

*The Holy Family - December 31, 2023*

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

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



# faithful

## **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  
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. 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**

12/31/2023: Certainly our readings this Sunday show us the importance of family in our lives as we hear of Abram and Sarah as well as Jesus Mary and Joseph, and how important their relationship with one another and with God was in their lives. They also point to a wider understanding of family, namely the family of faith portrayed by the inclusion of Simeon and Anna. For as individuals and families we are shown that God must be in the center. Abram places his trust in God despite the improbability of him and Sarah having a child. Simeon and Anna recognize the Christ child because of their relationship with God, and Mary and Joseph, despite their poverty offer the prescribed sacrifice for their first born. We too learn about the need for a strong healthy relationship with God from our families. May our continued celebration of the birth of Jesus help us to recognize more profoundly the gift and blessing of not only our human families but our faith family as well.

1/1/2024: One of my favorite prayers this time of year is to imagine myself in the nativity scene. Not as a shepherd, or one of the magi or any of the people we have become so familiar with, just me. And just as Mary reflected on these events in her heart, I then allow my thoughts to wander and reflect on God's love as he allowed himself to be deprived of everything. I then reflect on that love directed toward me and the graces and blessings that God has given to me over the last year. It always helps me to remember the love that God has for me and the love that he has called me to share with you. It is a wonderful way to reflect and give thanks for the past year and recognize the hope and possibilities of the new year. May God continue to bless you and our community of Immaculate Heart of Mary in the coming year.  
Peace, Fr. Mike



ST. BARTHOLOMEW the APOSTLE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church



**What is wrong with this picture?**

Our latest Spirituality Seminar is hosting a limited 2 evening event on Saint Paul. Our presenter is Karen Schurtz.

**Two Tuesdays: January 16 & 23, 2024**

This is on ZOOM so you can stay in the warmth of your home! We start at 7:15PM and finish up by 8:30PM.

Please register by contacting Fr. Rob at [FrRob@ihmparish.net](mailto:FrRob@ihmparish.net)  
If you want to do some pre-seminar reading, please read The Acts of the Apostle in your Bible.



- ▶ Have you ever wished you had a go-to playbook for the challenges of married life?
- ▶ Do you feel like your relationship could use a little boost?
- ▶ Are you doing great but seeking some strategies for keeping the spark and connection strong in your marriage?

**OUR MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SERIES IS MEANT FOR YOU!**

Join us for a series of gatherings for married couples designed to enhance and strengthen your relationship through proven strategies and key marriage skills developed by renowned marital counselors from around the country. Whether you're newlywed or married for many years, these sessions were created with you in mind! **We will meet on Thursday evenings beginning January 4th, 2024 and conclude with a retreat day on Saturday, February 10th.** Pre-registration is required! Follow the link below to get started:

**2024 SCHEDULE**

Thursdays at St. Bartholomew from 7:30PM-9:00PM. Babysitting will be provided.

- January 4 - **Why are We Here**
- January 11 - **Communication**
- January 18 - **Intimacy**
- January 25 - **Family of Origin**
- February 1 - **Forgiveness & Anger**

Saturday, February 10th from 12PM-6PM

**Reflective Mini Retreat Day**

**Sign Up Here For More Information**



For more information and registration, please scan the QR Code or visit: [www.stbartholomewchurch.org/endure](http://www.stbartholomewchurch.org/endure)

**CONTACT & SIGN UP**

Please reach out with any questions to:



**Steven Serafin**  
Pastoral Associate  
[sserafin@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:sserafin@stbartholomewchurch.org)  
908-322-5192 x112



**John McGuire**  
Pastoral Associate/Faith Formation  
[johnmcguire@ihmparish.net](mailto:johnmcguire@ihmparish.net)  
908-889-2100

