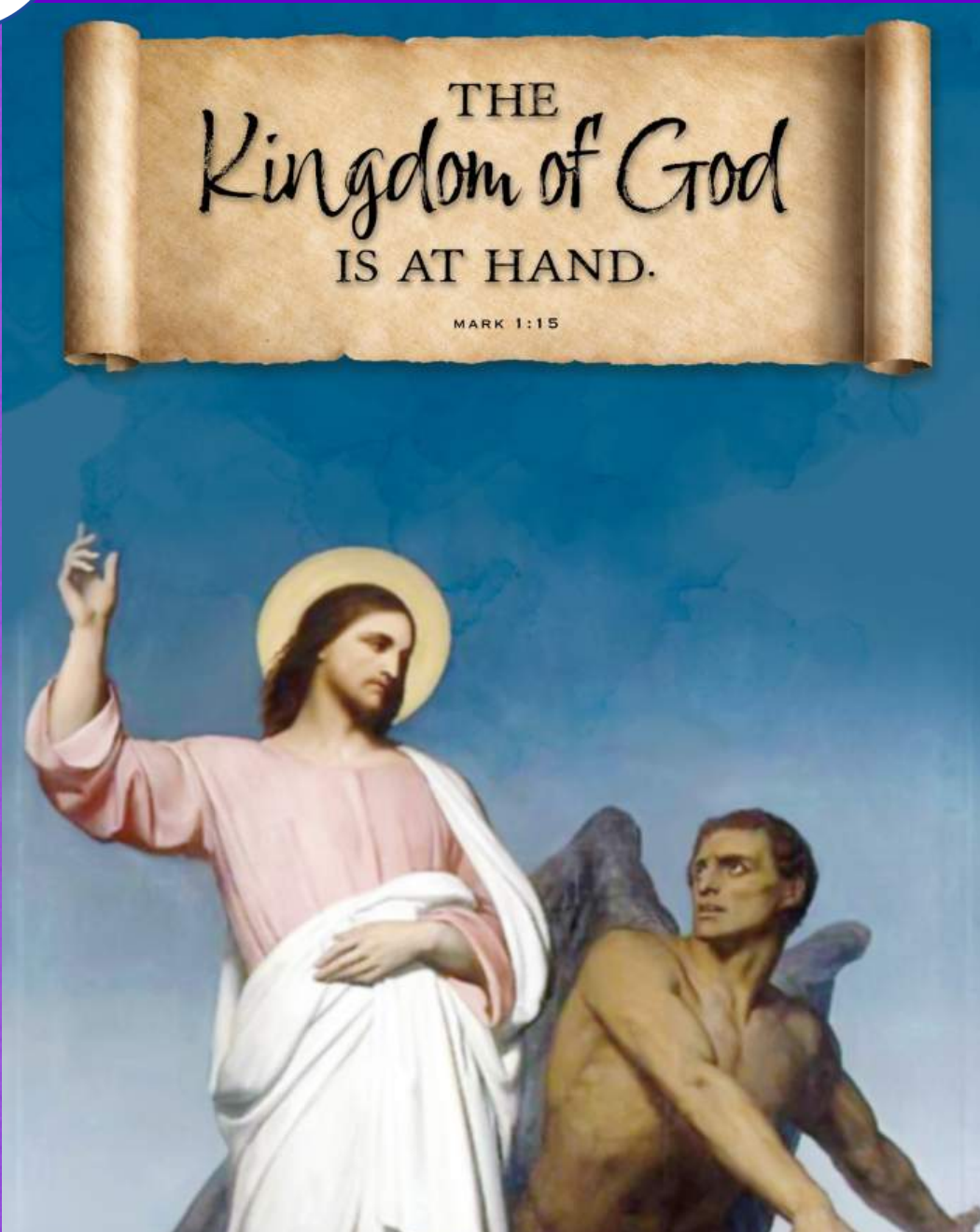




The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

1st Sunday of Lent - February 18, 2024



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
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Website: www.ihmparish.net

Facebook: [Immaculate Heart of Mary Church](#) - Instagram: [ihmparish_sp](#)

A Note from Fr. Mike...

Jesus immediately goes into the desert after His baptism by John and is put to the test. As we begin the holy season of Lent, it is a good reminder that we go into the desert with Jesus, not necessarily to be put to the test, but rather to separate ourselves from the many distractions in our lives. It allows us to concentrate on our relationship with Christ and improve our ability and desire to live out our faith. It is an opportunity for us to look at our own discipleship, and to see where we can continue to grow in our individual relationship with Christ as well as our relationship, in Christ, with others.

