



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Watervliet/Green Island NY

December 9, 2018

Celebration of the Eucharist

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

Weekday Schedules

Communion Service: Monday & Friday, 9:00 AM

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

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr Don Rutherford, Sacramental Minister
Deacon Al Manzella, Parish Life Director
Deacon Mark Leonard

PARISH LIFE CENTER

2416 7th Avenue
Watervliet, NY 12189
(518) 273-6020
Fax: (518) 273-3978
Email: info@ihm.rcpw.org
Website: 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

Secretary

Mary Beth Knapik

Archivist

Thomas Hanley:
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
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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Deacon Al's Corner ~

The Holy Gospel According to Luke – We are in year “C” of the three year liturgical cycle. We will be hearing Gospel passages from Luke. Luke was a Gentile follower of Paul who wrote for a Gentile audience approximately AD 80 – 90. Luke also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. Chapter 1, verses 5 to the end of chapter 2 are commonly referred to as the “Infancy Narrative.” Read the first two chapters of Luke to prepare for Christmas. They tell the story of the announcement and birth of Jesus up to the time of His being left behind and found in the Temple. Luke provides us this information to help us “realize the certainty of the teachings” we have received. Take some time to read and reflect on the Infancy Narrative; and talk to Jesus.

Reconciliation – In chapter 10 of Luke’s Gospel he writes about the unrepentant towns of Chorazin and Bethsaida. The people of those towns failed to repent of their sins. There are many theories as to why people don’t go to “Confession” and repent like they did some years ago. Some say it’s because we lost a sense of sin, and therefore we lost the need to go to “Confession.” Modern day relativism results in people thinking that there are no absolutes. One can decide for his or her self what is sinful. Or maybe it’s because we have a better sense of what is a serious sin than we did in the past, and so we don’t need to go to “Confession” because we don’t have any serious sins to confess. The reality is that we all sin. Yes, even me?! And we all need to think about our sins and then ask God for forgiveness. And there is no better way to do that than by going to “Confession.” The name was changed to Reconciliation to better reflect what happens in the Sacrament. We not only confess our sins when we go to Reconciliation, we are **reconciled** to God. We turn away from God when we sin, and we turn back to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May you find peace in this wonderful gift.

Parish Reconciliation – As noted in the Bulletin Fr. Rutherford is available on Saturdays prior to the 4:00pm Mass for Reconciliation. He will also provide opportunities for Reconciliation on December 18th at 9:30am following Mass and at 6:30pm in the evening.



Advent Prayer:

Week 2, Peace—Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the

Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace.

Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

Social Justice: *Caring for the Environment*

Philippians 1:9—“That your love may increase ever more in knowledge and every kind of perception to discern what is of value”.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si:—“When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society...at odds with...harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus”.

Catholic Social Teaching:—“Care for the earth...is a requirement of our faith”.



Christmas Fair: December 8 & 9: Don't Miss It!!

After the Masses on December 8 (4pm) and 9 (8:30 and 11), we will have a Christmas Fair. Many beautiful items, such as framed prints, vintage decorations, and ornaments will be available for sale as well as a Bake sale. Circle the dates on your calendar and make sure you come into the Parish Life Center and take a look. Questions?? Contact Sharon Kowalski or Linda Dunbar.



Faith Formation - For All Ages: Sharon C. Kowalski, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

Elves Attic: What a Hoot!!

Breakfast was served to our young people in the AM session last week during our regular morning session. We also had an "Elves Attic" at that time for our Faith Formation children. Christmas items were available for purchase from 25 cents to \$1.00.

Two very special guests also attended. Santa, of course, and a surprise appearance by the Grinch!! Many thanks to our catechists and parents who helped to make this such a wonderful event and to Santa and the Grinch who made this a very special morning!!



Practice for Christmas Eve Play and Caroling

We will begin practicing for the Christmas Eve play (December 24, 4:30pm) and caroling (December 16, after the 11am Mass) at Faith Formation sessions this weekend. Please be sure to let your child's catechist know if your children will be available on those dates. Questions?? Call Sharon at 518-328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Following the opening prayer at the 11am Mass, Father will invite all children from **Pre-K to grade 3** to go with our catechists to hear and discuss the readings for that Sunday's Mass. They will return to you in the church after the Prayer of the Faithful.

Older siblings may participate in a different role as helpers to Mrs. Pontari. She also welcomes parent's help. If you would like to accompany your little ones and see what it's all about, please feel free to join them.

Here's What's Coming Up in December

December 8/9: Christmas Fair and Bake Sale

December 9: Practice for Christmas play and caroling, 9:30 to 10:30am

December 10: Gathering Disciples, 6pm Parish Life Center

December 15: Giving tree gifts and Christmas meal pick up

December 16: Family Mass at 11am, followed by caroling

December 17 Prayer and Worship, 6pm PLC

December 24: Christmas Eve Family Mass, 4:30

Pray for Vocations—O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service. Amen.



Scripture Sharing: New Study, The Gospel of John—Join us Thursday, December 6 from **2 to 3pm** for a new Scripture study on the Gospel of John. Prepared by Dynamic Catholic, it is called the Turning Point and will take a look at "Eight Encounters with Jesus that will Change Your Life". All are welcome- no previous study necessary. Hope you will join us!! For more information, please contact Sharon at 518 328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

RCIA and Sacramental Preparation for Adults and Older Children—

Need to receive sacraments –Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation; for yourself, an older teen or young adult? Whatever your needs may be – whether completing the Sacraments of Initiation or questions about becoming members of Catholic faith, we are here to help you make it happen. We will work around your schedule and your individual area of need.

