

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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

Parish Office - 1 St. Francis Drive,
Mildred, PA 18632

(570) 928-8865

Email - ihmparish@ptd.net

Website - ihmdushore.com

Reverend Thomas J. Major ~ Pastor

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday: 9 AM-3 PM

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15 PM
or by appointment

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

THE HOLY FAMILY



Not finding [Jesus], they returned
to Jerusalem to look for him. After
three days they found him in the
temple, sitting in the midst of the
teachers, listening to them and
asking them questions, and all who
heard him were astounded at his
understanding and his answers.

- Lk 2:45-47

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

December 26, 2021

FORMED

The parish has an account with Formed. Formed is a website that contains a variety of religious materials. It has books that can be downloaded, videos and documentaries, Bible studies, information on Sacraments, and much more. Parishioners can access this vast amount of information and entertainment by going to formed.org, select sign up, click sign up as a parishioner, type in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (make sure it is the Dushore location) underneath Find your Parish, click Next, type in your name and email address. You should then have access to the Formed website!

As a beloved member of our parish, please accept our free gift to you... Full access to hundreds of streaming movies, videos, audio books and more! Like NetFlix, but entirely Catholic, Formed.org is packed with something for all ages! It's easy to gain access. Here's how:

1. Visit <https://formed.org/signup>
 2. In the search field type "Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish" Dushore
 3. Enter your name and email, and click "Sign Up"
- That's it, you're all set to start watching!

St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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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!

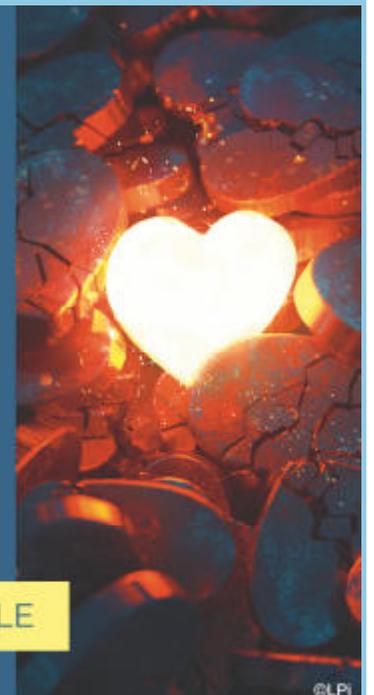
Loving Mother, dispenser of endless blessings, you who continually intercede on our behalf, please present my need before your loving Son, Jesus.
(Mention your request)

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.

"GOD IS
LOVE.
WHOEVER
LIVES IN
LOVE LIVES
IN GOD
AND GOD
IN HIM."

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE



Reflection

The **First Reading** is from the first Book of Samuel (1:20-22, 24-28). Hannah dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

The **Responsorial Psalm** (84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10) Those who dwell in the Lord's house are happy.

The **Second Reading** is from the first Letter of St. John (3:1-2, 21-24). We are God's children now.

The **Gospel Reading** is from the Gospel of Luke (2:41-52). Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

Readings

Monday ~ ST. JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday ~ THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8; Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday ~ FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; St. Thomas

Becket, Bishop, Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Thursday ~ SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Friday ~ SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; St. Sylvester I, Pope

1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Saturday ~ SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

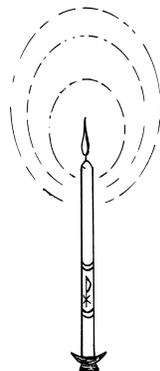
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Appeal Update:

Our Parish Goal: \$38,000

Total Raised: \$23,043.49

Percentage of Goal Pledged
60.64%(103 out of 417 families pledged)



The altar candles in St. Basil's Church are burning in memory of Ron Green and Katrina Gardner by the Green Family.

The sanctuary candle in St. Basil's Church is burning in memory of Gerard, Alice, Alan, and Michael Kaier and Randy Speck by Suzie Kaier.

Weekly Liturgical Celebrations

Sunday, December 26

7:30 AM **Mildred** *Mass for the People*

9:30 AM **Dushore** *Ronald Calaman by John & Bonnie Potosky*

Monday, December 27

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 28

NO MASS

Wednesday, December 29

9:00 AM **Dushore** *Joe Cullen by Original Eight Hunting Club*

Thursday, December 30

9:00 AM **Dushore** *Mary Eleanor McMahon by James & Patty Kearney*

Friday, December 31

4:00 PM **Dushore** *Mass for the People*

Saturday, January 1, 2022

9:30 AM **Mildred** *Mary Cosgrove by Jim & Melanie Lambert*

4:00 PM **Dushore** *Charles Barnosky by Jack Barnosky*

Sunday, January 2, 2022

7:30 AM **Mildred** *Thomas J. Sick by Mary Cosgrove*

9:30 AM **Dushore** *Mass for the People*



Our Weekly Parish Offertory Collection

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

December 11 & 12, 2021

\$8,385.00

The bulletin was sent in before the collection was counted. That collection will be included in the bulletin for January 2nd.

*Please mail your offering to the parish office if possible.
Thank you!*

Thank you for your generosity!

