

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

of Watervliet and Green Island, NY

DECEMBER 25, 2022

welcome

Pastor
Fr. Don Rutherford
Associate Pastor
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

Merry
Christmas!

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH

JOHN 1:14

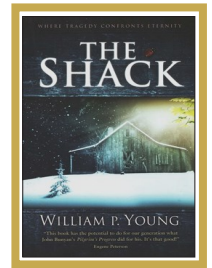
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Joy to the
world

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December DVD: *The Shack*: December 29

We will be presenting the movie *The Shack* on Thursday, December 29 in the Parish Life Center, beginning at 1:30pm. Based on the New York Times best selling novel, it's the story of a father's spiritual journey after a family tragedy. He experiences a crisis of faith, questioning God's existence and life's very purpose. On a cold, desolate winter's day, he receives a mysterious invitation to an abandoned shack. There, three strangers help him experience the love of God's healing mercy.



After all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas celebration, come join us to relax and unwind with this truly poignant story of a father's journey from despair to hope and peace.

All are welcome. For more information, contact skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org.

RCIA & Sacramental Preparation for Adults & 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.

Scripture: "What We Believe, the Beauty of the Catholic Faith" - Please note we will not have Scripture on December 29. We will finish the series on the Beauty of the Catholic Faith with sessions in January.

Come join us. It is a wonderful, welcoming group that gathers on Thursdays from 2 to 3pm!! We meet to learn and share how our faith and the Word of God has touched our lives. No homework, no materials to buy. For more information, please contact Sharon at 518-328-0427 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

Gospel Meditation—A Deeper Understanding of Scripture The Nativity of the Lord

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas! ©LPi

*Today is born our Savior,
Christ the Lord. (Ps 96)*



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

Faith Formation: 2022-2023

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.

Faith Formation sessions for 2022-2023 are on Sundays at 9:30am in the Faith Formation Center.

Sessions are open to children from 3 years through Confirmation. Sacramental programs require a two year preparation in the Faith Formation sessions.

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.

In Memoriam ~ 2023		
 <p>In loving memory of John A O'Brien requested by the Family 10/29/23</p>	<p>In loving memory of Adam & Katherine Novak John & Rosalie Novak & Florence Szpot requested by the Family 6/11/23</p>	<p>In loving memory of Joseph V Germano requested by the Family 6/11/23</p>
<p>In loving memory of John T Sherlock requested by his wife and Family 4/29/23</p>	<p>In memory of our beloved son Michael D Kowalski requested by Michael and Sharon Kowalski 3/19/23</p>	<p>In loving memory of William T Sr, Julia F and Robert A Fahr requested by the Family 2/19/23</p>
<p>In loving memory of Albert P Morelli, Donald & Eileen Gallagher Hogan requested by Don & Patti Hogan 2/19/23</p>	<p>In loving memory of our Families: The Carlsons, The Mardigans, The Foleys & The Butlers requested by Bob & Carol Carlson 2/5/23</p>	<p>In loving memory of Bryan T Roberts (son) Raymond & Helen Werner (parents) requested by Judith Pope 1/15/23</p>
<p>Mary's Kitchen: Mondays, 3 to 5pm: ALL WELCOME!! Mary's Kitchen will be closed on December 26. It will re-open on Monday, January 9, 2023.</p> <p>Many thanks to the AOH and to Margaret Vumbaco for their very generous donations to Mary's Kitchen!! This helps us tremendously as we work to provide nutritious meals on Mondays. God bless them for their caring and generosity to our parish and to Mary's Kitchen guests. 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!! All are welcome; parishioners, neighbors and friends!! Questions?? Please contact Sharon at skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org or call 518-328-0427 for more information.</p>		<p>In loving memory of The Barron & Rys Families requested by the Family 1/15/23</p>



MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30pm—The Beston Family, req by family
Joseph Germano & family, req by the family
Carol Lansing, req by the family

7:00pm—Donald, Mary & Charles Rutherford, req by the family
Anthony Pruscop, Genevive Pruscop & Douglas Goard, req by the family

Sun., Dec 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00am—Tammy Morgan, req by Mom/Dad & Sons
The Crudo family, req by the family

Tues., Dec 27

9:00am—Rita Good, req by Peggy Germano

Wed., Dec 28

9:00am—Farrell & Synan Families, Estate

Thurs., Dec 29

9:00am—Margaret Rose Gonsowski (B'day), req by son & daughter

Sat., Dec 31

4:00pm—Donald Fisk, req by the family
Maureen McBain, req by the Rosary Society
Earl VanBuskirk/grdaughter Kathy Fisk, req by the family

Sun., Jan 1, 2023

7:30am—living & deceased members of IHM
11:00am—Helen Werner (B'day), req by family

PRAYER MINISTRY ~ If you would like prayers for a family member, relative or friend, call Brenda at 518 961-0169.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
Weekly Collection (incl mail-in, E.G.)
Dec 12/10-11/22.....\$6304.00



Questions of the Week... Reflect and Respond

First Reading:

Isaiah prophesied of God's promise to send "a child to us" who will be "a great light" and bring us "abundant joy and great rejoicing." **How will you show to others today your joy at the birth of Jesus?**

Second Reading:

Paul teaches Titus that Jesus is "the grace of God" who has come to save all people. In response, we believers are called "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age." **What makes this challenging to do in our time?**

Gospel:

We hear Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. Luke tells us how the message of the angel of the Lord frightened the shepherds. In response, the angel said, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people ..." **How will your family celebrate today the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Messiah?**

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The Business Office will be closed for Christmas holiday from Monday, Dec. 26 thru Monday, Jan. 2 (national holiday). We will reopen normal business hours, 8:30am—3:30pm on Jan. 3, 2023.