

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 11th, 2022

*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](mailto:office@ihmparish.net)



Website: [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)  
Facebook: **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church** | Instagram: **ihmparish\_sp**



**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

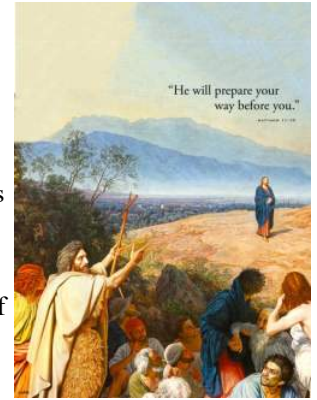


Mass will continue to Live Stream on Facebook and our website: [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)

**A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE**

Jesus tells John’s disciples to tell John what they see: The blind see, lepers are cleansed, the lame walk, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good news preached to them. All signs of who Jesus is, as well as a fulfillment of the vision of the prophet Isaiah. As disciples of Christ, we too are called to live a life of active faith so that others can see the Kingdom of God being built up by our thoughts, words and actions.

Just as John’s disciples could know Jesus as the Messiah by His actions, so too others should know us as disciples of Christ by the way in which we bring our relationship with Christ, our faith and our celebration of the Eucharist into everyday life. Just as the Word became flesh and dwelt among us in the incarnation of God, the birth of His Son Jesus, so to our relationship with the same Word made Flesh, Jesus, find it’s incarnation in the daily activities of our lives and the way we make the reality of the Kingdom present here and now.  
Peace, Fr. Mike



**THIS WEEK!**

**Friday December 16, 2022  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

featuring St. Helen’s & IHM Music Ministries.  
7:00pm at St. Helen’s Church  
1600 Rahway Ave. Westfield



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**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 11th - December 18th, 2022

<b>Saturday December 10</b>	7:00 am	Sr. Ann Sullivan S.S.J.+ by Karen & Joe Schurtz
	8:30 am	Bob Piasecki+ by The Holt Family
	5:00 pm	Ester Verducci+ by Charlie & Geri Barcellona
<b>Sunday December 11</b>	8:00 am	Jack Foulks+ by Dorothy & Nancy
	10:00 am	For the People by The Parish
	12:00 pm	Mary Graham+ by The IHM Pastoral Council
<b>Monday December 12</b>	7:00 am	Nancy Fischetti+ by Marion & Marc Berger
	8:30 am	Russ Wills (living) by Katie
<b>Tuesday December 13</b>	7:00 am	Alexandra Clark+ by The Sopko Family
	8:30 am	Dominick Verdic Sr.+ by The Verdic Family
<b>Wednesday December 14</b>	7:00 am	Geraldine "Geri" Smith+ by Al Smith
	8:30 am	James R. Kennedy+ by Bryan Finley
<b>Thursday December 15</b>	7:00 am	Beverly Anne Edelman+ by The Veglia Family
	8:30 am	Paul DeMarco+ by Karen & Joe Schurtz
<b>Friday December 16</b>	7:00 am	Michael Iarrapino Sr.+ by John & Tracey Foley
	8:30 am	Katherine Wening+ by The Junio Family
<b>Saturday December 17</b>	7:00 am	David Ferro+ by Mom & Dad
	8:30 am	David McWilliams+ by Patricia & John McNulty
	5:00 pm	Benjamin Rozborski+ by The Zelonis Family
<b>Sunday December 18</b>	8:00 am	For the People by The Parish
	10:00 am	Claire Rita Lewis+ by The Lewis Family
	12:00 pm	Robert L. Scully+ by The Scully Family

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

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



**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 December 12th - December 18th, 2022



**Sanctuary Light**  
For the intention of:  
**Dominick Verdic+**  
Requested by  
The Verdic Family



**Altar Bread & Wine**  
For the intention of:  
**Dorothy Foulks+**  
Requested by  
Phyllis & Bruce Leonard



**Flowers for the Blessed Mother**  
In memory of:  
**Charles Takacs+**  
Requested by  
Barbara Apgar

## Remember Our Departed



Mary Calabrese+  
Stan Oliva+



**Congratulations to the First Reconciliation Class of 2022!**

- Braiden Caspersen
- Pepe Del Puerto
- Carolina Flynn
- Delilah Galvez
- Leo Giafaglione
- Luke Haight
- Nathaniel Heredia
- Cece Kijowski
- Bradley Geissman
- Cole Stewart
- Elena Trujillo

What am I doing here

Is there more to life than this?

