



**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

819 E. Cathedral Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19128  
215-483-1000, Fax: 215-483-1732  
Website: ihmphila.org

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY  
SCHOOL**

815 E. Cathedral Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19128  
215-482-2029  
Website: iheartmary.org

*Rev. Edward J. Casey, Pastor*

*Rev. Quan H. Tran, Parochial Vicar*

*Rev. Sean P. Bransfield, in Residence*

*Deacon Salvatore R. Bianco*

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY - THE LORD'S DAY**

**Vigil - Saturday 5:15 pm**

**7:30 am, 9:30 am, and 11:30 am**

**WEEKDAYS: IN SACRED HEART CHAPEL**

Monday thru Friday 8:30 am  
Saturday 8:00 am

Wednesdays when school is in session Mass will be held in the Church - 8:30 am

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**

5:15 pm Vigil Mass  
8:30 am, Noon, & 7:00 pm

**HOLIDAYS: IN CHURCH**

9:00 am (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN CHURCH**

Saturday 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**TUESDAY**

**SOLEMN EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AFTER 8:30 am MASS UNTIL 6:30 p.m.**

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**

**TUESDAY EVENING AT 6:30 pm  
BENEDICTION FOLLOWS NOVENA PRAYERS**

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS**

**Baptism** - The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Sundays at 12:30 PM.

**Pre-Jordan** - Instruction/sacramental preparation for parents of children to be baptized is held every other month. The meeting is usually held in the Sacred Heart Chapel, except during Lent, when it is held in Church. Parents of children to be baptized should contact Mrs. Denise Schmidt in the parish office between the hours of 9am and 4pm to register. **The next date for the Parent Pre-Jordan is Tuesday, January 7 at 7 PM.** Pre-Jordan sacramental preparation is required for **each** child to be baptized at IHM. Please see the guidelines for choosing a sponsor on page 6 of the Parish Bulletin.

**Marriage** - To adequately prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage, Archdiocesan policy requires that couples contact one of the priests of the parish at least 6 months in advance.

**Pre-Cana Marriage Prep—Spring Session TBA.**

**RCIA** - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is the program for those interested in initiation into the Catholic Faith. Information is also available for those who may not have completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation).

Please contact the Director of Religious Education, Mary Anne Kostic-King -215-483-4266

**We Pray and Worship Together**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF**  
**December 22, 2024**

<b>SAT.</b>	<b>21</b>	5:15 pm	Helen & Thomas Wynne
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>22</b>	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Patricia A. Kost All Deceased Members of the Salvatore, Schneider & Alfieri Families
<b>MON.</b>	<b>23</b>	8:30	Ann Marie Melough
<b>TUES.</b>	<b>24</b>	8:30	Margaret "Marge" Solariski
		<b>4:00 p</b> <b>7:00 p</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>
<b>WED.</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7:30</b> <b>9:30</b> <b>11:30</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
<b>THUR</b>	<b>26</b>	8:30	Enrique Mendoza
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>27</b>	8:30	Emily Pisano
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>28</b>	8:00 5:15 pm	Angela Kotowich Frances Pfeil
<b>SUN</b>	<b>29</b>	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Thelma Lee Joseph & Maryann Wolek & Deceased Family Members

**\*Please note, not all Mass intentions are for the deceased, some are for the living.**

Sunday Offering Week of December 8, 2024

Envelopes	\$ 10,102.00
Loose	989.00
Parish Giving (E-Giving)	3,055.00
	\$ 14,146.00

# of envelopes – 466  
Average - \$21.68

Retirement Fund for Religious \$3,003.00

Immaculate Conception \$1,520.00

To make a **secure contribution** on-line please visit [ihmphila.org](http://ihmphila.org) and click on the Parish Giving Logo.

