

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## 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, & 7:30 pm (times may vary on certain Holy Days; please check inside pages or parish website)**

### 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**

## **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***

## 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 TBA.** 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 will be offered on **Saturday, December 9.**

**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 3, 2023

<b>SAT.</b>	<b>2</b>	5:15 pm	Elisa Castanella
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>3</b>	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Glenn A. Falso 2nd Anniversary Patricia Kost
<b>MON.</b>	<b>4</b>	8:30	Memorial Fund
<b>TUES.</b>	<b>5</b>	8:30	Carl Sokolski
<b>WED.</b>	<b>6</b>	8:30	Jack Waldeck
<b>THUR</b>	<b>7</b>	8:30 5:15pm	Frank Tornavacca <b>Vigil for Immaculate Conception</b>
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>8</b>	8:30 12:00 7:30pm	<b>Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation</b> No Intention
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>9</b>	8:00 5:15 pm	In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother Joan A. Reed
<b>SUN</b>	<b>10</b>	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Robert Avington Robert Cahill

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

The Sanctuary Light in our **Sacred Heart Chapel**  
for the week of December 4 to December 10  
is in loving memory of  
Frank Szalejko  
requested by his wife,  
Margarita Szalejko.



### ROSES

The rose placed in the **Church** is  
in loving memory of  
John & Rose Rudolph, Sr.  
requested by their children,  
John Rudolph, Jr. and Denise Smith.



The rose placed in the **Chapel** is in loving memory of  
John & Rose Rudolph, Sr.  
requested by their children,  
John Rudolph, Jr. and Denise Smith.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF OUR  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS

**Baby Quinn Harper Gallagher**  
**Ellen Gilmore, Carol Sites, Robert Veneziale,**



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

Theresa Alosi, Louis Andreola, Lee Aponte, Mary Bartsch,  
Anne Basara, Josephine Bellace, Joyce & Wayne Bielawski,  
Nancy Bright, Daniel Brito, Bill Burrow, Bobby Busch,  
Dolores Buzby, Lynn Campbell, Mary Rose Campbell, Erin  
Caruso, Terry Carr, Marilyn Cellucci, Officer Andy Chan, Pete  
Cissone, Michael Clark, Ann Colantonio, Brooke Conklin,  
Ashley Cox, Helen Cyzio, Quint Cuffe, Earl Dandridge, David  
Daniels, Taylor Davis, Nancy Di John, Madeline DiPasquale,  
Janet Bollinger Doherty, Joseph Donnelly, Marie Dunne,  
Barbara Dziedzic, Francis "Joe" Elliott, Joe Evers, Bruce  
Fairchild, Mary Ellen Ferrell, Peg Fierko, David Fleetwood,  
Carole Foley, Bill & Dorothy Foster, Kathy Foster, Sydney  
Franzmann, Barbara Freiling, Dr. Angeline M. Gampico,  
Bernadette Giambuzzi, Helen Golbeski, Kelly Gruninger, Flora  
Hart, Anne Headly, Brenden Heyer, Fay Holder, Sheilah Janes,  
Frances Jefferys, Steve Jones, Chris Kane, Deborah Kapp,  
Luke Katona, Keith Kelly, Marek Kijek, Michael Kohute, Olga  
Kostic, Angela Kotowich, Mary Krier, Hannah Lambert, Flavia  
Langan, Langan Family, Edward Lanigan, Marianne Leahy,  
Agnes Leinheiser, Dorlene Long, Carol Ann Lott, Hadley  
Ludwig, Cheryl Maresca, Dominic Matteo, Elizabeth Matruka,  
Terry McCormick, Anne Marie Mc Keever, Felix & Louise  
McKeough, Helen Magee, Lindsey Marzo, Elizabeth Matruak,  
Winifred Meall, Monica Mellon, Eileen Michel, Mary Mudry,  
Janet Murphy, Dick & Trudy Neff, Tom Newell, Harry  
Pastella, Luisa Pellicone, Dave Pendleton, Bishop Joseph Pepe,  
Bill Pinto, Nicole Powlus, Maria Prince, Kathy Pro, Karen  
Pulcinella, John Quirus, Junie Rakosak, Harper Renshaw,  
Casey Rigby, Joel Rivera, Tony Ruger, Domiciano Gallego-  
Ruiz, Anita Russell, Donna Scharff, John Scharff, Mairead  
Scharff, Veronica Serianni, John Sevcik, Mary Ann Shaw, Bill  
& Theresa Sherwin, Luke Simon, Mary Sokolski, David  
Sparacino, Jake Stefano, Ryann Stoffere, Baby Caleb St.  
George, Donna Stine, O.S.F., Stanley T., Felicia Teske, Paul  
Teske, Sister Mary Thaddeus, Edward Thomas, Molly  
Thompson, Betty Thummel, Christine Triola, Louise Vesci,  
Maddox Vielman, Helen Wade, Walter Wayne Whitehouse,  
Luke Winterbottom, Pam Wisdom, Brian Wurtzberger, Kim  
Wurtzberger, Mike Zacher, Anthony Zul.



