

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

790 26 1/2 Road Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

Phone: (970) 242-6121 www.ihmqjt.org

PASTOR: *Fr. Carl Wertin*

PAROCHIAL VICAR: *Fr. Edwin Ogbanje*

Deacon Luke Konantz

Deacon Michael Doehrman

Immaculate Heart of Mary Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 pm **Sunday Masses:** 7:30 and 10:00 am & 5:00 pm **Monday-Saturday:** 8:00 am

Wednesday: 12:15 pm

Holy Day Masses 8:00 am 12:00 noon & 6:00 pm

Confessions: Friday 8:30-9:30 am Saturday 8:30-9:30 am & again Saturday: 2:00 pm —3:30 pm
or by appointment

Adoration: Every Friday 9am-5:00 pm

St. Ann, Palisade Sunday Mass: 9:30 am, Holy Days: 5:30 pm 10:30 am Mass every Tuesday

Office hours: M-F 8:00 am-4:00 pm Open during lunch hours

Prayer Opportunities:

Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday 7:30am in the Chapel

Morning Mass: Monday-Saturday 8:00am

Silent Prayer: 1st & 3rd Thursdays 1:30-2:30 pm
in the Seton Room

Adoration: Fridays from 9:00 am-5:00 pm in the Chapel

Rosary: Every 1st Saturday After 8:00 am Mass in
the Chapel

Centering Prayer: Tuesday Evenings from 7:00 - 8:00
in the IHM Conference Room

Holy Days of Obligation 2025

Dec. 25 Christmas

IHM Confession Times:

Friday morning 8:30-9:30 am

Saturday morning 8:30-9:30 am and
again Saturday afternoon 2:00-3:30 pm

Third Sunday of Advent December 14, 2025



RAISING DISCIPLES TO INSPIRE RELATIONSHIPS WITH JESUS

To register as a parishioner at IHM, please stop by the Parish Office. We would love to meet you!

Parish Staff

Pastor

Fr. Carl Wertin
(970) 242-6121 ext. 205
cwertin@ihmgjt.org

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Edwin Ogbanje
(970) 242-6121 ext.208
Fr.eogbanje@ihmgjt.org

Pastoral Assistant

Hunter Darrouzet
Funerals, Baptisms,
Marriage, Liturgy & Homebound
Ministry
(970) 242-6121 ext.206
pastoralassistant@ihmgjt.org

Religious Education

Julianna Campos
(970) 242-6121 ext. 204
faithformation@ihmgjt.org

Faith Formation Assistant

Kathy Sassano
(970) 242-6121 ext. 204
ksassano@ihmgjt.org

PLT - Parish Leadership Team

Fr. Carl Wertin
Anna Neam
Nichole Hall
Angela Kuntz
Hunter Darrouzet

Financial/Pastoral Council

Gina Gasperini
Erika Hoy
Kristen Jarrell
Michael Spillane
Dale Utt

Parish Office Hours

8:00-4:00 M-F

Confessions Friday 8:30-9:00 am

Saturday 9:00-9:30 am

2:00-3:30 pm

Please call the office: To schedule
a home or hospital visit.

Emergency Anointing

(970) 242-6121 — press 9

Deacon Luke Konantz

Newman Center

(970) 216-9670

lmkonantz@gmail.com

Deacon Michael Doehrman

(970) 708-9696

Informational Numbers

GV Catholic Outreach..
245 S. 1st St 970-241-3658

Counseling & Education Center ..
2708 Patterson Rd 970-243-9539

GV Peace & Justice ..
740 Gunnison Ave 970-243-0136

Mesa Catholic Campus Ministry..
www.mesacatholic.org Campus

Parish Staff

Financial/ Business Manager

Columbarium
Angela Kuntz
(970) 242-6121 ext.214

Bookkeeper

Linda Weber
Parish Registrations
970-242-6121 ext.211
lweber@ihmgjt.org

Administrative Assistant

Judy Hirschfeld
Sacramental Records, Bulletin,
Parish Events/ Scheduling
(970) 242-6121 ext. 201
jhirschfeld@ihmgjt.org

