

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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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

John the Baptist calls us to make straight the path of the Lord. In other words he is challenging us to remove the obstacles in our lives so that the Lord may enter more fully into our lives. It forces us to ask ourselves what those obstacles are. The images of enemies resting peacefully with one another in the first reading from Isaiah and the Psalm response speaking of the reign of Justice and Peace help us in this challenge.

Who do we consider our enemies, the outsiders in our lives, and how can we be at peace with them? How can we treat them justly and respectfully as God does? When we can answer these questions, but also live out the answers, we have become more prepared to welcome Jesus when he comes in glory and recognize his presence in our lives right now.







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SAVE THE DATE!

Friday December 16, 2022

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
featuring St. Helen's & IHM

Music Ministries.
7:00pm at St. Helen's Church
1600 Rahway Ave. Westfield

Archdiocese of Newark - COVID-19 Directives - Updated May 15, 2022

STILL IN EFFECT: Masks will no longer be required for fully vaccinated persons. If not fully vaccinated, persons are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidance and wear a face mask in public settings. People will no longer be required to socially distance indoors or outdoors, although unvaccinated persons should continue to maintain a safe distance from others. These directives apply to Masses and activities in Church. Archdiocesan protocols for Religious Education and Basketball programs remain in effect.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: All ministries may return to full service – altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Ministers of Holy Communion must still sanitize their hands and wear a mask when distributing Communion.

COMMUNION: While Communion on the tongue is now permitted, for the safety of the priests, ministers and other communicants, we encourage continued reception of communion in the hand. At this time, Communion from the cup should not be distributed to the assembly.

SANITIZING: The cleaning and sanitizing of churches and common spaces is done regularly. It is not required after every liturgy.

PARISH MEETINGS: Parish meetings in person may resume. Those vaccinated are not required to wear masks for indoor meetings nor are they required to maintain social distancing. The same recommendations for Mass apply to those not vaccinated.

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 4th - December 11th, 2022			
Saturday December 3	7:00 am 8:30 am 5:00 pm	Walter Miklas+ by Bernie Beck Alicia G. Villacorta+ by IHM Alpha Team Donald Camfield+ by Lisa & Craig Barcellona			
Sunday December 4	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	For the People by The Parish In memory of Charles Takacs+ by Barbara Apgar Mary Graham+ by John & Tracey Foley			
Monday December 5	7:00 am 8:30 am	Alana Beardsley & Jillian Miele (living) by The IHM Pastoral Council St. Elizabeth of Hungary+ by Mary Beth Winsor			
Tuesday December 6	7:00 am 8:30 am	Isla Rose Canonico+ by Friends from the Violante Family Dominic Guarna+ by Antoinette Guarna			
Wednesday December 7	7:00 am 8:30 am 7:00 pm	Elaine Carman (living) by The IHM Pastoral Council Domiciano Capitly+ by Conchita Capitly & Daughters Robert Bergen+ by Mary Jane Bergen			
Thursday December 8	7:00 am 8:30 am 7:00 pm	Albert M. Scarinci+ by Eileen Scarinci Patricia Giteles+ by The Varela Family Robert Piasecki+ by The Tiny Tim Fund Board			
Friday December 9	7:00 am 8:30 am	Sr. Ann Sullivan S.S.J.+ by Students of Union Catholic High School Bob Piasecki+ by The IHM Staff			
Saturday December 10	7:00 am 8:30 am 5:00 pm	Sr. Ann Sullivan S.S.J.+ by Karen & Joe Schurtz Bob Piasecki+ by The Holt Family Ester Verducci+ by Charlie & Geri Barcellona			
Sunday December 11	8:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm	Jack Foulks+ by Dorothy & Nancy For the People by The Parish Mary Graham+ by The IHM Pastoral Council			

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

John Allen	William Consovoy	Michele Gamako	William Maines	Dolores Rust	Sr. Elizabeth
George Becker	rge Becker Colm Cosgrove		Jim Malfetti	Diana Scariati	Vermaelen
Mary Jane Bergen	Samantha Bridge	David Hens	Bill Malone	Arty Shapiro	Stephanie Vernace
Fran Boglioli	James Brown	Kathleen Herron	Owen Mike McCabe	Elisa Silversey	Stephen Voorhees
Erin Brennan	Kevin Brown	Juliann Junio	June McManus	Bernard Slaza	Ben Wheelock
Mary Calabrese	John Burkert	Gregory Kamouh	Marlene Mosko	Beverly Sopp	Evelyn Whitehorne
Anna Cassella	Ray Clark	Marie Keller	Hilda Pizza	Ryder Francis Spillane	
Paul Cassidy	Albert Fischer, Jr.	Anna Koch	Diane Pricken	Paul Szeker	
Matthew Cassio	Phyllis Fischer	Jillian Lapidus	Carmela Resnick	Phyllis Szeker	
Frank Chimento	Emily Fleming	Eileen Lynch	Marisol Rodriguez	Carole Ventre	
Edward Clark	Mary Foster	Maureen Lynch	Susan Rozborski	Daniel Ventura	



