

*1st Sunday of Advent - December 3, 2023*

*The People of God called to form the Christian Community of*

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



HOPE

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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



1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 PHONE: (908) 889-2100  
FAX: (908) 889-9477 EMAIL: [office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net)

Website: [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)

Facebook: [Immaculate Heart of Mary Church](https://www.facebook.com/ImmaculateHeartofMaryChurch) | Instagram: [ihmparish\\_sp](https://www.instagram.com/ihmparish_sp)



**SERVED BY**

Rev. Michael G. Ward, K.H.S., Pastor  
Rev. Robert Kunze: Weekend Assistant  
Deacon Jack Lynch  
Katie Wills: Director of Music Ministry  
John McGuire: Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

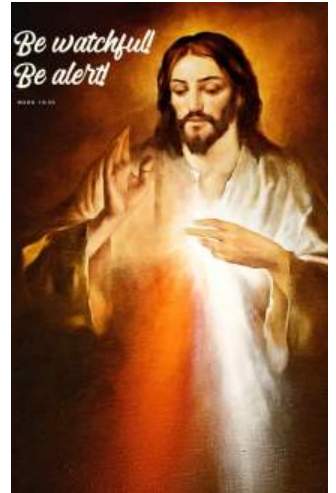


Mass will continue to Live Stream on Facebook and our website: [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)

**A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE**

What does it mean to be watchful and alert? It can be described as a holy longing for Christ. When we listen to Isaiah we can overcome the desolation and despair by reminding ourselves and each other of the depths of God’s love for us as Isaiah reminds himself in his prayer. We can also be grateful for the times we have recognized and lived out God’s love in our own lives as St. Paul tells the Corinthians.

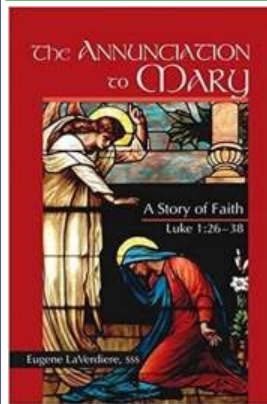
When we listen to Isaiah we see that we are the work of God’s hands, that we are called to be the instruments that God uses to bring about His kingdom. Each day, each moment needs to be guided by the will of God. It is allowing the grace of God to work in and through us that brings us the necessary strength, courage, awe and humility to build up His kingdom. Then we need not fear the end, rather we place our hope in the coming of Christ.  
Peace, Fr. Mike



*"We hope to see you all at the Light of the World Christmas Concert at St. Helens on December 15th!"  
Sincerely, Katie Wills & The IHM Church Choir*



**Christmas Tree Memorial Lighting**  
**Saturday December 9, 2023**  
**after 5:00 PM Mass**  
Dedicate a tree on behalf of a loved one. The cost to reserve a tree is \$200. The number of trees are limited so please complete the form (available at church or download at [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)) and submit your form and donation to the Nazareth Center office. Thank you!



**The Annunciation to Mary: A Story of Faith**  
The prologue of Luke’s Gospel is both simple and profound. As we prepare for Christmas let us take a close look at Mary of the scriptures.  
**We shall meet on Zoom on Tuesdays from 7:15pm until 8:15pm.**  
Please register at [FrRob@ihmparish.net](mailto:FrRob@ihmparish.net) and contact him if you have any questions or would like to obtain a book.

**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 December 3 - December 10, 2023

<b>Saturday December 2</b>	7:00am 8:30 am 5:00 pm	Gail Harris+ from Patricia & James Feeley Sam Fortunato+ from Rich & Heba Fortunato Mark Ryan+ from Geri & Charlie Barcellona
<b>Sunday December 3</b>	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	For the People of IHM Parish Mary Jane Bergen+ from Maureen Pecoraro Patrick McGinley+ from Fr. Mike
<b>Monday December 4</b>	7:00 am 8:30 am	Daniel Young+ from Ron Katims Mary Calabrese+ from Karen Schurtz
<b>Tuesday December 5</b>	7:00 am 8:30 am	Patrick Flanagan Sr.+ from the Schiller Family Charles Sr., Theresa, Charles Jr. and Angela Casazza+ from Joseph Ruggerio
<b>Wednesday December 6</b>	7:00 am 8:30 am	Robyn Kollarik+ from Fr. Mike Dominic Guarna+ from Antoinette Guarna
<b>Thursday December 7</b>	7:00 am 8:30 am 7:00 pm	Dennis Fitzmaurice+ from the Pulliam Family Patricia Markey+ from Denise Kostakos David Diken (living) Thank you from IHM Parish
<b>Friday December 8</b>	7:00 am 8:30 am 7:00 pm	Fr. Alex Pinto+ from Bob & Adele Sr. Anne Hajducek, O.P. 75th Anniversary (living) from Mary Ann Sopko Good, Piga, Dawid & Kurapka Families+ from Janice Good Piga & Bob Piga
<b>Saturday December 9</b>	7:00am 8:30 am 5:00 pm	Thomas Mastellar+ from the Pulliam Family Lee Heinzelmann+ from the Lewis Family Anne & Arthur Seeger+ from Joanne & Gary Cogswell
<b>Sunday December 10</b>	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	Mary Jane Bergen+ from Mary Ann Sopko For the People of IHM Parish Mary Calabrese+ from Lori Lee


