


HE PUT MUD  
ON MY EYES,  
AND I WASHED, AND NOW  
I SEE



**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 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—Spring date is May 16, 2026. Details on page 4.**

**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 March 15, 2026

SAT.	14	5:15 pm	Virginia & Robert Jefford
SUN.	15	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Eileen Hodges Mary Ann Shaw
MON.	16	8:30	John D. Mc Cullough
TUES.	17	8:30	Zygmunt Orlicki
WED.	18	8:30	Phung Vuong
THURS.	19	8:30	Sharon Monigle
FRI.	20	8:30	Fr. Joseph Jarosz
SAT.	21	8:00 5:15 pm	Minerva Avila John Cusack
SUN.	22	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Rose Caruso 16th Anniversary Eileen Hodges

\*Please note not all Masses are for the deceased. Some are for the living.



The Sanctuary Light in our  
**Sacred Heart Chapel**  
for this week is in loving memory  
of  
Joann, Kenneth & Clara  
requested by  
Helen Cyzio

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF OUR  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS

*Marie Palmer*



### Clergy Schedule (celebrants are subject to change)

Saturday, March 21, 2026  
Vigil 5:15 pm - Fr. Quan

Sunday, March 22, 2026  
7:30 am Fr. Quan  
9:30 am Fr. Heron  
11:30 am Fr. Sean

*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, Marguerite Bambani & Margaret, Jeannie Barr, Maureen Barr, Patricia Benene, Joyce Bielawski, Wayne Bielawski, Anita Bilotti, Cindi & Lance Bownet, NanciDolores Buzby, Lois Cartwright, Michael & Kay Christner, Brooke Conklin, Ron Clute, Walter Crate, John Croley, Charlotte Cupchak, Helen Cyzio, Miquelina De Jesus, Joe Di Lullo, Sandy Di Mucci, Maria Downey, Marie Dunne, Francis "Joe" Elliott, Mark Fee, Philomena Forgione, Fr. Michael Kelly, Annette Freed, Linda Galleo, Heather Getley, Steven Getley, Bernadette Giambuzzi, Daniel Golasa, Lora L. Golasa, James Goussy, Joseph Henkel, Regina Joka, Florence Kesserling, Beverly King, Mary Jo & Paul King, Olga Kostic, Marianne Leahy, Colleen Long, Earl & Dorlene Long, Nicole Lo Stracco, Eugene Magee, Michael Magee, Dominic Matteo, Valerie Mc Carthy, Diane Mc Guire, Anne Marie Mc Keever, Mary Mudry, Mumford Family, Msgr. Philip C. Ricci, Trudy & Dick Neff, Frances Orlicki, Jessica Paterson, Holly Pelligrini, Ruthanne Pelligrini, Bill Pinto, Nicole Powlus, Karen Pulcinella, Elena Rocca, Baby Paige Elizabeth Sablich, Jane Rowe, Anne Sargus-Varian, Sierra, John & Maired Scharff, Matthew Simmons, David Sparacino, Faith Sprarcino, Vivian Swiggard, Sr. Mary Thaddeus, Carolyn Walter, Daniel Welsh, Ellen Wentzel, Lena Weredene, Jerry Williams



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

### ROSES

The rose placed in the **Church**  
is in loving memory of  
Deacon George W. Kletzel, Jr  
8th Anniversary  
requested by the Kletzel Family.



The rose placed in the **Chapel**  
is in loving memory of  
Juliet Resos  
requested by  
Jackie & Terrence Quirk

## Pastor's Page

The fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as "Laetare Sunday". We have pretty much reached the half way point of our Lenten journey. The Latin word "Laetare" means rejoice. We rejoice in the knowledge that the cross does not end in death, that Jesus' story does not end at the tomb. In the Gospel today, we are going to hear the story from the gospel of John as Jesus brings light to the darkness of a blind man's world. He can do the same for us. In fact He has already done this for us.

In the baptismal liturgy we receive a share of the light of Christ. The Paschal candle is always displayed prominently near the baptismal font during most of the year. During Easter season, it is placed near the Ambo where the Word is proclaimed. In a funeral mass, it is placed near the casket. In the baptismal liturgy, after the pouring of the water and the anointing with the Sacred Chrism, the priest lights the individual candle and gives it to the newly baptized or to the parents and godparents and says, "Receive the Light of Christ! This light is given to you to be kept burning brightly. You are to walk always as a child of the light."

