



The People of God called to form the Christian Community of

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

The Epiphany of the Lord - January 7, 2024



Manifesting

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](https://www.instagram.com/ihmparish_sp)



A Note from Fr. Mike...

Our celebration today helps us to recognize the universality of God's love and salvation. We see a hint of it in Isaiah's prophecy even if it appeared that the gentiles were excluded from God's plan. Isaiah indicates something greater when he says that the nations will walk by the light of Jerusalem who is rising up in joy and splendor. The word Epiphany means revelation, and we see a revelation of God's plan in the adoration of the Magi who begin to show us that God's plan of salvation is open to all. While Herod, the chief priests and scribes and all Jerusalem were worried, the gentile magi come to adore and be enlightened. As we begin a new year may we seek to encounter Christ and be Christ for one another each day and may we reflect the universality of God's love more in our lives. I pray that you have a Happy and peaceful New year,
Peace, Fr. Mike



What Is Wrong With This Picture???

Our latest Spirituality Seminar is hosting a limited two evening event on Saint Paul. Our presenter is Karen Schurtz. **Two Tuesdays: January 16 & 23, 2024.** This is on ZOOM so you can stay in the warmth of your home! We start at 7:15PM and finish up by 8:30PM. Please register by contacting Fr. Rob at FrRob@ihmparish.net

If you want to do some pre-seminar reading, please read The Acts of the Apostle in your Bible.

Minister Assignments: January 13 - January 14

| Saturday - Sunday | Lectors | Extra-Ordinary Ministers | Presider |
|-------------------|----------------|--|----------|
| 1/13 5:00pm | Chris Zucosky | Janice Good Piga Dan Kelly | TBA |
| 1/14 8:00am | Colm Keogh | Lou DiBella Geraldine Keogh Alice Coquia (cup) | TBA |
| 1/14 10:00am | Jane McClellan | Ed Sullivan (senior) David Diken Anthony Carlino | TBA |
| 1/14 12:00pm | Anne Butler | Carol Kiley Jean Naugle | TBA |

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
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Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Monday - Wednesday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
 Thursday - 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 January 7, 2024 - January 14, 2024

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|
| Saturday January 6 | 7:00 AM | Marilyn Beck+ from Bernie Beck |
| | 8:30 AM | Mary Libretti+ from Karen & Joe Schurtz |
| | 5:00 PM | For the People of IHM Parish |
| Sunday January 7 | 8:00 AM | Pat Siwiec+ from Andrew Devenuta |
| | 10:00 AM | Fr Rob Patterson+ from the Lewis Family |
| | 12:00 PM | Dorothy Lenartowicz+ from Maureen Pecoraro |
| Monday January 8 | 7:00 AM | Joann Colangelo+ from Valerie Kauger |
| | 8:30 AM | Tom Sloan+ from the Whalen Family |
| Tuesday January 9 | 7:00 AM | Joanne Munly+ from Karen Ruffner |
| | 8:30 AM | Charles Barrett+ (100th Birthday) from Thomas Barrett |
| Wednesday January 10 | 7:00 AM | Geraldine Perfilio+ from Evelyn Dougherty |
| | 8:30 AM | Dorothy Ferro+ from Deacon Robert & Joanne Gurske |
| Thursday January 11 | 7:00 AM | Victoria Romero+ from the Varela Family |
| | 8:30 AM | Robert & Anne 77th Anniversary (living) |
| Friday January 12 | 7:00 AM | Ron Gilmore+ from the Sullivan Family |
| | 8:30 AM | Marie Aziel Kasilag+ from the Santa Rosa Family |
| Saturday January 13 | 7:00 AM | Rick Aiere (living) Thank you from IHM Parish |
| | 8:30 AM | Rose Faccone+ from the Blum & Veglia Families |
| | 5:00 PM | Joseph Buono+ from the Barcellona Family |
| Sunday January 14 | 8:00 AM | For the People of IHM Parish |
| | 10:00 AM | Jimmy Malfetti+ from Mom & Dad |
| | 12:00 PM | Carol Barrett+ from Thomas Barrett |

