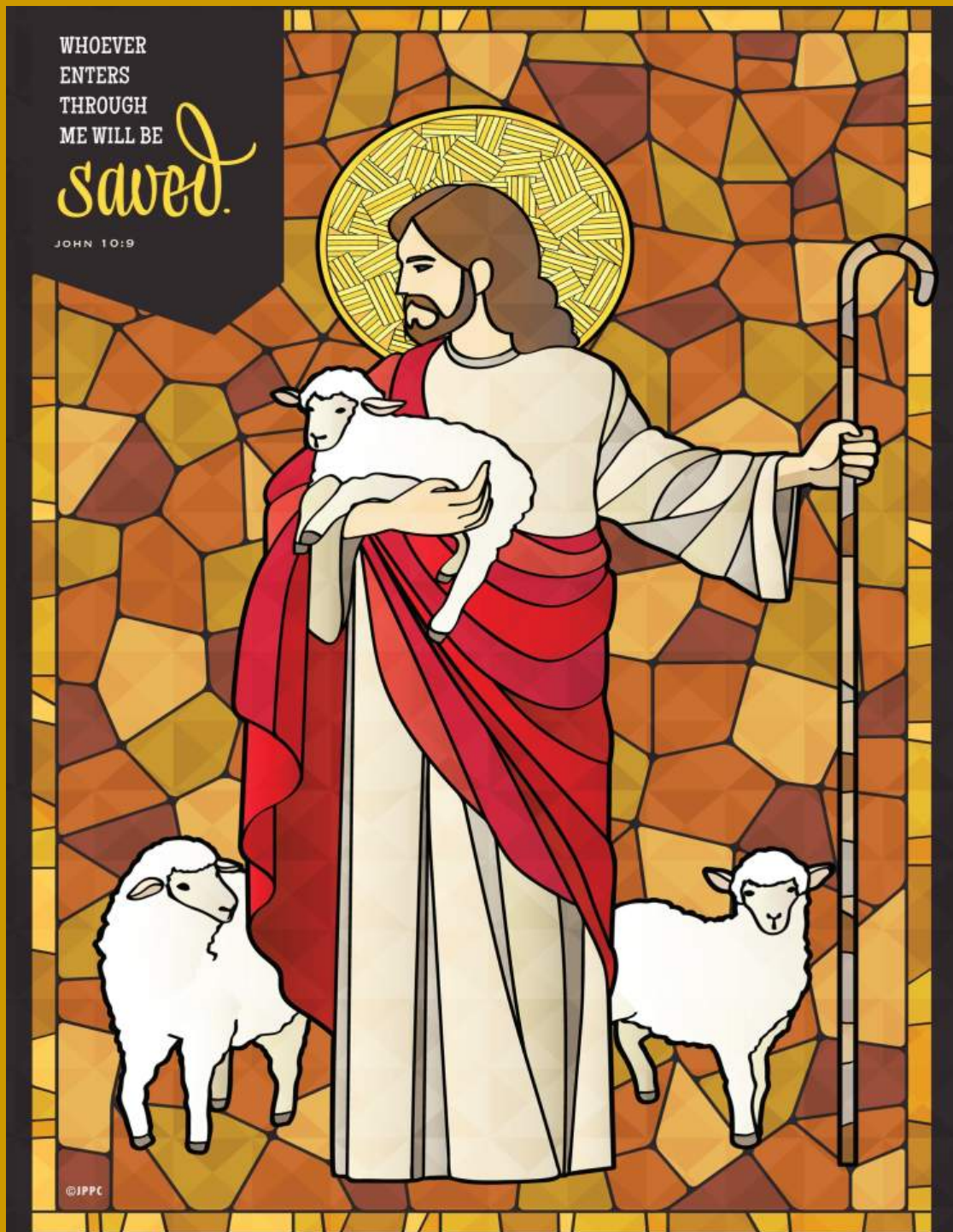


4th Sunday of Easter - April 30, 2023

The People of God called to form the Christian Community of
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



MISSION STATEMENT

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



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FAX: (908) 889-9477 EMAIL: office@ihmparish.net

Website: www.ihmparish.net

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SERVED BY

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

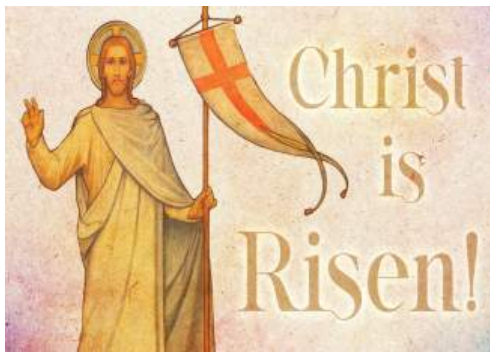


Mass will continue to Live Stream on Facebook and our website: www.ihmparish.net

A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE

What does it mean to have life? Certainly we are living bodies, but is that life? In the gospel Jesus calls us to life in abundance. To have life in abundance means that we allow Jesus into our lives and to answer his call to love and service. Each of us has been called to be a disciple of Christ and to preach the Good News of God’s love to all whom we meet.

