



The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

2nd Sunday of Lent - February 25, 2024



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



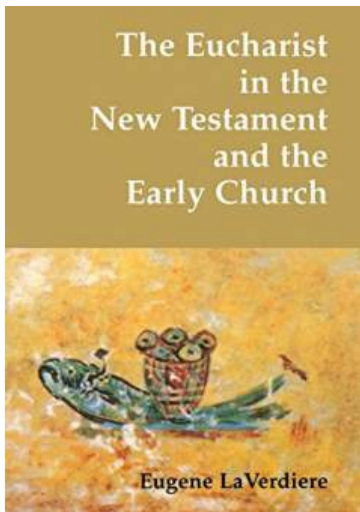
1571 South Martine Ave. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 Phone: (908) 889-2100
Fax: (908) 889-9477 E-mail: office@ihmparish.net

Website: 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 God's purpose and will seem strange and incomprehensible, as in the beginning of today's first reading when Abraham is asked to sacrifice his only son. Isaac was to be the one through whom God would grant Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, and was himself a gift from God in Abraham and Sarah's old age. Yet Abraham intends to follow God's will even when he may not understand the purpose or reasoning behind it. He remembers that he is called to be faithful to the covenant that God has established with him. He remembers that his loyalty is to the giver, God, not the gift, Isaac, and thus is rewarded. Peter, James and John did not understand the need for Jesus to go to Jerusalem and experience his passion and death. They are given a glimpse of His true glory, of the only begotten Son, to strengthen and encourage them on this journey. It is when they encounter the risen Lord that they come to a fuller understanding of the Lord's passion and death so that they can grow as disciples and experience greater conversion and commitment to the Kingdom. Both are a reminder to us that we are called, even when it seems difficult and incomprehensible, to place our trust in God's love and discern His will for us. The Lenten practices of prayer, almsgiving (service) and fasting can help us to do just that. Peace, Fr. Mike



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. **Every Tuesday night at 7:15PM on Zoom.** Please sign-up for an invite at FrRob@IHMParish.net

Minister Assignments: March 2 - March 3

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
3/2 5:00pm	Janice Good-Piga	Chris Zucosky Chris Haight	Fr. Rob
3/3 8:00am	Ed Sullivan	Jean Bagdonas Colm Keogh Rich Wagner (cup)	Fr. Mike
3/3 10:00am	Mary Kate Schiller	Anthony Carlino David Diken Betty Perfilio	Fr. Mike
3/3 12:00pm	Michelle Gardella	Carol Kiley Diane McGuinness	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

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 25 - March 3, 2024


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
Monday February 26	7:00 AM	Charles Kiley+ from Karen & Joe Schurtz
	8:30 AM	Francisco Buscini+ 6th Anniversary from Rita Buscini
Tuesday February 27	7:00 AM	Jeanne Colvin+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Irene Davern+ from Pat & John Hennessy
Wednesday February 28	7:00 AM	Lina Occhipinti+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Deceased members of Tomczyk Family+ from Christine Lazor & Family
Thursday February 29	7:00 AM	Ann Marie Mooney+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Sister Marie Shawn+ from Mr. & Mrs. Walter Schwaneberg
Friday March 1	7:00 AM	Joan Keegan+ from Maryann & Charlie Mulrooney
	8:30 AM	Eileen Lynch+ from Geraldine & Colm Keogh
	12:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
	7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
Saturday March 2	7:00 AM	Louise D. Regeci+ from Barbara Mnich
	8:30 AM	Charles Kiley+ from Mike & Dottie Miller & Family
	5:00 PM	For the People of IHM Parish
Sunday March 3	8:00 AM	John Kaminskas+ from the Marsella Family
	10:00 AM	Suze Presendieu (living) HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! From me!
	12:00 PM	John Reilly+ Happy Birthday from the Farrell & Reilly Families

Special Intentions for the week of February 25 - March 3, 2024

<p><u>Sanctuary Light</u> In loving memory of: Joseph F. DeBiase Sr.+ 1st Anniversary in Heaven Requested by Campbell Family</p>	<p><u>Altar Bread & Wine</u> For the intention of: Deacon Jack Lynch (living) Requested by: IHM Parish</p>	<p><u>Flowers for the Blessed Mother</u> In memory of: Dorothy & John Thompson+ Requested by: Katie Thompson & Rick Geiger</p>	<p><u>Remember Our Departed</u> Jeanne Colvin+ Elena Kalagian+ Thomas Maccari+</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	Paula Roll	Daniel Ventura
George Becker	Colm Cosgrove	Michele Gamako	Mary Frances Leon	Marisol Rodriguez	Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen
Fran Boglioli	Samantha Bridge	Nicole Griffin	William Maines	Susan Rozborski	Stephanie Vernace
Erin Brennan	James Brown	Ann Marie Harvey	Jim Malfetti	Dolores Rust	Stephen Voorhees
Anna Cassella	John Burkert	David Hens	Bill Malone	Diana Scariati	Ben Wheelock
Paul Cassidy	Ray Clark	Kathleen Herron	Hilda Pizza	Arty Shapiro	Evelyn Whitehorne
Matthew Cassio	Matt Donovan	Juliann Junio	Diane Pricken	Elisa Silversey	
Peter Cavanagh	Albert Fischer Jr.	Marie Keller	Carmela Resnick	Bernard Slaza	
Frank Chimento	Phyllis Fischer	Dorothy Klein	Jacob Rivera	Beverly Sopp	
Edward Clark	Emily Fleming	Anna Koch	Jaxson 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

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

What God Hath Promised

God hath not promised skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through,
God hath not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
God hath not promised we shall not know
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe,
He hath not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.
God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide,
Never a mountain rocky and steep,
Never a river turbid and deep.
But God hath promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Untailing sympathy, undying love.

Annie Johnson Flint

♥ 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 tfoleyihm@gmail.com for more details. Prayer connects us all!



Join us for Lectio Divina: Reflection, Discussion & Quiet. Prayer Group will return **Thursday morning March 7 from 9:30 AM until 10:45 AM**.

Contact Phyllis at tman18912@comcast.net or call the office at 908-889-2100. Thank you!



The next Men's Scripture & Discussion group meeting will be a LIVE session on **Saturday morning March 2 at 7:30 AM in the church basement**.

Donuts & coffee served. Please contact David at dndiken@aol.com for details.



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.



Join IHM Youth Ministry for Philly Pretzels and to DIVE into LENT!

**Sunday, February 25, 2024
7:00-8:30pm in Nazareth Center**

Pretzels have been the official snack of Lent for hundreds of years, so join us this Sunday and kick Lent off the right way!

All in High School are invited!
(you don't have to belong to IHM)

Text Rachael to RSVP 908-280-2893



A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate: John McGuire

Keeping it Orderly: The Return

Last February we offered a series of write ups on 4 religious communities, the Benedictines, Carmelites, Dominicans, and Jesuits. In that series we considered the foundational pillars, significant saints, a simple prayer, and specific writings of note that are significant to each order.

Over the next four weeks, we're going to revisit this format to consider the Franciscan order, Carthusians, Salesians (and what might be unique about that group). In our final week, we'll consider an order of devout sisters called the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (the order my wife once belonged to).

We'll take breaks for any important parish news, but otherwise let's strap in for an enlightening ride! Whenever possible, we'll also try to highlight food products and drinks these specific communities may produce for their support, so that families can purposefully indulge in those things during the Easter Season, to make their joyful celebrations even more meaningful!

As individuals we all experience the love of God, and prayer in diverse ways. Perhaps as we consider these faithful communities, we can each take something away that will enrich, and deepen our experience of faith!

This week, let us pray for all of the faithful men and women in the world that have devoted their life to the service of God, and in many cases their neighbors, in consecrated life. Let us pray that men and women continue to dedicate themselves to religious life, and other important vocations within the Church.

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



The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Call the Coordinator for the Office of Accompaniment in the Archdiocesan Department for the Protection of the Faithful at 201-407-3256.

IHM YOUTH MINISTRY LENT CHALLENGE

DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING...