Special Intentions for the week of January 7 - January 14, 2024

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><u>Sanctuary Light</u> For the intention of: Rose Faccone+ Requested by: Blum & Veglia Families</p> | <p><u>Altar Bread & Wine</u> For the intention of: Janice Reilly (living) Thank you from IHM Parish</p> | <p><u>Flowers for the Blessed Mother</u> In memory of: Helen Leonard+ Requested by: Patty Leonard Regal</p> | <p>Remember Our Departed All Souls+</p> |
|--|---|---|--|

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

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

Coping with Grief & Loss:
A Bereavement Group at St. Paul the Apostle Church
Meetings on Thursdays at 5:45 PM
 January 11th and 18th
 To register call: 201-433-8500 | griefsupport@stpaulrcc.com
 St Paul the Apostle, 14 Greenville Ave. Jersey City, NJ

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

At the sound of the tolling midnight bell, a brand new year will begin. Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast, to the promise it ushers in. May your battles be few, your pleasures many, your wishes and dreams fulfilled. May your confidence stand in the face of loss and give you the strength to rebuild. May peace of heart fill all your days, may serenity grace your soul. May tranquil moments bless your life and keep your spirit whole. - Author Unknown

♥ Kindly mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 at Noon (Snow Date January 16th) for our Annual Rosary Winter Luncheon. We will have a Gourmet Lunch at Max's Bistro on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. Lunch will include Appetizers, Choice Of Three Entrees, and Dessert. Kindly reserve your spot by mailing your check (Payable to IHM Rosary Altar Society) for \$33 To Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive. Clark, NJ 07066. Spouses & Friends are also welcome! There will be door prizes!

♥ 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 the joy of the Christmas Season. May your time spent with family and friends be the best gift of all and may we all remember those who we have lost as well as those who are alone this holiday season. 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 you find a renewed sense of peace and joy this Christmas time and may your NEW YEAR be filled with hope, good health, and a yearning to be closer to God. 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 January 11th, 2024 at 7:30PM on ZOOM**. The topic will be "Discipleship". 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 man18912@comcast.net or call the office at 908-889-2100.



The next Men's Scripture & Discussion group meeting will be a LIVE session on **Saturday morning January 13, 2024 at 7:30 AM in the church basement**. Donuts & coffee will be served. Contact David at dndiken@aol.com for details.



Meet new people & explore faith together.

Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Each session includes a time to connect with others (often over a free meal), hear a short talk on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share their own questions with the group. We'd love to hear your perspective!

Alpha Winter/Spring 2024
Season begins **LIVE**
Monday February 5th
7:00 pm @
The Nazareth Center

(Followed by weekly sessions hosted on Zoom)



Scan the QR Code with your phone or smart device to access our sign up page at www.ihmparish.net/alpha

If you have questions about Alpha, please contact the Nazareth Center Office at 908-889-2100 or send an email to office@ihmparish.net



A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate: John McGuire

Out of Order Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Pt. 1 Fear of the Lord

If you are really advanced in your faith formation, or remember my reflection from last week, you might know that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. Each year I meet with the families of 8th graders beginning their process of preparing for Confirmation, and I've asked the parents if they could name

these gifts (because it would take the pressure off of me to remember them). I have a hard time remembering them all, many parents do, and most people who haven't been in faith formation since they were in 7th grade struggle with them as well. No wonder people so easily look at Confirmation as a graduation. If we don't frequently cultivate and intentionally use these gifts out in the world, how can we expect the young people to rise up and do better than us? We're going to do this out of order. This week we'll focus on Fear of the Lord, because it strikes us the most odd. It stands out on the list (especially if you know what Piety is). Otherwise known as Awe of the Lord, this gift is the farthest from what you experience at a horror movie. No, what we are talking about is like when Mary was approached by the Angel Gabriel. She was in awe of the magnificence of God's Messenger. An experience of God with any of our senses is life changing.

Fear of the Lord is the ability to distinguish what is magnificent from what is mundane. You may be able to appreciate the artistic design of a billboard on the side of the road. However, that won't be life changing or earth shaking. Yet when you go to a famous gallery to witness a masterpiece like the Mona Lisa, Stary Night, or the statue of David, these stand apart from the everyday. Fear of the Lord is being able to distinguish creator from creation, and paying proper reverence. This week, let's pray that the young people preparing for Confirmation might be fully prepared to receive this gift, and that all of us who already have received the sacrament might also fully embrace the Fear of the Lord. God Bless and have a great week!

