



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 May 13 at 7 pm in the Chapel.** 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 is May 31.
See more information on page 5 of the bulletin.

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 30, 2025

SAT.	29	5:15 pm	Joan A. Reed
SUN.	30	7:30	IHM Parishioners
		9:30	Ryan Murphy
		11:30	John & Marianne Gorman
MON.	31	8:30	Harry & Margaret Peterman
TUES.	1	8:30	Dorothy & Edward McNamee
WED.	2	8:30	Frances Mc Guire
THUR	3	8:30	Michael A. LaPera, Jr.
FRI.	4	8:30	Nancy Szewczak
SAT.	5	8:00	William Lee
		5:15 pm	Thomas & Nancy Plover
SUN	6	7:30	IHM Parishioners
		9:30	Robert Avington
		11:30	Ernest "Pete" Di Benedetto

***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, Joyce Bielawski, Wayne Bielawski, Cindi & Lance Bownet, Dolores Buzby, Lois Cartwright, Brooke Conklin, Walter Crate, Helen Cyzio, Mary Delaney, Matthew Michael Donnelly, Maria Downey, Francis "Joe" Elliott, Bernadette Giambuzzi, Lora L. Golasa, James Goussy, Mary Grbec, Joseph Henkel, Regina Joka, Beverly King, Mary Jo & Paul King, Olga Kostic, Victor Kost, Mary Krier, Marianne Leahy, Colleen Long, Charles Lott, Eugene Magee, Michael Magee, Carmine Martino, Patricia Markelewicz, Dominic Matteo, Valerie Mc Carthy, Mary Mudry, Trudy & Dick Neff, Rosemary Notiwick, Frances Orlicki, Bill Pinto, Pope Francis, Maria Prince, Anne Sargus-Varian, Christine Seymour, & Sierra, John & Mairied Scharff, Matthew Simmons, Denise Smith, 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.



ROSES

The rose placed in the **Church** is for Good Health for Mary Grbec requested by Jody Marcucci



The rose placed in the **Chapel** is in loving memory of Mary Ann Shaw requested by her IHM Golden Age Friends.

The Sanctuary Light in our **Sacred Heart Chapel** for the week of March 31 to April 6 is in loving memory of Jack Waldeck requested by Mary and the Girls.



God's blessings to the newly baptized in the Catholic faith
Daisy Marie Ibach

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

**Ida Cole,
Marie Murphy,
Anita "Nita" Vivas**



Sunday Offering Week of March 16, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 6,246.00
Loose	1,119.00
Parish Giving (E-Giving)	<u>1,180.00</u>
	\$ 8,545.00

of envelopes – 417

Average - \$14.98

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

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Pastor's Page

The Entrance Antiphon today begins with the word, "Rejoice", *Laetare* in Latin. That is why we traditionally have called the Fourth Sunday of Lent, *Laetare Sunday*. We rejoice not merely because we are more than half way through Lent. We rejoice because we know God is always eager to reconcile with us. Today's readings celebrate this fact. The Israelites have finally made it to the Promised Land. In the second reading from 2 Corinthians, Saint Paul points out that God has sent Jesus to reconcile us to the Father, redeeming his creation.

The Gospel from Luke today gives maybe the best example of this reconciliation in a very practical way. This 15th Chapter of Luke's gospel is bound together by the theme of joy over the recovery of what was lost. All three parables apply the return of the repentant sinner. The story today of the Prodigal Son develops the theme of God's love and adds the contrast of the older brother's hostility. Jesus himself is surrounded by "tax collectors and sinners" causing murmuring among the scribes and Pharisees.

Jesus is certainly the master teacher. This parable is probably the most famous of all his parables. Through this story Jesus illustrates the earth shattering acceptance available in the Kingdom of God. The traditional title of "Prodigal Son" is very well known, but it is really the father that is the pivotal character in the story and how he loves both his sons.

In traditional Jewish law, the first born son received a double share of the inheritance. (Deuteronomy 21:17) The younger son in this case was entitled to a third of the estate. Normally this was divided up on the death of the Father, but there were penalties if the share was withdrawn ahead of time. By demanding his share and leaving, the younger son is leaving, cutting ties with no regrets. He takes everything with him and there is no reasonable hope that he will be back. This hurts the remaining family in the short term.

Later as Jesus tells us disaster awaits the younger son. For the Hebrew, caring for Pigs is as low as you can go, it evoked the idea of apostasy, they were unclean animals. When he comes to his senses and comes home, his father rushes out to meet him and hugs and kisses him and welcomes back to his household, unconditionally!

The twist that Jesus puts on the story is the hostility of the older son. The older son's anger and self-righteousness make him very resentful. The pivot of the story is the Father's movement toward the older son. We can see the father as God and put ourselves into the story. Am I like the Father? Or like the elder or the younger son? Or maybe we have parts of all three in me at various times.

The Pharisees and scribes are upset that the God Jesus shows is generous in mercy. Jesus welcomes those they judge and exclude. The story here is not the return of the younger son, it is not the return of the younger son that irks the older son. It is the father's compassion, generosity, and celebration that anger the older son. The father reconciles with the younger son immediately. No questions asked. This parable is witness to the hope of reconciliation, the lost are found and the dead brought back to life.