Where's my key?

Alpha

Got questions about life #TryAlpha

alpha.org

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](http://www.ihmparish.net/alpha)

**ATTENTION:** If you submitted a photo of a loved one for the All Souls Mass, please stop by the Nazareth Center and pick up your pictures. The office is open Monday—Thursday from 9am until 4pm. Call the office if you'd like to make alternate arrangements. Thank you! 908-889-2100

**Christmas Tree Memorial Lighting**  
**Sunday December 18th**  
 (after 12 noon Mass)  
 Dedicate a tree to your family and friends. Download the order form on our website [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net) or call 908-889-2100



**Candlelight Carol Sing**  
**The Cathedral Choir & Instrumental Ensemble**  
 Wednesday December 14 &  
 Thursday December 15  
 Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ  
[www.cathedralbasilica.org](http://www.cathedralbasilica.org)

**IHM Youth Ministry powered by BOLD! Sign-up for events @ [www.boldym.com/ihmsp/events](http://www.boldym.com/ihmsp/events)**

- **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 the Coordinator of Youth Ministry at [ihmsp@boldym.com](mailto:ihmsp@boldym.com)

## Minister Assignments: December 17 - December 18

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
12/17 5:00pm	Janice Good Piga	Chris Haight Jack Haight	Fr. Mike
12/18 8:00am	Karen Schwaneberg	Jack Timko Ed Sullivan	Fr. Rob
12/18 10:00am	Jane McClellan	Anthony Carlino MaryKate Schiller	Fr. Val
12/18 12:00pm	Carol Kiley	Regina O'Connor Eileen Wagner	Fr. Mike

**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

Website: [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)

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Follow us on Instagram: **ihmparish\_sp**



## Rosary Altar Society News

### A DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR ADVENT

Your light will come, O Jerusalem

The Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty.

We shall see the glory of the Lord,

The splendor of our God.

The sign of the cross shall appear in the Heavens,

When our Lord shall come to judge the world.

*"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness, and thus to open the doors of hope."*

- Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

♥ Thank you to Erin Miller, Mary Ann Sopko, Eileen Wagner, Betty Perfilio and many others who graciously and elegantly planned, set-up and cleaned up for our wonderful Rosary Christmas Party On Sunday December 4th. The decorations were beautiful, the food was delicious, and the desserts added the perfect sweetness to the day! Thanks also to Mary Jane Bergen, Mary Ann Sopko, Pat Mazzucca, Eileen Wagner, Barbara Mrozak, Phyllia Manno (and those whose names may have escaped me), for the wonderful raffle donations and planning. The raffle and donations for the Missionaries Of Charity totaled \$1,560.

♥ Mark your calendars for our Board Meeting for Tuesday, December 13 at **6:15 PM** (NOTE CHANGE IN TIME).

♥ Our Annual Winter Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 10th (Snow date January 17th) at 12:00 noon at Max's Bistro on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. Kindly send your check for \$30 to secure your reservation, to Treasurer Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive, Clark, NJ 07066 by January 4th. This multi-course, gourmet luncheon will be a beautiful way to refresh and reunite after a hectic holiday season and to begin a new year filled with Hope & Blessings.

♥ I presented the representative from St. Joseph's Social Services in Elizabeth eleven large shopping bags FILLED with costume jewelry for the children to select, wrap & present to their loved ones at Christmas. They were overwhelmed by the generosity of our IHM parishioners and surrounding neighboring members who so graciously donated their special jewelry items. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this effort such a wonderful success!