The best way for us to do this is by putting Christ first in all that we do, for it is only in Christ that we can hope to be successful and have life. This allows us to live our lives and our faith with great joy and great hope even in difficult times and situations. When we do things without Christ there still seems to be something missing, an emptiness that will not go away. To do things in Christ means to fulfill his call to love in any and all endeavors of our lives. In doing this we receive and experience life in abundance.
Peace, Fr. Mike



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Spirituality Seminar continues every Tuesday night @ 7:15 pm on Zoom. The name of the book is **Julian's Gospel** by Veronica Mary Rolf.

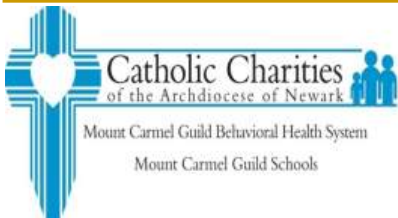
In a time of the Plague, Civil, Political and Religious strife. How through with and in all of this she found union with God? Please e-mail FrRob@ihmparish.net for an invite.



Archdiocese of Newark Covid-19 Update

Recovering the Full Celebration of the Liturgy: Participation, Liturgical Ministers, Liturgical Music and Receiving the Blood of Christ. Complete details are available now at our homepage in the “Recent Announcements” section at www.ihmparish.net

**“I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.”
John 10:14**



The Easter season is upon us and the universal Church is rejoicing. Some people, however, have difficulty experiencing these joys due to their circumstances in life. Catholic Charities aims to help relieve the suffering of many in our society through its various programs. Please help Catholic Charities continue its mission by donating your unwanted clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, tools, toys, stuffed animals, knickknacks, and children’s books to the Donation Bin (s) located on our property. May the spirit of the Risen Christ resound through your generosity. Thank you.

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 April 30 - May 7, 2023

Saturday April 29	7:00am	Ann McAuley+ from The Carlino Family
	8:30 am	Mary Jane Bergen+ from Betty & Tony Perfilio
	10:00am	First Communion Mass
	5:00 pm	Katherine & Patrick McKeown+ from Joanne & Gary Cogswell
Sunday April 30	8:00 am	John Thompson+ from The Rosary Altar Society
	10:00 am	Prayers for our young parishioners (living) from IHM Parish
	12:00 pm	Harold C. Knox+ from Arlene Knox
Monday May 1	7:00 am	Janet Manfredonia (living) thank you from IHM Parish Office
	8:30 am	Natalie Rozborski+ (5th Anniversary) from her 6 daughters & their families
Tuesday May 2	7:00 am	Ferdie Nieva (living) thank you from IHM Parish Office
	8:30 am	Mary Jane Bergen+ from the Rosary Altar Society
Wednesday May 3	7:00 am	John McGuire (living) thank you from IHM Parish Office
	8:30 am	Bob Brennan+ from the Barcellona Family
Thursday May 4	7:00 am	Rachael Flanagan (living) thank you from IHM Parish Office
	8:30 am	James Edward Flood+ from Bennett & Marisa LoBrace
Friday May 5	7:00 am	Kenneth Blum Sr.+ from the Blum & Veglia Families
	8:30 am	My beloved parents Edward & Jean Winsor+ from Mary Beth Winsor
Saturday May 6	7:00am	Alice Doyle+ from Marion, Marc, Julianne, Kevin, Brayden, Steve & Elise
	8:30 am	Mary Jane Bergen+ from Chris & Jack Haight
	5:00 pm	Larissa Acocella+ from Geri & Charlie Barcellona
Sunday May 7	8:00 am	For the People from IHM Parish
	10:00 am	Karen Mannix+ from Betty & Tony Perfilio
	12:00 pm	Ignatius and Robert Janusz+ from Maureen Pecoraro

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

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


Special Intentions for the week of April 30 - May 7, 2023



Sanctuary Light
For the intention of:
Susan Rozborski (living)
Happy Birthday from her 5
loving sisters + their families




Altar Bread & Wine
For the intention of:
Kenneth Blum Sr.+
requested by
Blum & Veglia Families



Flowers for the Blessed Mother
In memory of
My beloved brother Bob+
requested by
Maureen Pecoraro

**Remember
Our Departed**



All Souls+

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.