*Kindly keep our parishioner's family and friends, with health and other challenges, in your prayers*

John Allen	David Connell	Mary Foster	Jillian Lapidus	Jacob Rivera	Ryder Francis Spillane
George Becker	Colm Cosgrove	Michele Gamako	Mary Frances Leon	Jaxson Rivera	Daniel Ventura
Fran Boglioli	Samantha Bridge	Nicole Griffin	Eileen Lynch	Marisol Rodriguez	Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen
Erin Brennan	James Brown	Ann Marie Harvey	William Maines	Susan Rozborski	Stephanie Vernace
Anna Cassella	John Burkert	David Hens	Jim Malfetti	Dolores Rust	Stephen Voorhees
Paul Cassidy	Ray Clark	Kathleen Herron	Bill Malone	Diana Scariati	Ben Wheelock
Matthew Cassio	Matt Donovan	Juliann Junio	Marlene Mosko	Arty Shapiro	Evelyn Whitehorne
Peter Cavanagh	Albert Fischer, Jr.	Marie Keller	Hilda Pizza	Elisa Silversey	
Frank Chimento	Phyllis Fischer	Dorothy Klein	Diane Pricken	Bernard Slaza	
Edward Clark	Emily Fleming	Anna Koch	Carmela Resnick	Beverly Sopp	


Coping with Grief & Loss: A Bereavement Group at St. Paul's  
**Meeting on Thursdays at 5:45 PM**  
 December 7, 14, 21 and 28 + January 4, 11 and 18  
 To register call: 201-433-8500 | [griefsupport@stpaulrcc.com](mailto:griefsupport@stpaulrcc.com)  
 St Paul the Apostle, 14 Greenville Ave. Jersey City, NJ

**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.

**Special Intentions for the week of December 3 - December 10, 2023**



**Sanctuary Light**  
 For the intention of:  
**Mary Calabrese+**  
 requested by: Mary Jane,  
 Art & Chris Lundgren




**Altar Bread & Wine**  
 For the intention of:  
**Karen Schurtz (living)**  
 Thank you from  
 IHM Parish



**Flowers for the Blessed Mother**  
 For the living & deceased  
 members of the Good, Kurapka,  
 Dawid and Piga families from:  
 Janice Good Piga & Bob Piga

**Remember  
 Our Departed**



Charles Kelchner+

~ DATE NIGHT ~

# ATTENTION PARENTS

## FREE BABYSITTING



Friday, December 8  
5-8pm  
IHM Nazareth Center

USE THIS TIME FOR DATE NIGHT OR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!!

**Put this date on your calendar!**

For more information and to register your kids,  
go to our website at [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)



# ATTENTION TEENS

## SERVICE OPP!!! VOLUNTEER TO BABYSIT FOR THIS EVENT

Sign up to help at [boldym.com/ihmsp/events](http://boldym.com/ihmsp/events) by Wed 12/6.  
Volunteer time: 4pm-8pm in Nazareth Center  
Open to those in 7th grade and above!



**Eucharistic Adoration**  
*"In the Mass and in Eucharistic Adoration we meet the merciful love of God that passes through the Heart of Jesus Christ."*  
 - Pope John Paul II

**Sign-Up to be an Adorer today!**  
 Please contact the Parish Office at  
 908-889-2100 or email  
[office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net)



Highlights from this year's Friendsgiving celebration. Thank you to all volunteers and guests for making this a special day.



