



The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

4th Sunday of Lent - March 10, 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...

At times in our lives it seems that God has forgotten us, or turned away from us, yet our readings show us a different reality than our own experience sometimes shows us. God loves us and remembers us. God loves us so much that He became one with us in Jesus Christ. He never forgot the people of Israel even when they forgot God and turned away from Him. He never forgot them even when they were in exile. And He never forgets us. Sometimes our preoccupations blind us from Him, sometimes our sinfulness is an obstacle to recognizing His presence and sometimes our attitudes and selfishness prevent us from feeling His love. Yet Jesus tells us that He came not to condemn but to save and give life, and always through His grace and mercy we are continually invited to participate in His life. In fasting or sacrifice we make more room for Christ in our lives. In prayer we strive to open ourselves to the light of Christ. In giving of ourselves we allow that light to shine forth in our lives. In this way we remember that Christ is always with us to nurture and guide us into His Kingdom.  
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.  
**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 16 - March 17

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
3/16 5:00pm	Mulrooney	Chris Zucosky Janice Good-Piga	Fr. Rob
3/17 8:00am	Colm Keogh	Geraldine Keogh Jean Bagdonas Rich Wagner (cup)	Fr. Mike
3/17 10:00am	Lou Zappo	Heba Fortunato Jason McCann Ed Sullivan (S)	Fr. Mike
3/17 12:00pm	Anne Butler	Carol Kiley Regina O'Connor	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  
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#### 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 10 - March 17, 2024**

<b>Saturday March 9</b>	7:00 AM	Eileen Lynch+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Allison 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
<b>Monday March 11</b>	7:00 AM	Glenn Stuart+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Deceased members of Zappo & Mindnich Families+ from Lou Zappo
<b>Tuesday March 12</b>	7:00 AM	Eileen Lynch+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Maryann Friscia (living) from the Manfredonia Family
<b>Wednesday March 13</b>	7:00 AM	Minnie Dobbs+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Tommy Wagner+ from Mom & Dad
<b>Thursday March 14</b>	7:00 AM	Jeanne Colvin+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	Michael D'Ambrosio+ from D'Ambrosio & Kiley Families
<b>Friday March 15</b>	7:00 AM	Thomas Maccari+ from IHM Parish
	8:30 AM	John Wilson+ from Geraldine & Colm Keogh
	12:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
	7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday March 16</b>	7:00 AM	Patricia Longus (living) from Bernie Beck
	8:30 AM	Leo & Mary Kasabucki+ from Christine Lazur & Family
	5:00 PM	Our parents Madeleine, William, Susan & Arnold+ from Arnie & Pat Manzo
<b>Sunday March 17</b>	8:00 AM	For the People of IHM Parish
	10:00 AM	Patricia Markey+ from Cousin Peggy
	12:00 PM	Tom Dwyer+ from the Dwyer Family

**Special Intentions for the week of March 10 - March 17, 2024**

<p><b><u>Sanctuary Light</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Centering Prayer Group (living)</b> Thank you from IHM Parish</p>	<p><b><u>Altar Bread &amp; Wine</u></b> For the intention of: <b>Geraldine &amp; Colm Keogh (living)</b> Thank you from IHM Parish</p>	<p><b><u>Flowers for the Blessed Mother</u></b> In memory of: <b>Mildred Mrozek+</b> Requested by: Barbara &amp; Joe Mrozek</p>	<p><b>Remember Our Departed</b> Minnie Dobbs+ Anna LaGrasso+ Glenn Stuart+</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.

St. Bartholomew Bereavement Ministry will be offering a grief support group for those who have lost a loved one. The group will be held at the Cup of Grief Cafe (lower level break room at the Rossi Funeral Home).  
**Group sessions start Thursday April 11 and continue every Thursday night until May 23 from 7PM to 8:30PM.**  
 Please RSVP or call with any questions to:  
 Jo-Anne Mealia 908-889-7790 or Bernadette Rossi 908-510-0995

## The Rosary Altar Society Update

### God's Springtime Has Blossomed

Welcome the glorious springtide,  
Open the door to the sun;  
Let in the scent of this season,  
Now that Spring has begun.