<u>Hospital Privacy</u> | 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 4th - December 11th, 2022



Sanctuary Light For the intention of: Domiciano Capitly+ Requested by Conchita Capitly &

Daughters



Altar Bread & Wine For the intention of: Mary, George & Georgina Mae Good+ Requested by

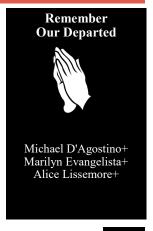
Janice Good Piga & Bob Piga



Flowers for the Blessed Mother In memory of:

Mary, George & Georgina Mae Good+ Requested by

Janice Good Piga & Bob Piga



Meet new people & explore faith together.



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WATCH AN EPISODE ON

The Winter/Spring 2023 Alpha starts **Monday February 13, 2023** followed by 11 sessions throughout the season. Seating is limited! Sign up today at www.ihmparish.net/alpha



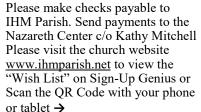


College Age Retreat—January 6-8, 2023 Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May NJ

This retreat is designed to bring young people together of college age (17-22). So whether you are in college or working, come join us to renew your spiritual life, deepen your relationship with God and to meet new friends. Our time will be filled with prayer experiences, peer group discussions, Eucharist and lots of fun! Cost is \$145 per person. Financial Aid is available. Register at www.capemaymarianists.org or call 609-884-3829

THE GIVING TREE RETURNS!!!

Gifts should be NEW and UNWRAPPED. Monetary donations will also be accepted. We will be gathering gifts until Sunday December 18th, 2022.



"There are a few angels available throughout the doors at the church for those who cannot access Sign-Up Genius." Thank you very much & have a Merry Christmas!







PEE WEE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

<u>December 9</u> @ 5pm: Boys Pee Wee Basketball Finals @6pm: Girls Pee Wee Basketball Finals

Questions? Contact Tom at decat61@yahoo.com

IHM Youth Ministry powered by BOLD! Sign-up for events @ www.boldym.com/ihmsp/events



Good People make everything possible. A very large thank you to all the volunteers who donated, cooked served and cleaned for our 1st Annual Thanksgiving dinner cohosted by All Saints Episcopal Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. What a community we live in, nothing but love!

- ► Sunday, December 11 (7-8:30pm): High School Youth Ministry CHRISTMAS PARTY!
- ► Sunday, December 18 (1-3pm): Living Nativity (and other surprises!) Looking for TEENS to dress up as Mary, Joseph, Magi, Shepherds, etc and interact with LIVE animals for this INCREDIBLE event.

 (Parishioners / Families You will not want to miss this!)

SAVE THE DATES!

~IHM Youth Ministry Events for 7th & 8th Graders~
► SERVICE NIGHT: Sunday, January 29 (7:00-8:30pm)
► LOCK-IN: Friday, April 28 - Saturday, April 29
(8:30pm-8:30am)

Questions? Contact Rachael Flanagan, Coordinator of Youth Ministry at ihmsp@boldym.com or call / text (908) 280-2893

Minister Assignments: December 10 - December 11 Saturday Extra-Ordinary Lectors Presider - Sunday **Ministers** 12/10 John Torzewski Jim Brennan Fr. Rob 5:00pm Janice Good Piga 12/11 Rich Wagner Rich Banasiak Fr. Val 8:00am Chris Dill 12/11 Heba Fortunato Fr. Rob Andy Davis 10:00am Dave Diken 12/11 Eileen Wagner Tracey Foley Fr. Mike 12:00pm Jean Naugle

Attention Lectors! Pick up your workbooks in the Sacristy after Mass!



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

Fall/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

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Rosary Altar Society News

I WANT TO BE AN ANGEL

by Simone Sheppard

I want to be an angel. The kind that comes to earth. To feed the poor, to guide the lost. To turn the tears to mirth... I crave the power of miracles. What rapture that could bring... To heal the sick, bring sun or rain. Or teach the mute to sing! So when it's time my soul to go. To Heaven's pearly gate I'll file my application. Halo, wings... I just can't wait! And because I'm in a hurry. I'm going to start right now and In some small way I'll try each day. The Lord will show me how. I'll ask for nothing in return.

But pray for all I'm worth. That my angel resume will read "Training done on earth."