Jesus spent time in the desert preparing for His public ministry which commences immediately upon his return from the desert. We spend our Lenten journey preparing for the renewal of our baptismal promises, renewing our commitment as part of a faith community and the celebration of Easter.

Peace, Fr. Mike

The Eucharist in the New Testament and the Early Church



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

Minister Assignments: February 24 - February 25

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
2/24 5:00pm	Jim Brennan	Chris Haight Dan Kelly Janice Good Piga	Fr. Mike
2/25 8:00am	Karen Schwaneberg	Pat Regal Rich Banasiak Alice Coquia (cup)	Fr. Rob
2/25 10:00am	Lou Zappo	Jason McCann David Diken Betty Perfilio Lou Zappo (cup)	Fr. Rob
2/25 12:00pm	Anne Butler	Carol Kiley Diane McGuinness	Fr. Mike

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

Religious Education:

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 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

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 | 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 18 - February 25, 2024


Saturday February 17	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
Sunday February 18	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
Monday February 19	9:00 AM	Jeffrey S. Suckow+ from Marc & Marion Berger and Family
Tuesday February 20	7:00 AM	Linda Daly+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Irene Davern+ from the Foley Family
Wednesday February 21	7:00 AM	Dr. Paul McCormac+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Linda Sacchetti+ from Nancy Shreck
Thursday February 22	7:00 AM	Bob Piga (living) Get well soon from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Ann Marie Mooney+ from IHM Parish
Friday February 23	7:00 AM	Deceased members of the Lazur Family+ from Christine Lazur & Family
	8:30 AM	Charles Kiley+ from the Tiny Tim Fund
	12:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
	7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Saturday February 24	7:00 AM	Irene Davern+ from the Mulrooney Family
	8:30 AM	Charles Kiley+ from Michelle Mottley
	5:00 PM	Deceased members of Good, Kurapka, Dawid & Piga Families+ from Janice Good Piga & Bob Piga
Sunday February 25	8:00 AM	Marlene Mosko+ from the Hennessy Family
	10:00 AM	For the people of IHM Parish
	12:00 PM	Marie & Tom Farrell Sr+ Happy Birthday from the Farrell Family

Special Intentions for the week of February 18 - February 25, 2024

<p><u>Sanctuary Light</u> For the intention of: Rosary Altar Society (living) Thank you! Requested by: IHM Parish</p>	<p><u>Altar Bread & Wine</u> For the intention of: Food Pantry Volunteers (living) Thank you! Requested by: IHM Parish</p>	<p><u>Flowers for the Blessed Mother</u> A heavenly birthday to: Marilyn Edmonds+ Requested by: Joy & Stash Wanat</p>	<p>Remember Our Departed Eileen Lynch+ Ann Marie Mooney+ Lina Occhipinti+ Louise Regeci+</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	Marisol Rodriguez	Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen
George Becker	Colm Cosgrove	Michele Gamako	Mary Frances Leon	Susan Rozborski	Stephanie Vernace
Fran Boglioli	Samantha Bridge	Nicole Griffin	William Maines	Dolores Rust	Stephen Voorhees
Erin Brennan	James Brown	Ann Marie Harvey	Jim Malfetti	Diana Scariati	Ben Wheelock
Anna Cassella	John Burkert	David Hens	Bill Malone	Arty Shapiro	Evelyn Whitehorne
Paul Cassidy	Ray Clark	Kathleen Herron	Hilda Pizza	Elisa Silversey	
Matthew Cassio	Matt Donovan	Juliann Junio	Diane Pricken	Bernard Slaza	
Peter Cavanagh	Albert Fischer Jr.	Marie Keller	Carmela Resnick	Beverly Sopp	
Frank Chimento	Phyllis Fischer	Dorothy Klein	Jacob Rivera	Ryder Francis Spillane	
Edward Clark	Emily Fleming	Anna Koch	Jaxson Rivera	Daniel Ventura	

 **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

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

The Rosary Altar Society Update



I've Learned To Trust in You
 I may not always understand
 The things I'm going through
 But through the good times and the bad,
 I've learned to trust in you.
 You've loved me times when no one did.
 You've been right there for me.
 When I was down you held me up
 For all the world to see.
 While others turned and walked away
 You never left my side
 And through each lonely time I had,
 You wiped each tear I cried.
 You always saw the best in me -
 At times I wondered how!
 You are an awesome God, you know,
 And my praise I give you now.
 I hope you look inside my heart
 And see I need you still.
 I love you more than words can say
 And know I always will.

♥ 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.

