



Dear IHM Parishioners,

After glimpsing the prophet Elijah alongside Moses on the mountaintop of Jesus' Transfiguration last Sunday, we see Elijah amid a different mountaintop experience this Sunday. On the run from wicked Queen Jezebel, the prophet takes shelter in a cave on Mount Horeb, where he is commanded to "Go outside and stand on the mountain" to watch for a sign wherein the Lord will manifest his presence.

Seeking the promised sign, Elijah looks first to a heavy gust of wind, but to his surprise, "the Lord was not in the wind." Then an earthquake comes, but "the Lord was not in the earthquake." Next comes fire, but with the same empty result. The last sign is the least impressive. After wind, fire, and earthquake, only a "still, small voice" remains. This soft, barely audible voice is manner by which the Lord makes Himself known.

It is interesting to compare these two mountaintop experiences. On the mountain of Transfiguration, God makes Himself perceptible by breathtaking light, color, and sound. On Mount Horeb, by contrast, the Lord rejects impressive means of communicating His presence, choosing instead to speak in a manner that is quiet and unremarkable.

The contrast begins to make sense when we see it in the context of our own spiritual lives. The Lord does give us certain "mountaintop experiences," where He grabs our attention, moving us to the depths and communicating His glory in a way we can easily perceive. While these experiences can serve as catalysts for a deeper life of faith and prayer, they are not meant to be the norm. It is to the "still, small voice" of Mount Horeb that we must turn in daily life, where the Lord tends to speak to us through more ordinary and subtle means.

Where do you hear that "still, small voice" in your life? As with Elijah, it can be easy to miss. We would like the Lord to always speak to us in impressive ways that leave us with good feelings, sensible consolations. Real spiritual progress, however, is not about good feelings, but growth in the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love.

For this reason, the Lord speaks more often using those ordinary means we tend to overlook. The readings at Mass, the silence of Eucharistic adoration, a small act of charity given or received, a kind exchange with someone who is going through a hard time: these are just some of the ways the Lord may be trying to manifest His presence to us, if we are willing to go out of our cave and look for Him.

Elijah's experience at Mount Horeb is an encouragement for us to read the ordinary experiences of our lives with an attitude of expectant faith, believing that God really is with us always, even if it is not always easy to perceive Him. If we strive to go out of ourselves and consciously look for the Lord in the events of each day, we will often find Him in unexpected places. We'll begin to glimpse the extraordinary grace that lies behind the ordinary moments of each day.

May we, like Elijah, be attentive to God's presence in the "still, small voice" of our everyday lives, and may this voice beckon us forward, leading us on to ever-greater holiness.

In Christ,

Fr. Taylor



Hello everyone! RCIA season is right around the corner and we need your help in order to make it a successful program! We have begun to expand the program this year to include smaller teams that work together toward the larger goal of guiding people on their journey of faith. Some of the RCIA teams in need of your assistance are Sponsors, Hospitality, Mass Mentors, Assistants and Catechists.

If you or someone you know would be interested in ensuring an awesome RCIA program, please feel free to contact Damaritza Ortiz, Father Marco or the parish office (301-863-8144).



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Find the buried treasures in your marriage by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on Oct 13-15, 2023 in College Park, MD and Sep 22-24, 2023 in Herndon, VA. 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.

GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



August 14 — August 20

Monday	Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Mt 17:22-27
9:00 am	George Ann Thompson (L)
7:00 pm	Gilbert Malit (D)
Tuesday	1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28
9:00 am	All IHM Parishioners
5:30 pm	Helen and Albert Imperial (D)
Wednesday	Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3a, 5 and 8, 16-17/ Mt 18:15-20
9:00 am	Leslie Moreno (L)
Thursday	Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 18:21-19:1
5:30 pm	Eduardo and Virgen Torres (L)
Friday	Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 and 24/ Mt 19:3-12
9:00 am	Rev. Frederick H. MacIntyre (D)
Saturday	Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/ Mt 19:13-15
9:00 am	Simon Jacob Rison (L)
4:00 pm	Corrine Geraty (D)
Sunday	Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
8:30 am	Richard Dreiser (D)
11:15 am	All IHM Parishioners
1:00 pm	Rev. Taylor Colwell (L)



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).

CRAFT FAIR AT IHM Immaculate Heart of Mary will be hosting a craft/vendor fair on Saturday, September 30. If you would like to rent a space or have any questions please contact Martha Worrell at craftfair@IHMRCC.org. Sign up and payment is available online at fairvendor.ihmrcc.org.

Events Calendar

August 14 — August 20

Wed: 10 am Bible Study w/ Fr. Taylor
Thurs: 6 pm-7:30 pm IHM Men's Group

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION for the 2023-2024 school year will be available after all Sunday until Sunday, August 27. Both new and returning students must register! This includes Catholic School students in 2nd and 8th grade preparing for 1st Communion or Confirmation.

SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER St. Joseph's Women's Group in Pomfret, MD is sponsoring a Bus Trip to Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. The play is the "Miracle of Christmas" and the trip takes place on December 6. The cost is \$140 and the bus boards at 7 am from St. Joseph's. Join us for an awe inspiring Christmas show! For details or for details, call or text Georgana Navarro, 301-643-0948.

