

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Watervliet/Green Island NY

## Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2019

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday Vigil—4:00PM

Sunday—8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Weekday Schedule

Communion Service: Monday, 9:00 AM

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

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

### PASTORAL STAFF

Fr Don Rutherford, Pastor  
Deacon Mark Leonard  
Shawn Allen, Business Administrator  
[sallen@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:sallen@ihm.rcpw.org)

### 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)

### PARISH 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)

### Facility Manager

Matthew Carabis

### 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 prior to the 4:00pm Mass

### 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

The Anointing of the Sick will be administered the first full weekend of each month, immediately after each Mass.

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### The Feast Day of:

The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary  
Monday, December 9th—Mass at 9:00AM

### Gospel Meditation ~

What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice. The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. *"Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'"* Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. *"Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. *"The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals."* The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop? ©LPi

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

December 10, 2019

9:30 AM & 6:30 to 7:30 PM





**Caroling and an Advent Pizza Party: December 15**—All parishioners, friends and Faith Formation families are invited to join us for caroling in the local community immediately after the 11am Mass. Afterwards, we will return to the Parish Life Center for an Advent Party. All are welcome. Hope you will be able to join us!!

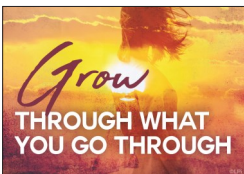
**MARY'S KITCHEN: Mondays, 3 to 5pm** ~ Come join us at Mary's Kitchen. All members of the community are invited - both parishioners and non-parishioners alike - to enjoy an eat in meal, chat and relax with friends or to pick up a meal to take out. Questions?? Contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 for more information.

**GIVING TREE** - Your generosity is always overwhelming!!! We must ask you to remember that some children on the Giving Tree have many siblings. It does not seem fair that one child would receive six or seven gifts while others receive only two. If you are able to buy additional gifts, please consider taking another tag. Gifts should not cost more than \$25.00. Please remember to wrap your gifts, place the tag securely on the package and **return by the weekend of December 14/15**. Again, thank you for your generosity.



**IHM PRAYER MINISTRY**~ Anyone who would like to have someone prayed for, please call Brenda at 518 271-6184. If you would be interested in joining the prayer tree ministry, call the phone number above.

**Collection of Personal Care Items for Joseph's House**—At our trip to Joseph's House in October, we learned there was a desperate need for personal care items: **toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo and deodorant**. Did you know there are only two bathrooms in that facility that houses up to 22 single people and up to 4 or 5 families? As a result, most of their personal care items are kept in their individual backpacks. In Faith Formation, we will be collecting these items, putting them together in individual packets and delivering them the week before Christmas. If you would like to help us, items for the packets may be dropped off at the Faith Formation Center or in the Parish Office. Questions?? Contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org).



**SCRIPTURE SHARING: The Letter of James**—Our new series is on the Letter of James. It was written to those in the early church, living out their faith in the face of persecution and a worldwide view opposed to the Gospel. We meet on Thursdays from 2 to 3pm in the Parish Life Center. One week, we go over the reading and the next we watch a DVD on that part of the chapter. Workbooks are provided, as are bibles if you have need of one. Why not join us?? For more information, please contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org)

## **Faith Formation: For All Ages:** *Sharon C. Kowalski, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry*

[skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org)

### 2019-2020 Faith Formation Sessions

The AM session for Faith Formation (Prek-3yr old - gr.7) is 9:45 to 10:45am and the PM session (gr.8 - 12) is 12 noon to 1:15pm. Questions, please contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or email [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org)

### Practice for the Christmas Play: December 8

We will have practice for the Christmas play on December 8 at 9:30am in the church. Please contact Mrs. Carabis at [mcarmbis@aol.com](mailto:mcarmbis@aol.com) or Mrs. Kowalski at [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org) if you have any questions.

### Elves Attic: December 8

Our young people in the AM session of Faith Formation will meet in the Parish Life Center at 9:45am on December 8 for an opportunity to purchase some gifts for their families and friends. Items will be priced at \$1.00 or less. Contact Mrs. Kowalski at 518-328-0427 or [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org) for more information.

### Faith Formation: The Mass is the Class

**We anticipate seeing you at Mass every Sunday.** Mass is where we celebrate and live out all we learn about our faith in Faith Formation. It is where we meet Jesus every week in the Liturgy of the Word and in the Eucharist. Questions about our Faith Formation program? Please contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or email [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org).

### Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Children will join Faith Formation catechists in the CLOW room for special readings directed towards children. Father will call them forward and they will leave with the catechists and return after the Prayer of the Faithful.


