



**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. Joseph W. Bongard in Residence*

*Rev. Sean P. Bransfield, in Residence*

*Deacon Salvatore R. Bianco*

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**WEEKENDS: IN CHURCH**

Saturday 5:15 p.m. Vigil

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

**WEEKDAYS: IN SACRED HEART CHAPEL**

Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m.

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

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION IN CHURCH**

5:15 pm Vigil Mass

8:30 am, Noon, & 7:30 p.m. (times may vary on certain Holy Days; please check inside pages or parish website)

**HOLIDAYS: IN CHURCH**

9:00 a.m. (Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN CHURCH**

Saturday 4-5 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

**SOLEMN EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AFTER 8:30 a.m. MASS**

**UNTIL 6:30 p.m.**

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**

**TUESDAY EVENING AT 6:30 p.m.**

**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.

IHM offers a one day **Pre-Cana** Seminar that assists couples in preparation for their upcoming marriage. The Pre-Cana is conducted twice a year (Spring and Fall). **There is no Pre-Cana Seminar planned at this time.** Please call Denise Schmidt, parish secretary at 215-483-1000 for further information.

**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 19, 2023**

<b>SAT.</b>	<b>18</b>	5:15 pm	Joan Reed - 5th Anniversary
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>19</b>	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Robert Avington Eileen Hodges
<b>MON.</b>	<b>20</b>	8:30 7:30 pm	Michael Miluzzo John mc Laughlin
<b>TUES.</b>	<b>21</b>	8:30 7:30 pm	Edward Lenox Joan Gibbons
<b>WED.</b>	<b>22</b>	8:30 7:30 pm	Prachtel & Ormsby Families Donna Flood
<b>THURS.</b>	<b>23</b>	8:30 7:30 pm	Donna Lodise Edward Lenox
<b>FRI.</b>	<b>24</b>	8:30 7:30 pm	Thomas Mc Null Deceased Members of the Peter Conboy Family
<b>SAT.</b>	<b>25</b>	8:00 5:15 pm	Bertha Imsenik Joseph & Anna Manzo- Passante & Stanley & Helen Mazno- Gogola
<b>SUN</b>	<b>26</b>	7:30 9:30 11:30	IHM Parishioners Robert Avington Carol Bogush

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



*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, Officer Andy Chan, Pete Cissone, Michael Clark, Brooke Conklin, Quint Cuffe, Earl Dandridge, Taylor Davis, Marano Donald D'Angelo, Nancy Di John, Madeline DiPasquale, Janet Bollinger Doherty, Beth Donnelly, Joseph Donnelly, Marie Dunne, Barbara Dziedzic, Francis "Joe" Elliott, Joe Evers, Bruce Fairchild, Rosemary Fatovic, Peg Fierko, David Fleetwood, Carol Foley, Bill & Dorothy Foster, Kathy Foster, Sydney Franzmann, Barbara Freiling, Dr. Angeline M. Gampico, Helen Golbeski, Kelly Gruninger, Flora Hart, Anne Headly, Brenden Heyer, Sheilah Janes, Frances Jefferys, Chris Kane, Deborah Kapp, Marek Kijek, Marianne Klusek, Olga Kostic, Angela Kotowich, Mary Krier, Hannah Lambert, Flavia Langan, Langan Family, Dolores Lanigan, 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, Steve Murphy, Elizabeth Matruak, Winifred Meall, Rachael Mellon, Eileen Michel, Brian Morris, Mary Mudry, Janet Murphy, Dick & Trudy Neff, Marvin Parnes, Harry Pastella, Luisa Pellicone, Dave Pendleton, Bishop Joseph Pepe, Bill Pinto, Nicole Powlus, Kathy Pro, Tom Przybek, Karen Pulcinella, John Quirus, Clara Ragni, Junie Rakosak, Marie Renello, Harper Renshaw, Casey Rigby, Joel Rivera, Anne Roberts, Tony Ruger, Domiciano Gallego-Ruiz, Anita Russell, Vince Savini, Donna Scharff, John Scharff, Mairead Scharff, Mary Ann Shaw, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Luke Simon, Cindy Synder-Earnhardt, Jake Stefano, Baby Caleb St. George, Donna Stine, O.S.F., Felicia Teske, Paul Teske, Edward Thomas, Molly Thompson, Christine Triola, Louise Vesci, Maddox Vielman, Helen Wade, Walter Wayne Whitehouse, Luke Winterbottom, Pam Wisdom, Brian Wurtzberger, Kim Wurtzberger, Mike Zacher, Donna Zetterberg, Anthony Zul.