Clerical Assistant

Elizabeth Rose-Bartlett
(970) 242-6121 ext. 201
ebartlett@ihmgjt.org

Music

Molly Lather
(970) 242-6121 ext. 212
musicdirector@ihmgjt.org

IT

Holly Faber
hfaber@ihmgjt.org

Maintenance

Michael Guinn
Mason Dibble
July Downing- Custodial
(970) 242-6121 ext. 221

Holy Family School

(970) 242-6168
Kelly.bremner@hfs-gj.org

Jake Aubert Principal

(970) 242-6168



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

by Rivka Thompson

Each one of the Twelve Days Of Christmas honors an important person in the life of Christ, such as Saint Stephen, the first martyr (December 26); John the evangelist (December 27); and the Holy Innocents, the infants slain by King Herod (Matt. 2:16-18). These special people have come to be known as the "companions of Christ" because their lives give us unique glimpses into the love they had for Jesus, the kind of love we hope to foster.

The Twelve Days Of Christmas begin at midnight on December 25th and run through January 6th, which is "Epiphany", the day traditionally looked upon as when the Magi visited the baby Jesus. Epiphany symbolizes the giving of salvation to the gentiles through the three gentile kings from the Orient.

December 26th, the second day of Christmas is dedicated to the first Christian martyr, Stephen, who was stoned to death, as recorded in the book of Acts. In some countries the feast of Stephen is a national holiday. There is a tradition of giving alms to the poor on the feast of Stephen. A song written in the tenth century tells the story of King Wenceslas who was righteous and known for giving alms to the poor.

On the feast of Stephen, King Wenceslas set out through the cold and snow to bring food, wine and firewood to a poor family.

"Good King Wenceslas looked out upon the feast of Stephen, when the snow lay round about, smooth and crisp and even...."

King Wenceslas's servant was helping the king carry the supplies, and he became so cold and distressed that he told the king he could go no further, and feared he was dying. ***"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger. Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer."***

King Wenceslas encourages the servant by having him walk directly in the king's footprints in the snow, and according to legend the king's footprints provided heat that saved the life of the servant.

"Mark my footsteps good my Page, tread thou in them boldly. Thou shall find the winters rage freeze thy blood less coldly. In his masters step he trod where the snow lay dinted. Heat was in the very sod which the Saint had printed. Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing, You, who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing."

A variation of the Feast of Stephen is called "Boxing Day" in the countries of the British Isles; a day of giving alms and gifts to the poor. Hired-help who work on Christmas day are given the next day off, and given gifts and bonuses by their bosses. Boxing Day has evolved into a big shopping and swapping day throughout the British Isles.

The "third day" of Christmas, December 27th is in honor of the apostle John, the apostle who rested upon Christ's breast at the last supper, and who was called the apostle "Jesus loved". John was the youngest of the apostles, and he was the only apostle that stood at the foot of the cross during the crucifixion. All the other apostles had temporarily abandoned Jesus. From the cross, Jesus entrusted the care of his mother to John.

December 28th, the fourth day of Christmas honors the innocents who were slain by King Herod. Herod had sought to find out from the Magi the whereabouts of Jesus (Matthew 2:12-18). But the Magi were warned in a dream to return home by a different route to avoid King Herod. So the enraged King Herod, in an attempt to have the "King of the Jews" done away with, ordered all the babies from two years old and under to be killed. Even though the holy innocents never knew Jesus in the physical sense, they are considered martyrs, born to die for an eternal purpose; and thus sacrificial lambs "in place of" the Savior.

