

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is now our second weekend without a parochial vicar, after Fr. Taylor went home to Georgia before returning to Rome to complete his studies. The Vicar for Clergy of the Archdiocese has told me that he hopes to have news for me at the end of September regarding what the plan will be for a new parochial vicar. That "news", however, might be that there will not be another priest assigned to our parish for the time being. Or it might be that one is coming in October.

As many of you know, our southern neighboring parishes, St. Cecilia and St. Peter Claver, have been without a pastor (officially for several weeks, but effectively for many months), as Fr. Larry Swink has been on medical leave, and now will not be returning to those parishes. Many other priests, locally and from up the road (including Fr. Taylor and myself) have been filling in at those parishes. Hopefully, the Archdiocese will soon find them a pastor, who would also serve as chaplain at St. Mary's College. It is not an easy task to find a priest who is a good fit, because those three communities are very different from each other. Once they have that sorted out (as well as finding a pastor for St. Paul's in Damascus, MD), they will turn their attention to finding us a parochial vicar. So pray that those flocks soon have their shepherds.

I also urge our entire parish family to pray for our next parochial vicar, whoever he may be, that he will be what our parish needs. And pray that he be available soon. Unfortunately, because of human limitations and church law, while there is no second priest at IHM, some things will be changing. For example, it may not be possible to have funeral or wedding Masses on Saturdays or on other days when I already have 2 masses (Church law only permits a priest to celebrate 2 masses a day, and 3 on Sundays and holy days of obligation, and that only with special permission, which I have). Weddings and funerals could still take place, but they would not be in the context of a Mass. This is also a potential issue for Christmas, which this year falls on a Monday. That means that Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, so the schedule for that Sunday (4th Sunday of Advent) and Christmas Eve may have to change. Even disregarding Church law, with my back problems, I don't think I can manage 10 Masses within two and a half days.

Not having a second priest at the parish will also likely mean that my availability for appointments will be diminished. Luckily, we now have three excellent deacons who are available for pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, communion calls and various blessings of people, objects, homes and vehicles (but would not be able to handle confessions and anointing of the sick). We

also have some lay people well-trained for communion calls and even for spiritual direction (accompanying someone in their walk with God through regular meetings to discuss their prayer life). Another bit of good news is that our Archdiocese expects to ordain 16 new priests next June, so there will be some relief coming. But let's hope and pray that we don't have to wait that long.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Marco



IHM will be hosting a craft/vendor fair on Saturday, September 30 from 9 am to 2 pm. Please plan on visiting the many vendors already confirmed (we're having to use overflow rooms!). If you have any questions, please contact Martha Worrell at craftfair@IHMRCC.org.

DIVORCECARE Divorce is one of the most painful experiences you can face. You don't have to go through it alone. DivorceCare offers support, answers, and practical tools to help you manage the many stresses of separation and divorce and find healing. DivorceCare is a 13-week support group that helps you heal from the pain of separation or divorce. Each meeting includes a short video seminar each week and a confidential small group discussion. Meetings are Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm beginning September 28. To register, or for more information, please email attthewell@ihmrcc.org.

MOSES FILM FROM SIGHT & SOUND THEATER On Saturday, October 14 at 5:30 pm. The epic story of our father in faith, Moses is the first in a planned series of films we will show from Sight & Sound Theater in PA. To ensure seating availability, tickets are free at tickets.ihmrcc.org (see that site also for a trailer of the film). Freewill donations accepted at the door. Concession stand available.

BIBLE STUDY STARTING SOON: GENESIS TO JESUS What is the Bible, where does it come from, and what is its purpose? How are Catholics supposed to read the Bible and what story does it tell? These are the ever-important questions answered in Genesis to Jesus. Join us to learn the basic Catholic principles for reading Scripture and to survey the broad outlines of the books of the Bible and their place in the story of salvation. The study will meet on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 am in the large classroom, from September 27 to December 13 (except November 22). For more information and to register, contact Nancy Baysinger at 240-298-4713. Suggested additional reading: *A Father Who Keeps His Promises* by Scott Hahn.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

