

# THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH



St. Basil the Great Church  
Dushore, PA



St. Francis of Assisi Church  
Mildred, PA



St. John Neumann Shrine  
Sugar Ridge, PA



St. Francis of Assisi Chapel  
Eagles Mere, PA

## Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mailing Address - P O Box 307,  
Dushore, PA 18614

Parish Office - 1 St. Francis Drive,  
Mildred, PA 18632  
(570) 928-8865

Email - [ihmparish@frontier.com](mailto:ihmparish@frontier.com)

Website - [ihmdushore.com](http://ihmdushore.com)

Reverend Thomas J. Major - Pastor

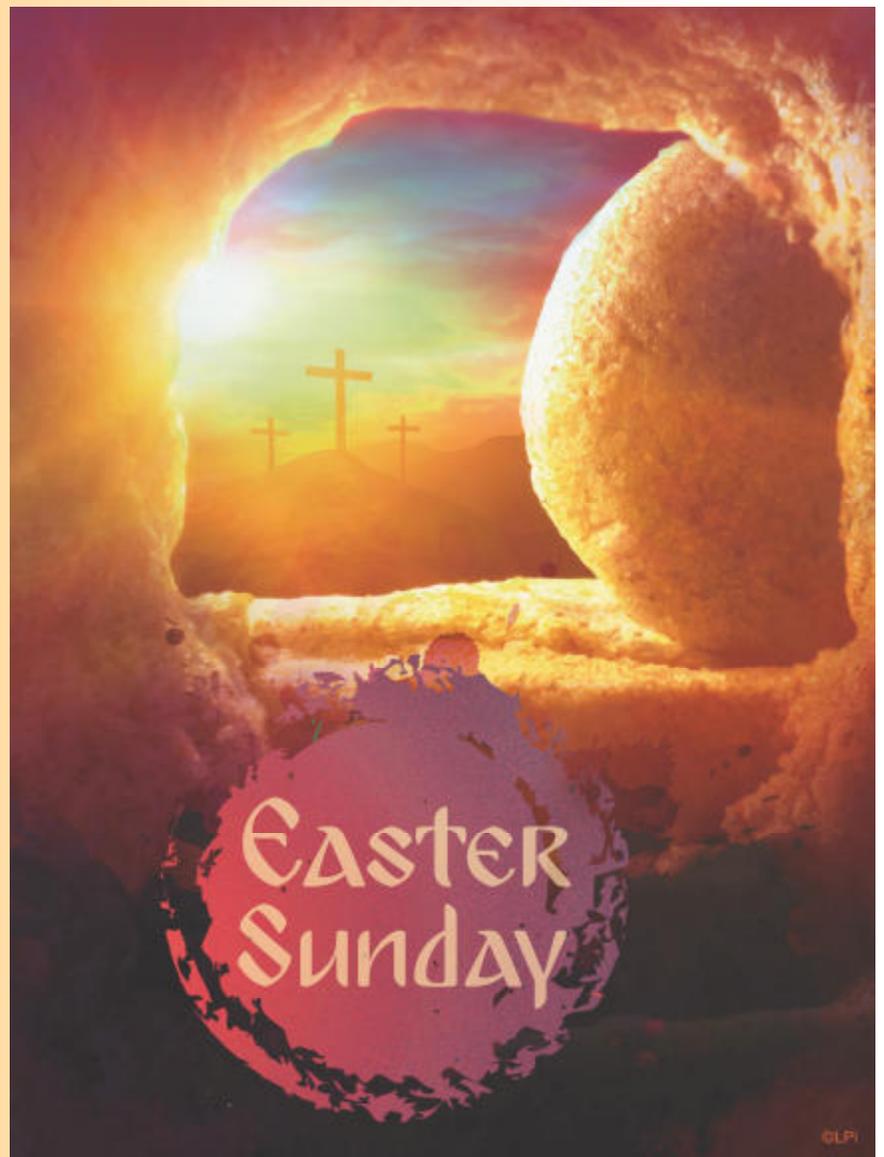
### OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday: 9 AM-3 PM

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

By appointment

St. Basil's Church will be open  
during daylight hours for  
people to pray individually.



April 12, 2020

## A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

You enter this Church ... not as stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your heavenly Father. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal ones who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built this place of worship, and to all who have beautified it and hallowed it with their prayers and praise. Ask His blessing on those who love His house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest on you, both in your going out and your coming in.

### Parish Registration:

You must be a registered member of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish to receive Baptism, Confirmation, First Penance, First Holy Communion, Marriage and to receive sponsor letters from the pastor.

**New Members:** Please stop by or call the parish office and register. (If you are relocating to a new parish, please notify the office before you move.) Thank you.

