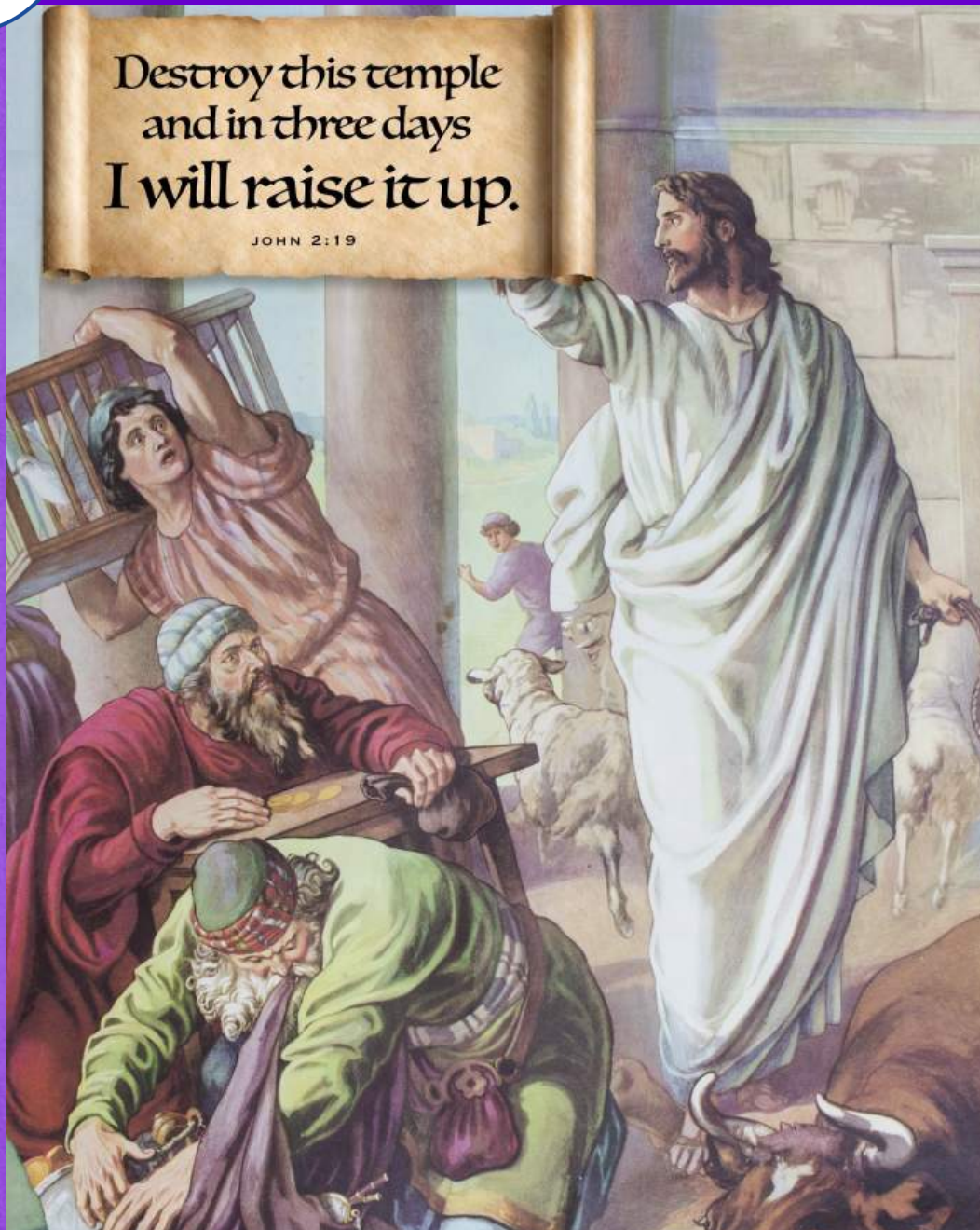




The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

3rd Sunday of Lent - March 3, 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](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 doesn't like what He sees in the temple area and forces a drastic change by throwing out the money changers and those who sold the animals, claiming to rebuild the temple in three days. If we invited Jesus into our house, our lives, what drastic changes would He make in us. What would he throw out?

Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians could be a starting point for reflection by asking ourselves if we still base our faith in signs or in a relationship with Christ crucified and risen? Do we succumb, without thought to secular or mere human wisdom or do we discern God's will in our lives? Do we allow the love of Christ to reign in our hearts or do we carve idols in our lives? These 40 days of lent are a great opportunity for us to invite Jesus deeper into our lives so that He may show us what we need to throw out and what we need to concentrate on so that we may recognize His presence and love more profoundly in our lives.