- ♥ For those who may not be able to join us for our Annual Rosarian Christmas Party On Sunday, December 4th, we will still be able to accept any monetary donations that you may wish to make for the Missionaries Of Charity. We make a yearly gift to this wonderful charitable organization. The Sisters are so very grateful for any contributions and they always keep us in their daily prayers.
- ♥ Our Annual Winter Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 10th (Snow Date Jan. 17th) at Max's Bistro in Downtown Scotch Plains. This will be a multiple course, gourmet luncheon. Rosarians and guest are invited. Please refer to the bulletin insert (next week) for menu selections. To reserve your place, kindly mail your check (payable to IHM Rosary Altar Society for \$30) to Treasurer Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive, Clark, NJ 07066 by January 4, 2023. This yearly Rosarian tradition is always a beautiful way to welcome in the New Year. Please contact Janice Good-Piga 908-759-6729 or Maureen Pecoraro 732-560-0918 for additional details.
- ♥ Final arrangements are currently underway for the Spring San Alfonso Retreat. Details to follow in the coming weeks.

"HOPE is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul...and sings the tune without words, and never stops...at all. " - Emily Dickinson

May your week be a Blessed & Joyous one and please know that we continue to hold you and your families close in our thoughts and prayers.

♥ Janice



The Women's Prayer Group will gather on Thursday January 5, 2023 at 7:30pm via Zoom. The topic will be "The Letters of St. Paul". Email tefoleyihm@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

CENTERING PRAYER/LECTIO DIVINA

Heart Every Thursdays Inc...
Reflection, Discussion, Meditation in the 1413....
and Contemplative way of prayer. Call Phyllis at 9008-264-7456 for information & the Zoom link.



The next meeting for the IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group will be Saturday December 10th 7:30am LIVE in the Church basement. For more info contact David at dndiken@aol.com

Collection Report	Nov. 20, 2022
Weekly Target (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$12,558.00
Total Collection:	\$10,880.51
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,677.49)
	Nov. 27, 2022
Weekly Target (Mass + Parish Giving)	\$12,558.00
Total Collection:	\$9,794.94
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,763.06)
Fiscal Year to Date:	
Budget	\$276,276.00
Actual:	\$238,244.42
Surplus/(Deficit)	(38,031.58)
Rolling 4 Week Averages:	
Average Collection:	\$11,606.09
Average Surplus/(Deficit)	(951.91)

#tryalpha @ www.ihmparish.net/alpha



IHM EVENT CALENDER

Sunday December 4: 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00am Holy Name Society Meeting & Breakfast 1:00pm Rosary Altar Christmas Party

3:00pm Youth Ministry Awards @ Sacred Heart Newark

6:45pm Family Advent Night

Monday December 5

7:00pm 8th Grade Confirmation: Session 2

7:30pm Alpha Experience 11

Tuesday December 6: St. Nicholas' Day

7:15pm Julian of Norwich Seminar on Zoom

Wednesday December 7

10:00am Food Pantry

7:30pm Advent Reflection with Fr. Mike on Zoom

8:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday December 8

9:30am Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina Zoom

Friday December 9

5:30pm Pee Wee Basketball Finals

Saturday December 10

7:30am Men's Scripture Group LIVE

11:00am Mass of Anointing

Sunday December 11: 3rd Sunday of Advent

All Day Collection for the Retired Religious

10:00am Sunday Food Pantry

10:00am 8th Grade Confirmation: Rite of Names 7:00pm BOLD Youth Group Christmas Party

A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate John McGuire:

December 3, 2022 will hopefully be a day to remember for over a dozen of our young people, because that is the day when they received their First Reconciliation. These children, and their parents experienced Jesus' love in a special way, as through the function of the priest, they heard Our Lord's forgiveness poured out upon them. I would go out on a limb, and make the claim that none of the children who attended their First Reconciliation were guilty of a mortal sin. However, the experience of going to confession at an early age, and doing so somewhat consistently, builds an attitude of receiving the grace of God, and empowers young people, especially as they face greater trials and challenges in their lives.

I say this out of love and not judgment, but parents, at every opportunity that I have made Reconciliation available to young people, particularly during Summer programs, or Confirmation retreats, they have told me two things. First, they were nervous because they hadn't gone since their First Reconciliation in second grade. Second, the opportunity to go, and unburden themselves, was one of the most meaningful experiences of the program.

Here is what it comes down to, if we want children to embrace their faith, especially what is unique to their faith, our parents, and entire community, have to build a culture that exemplifies that aspect of our faith. The children have to have access to the sacrament, see their parents approach it, and even see other adult members of the community approach it. We need to topple any barriers that keep us from it, because this is one way we can truly approach Jesus! Let's pray for the children of our parish who have just experienced this sacrament, their parents, and our whole community that we can build an atmosphere of reconciliation, and forgiveness. God bless and have a wonderful week. www.ihmparish.net/childrensfaithformation



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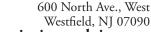
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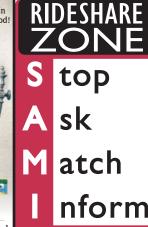
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