**Change of Address:** Please notify the parish office as soon as possible if you have had a change of address.

**Inactive Catholics:** As a welcoming parish, we ask every parishioner to ask God to put in your heart people whose hearts we need to reach out and touch with God's love. "Before you talk to men about God, you talk to God about men." Please, call, write, leave in an envelope in the collection the name, address and phone number of the person. Father would be delighted to meet with them.

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

**RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process to bring non-Catholics into the faith. Anyone seeking information or interested in becoming a part of this community of faith can call the parish office.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptisms are scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month following the 9:30 AM Mass. In order to understand and better appreciate this special sacrament, parents are required to attend the Pre-Baptismal Program, which is held on the last Saturday of each month at 7:00 PM in St. Basil's Rectory. Please contact the rectory to schedule your child's baptism.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Couples contemplating marriage should notify the rectory at least six months prior to the date to allow necessary time for proper preparation.

**Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:** Urgent calls will be attended to at any time of the day or night.

**Visitation of the Sick:** Please call the parish for visitation of the sick at home, in the hospital, or health care facility.

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the Catholic faithful of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, in union with our Holy Father, the Pope, and our Bishop, are called through Baptism to share in the ministry which Jesus Christ has entrusted to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. As priest and lay faithful in a rural area, we utilize our energy to serve the spiritual needs of the Kingdom of God to promote a culture of life, justice, and peace to this generation and the generations that follow us.

## PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Heavenly beauty and splendor of the Father, you are the most valued Heavenly treasure.

New Eve, immaculate in soul, spirit and body, created of the godly seed by the Spirit of God, you are the spiritual Mother of mankind.

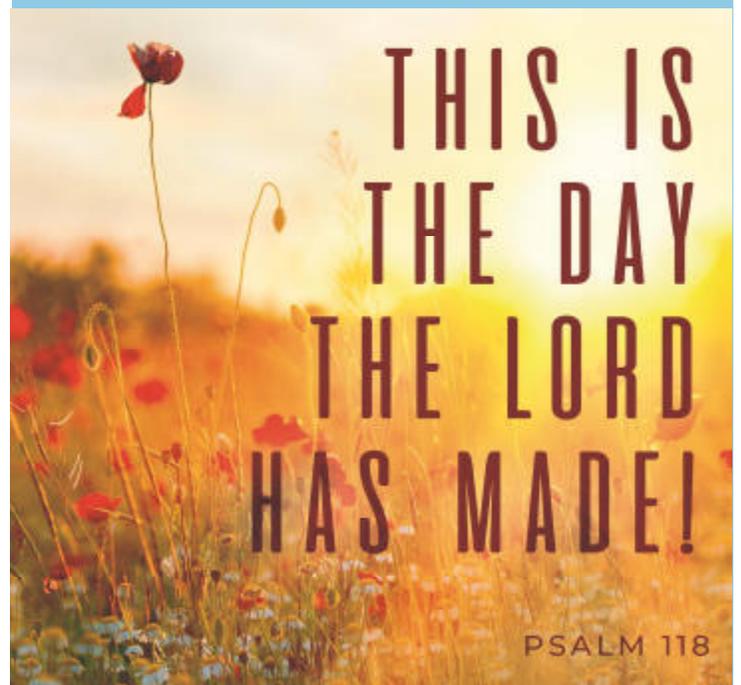
Pure Virgin, full of grace then and now, your whole being was raised Heavenly in full glory, to be elevated above all the hosts within the Kingdom of God.

O Heavenly Mother, Queen of Heaven and earth, I recognize the glory of your highest title, the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

Loving Mother, dispenser of endless blessings, you who continually intercede on our behalf, please present my need before your loving Son, Jesus.  
(Mention your request)

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, I know that you are now presenting my need before Jesus, for you have never turned away those in dire need.

Mother dearest, I await your favorable answer, submitting myself to the Divine will of the Lord, for all glories are His for ever and ever. Amen.



PSALM 118

## Reflection

The **First Reading** is from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34a, 37-43). Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

The **Responsorial Psalm** (118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23) Rejoice in this day of the Lord.

The **Second Reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians (3:1-4). Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

The **Gospel Reading** is from the Gospel of John (20:1-9). When we awoke this morning, we found ourselves blessed with another day. It is Easter Sunday. As that thought crossed our minds, did we find ourselves saying “so what” or “alleluia”? For many, today is truly a day of alleluia. For others, it is just another day of “so what.” Faith makes a huge difference. It not only makes a difference in how we understand today and the significance of what we celebrate, it also makes a huge difference in terms of how we understand ourselves.

Succeed, live well, be productive, find your niche, follow your dreams, make money, protect your social status, be politically correct, and keep your preferences to yourself are pretty good examples of the messages our secular life wants us to hear. In and of themselves, they don't sound all that harmful. But when really examined, they are. The life of resurrection embodied in the Gospel tells us a much different story.

