

Ascension of the Lord - May 21, 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.”



1571 S. Martine Ave. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 PHONE: (908) 889-2100
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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

Today's Gospel gives us what we call the Great Commission. The final instructions of Jesus before He returns to the Father. He is not abandoning his disciples or us, rather he is fulfilling his promise to be with us always. There is doubt, but there is also reassurance. Jesus invites us to go, reach out of ourselves in faith. Then to make disciples, not just be a disciple. Baptizing, bringing others into this joy filled relationship with Jesus, with the Father, with the Holy Spirit. And to teach by word and work the transforming power of this relationship. Here we can also experience the transforming power of our loving God.

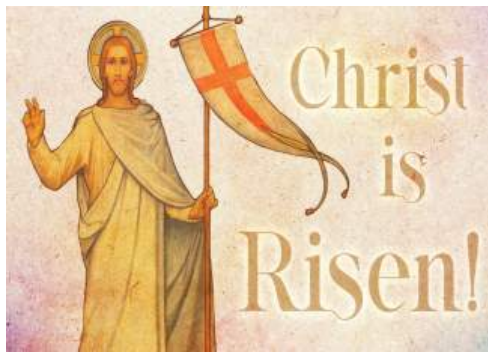
As we celebrate another aspect of the Christ Event, the death, resurrection, Ascension and coming of the Spirit, we continue our Easter celebration, our Easter journey by being reminded that Christ has not abandoned us, but in his return to the Father, can be with us always. Reassuring us of His and presence. Inviting us to trust in His love. Sending us to proclaim the Good News. So we don't just experience His ongoing presence in our lives but also be his presence in the world today by continuing the mission he entrusted to his disciples then and now.

Peace, Fr. Mike



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.



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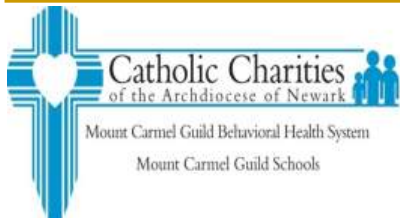
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Archdiocese of Newark Covid-19 Update

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 "Archdiocese Update" section at www.ihmparish.net

"I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice." John 14:18



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 May 21 - May 28, 2023

Saturday May 20	7:00am	Mother's Day Novena
	8:30 am	Ann McAuley+ from the Lewis Family
	11:00 am	Confirmation Mass
	2:00 pm	Confirmation Mass
	5:00pm	James R. Kennedy+ from Kerry Caspersen
Sunday May 21	8:00 am	Mother's Day Novena/For the People from IHM Parish
	10:00 am	Frank & Elsie Marcigliano+ from Janet & Emil Manfredonia
	12:00 pm	James J. Grossman+ from Maureen Grossman
Monday May 22	7:00 am	Mother's Day Novena
	8:30 am	Mary Jane Bergen+ from Barbara Apgar
Tuesday May 23	7:00 am	Judith Barone+ from Thomas St. John
	8:30 am	Anne M. Kunze+ (4th year anniversary) from Fr. Rob Kunze
Wednesday May 24	7:00 am	Mother's Day Novena
	8:30 am	Anne Heirholzer+ from Bernie Beck
Thursday May 25	7:00 am	Flavio & Flora May Grasso+ from the Grasso & Naugle families
	8:30 am	Marie Camarata+ from Bernie Beck
Friday May 26	7:00 am	Veronidia J. Yabut+ from the Yabut family
	8:30 am	Bernadette Flaherty+ from Fr. Mike Ward
Saturday May 27	7:00am	Gilma Maldonado (living) Happy Anniversary from Gabe
	8:30 am	George Mickel+ from Barbara & Bill Apgar
	5:00 pm	Marie & John Hennessy+ from the Hennessy family
Sunday May 28	8:00 am	Michael D'Agostino+ from the Rosary Altar Society
	10:00 am	For the People from IHM Parish
	12:00 pm	Kevin Brown+ from the Manfredonia family