In the second reading today from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, he speaks of the importance of that light of Christ. "You were once in darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light..." Remember both Isaiah (9:2) and Matthew (4) talk about this. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone." The source of this light is unmistakable: in John's Gospel Jesus says very clearly, "I am the light of the world."

The Healing of the Blind man is one of four miracle stories that are found only in the Gospel of John. John includes just seven miracles in his Gospel, far fewer than in the Synoptic Gospels. However in John's gospel he describes those seven miracles in much greater detail than the synoptic gospels describe theirs. For example John often follows the story of the miracles with a lengthy discussion about its deeper meaning among those who witnessed it. The synoptic accounts focus on the miracles themselves, whereas John's accounts focus on the symbolic meaning of the miracles.

In first century Palestine, sickness and suffering were regarded by the Jews as punishment from God. At times we fall into that trap. "why is God doing this to me"? Jesus does not agree with this point of view. Ultimately human suffering remains a mystery. It is very ironic in the story that the religious leaders who can physically see, wind up expelling the once blind man out of the temple. The spiritually blind end up safely inside the temple, but locked out of the light-filled knowledge of Jesus as Lord. We need to walk as children of the light as St. Paul urges us.

Jesus is the light of the world. He gave sight to the blind, but more than that, he gives light to our minds and hearts – light that guides us toward eternal life.

Grateful for the gift of light that has been entrusted to us at Baptism, let us continue to nurture that light with the oxygen of grace as we offer our prayer of thanksgiving this weekend.

Father Casey

**THE IHM SCHOOL COMMUNITY** will honor Police Officers and Firefighters at the 8:30 Mass on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. We warmly invite all present and former Firefighters & Police Officers to attend.



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) Ezekiel 37:12-14
- 2) Romans 8:8-11
- 3) John 11:1-45



### PARISH SACRAMENTAL DATES

#### First Holy Communion Retreat

Shrine of the Miraculous Medal  
Wednesday, April 15 (8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

#### First Holy Communion Practice

Wednesday April 29, 2026  
(8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

in Church and Father Sullivan Hall

#### \* First Holy Communion

Sunday, May 3, 2026 @11:30 a.m. Mass



The Catholic Parishes of East Falls, Manayunk, Roxborough and Andorra will present the Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Program for engaged couples on **SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026** in Father Sullivan Hall.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 819 E. Cathedral Road. The day begins with registration at 9:30 AM and concludes with attendance at the 5:15 PM Vigil Mass. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Certificates are distributed after Mass. Cost is \$100.00 per couple, payable in advance.

To register, please call:  
Holy Family Rectory, 215-482-0450, Monday through Friday between 9 AM and 3 PM.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH DINNER**

The Knights of Columbus is serving a fish dinner on the following Fridays during Lent.

March 20, 27, & April 3.

Pick up only from 3PM to 6PM (or until sold out)

Dinner consists of Baked & Breaded Fish Filets (with a lemon wedge). Side dishes are: coleslaw, homemade mac & cheese, a roll and your choice of soda or water.

Cost is \$23.00

Family Deal (4 platters) \$80.00

Call/text to order 267-298-8885 by Wednesday prior  
CASH PAYMENT ONLY

### **Sunday Offering Week of March 1, 2026**

Envelopes	\$ 8,544.00
Loose	1,137.00
Parish Giving (E-Giving)	<u>1,170.00</u>
	\$ 10,851.00

# of envelopes—453  
Average—\$18.86

Church in Latin America \$1,559.00

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.***



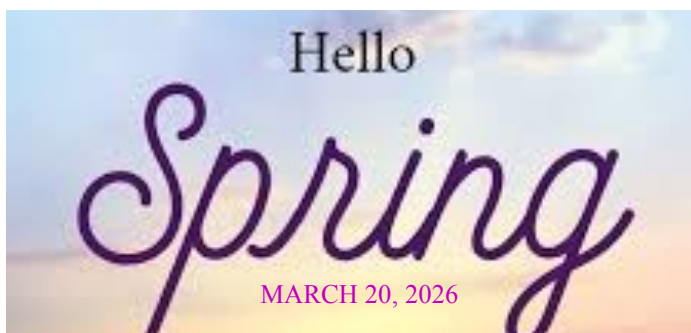
The Mass Book for 2026 is **FULL**. There are no more announced Masses available for 2026.

There are still weeks available for Roses in the Church & Chapel and the Sanctuary Light.