**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 31, 2023 - January 7, 2024

<b>Saturday December 30</b>	7:00am	Arlene Zelonis (living) from IHM Parish
	8:30 am	Razal Family Thanksgiving (living) from the Razal Family
	5:00 pm	For the People of IHM Parish
<b>Sunday December 31</b>	8:00 am	Christine Lucas+ from Rich & Heba Fortunato
	10:00 am	Harry Cuny+ from Janet & Emil Manfredonia
	12:00 pm	William R. Jerald Jones+ from Rich & Heba Fortunato
	5:00 pm	For the People of IHM Parish
<b>Monday January 1</b>	8:00 am	In Thanksgiving for a Happy New Year from Fr. Mike
	10:00 am	Patricia Castelli (living) from Janet & Emil Manfredonia
	12:00 pm	Special Intention (living) from Janice Reilly
<b>Tuesday January 2</b>	7:00 am	Marie Bertha+ from the Marsella Family
	8:30 am	Don Zembiec+ from Bernie Whalen
<b>Wednesday January 3</b>	7:00 am	Happy Birthday Cindy Clancy (living) from the Naugle Family
	8:30 am	Rita Ciccia+ from Charles & Geri Barcellona
<b>Thursday January 4</b>	7:00 am	Maureen Brockup+ from Valerie Kauger
	8:30 am	Patrick Smith+ from the Chimento Family
<b>Friday January 5</b>	7:00 am	Donald Vallerio+ from Marilyn Gialanella
	8:30 am	Eleanor Watson+ from the Chimento Family
<b>Saturday January 6</b>	7:00am	Staff members at Memorial Funeral Home (living) thank you from IHM Parish
	8:30 am	Mary Libretti+ from Karen & Joe Schurtz
	5:00 pm	For the People of IHM Parish
<b>Sunday January 7</b>	8:00 am	Pat Siwiec+ from Andrew Devenuta
	10:00 am	Fr Rob Patterson+ from the Lewis Family
	12:00 pm	Dorothy Lenartowicz+ from Maureen Pecoraro


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

John Allen	David Connell	Mary Foster	Jillian Lapidus	Jacob Rivera	Ryder Francis Spillane
George Becker	Colm Cosgrove	Michele Gamako	Mary Frances Leon	Jaxson Rivera	Daniel Ventura
Fran Boglioli	Samantha Bridge	Nicole Griffin	Eileen Lynch	Marisol Rodriguez	Sr. Elizabeth Vermaelen
Erin Brennan	James Brown	Ann Marie Harvey	William Maines	Susan Rozborski	Stephanie Vernace
Anna Cassella	John Burkert	David Hens	Jim Malfetti	Dolores Rust	Stephen Voorhees
Paul Cassidy	Ray Clark	Kathleen Herron	Bill Malone	Diana Scariati	Ben Wheelock
Matthew Cassio	Matt Donovan	Juliann Junio	Marlene Mosko	Arty Shapiro	Evelyn Whitehorne
Peter Cavanagh	Albert Fischer, Jr.	Marie Keller	Hilda Pizza	Elisa Silversey	
Frank Chimento	Phyllis Fischer	Dorothy Klein	Diane Pricken	Bernard Slaza	
Edward Clark	Emily Fleming	Anna Koch	Carmela Resnick	Beverly Sopp	


Coping with Grief & Loss:  
 A Bereavement Group at St. Paul the Apostle Church  
**Meetings on Thursdays at 5:45 PM**  
 January 4th, 11th and 18th  
 To register call: 201-433-8500 | [griefsupport@stpaulrcc.com](mailto:griefsupport@stpaulrcc.com)  
 St Paul the Apostle. 14 Greenville Ave. Jersey City, NJ

If you have lost a loved one to death, we invite you to join us as we navigate this difficult journey. The group will meet on **Wednesdays from 7PM- 8:30PM** starting in April in the St. Bart's cafeteria. All are welcome to join. Please reach out to JoAnne at 908-889-7790 or Bernadette at 908-510- 0995, or contact Steven at: [sserafin@stbartholomewchurch.org](mailto:sserafin@stbartholomewchurch.org)


**Special Intentions for the week of December 31, 2023 - January 7, 2024**



**Sanctuary Light**  
 For the intention of:  
**Eileen Wagner (living)**  
 Thank you from  
 IHM Parish




**Altar Bread & Wine**  
 For the intention of:  
**Fabio's Bistro (living)**  
 Thank you from  
 IHM Parish



**Flowers for the Blessed Mother**  
 In memory of the anniversary of  
 the death of **Helen Bergen+**  
 Requested by:  
 Mary Jane Bergen

**Remember  
 Our Departed**



Dorothy Ferro+  
 Eileen Hurley+  
 Janey Long+  
 Marlene Mosko+  
 Claudine Tariche+



# Meet new people & explore faith together.

Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Each session includes a time to connect with others (often over a free meal), hear a short talk on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share their own questions with the group. We'd love to hear your perspective!