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	★ Please advise if any
Frank Chimento	Emily Fleming	Jillian Lapidus	Jacob Rivera	Ryder Francis Spillane	names can be removed
Edward Clark	Mary Foster	Mary Frances Leon	Jaxson Rivera	Paul Szeker	from the sick list...
David Connell	Michele Gamako	Eileen Lynch	Marisol Rodriguez	Phyllis Szeker	office@ihmparish.net



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 May 21 - May 28, 2023



Sanctuary Light
For the intention of:
Mary Jane Bergen+
requested by:
Barbara Apgar



Altar Bread & Wine
For the intention of:
Mary Graham+
requested by:
the McGuinness Family



Flowers for the Blessed Mother
In memory of :
My Dad Ignatius+
requested by:
Maureen Pecoraro

Remember Our Departed



Robert "Bob"
Stomber+



Church of the Little Flower in Berkeley Heights will be hosting **Journey through Grief: Bereavement Support Group**. Wednesday nights until June 7th from 7:00 - 8:30pm. Call 908-464-1585 to register or visit www.littleflowerbh.org

Celebrating our Patroness: The Immaculate Heart of Mary
and the opening of Summer Academy



SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY JUNE 25

- ★ ALL KINDS OF FOOD! ★ OUTDOOR GAMES!
- ★ ARTS & CRAFTS! ★ KARAOKE & DANCING!
- ★ VIDEO SCREENINGS! ★ ICE CREAM!
- ★ PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS! ★ AND MUCH MORE!



THE CELEBRATION BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON MASS



Veterans of Foreign Wars Scotch Plains-Fanwood
Memorial Post #10122 Annual Buddy Poppy Drive
May 27-28. Call Frank 908-448-7789

**Got questions
about life**
www.ihmparish.net/alpha

June 4
7:00-8:30
ALL IN HIGH SCHOOL!
HULA ON OVER FOR A
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LOOKING FOR SUMMER ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS

We are looking for parishioners to serve as instructors for our Summer Academy Program which will run from Sunday, June 25th (our parish feast) until July 7th, from 9:00 am- 1:00 pm. Sessions are cancelled July 3rd-4th in observance of the holiday.

What's required? Volunteers should have a desire to share their faith with the young people of our parish, be creative in how they present the materials they are provided, and be open to grow in faith themselves over the two weeks! If you have ever considered volunteering in this way, please contact John McGuire by email at johnmcguire@ihmparish.net or call 908-889-2100 to get started!



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 27 - May 28

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
5/27 5:00pm	Janice Good Piga	Chris Haight Dan Kelly John Torzewski	Fr. Val
5/28 8:00am	Ed Sullivan	Rich Wagner Karen Schwaneberg Rich Banasiak	Fr. Val
5/28 10:00am	Jane McClellan	Jason McCann David Diken Betty Perfilio Lou Zappo	Fr. Mike
5/28 12:00pm	Regina O'Connor	Carol Kiley Diane McGuinness	Fr. Rob



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

MARY, MOTHER OF US ALL By Cameron Bellm

There is a tender figure who stands watch, Over the bookends of our lives, Holding us in our birth and in our death.

It is Mary who rejoices at our kicks in the womb, Just as she did at the visitation. It is Mary who celebrates our first breaths at birth, Just as she did at the nativity.

It is Mary who keeps vigil with us as we pass into death, Just as she did at the crucifixion. And it is Mary who stands ready to embrace us, At every moment in between.

When the shepherds proclaimed the good news of Christ, Mary treasured and pondered it in her heart.

She treasures and ponders us, too, Each one of us, a sacred mystery. May the days of our lives be shaped into melody, Composing a holy hymn of love to you, Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mary, Mother of us all!!

Amen.

♥ Thank you to Barbara Apgar & Barbara Mrozek again for planning our wonderful Springtime Luncheon at Shakamaxon Country Club. It was a wonderful afternoon spent with both old and new friends, surrounded by beautiful scenery and delicious food!

♥ Please mark your calendars for our EVENING OF REFLECTION (open to all) on Tuesday, June 6th at 7PM in the Nazareth Center. Our Guest Speaker will be Sister Eileen Smith from Mount Saint Mary's. The topic will be "Called To Be Christ Bearers Like Mary". Please RSVP by calling Mary Ann at 908-322-0279 by Friday, June 2nd.