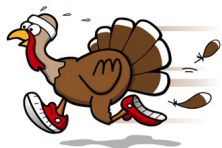
MASS Intentions

September 25 — October 1

Monday	Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/ Lk 8:16-18
9:00 am	Harold Toting (D)
Tuesday	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/ Lk 8:19-21
5:30 pm	Harold Toting (D)
Wednesday	Ezr 9:5-9/Tobit 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/ Lk 9:1-6
9:00 am	Leslie and Kenny Jackson (L)
Thursday	Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/ Lk 9:7-9
5:30 pm	Rev. George A. Wilkinson (D)
Friday	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/ Jn 1:47-51
9:00 am	Rev. Michal Sajnog (L)
Saturday	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45
9:00 am	Joe Masseur (D)
4:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners
Sunday	Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Phil 2:1-11/Mt 21:28-32
8:30 am	Our Future IHM Parochial Vicar
11:15 am	Sebastian Victoria (D)
1:00 pm	Gressia Alvarado Flores (L)

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.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS This month's Mass with Healing Prayers is at 7 pm on Monday, Sept. 25. After Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for healing with laying on of hands. Confessions begin at 6:30 pm and continue as long as there are penitents.



INAUGURAL IHM TURKEY TROT 5K IHM will be hosting our inaugural Turkey Trot 5K this year on Thanksgiving morning. Our next planning meeting will be held on

Wednesday, Sep 27 5:30-6:30pm in Room Phillip. We are looking for a volunteer to assist with print marketing and social media, as well as a race-day photographer and DJ. There are several other fun opportunities to earn volunteer hours leading up to the event as well as that day. Join us on Sep 27 or contact Denise Mallett (mvmfam@gmail.com or 301-481-8586) to learn more!

BANNS OF MARRIAGE Be it known to all that Alan Long, a parishioner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church from June 2011 to September 2013, and Raquel Francisco, of Our Lady of Victory Church, Quezon City, Philippines, intend to be united in holy matrimony at St. Pius X Chapel, Upper Marlboro, MD on October 7, 2023. Wherefore, we hereby admonish each and all that, if anyone of you has knowledge of an impediment existing which would prevent their marrying, whether it be an impediment of blood relationship, relationship through marriage, spiritual relationship, or of any other kind, you are bound to make it known to the pastor as soon as possible. This is the first publication of the banns.

THANK YOU! A huge thank you to all who worked together to make the parish picnic and farewell for Fr. Taylor a rousing success! A special thanks to Janet Harmon, who coordinated the efforts of all our generous volunteers.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend is for the Building and Maintenance Fund. Please be generous in support for this collection!



**PLEASE PRAY
THAT THE SICK
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, Michael Briscoe, Patricia A. Louis, Susan Marie Hollis, Norma Jean Jubeck

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 SEPTEMBER

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Follow us on



SEPTEMBER 23 & 24, 2023

PART TIME MATH TEACHER St. John's School in Hollywood, MD is seeking to hire a part-time Math teacher for grades 6-8. This position is Monday through Friday from 8 am to 11 am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the hours are from 8 am to 1 pm. Candidates for this position are to have a bachelor's degree and at least 2 years of teaching or related experience. If interested, please email the Principal, Susan McDonough at: mcdonoughs@sjshollywood.org.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE Sponsored by Knights of Columbus St. Mary's Council on Saturday, 7 October, 9 am to 2 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 41605 Fenwick St., Leonardtown. Sign up at: WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG then insert KOC1470 into the box FIND A DRIVE in the upper right corner.

THE WAY RETREAT FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE The Church seeks to minister to all survivors of abuse. The Archdiocese of Washington is hosting a retreat for survivors of all kinds of abuse. The women's retreat is September 29 - October 1, 2023 and the men's retreat is scheduled for April 26-28. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information go to adw.org/the-way-retreat. To register email mcdonald@adw.org. Location disclosed to participants only.

HIGH SCHOOL PILGRIMAGE TO ST. CLEMENTS ISLAND The Southern Maryland ROOTS Youth Group is excited to announce the 2nd annual high school pilgrimage to historic St. Clement's Island on Saturday, September 30 from 8 am until 8 pm. Cost is \$65.00 per Student or Chaperone before August 30, \$90 until September 29. Price includes boat transportation, lunch/dinner/snacks/ Journey T-shirt, drawstring bag with goodies and so much more. Scholarships are available. Any student needing a group/chaperone can contact Cookie Pontzer at 301-672-0075, cookiepontzer@protonmail.com. To learn more about this event and to register, visit: southernmarylandroots.org or email southernmarylandroots@gmail.com.

