

Christmas - December 25th, 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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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

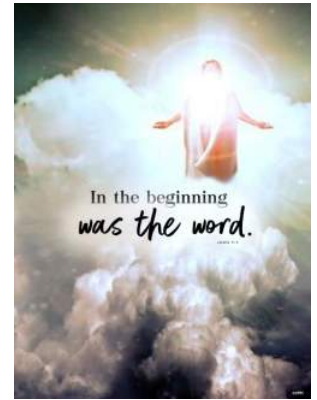
A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE

The Gospel for the Mass at Dawn on Christmas day tells the story of the shepherds who go in haste to Bethlehem to see the infant in the manger. Filled with joy and giving glory to God, they become the first evangelists, bringing the message of the savior’s birth to all whom they met, who were amazed at the news.

Like the shepherds we allow our hearts to be filled with wonder and awe at our savior’s birth. We must go out and proclaim the good news of God’s love, inviting others to share in this joy and peace. We must allow our experience of God’s glory to help us and others grow in faith, hope and love.

On behalf of Fr. Valentine, Fr. Rob, Deacon Jack and all of us who have the honor of serving you, I wish you a holy, joy filled and blessed Christmas day and Christmas season.

Peace, Fr. Mike



Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Newark
Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Health System
Mount Carmel Guild Schools

The cold winds of winter and harsh weather are reminders that life is never smooth and comfortable at all times. There are many who do not have the resources to meet the demands of daily living. Catholic Charity is the lifesaver for many such people. Donation Bins are located in our parking lot. Thank you!



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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
Novena to the Miraculous Medal & St. Jude:
Saturdays after 8:30 am
Reconciliation: Saturdays from 4:15 - 4:45 pm

Mass Intentions

For the week of December 25th, 2022 - January 1st, 2023

Saturday December 24	8:30 am	Joyce DeRose+ by Mr & Mrs Jack Kresge
	4:00 pm	Mary Zucosky+ by Chris & Amy Zucosky
	6:00 pm	Frank Pecoraro+ by Maureen Pecoraro & Daughters
	10:30 pm	Fernando Velez+ by Vicente, Jashzmin & Olive
	10:30 pm	Thomas Farrell+ by The Farrell Family
Sunday December 25	8:00 am	For the People by The Parish
	10:00 am	Michael Irrapino Sr.+ by The IHM Building Committee
	12:00 pm	Isabel & Walter Lundgren+ by The Lundgren Family
Monday December 26	7:00 am	Zach Wills (living) by Katie
	8:30 am	William Laties+ bu The Varela Family
Tuesday December 27	7:00 am	D'Andrea & Carlino Families (living & deceased) by The Carlino Family
	8:30 am	Susan Lipke+ by The Vlkovic Family
Wednesday December 28	7:00 am	Joseph G. McLane+ by The Tricoche Family
	8:30 am	Romulo Liaonag+ by The Liaonag Family
Thursday December 29	7:00 am	Rose Badala+ by Brian & Linda Cassidy
	8:30 am	Josephine Verdic+ by The Verdic Family
Friday December 30	7:00 am	Jean Vigami+ by Marion, Marc, Julianne, Kevin, Steven & Elise Berger
	8:30 am	In thanksgiving for Mr & Mrs Renato Razal & Family (living) by The DelRosario Family
Saturday December 31	7:00 am	Eileen Reidy+ by The Mulrooney Family
	8:30 am	Joyce DeRosa+ by Mr & Mrs Charles Barcellona
	5:00 pm	Fieseler & Hennessy Families+ by The Hennessy Family
Sunday January 1	8:00 am	For the People by The Parish
	10:00 am	Joanne E. Seaver+ by Daniel Harris
	12:00 pm	Mary Jane Bergen (living) by The Alpha Core Team Bessie Sullivan MD+ by The Sullivan 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	© Please advise if
Matthew Cassio	Emily Fleming	Eileen Lynch	Marisol Rodriguez	Carole Ventre	any names can be
Frank Chimento	Mary Foster	Maureen Lynch	Susan Rozborski	Daniel Ventura	removed from the
Edward Clark	Michele Gamako	William Maines	Dolores Rust	Sr. Elizabeth	sick list. Thank you.
William Consovoy	Nicole Griffin	Jim Malfetti	Diana Scariati	Vermaelen	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 December 25th, 2022 - January 1st, 2023



