



# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

Watervliet/Green Island NY

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT November 29, 2015

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Vigil—4:00PM Sunday—8:30AM and 11:00AM

Weekday Schedule

Communion Service: Monday and Friday at 9:00 AM

Mass: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9:00 AM

*Our mission at Immaculate Heart of Mary is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to praise His name, by being a Christ-centered, welcoming, unified community. Called to holiness, we celebrate the love of God through prayer and worship, the Eucharist and other sacraments, catechesis, evangelization and service to all. Always His people, we strive to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure.*

### HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

#### PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Kathie Sousa  
Deacon Mark Leonard  
Fr Don Rutherford  
Sacramental minister

#### PARISH LIFE CENTER

2416 7th Avenue  
Watervliet, NY 12189  
(518) 273-6020/Fax: (518) 273-3978  
Email: [info@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:info@ihm.rcpw.org)  
Website: [www.rcpw.weebly.com](http://www.rcpw.weebly.com)

#### Office Hours:

Mon—Thurs: 8:30am—3:30pm  
Friday—10:30am—3:30pm

#### Administrative Assistant

Judith Pope: [jpope@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:jpope@ihm.rcpw.org)

#### Secretary

Mary Beth Knapik

#### Archivist

Thomas Hanley: [thanley@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:thanley@ihm.rcpw.org)

#### FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY CENTER

2425 7th Avenue  
(518) 328-0427

#### Coordinator

Sharon Kowalski  
[skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org)  
Call for appointment

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 pm—3:45 pm or  
by appointment

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements. Baptisms are generally on the 2nd weekend of the month.

#### Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples should make arrangements as soon as the engagement is announced.

#### Anointing of the Sick

If you are hospital bound, homebound or seriously ill and desire to be anointed, contact the Parish Office. Eucharist can be brought to any parishioner by a Eucharistic Minister.

*“...and pray that you have the strength...  
to stand before the Son of Man.”*

TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT and as we have been taught, it is a time of waiting. However, waiting can be a relative term. If we are waiting for a baby to be born, the wait seems to take forever (for the pregnant one at least.) But if we are waiting to have a root canal, the time passes all too quickly.

Last week was the end of the liturgical year. Advent begins the waiting time when we look forward to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Christ. Christmas is only Part One. Part Two in Advent is looking forward to Christ's Second Coming. This Advent waiting can be lived with joyful anticipation or with dread and fear.

Reading the newspapers or listening to the news can certainly confirm our fears of the coming tribulation with stories of war, poverty, crime, violence and abuse. However these are tribulations caused by people. Yet when we read of earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters, we could easily think that these are indications of the tribulations of the Second Coming.

The readings today reassure us with positive ways to live in joyful anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ. We can be followers of Christ *now* and live lives “blameless in holiness” (second reading), caring for others, and in imitating Jesus in self-giving ways. The Kingdom of God is near at hand, but the other half of the Second Coming of Christ is the invitation to a faithful relationship with God.

Perhaps the natural disasters are reminders that we do not know when the end of world, as we know it, will come. Perhaps they are indications of the strength we will need “to escape the tribulations that are imminent” as we “stand before the Son of Man.” Perhaps we are being given time to change our lives of selfishness to lives of self-giving.

How long will each of us wait? Blessings, Kathie

**RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**—Do YOU have questions about the Catholic faith? Need to receive sacraments – either Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation, for yourself, an older teen or young adult?

If you would like more information, contact Sharon at 328-0427.

**IHM PRAYER TREE MINISTRY**—If you have someone you would like prayed for: increased health, speedy recovery from surgery or illness, safe travel; contact Brenda at 271-6184.

We invite you to become a member of our parish family. To begin the registration process, please fill out this form and place in the collection basket on Sunday. We will send you a new membership form for registration. Thank you

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Beginning Wednesday, December 2: ADVENT: Faith and Fellowship**—This year, during the first three Wednesdays in Advent (December 2, 9 & 16) we will have a program similar to our Lenten Tuesdays called “Faith and Fellowship”. We’ll meet in the church at 6pm, watch a segment of Bishop Robert Barron’s new DVD: “*the Mystery of God*”, break for coffee, desserts, cheese, crackers and a little chit chat. At about 6:40pm, we’ll watch the next segment and be finished around 7:15pm.

*FYI: Fr. Robert Barron was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles on September 8, 2015.*

**THE GIVING TREE**—The names of those in need of gifts for the Holiday Season have been placed on the Giving Tree. Please select a name, purchase your gift, wrap it (no gift bags please) and place it under the tree on or before Sunday, December 13th. Gifts will be distributed on the 19th.



**MARY’S KITCHEN: New Time 3 to 5pm**—*Mary’s Kitchen will re-open at 3pm to 5pm on Monday, November 30 (new winter hours).* All members of the community are invited—both parishioners and non-parishioners alike—to pick up a take out meal during those times.

Questions about Mary’s Kitchen? Contact Sharon at 328-0427 for more information.



**ROSARY SOCIETY: Cookies**—Thank you to all who purchased cookie tubs. Our fund raiser was a huge success.

Next meeting of the Rosary Society will be held at the Faith Formation/Ministry Center on Wednesday December 2nd at 6:00 pm.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**—This weekend is the start of our campaign to make a difference in the lives of the people in Sprakers. Please give generously.

### **FAITH FORMATION—For All Ages**

**Sharon C. Kowalski, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry,** [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org)

#### **Thanksgiving Food Deliveries: Thanks to All**

Many thanks to all those who participated in the Thanksgiving Food Deliveries. There were 20+ people delivering to the 60+ families registered for holiday deliveries. Young people and catechists from the PM session of Faith Formation and other volunteers were on hand to set up tables, bring over the turkeys and food items from the Food Pantry and load the items into waiting cars. Within 40 minutes, everything was delivered and put away. Kudos on a job well done!!

Your willingness to share your time for the benefit of others is one of the truly wonderful things about this Parish Community. May God bless you abundantly!!

#### **Upcoming Faith Formation Schedule**

There will be no AM or PM session for Faith Formation on November 29. Both AM and PM sessions will resume on December 6.

#### **The Door of the Year & the Door of Mercy**

The First Sunday of Advent – and the whole season of Advent – are referred to as “the door of the year”, because **we pass through them to enter a new liturgical year.** To begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis and other bishops will be unsealing symbolic doors of mercy.

At IHM, we will use the season of Advent to highlight **windows of mercy** in our own lives. Since Advent and Christmas emphasize God taking on human flesh in the person of Jesus, we will focus on the seven corporal (bodily) works of mercy; **feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, ransom the captive, and bury the dead.**

The PM session will create a Door of Mercy for the **Advent/Christmas** season. Our “door” will be fixed to the front door of the Faith Formation and Ministry Center and will have on it seven “windows”, representing the seven corporal works of mercy. Through drawings or other images, these windows will represent ways that we, through our parish and community, practice the seven corporal works of mercy.

#### **December 6: Advent Breakfast and Elves’ Attic**

On December 6, the second week of Advent, the AM session will have a light breakfast and an opportunity to buy some “treasures” for Christmas. Items will range in price from \$.25 to \$1.00.



#### **Children’s Liturgy of the Word**

**Please note: There will be no Children’s Liturgy of the Word on November 29.**

#### **Here’s What’s Coming Up in December**

December 6: Faith Formation Advent Breakfast and Elves Attic

December 19: Giving Tree food and gift pick up

**SCRIPTURE STUDY: Exodus**—As the Israelites struggle with their time in the desert, the Lord continues to care for His people. The focus now becomes the heart of the people; do they trust in God’s providence and fully put their faith in Him? Will they continue to be faithful to Him in difficult times? You are invited to join us on Thursday, December 3, between 6 to 7:30PM, at the Faith Formation and Ministry Center (2425-7th Avenue). For questions or for more information, please contact Sharon at 328-0427 or [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org).

