

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

of Watervliet and Green Island, NY

Pastor

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Fr. Samuel Bellafiore

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Fri - Closed

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FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH
MINISTRY CENTER
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Coordinator
Sharon Kowalski
Direct line: 518 328-0427
skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

Call for information
or appointment



Church
and Parish Life Center
Handicapped
Accessible

PRAY FOR US



“...A LIGHT FOR
REVELATION TO
THE GENTILES,
AND GLORY FOR
YOUR PEOPLE
ISRAEL...”

— THE HOLY FAMILY

©LPI



DECEMBER 31, 2023

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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

❖ Mary, The Holy Mother of God, January 1, 2024 - Mass at 10:00 am

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK ~ *Reflect and Respond*

First Reading:

Abraham and Sarah relied on their faith in the Lord as they struggled with family matters. **When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?**

Second Reading:

Hebrews teaches us that at every challenge in his life, Abraham consistently trusted and obeyed God. **When have you had to surrender complete trust to God?**

Gospel:

In their purification ritual in the Jerusalem Temple, Mary and Joseph learn news from Simeon and Anna about their newborn baby, Jesus. **In your family, how do you deal with startling or unsettling news?** ©LPi



GOSPEL MEDITATION ~ *A Deeper Understanding of Scripture* The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too. — *Father John Muir*

SCRIPTURE SHARING: Max Lucado, 'Help Is Here'

Please note: We will resume sessions again on January 4.

Our current series is entitled "Help Is Here". The theme of this series is finding fresh strength and purpose in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As believers, we know a lot about God the Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes, our greatest gift – the Holy Spirit, is acknowledged but lesser known. 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

Readings for the week of December 31:

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

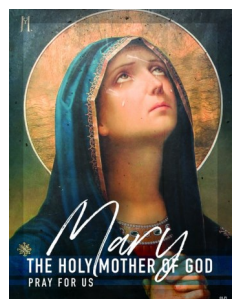
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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.

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

Because of the holidays, Mary's Kitchen will be closed on 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.

*Glory in his holy name; rejoice,
O hearts that seek the Lord!* - (Ps 105)

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 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.

In Memoriam ~ 2023 ~ '24		
 <p>In loving memory of Joseph V Germano requested by the Family</p> <p>12/15/24</p>	<p>In loving memory of John T Sherlock requested by his wife and Family</p> <p>6/2/24</p>	<p>In memory of our beloved son Michael D Kowalski requested by Michael and Sharon Kowalski</p> <p>2/18/24</p>
<p>In loving memory of William T Sr, Julia F and Robert A Fahr requested by the Family</p> <p>2/18/24</p>	<p>In loving memory of Albert P Morelli, Donald & Eileen Gallagher Hogan requested by Don & Patti Hogan</p> <p>2/18/24</p>	<p>In loving memory of our Families: The Carlsons, The Mardigans, The Foleys & The Butlers requested by Bob & Carol Carlson</p> <p>2/4/24</p>
<p>In loving memory of Bryan T Roberts (son) Raymond & Helen Werner (parents) requested by Judith Pope</p> <p>1/14/24</p>	<p>In loving memory of Adam & Katherine Novak John & Rosalie Novak & Florence Szpot requested by the Family</p> <p>12/31/23</p>	<p>~ MASS INTENTIONS ~</p> <p>Sat., Dec 30 4:00pm—Living & Deceased members of IHM</p> <p>Sun., Dec 31 7:30am—Living & deceased members of IHM</p> <p>11:00am—Living & deceased members of IHM</p> <p>Mon., Jan 1—MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 10:00am—Helen L Werner (B'day), req by her daughter</p> <p>Tues., Jan 2 9:00am—Mary Louise DeCotis, Estate</p> <p>Wed., Jan 3 9:00am—Wm Johnson & Malasky Families, Estate</p> <p>Thurs., Jan 4 9:00am—Farrell & Synan Families, Estate</p> <p>Sat., Jan 6 4:00pm—Kevin G Duffey, req by Jan & Frank Gilchrist Michael Walukas, req by St Brigid's class of 1962 Richard Mudgett, req by Salon 121, 8 & 40</p> <p>Sun., Jan 7 7:30am—living & deceased members of IHM</p> <p>11:00am—Carole Maloney, req by husband Vince DiNuzzo, req by Lorraine Alund Raymond Werner (Anniv), req by daughter</p>

FOOD PANTRY~NEW ITEMS NEEDED IN MONTH OF JANUARY



Toilet tissue ~ Bar Soaps ~
~ Toothpaste ~

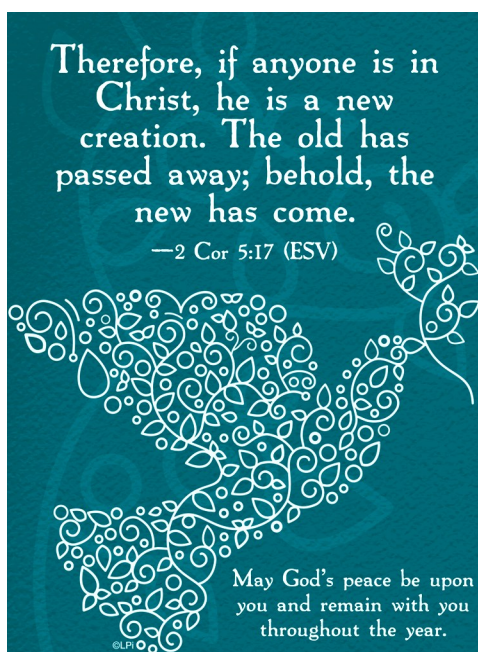
Thank you for your
continuing support of
our Food Pantry!

— Mary Beth

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word. ©LPi



Prayer for the Family



Dear Lord,

We lift our families to you in prayer — every generation! Bind our wounds, forgive our debts, show your mercy! Lead us to deeper communion with each other and You. Help us, too, to be a holy family. Amen.

©LPi



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
Weekly Collection (incl mail-in, E.G.)
Dec. 16-17, '23.....\$3919.00

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



"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, 7:30am and 11am.

See you in church!!