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

#### Minister Assignments: March 9 - March 10

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
3/9 5:00pm	Kathy Mitchell	Janice Good-Piga Dan Kelly	Fr. Mike
3/10 8:00am	Rich Banasiak	Lou DiBella Chris Dill Alice Coquia (cup)	Fr. Mike
3/10 10:00am	Jane McClellan	Connie Boruch (A) David Boruch (A) Eileen Wagner (A)	Fr. Rob
3/10 12:00pm	Regina O'Connor	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 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 March 3 - March 10, 2024**

<b>Saturday March 2</b>	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
<b>Sunday March 3</b>	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
<b>Monday March 4</b>	7:00 AM	Jeanne Colvin+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Saturday Morning Rosary Girls (living) from Carol Kiley
<b>Tuesday March 5</b>	7:00 AM	Elena Kalagian+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Charles Kiley+ from Mari & Monk McDevitt
<b>Wednesday March 6</b>	7:00 AM	Thomas Maccari+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Melanie Mindnich Zappo+ from Lou Zappo
<b>Thursday March 7</b>	7:00 AM	Oralia Martinez+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Maureen & Donald Gillmore+ from Mary Jo Tyson
<b>Friday March 8</b>	7:00 AM	Marlene Mosko+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Deceased members of Haligowski Family+ from Christine Lazur & Family
	12:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday March 9</b>	7:00 AM	Eileen Lynch+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Alison Gara (living) Happy Birthday! from the Lundgren Family
	5:00 PM	Mary, Gustave & Hilda Heeger+ from Joanne & Gary Cogswell
<b>Sunday March 10</b>	8:00 AM	For the People of IHM Parish
	10:00 AM	Deceased members of Licata & Mannell Families+ from the Lewis Family
	12:00 PM	Agnes Reilly+ Happy Birthday from the Farrell & Reilly Families

**Special Intentions for the week of March 3 - March 10, 2024**

<p><b><u>Sanctuary Light</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Minnie Dobbs+</b> Requested by: IHM Parish</p>	<p><b><u>Altar Bread &amp; Wine</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Eileen Lynch+</b> from IHM Parish</p>	<p><b><u>Flowers for the Blessed Mother</u></b> In memory of deceased members: <b>McCrystal &amp; Perfilio Families+</b> Requested by: Betty &amp; Tony Perfilio</p>	<p><b><u>Remember Our Departed</u></b> Jeanne Colvin+ Minnie Dobbs+ 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.

**Loss of a Child Prayer Service: Sunday March 10 @ 2:00PM**  
 Church of the Little Flower. 310 Plainfield Ave. Berkeley Heights, NJ  
 A time of prayer and remembrance for anyone who has lost a child for any reason at any age,  
 before or after birth.  
 Questions? Please contact [bereavement.lf@gmail.com](mailto:bereavement.lf@gmail.com)

## I HOPE YOU KNOW

BY HOPE HARRINGTON ROED

I HOPE YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'RE LOVED, HOW MANY PEOPLE CARE... HOW OFTEN SOMEONE SAYS YOUR NAME, WHISPERED IN A PRAYER...

I HOPE YOU KNOW HOW MANY LIVES ARE TOUCHED BY WHAT YOU DO... HOW HIGH THE HOPES, HOW DEEP THE NEED TO KNOW YOU'RE BEING TRUE...

I HOPE YOU KNOW HOW HEAVEN SEES THE DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE... THE UNIQUE ROLE, THE SPECIAL ROAD THAT ONLY YOU CAN TAKE...

I HOPE YOU KNOW GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU SINCE LONG BEFORE YOUR BIRTH... HIS GREAT DESIRE TO GO WITH YOU ANYWHERE ON EARTH...

FOR IF YOU KNOW, YOU'LL VENTURE FORTH WITH FAITH AND JOY AND POWER... AND REST WITHIN THE LOVE THAT'S YOURS EVERY SINGLE HOUR.

## The Rosary Altar Society Update

♥ 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. May your Lenten Journey be a most memorable & fulfilling one!!

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 Prayer Group will return **Thursday morning 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. Thank you!



The next Men's Scripture & Discussion group meeting will be a VIRTUAL session on **Thursday night March 14 at 7:30 PM on ZOOM.**

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

# Prayer & Pizza

## Friday March 8, 2024



The Hospitality Team is serving pizza at 5:45PM **BEFORE 7pm Stations of the Cross!** ← Scan this code with your phone and fill out the form to sign-up!

Can't scan QR Codes? No problem! Sign up on our website! [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net) or call the parish office at 908-889-2100



### 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.



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

### Keeping it Orderly: The Franciscans

*General understanding:* St. Francis of Assisi never said 'preach the gospel always, when necessary use words'. No, Saint Francis did found a religious community in 1209 AD, he was ordained a deacon (but never a priest out of humility) and did great work to restore neglected churches. A way we reflect his life today is through our continued use of Nativity scenes!