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

*Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need.*

Maria Aduso, Ruben Aduso, Cindi & Lance Bownet, Josie Bucolo, Dolores Buzby, Lois Cartwright, Brooke Conklin, Walter Crate, Helen Cyzio, Maria Downey, Francis "Joe" Elliott, Dr. Angeline M. Gampico, Bernadette Giambuzzi, Lora L. Golasa, James Goussy, Joseph Henkel, Regina Joka, Mary Jo & Paul King, Olga Kostic, Mary Krier, Marianne Leahy, Charles Lott, Patricia Markelewicz, Dominic Matteo, Trudy & Dick Neff, Frances Orlicki, Bill Pinto, Maria Prince, Christine Seymour, & Sierra, David Sparacino, Sr. Mary Thaddeus, Wayne Whitehouse,



*We continue to pray for our men & women in the military here and overseas and for all 1<sup>st</sup> responders.*

The Sanctuary Light in our **Sacred Heart Chapel** for the week of December 23 to December 29

is in loving memory of

Ed Oakes

requested by

his wife, Rose and daughters.



**ROSES**

The rose placed in the **Church** is in loving member of All Deceased Members of the Salvatore, Schneider & Alfieri Families requested by The Salvatore Family



The rose placed in the **Chapel** is in loving memory of

Joseph Wood

requested by

Lorraine Wood.

## Pastor's Page

Today we light the 4th candle on the Advent wreath. We are on full alert. In the old military readiness parlance we are in stage Defcon 4 as it were. Our spiritual preparation stage to celebrate the nativity can hopefully take on Mary's proclamation in the gospel of Luke: "May it be done to me according to your word."

This event is set up in our Gospel reading today from Luke 1:39-45. Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. Zechariah her husband has been promised that his son would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Once Jesus is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit can become active in others. John the Baptist receives the Spirit in the presence of Jesus: the Spirit fills Elizabeth and later Zechariah and Simeon. This visit is filled with joy.

We have heard Mary's response to the angel Gabriel many times yet these words should never cease to amaze us. What a great risk of the unknown Mary was taking in saying yes to God's plan and invitation. Mary was willing to sacrifice her entire self to God.

What could Mary have been thinking when the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary...the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." There was great risk in her yes. There would be questions. There were complications. What about her engagement to Joseph?

Gabriel greets Mary announcing the promises made to David will be fulfilled by the child that Mary will bear. But then Gabriel declares what prophets only hinted at in veiled images, what no human power could ever accomplish, however vast its empire, however vast its science.

Through Mary's embrace of her mission, the Incarnation mystery (God becoming a human being) engages us! Because we are baptized into Jesus, Mary's son, we too become Mary's spiritual children. God seeks our cooperation in the ongoing fulfillment of His saving plan.

God's ways are so many times not our ways. The reading on this 4th Sunday of Advent point to the unlikely sources for the blessed event we are about to celebrate. Jesus will be born in Bethlehem, a town unnoticed and forgotten, "too small to be among the clans of Judah." But from this unlikely place will come forth, "one who is to be ruler in Israel."

The son of God will be born to Mary, a seemingly insignificant teenage girl. John the Baptist will be born of Elizabeth, a woman supposedly past childbearing age. As we listen to the word of God today, we are reminded of God's tendency to do the unexpected.

As we go forward today, let us ponder the Scripture message. I would strongly suggest reading the entire first chapter of Luke's Gospel on this 4th Sunday of Advent.

Let us pray for the grace to respond to God's invitations to us as we begin our final preparations for celebrating the fact of God becoming Man. Are we ready?

*Father Casey*

Each Tuesday the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for our adoration in our Sacred Heart Chapel from 9 am to 6:30 pm. Benediction and Novena follows.



### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

- 1) Isaiah 60: 1-6 (20ABC)
- 2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
- 3) Matthew 2:1-12



### Clergy Schedule for Next Weekend (celebrants are subject to change)

Saturday, December 28, 2024

Vigil 5:15 pm - Fr. Casey

Sunday, December 29, 2024

7:30 am – Fr. Sean  
9:30 am - Fr. Casey \*\*Deacon Sam Preaching  
11:30 am Fr. Quan



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024



### MASSES

**Tuesday, Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024**  
Vigil 4:00 PM  
Vigil 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2024**  
7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
Tuesday, January 31, 2024  
Vigil 5:15 PM

Wednesday, January 1, 2024  
8:30 AM & 12 PM

**Confessions and all Masses are in the Church**

**Parish Giving**  
simple. secure. convenient.

## American Red Cross Blood Drive Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Father Sullivan Hall  
**Tuesday, December 31, 2024**  
8:00am to 1:00pm

To schedule an appointment visit:  
[Red CrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)  
and enter: IHM Parish

There is no better way to start the New Year then by giving the gift of life.



