

4th Sunday of Advent - December 19th, 2021

*The People of God called to form the Christian Community of*

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



*“Blessed are you  
among women.”*

LUKE 1:42

## 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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**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  
Mary Clinton: Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation



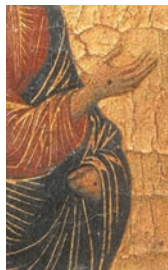
Mass will continue to Live Stream on Facebook and our website: [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net)

**A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE**

Our Gospel readings for this Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Advent, as well as Christmas Day, show different encounters with the Divine. Elizabeth and John are filled with joy as Mary, with the baby Jesus in her womb, greets them. They recognize what is hidden and come to experience the glory of God.

In the celebrations of Christmas we too come to experience the joy and glory that Elizabeth and John shared as we hear of the birth of Jesus and the incarnation of God. These encounters with the Divine help us to recognize the grace of God's presence and grow in our ability to not only experience the love of God, but also to share that love with one another.

Peace, Fr. Mike



**EUCHARIST SPIRITUALITY: A JOURNEY**

From the stable of the manger in Bethlehem, to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the stories of the Eucharist are foundational and permeate the New Testament and our lives today. We shall use the text: *With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on the Eucharist Life* By Henri Nouwen.

This is a very easy read but can stir the spirit profoundly. I have some articles to supplement the text. We shall meet via Zoom every Tuesday at 7:15 for one hour. This is a reflection group. If you are interested, please contact me [FrRob@IHMParish.net](mailto:FrRob@IHMParish.net) I shall have books available, but I need to know the number of participants. May our hearts burn within us as we journey through Advent to Christmas.



**Introduction:** Given the reinstatement by the Bishops of New Jersey of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and the lessening of restrictions from the state, the following is provided as an update to the May 25 COVID-19 directives.

**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. Masks are still required on public transit and in health care settings, prisons, child-care facilities and schools, among other places. 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 all indoor and outdoor events.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS:** All ministries may return to full service – altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Masks are no longer required for all vaccinated ministers, including those distributing Communion (Priests, Deacons, and EMS). However, masks may be worn for those who prefer to wear one during the liturgy.

**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 should be done regularly. It is not required after every liturgy.

**SIGN OF PEACE:** The invitation to share the Sign of Peace should continue. Parishioners could be reminded that it is not required to touch during the sign of peace.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Ushers may take up the collection at the proper time or baskets may be placed at the entrance of the church for the collection. (Beginning July 17, 2021)

**BAPTISMAL FONTS:** Baptismal fonts and holy water receptacles may be filled.

**MUSIC:** Vaccinated music ministers (cantors, choirs, etc.) do not require masks or shields. Music ministers who are not vaccinated should wear a mask. All musical instruments are permitted. Hymnals are now permitted.

**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.

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS:** The procession to present the gifts of bread and wine and the collection can be resumed. (Beginning July 17, 2021)

**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 19th - December 26th, 2021

<b>Saturday December 18</b>	7:00 am	For the People	By The Parish
	8:30 am	Robert L. Scully+	By His loving Wife Bea
	5:00 pm	Aurora Lioanag+	By The Lioanag Family
<b>Sunday December 19</b>	8:00 am	Gary F. Takacs+	By Barbara & Bill Apgar
	10:00 am	Claire Rita Lewis+	By The Lewis Family
	12:00 pm	Living + Deceased Members: Knox & Gorski Families	By Arlene Knox
<b>Monday December 20</b>	7:00 am	Pat Beck+	By Gayle Conne
	8:30 am	Anthony Maimone+	By Antoinette Gueriva
<b>Tuesday December 21</b>	7:00 am	John Cornacchio+	By Bernie Beck
	8:30 am	Louis Schmitt+ (death anniversary)	By Mary Jane Bergen
<b>Wednesday December 22</b>	7:00 am	Attilio V. Badala+	By Rose Badala
	8:30 pm	Agnes Reilly+	By Her Family
<b>Thursday December 23</b>	7:00 am	James Joseph Grossman+	By Maureen Grossman
	8:30 am	Ronin Bryce DelRosario Birthday (living)	By The DelRosario Family
<b>Friday December 24</b>	8:30 am	Charles Takacs+	By Barbara Apgar
	3:30 pm	Christmas Pageant	By The Parish
	4:00 pm	Robert Zeck+	By The Zeck Family
	6:00 pm	Jack Clark+	By His loving wife Terry
	10:30 pm	Thomas Farrell+	By The Farrell Family
<b>Saturday December 25</b>	8:00 am	Marge Malone+	By The Rosary Altar Society
	10:00 am	Joseph Castelli+	By Janet Friscia & Family
	12:00 pm	Deceased Members of the Reilly & Moran Families	By The Family
<b>Sunday December 26</b>	8:00 am	Deceased Members of the Piasecki Family+	By Helen & Bob Piasecki
	10:00 am	Marge Malone+	By Terry Clark
	12:00 pm	Bessie Sullivan+	By Dan & Nina Gowaty

