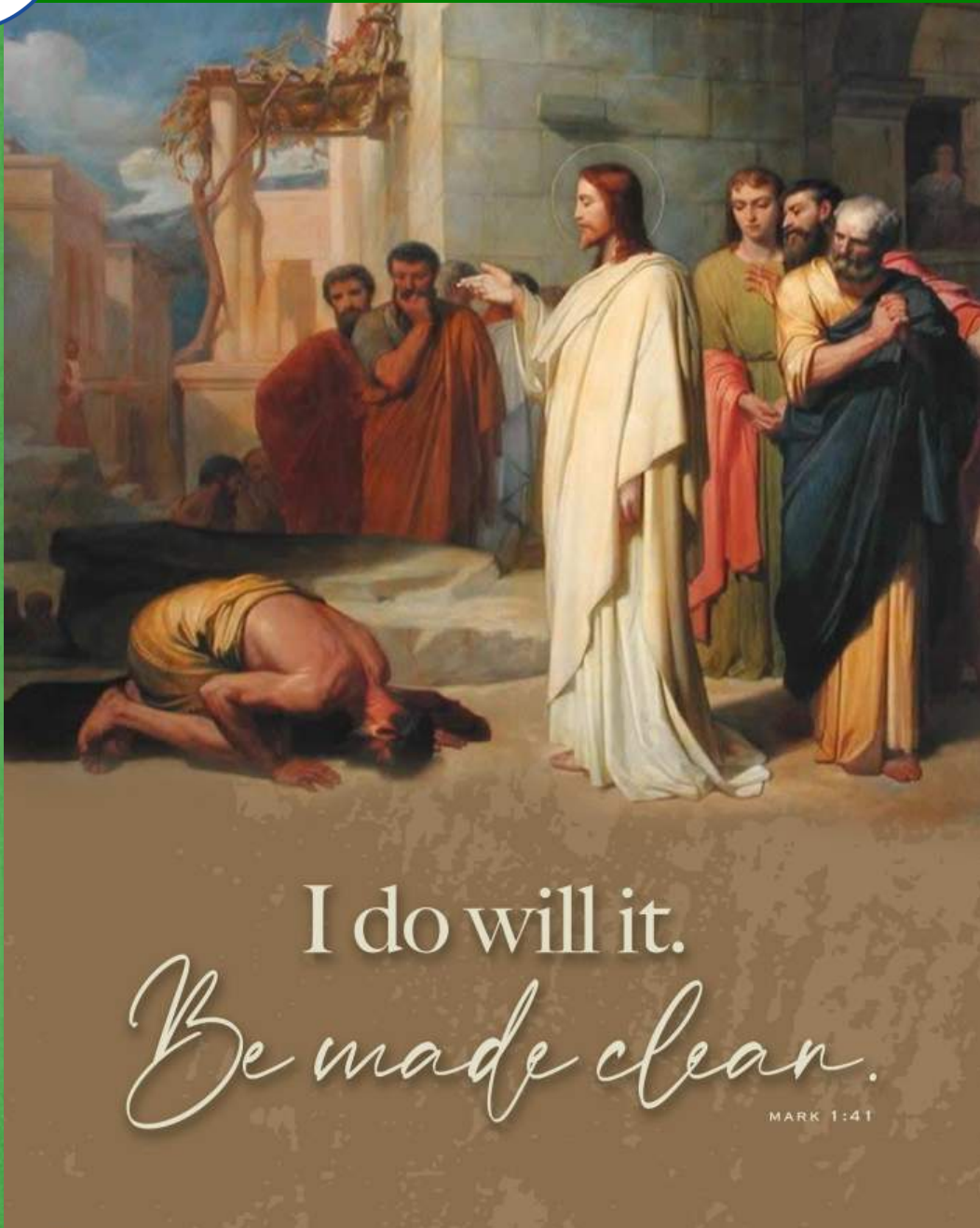




The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 11, 2024



I do will it.  
*Be made clean.*  
MARK 1:41

**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...

The Leprosy of the first reading includes not just the disease of leprosy, but many other skin diseases. Given the Old Testament understanding of the need for ritual purity (a physical as well as moral purity) it is somewhat understandable why those who suffer from these diseases would be marginalized from the community. It makes the miracle of the Gospel that much more spectacular because the man approaches Jesus and asks for help.