♥ The Feast & IHM Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 25th at 1PM. Each parish group will be sponsoring an event. The Rosary Altar Society will be hosting a DESSERT TABLE with Rosarians baking their favorite dessert items. Please help us make this a luscious experience. If you would like to bake/buy something special, kindly contact Mary Ann at 908-322-0279 or Janice at 908-759-6729 by June 20th. Thanks for helping to make this parish event extra sweet!

♥ We invite everyone to joins us for a wonderful DINNER THEATER EXPERIENCE at the famous HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE on Saturday, August 12th from 11AM - 3:30PM. The show is the hilarious comedy "REMEMBER ME?" starring former Three's Company star Joyce Dewitt. This will be a full luncheon & show, including a dessert buffet. The venue has ample parking and the table seating is in full view of the stage! We only have 40 tickets available and we ask that you kindly sign up ASAP. Please call Janice at 908-759-6729 to reserve a seat and please send your check (Payable to IHM Rosary Altar Society) for \$80 to Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive. Clark, NJ 07066.

May your week ahead be filled with love, laughter, good friends, cherished family members, and most of all ...many Blessings!! You are always in our daily prayers.

♥ Janice



The next meeting for the IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group will be **Thursday night May 25 at 7:30pm on Zoom**. Contact dndiken@aol.com for more info.

Collection Report		May 7, 2023
Weekly Target:		\$12,558.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)		\$13,155.56
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$597.56
Fiscal Year to Date:		
Budget		\$539,994.00
Actual:		\$479,072.24
Surplus/(Deficit)		(60,921.76)
Rolling 4 Week Averages:		
Average Collection:		\$10,386.36
Average Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,171.64)



Prayer Shawl Knitting Group! Sunday 5/21 after 10am Mass @ the Nazareth Center. Call Marion 908-433-2829

IHM EVENT CALENDER

Sunday May 21 : Ascension

11:00am Prayer Shawl Meeting

Monday May 22

7:00pm 7th Grade Parent/ Confirmation Prep Meeting

Tuesday May 23

6:30pm Rosary Altar Society Board Meeting
7:00pm Union Catholic Graduation Mass
7:15pm Julian of Norwich Spirituality Seminar on Zoom

Wednesday May 24

10:00am Food Pantry
8:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday May 25

9:30am Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina on Zoom
7:30pm Men's Scripture Group Zoom

Friday May 26

Saturday May 27

All Day Veteran's Buddy Poppy Drive

Sunday May 28: Pentecost

All Day Veteran's Buddy Poppy Drive
11:00am Alpha Reunion Brunch



Easter Collection to Date: \$44,546.76
Budget Goal: \$55,000.00

Annual Appeal the 2023

\$57,850 pledged
93.12% 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).

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.** Registration for the fall/spring Families of Faith religious education program will begin in late June. (TBA) If you have any questions or do not receive a notification from Parish Giving on or about March 6th, please contact faithformation@ihmparish.net



Rutgers University Summer Basketball

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



A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate: John McGuire: If I recall correctly, someone of cultural relevance, maybe a saint or something, said "with great power comes great responsibility" hmm, maybe it was St. Peter. Who said it isn't important, but I hope those confirmed just yesterday, take this saying to heart. Yesterday, the newly confirmed, received their final sacrament of initiation. When they were called by name, and were told to be filled with the Holy Spirit, they gained access to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in a new way. Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord, were gifted to them in a whole new way. Now, their time of compulsory formation has ended. No longer will they be externally motivated to receive formation on their way to a major milestone in their lives. While we hope that they take advantage of Mass, the sacraments, youth ministry, various available apps and opportunities to grow in faith. It is now up to them, to take responsibility to continue to grow in faith and a relationship with God and their Church community. With the great gifts they have received, I truly believe that they can set this world ablaze in the Holy Spirit. They can spread the Gospel, treat others better than the world expects to. They are exceptional young people, and when they put their hearts and souls into changing the world for the better, nothing will be able to stop them. This week, let's pray for the newly Confirmed and their parents, that with the support of their community they'll continue to grow in faith, hope, & love. God Bless & have a wonderful week.



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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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