

# 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

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” - Jn 10:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

May 3, 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.



## Reflection

The **First Reading** is from the Acts of the Apostles (2:14a, 36-41). Peter and the other apostles baptize 3,000 people.

The **Responsorial Psalm** (23:1-6) The Lord is my shepherd.

The **Second Reading** is from the first Letter of St. Peter (2:20b-25). We have been healed by the wounds of Christ.

The **Gospel Reading** is from the Gospel of John (10:1-10). With whom do we converse and listen to the most?

Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God's. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our of lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.

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## Readings

### Monday

Acts 11:1-18; Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4; Jn 10:11-18

### Tuesday

Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

### Wednesday

Acts 12:24—13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Jn 12:44-50

### Thursday

Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20

### Friday

Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11b; Jn 14:1-6

### Saturday

Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

### 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, May 2**

*Donald T. Green by the Green Family*

### **Sunday, May 3**

*Mass for the People*

### **Monday, May 4**

*Ruth Marshall by Shirley Chrzanowski*

### **Tuesday, May 5**

*Dale C. Fitzgerald by The Stevens & Nester families*

### **Wednesday, May 6**

*Valeria Farrell by LeeAnn Wolfe & family*

### **Thursday, May 7**

*Carl Muller by Melinda Fitzgerald & Family*

### **Friday, May 8**

*Beatrice & Martin Meehan by the family*

### **Saturday, May 9**

*Randy Weaver by Frank & Pat Kracoski*

### **Sunday, May 10**

*Mass for the People*

*Sunday Mass will be livestreamed on our parish Facebook page at The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish at 9:00 AM. You will also be able to access the Mass through our Facebook page after the livestream service.*



## Our Weekly Parish Offertory Collection

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

**Offertory received since**

**April 17, 2020**

**\$6,733.78**

**Easter**

**\$1,795.00**

*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**

**\$241,420.16**

**Total Expenses**

**\$300,420.44**

**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

## **Recognizing the Voice of Jesus**

When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

—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.

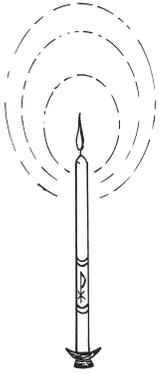
In this special year of Saint Joseph in our Diocese, may we seek his powerful intercession to safely guard the Church from all evils, just as he protected the Holy Family from harm. Saint Joseph, our guide and patron, pray for us.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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

Bishop of Scranton



The sanctuary candle in St. Basil's Church is burning in memory of Don & Rita Green by the Green Family.

### 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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Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.

GOD

Jeremiah 1:5



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