Jesus demonstrates compassion and love for the man and brings him not only physical healing, but spiritual as well. Jesus invites us to experience His healing love in the same way and to also demonstrate the same compassion in our daily lives as well. As disciples we recognize the need for the healing love of Christ in our lives and respond to his invitation by bringing that same healing love, in the name of Christ, to those we meet each day.

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 17 - February 18

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
2/17 5:00pm	Chris Zucosky	John Torzewski Connie Boruch David Boruch	Fr. Rob
2/18 8:00am	Rich Banasiak	Jean Bagdonas Karen Schwaneberg Rich Wagner (cup)	Fr. Mike
2/18 10:00am	Jane McClellan	Heba Fortunato Steve Prato Anthony Carlino	Fr. Mike
2/18 12:00pm	Michelle Gardella	Regina O'Connor Eileen Wagner	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 11 - February 18, 2024**

<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
<b>Monday February 12</b>	7:00 AM	Charles Kiley+ from Barbara Anilo
	8:30 AM	Karen Murphy+ from the Lundgren Family
<b>Tuesday February 13</b>	7:00 AM	Melissa Gara (living) Happy Birthday from the Lundgren Family
	8:30 AM	Janey Long+ from the Foley Family
<b>Ash Wednesday February 14</b>	7:00 AM	Araceli Mathay+ from the Lioanag Family
	12:00 PM	Gloria Rios+ from Lorena Lioanag
	4:00 PM	Judith Hilton+ from Arleen & Stephanie
	7:00 PM	Evelyn & Marilyn Schott+ from Evelyn Dougherty
<b>Thursday February 15</b>	7:00 AM	Karin Fernandez+ from Art Lundgren
	8:30 AM	James R. Kennedy+ from Eric Finley
<b>Friday February 16</b>	7:00 AM	Helen Nichols+ from Betty & Tony Perfilio
	8:30 AM	Anne Winkleman+ from the Chimento Family
	12:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
	7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday February 17</b>	7:00 AM	Christine Brehm+ from the Berger Family
	8:30 AM	Mary DiPace+ from John & Dorian
	5:00 PM	Margaret Sorace+ from the Poillon Family
<b>Sunday February 18</b>	8:00 AM	Marlene Mosko+ from Betty & Tony Perfilio
	10:00 AM	For the People of IHM Parish
	12:00 PM	Rose & Maximo Leporiere+ from the Leporiere Family

**Special Intentions for the week of February 11 - February 18, 2024**

<p><b><u>Sanctuary Light</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Betty Swisher (living)</b> Requested by: Mary Jane Lundgren</p>	<p><b><u>Altar Bread &amp; Wine</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Tina &amp; Joe Renna (living)</b> <b>Thank you!</b> Requested by: IHM Parish</p>	<p><b><u>Flowers for the Blessed Mother</u></b> In memory of the <b>Good, Piga, Kurapka and Dawid Families+</b> Requested by: Janice Good Piga &amp; Bob Piga</p>	<p><b><u>Remember Our Departed</u></b> Irene Davern+ Ann Marie Mooney+ 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 |                         |

**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



♥ Many thanks to Phyllis Manno for leading the wonderful Winter Day Of Reflection/In House Retreat. It was a wonderful morning of prayer, reflection and inner peace. Phyllis guided attendees to a deeper way of understanding God's love for us. Thank you also to Mary Anne Sopko for organizing this lovely event.

♥ 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. 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 [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 [iman18912@comcast.net](mailto:iman18912@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 February 22 at 7:30 PM on ZOOM**.

Please contact David at [dndiken@aol.com](mailto:dndiken@aol.com) for details.



Thank you to all of our Pancake Breakfast Volunteers on Sunday January 31st! We had over 100 people join us for breakfast! Good news! Thanks again to Leslie Aman, Steve Aman, Sally Davis, Christian DeGennaro, Karen Donnini, Tracey Foley, John Foley, Michele Gardella, Margaret Lewis, Mary Frances Malone, Diane McGuinness, Bob McGuinness, Kathy Meyer, Charlie Mulrooney, Jean Naugle, Regina O'Connor, Tina Renna and Bonnie Trower.



