

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Watervliet/Green Island NY

Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 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

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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Gospel Meditation ~

Who did you come to see? A version of this question is posed by Jesus many times in the Gospels. He asks it of Andrew and John when they begin to follow him. He asks it of Mary Magdalene in the garden of the resurrection. He asks it in today's Gospel. "What did you go out to the desert to see?" There is something innately human about "seeing." Animals have eyes — some with much more powerful vision than our own — but that's not the kind of seeing Jesus is talking about. We could phrase the question several other ways. "What are you looking for?" "What are you longing for?" "Whom do you seek?"

It is in seeing for ourselves that our suspicions or hypotheses are confirmed, that our desires discover their fulfillment, and that we can rest for a moment in certainty. John the Baptist sought certainty of Jesus' identity. "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus sends word to him based on the testimony of sight, observations of the mighty deeds Jesus has begun to work. "Go and tell John what you hear and see."

God recognizes our desire to see. In the Incarnation, the Word is made flesh. The invisible is made visible. The supernatural is made manifest in an infant who can do little more than the most natural of movements as he feeds, cries, sleeps. We don't need to wait for Christmas to see God. The work of God is all around us. Those blinded by sin "regain their sight." People overcome backgrounds of poverty and violence to make world-changing contributions. Addicts grow and heal. Truth is spoken, and people listen. Let's pray for the grace to see God's movement in our lives this week. How have you seen the work of God? ©LPi



HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE ~ We now have hearing assist earphones that are available for use during Mass time. The hearing aid is linked to the same frequency as our sound system and will only work within the Church building. If you have difficulty hearing, please feel free to use one of them during Mass, they are located on a stand at the rear of the church. Just return the earphone to the same stand where you picked it up.



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 skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org or 518-328-0427.

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 - Please remember to **wrap your gifts**, place the tag securely on the package. All gifts should be returned this weekend, December 14/15. 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.

Legnard-Curtin Auxiliary ~ If there are any veterans or active duty military not receiving birthday or Christmas cards, please call Brenda Persons at 518 271-6184.

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 at 328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org.

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!!



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



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

skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

2019-2020 Faith Formation Sessions

**Please note: there will be no AM or PM sessions on December 22 and 29. AM and PM sessions will resume on January 5, the Feast of the Holy Family.*

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

Last Practice for the Christmas Play: December 15

We will have our last practice for the Christmas play on December 15 at 9:30am in the church. Please contact Mrs. Carabis at mcarnbis@aol.com or Mrs. Kowalski at skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org if you have any questions.

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.


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 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 19, 6pm in church
- Choir rehearsal for Christmas: December 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 & Monticup Family requested by Rose Brooks & Family</p> <p>5/24/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of Adam & Katherine Novak John & Rosalie Novak & 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 & Helen Werner (parents) requested by Judith Pope</p> <p>1/19/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of The Barron & 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 & Eileen Galagher Hogan requested by Don & 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>



INCLEMENT WEATHER ALERT!!! During the Winter months when there is a Watervliet School closing due to snow or severe weather conditions, there will be NO morning Mass nor Communion Service that day! The parish office will also be closed. **WATCH YOUR LOCAL TV STATION!!**



Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments Leading the Way

There are many examples of false prophets in history. Some of these gifted charlatans have led people away from family and friends. They have led people to do evil things, like stealing, torture, or even murder. It is amazing how those gifted with charisma can lead others down such a destructive path. In today's modern world filled with so much technology and sophisticated communication platforms, one must be careful not to buy into a lie or scam so easily.

John the Baptist didn't have any modern technology in his toolbox as he was preparing the way for the Messiah, Jesus. He moved people with a profound message and by the way he lived his life. People questioned whether he was the One who was to come, but he assured them that he was not the One. Instead, all he did was to prepare people for Jesus' coming.

You and I can either lead people to Jesus by our words and actions, or we can lead them away from him. Our stewardship can be a powerful witness to how Jesus has changed our lives. Unfortunately, if we are not changed and instead act in ways that are contrary to a mature disciple, we can lead people down the wrong path. During the Advent season, there is much to be done in our homes and with our families to get ready for the celebration of Christmas. However, this is not about a day; it is about Jesus. May our actions and words bear witness to the transformative power of Jesus Christ in our lives, not just during this season, but all year long. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS °LPi



Reading-James 5:7 "Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."

Pope Francis- Laudato Si: "Accordingly, our human ability to transform reality must proceed in line with God's original gift of all that is."

Catholic Social Teaching-USCCB,1991: "We are not scientists, but as pastors we call on experts, citizens, and policymakers to continue to explore the serious environmental, ethical, and human dimensions of these ecological challenges."

Care 4 Creation: "To save us from our disordered hungers, O Holy Trinity, deliver us."

PRAYER CHALICE ~ A chalice is used at every Mass to consecrate the wine into the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Each weekend, a different family or person will receive the chalice at Mass and commit themselves to pray daily for vocations. If you are interested in participating in this program, please make contact through the sign up stubs in the back of the church or call the parish office to be scheduled at 518 273-6020.



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Mon., Dec 16

9:00am—COMMUNION SERVICE

Tues., Dec 17

9:00am—Stanley J Watrobski, req by Peter &
Marilyn Barron
James C Mantello, req by Chuck & Rosalie

Wed., Dec 18

9:00am—James Mantello, req by Lorraine
Alund

Thurs., Dec 19

9:00am—Marie Delise, req by Peg Fisk

Fri., Dec 20—NO COMMUNION SERVICE

Sat., Dec 21

4:00pm—Michael Krajick, req by a friend
The Deck Family, req by Joan & Karl
Dec'd members of Kelly family, req by Mick &
Anne Dembrosky

Sun., Dec 22

8:30am—Living & dec'd members of IHM
Duncan Macpherson (43rd Anniv), req by
Daughter Kathy
E Bradley Culkin, req by Martha & Ron Soucy

11:00am—Margaret Stebbins, req by the family
Louise Kelly (5th Anniv), req by Mick & Anne
Dembrowsky
John Bonville (9th Anniv), req by the family

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

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

Dec 1/2/18.....\$5959.00

Nov 30/Dec 1/19.....\$5533.00