Matthew, in his gospel, says that the slaughter of the innocents fulfills prophecy:

"Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: 'A voice in Rama was heard, lamentation and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted because they are not'". Matthew 2:19

The first four days of Christmas, mentioned above, give an example of how a Christmas tradition such as the Twelve Days Of Christmas can bring spirituality into a holiday season beset with secular traditions. So whenever you hear the song: "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me a Partridge in a pear tree...." you know the rest of the story.

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Linda's Financial Corner

November Collections

Tithing Envelopes - \$52,409.00

Credit Card - \$21,239.46 Loose - \$7,797.01

Total - \$81,445.47

WHAT'S NEXT? Projects & Improvements!

Carpet for the Narthex. \$33,000.00

Reupholstering the Kneelers.

\$10,000.00 Waiting on Bishops approval.

Security Cameras Outside the building. Waiting on bids.

Sealing of outside brick. \$12,000.00

UPDATE:

We have received enough money to cover the cost of the painting of the parking lots around the church.

Thank you for your generosity!



Bernice Lucero,
Terry & Gladys Olsen &

Family, Andrew J. Miller, Madeline Carlson, Elizabeth Wilson, Maverick Burns, Bev Schaneman, Gina Barber, Joseph Chapman, Brent Everheart, Terry and Gladys Olson & Family, Markus Linke, Taylor Donaldson, McWilliams Family, Nettie Antonelli, Jimmy Weber, Vivian Glaze, Lucas Marchun, Frank Kochevar, Larry Palmer, Gerald Onsrud, Alex & Ashlynn Kirstatter, Alice Davis, Lou Garcia, Kay Dawson, Michael Antonelli, Mary Lou Graham, Bill McKendry, Martha Mondragon, Ida Gauna, Terri Christiansen, Diane Fritzer, Donnie Braning, Joe Albertazzi, Cindy Bain, Dorothy Alves, Pat Goben, Arthur Anthony Zamora, Jesse Morrow, Anthony Mundscha, Barb Delosa, Les Stefan, Devlyn Coleman, Jan Sewell, Phyllis Shupak, Penny Olesky, Dori Smeaton, Emilie Stoddard, Joan Wasinger, Rich Jurewicz, and for all those written In the Red Book of Prayer.

If there is someone you wish to have put on our prayer list please contact Judy, the parish Administrative Assistant, after receiving permission from the person or persons whose name you want added.



The Knights of Columbus will not host the usual third Sunday pancake breakfast this month. The good news is, instead of bacon and fellowship, there will be donuts and fellowship. The council will provide donuts and liquid refreshments after both masses on December 21st. See you there, in the Friendship Hall.



Solemnity of Mary

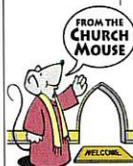
The Holy Day of Obligation, January 1, 2026, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

IHM will have only one Mass offered that day at 8:00 am. We encourage you to attend either

St. Joseph's or Sacred Heart for their masses offered on that Holy Day.

Due to the "2026 SEEK" Conference in Denver from January 1 to January 5, 2026, our Priests and Parish Staff will be out of the office to attend this spiritual opportunity!

SEEK is a five-day experience where thousands of Catholics come together to encounter Christ through prayer, adoration, the sacraments, and inspiring speakers. It's a chance to focus on what matters most, grow in authentic community, and be transformed in your faith.



RAISING DISCIPLES TO INSPIRE RELATIONSHIPS WITH JESUS

IHM Advent Penance Service

Will be on Tuesday, December 16th from 6:00 pm through 7:30 pm.



Penance service for Holy Family School and the Elderly will be held Wednesday, December 17th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Knights News



The Knights of Columbus, Council #13621, would like to invite all those interested to participate in a fun Christmas tradition. Each year, at this time, trees are harvested from the Grand Mesa and are used to help decorate our Church for the season. On December 20th, Knights and others will brave the snow and cold and have the trees to the Church by 1-1:30pm and that's when the fun begins! The council is seeking helpers to unload trees for trimming and staging in the Church. The best part... there will be several types of warm chili and refreshments for those who decide to help!