PRAYER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get to Sunday Mass every single week, no excuses! • Get to Confession at least once during Lent • Daily Prayer: At least 15 continuous minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Here are some ideas: Pray the rosary, read the Gospels, start a prayer journal, keep a list of prayer intentions, go to Eucharistic Adoration
FASTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meat Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent • Fast on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, AND one day each additional week of Lent. (You may substitute this penance for cold showers two days a week) • 3 nights out of the week after 7pm, give up all TV and social media. Try reading, praying, playing a board game with your family, or get to bed early! • Give up sin. Work on virtue. For you it might be lying, alcohol, smoking, gossip, impurity, swearing, etc.
ALMSGIVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember the poor this Lent and put your faith into action. Pick a service project to do for those who are in need in some way. • Make a donation (large or small) to an organization that serves the poor. Consider doing this one as a family!

Also consider joining our online Lent/Easter video series / discussion group. Text Rachael for details (908) 280-2893

TEEN DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

Online Video & Discussion Series

The Search Begins

High School teens, ready to dive deeper in your relationship with Jesus? Take the challenge to sharpen your spiritual life with a weekly small group taking you from Lent through Easter! We'll grow in Discipleship through an in-depth exploration of our faith, as well as checking in and praying for each other!

MEET ON ZOOM
TUESDAYS (7:00 - 8:00PM)
MARCH 5,12,19
APRIL 2,9,16,22

IHM Youth Ministry BOLD8
youth ministry by the 7000s

Collection Report	February 18, 2024
Weekly Target:	\$11,765.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$11,713.77
Surplus/(Deficit)	(51.23)
Fiscal Year to Date:	
Budget	\$396,780.00
Actual:	\$375,972.58
Surplus/(Deficit)	(20,807.42)
Rolling 4 Week Averages:	
Average Collection	\$10,507.48
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,257.52)

IHM SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK
Sunday February 25 8:45AM - Families of Faith Lenten Gathering/Easter Baskets 11:00AM - Prayer Shawl Knitting Meeting 7:00PM - IHM Youth Group Night powered by BOLD
Monday February 26 7:00PM - [Confirmation Year 2] Prep Session Lenten Gathering 7:30PM - Alpha Episode 3 on ZOOM
Tuesday February 27 11:30AM - Rosary Altar Society Board Meeting 7:15PM - Spirituality Seminar: The Eucharist on ZOOM
Wednesday February 28 10:00AM - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30AM) 7:00PM - Adult Choir Practice
Thursday February 29
Friday March 1
Saturday March 2 7:30AM - Men's Scripture Group LIVE ALL DAY - Saturday Basketball
Sunday March 3 8:45AM - [1st Communion] Family Morning of Reflection 9:00AM - Holy Name Society Meeting & Breakfast 9:30AM - Family Choir Practice 7:00PM - [Youth Group] Leadership Meeting

Charitable Contribution Forms for 2023
 There are several ways to receive tax forms from IHM:

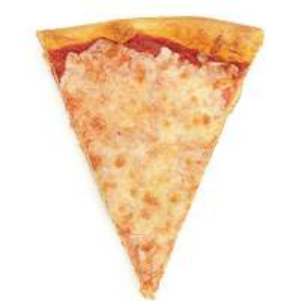
- **Collection Envelopes:** If you are using envelopes for your Sunday collection contribution, you should receive a form in the mail from our envelope company later this month if you contributed \$100 or more in 2023.
- **Parish Giving:** You will be able to print a contribution history activity form 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



2024 Annual Appeal for Archdiocese
 Goal: \$66,058.58 (stretch goal \$69,693)
 Pledged: \$20,806.00 (31.50% of total - 29.85% of stretch goal)
 You can make a gift online through our Parish Giving Link on our website or by going directly to www.rcan.org/sharing



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



PIZZA & PRAYER NIGHT
FRIDAY MARCH 8, 2024
 The Hospitality Team will be serving Pizza at 5:45PM BEFORE 7:00PM Stations of the Cross. Please sign-up so we can provide enough food for everyone. Call the office at 908-889-2100 or sign-up at our website www.ihmparish.net




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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