Hum with the soft, gentle breezes,  
Sing with the birds that now sing;  
This is a time of rejoicing,  
This is the season of Spring.

Let in the radiant springtide,  
Listen to the sounds, see the sights.  
Hear all the peepers a-peeping,  
See geese in the sky in flight.

Witness rebirth of the flowers,  
Discover new life everywhere;  
Rejoice! God's springtime has blossomed  
Where once all was bleak and bare.

Loise Pinkerton Fritz

SALESIAN MISSIONS

♥ Thank you to those who attended our "POT LUCK DINNER" on Tuesday Evening. Each Rosarian brought their delicious specialty dishes and we had a fabulous buffet followed by a Rosary Meeting & Prayers. Thank you to Mary Ann & Janice for coordinating the event.

♥ IHM will be hosting "An Evening With Eleanor Roosevelt" by A Comedic Impersonator on Friday Evening, April 12th at 7:00 PM in The Nazareth Center. The Rosary Altar Society will be preparing the Wine & Cheese & Desserts for the entertainment event. Please see the IHM website for details and reservation information in the weeks to come.

♥ 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 April 11th, 2024 at 7:30PM on ZOOM.**

The topic will be "The Road to Emmaus". 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 meet on **Thursday mornings from 9:30AM until 10:45AM at the Nazareth Center.** 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.



### 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.



**Mass of Anointing**  
**Saturday March 16, 2024**  
**11:00AM in Church**  
**Confessions available starting at 10AM**

### IHM + UNION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LENTEN COLLECTION

We are collecting specifically these items: Fun Size candy bars, boxed milk or milk alternative, tuna fish pouches, square food containers, disposable cups, plastic utensils and napkins.

**DEADLINE: SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024**

Please leave donations at church, Nazareth Center or High School. Donations will help Mercy House (Newark) and St. Joseph Social Services (Elizabeth) Contact Kathy [kmitchell@fanwoodnj.org](mailto:kmitchell@fanwoodnj.org)

Union Catholic Performing Arts Company presents...

**EMMA: A Pop Musical**

Exclusive dress rehearsal for SPF Seniors on **Wednesday March 20th at 10:00AM**

Please support the kids and purchase tickets at [www.showtix4u.com/event-details/81758](http://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/81758)

Union Catholic High School  
1600 Martine Ave. Scotch Plains

St. Bart's Academy  
5K Run & Walk  
**Saturday March 23**  
**from 8AM - 11AM**  
Oak Ridge Park. Clark, NJ

Register online at [www.raceforum.com/sba](http://www.raceforum.com/sba)  
Or call 908-322-4265

Good Luck!!!



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

### Keeping it Orderly: The Carthusians

*General understanding:* The Cross is Steady While the World Turns - *Stat crux dum volvitur orbis*. This week we look at a completely different type of religious order in the Carthusians. Whereas, the Franciscans and others we've spoken of have been mendicant orders, that focus outwards in ministries the Carthusians are a contemplative order of monks and nuns.

Those names mean something different than brothers or friars and sisters. They characterize these people as monastic religious.

When thinking of the Carthusians there are two words we can consider. They are a cenobitic order, which means they live a community life, with a community rule. They also observe aspects of the eremitic life (as hermits) so solitude. The Carthusian Order was founded by St. Bruno in 1084. The order takes part in a disciplined prayer life, marked by both solitude and self denial. The rule of the community is called the Statutes.

### Significant Saints to Look up on your own!

The most well known saint of this order is their founder St. Bruno.