<u>Remember Our Sick</u>	John Burkert	Albert Fischer, Jr.	Bill Malone	Dolores Rust	Sr. Elizabeth
	John Allen	Emily Fleming	Owen Mike McCabe	Diana Scariati	Vermaelen
	Rose Badala	Mary Foster	June McManus	Elisa Silversey	Stephen Voorhees
	George Becker	Nicole Griffin	Christine Morris	Bernard Slaza	Christy Ward
	Larry Biunno	Kathleen Herron	Thomas Moore	Beverly Sopp	
	Fran Boglioli	Julian Junio	Marlene Mosko	Ryder Francis Spillane	
	Erin Brennan	Anna Koch	Hilda Pizza	Paul Szeker	
	Samantha Bridge	Jillian Lapidus	Diane Pricken	Phyllis Szeker	
	James Brown	Eileen Lynch	Marisol Rodriguez	Carole Ventre	
	Kevin Brown	Maureen Lynch	Susan Rozborski	Daniel Ventura	

## Special Intentions for the week of December 19th - December 26th



**Sanctuary Light**  
For the intention of:  
**Kenneth Blum Sr+**  
Requested by  
Blum & Veglia Families



**The Altar Bread & Wine**  
For the intention of:  
**Mary Zucosky+**  
Requested by  
Chris & Amy Zucosky



**Flowers for the Blessed Mother**  
For the intention of:  
**Peace in our world**  
Requested by  
Betty & Tony Perfilio

## Remember Our Departed



Bernadette Chemidlin  
Edward Clancy  
Richard Garcia



**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.

### IHM Women's Prayer Group

The IHM Women's Prayer Group will meet via **Zoom** on **Thursday, January 6 at 7:30PM**. Our theme will be "In the Beginning." We will examine the creation stories in Scripture and the many influences that yielded the "final" edit. All women are welcome to join! Please email Tracey Foley at [tfolevihm@gmail.com](mailto:tfolevihm@gmail.com) if you would like to participate. Prayer connects us all!

### IHM Men's Scripture & Discussion Group

(Virtual) Thursday December 30, 2021 - 7:30pm @ Zoom  
(Live) Saturday January 8, 2022 - 7:30am @ IHM Basement

Coffee & Donuts served during live meetings. Please contact David Diken at [dndiken@aol.com](mailto:dndiken@aol.com) for more details.



### Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina Meetings will resume every Thursday on Zoom

Centering Prayer group meetings on Zoom will be on Holiday recess starting December 16th. Meetings will resume again on Thursday January 20th. Please call Phyllis at **908-264-7456** for further information and to receive the Zoom link when meetings start again. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**Choir Practice** on Wednesday nights will be on break for the Holidays December 29 and January 5. Choir practice resumes Wednesday night January 12 at 8:00pm.

Anyone who would like to share their gift of music with the church, please contact Katie Wills at [ktwills1973@gmail.com](mailto:ktwills1973@gmail.com). Happy Holidays!

### LESSONS & CAROLS

**Sunday December 19 @ 7pm**  
IHM Church + Facebook Live  
Take time away from the hectic holiday season to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas while singing or listening to some of your favorite carols! Join the IHM Adult Choir live at church or view our live stream for the beautiful music of Christmas.



### We Need Hospitality Ministers (Ushers) for all the Masses and Special Events

Men and women, young and not so young are encouraged to volunteer! Responsibilities would be:

- Welcoming and assisting our parishioners and guests when they come to worship.
- Finding a family or an individual to bring up the Offertory Gifts during Mass especially if there is no one from the family for whom the Mass is being celebrated.
- Assist in the distribution of flyers or bulletins before or after Mass, hopefully when we get back to normal.
- Assist the presiding Priest as may be required.