GOD BLESS OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS!

ETHAN ARIMENTA
 LILY ARIMENTA
 BRAIDEN CASPERSEN
 PEPE DEL PUERTO
 CAROLINA FLYNN
 DELILAH GALVEZ
 BRADLEY GEISSMAN
 LEO GIAFAGLIONE
 LUKE HAIGHT
 NATHANIEL HEREDIA
 CECE KIJOWSKI
 JACQUELYN PRINCIPATO
 COLE STEWART
 ELENA TRUJILLO



“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”
 Acts 2:42



The Veterans of Foreign Wars Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Post #10122 will be holding our annual Buddy Poppy drive **May 27-28**. This drive is for the benefit of needy and disabled veterans. Thank you for your support! Contact Frank Chupko for more details: 908-448-7789

Pastoral Care for People with Same-Sex Attraction

Ministry for those experiencing Same-Sex Attractions (SSA) COURAGE is a support for Catholic men and women who experience SSA and desire to live chaste lives following the teachings of the Catholic church. ENCOURAGE helps loved ones of those with SSA.

COURAGE: 732-562-2476 - couragenj@gmail.com

ENCOURAGE: 609-642-6935

All calls are strictly confidential.

More information at www.couragerc.org



BUY A BRICK! The bricks will be placed in our 'Our Lady of Fatima' Garden. 2 sizes: 4"x 8" and 8"x8". PLEASE RETURN ORDER FORM available at www.ihmparish.net AND PAYMENT to the Nazareth Center Office. **Deadline is Monday May 1st, 2023!**

EASTER BASKET

A Joyful Toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.
 - 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV

IHM YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS powered by BOLD

Sunday, May 7: Youth Ministry Night (7-8:30pm)

Sunday, June 4: END OF YEAR PARTY! (7-8:30pm)

June 25-June 30: Summer Mission Trip to Drexel Hill, PA

Questions? Contact Rachael at ihmsp@boldym.com

IHM Service Trip with Catholic Heart Workcamp

June 25th - June 30th | Drexel Hill, PA

We are calling all high school teenagers, college students, young adults and youth leaders to join us for a week of service, friendship, spiritual growth and memories that will last a lifetime!

Who: All current High School teens

COST: \$375 Registration Fee (\$100 non-refundable after May 1st)

PRE-REQ: Participants must fundraise a min of \$275

Spots will fill up on a first come, first served basis.

Registration Now Open: boldym.com/chwc



Contact ihmsp@boldym.com with any questions!



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 **First Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2023** to **The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, 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: May 6 - May 7

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
5/6 5:00pm	Kathy Mitchell	Janice Good Piga John Torzewski Chris Haight Alice Schaffernoth	Fr. Val
5/7 8:00am	Rich Banasiak	Karen Schwaneberg Lou DiBella Ed Sullivan	Fr. Mike
5/7 10:00am	Heba Fortunato	Connie Boruch (Ash) David Boruch (Ash) Steve Prato Eileen Wagner (Ash)	Fr. Val
5/7 12:00pm	Regina O'Connor	Carol Kiley Tracey Foley	Fr. Mike

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 9:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am - 2:00pm

Closed on Sundays, Holy Days & Holidays

For more information contact Erin Miller at:

erins310@gmail.com | 908-531-0128



IHM PARISH INFORMATION

Spring 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

AFTER THE WINTER GOD SENDS HIS SPRING

By Helen Steiner Rice

Springtime is the season, Of hope, and joy, and cheer.
There is beauty all around; To see, to touch, to hear.
So no matter how downhearted, Or discouraged you may be,
New hope is born when we behold, Leaves budding on a tree.
Or when we see a timid flower, Push through the frozen sod,
And open wide, in glad surprise, It's petalled eyes to God...
For this is just God saying, "Lift up your eyes to Me,
And the bleakness of your spirit, Like the budding springtime
tree, Will loose it's wintry darkness,
And your heavy heart will sing!" For God never sends the
winter, Without the joy of Spring.



♥ Join us for a **SPRING LUNCHEON** at the newly remodeled Shackamaxon Country Club on Sunday, May 7th from 1 - 4PM. Tickets are \$48 and the deadline is this weekend. Please send your check payable to IHM Rosary Altar Society, to Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive, Clark, NJ 07066. Friends & Family are most welcome as well!!

