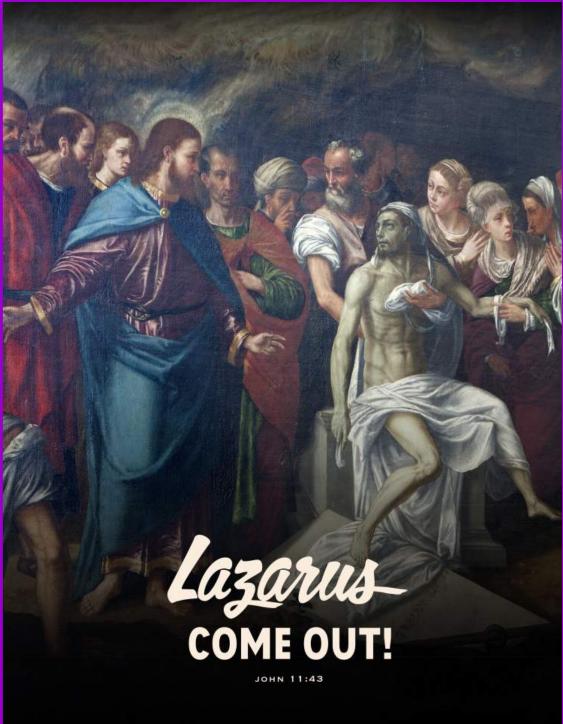
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Rev. Michael G. Ward, K.H.S., Pastor Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya: Parochial Vicar Rev. Robert Kunze: Weekend Assistant

Deacon Jack Lynch

Katie Wills: Director of Music Ministry

John McGuire: Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation



A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE

The story of Lazarus certainly shows forth the glory of God as Jesus tells his disciples. It reminds us of God's care and love for us, so deep that Jesus even cries over Lazarus. Yet the glory of the resurrection to which we are called is even greater. Lazarus comes back from the dead, but will die again. In the resurrection we will rise to eternal life in the presence of God. A reminder to each of us that we strengthen our efforts to overcome sin and grow in our efforts to serve God and one another so that we may celebrate more joyfully the resurrection. We see in the story of Martha, Mary and Lazarus a growth in trust in the Lord. We, too, are called to grow in trust, and to use the opportunities that come our way to do so. Some of those opportunities may include suffering and heartache as they do in the story of Lazarus, but openness to the presence of Christ allows, helps and encourages us to look beyond to see the love that Christ has for us, as he does for Lazarus, and the opportunities for greater faith, hope and understanding of God's love and the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for each of us. - Peace, Fr. Mike

Recovering the Full Celebration of the Liturgy Participation

The Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations called for by the very nature of the liturgy. – Sacrosanctum Concilium 14

The outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020 required a temporary reduction of liturgical practices in the celebration of the Eucharist and administration of the sacraments. With almost all aspects of life returning to normalcy, it seems opportune for the Archdiocese of Newark to foster a renewed fullness in liturgical celebrations. That all the baptized share in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ is the key to understanding the Church's call for full, conscious and active participation—thus transforming liturgical assemblies from passive congregations to dynamic worshipers.

Full participation means that every member of the community has a role in the liturgy; it does not mean that everyone does everything. Liturgy, like the Church, respects the different roles assigned by Christ; it allows all the different voices to blend in one great hymn of praise. Active participation certainly means that, in gesture, word, song and service, all the members of the community take part in the act of worship, which is anything but inert or passive. Yet active participation does not preclude the active passivity of silence and listening: indeed, it demands it when listening to the readings or the homily or internalizing the prayers of the celebrant and the chants and music of the liturgy. These experiences are in their own way profoundly active. Conscious participation calls for the entire community to be properly instructed in the mysteries of the liturgy. But it does not mean a constant attempt within the liturgy itself to make the implicit explicit, which may trivialize the act of worship. Nor does it mean the suppression of all subconscious experience, which is vital to liturgy which thrives on symbols.

Above all, the faithful form one body by the common offering of the Sacrifice and by participating together at the Lord's table. The role of the assembly cannot be underestimated, nor diminished. It is their right and duty by virtue of their Baptism.

Bulletin article 1 of 4 by the Worship Office Archdiocese of Newark

Recovering Full Celebration of the Liturgy Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical ministers ought to discharge their office therefore with the sincere devotion and decorum demanded by so exalted a ministry and rightly expected of them by God's people. Consequently they must all be deeply imbued with the spirit of the liturgy.