ABIDE IN ME CATHOLIC GIRLS RETREAT Girls from 3rd to 12th grade are invited to a day retreat with religious Sisters featuring Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, confession, talks, games, lunch and a Rosary walk. The event is Saturday, October 7 starting at 8:15 am at St. John Francis Regis in Hollywood. For more information and to register, please visit <https://forms.gle/BxyaBaTVGKSSa2m7>.

EVENTS CALENDAR

September 25—October 1

Mon: 7 pm

Mass w/Healing Prayers

Sat: 9 am to 2 pm

IHM Craft Fair



FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE The next First Tuesday Coffee will be held on Tuesday, October 3 from 9 until 11 am in the Parish Hall. Please bring a friend and a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.

FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS The next First Friday Mass is October 6. We will have Mass at 9 am and 5:30 pm. First Saturday Mass is at 9 am on Saturday, October 7. All three Masses will be followed by confessions and Eucharistic Exposition.

PROMOTE A CULTURE OF LIFE Join us and visibly stand for Life as part of the Life Chain in front of IHM along Hwy 235. Sunday, October 1st, 2p m to 3:30 pm.

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.



ANNUAL RIDE FOR VOCATIONS

Saturday, September 30. 6 am Check-in; 7 am Mass, Sacred Heart, La Plata. Riders can choose their route—100 miles, 70 miles, 50 miles, or a 21-mile bike trail.

Fully-staffed rest stops at seven historic churches in Southern Maryland. Donations support Office of Priest Vocations, vocations events, and seminarians. For more information and registration, see <https://dcpriest.org/event/ride-for-vocations-2023> or contact vocations@adw.org.

MENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR St. Aloysius is hosting the Sanctuary Mental Health Seminar which is an eight-week study that explores key mental health topics through the lens of our Catholic faith and examines ways to offer companionship, support, recovery and promote well-being. The sessions are accompanied by compelling films that feature the stories of Catholics living with mental health challenges, along with the insights of bishops, theologians, and psychologists. The seminar starts on Thursday September 28th at 6:30 pm in the parish hall. If you'd like to learn more, or maybe you would like to help assist with small group discussions, please contact Deacon Matt at menard@md.metrocast.net.



September 24, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9 | Phil 1:20c-24, 27a | Mt 20:1-16a

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

Today's readings should bring us great joy. They are a reminder that our Lord may have high standards, but he is also "generous in forgiving" and "near to all who call upon him." In the Gospel, we hear the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. Some work all day while others arrive at the last hour. However, all are paid the same. Similarly, we can all receive God's heavenly reward - whether we are faithful Catholics since birth or converts in our final hour. This parable may evoke mixed feelings for those who see themselves as the laborers who have toiled all day and wonder why their reward is not greater. But rather than making us jealous, this parable should make us rejoice: How wonderful that everyone has the opportunity for everlasting life with the Lord! And what great comfort to know that if we falter and lose our way, it is never too late to return to God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes, knowing that we are the recipients of God's bountiful mercy, we can be tempted to lead a life focused mostly on worldly pleasures. To paraphrase St. Augustine: Make me holy Lord ... just not yet! Of course we know this isn't the right attitude or approach to life, but it's certainly tempting. Let's return to the message of the Gospel for a moment. Yes, the Lord is generous in giving all the workers the same wage. But perhaps equally as important is that we are called to be workers in the Lord's vineyard, and what an honor and privilege that is! Serving in the Lord's kingdom here on earth is not drudgery; it is life-giving and fills us with God's love and grace. Let us recall the words of St. Paul in today's Letter to the Philippians. Although he longs to "depart this life and be with Christ," he knows that staying here on earth means "fruitful labor for me." Let us also strive to keep our eyes on the Lord and labor in his field for as long as we are able.

PRAY The first reading from Isaiah reminds us that the Lord works in ways we can't understand: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." Let us ask God this week for the fortitude to reorient our thoughts and ways to his will, not ours, so as to "conduct [ourselves] in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ."