

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jeremiah is sometimes known as the “weeping prophet” because he announced the impending destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and felt great empathy for God’s people, who were not faithful to God even as he tried to call them back.

During his life, Jeremiah experienced terrible hardships, including arrest, imprisonment, disgrace, and exile. He had reason to lose hope, but he kept his faith in God. *The Lord is with me, like a mighty champion, he says. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!*

Consider this prayer in the light of Jesus’ words to the Twelve: *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.* Jeremiah would have understood exactly what Jesus meant. Though he experienced fear and inner turmoil, he did not let those overpower his faith and trust in God. He knew that the Lord was with him and would always win in the end. The Lord, he knew, would save the faithful.

Martyrs who have died professing their faith in Jesus Christ understood this as well. They knew that if they professed Christ with their dying breath, Christ himself would *acknowledge [them] before [his] heavenly Father.* Conversely, if they denied Christ, they may save their lives – but they would lose their souls. That, the martyrs knew, was much worse than any earthly suffering.

This lesson, however, is not just for prophets and martyrs. Every moment of our lives is an opportunity to acknowledge, or deny, Christ before others. C.S. Lewis writes, “Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different than it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing into a heavenly creature or a hellish creature” (*Mere Christianity*).

Each choice we make will be made known at the end of time. Our heavenly Father already knows our every thought and deed. Each choice can lead us closer to heaven or closer to hell. This should change how we view our daily lives. Some days we will face hardships. But we can choose to keep faith in God, and sing his praises along with Jeremiah: *The Lord is with me.* Truly, the Lord is with

us even now in the Eucharist.

Lord, help us to realize that our Father who loves us will grant us the graces we need. Holy Spirit, help guide us. Give us the long view of eternity, knowing that our choices today will affect our souls for eternity. Lord, lead us to everlasting life with you.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

UPDATE NEEDED! The parish office is finding that much of our information for parishioners is outdated. Please call or email the parish office to update any new home addresses, email addresses, home and cell phone numbers, new family members, family members no longer in the household, or any other parishioner data that may have changed since you registered. The parish number is 301-863-8144, or you can email our secretary Julián Ortiz at julian@ihmrcc.org.

IN NEED OF FOOD DONATIONS St. Vincent de Paul of IHM is greatly in need of non-perishable food donations and monetary donations! The number of people in the community that are in need of our services has greatly increased and we are struggling to provide those services and require help. Food donations can be placed in the brown containers at the main entrances to the church. Financial donations can be marked for St. Vincent de Paul of IHM and placed in the collection baskets at the Masses. We thank you for helping us in our mission to provide assistance to those in need in our community.

CARENET BOTTLES ARE DUE! The Baby Bottle Blitz Bottle are due back. Please turn them in to the receptacles in the main entrances of the church or to the parish office. Donations are also possible online, see the church website

OLSS SUMMER CAMP Our Lady Star of the Sea offers Middle and High School youth an environment where they can totally unplug, grow deeper in authentic and virtuous friendships and have time with our seminarians. Let's face it, teenagers are being pulled in many directions, OLSS's Summer Camp helps our youth grow in virtue and navigate in moral choices. Of course it wouldn't be a summer camp without Volleyball, Water Balloon fights, scavenger hunts, Pie eating contests and much more!! Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/5d298dmt>. The camp is for incoming 6th - 10th grade students and takes place from July 24 through July 28 from 9 am to 1 pm in the Our Lady Star of the Sea - Providence Room. Cost is \$85 and is due before June 23.

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



June 26 — July 2

Monday	Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22/ Mt 7:1-5
9:00 am	Michael and Dawn Schachterle (L)
Tuesday	Gn 13:2, 5-18/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/ Mt 7:6, 12-14
5:30 pm	A Private Intention (L)
Wednesday	Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 7:15-20
9:00 am	John Flynn (S)
Thursday	Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/ 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
5:30 pm	Rev. Pawel Sass (L)
Friday	2 Cor 11:18, 21-30/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Mt 6:19-23
9:00 am	Heather Row Jackson (L)
Saturday	Gn 18:1-15/Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and 53, 54- 55/Mt 8:5-17
9:00 am	Benedict Dyer (D)
4:00 pm	Theresa T. McGuinness (L)
Sunday	2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/ Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42
8:30 am	Corrine Geraty (D)
11:15 am	Rev. Ted Hegnauer (L)
1:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners



To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

MASS INTENTIONS may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing julian@ihmrcc.org. Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