- Sacrosanctum Concilium 29

Liturgical celebrations require the functioning of a variety of ministries in order to project a rich, full expression of the very nature of the Church-a microcosm of the Body of Christ. At Mass in particular, a priest presides, often with the assistance of a deacon. Acolytes serve; readers proclaim the word of God to the assembly; extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion assist with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ. Ushers and greeters welcome the people of God as they assemble and assist with the gifts and the collection. Cantors and instrumentalists support the singing of the assembly while choirs add beauty to the liturgy with trained voices. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy tells us that, "servers, readers...and members of the choir also exercise a genuine liturgical function." In other words, these ministries are a necessary part of the liturgy, not just "add ons" to help the priest. The plurality of ministries in the liturgy should reflect the lived reality of the Church: all are needed to serve and celebrate. During the pandemic, many liturgical ministries of the church were minimized or eliminated. A minimalist liturgy makes for a service that is meager and wanting-a weak image of the Church! Altar servers were replaced by book stands; lay readers were replaced by clergy; musical elements were reduced as if unimportant. Now that post-pandemic life is emerging, a moment of grace lies before us calling parishes to revitalize their worship; to invite back ministers who stepped down during the pandemic and to install additional ones where needed. Now is the time to restore the parts of the Mass and the function of ministers required for a rich, full celebration of the liturgy. With properly prepared ministers assisting at worship, the faithful are better able to encounter Christ in the Assembly, the Word and the Eucharist. The Church cannot afford to minimize its experience of prayer when so many need the presence of Christ in their lives. With the full use of clerical and lay ministries, worship will come alive again.

Bulletin article 2 of 4 by the Worship Office Archdiocese of Newark

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 26 - April 2, 2023	
Saturday March 25	7:00 am 8:30 am 5:00 pm	Nicholas C. Finelle+ from The Shanahan Family Michael Gliganic+ from The Chimento Family Rose Badala+ from Edna Knudsen & Erin Parvin	
Sunday March 26	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	For the People from IHM Parish Jeremiah O'Neil+ from Vivian O'Neil Frances Janusz+ from daughter Maureen Pecoraro	
Monday March 27	7:00 am 8:30 am 7:00 pm	Corey Glagett (living) from Anne Butler Samantha McCallion (living) from Rosemarie McCallion Penance Service from IHM Parish	
Tuesday March 28	7:00 am 8:30 am	Mary DiPace+ from Joan & Raymond O'Donnell Mary Harris+ from Her Family	SASTER STEELS
Wednesday March 29	7:00 am 8:30 am	Hugh Duddy+ from Marion & Marc Berger David F. Regal Sr+ from Patty Regal	2000
Thursday March 30	7:00 am 8:30 am	James Langenbach+ from The Malool Family Frank Dopart+ from Al Smith	
Friday March 31	7:00 am 8:30 am	Francis Downey+ from Marion & Marc Berger William Dobbs+ from Rosemarie McCallion	
Saturday April 1	7:00 am 8:30 am 5:00 pm	Ann McAuley+ from Karen & Joe Schurtz Dorothy Foulks+ from Dan & Roe Kelly Giuseppe Galazzo+ from The Barcellona Family	RADIX JESSE
Sunday April 2	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	Marcus Andrew+ from Rekha Kulkarni Margaret Licata+ from The Lewis Family For the People from IHM Parish	

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

John Allen George Becker Fran Boglioli Erin Brennan Anna Cassella Paul Cassidy Matthew Cassio Frank Chimento Edward Clark David Connell	Colm Cosgrove Samantha Bridge James Brown John Burkert Ray Clark Albert Fischer, Jr. Phyllis Fischer Emily Fleming Mary Foster	Anna Koch Jillian Lapidus Trish Longus	Diane Pricken Carmela Resnick Jacob Rivera Jaxson Rivera	Susan Rozborski Dolores Rust Diana Scariati Arty Shapiro Elisa Silversey Bernard Slaza Beverly Sopp Ryder Francis Spillane Paul Szeker Phyllis Szeker	Carole Ventre Daniel Ventura Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen Stephanie Vernace Stephen Voorhees Ben Wheelock Evelyn Whitehorne
David Connell	Michele Gamako	Eileen Lynch	Marisol Rodriguez	Phyllis Szeker	

[©] Please advise if any names can be removed from the sick list. Thank you! office@ihmparish.net

For Those Who Have Lost A Loved One:
St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, 2032 Westfield Ave. Scotch Plains, will be offering a 7 week Bereavement Support Group. The support group will begin on Wednesday, April 19, and it will continue on the following dates: April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. The group meeting times are from 7pm to 8:30pm in the Cafeteria of the St. Bartholomew Academy. Please RSVP to: Jo-Ann at 908-889-7790 or Bernadette at 908-510-0995. If you wish to attend please call on or before April 12.

