

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

Watervliet/Green Island NY

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 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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Fourth Sunday of Advent -

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments ~

Afraid, Yet Never Alone

I did not end up being the great parent I had hoped I would be. I am not saying I was bad, but I was not the cool dad who did all things right and led my children by the example of my endlessly good actions. I messed up a bunch. Sometimes I was afraid. I was afraid of decisions I had to make and the possible repercussions. At times, I was afraid that I was not strong enough to lead my family. The fear occasionally led me toward inaction or eventual mistakes. The only thing that got me through the tough times and allowed me to see it was okay was Jesus. Without Jesus, I would never have been half of the father and husband I have been through the years.

When we try to tackle life alone, we can find ourselves in a very lonely position. Just like Jesus' parents, we need God to assist us and provide us with the strength for what lies ahead. Joseph needed God to be with him as he took Mary as his wife and became a father. Every parent needs God to become more than they can be on their own.

How do you treat those who you love? Who is there to help you when a relationship faces an obstacle? We are called to love others as our Father in heaven loves us. That is really an unreachable goal. Yet with God, all things are possible. As this Advent ends, may your Christmas be about more than presents and decorations. May the most profound gifts you give and receive be that of each other, and may your lives be decorated with the fruits of that love. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Psalm 24)

Mass Schedule for December 24 & 25

Christmas Eve : 4:30 pm, Family Mass & 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass: 10:00 am

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 Epiphany.*

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

Christmas Play at the Christmas Eve Liturgy on December 24

The Family Mass on Christmas Eve is at 4:30pm. If your children are in the Christmas play, please be at church no later than 4pm. Please contact Mrs. Carabis at mcambis@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 24: Christmas Eve Family Mass, 4:30pm

December 24: Christmas Eve Mass, 7pm

December 25: Christmas Day Mass, 10am

January 5: Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5: Faith Formation AM/PM sessions resume

January 12: Baptism of Our Lord

January 12: Parish Christmas Party, PLC following 11am Mass

January 13: Gathering Disciples, 6pm PLC

PLEASE NOTE HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office will be open Monday, Dec. 23rd and CLOSED Dec. 24th & 25th for Christmas Holiday. We will be open on Thursday 8:30am to 3:00pm, and Friday 10:30am to 3:00pm.



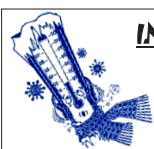
*"We wish all our parishioners
a Blessed and Joyous Christmas!"
from the staff team: Judy, Mary Beth, Sharon, Matt
& Tom*

MARY'S KITCHEN: Mondays, 3 to 5pm ~ Please note: Mary's Kitchen will be closed on Monday, December 23 for the Christmas Holiday. We will re-open on Monday, December 30.

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.

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.

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



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!!




"The Eucharist is the heart and the summit of the Church's life." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1407). The weekly celebration of the Eucharist on Saturday evening or Sunday morning defines who we are as Catholics - in our parishes, in our households of faith, in our neighborhoods, and in our world.

We have 3 Mass options every weekend: Saturday, 4pm; Sunday, 8:30am and 11am.

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

SCRIPTURE SHARING: The Letter of James - *Please note: We will not have Scripture on December 26 and January 2. Sessions will resume on January 9.* We meet on Thursdays from 2 to 3pm in the Parish Life Center. Our new series is on the Letter of James. On January 9, we will view a DVD based on James 1:19-27.

Why not join us?? For more information, please contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

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>

Gospel Meditation ~

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. *"When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit."* For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet *"do not be afraid,"* the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of *"Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"* Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to *"expose [Mary] to shame."* Yet he was prepared to *"divorce her quietly"* all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us? ©LPi



GOD IS WITH US

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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

Mon., Dec 23

9:00am—COMMUNION SERVICE

Tues., Dec 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30pm Family Mass

Joseph Germano
Margaret Oaksford
Helen McNamara
Carol Lansing, req by the family

7:00pm—The Werner & Pope Families,
req by family member

Wed., Dec 25—CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00am—The Bulger Family, Estate

Thurs., Dec 26

9:00am—Frank & Vincenzo DiNuzzo, Estate

Fri., Dec 27—NO COMMUNION SERVICE

Sat., Dec 28

4:00pm—John & Louise Kelly, req by Mick & Anne Dembrosky

Sun., Dec 29

8:30am—James C Mantello, req by Linda Dunbar
Julia Gamble (Lv'g), req by Gonsowski family
Margaret Rose Gonsowski, req by son & dgtr
11:00am—Living & deceased members of IHM

Reading-Romans 1:5 "Through Him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith."

Pope Francis- Laudato Si: "The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves."

Catholic Social Teaching-USCCB,1991: "We must seek a society where economic life and environmental commitment work together to protect and to enhance life on this planet."

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

We invite you to become a member of our parish family. To begin the registration process, please fill out this form and place in the collection basket on Sunday. We will send you a new membership form for registration. Thank you

Name _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Address _____

**BLOOD DRIVE AT IHM—DECEMBER 27th
IN PARISH LIFE CENTER—1:00PM TO 6:00PM**

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

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

Dec 8-9,2018.....\$7671.00

Dec 7-8, 2019.....\$8475.00