make sense, so that we can be and do better.


God Bless and have a wonderful week!

## Families of Faith Upcoming Events


- 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 @ 7:00PM - 8:30PM  
Confirmation [Year 1] Prep Session 4
- Sunday February 25 @ 8:45AM - 10:00AM  
Lenten Family Gathering/ Easter Basket Drive
- Monday February 26 @ 7:00PM - 8:30PM  
Confirmation [Year 2] Prep Session 3
- Sunday March 3 @ 8:45AM - 12:15PM  
First Communion Families Morning of Reflection
- Saturday March 9 @ 11:00AM - 6:00PM  
Confirmation [Year 2] Retreat
- Sunday March 10 Following 10:00AM Mass  
Family Easter Basket Assembly



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



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- ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFASTS
- DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT
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Collection Report	January 28, 2024
Weekly Target:	\$11,765.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$7,996.42
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,768.58)
<b>Fiscal Year to Date:</b>	
Budget	\$361,770.00
Actual:	\$341,939.08
Surplus/(Deficit)	(19,830.92)
<b>Rolling 4 Week Averages:</b>	
Average Collection	\$10,564.09
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,200.91)
<p align="center"><b>Charitable Contribution Forms for 2023</b></p> <p>There are several ways to receive tax forms from IHM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Collection Envelopes:</b> If you are using envelopes for your Sunday collection contribution, you should receive a form in the mail from our envelope company later this month if you contributed \$100 or more in 2023.</li> <li>▪ <b>Parish Giving:</b> You will be able to print a contribution history activity form for all electronic fund transfer contributions through Parish Giving by visiting your account at <a href="http://www.parishgiving.org">www.parishgiving.org</a>. If you have any further questions, contact Tracey at 908-889-2100 or <a href="mailto:tefoleyihm@gmail.com">tefoleyihm@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>	

IHM SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK
<p><u>Sunday February 4</u>            8:45AM - Families of Faith February Gathering            9:00AM - Holy Name Society Meeting &amp; Breakfast            9:30AM - Family Choir Practice</p>
<p><u>Monday February 5</u>            7:00PM - Alpha Episode 1 Dinner @ Nazareth Center</p>
<p><u>Tuesday February 6</u>            8:30AM - Rosary Altar "Spiritual Freedom" Retreat Begins</p>
<p><u>Wednesday February 7</u>            10:00AM - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30AM)            7:00PM - Adult Choir Practice            7:00PM - Knights of Columbus Meeting</p>
<p><u>Thursday February 8</u></p>
<p><u>Friday February 9</u></p>
<p><u>Saturday February 10</u>            ALL DAY - Saturday Basketball            7:30AM - Men's Scripture Group Meeting @ Church Basement</p>
<p><u>Sunday February 11</u>            10:00AM - Sunday Food Pantry (Open until 11:30AM)</p>



The 2024 Annual Appeal has begun! We are grateful for your generosity and we rely on it because it helps support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese. If we reach this goal in cash by June 30th, our Parish is eligible for a rebate, which comes back to our Parish! Please consider taking a step with us on this Stewardship journey by responding to Cardinal Tobin's invitation to support the Appeal. You can make a gift using the envelopes which will be available on February 3-4. Or you can also make a gift online through our Parish Giving Link on our website or by going directly to [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing)



Prayers and thanks to everyone at the Hospitality Ministry for hosting another successful Pancake Breakfast on Sunday January 28th. The pancakes & sausage were delicious! Now can someone please pass Fr. Mike the syrup?

**SEASONS** welcomes anyone who has lost a significant other to participate in our activities and to meet people who are in a similar situation. **SEASONS** is a support group for individuals who have experienced the loss of a partner, including divorced, separated, or widowed individuals. **Meetings take place monthly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the First Presbyterian Church:** 11 Springfield Ave. Cranford, NJ. Please contact Bob Laudati at 908-322-7762 or email [rdlaudati@aol.com](mailto:rdlaudati@aol.com)

Upcoming Events

**Thursday, February 08 @ 7:00PM:**  
 "Aspects of Love" by Janet Pfeiffer

**Thursday, February 22 @ 7:00PM:**  
 "Trivia Night"



**San Alfonso 2024 Women's Weekend Retreat**  
**March 8-10, 2024**

Theme: The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Heart  
 The cost for the weekend retreat is \$300 per person. Contact Chris Haight for more information: [chrishaight@verizon.net](mailto:chrishaight@verizon.net) or call the parish office at 908-889-2100 for assistance. You can also register online at [www.sanalfonsoretreats.org](http://www.sanalfonsoretreats.org)



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