

# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

of Watervliet and Green Island, NY

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FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH  
MINISTRY CENTER  
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Call for information  
or appointment



Church  
and Parish Life Center  
Handicapped  
Accessible

DECEMBER 24, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PEACE  
BE WITH YOU



©LPI

## CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

(Regular Schedule) Weekend Masses - Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses - 9:00 am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Adoration, Tuesday - 9:30 to 11:00 am



\*Masses for Christmas Eve (Vigil) & Christmas Day  
Are listed on page 3





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

#### Prayer for Advent 4

Dear Lord,  
Visit our homes! Visit our families!  
Bring your goodness and light to every  
broken heart we've met on this journey  
of life. Your presence brings healing  
and rebirth. Come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.

©LPi

#### FLEA MARKET & PASTA DINNER: *Cross Catholic Outreach*

This year, members of Rosary, Faith Formation and a wonderful group of volunteers, teamed up to work the Flea Market and Pasta Dinner. After listening to the inspiring presentation by Fr. Alan Bower at the Masses on December 9/10, it was decided to donate \$500 from the profits to the work of Cross Catholic Outreach. We wish them God's blessing as they continue in their mission to help the poorest of the poor throughout the world.

**FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES - Sharon C. Kowalski, Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry -**

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

*Wishing all our Faith Formation Families many blessings, joy, and happiness during the Christmas holidays. Please check the bulletin for Mass times.*

**Remember, JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!**

The Family Mass on Christmas Eve will be at 4:30pm, at which we will present the Christmas play.

#### 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](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org) or call 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 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](mailto:skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org)



*"For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord." - (Ps 89)*

#### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS ~ *The Journey*

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember it is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



## 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>2/4/24</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 23

4:00pm—The Deck family, req by Karl/Joan  
Marie Delisle, req by Peggy Fisk  
Beth Anne Lazzaro, req by Legnard Curtin  
Aux #927

Sun., Dec 24 - (Regular Sunday Liturgy)

10:00am—Crudo Family, req by Nick Crudo  
Living & deceased members of IHM

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

Tues., Dec 26

9:00am—Saundra Cummings, Estate

Wed., Dec 27

9:00am—Thomas & Helen Sullivan, Estate

Thurs., Dec 28

9:00am—Frank & Vincenza DiNuzzo, Estate

Sat., Dec 30

4:00pm—Living & Deceased members of IHM

Sun., Dec 31

7:30am—Living & deceased members of IHM

11:00am—Living & deceased members of  
IHM

**Prayer Team Ministry** - If you  
would like prayers said for some-  
one, contact Brenda at (cell) (838)  
267-5801.

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**  
*Weekly Collection (incl mail-in, E.G.)*  
Dec. 9-10, '23.....\$6781.00

### LIVE THE LITURGY -

#### *Inspiration for the week*

God's plans are not always what we imagined.  
Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary.  
Say "Yes, Lord" — and God will show you that  
His imagination is better than yours. ©LPi

*Hail*

full of grace!  
The Lord is with you.



### WHY DO WE DO THAT? - Lighting Candles in Church

**Question:** Why do Catholics light candles in church?

**Answer:**



Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints. — ©LPi

### FOOD PANTRY~NEW ITEMS NEEDED



~ Toilet tissue ~ Bar Soaps  
~ Toothpaste ~

Thank you for your continuing  
support of our Food Pantry!

**PLEASE NOTE:** In accordance with the Diocesan  
Personnel Practices and Procedures, Bishop  
Scharfenberger has approved the following holi-  
days. Monday, December 25th thru Monday,  
January 1st inclusive, Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Parish Office will be closed to the public and will  
resume regular business hours on Tuesday,  
January 2, 2024 - from 8:30am to 3:30pm.