



**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 8, 2024

SAT.	7	5:15 pm	Robert G. Reed, Sr. & Helen Reed
SUN.	8	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Robert Avington Agnes & Harold Gaughan
MON.	9	8:30	In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Mother
TUES.	10	8:30	Elvis Bonilla
WED.	11	8:30	Theresa Schmidt
THUR	12	8:30	Tieu Phung Vuong
FRI.	13	8:30	Joan Cybularz
SAT.	14	8:00 5:15 pm	Robert Cahill Joan A. Reed
SUN	15	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Deceased Members of the Santo & Caruso Families George & Marie Wandsleben

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

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, 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, 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 1st responders.

As a reminder, please do not leave bulletins, food, tissues or any other articles in the church pews. Please be mindful that there are several Masses on Sunday and the pews should be as clean as possible.

Your continued help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

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 with any corrections that need to be made so we can update our records.

The Sanctuary Light in our **Sacred Heart Chapel** for the week of December 9 to December 15



is in loving memory of
Frank Szalejko
requested by his wife,
Margherita Szaljeko.

ROSES

The rose placed in the **Church** is
In Honor of the Blessed Mother.



The rose placed in the **Chapel** is in loving memory of
Joan A. Reed
requested by her Vestry Circle Friends

Sunday Offering Week of November 24, 2024

Envelopes	\$ 8,258.00
Loose	940.00
Parish Giving (E-Giving)	1,670.00
	\$10,868.00

of envelopes – 378
Average - \$21.85

To make a **secure contribution** on-line please visit ihmphila.org and click on the Parish Giving Logo.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Pastor's Page

As we enter the second week of our Advent preparation we are invited to reflect on how prepared we are for the Lord's coming. In the first reading today the prophet Baruch talks about making substantial changes. The Lord can help us affect all kinds of changes with his grace. "For God has commanded that every mountain be made low, and that age old depths and gorges be filled to ground level." Are there mountains and other obstacles in our path that block our way to holiness?

Advent is a time of joyful waiting. The scripture readings this week are unfailingly positive, hopeful for the future. Baruch assures Jerusalem that God is leading His exiled people back home. The setting is during the Babylonian Exile (587-538). Baruch encouraged the people during the exile, reminding them of Jeremiah's preaching. There would be big changes if they remained faithful to God and cooperated with his plan.

Jerusalem had been conquered by the Babylonians and many of the population had been exiled to Babylon. Baruch envisioned the day when the Chosen People would return to the holy city. He holds out God's promise of transformation, when misery will change to joy.

The Gospel today is from the third chapter of Luke. John the Baptist is preaching throughout the whole region of the Jordan. The Baptism of Repentance is both wonderful and challenging. Baptism means an immersion, going "all in" as it may be said. A Baptism is cleansing and life giving. Repentance is also a challenge. It is a call to turn away from sin or ways that keep us from God. We truly feel remorse for what we have done. Then change can happen. Paths and winding roads can be made straight. God acts in our lives, but we must act as well. God's grace does not limit our responsibility. It enhances it.

St. Paul gives us a very good prayer in the Epistle. It is his prayer for the people at the Church of Philippi. He says "the one who began the good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." It is a very timely prayer for us also at this time of year. We need to be attentive to the second half of his prayer as well, to discern what is of value so that we can live lives that are seeking the good.

Father Casey

*Special
Offering*

THE SECOND COLLECTION FOR TODAY IS FOR
THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

- 1) Zephaniah 3:14-18a (9C)
- 2) Philippians 1:4-6,8-11
- 3) Luke 3:1-6



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.



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

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Vigil 5:15 pm - Fr. Casey

Sunday, December 15, 2024

7:30 am – Fr. Quan

9:30 am - Fr. Casey

11:30 am Fr. Sean

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF OUR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Marie Travaline



Thank You

On November 20, Fr. Casey celebrated a Memorial Mass for the deceased members of the Knights of Columbus.

We extend a thank you to all those who participated and took the time to honor those faithful members who rest in peace.

The Knights of Columbus Mariae Council also recognize those who joined in celebrating "The Preparation of the Fatted Calf" Sunday after the 9:30 Mass in Father Sullivan Hall.

A joyful gathering was enjoyed by all!!



IHM CHERUB CHRISTMAS CHOIR

IHM STUDENTS in grade 3 to 8 are invited to join our Cherub Choir. You will sing at the **CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 4:00PM**

REHEARSALS IN CHURCH, WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM PLEASE CONTACT MS. PFEFFERLE WITH YOUR INTEREST. SIGNUPS WILL BE ON 11/26 IN CHURCH

New Beginnings II

This group is for widows and widowers who share a common bond to come together in community for the purpose of friendship and social outings. It is open to widows and widowers of all faiths to join together monthly for fun and enjoyment.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm at St. Helena's Church in Blue Bell, PA in the school cafeteria. Any questions contact Patti Lenox, 215-483-9395



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](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org)
and enter: IHM Parish

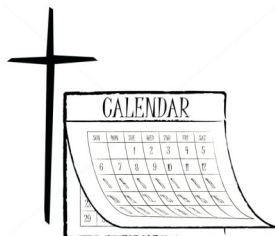
There is no better way to start the New Year than by giving the gift of life.

2025 CALENDARS

We just recently found out that we lost our sponsor for the Church calendars. We have placed the order for the calendars and they will be coming in the next couple of weeks.

If you own a business and would be interested in sponsoring the calendars for 2026, please call the Rectory Office at 215-483-1000.

Thank you.



*Welcome to the newest members
of our IHM Parish*
The Odhiambo Family
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mc Garry

CLEANERS NEEDED FOR GOD'S HOUSE

We are 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

The next casserole pickup for St. John's Hospice is on Wednesday, January 8 at 9 am.

CHURCH KNEELER RESTORATION PROJECT

We are still accepting donations for the **Church Kneeler Restoration Project**. Forms and envelopes are at all the entrances of the Church and Chapel.

The person that you choose to memorialized, their name will be placed on a plaque that will hang in the Church. This is a beautiful way to remember your loved one and support the improvement of our Church.

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

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 9 & 30, January 20, February 10 & March 3.
All are welcome to join us in this rewarding work.

The Giving Tree has been extended to **December 15th.**

There will be trees at all the doorways of the Church and Chapel along with flyers explaining each organization and their needs.

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

Thank you for participating and for your generosity.

May God bless each and everyone of you.



Pray the Advent Wreath Prayer for Week 2:

“Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.”

Visits to the Sick

We are in the process of gathering the names of parishioners who due to illness or age or mobility are not able to make Mass on a regular basis. If you are in need or you know someone who would like to receive the Eucharist at their home, please contact Denise Schmidt, the parish secretary during business hours with their information. We will be setting up visits by our Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

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*
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*
Ministry of the Eucharist: *Mary Ann Kostic-King, 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*
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*

Golden Age Club: *Meets the 2nd & 4th 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

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

SCRIP: *S&C and Supermarket Scrip—Traci Kovach 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*

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*
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.