♥ May your week ahead be a Blessed & Joyous one filled with specious surprises. Please know that you and your families continue to be in our daily and weekly prayers and devotions.

♥ 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](mailto:tefoleyihm@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



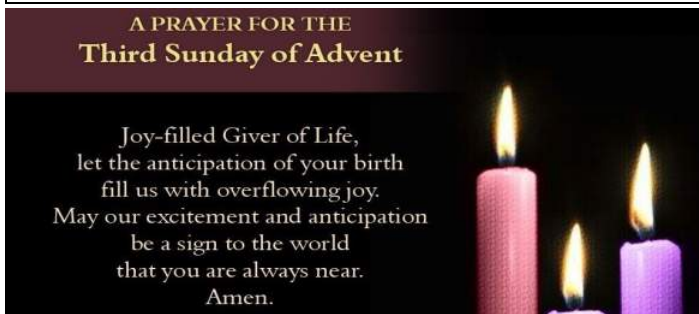
### CENTERING PRAYER/LECTIO DIVINA

Every Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:45 am on Zoom. Reflection, Discussion, Meditation in the Mystic 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 December 29th at 7:30am on Zoom**. For more info contact David at [dndiken@aol.com](mailto:dndiken@aol.com)

Collection Report		November 20, 2022	
Weekly Target:		\$12,558.00	
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)		\$10,633.54	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,924.46)	
Fiscal Year to Date:			
Budget		\$288,834.00	
Actual:		\$248,877.96	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(39,956.04)	
Rolling 4 Week Averages:			
Average Collection:		\$10,501.20	
Average Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,056.80)	



IHM EVENT CALENDER	
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
Monday December 12	
7:00pm	Advent Gathering (9th Grade)
7:30pm	Alpha Experience 12 LIVE Season Finale
Tuesday December 13	
6:15pm	Rosary Altar Society Board Meeting
7:15pm	Julian of Norwich Seminar on Zoom
Wednesday December 14	
10:00am	Food Pantry
7:30pm	Advent Reflection with Fr. Mike on Zoom
8:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday December 15	
9:30am	Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina Zoom
7:00pm	Men's Cornerstone Discernment @ Chapel
Friday December 16	
7:00pm	Christmas Concert @ St. Helen's
Saturday December 17	
Sunday December 18: 4th Sunday of Advent	
11:00am	IHM + PAL Christmas Market @ Nazareth Center
1:00pm	Living Nativity with IHM Youth Ministry
1:00pm	Christmas Tree Memorial Lighting

**A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate John McGuire:**  
 An alias in witness protection, a pledge name in a sorority or fraternity, nickname in a friend group, or just how you are referred to by your loved ones, what do these all have in common? Given or chosen, these names indicate something about who we are, or are perceived to be by those around us.  
 This Sunday, at the 10:00 am Mass the first year of Confirmation Preparation assembled for the Rite of Names, where they were called by the names they have chosen for themselves, from the Saints, and stood to be recognized with others who share that name. Names have power, what we are called is important. Throughout Scripture, which I am sure we are all familiar with, there are many occasions where someone is given a name that corresponds to what they are called to.  
 Early on in salvation history, there was a man called Abram, who was called by God to be the patriarch of a great people. As a sign of what God had called him to, his name was changed to Abraham, and that means super father, or father of a multitude, indicated what he had been called to. In the New Testament, there are two individuals who received a name indicating their calling. First there is Simon, who became Peter. He was called to be the foundation of the Church by Jesus. Then Saul the persecutor was called to be the Apostle of the Gentiles, and became Paul. The young people preparing for Confirmation are selecting names that hopefully indicate something about the faith lives they are aspiring to live. This week let's pray for them, that they have a long and fulfilling life journey ahead of them. God Bless and have a great week!  
[www.ihmparish.net/childrensfaithformation](http://www.ihmparish.net/childrensfaithformation)



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