Fiscal Year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

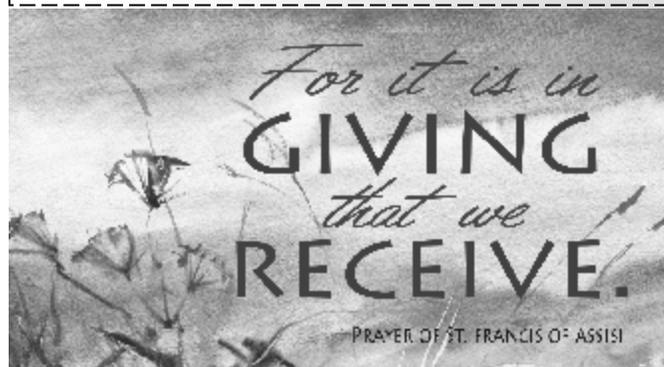
Total Offertory

\$145,268.00

Total Expenses

\$173,737.06

We are bringing communion to our homebound parishioners on Thursday mornings. If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to receive communion, please call the rectory.



JANUARY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS

The IHM Parish January Calendar Raffle tickets should have arrived in your mailbox, just in time to begin (or finish) your Christmas shopping! They make great stocking stuffers and are wonderful for that person on your list who's hard to buy for.



Don't forget, if you buy 5 you get one free! Tickets

are also available at the parish office in Mildred. If you did not receive your calendar raffle tickets, please call the office and make sure we have your correct address!

The parish office will be closed from Wednesday, December 23rd through January 2nd. The parish office will reopen on Monday, January 3rd, 2022.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and blessed New Year!

Parish Volunteer Party

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have worked so hard throughout this year! We appreciate all you do!

IHM Parish will be having a party on January 6 at 6:00 PM at St. Francis Hall in Mildred for all of our parish volunteers! If you have helped the parish as a lector, Extraordinary Minister, cantor, member of choir, Sunday School teacher, bazaar worker, picnic worker, altar server, etc. you are invited!

The parish will provide the meal. We only ask two things of you:

1. Please call or email the parish office by January 1, 2022, so that we have a head count.
2. Please bring your favorite beverage and dessert!

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of

God will be celebrated on

Saturday,
January 1, 2021.

The schedule of Masses for this beautiful feast is:



Friday,
December 31st
4:00 PM ~ St.

Basil's, Dushore

Saturday, January 1st
9:30 AM ~ St. Francis of Assisi,
Mildred

Please come and pray with us.

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

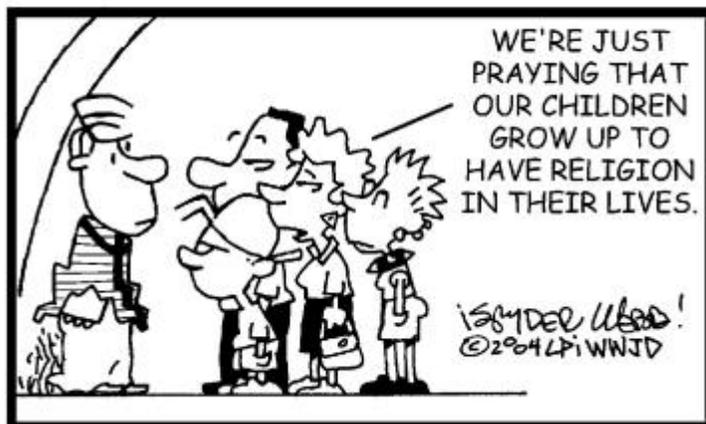
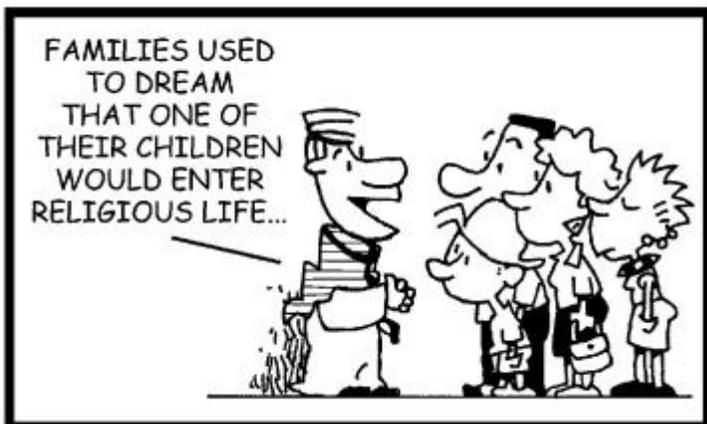
Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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HOLY FAMILY



Coming Back to Church

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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Support your Parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal directly from your IRA

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

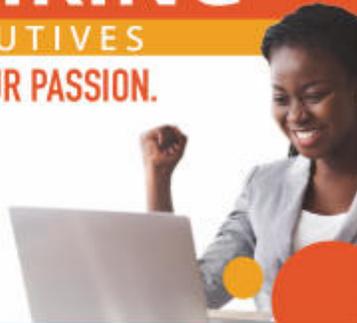
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you in the womb,
I knew you.
GOD
Jeremiah 1:5



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