### GOD BLESS OUR IHM PARISHIONERS

On behalf of Fr. Casey, Fr. Quan, Fr. Sean, Deacon Sam and the parish staff, we would like to wish all of our parishioners a very Merry Christmas and the happy and healthy New Years!

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year!

May God continue to bless us all!



The Archdiocesan Mass on WPVI-Channel 6 celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2024.

A special Mass with Auxiliary Bishop Christopher Cook will be aired on Sunday Morning December 29th at 5:30 am.

## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!

We would like to give a great big thank you to our Knights of Columbus Mariae Council who so generously paid for our calendars this year and are willing to sponsor them going forward.

Once again, our Knights of Columbus, have so freely and generously helped with something that our parish needed.

May God continue to bless each and every member as they have blessed us with their generosity, not only with this, but with many other things throughout the year!

### CONGRATULATIONS

*To the newly married couple in God's love*

**Mr. & Mrs. Colin Miller**

### St. Vincent dePaul Society

The next scheduled meetings of the

St. Vincent dePaul Society

will be held in

Fr. Sullivan Hall

from 7-8:30 pm

December 30, January 20, February 10 & March 3.

*All are welcome to join us in this rewarding work.*

### CHURCH KNEELER RESTORATION PROJECT

**The Church Kneeler project is coming to and end.**

We will continue to accept donations for the **Church Kneeler Restoration Project** until December 31st.

Forms and envelopes are at all the entrances of the Church and Chapel.

We will be starting to order the plaque in the new year.

If you have any questions, please call Denise Schmidt in the Parish Office. 215-483-1000.

### CLEANERS NEEDED FOR GOD'S HOUSE

We are still looking for a few volunteers to help keep our church clean. It will be dusting, vacuuming the rugs and cleaning the glass doors.

If you are able to clean once a month please contact Denise Schmidt in the Parish Office 215-483-1000.

We would like to start this in the new year!



God of love,

You sent Your Son, Jesus,  
to shine bright like the sun,  
lighting the way for all  
who walk in darkness.

Let Your love shine  
like a light to all people,  
and may the light of Your love  
always shine in our hearts.

Let Your love transform us  
and inspire us to love more deeply.

Amen.

## Parish Resources

### SPONSOR GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM/ CONFIRMATION

Church law requires that Baptism and Confirmation sponsors themselves frequent the sacraments regularly.

When someone who does not meet that requirement is designated as a sponsor, it is always an unpleasant (and frequently painful) experience for the priest, the parents of the child, and most especially for the person designated.

The reason a sponsor must be a practicing Catholic is that a sponsor is expected to pay special attention to the efforts of the person who is being baptized or confirmed to live a Christian life in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church. In the case of Baptism, sponsors are also expected to assist the parents of the child in their Christian duty as parents, by offering them support through good example, encouragement and prayer.

A sponsor should be a registered parishioner of IHM for at least 6 months. The person should also have received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation. The Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age. The Sponsor should also participate at Mass each Sunday. If married, the sponsor must also be in a valid Sacramental marriage.

By issuing a Sponsor Certificate, a priest assures members of the faithful that a person is a Catholic in good standing who is eligible to serve as a sponsor for Baptism and/or Confirmation. Please contact the Rectory during regular business hours to inquire about Sponsor Certificates.

### PARISH STAFF

**Mr. Patrick Foley** - *Principal of IHM School*  
**Mrs. Rita Morado** - *Business Manager*  
**Mrs. Denise Schmidt** - *Parish Secretary*  
**Mrs. Traci Kovach** - *Tuition Officer*  
**Ms. Linda Pfefferle** - *Director of Music*  
**Mrs. Mary Anne Kostic-King** - *Coordinator of Religious Education*  
**Mr. Gene Martino** - *Facilities Manager*  
**Mrs. Denise Schmidt** - *Bulletin and Website Editor*

### OUR PARISH OFFERS SPIRITUAL MATERIALS LOCATED IN OUR CHURCH

An organization called **Stewardship: A Mission of Faith** provides us with a Display Case containing free books, CD's and booklets, many created by top Catholic authors and speakers. Any donations are used to spread the program to other parishes.