Special Intentions for the week of March 26 - April 2, 2023



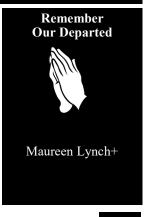
Sanctuary Light For the intention of: Patricia Klock+ Requested by Gerri Morrison



Altar Bread & Wine For the intention of: **Tracey Foley (living)** Requested by IHM Office Staff



Flowers for the Blessed Mother In memory of: Mildred Mrozek+ Requested by Barbara & Joe Mrozek



UNION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

Food Truck Festival @ Union Catholic High School SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 12-5 pm

Live Music, Beer & Wine - Fun for All Ages! For more info, or if you would like to be a vendor, email <u>alestarchick@unioncatholic.org</u>



Congratulations to the IHM CYO Basketball Program

for a very successful 2022-23 season. IHM had 7 teams this season and four of them made it all the way to the Union County Championships held at Union Catholic High School. Of those four teams we had 2 that won the championship in their division and stayed undefeated in Union County the entire season and the other 2 teams came in second place. Thanks to all coaches who put in the time and effort!!!!

7/8th Boys 1st Place coached by Pat Gist & Mike Marranca 5/6th Boys 1st Place coached by Jeff Lambert & John McNulty

5/6th B division Boys 2nd place coached by Ryan Colford & Mike Krisnauski



5/6th Girls 2nd place coached by John Haight & S Brian Ciemniecki



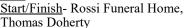


Union Catholic High School Spring Open House WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

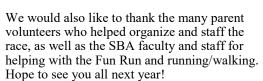
Soar Beyond Your Dreams at Union Catholic! In our coeducational, faith-based environment you will reach your greatest potential. Join us and discover for yourself why Union Catholic High School is so special! Visit our website to reserve your seat or call us at 908-889-1600, ext. 302

Welcome Back to the 5K

The breezy weather and crisp air welcomed back the St. Bartholomew Academy 5K this past weekend. After a three year hiatus, more that 150 runners and walkers met at Oak Ridge Park to revive this fun tradition. The festivities started with a prayer by Deacon Chris Hughes and inspiring words from Scotch Plains Mayor of Scotch Plains, Josh Losardo and Deputy Town Manager Margaret Heisey. The Fun Run lived up to its name, with running, hula hoops, and lots of laughter. The 5K was run/walked by people of all ages- from 6 to 74! We would like thank the Academy and St. Bart's Parish Community for the support of this race and would like to recognize the following sponsors: Elite- JPS Collision



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Sunday, March 26: BOLD Night ~ 7-8:30pm
Sunday, April 2: Living Stations Rehearsal 1-3pm
Good Friday, April 7: Living Stations of the Cross @ 7pm
Sunday, April 16: College Care Package Night ~ 7-8:30pm



2023 Lenten Regulations

I. 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 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.

II. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

III. 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.

IV. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the <u>First Sunday of Lent</u>, February 26, 2023 to <u>The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity</u>, June 4, 2023.

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.

Minister Assignments: April 1 - April 2			
Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
4/1 5:00pm	Kathy Mitchell Jim Brennan	Connie Boruch David Boruch Janice Good Piga Chris Zucosky	Fr. Mike
4/2 8:00am	Karen Schwaneberg Colm Keogh	Rich Wagner Rich Banasiak Chris Dill Lou DiBella	Fr. Val
4/2 10:00am	Heba Fortunato Jane McClellan	David Diken Lou Zappo Eileen Wagner Ed Sullivan	Fr. Mike
4/2 12:00pm	Michele Gardella Carol Kiley	Jean Naugle Diane McGuinness MaryKate Schiller Regina O'Connor	Fr. Rob

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 9:00pm. Saturday - 9:00am - 2:00pm Closed on Sundays. Holy Days & Holidays Contact Erin Miller at: erins310@gmail.com | 908-531-0128

IHM PARISH INFORMATION

Winter 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

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. 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 Like us on Facebook: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Follow us on Instagram: ihmparish sp



Rosary Altar Society News

FOR ALL THAT HE PROVIDES

-Marcie McNutt From Heaven our caring Father Watches over us from above, Guiding us by His wisdom And teaching us how to love. He surrounds us daily with angels And gifts us with caring friends; He places His bounty around us, His goodness never ends. He's the Creator of the universe And everything in it you see; From the highest lofty mountain To the tiniest honey bee. So, each new day when we awake And open wide our eyes, Let's send up loving thanks to Him For all that He provides.