Something to consider - Do you know that in order to be a godparent for Baptism or a sponsor for Confirmation, you must have received all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)???

Just a quick note. Children attending Catholic high school do not make their Confirmation through the **school**, but through their **home parish**. Need more information?? Contact Sharon at 518 328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org.

Mary's Kitchen: Mondays, 3 to 5pm—Please note: Mary's Kitchen will be closed on December 24 and 31. We will reopen at the regular time on January 7.

Thanks to the wise purchase and freezing of strawberries this summer by Mike McGlynn, we were able to serve our eat-in guests strawberry shortcake last week. What a nice surprise that was!! Thanks again, Mike.

Questions about Mary's Kitchen?? Contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org for more information.

The "Green Island Eucharistic Ministers" are looking for one or two more Ministers to join our group to minister to the homebound. If you think you may be interested, please call Art Connery at 518 273-0284. it is a very gratifying ministry.

<h2>In Memoriam - 2019</h2>		
 In loving memory of J. Vince Cocca requested by his wife and Children <small>11/10/19</small>	In loving memory of John A O'Brien requested by the Family <small>10/20/19</small>	In loving memory of John T Sherlock requested by his wife and Family <small>5/12/19</small>
In loving memory of the Edward Brooks Family, Foglia Family & Monticup Family requested by Rose Brooks & Family <small>4/28/19</small>	In loving memory of Adam & Katherine Novak John Novak, Rosalie & Florence Szpot requested by the Family <small>4/7/19</small>	In loving memory of William T, Sr, Julia F and Robert A Fahr requested by the Family <small>1/27/19</small>
In loving memory of Bryan T Roberts (son) Raymond & Helen Werner (parents) requested by Judith Pope <small>1/6/19</small>	In loving memory of The Barron & Rys Families requested by the Family <small>1/6/19</small>	In loving memory of Joseph V Germano requested by the Family <small>12/23/18</small>

Gospel Meditation: December 9, Second Sunday of Advent

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee...and Lysanias was tetrarch of..." Did you need to pinch yourself awake during the first few lines of this Sunday's Gospel? John the Baptist received quite a prelude today as Luke described the religious and political leadership of the time period. Scripture is divinely inspired, and we believe that everything that made it into the Bible is there for a reason. These lines remind us of an important truth. The Christmas story isn't a fairy tale or nursery rhyme. It's not a parable we say to give meaning to the holiday. At Christmas, God's presence is made tangible in a precise moment in time. The birth of Christ is a historical event. As precursor to Jesus' preaching, the ministry of John the Baptist is also a historical event.



"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John's call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins happened in a particular time and place. But that does not mean it is limited to first century Palestine! God continues to move in our daily lives. What we hear in today's Gospel - and what we anticipate at Christmas - occurs in our daily lives. God works in concrete ways in time and space. He did that 2,000 years ago, and He continues to do so today!

This Sunday, examine your own Christmas preparations. Is there anything you need to repent of before the Christmas season? Are there low points in your life, valleys to "be filled" by the love of God? Are their mountainous obstacles in your spiritual life? How can they be "made low"? Are you making decisions that have moved you away from God? This Advent season is the time for them to "be made straight and ? made smooth." Prepare the way in your heart for Christ today!

Parish Reconciliation: Tuesday morning, December 18th at 9:30AM following Mass, and at 6:30PM in the evening.





The Giving Tree—Return This Weekend, December 8 & 9

The gifts under the Giving Tree are such a powerful testament to the giving nature of our parish. It is also a reminder that during the season of Advent we anticipate the coming of the world's greatest gift, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please remember that all gifts must be returned no later than Sunday, December 9. They will be distributed to our Food Pantry clients on Saturday, December 15.



IHM Prayer Ministry—If you would like the prayer team to pray for you or a loved one; or would like to be a part of the prayer team, please contact Brenda at 518 271-6184.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
Weekly Collection (incl mail-in, E.G.)
 Dec 2-3, 2017.....\$6841.00
 Dec 1-2, 2018.....\$5959.00



Christmas Flower Remembrance—Please submit your listed names before December 19th to allow enough time for preparation of flyer which will be displayed to take home on Christmas Day. The sheets will be on the back table in Church.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sat., Dec 8—Vigil for Sunday
 4:00pm—Collin McCabe, req by Elaine McCabe
 Betty Hayes, req by the family
 Cathy Cournoyer, req by Jeanne Perras

Sun., Dec 9
 8:30am—Carrie Hilly, req by Grdgr, Janet
 David Crowley (3rd Anniv), req by Mom & family
 Elvira Sapia, req by Manny & Janet
 11:00am—Lv'g & dec'd members of IHM
 Virginia O'Brien, req by Marilyn LaParl
 Sharon Watson, req by Emmanuel Biondi

Mon., Dec 10
 9:00am—COMMUNION SERVICE

Tues., Dec 11
 9:00am—Earl VanBuskirk & Grdgr Cathy, req by family

Wed., Dec 12
 9:00am—Farrell & Synan families, Estate

Thurs., Dec 13
 9:00am—Joseph & Priscilla Early, req by son Joseph

Fri., Dec 14
 9:00am—COMMUNION SERVICE

Sat., Dec 15
 4:00pm—Joan Ross, req by Cindy & Gene
 John/Louise Kelly, req by Mick/Anne Dembrosky
 Living & deceased members of IHM

Sun., Dec 16
 8:30am—Marion Persons (8th Anniv), req by Brenda, Norman & Edgar
 John Somich, Anniv, req by Helen Somich
 Edward Kennedy, req by the family
 11:00am—Marian/Don Winterbourne, req by family
 John Bonville (8th Anniv), req by family
 Paul Esposito, Sr, req by the family