**IHM Free Lending Library**: Over 400 books donated by parishioners are available, covering a wide range of spiritual topics. **Pamphlet Rack**: Contains pamphlets, prayer cards and sacramental materials donated by parishioners. Donations for these materials stay within the parish.

**All of the above resources are located in the room adjacent to the main entrance of the church.**

***We need to know our Faith before we can share it!***

## IHM CHURCH MINISTRIES & GROUPS

### LITURGICAL

**Altar Servers:** *Rev. Edward J. Casey*  
**Ministry of the Word (Lectors):** *Sidney J. MacLeod, Jr., [sidneyj@macleod.com](mailto:sidneyj@macleod.com)*  
**Ministry of the Eucharist:** *Mary Ann Kostic-King, [mking@iheartmary.org](mailto:mking@iheartmary.org)*  
**Ministry of the Eucharist Outreach:** *Chuck Fuges, (215-482-1397)*  
**Music Ministry:** *Rehearsals—Tuesdays at 7:30p.m. in Church. Contact: Linda Pfefferle, [Musicfef5@gmail.com](mailto:Musicfef5@gmail.com)*  
**Ushers:** *John Rudolph, Peter Caruso*  
**Sacristans:** *Peter Caruso, Bill King*

### SOCIAL OUTREACH

**CYO:** *High School and Grade School—Christian Hochstuhl [ihmcyo.athletic.director@gmail.com](mailto:ihmcyo.athletic.director@gmail.com)*

**Golden Age Club:** *Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, in FSH at 11a.m. President, Laura Kusniesz at (215-483-9243)*

**St. John's Hospice Casserole Day:** *first Wednesday of each month Next pick up is December 4 @ 9am.*

### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**Home & School Association:** [homeandschool@iheartmary.org](mailto:homeandschool@iheartmary.org)

**Tuition Office:** *contact Traci Kovach (215-482-2029). Hours are Tuesday & Wednesday 9a.m. to 2p.m. or email: [tuition@iheartmary.org](mailto:tuition@iheartmary.org)*

**SCRIP:** *S&C and Supermarket Scrip—Traci Kovach [scscrip@iheartmary.org](mailto:scscrip@iheartmary.org);*

### PASTORAL

**Parish Pastoral Council:** *advises Pastor on Parish matters*  
**Parish Finance Council:** *helps manage parish resources*  
**Parish Religious Ed. Program (P.R.E.P.):** *Grades 1 to 7 - Tues. evening 6:00-7:30p.m. - school year only. Mary Anne Kostic-King, D.R.E. (215-483-4266)*  
**R.C.I.A.:** *Mary Kostic-King (215-483-4266)*  
**Safe Environment:** *promotes the safety and welfare of our children Denise Schmidt (215-483-1000)*  
**Parish Memorial Fund:** *a lasting & spiritual remembrance of a loved one. Monthly Memorial Mass is celebrated for all enrolled in the Fund.*  
**Care of Church and Chapel Spaces:** *parishioners who clean God's house weekly. Denise Schmidt (215-483-1000)*  
**Counters:** *Ann McElroy, [irishaim@comcast.net](mailto:irishaim@comcast.net)*

### SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

**Legion of Mary:** *Prayer and service for Jesus through Mary. Meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in Father Sullivan Hall (former Teacher's Lounge). Call Frank Klusek (215-356-3441)*  
**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** *assist people in need in the Roxborough area. To leave a confidential message or to find out more about SVDPs call (215-483-1000)*  
**Knights of Columbus:** *Meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 7:30pm in the K of C Room in FSH. contact Joe Flemming (215-964-2624) or [josephflemming0@gmail.com](mailto:josephflemming0@gmail.com)*  
**Respect Life Committee:** *promotes the sanctity of life, at every stage, through love, prayer and supportive programs & activities. Ann Marie Beaver (215-483-8204)*

*If you need help or have a question call 215-850-9740.*