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

## Pastor's Page

Once again, we begin the season of Advent. It is also a New Year's celebration of a sort. The First Sunday of Advent begins a new Liturgical year The Year of Grace 2024. The liturgical year is made up of six seasons in the course of the year. Advent-four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth. Christmas-recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the peoples of the world. Lent- a six week, 40 day period of penance before Easter. Sacred Paschal Triduum – the holiest three days of the Church's year, where Christian people recall the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Easter- 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit. Ordinary Time – divided into two sections where we consider the fullness of our life in Christ, his teachings and works among his people. The mystery of Christ, unfolded through the cycle of the year calls us to live out the Paschal mystery throughout the year.

Today, In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah tried to rouse the people of God from their tepid faith. He calls on God to do awesome deeds to awaken his people – to rend the heavens, to shake the mountains, to perform miraculous deeds. Isaiah cries to God to reveal himself as he did of old, to stir his people to repentance and reconciliation.

Isaiah longs for God to redeem them from their sin. What he cannot know is that God will do exactly that in the person of Jesus. Though Isaiah at the time he was writing, could not imagine God's Son coming into the world, he prophesied that God could do awesome deeds for those who place their trust in the Lord.

In the Epistle from I Corinthians (1:3-9) the apostle Paul was grateful for the church in the city of Corinth. They had been richly endowed with an understanding of the gospel and given the impetus and eloquence to proclaim it. They were prepared for the return of Christ. They were to remain irreproachable until the day of our Lord Jesus. On that day, the Lord would return to initiate the fullness of God's reign. The Corinthians are to await the "revelation", confident that they have the spiritual gifts to endure until that time.

The Gospel today is taken from the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Mark. It is not typically a passage that we would see in Advent. It has a very simple message to start off the season of Advent. Jesus preached the urgency of preparing for the coming of the Kingdom of God. He admonishes his followers to "Stay awake" because they did not know when their appointed time will come. We saw that theme on the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Sundays last month with the gospel of Matthew Parable of the Talents and the Wise Virgins and the oil for their lamps.

Jesus commands us to develop a consciousness of alertness. It is a call to be awake, not lazy or complacent. We can do this by focused prayer, learning to listen, and being open to the gifts of the spirit. This is to be a positive experience. We wait with hope. Not just marking time, pacing floors, watching clocks. Our faith can point us forward with eager anticipation.

Father Casey

**The 2024 Mass Book is now full.** There are no more Masses for intentions.

For the 2024 year there are still weeks for Sanctuary Lights and Roses that are open. If you would like to have an intention for either of these call the rectory office. 215-483-1000.

### ❀ The Second Collection ❀

The second collection today is for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

#### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

- 1) Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11(5B)
- 2) 2 Peter 3:8-14
- 3) Mark 1:1-8



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.





The Giving Tree began on November 19th and will end on December 17th.