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



Altar Bread & Wine
For the intention of:
**Margery Palmer's 100th
Birthday (living)**
Requested by
IHM Parish



Flowers for the Blessed Mother
In memory of **All the living &
deceased members of the
Schmitt & Bergen Families**
Requested by
Mary Jane Bergen

Remember Our Departed



All Souls+



CONGRATULATIONS TO **Jacquelyn Principato** Received First Reconciliation On Saturday December 10, 2022 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

The Respect Life Office held the grand opening of its second Mercy House in Jersey City. Like the original Newark location, the Jersey City Mercy House will provide food, clothes, and assistance to all in need. If you are interested in donating or volunteering contact Cheryl Riley at cheryl.riley@rcan.org



IHM Word Search © How many words can you find?

S	W	P	O	W	E	R	H	A	R	P	M	V	H	X
A	O	H	O	L	Y	Z	P	E	A	C	E	I	E	U
L	W	N	C	O	M	F	O	R	T	K	S	C	I	N
V	X	Y	G	Z	W	X	G	S	Y	I	S	T	R	I
A	C	H	I	L	D	X	B	O	R	N	E	O	F	V
T	J	P	E	O	P	L	E	N	O	G	N	R	A	E
I	O	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	Z	D	G	Y	I	R
O	Y	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	X	E	Y	T	S
N	W	P	R	A	I	S	E	X	E	A	R	T	H	E

Find clues inside the "Breaking Bread 2023" book. Page 50

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.



#TryAlpha

Thank you to the Alpha Fall/Winter 2022 Class for joining us this past session. We hope you enjoyed the experience! The Winter/Spring 2023 Alpha series starts with a LIVE dinner/presentation on **Monday February 13, 2023** followed by several ZOOM sessions throughout the season. Seating is limited! Sign up today at 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



RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH JANUARY 20, 2023

The Knights of Columbus is organizing a bus trip to Washington DC on January 20, 2023 for the March for Life. Roe V Wade was overturned, however the fight is NOT over by any means. Join the Knights of Columbus this Jan 20 on a bus trip to Washington DC to march with other pro-lifers. For more information, contact John at jtorzewski@aol.com



CONGRATULATIONS!!! Rachael and Brian Flanagan welcomed **Charlotte Elizabeth Flanagan** to their family. May God Bless them always!

SAVE THE DATE!
SENIOR BRUNCH + BINGO
Monday January 16, 2023
10am @ The Nazareth Center
Call 908-889-2100 to RSVP



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



Thank you to all those who participated in the Parish's Living Nativity! We thank our youth for creating this scene showing God as he came into our world, but it also makes us reflect on how our life is part of God's own life.

SAVE THE DATES!
Jan. 8, 2023 Youth Ministry Discipleship Night 7-8:30pm
Jan. 16, 2023 MLK Day of Service for all teens 8am-1:15pm
Jan. 29, 2023 Service Night 7:00pm-8:30pm
Feb. 10-12, 2023 Ski trip to Mt. Snow, Vermont
Questions? Contact the Youth Ministry Coordinator at ihmsp@boldym.com

Minister Assignments: December 31 - January 1

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
12/31 5:00pm	Kathy Mitchell	Connie Boruch David Boruch	Fr. Mike
1/1 8:00am	Karen Schwaneberg	Rich Wagner Rich Banasiak	Fr. Rob
1/1 10:00am	Heba Fortunato	David Diken Lou Zappo	Fr. Mike
1/1 12:00pm	Ed Sullivan	Eileen Wagner Regina O'Connor	Fr. Rob

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

Like us on Facebook: **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**

Follow us on Instagram: **ihmparish_sp**



Rosary Altar Society News

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Tonight I looked up at the stars in the sky. And remember another star, from days long gone by. That shone oh so brightly, to show men the way. To a small baby laid in a manger of hay. This baby was sweet, all shiny and new, But He means so much more to me and to you. We know him as Jesus Christ, or Emmanuel. And His story is one we have long loved to tell. Because it is a story of the best of man. Of mercy and sacrifice and God's all-knowing plan. It is a story of love beyond measure. Of a Father who gave us His most precious treasure. I think of all this, as I look at the stars. I think about the love of this GOD of ours. And I close my eyes and cross myself, and I pray. That I will remember this love every day.