### **Adult Confirmation Class at St. John the Baptist**

#### **Are you an adult Catholic who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

St. John the Baptist Parish in Manayunk will offer a series of four classes to prepare Adults over the age of 18 for Confirmation. This opportunity is only offered to anyone who has been Baptized and has received First Holy Communion in the Roman Catholic Church. The recipient of this beautiful sacrament receives a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit (like the apostles at Pentecost), and completes their initiation as adult Catholics. **Four mandatory in-person sessions at St. John the Baptist will be held on the following Tuesdays in the St. John the Baptist Parish Center (Rectory) from 6:30—8:00 PM at 146 Rector Street: April 28, May 5, 12, & 19. Then on May 24 2026, Pentecost Sunday, the candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul at 11:00 AM Mass at Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Center City. Kindly contact Kristi Bushner to reserve your space or inquire at 610-246-3778; [faith@stjohnmanayunk.org](mailto:faith@stjohnmanayunk.org).**





**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

**April 12 2026 2:45 pm**

**Sacred Heart Chapel**

Let's join together in prayer to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday  
2:45 – Welcome, St. Faustina's Litany of Divine Mercy & Quiet Time  
3:00 - Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Quote from Jesus to St Faustina:

**“..I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender Mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.” (Diary 699). “I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy.” (Diary 1109)**

**15 WEEK CLUB  
Week # 4**

Lisa & Don Seserko	\$ 300.00
Louise Kravchak	\$ 100.00
Anne Roberts	\$ 100.00
Lucille George	\$ 50.00
Barbara Hudecki	\$ 50.00
Patricia Cherry	\$ 50.00
Margaret & Henry Hoffman	\$ 50.00
Eleanor Nicaastro	\$ 50.00

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**During Lent the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on  
Wednesdays from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm and  
Saturdays from 4 pm to 5 pm in the Church.  
Stations of the Cross are every Friday at 7 PM in the Chapel**

**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

**March 23, April 13, May 4**

*All are welcome to join us in this rewarding work.  
To find out more about us come to a no pressure meeting and find out what we do.*

**PART-TIME MAINTENANCE POSITION AVAILABLE AT IHM**

Our maintenance department has a permanent part-time position available.  
**Hours are Monday - Friday 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm.**  
For more information and details call the IHM Parish Office at 215-483-1000.

**State Representative Tarik Khan will be registering new or renewals of Septa Bus passes for all seniors who are 65 years or older at St. John the Baptist Social Hall, 4211 Cresson Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127 on March 31, 2026 from 9 AM to 11 AM. Please bring an identification card with you in order to complete the Septa Bus Pass process. Street Parking is available and in the lot adjacent to the church and Parish Offices on Rector Street.**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE**

PLEASE NOTE: We will NOT be sending out end of year 2025 contribution statements to our parishioners.  
To request a contribution statement please call the IHM Parish Office at 215-483-1000 or email: [ihmparish@comcast.net](mailto:ihmparish@comcast.net).

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY MARCH 17th**



## 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.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL SCHOOL AND CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers of our IHM School and Church must meet all Safe Environment requirements mandated by the State of Pennsylvania and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This includes all school volunteers and parish volunteers i.e. Lectors, EM, Choir Members, etc.

A list of all requirements are on the school website: [iheartmary.org](http://iheartmary.org) Go to Resources then to Volunteer and all the links are posted there. These clearances are **FREE** for volunteers.

These requirements are **MANDATORY** and there will be no exceptions. These **MUST** be completed or you may not volunteer in our school for any trips, dances or in house activities or any parish ministries.

For the Protecting God's Children session go to [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) then first time registrant then to list of sessions to find one that is convenient for you to attend. There are classes available through zoom.

For more information call Denise Schmidt in the Rectory Office 215-483-1000. Monday - Friday between the hours of 10 am to 2 pm.

Please note: All clearances are free for volunteers. The State of PA requires that these be updated every 5 years. The requirements of the Archdiocese only needs to be completed once.

### PARISH STAFF

**Mr. Patrick Foley** - *Principal of IHM School*

**Mrs. Rita Morados** - *Business Manager*

**Mrs. Denise Schmidt** - *Parish Secretary*

**Mrs. Traci Kovach** - *Director of Finance, Development & Admissions*

**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*

## 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)*

**Music Ministry:** *Rehearsals—Wednesdays 7:00 p.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—Drew Hudecki [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 April 1, 2026 at 9 am.*

### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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

**Tuition Office:** *contact Traci Kovach (215-482-2029). Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 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 Anne 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. Maria Campbell (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 @ 7:00pm in the K of C Room in FSH. contact Dan McPeake @[dmcpc2939@verizon.net](mailto:dmcpc2939@verizon.net) or visit our website at <http://www.kofc4100.org>*