The order he founded still continues today, and branches of that community continue to grow, the most recent addition to that trunk that I am aware of is the Franciscans of the Renewal (C.F.R.) which some of our community may be acquainted with, founded in 1982. The four pillars of Franciscan life are Spirituality, Formation, Fraternity, and Apostolate. For a layman's understanding of this spirituality let's break it down. Friars or brothers living in community (fraternity) are called to communal and individual prayer as the center of their daily lives (spirituality). The result of brotherhood and prayer is that the members of the community share the Gospel, and material assistance to the communities in which they reside (apostolate). Finally, the integration of the pillars of spirituality, formation, and apostolate into the life and routine of the brothers is accomplished through ongoing (formation).

*Significant Saints to Look up on your own:* Saint Joseph Cupertino, Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Saint Benedict The Moor, Saint Bonaventure, Saint Claire of Assisi, Saint Marianne Cope, Saint Thomas More, Saint Junipero Serra and more!

*The Prayer of Saint Francis:* Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen. To be continued! Read more at [www.ihmparish.net/book-of-john](http://www.ihmparish.net/book-of-john)

## Families of Faith Upcoming Events

- Sunday March 3 @ 8:45AM - 12:15PM  
First Communion Families Morning of Reflection
- Friday March 8 @ 5:45PM - 6:45PM  
Prayer & Pizza (before Stations of the Cross)
- 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
- Wednesday March 27 @ 7:00PM  
Talking Lent with Fr. Vic Kennedy



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



### We will be watching The Chosen!

**Starting Friday March 8 at 7:45PM (after Stations of the Cross) in the Nazareth Center.** The Chosen is the first multi-season series about the life of Jesus. The series portrays Jesus "through the eyes of those who met him" and shows him in a way that is more "personal and intimate." JUST DROP IN AND JOIN US! No registration needed. This series is fantastic and you won't be disappointed! Call the Parish Office at 908-889-2100 if you have questions.

**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 8000s

IHM Youth Ministry invites the Parish community to

*Living Stations of the Cross*

**7:00PM**  
on Good Friday  
March 29th  
IHM Church



*High School and Middle School Volunteers Needed*  
Teens are invited to act in the Living Stations! Contact Rachael if you want to get involved!

**Rehearsals:** Palm Sunday, March 24th, 1:00-3:00pm  
Good Friday, March 29th, 5:30-7:00pm  
We will have pizza during our rehearsal and Stations of the Cross takes place at 7pm for the Parish!

**BOLD8**  
youth ministry by the 8000s

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

Collection Report	February 25, 2024
Weekly Target:	\$11,765.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$10,593.05
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,171.95)
<b>Fiscal Year to Date:</b>	
Budget	\$408,450.00
Actual:	\$386,565.63
Surplus/(Deficit)	(21,884.37)
<b>Rolling 4 Week Averages:</b>	
Average Collection	\$11,156.64
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(608.36)

IHM SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK
<b>Sunday March 3</b> 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
<b>Monday March 4</b> 7:30PM - Alpha Episode 4 on ZOOM
<b>Tuesday March 5</b> 6:00PM - Rosary Altar Society Potluck Supper @ Naz. Center 7:15PM - Spirituality Seminar: The Eucharist on ZOOM
<b>Wednesday March 6</b> 10:00AM - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30AM) 7:00PM - Adult Choir Practice 7:00PM - Knights of Columbus Meeting
<b>Thursday March 7</b> 9:30AM - Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina LIVE @ Naz. Center 7:30PM - Women's Prayer Group Meeting on ZOOM
<b>Friday March 8</b> 12:00PM - Stations of the Cross (Soup & Salad @ Naz. Center) 5:45PM - Prayer & Pizza @ Church Basement 6:00PM - Men's Cornerstone Retreat Begins @ St. Bart's 6:00PM - San Alfonso Women's Retreat Begins @ Long Branch 7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross 7:45PM - The Chosen Watch Party @ Naz. Center
<b>Saturday March 9</b> ALL DAY - Saturday Basketball 4:15PM - Confessions @ Church 8:00 PM - Men's Cornerstone Retreat Conclusion
<b>Sunday March 10</b> 9:30AM - Family Choir Practice 10:00AM - Food Pantry Sunday (Open until 11:30AM) 11:00AM - Families of Faith Easter Basket Assembly 5:00PM - San Alfonso Women's Retreat Conclusion

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



**ANNUAL APPEAL 2024**

**2024 Annual Appeal for Archdiocese**  
 Goal: \$66,058.58 (stretch goal \$69,693)  
**Pledged: \$21,806.00**  
 (33.01% total - 31.29% 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](http://www.rcan.org/sharing)



**CALLLED 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](http://www.stbartholomewchurch.org/mens-cornerstone)



**San Alfonso 2024 Women's Weekend Retreat**  
 March 8-10, 2024 @ Long Branch, NJ  
 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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