2nd Annual

# HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & SHOPPING EVENT

FROM SPFPAL & IHM

**10**  
DECEMBER  
11AM-3PM

IHM CHURCH  
1571 S. MARTINE AVE. SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

**Live Music**  
11am-12:30pm

**Holiday Shopping**  
Plus...Childrens Crafts  
Live Nativity 11am-2pm  
FREE Cookies & Cocoa w/Santa

Questions? Contact Tracey (646)554-0001 or send an email to [tsanguiliano@gmail.com](mailto:tsanguiliano@gmail.com)

# LIVING NATIVITY

COME OUT WITH YOUR FAMILY TO SEE THE LIVE ANIMALS!

Sunday, December 10th  
11:00am - 2:00pm



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
 We are looking for teen volunteers to dress up and handle the animals! We will have sheep, donkeys, an alpaca and more!  
 Contact Rachael Flanagan, Coordinator of Youth Ministry at [ihmsp@boldym.com](mailto:ihmsp@boldym.com) or text 908-280-2893 to help out!

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**  
 THERE WILL ALSO BE HOLIDAY SHOPPING BETWEEN 11AM-3PM,  
 LIVE MUSIC FROM 11AM-12:30PM, CHILDREN'S CRAFTS AND  
 FREE COOKIES & COCOA W/SANTA!

## Minister Assignments: December 9 - December 10

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
12/9 5:00pm	Chris Zucosky	Janice Good Piga Dan Kelly	Fr. Mike
12/10 8:00am	Phyllis Manno	Lou DiBella Chris Dill Rich Banasiak (C)	Fr. Rob
12/10 10:00am	Jane McClellan	Connie Boruch (A) David Boruch (A) Eileen Wagner (A)	Fr. Rob
12/10 12:00pm	Anne Butler	Regina O'Connor Tracey Foley	Fr. Mike



### Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Monday - Wednesday 9:00am - 9:00pm

Thursday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Closed Saturday, Sunday, Holy Days & Holidays

For more information contact Kerby at:

kpershay123@gmail.com | 908-406-0493

### IHM PARISH INFORMATION

#### Fall Office Hours:

**Mon. - Thurs. 9:00am - 4:00pm | Fri. 9:00am - 2:00pm**

**Mass Intention Reservations:** Call or leave a message at the office (908)889-2100 or email [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. We have flexible hours. Call (908) 889-2100. All are welcome!

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays: 4:15 - 4:45 pm  
Arrangements can be made at any time for 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)

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## Rosary Altar Society News

### FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT PRAYER

*from the Archdiocese of Toronto*

Oh God, as light comes from this candle, May the Blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, Warming our hearts and brightening our way. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of this world, And to us, as we wait for his coming.

AMEN

♥ We will once again be collecting **COSTUME JEWELRY** for the children of St. Joseph's Social Services in Elizabeth to select, wrap and give to their Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts or Significant Others at Christmas time. Many families are greatly in need and cannot afford a special gift for a loved one at Christmas. The children find great joy in choosing that "special jewelry piece", selecting special wrapping and surprising their loved one(s). For some, it may be the only gift that they receive this Christmas. Please contact Janice (908-759-6729) with questions or jewelry donations. Men's jewelry/watches are also welcome. Many thanks!

♥ The Rosary Annual Christmas Mass & Party will be on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd** with Mass at NOON followed by the party at 1:00 PM. The cost is \$15 for a hot buffet. Please call Mary Anne 908-322-0279 to reserve your place & mail your checks (payable To IHM Rosary Society) to Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive, Clark, NJ 07066.

We will also have our traditional annual donation to the Missionaries Of Charity.

♥ 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.

♥ Thank you to all who attended our Broadway Show to see "SOME LIKE IT HOT" and dine at TONY'S DI NAPOLI on Friday. It was wonderful sharing the day with all of you! May your week ahead be a Blessed one with joy-filled sunny fall days, renewed old friendships and special new ones! Please remember to take a moment to breathe in the fresh fall air, marvel at the colors of the falling leaves, and to thank God for all of the beautiful gifts that he showers upon us daily. As we begin our Advent season, may you find a renewed sense of peace and joy. You remain in our daily thoughts and prayers.

♥ Janice



The next meeting of the Women's Prayer Group will be **Thursday December 7 at 7:30PM on ZOOM**. The theme will be "Talents and Gifts". Please contact Tracey at [tfoleyihm@gmail.com](mailto:tfoleyihm@gmail.com) for more details. Prayer connects us all!



**CENTERING PRAYER-** Join us for Lectio Divina, Reflection, Discussion & Quiet. Three times monthly at the Nazareth Center. **Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:45 AM**. Contact Phyllis at [tman18912@comcast.net](mailto:tman18912@comcast.net) or call the office at 908-889-2100 for details or to sign up.