**Alpha Winter/Spring 2024**  
 Season begins **LIVE**  
**Monday February 5th**  
**7:00 pm @**  
**The Nazareth Center**

(Followed by weekly sessions hosted on Zoom)



Scan the QR Code with your phone or smart device to access our sign up page at [www.ihmparish.net/alpha](http://www.ihmparish.net/alpha)

If you have questions about Alpha, please contact the Nazareth Center Office at 908-889-2100 or send an email to [office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net)



## Eucharistic Adoration

*"In the Mass and in Eucharistic Adoration we meet the merciful love of God that passes through the Heart of Jesus Christ." - Pope John Paul II*

**Sign-Up to be an Adorer today!**

Please contact the Parish Office at 908-889-2100 or email [office@ihmparish.net](mailto:office@ihmparish.net)

## YOUTH MINISTRY SKI TRIP

**SKI TRIP 2024**  
 IHM YOUTH MINISTRY POWERED BY BOLD  
**GORE MOUNTAIN, NY**  
**FEBRUARY 9TH-11TH**

### 2-NIGHT SKI/BOARD PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- ROUND TRIP COACH BUS TRANSPORTATION
- 2-NIGHT HOTEL STAY AT THE HOLIDAY INN, LAKE GEORGE
- 2-DAY GORE MOUNTAIN LIFT PASS
- ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFASTS
- DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT
- BOWLING /ARCADE ON SATURDAY NIGHT
- SPECIAL GIVEAWAY!

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NEED MORE INFO? CONTACT RACHAEL FLANAGAN AT [IHMSP@BOLDYM.COM](mailto:IHMSP@BOLDYM.COM) OR TEXT/CALL 908-280-2893

## IHM COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

**Please help IHM Update our Contact Information!** We need to ensure appropriate communications are managed through all proper channels. Our databases may be out of date due to changes in mobile numbers & addresses. You can help us stay up to date!



Please fill out the form for each member of your household. <https://forms.gle/rKYxBZOS2enEEKGO6>  
 Call the office at 908-889-2100 if you need help. Thank you!

Are you comfortable with technology? Do you love your smart phone? Do you love taking pictures and videos? Are you a good writer/storyteller? Do you blog, vlog, livestream or post on social media? The IHM Parish communications team can really use your help. All skill levels welcome!



Just tell us about yourself briefly and we'll let you know how you can help. Sign-up at this link: [www.signupgenius.com/go/904044DABA72AA5F49-communications#](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044DABA72AA5F49-communications#)



## Minister Assignments: January 6 - January 7

Saturday - Sunday	Lectors	Extra-Ordinary Ministers	Presider
1/6 5:00pm	Mulrooney	Janice Good Piga Chris Haight	Fr. Mike
1/7 8:00am	Karen Schwaneberg	Jean Bagdonas Colm Keogh Rich Wagner (C)	Fr. Rob
1/7 10:00am	MaryKate Schiller	Connie Boruch (A) David Boruch (A) Eileen Wagner (A)	Fr. Rob
1/7 12:00pm	Michelle Gardella	Regina O'Connor Diane McGuinness	Fr. Mike



### Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Hours

Monday - Wednesday 9:00am - 9:00pm

Thursday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Closed Saturday, Sunday, Holy Days & Holidays

For more information contact Kerby at:

kpershay123@gmail.com | 908-406-0493

### IHM PARISH INFORMATION

#### 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](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

# Written in the Stars

Tonight, I look 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

♥ Thank you to all those who donated costume jewelry for the children of St. Joseph's Social Services in Elizabeth to select, wrap, and give to their Significant Others at Christmas time.

For some, it may be the only gift that they receive this Christmas. Your generosity is heartwarming!

♥ Kindly mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 at Noon (Snow Date January 16th) for our Annual Rosary Winter Luncheon. We will have a gourmet lunch at Max's Bistro on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. Lunch will include Appetizers, Choice Of Three Entrees, and Dessert. Kindly reserve your spot by mailing your check (Payable To IHM Rosary Altar Society) for \$33 To Alice Mansfield-Smith, 3 Kennedy Drive, Clark, NJ 07066 By January 2, 2024. Spouses & Friends are also welcome! And there will be door prizes!

