

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

of Watervliet and Green Island, NY

welcome

Pastor

Fr. Don Rutherford
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Samuel Bellafiore
Business Administrator
Shawn Allen
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: 8:30 - 3:30pm
Fri - Closed

Administrative Assistant
Judith Pope ext. 301
jpope@ihm.rcpw.org

Secretary
Mary Beth Knapik ext. 302

Sacramental Records/Archivist
Linda Dunbar ext. 305
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



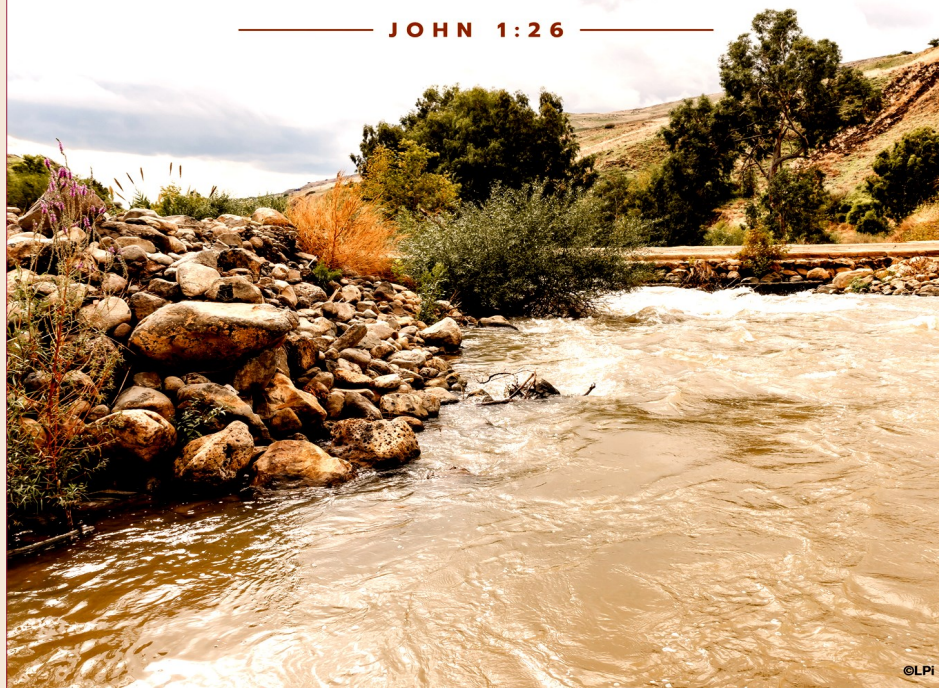
Church
and Parish Life Center
Handicapped
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I BAPTIZE WITH WATER.

JOHN 1:26



©LPI

DECEMBER 17, 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



Prayer for Advent 3

Dear Lord,
Give us boldness as we move through the
motions of the holiday season, to reflect
and remind those around us of Your
deep and abiding love for them.
Allow them to encounter Your love,
through us.
Amen.
©LPi

Readings for week: December 17th

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

FOOD PANTRY~NEW ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

~ Stuffing Mix

~ Turkey Gravy

~ Jello/Pudding

Thank you for your continuing support of our Food Pantry!

MARY'S KITCHEN: MONDAYS, 3:00pm to 5:00pm ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Because of the holidays, Mary's Kitchen will be closed on December 25 and January 1. We will meet at the regular time on January 8, 2024.

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 skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org or call 518-328-0427 for more information.

DECEMBER DVD:

Thursday, December 21, "It's a Wonderful Life"

In the midst of all the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, we are offering a *pause*; a time to get together and watch an oldie but a goodie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Come join us and relax for a bit with cookies, punch, and a terrific DVD. A look at what in life is truly important and meaningful: **December 21 at 1:30pm in the Parish Life Center**. All are invited.

Contact Sharon at skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org or 518-328-0427 for more information.

SCRIPTURE SHARING: Max Lucado, *Help Is Here*

Please note: because of the holidays and December DVD, we will not have Scripture on December 21 and 28. We will meet again in the new year, on January 4.

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.

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.

FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES - Sharon C. Kowalski, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry - skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

Faith Formation: 2023-2024

Please note: we will not have Faith Formation sessions on December 24 and 31. We will resume classes on January 7, 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 -

Our last practice for the Christmas Eve Nativity play will be on Sunday, December 17. Please make sure your children are in the church at 9:30am.

ELVES ATTIC: DECEMBER 17

This 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 we are requesting donations for our Christmas Tree Program to help 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 for your generous support of our Christmas program!



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>2/18/24</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>	

~ MASS INTENTIONS ~

Sat., Dec 16

4:00pm—Anne Fusco, req by
Brenda Persons

Sun., Dec 17

7:30am—Anthony Gicobbi, req by Gicobbi
family
Living & deceased members of IHM

11:00am—Nancy Comley, req by Lois Comley
Paul Esposito, Sr, req by the family

Tues., Dec 19

9:00am—James McDermott, parish

Wed., Dec 20

9:00am—Santa DelBrocco, parish

Thurs., Dec 21

9:00am—Elizabeth Rushia & Emma
Whitaker, req by Mary Anne Forslin

Sat., Dec 23

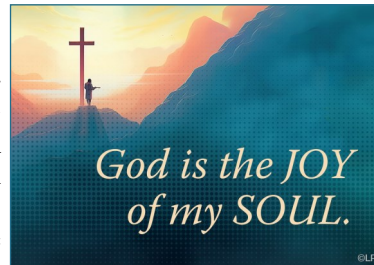
4:00pm—Marie Delisle, req by Peggy Fisk
The Deck Family, req by Karl & Joan
Beth Anne Lazzaro, req by Legnard Curtin
Auxiliary #927

Sun., Dec 24- 10:00am (4th SUN. OF ADVENT)
The Crudo Family, req by Nick Crudo

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.



During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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*"Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us." —Isaiah 35:4*

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK ~ Reflect and Respond

First Reading:

Isaiah rejoices over God's call in his life and the promise of restoration for all nations. As we continue in the season of Advent, what has brought some joy to you or your family?

Second Reading:

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be people of prayer and joy, open to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Is there anything recently that has brought you joy?

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Dec 24—VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS MASS

4:30pm—Carol Lansing, req by the family
Joseph Germano & Margaret Oaksford,
req by the family

7:00pm—Tammy Morgan, req by Mom/Dad

Dec 25—CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00am—Mary, Donald/Charles Rutherford,
Anthony, Genevieve Pruskup, Douglas Goard,
requested by the families



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
Weekly Collection (incl mail-in, E.G.)
Dec. 2-3, '23.....\$5265.00