Life keeps us busy. We are always connected, distracted, occupied, and working. For many of us, an agenda awaits us before we even start our day, and unfinished stuff is brought with us when we retire at night. Make the best of life and “find your own road to happiness are messages we all too easily believe. The “so what” response to the new life of resurrection is often the result of believing that life is only what I make it. What God has to say isn't important to me securing my next raise.

Sadly, we live as if the grave is the end. While we may give the wonder of heaven a blink now and then, its glory really doesn't impress us or matter all that much. It's all about the here and now and what I need to do today to get where I want to be tomorrow. We tend to put off considering the one significant “tomorrow” that will come the millisecond after we take our last breath. When that happens, will we want to be thinking “so what?” or “alleluia”?

There is only one Jesus, one mission, and one resurrection. There is also only one of us. Have you ever pondered what one solitary, humble human life can do? Faith, not our world, tells us how special we are. We are not robots. We are not replaceable. We have one shot. There are no do-overs. Love is at our core and unites us together as one with the God of love who so desperately wants us to be with Him forever. This may not match our secular agenda, but it ought to make our true inner agenda leap for joy. There doesn't need to be an end. I can live forever. Alleluia!

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## Readings

**MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**  
Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15

**TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**  
Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18

**WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**  
Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35

**THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**  
Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

**FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**  
Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14

**SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**  
Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-15b, 16-21; Mk 16:9-15

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)**  
Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

### A Prayer for our Military

God our Father, walk through my house and take away all my worries; and please watch over and heal my family. Heavenly Father, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in this, our time of need. These things I humbly ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Please pray for:

**Darrin J. Denmon**

PMB 155; P O Box 30800, Honolulu, HI 96820

**LtG Matthew C. McCandless**

MH 605 Sea Hawk Combat Squadron  
USS Abraham Lincoln (Carrier)

**Steve and Natalie Dymond Caezza**

PCS 817 Box 1806  
FPO, AE. 09622

**Lt. Col Bradley S. Pennella**

155 Saint Mary's Lane  
Stafford, VA 22556

## Weekly Liturgical Celebrations

### **Saturday, April 11**

*Mass for the People*

### **Sunday, April 12**

*Easter Mass Remembrances*

### **Monday, April 13**

*John Sweeney by Mary Lou Meehan & John McCarthy*

### **Tuesday, April 14**

*Thomas G. Taffe by Leona Richlin & Theresa Weaver*

### **Wednesday, April 15**

*Ann Marie Trafford by Dave & Chris Lechniak*

### **Thursday, April 16**

*Anthony Trasco by Turnpike Family*

### **Friday, April 17**

*Bernard Walsh by Mr. & Mrs. Carl Houseknecht*

### **Saturday, April 18**

*Randy Weaver by Frank & Pat Kracoski*

### **Sunday, April 19**

*Mass for the People*

## Our Weekly Parish Offertory Collection

### **The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**

*The bulletin was sent in before the collection was counted. That collection will be included in a later bulletin.*

*Please mail your offering to the parish office if possible. We still have bills to pay even though services are temporarily suspended.*

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### **Storm Damage Fund Total**

**\$131,940.41**

**Fiscal Year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)**

**Total Offertory**

**\$212,664.47**

**Total Expenses**

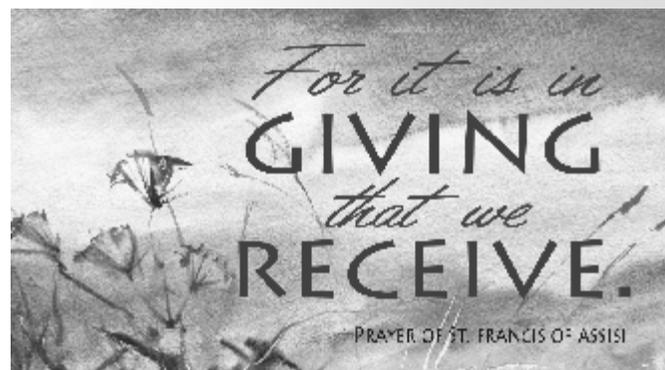
**\$279,409.02**

**Storm Damage**

**\$78,863.70**

**Arrears (Debt)**

**\$20,164.00**



# **DIRECTIVES FROM THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY OF THE HOLY SEE TO BE USED IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**

*Please disseminate the following information regarding Perfect Contrition widely.*

## **PERFECT CONTRITION**

**With the increasing difficulty for individuals to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation due to the current health crisis, the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded that by having perfect contrition one can receive the forgiveness of sins, apart from going to confession.**

**Perfect contrition** requires the following three things:

- A love of God above all else
- A sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin
- The resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides

## **PLENARY INDULGENCE**

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has also granted a **plenary indulgence** under specific conditions.