For those interested please contact Dr. Dale Utt @ 970-261-2425 so it's known how much chili to prepare.



The Knights of Columbus are accepting donations for the Tiger Boutique at Grand Junction High School. They will accept donations of any hygiene items that a teenager could need, such as shampoo, conditioner, face wash, acne patches, soap, body wash, deodorant, hair products, lip balm, cologne, perfume, feminine hygiene products, lotion, shaving cream, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, combs, body wipes, etc. The donations drive will take place on the weekend of December 13-14. A donation box will be placed in the church with a display board. Thank you for your assistance and donation.

Groups at IHM

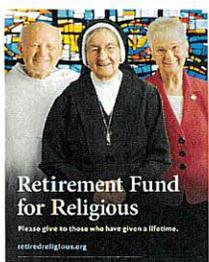
The core group that coordinates the seasonal church decorating has no official name, maybe the Decorating Group? We are passionate and dedicated to keeping our worship space current with the church calendar and liturgically correct. We are always thinking ahead so we are ready for the upcoming season with flowers, candles, altar and table coverings. We repair, design, sew and create as needed to enhance our worship and gathering space.

Arlene Vogel was instrumental in creating church linens, still in use, for our new church in 2000. The core group includes Lynn Duncan, MK Katzer, Pam & Bob Wimer, Damian Katzer, Ann & Rick Peterson, Marie & George Schmalz and Juliana & George Bennett. Many other family (grandchildren especially) and friends help out when asked and Fr Carl and Hunter consult and keep us in line.

Fiber Fellowship

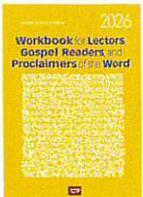
An off shoot of the decorating group, Fiber Fellowship gathers the second Monday evening of the month in the (old library) to work on current projects. It's a lively group. There's show and tell and discussion of projects in progress and completed. Crochet, knitting, hand quilting and piecing, embroidery, weaving, tatting, are a sampling of the 'fiber' projects.

All are welcome to join in on the 'fiber fellowship'.



They gave their lives in service—now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care and dignity they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Attention all Lectors



The 2026 Lector Workbooks are now available in the Parish Office. To help absorb some of the cost we are asking for a \$10 donation for the books. Please stop by between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm to get a copy.

Ministry Schedule for Dec. 20/21, 2025

8:00 am Dec. 20 (†) Maria Portillo

President: Fr. Edwin Ogbanje

4:00 pm Dec. 20 (I) Clearance/Reaume Families

President: Fr. Carl Wertin

Eucharistic : T. Chapman, K. Murphy, D. Schmitz

Hospitality: S. Mills

Servers: G. Treves

Lectors: D. Dinkel

Sacristan: M. Meyers

7:30 am Dec. 21 (†) George & Elaine Jachim Sr.

(†) John Chambers

President: Fr. Edwin Ogbanje

Eucharistic: G. Bennett, K. Smith

Hospitality: A. Ambrosier, G. Ambrosier, L. Duncan, D. Lytle

Servers: E. Scott, Neil. Scott

Lectors: J. Bennett, D. Walsh

Sacristan: J. Snoddy

9:30 am Dec. 21 Sunday Mass at Palisade St. Ann's

President: Fr. Carl Wertin

10:00 am Dec. 21 (†) Fr. Kevin Novak & (†) Fr. Vicene Pasa

President: Fr. Edwin Ogbanje

Eucharistic : J. Stuckenschneider

Hospitality: M. Guidi

Servers: B. Dockery

Lectors: C. Zaums, J. Simmons

Sacristan: S. Ross

5:00 pm Dec. 21 (†) (I) IHM Parishioners

President: Fr. Carl Wertin

Eucharistic:

Hospitality:

Servers:

Lectors:

Sacristan:

ALL 5:00 PM POSITIONS
WILL BE SIGN-UP
BEFORE MASS ONLY

Readings for the Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 James 5:7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Monday: Numbers 25: 2-7, 15-17a Matthew 21: 23-27

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13 Matthew 21: 28-32

Wednesday: Genesis 49: 2, 8-10 Matthew 1: 1-17

Thursday: Jeremiah 23: 5-8 Matthew 1: 18-25

Friday: Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a Luke 1: 5-25

Saturday: Isaiah 7: 10-14 Luke 1: 26-38

Calendar of Events Dec 14, 2025

Sunday, Dec. 14 7:30 am Mass
7-11:30 am Library Open
9:30 am St. Ann's Palisade
8:45-9:45 am Confirmation & 1st Com.
10:00 am Mass
5:00 pm Mass

Monday, Dec. 15 8:00 am Mass

Tuesday, Dec. 16 8:00 am Mass
6-7:30 pm Advent Penance Service
7:00 pm Centering Prayer

Wed, Dec. 17 8:00 am Mass
12:15 pm Mass
1-3:00 pm Advent Penance for Holy Day
Family & Elderly
6-7:00 pm Faith Formation Classes

Thurs, Dec. 18 8:00 am Mass
1:30-2:30 pm Silent Prayer
6-9:00 pm Women Faith and Fun
7:00 pm Knights 4th Degree

Friday, Dec. 19 8:00 am Mass
8:30-9:30 am Confessions after Mass
9:00 am -5:00 pm Adoration

Saturday, Dec. 20 8:00 am Mass
8:30-9:30 am Confessions after Mass
1-4:00 pm Christmas Tree Chili Knights
2:00-3:30 pm Confessions
3:30-5:30 pm Library Open
4:00 pm Mass

Mass Intentions

Sunday Dec. 14

7:30 am- (†) Rita & Lawrie Fernandes

10:00 am - (†) (I) IHM Parishioners (I) Neil Patrick & Noah

Guglielmo

5:00 pm - (†) Maria Brumbaugh

Monday Dec. 15

8:00 am - (†) George Kalmon

Tuesday Dec. 16

8:00 am- (†) Jim Kerski

Wednesday Dec. 17

8:00 am- (†) Sal Sassano

12:15 pm- (I) Charles Olesky

Thursday Dec. 18

10:00 am- (†) Virginia Hollingsworth

Friday Dec. 19

8:00 am- (†) James Plummer

Saturday Dec. 20

8:00 am - (†) Maria Portillo

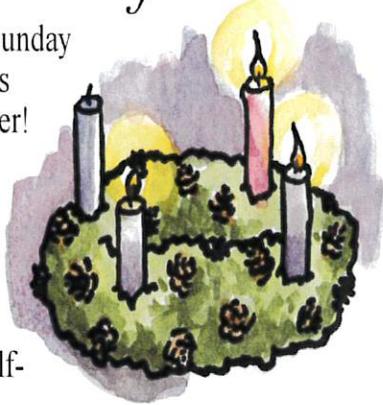
4:00 pm - (I) Clarence & Reaume Families

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Kids Corner- Third Sunday of Advent

Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14th, 2025



Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.

Where was he in today's Gospel reading?
Connect the dots to find out!
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

Women Faith & Fun!



Our next get together is Thursday, December 18 in the Hall. Gathering starts at 6:00 pm with prayer at 6:30 pm, then fun & games. Park in the handicap parking lot. This is a wonderful way to meet other Catholic women. We will support and make friends through praying and playing. You are not alone as a faith filled Catholic woman. We look forward to seeing you.



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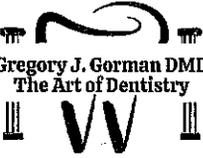
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Fr. Nicolas Bertrand Assembly 1519
If you are a Fourth Degree Knight and would like to join our assembly please contact Bob Bianchi 822-1147

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