## Memorials for 2015-16

 <p style="text-align: center;">In loving memory of <b>John A O'Brien</b> requested by the Family</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">10/16/16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In loving memory of <b>Dr. Richard P Crinigan, Jr</b> requested by his wife, Patricia and Children</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">4/24/16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In loving memory of <b>Joseph V Germano</b> requested by the Family</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">4/17/16</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">In loving memory of the <b>Edward Brooks Family,</b> <b>Foglia Family</b> &amp; <b>Monticup Family</b> requested by <b>Rose Brooks &amp; Family</b></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">4/24/16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In loving memory of <b>Genevieve M Dyer</b> requested by her beloved husband <b>Bill, Children &amp; Grandchildren</b></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">2/28/16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In loving memory of <b>William T Fahr, Sr &amp; Julia F Fahr</b> requested by the Family</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">1/31/16</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">In loving memory of <b>The Barron &amp; Rys Families</b> requested by the Family</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">1/3/16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In loving memory of <b>Bryan T Roberts (son)</b> <b>Raymond &amp; Helen Werner (parents)</b> requested by <b>Judith Pope</b></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">1/3/16</p>	<p><b>BLOCK AVAILABLE</b></p>

**MEMORIAL BLOCK**—If you would like to reserve a block in memory of a loved one on this page, please contact the parish office to speak to Mary Beth or Judy. *The block is \$100 for 26 weeks of publication.*

**THE TABLE OF THE LORD: *Taping***—Father Rick Lesser will celebrate Masses for the Table of the Lord on December 2, 2015 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 125 Eagle Street, Albany. Taping will begin at 6PM. All are invited to worship with us.

### 1st Sunday of Advent

Tough economic times weigh on everyone. While some people seem to be able to afford everything, go everywhere, and enjoy what they want, there are so many people that have come to a point in their lives where every penny is pinched and every purchase scrutinized. Data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that consumers are spending less on big-ticket items to afford basics. Households hit by layoffs, the tight job market, and heavy debt burdens are holding back on spending. The savings rate has dropped, indicating that consumers are using up scant resources to stay afloat. Even people who might be able to spend a little more are being cautious, because the economic mood is so gloomy. The words of Jesus in today's Gospel could well characterize the overall global experience, "on earth nations will be in dismay."



It might seem a bit odd that we begin Advent, which is a season of hope, with a rather dismal and disturbing Gospel. The end of time is not something that we usually think about to any great extent. We are often more concerned with the anxieties of daily life, as the Gospel puts it. Those daily worries seem like enough for most of us. We don't need to add the end of the world on top of it.

But for many people today, in this economic environment, daily anxieties can seem like the end of the world. Bills mount up, tensions grow, jobs or homes are lost. We need this season of hope to renew our own longings and expectations. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God fulfills his promises. God's mercy endures in every generation, including ours. The actions we take to assist others become an expression of God's mercy and a sign of God's renewing hope. In the weeks to come even a small kindness to someone could help to ease anxiety, and help that person believe that redemption is at hand.

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### Mass Intentions for Nov 30—Dec 6

- Mon., Nov 30**  
9:00am—COMMUNION SERVICE
- Tues., Dec 1 MASS**  
9:00am—Beatrice & Philip Zarlengo
- Wed., Dec 2 MASS**  
9:00am—Living & dec'd members of IHM
- Thurs., Dec 3 MASS**  
9:00am—Thomas & Helen Sullivan 
- Fri., Dec 4**  
9:00am—COMMUNION SERVICE
- Sat., Dec 5**  
4:00pm—Betty Hayes, req by the family  
Vartigian & Farrell families, req by Patty Vartigian  
Nancy/Michael Mamone & Sandy Billings, req by Sophie
- Sun., Dec 6**  
8:30am—Ann Biggs, req by Brenda Persons  
11:00am—Connors & Romanelli families, req by Teresa Wrobel  
Paulina Barnes, req by the family

**PRESENTING THE GIFTS AT MASS:** Any parishioner who has a Mass intention at a specific Mass; when you come to church, please notify one of the ushers that you would like to bring up the Eucharistic Gifts for that Mass. They will be happy to assist you.

#### ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

#### **Weekly Collection (including mail-in)**

Nov 15-16, 2014.....\$7207.00

**Nov 14-15, 2015.....\$7789.00**

*Thank you for your commitment and support to Immaculate Heart of Mary. God bless you.*