There is no long term commitment. If you cannot come to the same Mass each week but are willing to substitute when the need arises – we can use your assistance! If you are interested, please leave a message for Maureen Pecoraro or myself at the office and we will contact you. Please leave a phone number and/or e-mail address and we will call back to set up a meeting. If possible, please indicate what mass would be good for you. Once we have a list of candidates, Fr. Mike will have a training session. Thank you for your consideration!  
- Emil Manfredonia

### 8th Grade Confirmation Preparation 2022

**Mon. January 10:** Session 3 | 7 - 8:30 pm  
**Mon. February 7:** Session 4 | 7 - 8:30 pm



### 9th Grade Confirmation Preparation 2022

**Sat. January 8:** Christmas Gathering | 4:30 - 7:30 pm  
**Sat. February 12:** Pre-Lent Gathering | 4:30 - 7:30 pm

### SAVE THE DATE: Sunday February 13, 2022

Bus Trip to Cathedral | Bus leaves IHM Parking Lot 11:00am



### Mother Seton Virtual Gala & Silent Auction

Saturday January 15, 2022  
From 6:30 - 10:30pm  
Both virtual or in-person! Limited tickets available for live party. 2021 Awards & Silent Auction Bidding starts January 1st. Visit [MSRGala.org](http://MSRGala.org) for more info.

### The IHM Food Pantry Needs Donations!



Items needed include non-perishable food items, personal toiletry items and baby products. Please bring your donations to the back of the church. Place the items in the red bins near the backdoors. You may also drop donations off at the Nazareth Center. For a list of acceptable items visit [ihmparish.net/food-pantry](http://ihmparish.net/food-pantry).



**SAVE THE DATE**  
March 11+ March 12

### MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT 2022

Starts on Friday evening - Ends Saturday evening. Located at St. Bart's in Scotch Plains, NJ. Contact David Diken: [dndiken@aol.com](mailto:dndiken@aol.com) or Colm Keogh: [ckeogh925@yahoo.com](mailto:ckeogh925@yahoo.com)



## Minister Assignments - December 25 - 26

Saturday /Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
5:00pm	No Mass @ 5pm	No Mass @ 5pm	No Mass
8:00am	Colm Keogh	- Karen Schwaneberg - Rich Wagner	Fr. Mike
10:00am	Jane McClellan	- Deacon Jack - Jason McCann	Fr. Rob
12:00pm	Regina O'Connor	- Diane McGuinness - Carol Kiley	Fr. Val



### 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

► **IHM Office is closed to the public until further notice...**

**Mass Intention Reservations:** Call or leave a message at the office (908)889-2100 or email [office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net)

**Religious Education:** [faithformation@ihmparish.net](mailto: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](http://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)

Like us on Facebook: **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**  
Follow us on Instagram: **ihmparish\_sp**



## Rosary Altar Society News

As we begin the fourth week of Advent, and the crunch time of the Season, I found this quote from St. Francis de Sales — “Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.” Just remember that, “Peace is that deep, interior stillness that tells you that no matter what kind of catastrophe might be happening in your life or in the world, everything is going to be ok.”  
- by Dr. Gregory Bottaro from “The Mindful Catholic “ book.