♥ May your week ahead be a Blessed one filled with the joy of the Christmas Season. May your time spent with family and friends be the best gift of all and may we all remember those who we have lost as well as those who are alone this holiday season. Please remember to take a moment to breathe in the fresh, crisp air, and to thank God for all of the beautiful gifts that he showers upon us daily. May you find a renewed sense of peace and joy this Christmas! You remain in our daily thoughts and prayers. May your Blessings be countless!

♥ Janice



The next meeting of the Women's Prayer Group will be **Thursday night January 11th, 2024 at 7:30PM on ZOOM**. Please contact Tracey at [tefoleyihm@gmail.com](mailto:tefoleyihm@gmail.com) for more details.

Prayer connects us all!



CENTERING PRAYER- Prayer Group will be taking a break for the winter. But the team is expected to return **Thursday March 7, 2024 from 9:30 AM until 10:45 AM**. Contact Phyllis at [tman18912@comcast.net](mailto:tman18912@comcast.net) or call the parish office at 908-889-2100.



The next Men's Scripture & Discussion group meeting will be a LIVE session on **Saturday morning January 13, 2024 at 7:30 AM in the church basement**. Donuts & coffee will be served. Contact [dndiken@aol.com](mailto:dndiken@aol.com) for details.

We have been reporting our weekly collection "target" to reflect what was submitted in our budget to the Archdiocese. However, this number does not give us a balanced budget. So moving forward, we have revised our "goal" to balance our budget.

<b>Collection Report</b>		<b>December 17, 2023</b>	
Weekly Target:		\$11,765.00	
Collection (Mass + Parish Giving)		\$ 11,421,48	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(343.52)	
<b>Fiscal Year to Date:</b>			
Budget		\$291,750.00	
Actual:		\$279,725.69	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(12,024.31)	
<b>Rolling 4 Week Averages:</b>			
Average Collection:		\$11,730.21	
Average Surplus/(Deficit)		(34.79)	

**Message from Faith Formation Pastoral Associate:**  
**John McGuire**

Have you set a New Year's Resolution? How has that worked in the past? Have you ever set a resolution that has absolutely changed your life for the better? Sometimes we set goals for our health or personal wellbeing. Maybe we've lost some weight, or taken on counseling to address some trauma or unresolved issues in our lives or relationships. New Year's resolutions can be meaningful, but more often than not those gym memberships go unused (or underused), the summons of chocolate, confections, or special drinks overpowers us, or that counseling relationship falls to the wayside, maybe even before February, or March if we're lucky.

Not trying to throw a wrench into any of our planning, but I am going to suggest running our resolutions through a new level of scrutiny. We ask, how does my resolution help me to love the Lord our God with all my heart, mind, and strength, and my neighbor as myself? My guess is that if the answer is that the resolution doesn't, it probably won't last until the end of January, and more importantly won't significantly change our lives.

For extra points, we can focus on something even more proactive. As adults in the Church most of us have received Confirmation. If that is the case, we've all received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.

This week let us pray for a successful year of growing in faith and love of the Lord as a community of believers. God Bless and Have a Wonderful New Year!

**IHM SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Sunday 12/31: New Year's Eve**

**Monday 1/1: New Year's Day**

ALL DAY- Office & Adoration Chapel Closed

**Tuesday 1/2:**

**Wednesday 1/3:**

10:00am - Food Pantry (Open until 11:30am)  
7:00pm- Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday 1/4:**

**Friday 1/5:**

**Saturday 1/6: Epiphany**

All Day- Saturday Basketball

**Sunday 1/7: Baptism of Jesus**

8:30am- [Families of Faith] Initiation Party on ZOOM  
9:00am- Holy Name Society Meeting & Breakfast  
7:00pm- [Youth Group] Night of Eucharistic Adoration

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY YOUTH MINISTRY

NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

NIGHT OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

All in the IHM Parish and community are invited to celebrate the Baptism of the Lord with a special Holy Hour.

Sunday, January 7th | 7:00-8:00PM

Refreshments to follow.  
SAVE THE DATE. More details coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR | DAY OF SERVICE

**Senior Lunch & BINGO**

All in Middle School and High School are invited to join us for a Day of Service - hosting Brunch and Bingo for Seniors in our community, and sending lunches home to those who are unable to come out in person!

Monday, January 15, 2024 | 9am - 1pm

More Details Coming Soon.  
Text Rachael Flanagan at 908-280-2893 if interested.

IHM YOUTH MINISTRY **BOLD**



**Want to donate but don't have any cash on hand?**

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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