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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

*Clara Ragni*

The Sanctuary Light in our **Sacred Heart Chapel** for the week of March 20 to March 26 is in loving memory of Clara Ragni.



**ROSES**

The rose placed in the **Church** is in loving memory of Catherine Dougherty requested by Eileen Donnelly.



The rose placed in the **Chapel** is in loving memory of Charles Hoffman.

## 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 miracles 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



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 (34A)
- 2) Romans 8:8-11
- 3) John 11:1-45



### Weekend Clergy Schedule March 26, 2023 (celebrants are subject to change)

Saturday, March 25, 2023

5:15pm - Fr. Casey

Sunday, March 26, 2023

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Bongard  
9:30 a.m. – Bishop Coffey \*\*\*  
11:30 a.m.—Fr. Casey

\*\*\*Bishop Coffey is the Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the U.S.A. Military Services.

*The Second Collection for next weekend is for the United States of America Military.*



Sunday Offering Week of March 5, 2023

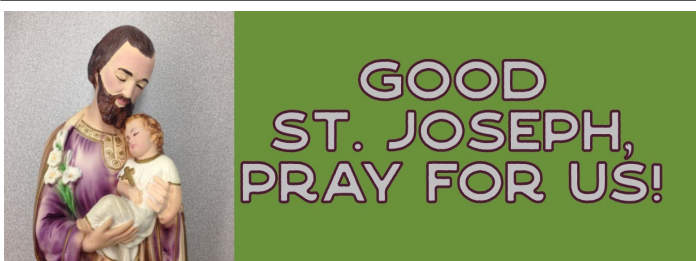
Envelopes \$ 10,495.00  
 Loose 930.50  
 \$11,425.50

# of envelopes – 566  
 Average– 18.55

*Thank you & God Bless you for your generosity*

Please help our counters by filling out the amount on your Church envelope and please write clearly. This helps to speed up the process.

*Thank you so much!*



**CONFIRMATION NEWS**

*FALL OF 2023*

Applications for Candidates for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in the Fall of 2023, are now available. If your child attends IHM School, IHM PREP, and/ or any Private Academy, please contact Mary Anne Kostic-King, D.R.E. at 215-483-4266 or E-Mail: [mking@iheartmary.org](mailto:mking@iheartmary.org) for further information.

**IHM SACRAMENTAL NEWS**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will take place on **Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 10 am.**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PRACTICE** will take place on **Thursday, May 4, 2023 from 9 am to Noon**

**RETREAT DAY** for all the children making their First Communion will take place at the **SHRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL** on **Friday, April 21, 2023.\*\*** Departure from IHM School is at 8 am and the return to IHM School will be at 2:30 pm.

For more information, please call Mary Anne Kostic-King, Director of Religious Education at **215-483-4266** or email: [mking@iheartmary.org](mailto:mking@iheartmary.org)

**\*\*Please note the date change for the Retreat Day**

**15 WEEK CLUB WINNERS**

**WEEK 5**

Joseph Ryan	\$300.00
Anna Marie Tomassi	\$100.00
Thomas V. Sexton	\$100.00
Edward Aboagye	\$ 50.00
Charles & Barbara Spratt	\$ 50.00
IHM Tuition Assistance	\$ 50.00
Elizabeth Mc Mullen	\$ 50.00
Robert Sweeney	\$ 50.00

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**JOIN THE EITC PROGRAM TODAY!**

Learn how to redirect your tax dollars to Immaculate Heart of Mary School students and receive a 90% tax credit!