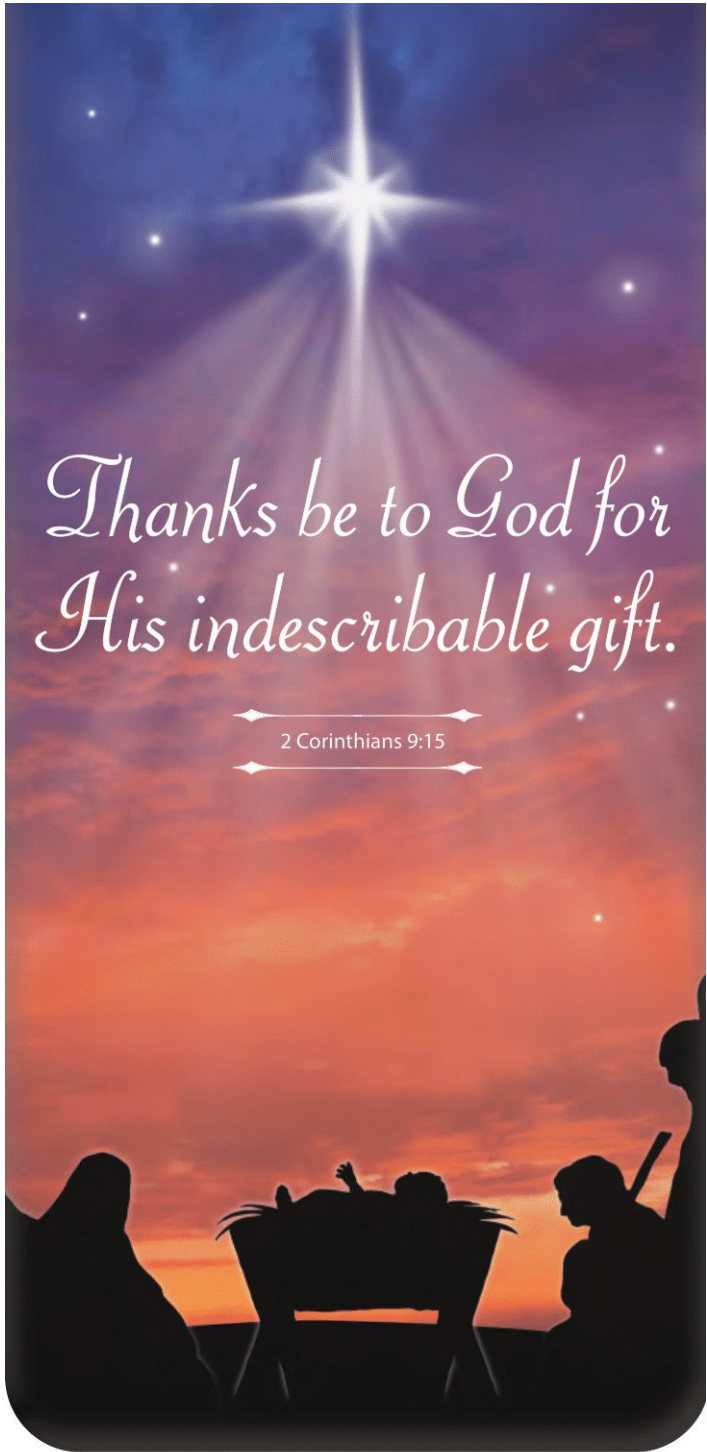


1. Rosarians and Parishioners, we still need a few more to volunteer to help with Altar linens. Don't be afraid, we will tutor you. So Please Help by calling/texting Erin Miller at 908-531-0128 or email [Erins310@gmail.com](mailto:Erins310@gmail.com), as she is helping Betty Swisher with scheduling and typing. Thank you.
2. If you have already donated to the 2022 Flowers for the Blessed Mother, there are Remembrance Cards available. You can pick up the cards from the plastic bin outside of the Nazareth Center. Labeled “Blessed Mother Flowers Remembrance Cards “. Any questions contact Betty Perfilio at 908-889-4868.
3. We want to again thank you for your generosity in donating to the Missionaries of Charity as the total has increased to \$1,925+. Thank you!
4. Can you commit an hour of your time to Jesus? Please come and visit with Our Lord at the IHM Adoration Chapel, He is waiting for you! There are still some open hours during the week where He is alone! Please contact Erin Miller if you can help at 908-531-0128. Remember we can only keep the Chapel open with your time and help!

“Solitude can be very rewarding and full of blessing because in the silence of the inner being, one finds God.”  
by Fulton Sheen.

We are still praying for you, our parish, and the world!

Thank you and God Bless!  
MaryJane



*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15

Please log onto our website: [www.ihmparish.net](http://www.ihmparish.net) to sign up for the electronic giving program. Your consistent stewardship is appreciated during this joyous time and throughout the year.

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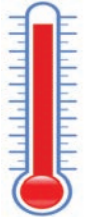


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**Archbishop's Annual Appeal Update**

**91.5%**

The 2021 Annual Appeal is now underway. We have \$63,770.46 already pledged. **Our goal is \$69,693.00 = 91.5%**. The outpouring of support from many parishioners like you helps sustain the important ministries across the Archdiocese of Newark. Visit [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing). Thank you for your prayers and support!



**IHM BOLD Youth Ministry's Annual Ski Trip is BACK!**



**February 4th - 6th, 2022**  
Mt. Snow | Holiday Inn, Brattleboro, VT

All teens in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for a ski weekend! All are welcome. Registration opens soon. Hotel & travel are included. Contact Rachael Flanagan for more information: [ihmsp@boldym.com](mailto:ihmsp@boldym.com)

**IHM EVENT CALENDER**

**Sunday December 19**

7:00 pm Lessons & Carols

**Monday December 20**

**Tuesday December 21**

7:15 pm Eucharist Spirituality: Advent to Easter

**Wednesday December 22**

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

**Thursday December 23**

**Friday December 24 - Christmas Eve**

3:30 pm Children's Christmas Pageant

**Saturday December 25 - Christmas Day**

**Sunday December 26**

Log onto our website at [www.ihmparish.net/parish-giving](http://www.ihmparish.net/parish-giving) or scan the QR Code with your phone ▶ Thank you & have a Merry Christmas!






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