There are trees at all the doorways of the Church and Chapel along with papers explaining each organization and their needs.

If you have any questions, call Denise Schmidt 215-483-1000.

Thank you for participating and for your generosity.



The Annual Fall Appeal letter and census has been mailed.

Thank you to all of those parishioners who have already returned their census form and donation. It is most sincerely appreciated as this is the only major Stewardship Appeal for our parish. (Please be sure to return your census so we can update our records with any information changes)

The next meeting of the  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
will be held in Fr. Sullivan Hall  
December 11, January 8 & 29  
from 7-8:30 pm.

Please join us for this rewarding volunteer work.

### Sunday Offering Week of November 19, 2023

Envelopes \$ 9,213.00  
Loose     206.00  
\$10,019.00

# of envelopes – 904  
Average – 10.20

*Thank you & God Bless you for your generosity*



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2023



### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Confession)

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

6:15 PM to 7:15 PM

Saturday, December 23, 2023

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

### MASSES

Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

Vigil 4:00 PM

Vigil 7:00 PM

Monday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2023

7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM

Monday, January 1, 2024

Solemnity of Mary (Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Mass at 9:00 AM in Church

Confessions and all Masses are in the Church



*Solemnity  
of the  
Immaculate  
Conception  
December 8*

### MASS SCHEDULE

December 7

5:15 VIGIL

December 8

8 AM, NOON, 7:30 PM

This is a Holy Day of Obligation

## CHURCH KNEELER RENOVATION PROJECT

We hope you are enjoying the comfort of the new kneelers and thank those who have donated to help this renovation. **There is still time to donate to this project.** If you cannot be a full donor any contribution you can make will be appreciated.

Please take an information sheet which explains all the details of this project. Blue envelopes are on the tables for your convenience in submitting the Memorials.

If you have any questions, call the parish office. 215-483-1000.

*Thank you*



**Clergy Schedule for Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
**(celebrants are subject to change)**

**Saturday, December 9, 2023**

Vigil 5:15 pm - Fr. Quan

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

7:30 am – Fr. Casey  
 9:30 am – Fr. Bransfield  
 11:30 Fr. Quan

*God's blessings  
 to the newly baptized children  
 in the Catholic faith*

*Florence Lorie Mc Grath  
 Zachary Michael Fink  
 Thomas Finn Burton*

## *An Advent Prayer*

*By Sr. Ernestine Havlovic, ND*

Heavenly Father, we beg you to make this season a time of slowing down, a time to open our hearts in preparation for your coming.

Let our love of God spread throughout the world and may we find joy in bringing joy to others.

Amen.



## **IHM CLASS OF 2024 FUNDRAISER**

Our IHM 8th grade class of 2024 is having a NOTHING BUNDT CAKES fundraiser. There are order forms at all the doorways of our church.

Choices are: Chocolate Chip, Vanilla, Red Velvet, Lemon and Gluten Free Chocolate Chip Cookie. Price ranges from \$34 to \$136 depending on how many you order.

They also have Bundtlets (little bundt cakes) for \$7 per cake. Flavors for the Bundtlets are: Vanilla, Peppermint Chocolate Chip.

If you need more information please contact the Class of 2024 fundraising team via email at [rosanovad@yahoo.com](mailto:rosanovad@yahoo.com) or call the school.



*Wonderful World*

The next casserole pickup for  
 St. John's Hospice is on  
 Wednesday, December 6 at 9 am.

## 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. Emily Miller** - *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*  
**TBA** *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, [Musicfe5@gmail.com](mailto:Musicfe5@gmail.com)*

**Ushers:** *John Rudolph, Peter Caruso*

**Sacristans:** *Peter Caruso*

### SOCIAL OUTREACH

**CYO:** *High School and Grade School—Bill Hannigan [athleticdirector.ihm@gmail.com](mailto:athleticdirector.ihm@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*

### 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 [sscrip@iheartmary.org](mailto:sscrip@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.*