GEAR UP AND DISCOVER CHESTERTON ACADEMY Join us for a self-paced evening with 8 informational stations for current families to gear up for the next academic year and for prospective parents and students to discover Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's in Mechanicsville, MD. Meet Headmaster, Mr. Andrew Pudysz, who will share how a rigorous, classical education benefits students with an opportunity to ask questions about the school. This event is on Wednesday, June 28 from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Events Calendar

June 26 — July 2

Sun: 4 pm

Fr. Ted Farewell Potluck



SPONSOR A NEW CATHOLIC A Blessed Sunday to all! As we quickly approach the start of RCIA it is a good time to consider the work of those who sponsor the catechumen and candidates through to the Easter Sacraments. Although they may select their own sponsor, the preferred method is to have a team of sponsors at the parish ready to serve. The catechumens then choose from among this team. This ensures the sponsors are faithful practicing Catholics who can share their faith with fidelity and love.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Damaritza Ortiz (damaritza@ihmrcc.org) or the parish office (numbers are in the bulletin). We are anxiously waiting to hear from you!

COMMUNION IN THE PARKING LOT Is no longer being done. Please contact the parish office if you would like to have communion brought to your home.

CFF REGISTRATION for the 2023-2024 school year will be available after all Sunday Masses during the month of July, starting Sunday, July 2 and ending Sunday, July 30th. Both new and returning students must register!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Linda Jones, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Mike Price, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Lisa and Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny, Helen Pearson, John Flynn, Linda Medinski

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

Follow us on



JUNE 24 & 25, 2023

QUO VADIS CAMP FOR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS will be held from Sunday, July 23 to Wednesday, July 26. High-school age young men who desire to grow in holiness will have an opportunity for Mass, prayer, and Eucharistic Adoration. There will also be plenty of time for recreation, sports, and fraternity. Bus transportation from IHM will be available. Online registration is open at <https://dcpriest.org/2023-quo-vadis-camp>.

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION Today is the Peter's Pence Collection, a worldwide collection that supports the work of the Universal Church, including the work of the Holy See and the charitable works of Pope Francis. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a sign of mercy to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today! For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html.

CATECHISTS NEEDED The Faith Formation office is in need of catechists (teachers of the faith) for both the Children's Faith Formation and for the RCIA Teens and Adults. If you have a desire to teach the next generation of Catholics or just want to learn more about this calling, please contact Damaritza Ortiz at 301-863-8793 or cff@ihmrcc.org.

RCIA CATECHISTS NEEDED! We are each called to be Missionary Disciples. You don't have to go on a mission half-way around the world! Grow where you are planted right here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. The Rite of Christian Initiation ministry is in need of Team members for various positions:

Catechist for Children age 7-12
Catechist for Teens age 13-17
Catechist For Adults
Prayer Team members
Hospitality
Sponsor/Godparent

The Archdiocese of Washington is offering RCIA training on August 5th, at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Solomons, MD. Please Contact Damaritza Ortiz in the Faith Formation Office at (301) 863-8793 to begin this adventure!

FR. TED'S FAREWELL POTLUCK DINNER Fr. Ted has been reassigned to St. Francis Xavier Parish in Newtowne. On Sunday, July 2 at 4 pm in our fellowship hall, we are going to have a potluck dinner to give him a sendoff to remember! With the diversity within our parish this would be a wonderful opportunity to share our many different ethnic dishes with our fellow parishioners and Father Ted to show him our appreciation for the time he has been with us. If you are planning on attending, we ask you to sign up to bring a main dish, side dish or a dessert. You can sign up online by visiting PerfectPotluck.com and locating the group meal by the coordinator's last name (DeCarlo) and password (1760) to enter the food you are bringing. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the Parish office and tell them what you are bringing. We also need help setting up and cleaning up. If you have any questions, you can contact Dennis DeCarlo at 240-561-4000 or decarlo@verizon.net.