- Author Unknown

♥ 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 check for \$30 (made out to IHM Rosary Altar Society) to Treasurer Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive, Clark, NJ 07066 BY JANUARY 4th. This will be a multi-course gourmet luncheon. We welcome Rosarians, Family Members, Friends & IHM Parishioners. Please contact Janice Good-Piga 908-759-6729 with any questions.

♥ For those who attended the FUSED GLASS JEWELRY EVENT, your completed pieces will be available for pick-up in the Nazareth Center Office BEGINNING December 22nd.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Loving God, During this Holy Season of Christmas, We ask for your Blessing on all families. Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you. Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty. Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love. May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families. For this we pray. Amen.

May your week ahead be a BLESSED & JOYOUS one filled with special surprises. May you unwrap gifts of hope and love. We continue to pray for you and your families on a daily basis and we wish you a BLESSED CHRISTMAS!!

♥ 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

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 7:30pm on Zoom**. For more info contact David at dndiken@aol.com

Collection Report		December 11, 2022
Weekly Target:		\$12,558.00
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)		\$15,515.05
Surplus/(Deficit)		\$2,927.05
Fiscal Year to Date:		
Budget		\$301,392.00
Actual:		\$264,393.01
Surplus/(Deficit)		(36,998.99)
Rolling 4 Week Averages:		
Average Collection:		\$11,706.01
Average Surplus/(Deficit)		(859.49)

Family Prayer for a New Year



O God our Father, by the light of the Holy Spirit, lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith. May we grow in our relationship with Jesus, your Son. May we be confident witnesses to Christian hope and joy to all we meet. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

IHM EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday December 25: Christmas	
11:00am	Merry Christmas! Office & Chapel Closed
Monday December 26	
Tuesday December 27	
7:15pm	Julian of Norwich Seminar on Zoom
Wednesday December 28: Holy Innocents Day	
10:00am	Food Pantry
8:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday December 29	
9:30am	Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina Zoom
7:30pm	Men's Scripture & Discussion Group Zoom
Friday December 30	
Saturday December 31: New Year's Eve	
All Day	Happy New Year! Office & Chapel Closed
Sunday January 1: New Year's Day	
All Day	Happy New Year! Office & Chapel Closed

**"You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance."
- Psalm 65:11**

A Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate John McGuire:

Merry Christmas to you and your family from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, especially from the faith formation staff. If you recall, even before Halloween in October, and Thanksgiving in November, the stores began to roll out Christmas decorations, candies, and gifts. Even before we could enter into the season of preparation, Advent, we could see the trappings of Christmas. I am the last one to complain about this, because it is a last vestige of secular society honoring the season in its own way. However, what I do have a gripe with, is that our neighbors will often start dismantling Christmas on December 26th. The feasts are done, the gifts are open, and everyone just moves on from the celebration.

We spend four weeks of preparation through Advent, and then all of a sudden, after 1 or 2 days Christmas is over? No, Catholic tradition and some other Christians celebrate 12 days of Christmas. So please do not feel pressured by neighbors or an HOA to end the festivities!

This is not a call for nonstop feasts, or multiple days of gifts, instead this is an invitation to find some way to honor Jesus, and celebrate His coming in some way. This might manifest as continued feasting and snacks, singing of Christmas Carols, and watching your favorite Christmas movies. How you keep it is up to you and your family, but just to keep it will add balance to your life of faith. Why should someone spend four weeks preparing for a holiday that only lasts one day? We are called to fast and feast as the Church does. This week, let us pray for those who are lonely on Christmas, for those who have yet to find Christ, and for those who struggle to find the joy of Christ with family and friends. God bless us every one. Merry Christmas and have a happy healthy New Year!

www.ihmparish.net/childrensfaithformation

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