♥ Join us at the **HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE** on Saturday, August 12th for A Gourmet Luncheon & Show. The production is "REMEMBER ME?" featuring Three's Company Star **JOYCE DEWITT**. This comedy will absolutely delight you and the food will also delight you!! Please call Janice Good-Piga 908-759-6729 to reserve your spot (LIMITED TICKET AVAILABILITY) and kindly send your check payable to IHM Rosary Altar Society for \$80 to Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive, Clark, NJ 07066 ASAP. Parking is plentiful at the Playhouse.

♥ We have several additional exciting event in the planning stages. We will keep you updated!! May your week ahead be a truly Blessed one filled with special surprises and warm embraces. You remain in our daily thoughts and prayers.
♥ Janice



The Women's Prayer Group will gather for a meeting **Thursday May 4 at 7:30pm via Zoom**. The topic will be "Agape: Another Word for Love". Email tefoleyihm@gmail.com for more details. Prayer connects us all!

CENTERING PRAYER/LECTIO DIVINA

Please call Phyllis at 908-264-7456 for info regarding this gathering, which is held on Zoom Thursday mornings from 9:30 am until 10:45 am. "BE STILL, KNOW, I AM GOD"



The next meeting for the IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group will be **Saturday morning May 13 at 7:30am in the church basement**. Contact dndiken@aol.com for more info.

Collection Report		April 23, 2023
Weekly Target:		\$12,558.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)		\$8,490.87
Surplus/(Deficit)		(4,067.13)
Fiscal Year to Date:		
Budget		\$514,878.00
Actual:		\$456,334.00
Surplus/(Deficit)		(58,544.00)
Rolling 4 Week Averages:		
Average Collection:		\$9,947.47
Average Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,610.53)



Easter Collection to Date: \$43,815.48
Budget Goal: \$55,000.00

Annual Appeal
the 2023

\$57,150 pledged
91.99% 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 faithformation@ihmparish.net

IHM EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday April 30: St James the Great Day	
1:00pm	Sunday Bingo
Monday May 1	
7:00pm	Easter Gathering (9th Grade Confirmation)
7:30pm	Alpha Episode 10 on Zoom
Tuesday May 2	
7:15pm	Julian of Norwich Spirituality Seminar on Zoom
Wednesday May 3	
10:00am	Food Pantry
7:30pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
8:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday May 4	
9:30am	Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina on Zoom
7:30pm	Women's Prayer Group Zoom
Friday May 5: Cinco de Mayo	
Saturday May 6	
All Day	Knights of Columbus Charity Rose Sale
Sunday May 7	
All Day	Knights of Columbus Charity Rose Sale
All Day	Scotch Plains Post Office Food Collection
9:00am	Holy Name Society Meeting & Breakfast
10:00am	Rosary Altar Society Mass & Breakfast
1:00pm	Rosary Altar Society Luncheon @ Shackamaxon
7:00pm	BOLD Youth Group Ministry Night



Rutgers University Summer Basketball Program

For children ages 6-17. Cost for one week \$185.
Call Joe at 973-353-1483 or loughran@rutgers.edu

A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate: John McGuire

May 1995, a young boy and his parents are driving around Ocean County during a major forest fire. The smoke fills the air, the traffic is worse than normal, but a Faith Formation Coordinator insists all boys must wear a white suit for their First Holy Communion, no exceptions. This is my most vivid memory from my First Eucharist. If it were part of a movie, the adult version of the character would doubt the existence of God, and sleep in on Sundays, but that isn't where the story ended.

My experience wasn't unique. While talking with parents over the last 10 years, I've heard plenty of similar stories of overbearing directors, focus on externals, and fear of messing up. The beautiful thing though, is that those parents are still here.

My personal experience, and those of the parents I have worked with have informed the way that we form the children of our parish. We do what we can to relieve any nervousness, while still focusing on the importance of the experience. However, I think it is important to realize something. Receiving Christ, in the Eucharist, is transformational. It is life changing, and takes hold whether the first time is wonderful or nerve racking. That is why I am still here, and the parents who share similar experiences are bringing their children. This week, please pray for our young children who are receiving Christ for the first, and hopefully second time on Sunday, and for their parents. That they might continue to grow in faith, hope, and love as a result of this great gift. God Bless and have a wonderful week!



Want to donate but don't have any cash on hand?

Parish Giving is fast, safe & secure. Scan the QR code with your smart phone or tablet. This code will link you directly to our Parish Giving website. No sign-up required. Just click the "Pay Now" button. Thank you for your continued support to our community!



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