### Here's What's Coming Up in December

December 8: Elves' Attic, Faith Formation, 9:45am in the PLC  
 December 8: Practice for Christmas play, 9:30am in the church  
 December 8: Jammin' with Jesus: **CANCELLED**  
 December 9: Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Mass at 9am  
 December 9: Gathering Disciples, 6pm in the PLC  
 December 15: Gifts for Giving Tree must be returned  
 December 15: Caroling after the 11am Mass followed by an Advent Pizza party



December 16: Prayer and Worship: 6pm in the PLC  
 December 21: Christmas meals and gifts from the Giving Tree, pick up 10 to noon  
 December 24: Christmas Eve Family Mass, 4:30pm  
 December 24: Christmas Eve Mass, 7pm  
 December 25: Christmas Day Mass, 10am  
 Choir Practice: December 12, 19 6pm in church  
 Choir rehearsal for Christmas: December 8, 15, 22 at 1pm



In Memoriam ~ 2019~2020		
 <p>In loving memory of John A O'Brien requested by the Family</p> <p>10/25/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of the Edward Brooks Family, Foglia Family &amp; Monticup Family requested by Rose Brooks &amp; Family</p> <p>5/24/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of Adam &amp; Katherine Novak John &amp; Rosalie Novak &amp; Florence Szpot requested by the Family</p> <p>5/19/20</p>
<p>In loving memory of William T, Sr, Julia F and Robert A Fahr requested by the Family</p> <p>2/9/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of Bryan T Roberts (son) Raymond &amp; Helen Werner (parents) requested by Judith Pope</p> <p>1/19/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of The Barron &amp; Rys Families requested by the Family</p> <p>1/19/20</p>
<p>In loving memory of Joseph V Germano requested by the Family</p> <p>1/12/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of Albert P Morelli, Donald &amp; Eileen Galagher Hogan requested by Don &amp; Patti Hogan</p> <p>1/5/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of John T Sherlock requested by his wife and Family</p> <p>12/29/19</p>

**RCIA AND SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION for ADULTS AND OLDER CHILDREN** ~ *We are currently meeting Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 3pm. Ed and Don are preparing to receive their sacraments on the Easter Vigil in the spring. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) or are curious about the process, feel free to stop in and see what it is all about.*

Need more information?? Contact Sharon- email: [skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org). or at 518 328-0427.

## The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### Question:

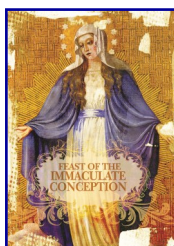
I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

### Answer:

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "arc" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!

©LPi



**Reading-Romans 15:5** "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus".

**Pope Francis- Laudato Si:** "Authentic human development has a moral character. It presumes full respect for the human person, but it must also be concerned for the world."

**Catholic Social Teaching-USCCB,1991:** "Opinions vary about the causes and the seriousness of environmental problems...polluted air and water; in oil and wastes on our beaches; in the loss of farmland, wetlands, and forests; and in the decline of rivers and lakes."

**Care 4 Creation:** "To renew the face of the earth, O Holy Trinity, Graciously hear us".

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., Dec 7

4:00pm—Cynthia Knorr, req by Bob & Carol Carlson

Sun., Dec 8

8:30am—David Crowley, req by mom & family  
Richard/Elaine Burke, req by Mick & Anne Dembrosky

11:00am—Thelma/John Paul, req by the family  
Living & deceased members of IHM

Mon., Dec 9—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BVM

9:00am—David McMahon, req by wife,  
Maureen

Tues., Dec 10

9:00am—Earl Van Buskirk & granddaughter Kathy Fisk, req by the family

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES-DEC 10  
9:30 AM & 6:30 TO 7:30 PM

Wed., Dec 11

9:00am—Thomas Peterson, req by  
Pete and Marilyn Barron

Thurs., Dec 12

9:00am—All Souls in Purgatory, req by  
parishioner

Fri., Dec 13—NO COMMUNION SERVICE

Sat., Dec 14

4:00pm—Jim Mantello, req by Food Pantry  
Edna Piscitella, req by Rosary Society  
Living & deceased members of IHM

Sun., Dec 15

8:30am—James Mantello, req by  
Lorraine Bulson  
Marion Persons, req by Brenda/Norman/Edgar

11:00am—Paul Esposito, Sr, req by the family  
John Somich (Anniv), req by Helen Somich

This bulletin is sponsored by our local businesses. Say thank you by supporting them with your patronage.

### ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Weekly Collection (incl mail-in/E.G.)

Nov 24-25, 2018.....\$6944.00

Nov 23-24, 2019.....\$6476.00

Campaign for Human Development

Nov 17-18, 2018.....\$823.00

Nov 23-24, 2019.....\$612.00