♥ Please mark your calendars for TUESDAY, MARCH 5th AT 7PM For Our ROSARY POT LUCK SUPPER! We each make our favorite dish and bring it for an evening of deliciousness!! Please contact Janice 908-759-6729 OR Mary Anne 908-322-0279 To Reserve Your Place & Describe What You Will Be Bringing.

♥ 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 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 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 for details.



The generosity of our community in supporting the mothers and children of Mercy House was astounding! Between financial donations, and material donations we provided an amazing outpouring of support for this meaningful cause! On Friday, February 9th volunteers from Mercy House came to our parish to accept our donations, and the poster designed by Youth Ministry member Sofia Sanchez, where Families of Faith participants wrote notes of support for mothers! At IHM, we consistently grow in our understanding of the sanctity of life, as we seek to aid those in need. In them we see the image & likeness of our Creator.

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MARCH
23, 2024

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 -Fun Run and Activities for our younger participants

Start Time & Location
 Oak Ridge Park
 136 Oak Ridge Road,
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 08:00am - 11:00am

Registration Fees:
 Early Bird (Before 3/1/2024): \$30 per Adult / \$20 Under 18 Years
 After 3/1/2024: \$35 per Adult / \$25 Under 18 Years

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Here's a group shot of our friends that attended the Beta Reunion on Wednesday February 7th. Thank you for joining us! If you are interested in Beta, another session will start in May 2024. Learn more about Beta at www.ihmparish.net/beta



A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate: John McGuire

Out of Order Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Pt. 7 Knowledge

As we conclude this series on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we remember something we heard in our youth (or at least relative youth) "Knowledge is Power". I am not going to give you a drawn out philosophy lesson with this segment, but it's helpful to dwell on the philosophical for a moment.

Imagine this a super basic introduction to the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas (that my philosophy professors would probably want to cane me for). God is pure substance and being. Everything that exists, does because of, and through God. Everything that exists has to have a source, and that source is God.

In this sense, all creation exists in and subject to God. Our best existence is one where we acknowledge God, and follow our best call to follow Him. Our greatest path to perfection is the one in which we live to our best potential.

Knowledge helps us to know God, see His presence, and follow His will for us in our lives. Knowledge in concert with wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord is our best path to Eternal Life, but not without making the world a better place for our neighbors first!

This week, let us pray for a revival in all of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, but especially in Knowledge that helps us to see God, and follow Him in all things.

This concludes our brief series on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, watch here, to see what's next!

God Bless and have a wonderful week!

Families of Faith Upcoming Events

- 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.
- Sunday March 24 @ 9:00AM
Palm Sunday / Living Stations Rehearsal



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 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 11, 2024
Weekly Target:	\$11,765.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$12,660.87
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$895.87
Fiscal Year to Date:	
Budget	\$385,110.00
Actual:	\$364,285.81
Surplus/(Deficit)	(20,851.19)
Rolling 4 Week Averages:	
Average Collection	\$10,012.64
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,752.36)

IHM SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

<u>Sunday February 18</u>
<u>Monday February 19:</u> President's Day ALL DAY - Office & Chapel Closed
<u>Tuesday February 20</u> 7:15PM - Spirituality Seminar: The Eucharist on ZOOM
<u>Wednesday February 21</u> 10:00AM - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30AM) 7:00PM - Adult Choir Practice 7:00PM - Knights of Columbus Meeting
<u>Thursday February 22</u> 7:30PM - Men's Scripture Group on ZOOM
<u>Friday February 23</u>
<u>Saturday February 24</u> ALL DAY - Saturday Basketball
<u>Sunday February 25</u> 8:45AM - Families of Faith Lenten Gathering/Easter Baskets 11:00AM - Prayer Shawl Knitting Meeting 7:00PM - IHM Youth Group Night powered by BOLD

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.parishgiving.org. If you have any further questions, contact Tracey at 908-889-2100 or tefoleyihm@gmail.com




CALLED TO SERVE

FRI. MARCH 8TH AT 6PM - SAT. MARCH 9TH AT 8PM

@ St. Bart's Parish: 2032 Westfield Ave, Scotch Plains
www.stbartholomewchurch.org/mens-cornerstone




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



SEASONS is a support group for individuals who have experienced the loss of a partner. **First Presbyterian Church:** 11 Springfield Ave. Cranford. Contact Bob Laudati at 908-322-7762 or email rdlaudati@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SEASONS

- **Thursday, February 22 @ 7:00PM:** "Trivia Night"
- **Thursday, March 14 @ 7:00PM:** Shani Davis from AAA will discuss Car Talk: Buy or Lease, Insurance and Warranties.



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 or call the parish office at 908-889-2100 for assistance.
You can also register online at www.sanalfonsoretreats.org



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