Join an upcoming webinar to learn more!

Traci Kovach, Director of Finance, Development and Admissions  
[tuition@iheartmary.org](mailto:tuition@iheartmary.org)

**The next pick up for St. John's Hospice is Wednesday, April 5 at 9 am.**

**During Lent**, Mass will be offered daily at 8:30 am and 7:30 pm in the Chapel, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. On Wednesdays when school is in session the 8:30 am is in the Church. Also on Wednesdays after Confession, the 7:30 pm Mass is in the Church.

**Stations of the Cross** is every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Chapel. It is followed by Mass at 7:30 pm.

**Confession** times during Lent are on Wednesdays, March 22, 29 & April 5 from 6:15 to 7:15 pm. Confession is always offered on Saturdays from 4 pm to 5 pm. Confession is **NOT** offered on Holy Saturday April 8.

**PART-TIME SACRISTAN POSITION**

IHM has an opening for a part-time sacristan position.

Duties include working funerals and special events during the week and some Saturdays.

For more information contact Denise Schmidt: 215-483-1000 or email: [ihmparish@comcast.net](mailto:ihmparish@comcast.net)

**PLEASE HELP TO KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN**

Before leaving Church please check your pew and remove any personal items (i.e. cereal, tissues, water bottles) and bulletins.

Thank you!!



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

The next meetings of the St. Vincent dePaul Society will be held in Fr. Sullivan Hall **March 20th, April 10th, and May 1st** from 7-8:30 pm.

Please join us for this rewarding volunteer work.

**ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY  
EASTER FOOD SALE**

We are happy to announce the return of our annual St. Mary Polish American Society Easter Food Sale. Food items will include: **Babkas** (cheese, cinnamon crumb or raspberry cheese) for \$15 each from L&M Bakery in Delran, NJ ; - **Pierogi** (potato, potato cheese, or sauerkraut) for \$10 per dozen from Polka Deli in Port Richmond in Philadelphia; **Kielbasa** for \$9 per pound from Czerw's in Port Richmond. The deadline to place a food order will be **Wednesday, March 22nd** so our suppliers have enough time to process our orders.

Order pick-up will be on **Friday, March 31st and Saturday April 1st from 1 to 4 pm** at St. Mary Catholic Church Hall in Conshohocken. Proceeds from the Easter Food Sale support our mission of promoting Polish heritage in Montgomery County, PA and assistance with the restoration of S. Mary Catholic Church in Conshohocken, PA.

To place a food order please email: [foodsale@stmarypolish.org](mailto:foodsale@stmarypolish.org) or call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.



**Upcoming Admissions  
Events at  
Roman Catholic**

**7TH GRADE  
VISITATION DAY**

**MARCH  
23RD**

**SPRING OPEN  
HOUSE**

**MARCH  
26TH**

**7TH GRADE  
PRACTICE TEST**

**APRIL  
1ST**

To register, please contact [admissions@romancatholicchs.com](mailto:admissions@romancatholicchs.com)



The next meeting for the Golden Age Club will be March 27.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

We will **NOT** be automatically mailing out the end of the year **2022 contribution statements** to our parishioners.

To request a contribution statement please call the Rectory Office at 215-483-1000.

## 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. Larry Concio** - *Maintenance Supervisor*  
**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, [pjcaruso45@yahoo.com](mailto:pjcaruso45@yahoo.com)*

### SOCIAL OUTREACH

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

**Boy Scouts:** *email: [scouttroop474@yahoo.com](mailto:scouttroop474@yahoo.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 [ssscrip@iheartmary.org](mailto:ssscrip@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  
**Pregnancy Hotline 610-626-4006 or Pro Life Union 215-855-8150***