PARISH COOKBOOK SALES Our 75th Anniversary parish cookbook "Favorite Recipes to Feed the Heart" is here and available at the parish office. Each cookbook is \$20. Payment accepted in cash, check or credit/ACH through cookbook.ihmrcc.org.

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, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Lisa and Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny, Helen Pearson, John Flynn, Linda Miedzinski, Damaritza Ortiz, Michael Briscoe

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 AUGUST

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Follow us on



AUGUST 12 & 13, 2023

TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE— LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL is currently seeking a Middle School Social Studies Teacher and After Care Teacher. If you are interested in either position, please contact Ms. Keeton at ckeeton@littleflowercatholic.org. You can read the full job descriptions at www.schoolspring.com.

TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE—ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL in Bryantown, MD is seeking a Part Time Science Teacher for grades 6-8. This position could be full-time, if needed, by also facilitating STEM classes for grades 3-5. This teacher will follow the Archdiocese of Washington Academic Standards for each grade level. For more information, please contact Catherine Silverstone, Principal, at silverstone@bryantown.org, or 301-932-6883.



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 Church. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) 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

Please contact Damaritza Ortiz in the Faith Formation Office at (301) 863-8793 to begin this adventure!

MUSIC MINISTRY NEEDS YOU! Can you read music? Do you have a good singing voice? Do you want to deepen your faith and serve your community? The IHM Adult Choir is the place to be. Practices will begin on Wednesday, August 23 at 7 pm in the Church. Contact Mary at mary@ihmrcc.org or 240-434-8876. If you don't want to commit to every week, we also have a Men's Group and a Women's Group that serve once a month on the 2nd weekend, and practice for the hour before Mass. (The Women's Group also serves on 5th Saturday Masses). Singers in High School and up are welcome!

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.

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.

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.

IHM MEN'S GROUP SUMMER SCHEDULE Join us every Thursday evening, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm in the Large Classroom for Fellowship and Spiritual Growth. Each week we preview the scripture readings for the coming weekend and then watch and discuss a video. For more information contact Mark Baysinger (240-925-2677 or nbay9@hotmail.com).

ASSUMPTION MASS TIMES The feast of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation, is upcoming! The Mass times for this Feast are as follows: 7 pm on Monday, August 14 and 9 am and 5:30 pm Tuesday, August 15. We will also have Mass at St. Nicholas Chapel on base at 11:35 am.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS Back to school is soon! We invite children and youth to bring your backpacks to a weekend Mass on August 26 or 27 for a blessing the backpacks and for the upcoming school year.

PERPETUAL ADORATION Did you know our very own Immaculate Heart of Mary offers you the opportunity to participate in Perpetual Adoration? Some may ask "What is Perpetual Adoration?" Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members unite in the adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament with the goal of adoring The Blessed Sacrament perpetually (24 hours a day). If you are interested, please call our adoration coordinator, Jeff Harmon, at 240-538-5017 or email adoration@ihmrcc.org for more information.



The Maryland Knights of Columbus 54th Annual Incentive Raffle benefit is underway! Monies raised will benefit the state's charity and scholarship programs as well as the charities and programs of IHM's Knights of Columbus Council #9968. Raffle tickets are available in the foyer after Mass until Sunday, September 17.



August 13, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a | Rom 9:1-5 | Mt 14:22-33

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

Unlike with our other important relationships, God isn't exactly someone we can meet for coffee and look into his eyes while having a conversation. Whether we talk to God in our mind or out loud, we recognize that even with a good prayer life it can sometimes be difficult to cultivate and maintain a relationship with God. Doubters and unbelievers are quick to remind us how impossible it is to believe what we cannot see or hear, but today's readings also remind us that God doesn't speak to us as another human being would. Maybe he doesn't speak with the booming voice of a preacher or a politician, and maybe he doesn't write direct messages for us in the sky or sand, but God does speak. Perhaps, like Elijah, we tend to expect God to communicate with huge gestures, such as strong wind that crushes rocks, or earthquakes or fires; but we hear today that God spoke to Elijah in a "tiny whispering sound." It's not unlike a very good teacher who doesn't need to raise her voice to get her students' attention when they lose focus – she has their respect and simply needs to speak normally and calmly and the students quiet down, pay attention, and listen. When we still our hearts and minds and listen, in prayer, let us be confident we will hear God's voice.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Perhaps in order to hear God's voice in our lives we need to fine-tune our "hearing." First, how can we hear if we do not have faith? Jesus called Peter out of the boat and into stormy waters, and though he was able to walk on water for a time, Peter began to sink because he became afraid. Doubt or fear can hamper our ability to listen to the Lord clearly; don't let it cloud your love for Christ! Second, we must keep in mind the many ways God speaks to us: his Word (the Bible), the writings of the saints and Church Fathers, our Catholic Tradition, other people God has placed in our lives, and the "tiny whispering sound" we might hear only within our heart. Stay attuned to God's voice; the rewards are heavenly.

INVITATION Ignatian spirituality – meditations, prayers, and contemplative practices – may help us recognize and truly hear the still small voice of God in our lives. The Daily Examen is a prayerful reflection on the events of the day which might help us identify the movement of the Holy Spirit in those moments. Give it a try.