The next **LIVE** meeting for the IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group will be **Saturday morning December 9 at 7:30 AM in the church basement**. Donuts & Coffee served! Contact David at [dndiken@aol.com](mailto:dndiken@aol.com) for details.

We have been reporting our weekly collection "target" to reflect what was submitted in our budget to the Archdiocese. However, this number does not give us a balanced budget. So moving forward, we have revised our "goal" to balance our budget.

**Collection Report November 19, 2023**

Weekly Target:	\$11,765.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$10,519.08
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,245.92)

**Fiscal Year to Date:**

Budget	\$245,070.00
Actual:	\$232,804.85
Surplus/(Deficit)	(12,265.15)

**Rolling 4 Week Averages:**

Average Collection:	\$10,742.75
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,022.26)

**IHM YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS powered by BOLD**

Sun. December 3 @ 7PM: Youth Leadership Meeting  
 Fri. December 8 @ 7PM: Date Night for Parents  
 Sun. December 10 @ 11AM: Living Nativity/Holiday Market  
 Contact Rachael for more info: [ihmsp@boldym.com](mailto:ihmsp@boldym.com)



Highlights from this year's Embolden retreat at Camp Tecumseh. Thanks to everyone in attendance. It was a blast!

**IHM SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday 12/3: First Day of Advent**

9:00am– Holy Name Society Meeting & Breakfast  
 9:30am– Family Choir Practice  
 10:00am– [Families of Faith] Christmas Cards for Seniors  
 12:00pm- Union Catholic High School Scholarship Exam  
 12:00pm– Rosary Altar Society Christmas Mass & Party  
 7:00pm– [Youth Group] Leadership Meeting

**Monday 12/4**

7:00pm– Confirmation Prep: Year 2  
 7:30pm– Alpha Episode 12 on ZOOM

**Tuesday 12/5**

7:15pm– Spirituality Seminar Annunciation Mary on ZOOM

**Wednesday 12/6: St. Nicholas Day**

10:00am - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30am)  
 7:00pm– Adult Choir Practice  
 7:00pm– Knights of Columbus Meeting  
 7:30pm– Beta Episode 7 on ZOOM

**Thursday 12/7**

9:30am– Centering Prayer LIVE @ Nazareth Center  
 7:30pm– Women’s Prayer Group on ZOOM

**Friday 12/8**

5:00pm– Pee Wee Basketball  
 7:00pm- [Youth Group] Parent’s Date Night @ Naz. Center

**Saturday 12/9**

All Day– Saturday Basketball  
 7:30am– Men’s Scripture Group LIVE @ Church Basement  
 5:00pm– Christmas Tree Memorial Mass & Lighting

**Sunday 12/10**

10:00am - Food Pantry Sunday (Open until 11:30am)  
 11:00am- [Youth Group] Living Nativity (Open until 2:00pm)  
 11:00am– IHM Christmas Market (Open until 3:00pm)

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

A group of Iowan farmers welcomed a seemingly insignificant agriculture minister from a foreign country into their homes, and community. They brought him on tours of corporate farms, to sites significant to Mark Twain, an author he was enamored with, and were generally kind to him. To this day this man and the farmers and families are in contact, and friendly. What none of them could have known was that they were welcoming someone that would be one of the most powerful leaders in the world, President Xi of China. They didn’t extend welcome to this stranger because of fear or reverence, but because they were being decent to another human being. I bring this up today because we are beginning Advent. A time of preparation for our Lord Jesus Christ’s coming. A commemoration of His coming as a child, and preparing for when He comes again to judge the living and the dead. The word Advent hearkens to when a town would welcome a conquering Emperor after victory. We see trappings of this in the use of regal purple vestments. Yet I like this anecdote about Pres. Xi, because it seems more fitting for this season than the entrance of a conquering emperor. Jesus told us how we would see Him in the world. Think of the story of the sheep and the goats. The sheep fed the down and out, gave drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked, visited the sick and the imprisoned. They did so because those people were in need. The goats might have done this, if they saw Jesus in His glory, but ignored those destitute, lonely, or socially insignificant.

This Advent, let us pray that we may act as the sheep, or to extend the analogy of these Iowan farmers. Welcoming those in need of hospitality, because we acknowledge their inherent dignity, and thus perhaps find ourselves favored by Jesus Christ, Our Lord, King of the Universe. God Bless and have a blessed Advent.



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