**The faithful who qualify for a plenary indulgence during the coronavirus pandemic:**

- Those suffering from the coronavirus illness
- Health care workers, family members, and others caring for those with the coronavirus (exposing themselves to the virus)

**The faithful must do at least one of the following:**

- Unite yourself spiritually through the media in the celebration of the Holy Mass
- Recite the Rosary
- Pious practice of the Way of the Cross (or other forms of devotion)
- Recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and a Hail Mary

**The faithful must be willing to perform all of the following as soon as possible: (considered the three usual conditions for a plenary indulgence)**

- Going to Confession
- Receiving Holy Communion
- Praying for the intentions of Pope Francis

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE  
GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

## **Come to Christ**

Life is perhaps God's greatest gift to each of us. Without life, we would be unable to experience all the wonder of this world, the love of family and friends, and the joy that comes from using our talents and skills. Life itself is more profound a gift than we can even truly contemplate.

On Easter, we celebrate life. For on this day, Jesus Christ conquered death and gave to us the chance for a life eternal. The wonder, love, and joy of this world does not have to end. Through a life in Jesus Christ, these emotions are heightened, and we find even greater fulfillment in this world.

Maybe this Easter you are finding yourself open to taking a next step in your relationship with Jesus. This could be the moment you decide to follow Him more closely and take seriously all that he has given you. If so, welcome to the journey, where there are many other disciples on that same path who can help show you the way and share their stories. If not, hopefully it doesn't take a whole year for this possibility to be considered again. Jesus is alive and waiting to get closer to you. May this Easter season find you and Our Lord getting to know one another in a whole new way. Happy Easter!

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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## **Chrism Mass**

The Chrism Mass is postponed until a later date. Further details will be included in the bulletin when they are known. Thank you!

## A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

March 27, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is a time of great challenge in our world. My prayers are with you and your family as we deal with these uncertain times. We especially pray for those who are personally impacted by the spread of COVID-19 and for all those who are providing care and helping to reduce the risk.

While we are all facing difficulties as a result of this global health emergency, I am encouraged to see so many people reaching out in support of our families, our neighbors and our parishes.

Due to the suspension of Masses, which was necessary to protect the health and safety of our community, our parishes now face increased risks of financial shortfalls and may struggle to pay bills and provide services. Many parishioners throughout our Diocese have already recognized the impact of the Coronavirus crisis and have committed to give what they can to support their parishes. Thank you for your kind generosity.

I certainly understand the financial challenges all of our families are facing and recognize that not everyone will be able to support their parish as they would like at this time. If you are in a position to do so, I would ask you to consider doing whatever you can for your parish so that it can remain strong in service to you and your family and all of our parishioners.

You may give to your parish by mailing your weekly offering or by giving online if your parish has an online giving opportunity. If your parish does not currently have online giving, to make it easier for you to keep up with your weekly parish offering, the Diocese has added a new online giving opportunity at [www.dioceseofscranton.org/supportyourparish](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/supportyourparish) to provide you with another way to make a gift that will go directly to your parish. Our parishes are at the center of our faith life and your support is deeply appreciated by your pastor and by me.

In this special year of Saint Joseph in our Diocese, may we seek his powerful intercession to safely guard the Church from all evils, just as he protected the Holy Family from harm. Saint Joseph, our guide and patron, pray for us.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton

Confessing Sins

Question:

If I go to the Sacrament of Penance and end up repeating the same sins, does that mean I do not have a strong enough intention to amend my life?

Answer:

There is a popular expression that says, "Be patient. God isn't finished with me yet!" Growing in faith and holiness is an ongoing, life-long project, and our struggle with sin is at the heart of it. As St. Paul says, the good he intends to do, he does not do. The evil he does not intend, he does! It is not always a lack of intention, but more often the allure of evil that makes it difficult to change. When we confess our sins, we are to come with a fully contrite heart. You need to reflect on your true feelings toward your actions before approaching the sacrament. After confession, there are strategies you can make to avoid falling into the same traps of sin. First, pray for and seek out strength and perseverance through multiple sacraments, charitable work, and personal sacrifice. Second, avoid occasions of sin when you might fail or be sorely tempted. In doing these things, remind yourself daily that it is a spiritual war we wage, and with God's grace, we will succeed.

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***ST. AGNES SCHOOL REGISTRATION***

Registration is NOW OPEN for the 2020-2021 school year for St. Agnes School in Towanda!

- ◇ Limited spots are available in Pre-K3 & Pre-K4
- ◇ Financial aid is available; deadline to apply is April 15<sup>th</sup>

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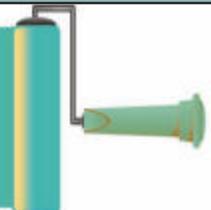


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you in the womb,  
I knew you.

GOD

Jeremiah 1:5



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