Families of Faith Upcoming Events

- Sunday January 7 @ 8:45AM - 9:30AM
Baptism & Initiation Gathering on ZOOM
- Sunday January 7 @ 9:30AM - 10:00AM
Family Choir Practice at Church
- Monday January 8 @ 7:00PM - 8:30PM
Confirmation [Year 2] Christmas Afterparty
- Sunday January 14 @ 10:00AM - 11:30AM
Food Pantry Sunday
- Monday January 15 @ 9:00AM - 2:00PM
MLK Day of Service/Senior Lunch & Bingo
- Friday January 19 @ Washington DC
March for Life 2024
- Sunday January 21 @ after 10:00AM Mass
Scotch Plains Town-Wide Baby Shower
- Monday January 22 @ 7:00PM - 8:30PM
Confirmation [Year 1] Prep Session 3



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JANUARY 7, 2024 | 7 - 8 PM

REFRESHMENTS & FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW

HOSTED BY IHM YOUTH MINISTRY



Join us for a night of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament



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IHMSP@BOLDYM.COM OR TEXT/CALL 908-280-2893

| Collection Report | December 24, 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Target: | \$11,765.00 |
| Collection (Mass + Parish Giving) | \$ 10,267.29 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (1,497.71) |
| Fiscal Year to Date: | |
| Budget | \$303,420.00 |
| Actual: | \$289,992.98 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (13,427.02) |
| Rolling 4 Week Averages: | |
| Average Collection: | \$11,921.45 |
| Average Surplus/(Deficit) | \$156.45 |

IHM SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

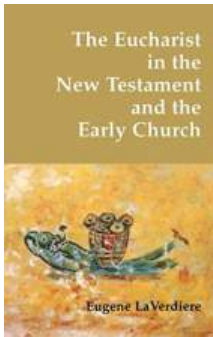
| |
|---|
| Sunday January 7: Baptism of Jesus 8:30AM- [Families of Faith] Initiation Party on ZOOM 9:00AM- Holy Name Society Meeting & Breakfast 9:30AM- [Families of Faith] Family Choir Practice 7:00PM- [Youth Group] Night of Eucharistic Adoration |
| Monday January 8 7:00PM- [Confirmation Year 2] Christmas Afterparty |
| Tuesday January 9 12:00PM- Rosary Altar Society Winter Luncheon @ Max Bistro |
| Wednesday January 10 10:00AM - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30am) 7:00PM- Pastoral Council Meeting 7:00PM- Adult Choir Practice |
| Thursday January 11 7:30PM- Women's Prayer Group ZOOM |
| Friday January 12 |
| Saturday January 13 All Day- Saturday Basketball 7:30AM- Men's Scripture Group LIVE @ Church Basement |
| Sunday January 14 10:00AM - Food Pantry Sunday (Open until 11:30am) |



Christmas Collection to Date: \$46,234.20
Budget: \$65,000



I'm sure you'll agree that Chris Zucosky and the Merry Men and Women of IHM did an outstanding job with our Christmas decorations! Many thanks to Chris, MaryKate Schiller, Colm Keogh, Rich Duthie, John Gibson, Dan Kelly, Charlie Mulrooney, John Foley, Damien McAuley, Donnagh Ryan, Joe Farrell, Fr. Mike, Mary Mahony, and Jean Naugle for their hard work in making our worship space look beautiful!



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 13th, 2024 at 7:15PM.** Please register at FrRob@IHMParish.net

The Respect Life Ministry of St Helen's and Holy Trinity invite you to hear Father Terry Moran speak on **HUMAN TRAFFICKING TODAY** **Thursday, January 11th, 2024 from 7:00-9:00PM** **Parish Center in Holy Trinity Church. Westfield, NJ**



Catholic Charities received \$3,950 as a result of your generosity to our Donation Bins at our Church from June 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023. These funds combined with monies from other parishes throughout the Archdiocese enabled Catholic Charities to show the compassion of Christ through mental health services provided to thousands of people. Thank you for enabling us to bring Christ's love to the most vulnerable in our society.

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