- **♥** We are joining with IHM in promoting the "COMEDIC EVENING WITH JULIA CHILD" with Wine & Cheese on Friday evening, April 21st at 7pm in the Nazareth Center. The Julia Child impersonator is well known for her side-splitting re-creation of Julia's famous personality. Please contact Janice Good-Piga 908-759-6729 with questions or to reserve your seat. Please mail you checks, payable to IHM for \$20 per person, to Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive. Clark, NJ 07066 by April 10th. Come join IHM's Family & Friends in this delightful night out!!
- ♥ We have once again planned a fabulous Dinner Theater experience at the HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE on Saturday, August 12th. The show is "REMEMBER ME?" featuring the former star of Three's Company, Joyce Dewitt. This will be a full luncheon & show and parking is plentiful. Tickets are \$80. We have a limited number of tickets available. Please contact Janice Good-Piga 908-759-6729 with questions or to reserve your seat. Car pooling can be coordinated for those who prefer not to drive. You and your family members remain close in our hearts and in our daily prayers. May the Spring sunshine and warmer temperatures bring you a renewed spirit and a closeness to God as we rapidly approach Easter! Blessings. ▼ Janice



The Women's Prayer Group will gather for a LIVE meeting Thursday March 30 at 7:30pm. Followed by Thursday April 13 at 7:30pm via Zoom. Email tefoleyihm@gmail.com for more details. Prayer connects us all!

CENTERING PRAYER/LECTIO DIVINA

Every Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:45 am on Zoom. Reflection, Discussion, Meditation in the Mystic Heart and Contemplative way of prayer. Call Phyllis at 908-264-7456 for information & the Zoom link.



The next meeting for the IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group will be Thursday night March 30 at 7:30pm on Zoom. Contact David at dndiken@aol.com for the Zoom link.

Collection Report	March 19, 2023
Weekly Target:	\$12,558.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$12,208.21
Surplus/(Deficit)	(349.79)
Fiscal Year to Date:	
Budget	\$464,646.00
Actual:	\$416,544.12
Surplus/(Deficit)	(48,101.88)
Rolling 4 Week Averages:	
Average Collection:	\$12,353.50
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(204.51)

Annual	Appeal
	PP-

\$43,985.00 pledged 70.80% of \$62,125.00 goal

SUMMER FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Summer Families of Faith (Summer Academy) registration is on-going! If you have registered for this program in the past, you will automatically receive an email from Parish Giving with instructions on how to register your child(ren). Registration for the fall/spring Families of Faith religious education program will begin in late June. (TBA) The Summer Families of Faith session will run from June 26th through July 7th (no sessions on July 3rd and 4th). Arrangements will be made to make up for the session missed on Monday July 3rd in the fall. The daily schedule will be from 8:45 am to 1:00 pm including daily Mass. Fees are \$225 for one child and \$325 for two or more children. The deadline for registering is June 1st. If you have any questions or do not receive a notification from Parish Giving on or about March 6th, please contact the Faith Formation Office at: faithformation@ihmparish.net

	IHM EVENT CALENDER		
Sunday March 26			
7:00pm	BOLD Youth Group Night		
	Monday March 27		
7:00pm 7:30pm	Confessions Alpha Episode 6 on Zoom		
Tuesday March 28			
7:15pm	Julian of Norwich Spirituality Seminar @ Zoom		
	Wednesday March 29		
10:00am 8:00pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice		
	Thursday March 30		
9:30am 7:30pm 7:30pm	Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina Zoom Women's Prayer Group LIVE @ Nazareth Center Men's Scripture Group Zoom		
	Friday March 31		
12:00pm 1:00pm	Stations of the Cross Soup & Salad @ Nazareth Center		

Saturday April 1

Sunday April 2: Palm Sunday

All Day Easter Basket Collection Due

Stations of the Cross

9:00am Holy Name Society Meeting & Breakfast 1:00pm BOLD Youth Group Living Stations Rehearsal

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! "John 12:13

<u>A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate John McGuire:</u>
What is the deal with participation trophies? Ever hear someone complain about these trophies, distributed to any child, usually very young child, participating in youth sports? People seem to have a problem with these, and think that they send the wrong message. What do you think God thinks of participation trophies? If you think about it, every human being is worthy of human dignity, and respect, not because of any personal achievement, but because they were made in the image and likeness of God. There is nothing that we can do to earn our baptism, and in that moment we are given the true prize of being welcomed into the Body of Christ the Church. Then, when we actively participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, of our Lord. Through that act, we are called to participate more fully in the divinity of Christ.

7:00pm

So, I guess in summation, God doesn't much mind these trophies, in fact, he gives them out to us on a daily basis. This week, our First Eucharist families gathered together to participate in Jesus Day, an opportunity to grow in relationship with our Lord, and prepare for the Sacrament they will receive April 29th. This week please pray for our families preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and for our whole community that we might all better participate in God's plan for our lives.

God Bless and have a great week! Read more at www.ihmparish.net/childrensfaithformation



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