### Carthusians on Prayer

<https://chartreux.org/moines/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/A-Carthusian-Prayer-of-the-Heart.pdf>

### Food and Drinks that Support the Community!

Carthusian Chartreuse, a captivating liqueur crafted by Carthusian Monks in the French Chartreuse Mountains since 1737, is a true elixir steeped in history and mystery. Read more at [www.ihmparish.net/book-of-john](http://www.ihmparish.net/book-of-john)

## Families of Faith Upcoming Events


- 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  
Lenten Reflection with Fr. Vic Kennedy
- Saturday April 6 @ 9:00AM  
Jesus Day Retreat [1st Communion Prep]
- Monday April 8 @ 7:00PM  
Confirmation [Year 1] Prep Session 6
- Sunday April 14 @ 11:00AM  
Family Trivia/Easter Dessert Potluck



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




An Evening of Lenten Reflection (For Families at Every Stage of Life) Hosted by Father Victor Kennedy  
Is knowing God enough? From the start, we were called to relationship with God as our Father and Creator, God as our Brother and Savior, and the Holy Spirit as our Strength. We'll explore this, and how we are called through the Paschal Mystery to Discipleship. No registration needed! Just bring the family.  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2024. 7:00 PM in Church** (Light Refreshments to Follow in the Basement)



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 IMH

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

IHM Youth Ministry

## 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 discussion 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

Contact Rachael to Join! Text (908) 280-2893  
Or Email: [ihmsp@boldym.com](mailto:ihmsp@boldym.com)



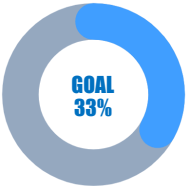
Collection Report	March 3, 2024
Weekly Target:	\$11,765.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$11,160.17
Surplus/(Deficit)	(604.83)
<b>Fiscal Year to Date:</b>	
Budget	\$420,120.00
Actual:	\$397,725.80
Surplus/(Deficit)	(22,394.20)
<b>Rolling 4 Week Averages:</b>	
Average Collection	\$11,531.97
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(233.04)

IHM SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK
<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
<b>Monday March 11</b> 7:00PM - Confirmation [Year 1] Prep Session 5 7:30PM - Alpha Episode 5 on ZOOM
<b>Tuesday March 12</b> 7:00PM - [Youth Group] The Search Begins #2 on ZOOM 7:15PM - Spirituality Seminar: The Eucharist on ZOOM
<b>Wednesday March 13</b> 10:00AM - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30AM) 7:00PM - Adult Choir Practice 7:00PM - Pastoral Council Meeting
<b>Thursday March 14</b> 9:30AM - Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina LIVE @ Naz. Center 7:30PM - Men's Scripture Group Meeting on ZOOM
<b>Friday March 15</b> 12:00PM - Stations of the Cross (Soup & Salad @ Naz. Center) 7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross 7:45PM - The Chosen Watch Party @ Naz. Center
<b>Saturday March 16</b> ALL DAY - Saturday Basketball 10:00AM - Confessions @ Church 11:00AM - Mass of Anointing
<b>Sunday March 17: St. Patrick's Day</b> 10:00AM - Confirmation [Year 1] Rite of Sponsors 11:00AM - Prayer Shawl Knitting Group Meeting 12:00PM - IHM/Union Catholic Lenten Collection Deadline

**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)



## 2024 ANNUAL APPEAL



**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)

**Come join us at the Church of Saint Helen on Divine Mercy Sunday April 7, 2024**  
 We will gather at 2:45PM, Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00PM, followed by a movie at 3:15PM "The Face of Mercy" (Knights of Columbus production). This event will be live streamed on our parish's website: [www.sainthelen.org](http://www.sainthelen.org)



**IHM FOOD PANTRY GARDEN**  
 We are seeking folks interested in gardening or anyone interested in learning to grow food. No experience necessary. Plant, weed and water as needed with Farmer Emil. If you can spare an hour or two a week, please contact the parish office at 908-889-2100 or email [office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net). More details available at [www.ihmparish.net/garden](http://www.ihmparish.net/garden)



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