Father Casey

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

- 1) Isaiah 43:16-21 (36C)
- 2) Philippians 3:8-14
- 3) John 8:1-11



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.



During Lent Mass will be celebrated daily at 8:30 am only.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Wednesdays 6:15-7:15.

Stations of the Cross will be on Fridays at 7 pm in the Chapel.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2025

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:15 P.M.-7:15 P.M.

Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025

No Morning Masses

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 P.M.

Good Friday, April 18, 2025

No Morning Masses

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord 3:00 P.M.

Outdoor Living Stations (IHM Grounds) 7:00 P.M.

(if inclement weather in IHM Church)

Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025

No Morning Masses/No Confessions

Blessing of Food 1:00 P.M. (in the Chapel)

Easter Vigil 8:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Masses 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 A.M.

Please note that the Parish Office will be CLOSED on Good Friday as no business is to be conducted on this day.

The envelope company inadvertently sent the Easter donation envelope and the Easter Flower envelope in with the April weekly envelopes.

You are still getting the Easter letter and the Easter booklet with the Holy Week schedule along with the Easter envelopes in a separate mailing.

15 WEEK CLUB Week # 8

Keith Pellicone	\$300.00
Thuy Pham	\$100.00
Dorothy Forster	\$100.00
Charlene & Chuck Boady	\$ 50.00
Kimberlee Goffredo	\$ 50.00
Caroline Constantin	\$ 50.00
Porrini Family	\$ 50.00
Stacy Serwinski	\$ 50.00

CONGRATULATIONS!!



IHM CYO UPCOMING EVENTS

Our IHM CYO Spring Mass will be on Sunday, April 6th at 9:30 am in the Church. All athletics should wear their spring sport shirt. Participants will sit in the front center pews.

Also on Saturday April 26th the IHM CYO Athletes will be volunteering their time to host a Car Wash at Maria's Ristorante on Ridge and Summit from 8:30 am to 11:00 am.

Donations in any size are welcome. Your generosity is appreciated. Proceeds will go to the gym bathroom renovations.

Flyers for both events are at the doorways of the Church & Chapel.

The Catholic Parishes of East Falls, Manayunk, Roxborough and Andorra will present the **Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Program** for engaged couples on **SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025** 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

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

IHM DMI Survey UPDATE!!

If you were not able to access the survey by typing in the link on your website, the letter you received in the mail is now posted to the IHM website at ihmphila.org. Click the link in the letter and you can access the survey

Annual St. Mary Polish American Society Easter Food Sale:

Babkas (cheese, cinnamon crumb, or raspberry cheese) for \$17 each from L&M Bakery in Delran, NJ
Frozen 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 for food orders will be **Wednesday April 2nd** so our suppliers have enough time to process our orders. Order pick-up will be on Friday, April 11th and Saturday April 12th 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 St. Mary Catholic Church in Conshohocken, PA. To place a food order please email foodsale@stmarypolish.org or call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.

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

April 14, May 5, 19, June 9 & 30

All are welcome to join us in this rewarding work.

IHM Golden Age Club has a trip for May 7 is to Fulton Opera House in Lancaster to see *Anastasia the Musical*. Cost is \$136. Deposit of \$25 will reserve your seat. Flyers for this trip are at all the doorways of the Church and Chapel.

"SAVE THE DATE! MAY 17-18 BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS EUCHARISTIC ENCOUNTER EVENT at Saint Philip Neri Church in Lafayette Hill! Saint Philip Neri Parish is honored to host the Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Encounter Weekend as part of the ongoing Eucharistic Revival in the United States. Blessed Carlo Acutis is set to be canonized as a saint by Pope Francis on April 27. Blessed Carlo Acutis had a deep love for the Blessed Sacrament. He used this and his technological abilities to develop a website cataloging all the Extraordinary Eucharistic Miracles that have occurred throughout the world. The Eucharistic Miracles presentation he created will be displayed in the school hall along with opportunities to venerate a first-class relic. Confessions will be available, along with adoration and a documentary video. Do not miss this wonderful opportunity to learn more about this remarkable young man. More details to come!"

Our IHM Legion of Mary hosted this in 2022 so if you missed it this is a good opportunity to learn about Carlo Acutis.

The KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COR MARIAE

COUNCIL #4100 is hosting a
LENTEN FISH FRY ON APRIL 11.

Flyers are at all the tables of the Church and Chapel and also in this week's bulletin. Please support the Knights as they contribute to the many needs of our parish.



At-Home Book Retreat is forming...Divine Mercy!

Join fellow parishioners in a 5-week book retreat to learn and celebrate Divine Mercy as Jesus revealed to St. Faustina Kowalska, using **Matthew Kelly's book: 33 Days to Divine Mercy**. This retreat provides a self-guided 15-minute read per day that you can do at home. Divine Mercy Sunday is a universal Catholic Church Feast declared by Pope John Paul II and is observed on the Sunday after Easter; April 27, 2025. On that day, Jesus promised a Plenary Indulgence (a complete remission of our sins and all punishment) upon reception of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Join us starting on March 24. Place your order for the book at the "Dynamic Catholic" website www.dynamiccatholic.com or through Amazon.

Sharon Schepise schepises@yahoo.com -

Frank Klusek frank.k@verizon.net

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 Morados - *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 April 2, 2025.

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 @ 7:00pm 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.