

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

of Watervliet and Green Island, NY

Pastor

Fr. Don Rutherford
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Samuel Bellafiore

Business Administrator
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Thurs: 8:30 - 3:30pm
Fri - Closed

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ldunbar@ihm.rcpw.org


FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH
MINISTRY CENTER
2425 7th Avenue
Watervliet, NY 12189

Coordinator
Sharon Kowalski
Direct line: 518 328-0427
skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

Call for information
or appointment



Church
and Parish Life Center
Handicapped
Accessible

A photograph of a large, ancient stone archway in a field. The arch is made of rough-hewn stones and is surrounded by dry grass and trees. The scene is framed by a gold border.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BE WATCHFUL!
BE ALERT!

— MARK 13:36 —

©LPI

DECEMBER 3, 2023

Celebration of the Eucharist
Weekend Masses - Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am and 11:00 am
Weekday Scheduled Masses - 9:00 am
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Adoration, Tuesday - 9:30 to 11:00 am

~ December Programs and Events ~

FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES - Sharon C. Kowalski, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

Faith Formation: 2023-2024

Faith Formation sessions for 2023-2024 are 9:30 to 10:45, followed by 11am Mass.

Sessions are open to children from 3 years through Confirmation. Sacramental programs require a two year preparation at Faith Formation sessions.

If you would like to register your children and have not yet done so, please contact Sharon at skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org or 518-328-0427 for more information or questions about Faith Formation and/or receiving sacraments at IHM.



CHRISTMAS PLAY: DECEMBER 24 AT 4:30pm -

On December 3, we will begin practice for the Nativity play on Christmas Eve. Please make sure your children are in the church at 9:30am.

ELVES ATTIC: DECEMBER 17

On Sunday, December 17, we will have our annual "Elves Attic" with the Faith Formation children from 9:30 to 10:50am. We will have an assortment of gifts that they may purchase for their families and friends, all at "rock bottom" prices. Call Sharon at 518-328-0427 for details.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE GIVING BOX

Once again this year are requesting donations for our Christmas Tree Program. Help spread the Joy to others in our community who are in need. The wooden "Donation box" will remain on the table at the back of the Church until Wednesday, December 20th.



Thank you in advance for your generous support of our Christmas program!

"In the miracle that is Christmas, the kindness of strangers can turn despair into joy and a renewed sense of hopefulness."

MARY'S KITCHEN: MONDAYS, 3 TO 5PM ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Stop by between 3 to 5pm on Mondays and sit down to enjoy a meal with friends or pick up a meal to take home: Soup, salad, sandwich, entrée and dessert!!

Questions?? Please contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org for more information.

SCRIPTURE SHARING: Max Lucado, *Help Is Here*

We have started a new series entitled "*Help Is Here*". The theme of this series is finding fresh strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As believers, we know a lot about God the Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes, our greatest gift – the Holy Spirit, is acknowledged but lesser known.

Come join us and we will all listen and learn a little more. All are invited. We meet Thursdays from 2 to 3pm in the Parish Life Center. For more information, please contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org.

Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE ST. AMBROSE CHURCH

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
FROM
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

Saint Ambrose Church will be hosting a combined reconciliation service. There will be multiple priests available for the opportunity of reconciliation.



RCIA and SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR ADULTS and OLDER CHILDREN

If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) or are curious about the process, contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org.

In Memoriam ~ 2023 ~ '24

In loving memory of Joseph V Germano requested by the Family <small>12/15/24</small>	In loving memory of John T Sherlock requested by his wife and Family <small>6/2/24</small>	In memory of our beloved son Michael D Kowalski requested by Michael and Sharon Kowalski <small>2/18/24</small>
In loving memory of William T Sr, Julia F and Robert A Fahr requested by the Family <small>2/18/24</small>	In loving memory of Albert P Morelli, Donald & Eileen Gallagher Hogan requested by Don & Patti Hogan <small>2/18/24</small>	In loving memory of our Families: The Carlsons, The Mardigans, The Foleys & The Butlers requested by Bob & Carol Carlson <small>2/14/24</small>
In loving memory of Bryan T Roberts (son) Raymond & Helen Werner (parents) requested by Judith Pope <small>1/14/24</small>	In loving memory of Adam & Katherine Novak John & Rosalie Novak & Florence Szpot requested by the Family <small>12/31/23</small>	Prayer Team Ministry - If you would like prayers said for someone, contact Brenda at (cell) (838) 267-5801.

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH ~ On December 9th and 10th Father Alan Bower, of Cross Catholic Outreach will be celebrating the 4pm, 7:30am and 11am Masses. Welcome Father Alan Bower!



**FOOD PANTRY~NEW ITEMS NEEDED
FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

~ CRANBERRY SAUCE ~
~ STUFFING MIX ~
~ TURKEY GRAVY ~

Thank you for your continuing
Support of our Food Pantry!

**WILL YOU
RESPOND** to the *Call?*

Advent is a time for waiting,
for hoping, for praying. It is
a time for reflecting on the
special work to which God
calls us all. Stay alert. Show
Him you are listening.
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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY
MOMENTS - By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Memento Mori

Just this week, my husband and I signed our wills, and the lawyer was careful to couch our transaction in gentle, abstract language: "When we lose you" she kept saying, instead of "When you die."

It's very uncomfortable to dwell on our death. But the Christian life does not just encourage us to do so: it demands that we do.

I once came upon a prayer consecrating the last two hours of life to the Blessed Mother. I have since found variations of the prayer online with different phrasing, but the sentiment of them all is the same: let me not be caught sleeping. Let me be ready.

"You can't do all your homework at the end," a deacon who ministers to the dying once told me. "Good Friday is waiting in the wings for all of us."

I think of that a lot when I don't particularly feel like praying, when I think I'm too busy to go to confession or when feelings of resentment fester inside me on Sunday mornings as I pack my family off to church. *All our good deeds are like polluted rags, says the prophet. We have all withered like leaves.*

You can't do all your homework at the end. God is faithful. Are we?
"May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" — Mark 13:36

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~ MASS INTENTIONS ~

Sat., Dec 2

4:00pm—Stacy Swim, req by Denise/Tracey
Theresa Ogden, req by Chuck & Martha Fandl
Frank Koniszewski, req by Brammer &
Burniche family

Sun., Dec 3

7:30am—Bishop Howard Hubbard & family,
Req by KNT

11:00am—Carole Maloney, req by husband
Thomas McCormack, req by the family
Michael J Hack, Sr, req by the family

Tues., Dec 5

9:00am—Ann K Nash, parish

Wed., Dec 6

9:00am—Edmund T McMahon, parish

Thurs., Dec 7

9:00am—James J Connors, parish

5:30pm: **VIGIL -IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
Lv'g & dec'd members IHM

Fri., Dec 8 - **HOLY DAY PROPER**

9:00am—Doris Ziegler, parish

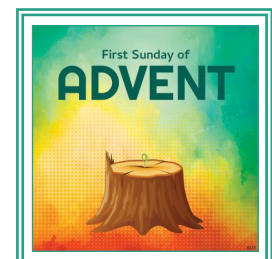
Sat., Dec 9

4:00pm—Earl VanBuskirk & granddaughter
Kathy Fisk, req by the family
Theresa Ogden, req by the Beston family

Sun., Dec 10

7:30am—Lv'g & dec'd members of IHM

11:00am—Adam Novak, req by his daughter
C Bradley Culkin, req by Martha/Ron Soucy
Anne Fusco req by Patrick & Sherry



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
Weekly Collection (incl mail-in, E.G.)
Nov 18-19, '23.....\$4171.00