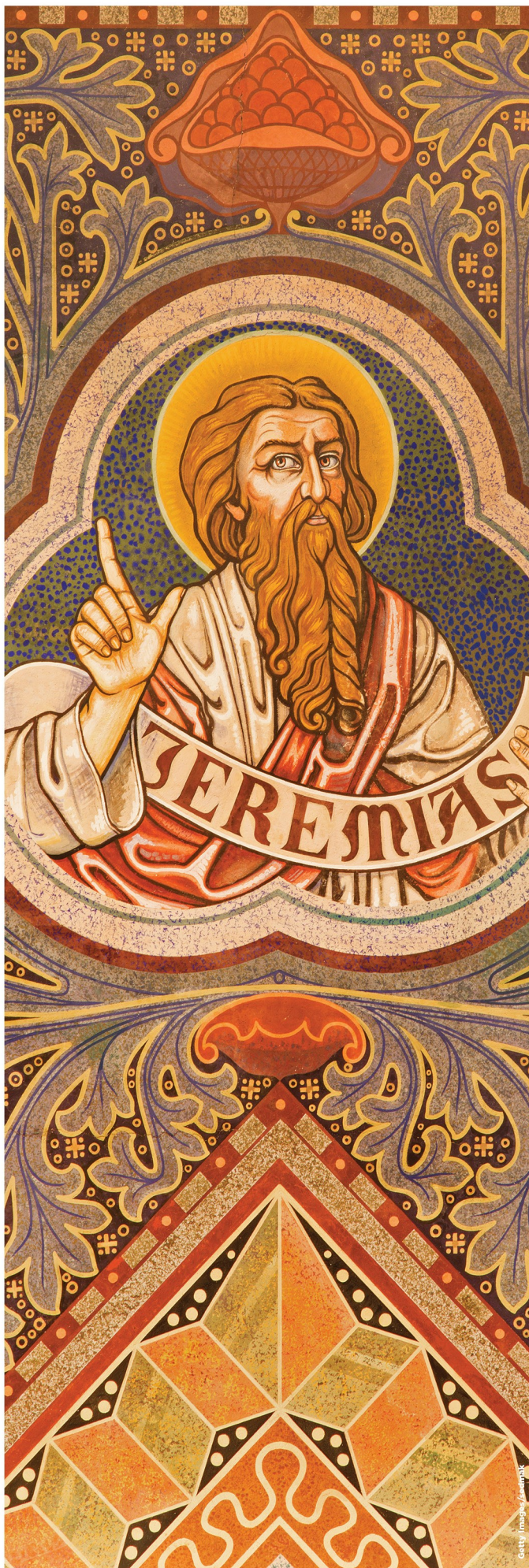
THANK YOU! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who developed, planned, and executed IHM's Father's Day Breakfast. We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parishioners who joined us at the breakfast. Your generous donations will help develop future parish events!

MASS CHANGE Mass on Tuesday, July 4th will be at 9 am. Happy Independence Day!



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Set off your own fireworks by giving your spouse the gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences on Jul 14-16, 2023 in Rockville and Oct 13-15, 2023 in College Park. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://moments4marriage.org> or contact us at applications@moments4marriage.org or 301-500-0871.

HOLY LAND TRIP Our Lady Star of the Sea Travel Club in Solomons is hosting a trip to the Holy Land this coming November. Last year's trip exceeded our expectations, so we have decided to offer it again. The trip dates are November 28 (depart the U.S) to December 6 (return home). The per person cost of \$999 includes hotel, daily breakfast and dinner, bus, and all tours with a private guide. Airfare and trip insurance is additional. (Current airfare is around \$900) Please contact Mary Beth Brown at 443-623-6368, or e-mail marybeth@bytheseatravel.com for more information.



June 25, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:10-13 | Rom 5:12-15 | Mt 10:26-33

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

When I was in middle school, I came upon a group of students who had singled out another student, accusing her of some pretty rotten things. The Lord must have helped me to be brave that day because I decided to step in and defend her. Thankfully, calling them out on their cruelty was enough to fend them off. Thank God for his presence and aid in that moment! In the first reading today, Jeremiah tells of his experience of being betrayed and accused: “All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. ‘Perhaps he will be trapped [they say]; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.’” But Jeremiah does not lose heart, saying also, “the Lord is with me, like a mighty champion.” And Jesus’ words in the Gospel echo the resolve of Jeremiah when he says: “Fear no one ... What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light ... And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.” It seems pretty clear, then, that our job is to bring the Good News of Jesus into the world whenever we can and let his light shine forth by our words and actions. We are commissioned to be warriors for Christ who should not fear injury but rather call upon him in our need and trust in his goodness and mercy to render aid.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Stepping into a conflict or situation can be difficult. But we are not meant to do it alone. Yes, we are called to proclaim the Word of God at every opportunity – to let “zeal” for our Father’s house consume us, as we heard in the psalm. And the task at hand may seem a daunting one – until we focus on the second part of the Gospel and soak in the depth of the love Jesus has for each of his children. Matthew writes: “Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted.” We are not alone as we do the work of the Father; rather, we are known and loved by him and strengthened by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. We can feel emboldened by this as we pursue the everlasting gift of heaven.

ENGAGE This world often tells us to do what makes us happy. Let’s challenge ourselves to, instead, do what makes us *holy*, as we keep our eyes fixed on the path to eternity.