Congratulations to Bill Root, Mark Giubilato, and Dan Lynch, who became full-fledged Knights of Columbus at a recent ceremony in the IHM adoration chapel. Please pray for these men as they begin serving those in need alongside their brother Knights. Knights of Columbus are men who serve Christ by serving their neighbor. To find out more, please visit [www.kofc.org/en/index.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/index.html) To learn more about Council 5730 which serves IHM and St. Bart's, please contact Ryan Radice at [rradice.history@gmail.com](mailto:rradice.history@gmail.com)







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

### Out of Order Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Pt. 6 Fortitude

A young Steve Rogers, holds up a trash can lid, and guards himself from the blows of neighborhood bullies. At that time he had not grown to his full strength and potential, and yet he stood firm and said "I can do this all day". While Mr. Rogers is a fictional character who would one day be called Captain America, he demonstrates this, one of the most commonly remembered gifts of the Holy Spirit,

called fortitude. Fortitude can best be described as both courage and endurance. Think of that one high school student who stands up for a fellow student, the loner, the one others pick on or exclude. That young man or woman shows courage, in light of what might be a backlash. That young person continues to stand up for any outcast in spite of the consequences. They demonstrate fortitude.

Another individual who showed great fortitude was St. Valentine. We like to celebrate him (or maybe the composite of 5 men and martyrs of that time), by trading little cards, flowers, and candies. We show tokens of affection to family, friends, spouses, perhaps even forgotten and lonely neighbors. These are great things to do. However, St. Valentine is believed to have been a priest at the time of one of the Roman persecutions, at a time when Christians were forbidden marriage. St. Valentine, is believed to have, out of love for God and the couples he ministered to, continued to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. He was ultimately martyred for his actions. This is fortitude.

This week, let us pray that we can grow in the spiritual gift of fortitude, so that we can better stand against the tides of selfishness and individualism that cause disunity and disagreement when what the world truly needs is the strengthening and bolstering of the common good.

God Bless and have a wonderful week!

### Families of Faith Upcoming Events

- 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
- Monday March 11 @ 7:00PM - 8:30PM Confirmation [Year 1] Prep Session 5
- Sunday March 17 Following 10:00AM Mass Rite of Sponsors [Year 1] Presentation @ Naz.



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



To all gardeners or potential gardeners spring is almost here and time to get the garden ready for planting. There is a lot of work to be done: we need to replace and repair the beds. Once that is done, then we need to add soil and vegetable food before actual planting. Of course, there is always weeding and cleaning up. We'll be planting tomatoes, onions, peppers, eggplants, yellow squash, zucchini, onions, and other vegetables. We will need volunteers soon. Contact Emil at [emil.manfredonia@yahoo.com](mailto:emil.manfredonia@yahoo.com) if you would like to help. Thank you!



### Archdiocese of Newark 2024 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. The 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 18 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 26, 2024.

\*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.

Collection Report	February 4, 2024
Weekly Target:	\$11,765.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$9,658.86
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,106.14)
<b>Fiscal Year to Date:</b>	
Budget	\$373,440.00
Actual:	\$351,597.94
Surplus/(Deficit)	(21,842.06)
<b>Rolling 4 Week Averages:</b>	
Average Collection	\$10,041.63
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,723.37)

## IHM SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday February 11</b> 10:00AM - Sunday Food Pantry (Open until 11:30AM)
<b>Monday February 12</b> 7:00PM - Confirmation [Year 1] Prep Session 4 7:30PM - Alpha Episode 2 @ ZOOM
<b>Tuesday February 13</b> 7:00PM - Pastoral Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday February 14: Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day</b> Mass Times: 7AM, 12NOON, 4PM, 7PM 10:00AM - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30AM) 7:00PM - Adult Choir Practice
<b>Thursday February 15</b> 8:30AM - Union Catholic Sophomore Day of Recollection
<b>Friday February 16</b>
<b>Saturday February 17</b> ALL DAY - Saturday Basketball
<b>Sunday February 18</b>



**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)

**Charitable Contribution Forms for 2023**

There are several ways to receive tax forms from IHM:

- **Collection Envelopes:** 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.
- **Parish Giving:** 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 [www.paritygiving.org](http://www.paritygiving.org). If you have any further questions, contact Tracey at 908-889-2100 or [tefoleyihm@gmail.com](mailto:tefoleyihm@gmail.com)



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)

**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. Contact Bob at 908-322-7762 or email [rdlaudati@aol.com](mailto:rdlaudati@aol.com)

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



**Please help us update our Parishioner Contact information! Scan the code on the right and fill out the form. Thank you!**



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



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