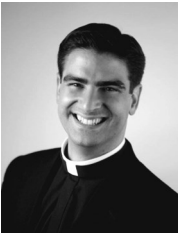


FEBRUARY 17 & 18, 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

We have been saved by the waters of baptism: washed free from sin and death and promised the eternal reward of life in the kingdom with our Savior. Yet we remain sinners. When we search our own

hearts and examine our lives we know we have given way in the face of temptation, choosing disobedience and bringing pain and suffering to ourselves and our communities. As Christians, this is precisely the contrast of the Lenten season. There is indeed cause for joy and hope! There is indeed cause for regret and sorrow. And the paradox is that one must embrace the suffering to experience the joy.

For 40 days – a number harkening to the time of rain which caused the flood, the years Israel spent wandering in the wilderness, and the days Jesus faces the temptations of Satan – we, too, journey into the desert. We take up fasting, prayer, and almsgiving with humble hearts that recognize our sinfulness. We simplify our liturgy and refrain from certain celebrations, songs, and acclamations of praise. We take stock of our sins and we seek forgiveness.

But we do not walk without hope. We repent, yes, but we also believe in the Gospel! We are fundamentally a people of hope – a people chosen by God and redeemed by the resurrection of our Savior. We are a people who walk in the first light of dawn with the sure knowledge that death has lost its sting and hell has no victory.

And still we know that the light of day has not yet cast out all darkness. The kingdom of God is already at hand, but it is not yet fulfilled. Let us pray for its coming. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament offers a virtual eight-week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, child, sibling or significant other. The next series will begin Tuesday, February 20 and continue for eight consecutive Tuesdays through April 9 from 7 to 8:30 pm. As a reminder, the meetings are virtual. For more information contact Jim Hoffman at hoffmanlpc@gmail.com or call cell: (202) 577 – 2213.

POPES IN A YEAR DAILY E-MAIL This Thursday, February 22 (the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter), our Flocknote e-mail system starts a series of daily e-mails “The Popes in a Year”, with a brief biography of each pope from St. Peter to Pope Francis. To sign up, go to <https://ihmrcc.flocknote.com/PopesinaYear>

EASTER EGGS NEEDED Lent is here and it is time to plan the Easter Egg hunt. In order to be a success, we are in need of approximately 2,000 plastic eggs as well as small individually wrapped candy and small toys to fill the eggs. There will be a box for donations in the foyer beginning this weekend, February 10. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Worrell at worrell@ihmrcc.org. Thank you for making this event possible.

FORMED To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press “sign up” and then enter the ZIP code of the parish “20653”, follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!



MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE The Knights of Columbus are running a raffle to support the funding drive for a new electronic sign at the entrance to IHM. The winner of a meal prepared by Fr. Marco will be announced at the Mother’s Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 12th. Tickets are \$10.00 or three for \$25. They will be available after masses and Knights events.

ANGEL’S WATCH FAMILY SHELTER Angel’s Watch in Charles County is operated by Catholic Charities and offers 45-90 days of emergency stay, comprehensive case management and referrals to social services for individuals and families from St. Mary’s, Calvert and Charles counties. Angel’s Watch needs help! One simple way to aid them is to collect items they need on a daily basis including below. A bin labelled “ANGELS WATCH” has been placed in the foyer for donations. Pillows, Full size sheet sets, Shower Liners and Hooks, Umbrella Strollers, Diapers (Size 4, 5, 6 and Pull Ups all sizes), Toothbrushes, Men’s and Baby toiletries, Key Locks for Lockers, Lotion/Body Wash, Bleach/Laundry Detergent/Glass Cleaner, Gift Cards to Walmart, CVS, Target, gas stations and grocery stores to assist with prescriptions/gas/food. (Deliver gift cards to the parish office, labelled Angels Watch). In addition to this, they urgently need help with evening meals. The goal is to have a group provide a meal one evening a month. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Kathy Bishop at 240-925-3414 or email at kbahl25@gmail.com.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS Intentions

February 19 — February 25

Monday	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/ Mt 25:31-46
9:00 am	Patty Shade (D)
Tuesday	Is 55:10-11/PS 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/ Mt 6:7-15
5:30 pm	Lloyd Mallet (S)
Wednesday	Jon 3:1-10/PS 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/ Lk 11:29-32
9:00 am	Mary Lou Batchelor (D)
Thursday	1 Pt 5:1-4/PS 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/ Mt 16:13-19
5:30 pm	Gertrude Toledo (D)
Friday	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/ Mt 5:20-26
9:00 am	Carry Jones (L)
Saturday	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/ Mt 5:43-48
9:00 am	Michael McDowell (D)
4:00 pm	John Barnes (D)
Sunday	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10
8:30 am	Alice B. Stapanon (D)
11:15 am	All IHM Parishioners
1:00 pm	Damaritza Ortiz (L)

DESSERT TABLE St. Vincent de Paul of IHM will be hosting the dessert table for the Lenten Seafood Dinners every Friday from February 16 through March 22. We are asking for donations of desserts (homemade preferred) to sell at the dinners. The desserts need to be dropped off at the parish hall by 3 pm each Friday. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Hodkiewicz at SVDP@ihmrcc.org or 301-863-7263 in the evening. Thank you for your support!

COMMUNITY HEALTH TALK Please join us for a medical information presentation provided by University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center's (UM CRMC) Palliative Care Team on Saturday, February 24 at 2:30 pm in the Activity Center at St. Joseph's in Pomfret. Topics will include CRMC palliative care services, required medical forms including Advanced Medical Directives and Medical Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) as well as education outlining the different healthcare benefits between Palliative and Hospice care. This session will provide information on the importance of becoming proactive in your and your loved ones' medical care BEFORE medical emergencies may arise. Due to limited seating, please RSVP by calling 301-539-3903. The event is free.

LENTEN SEAFOOD DINNERS Enjoy our Lenten Seafood Dinners on Fridays of Lent (February 16 to March 22) from 4 pm to 7 pm. Both Dine-In and To-Go meals are available. Adult meals include 2 sides, plus 3 hush puppies and coleslaw. Prices and options are as follows: \$17 for the Steamed or Fried Shrimp (10 count), or the Baked Rockfish (6-8 oz), and \$18 for the Fried Oysters (10 count), the Fried Rockfish (4 pieces, 1 to 2 oz each), the Fried Cod (salt & vinegar, 2 pieces, 2.5 oz each). Availability of Fried Rockfish and Fried Cod will alternate each week. There is also a \$25 Seafood Platter (Fried or Baked/Steamed). Fried: Shrimp (6), Oysters (6) & Rockfish (2) or Cod (1). Baked/Steamed: Shrimp (6), Oysters (6) & Rockfish (1). The sides are Green Beans, French Fries, Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, or extra Hush Puppies. Extra sides are 2 for \$3. Kid's Meals also available: 5 Fish Sticks and 2 sides for \$6. You can order online at seafood.ihmrcc.org (credit card, Google Pay or ACH) or order in person: cash or check. Desserts will also be offered by SVDP of IHM, cash only. We hope to see you there!

IHM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY The next Fellowship Sunday is on Sunday, February 25. Join us in the Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and fellowship after Mass!



PLEASE PRAY THAT THE SICK MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Jane Kenyon, 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, Michael Briscoe, Patricia A. Louis, Susan Marie Hollis, Melva Coates, Frances Roof, Jayne C., Dcn. Barnes, Claude Clark, Coleen Corliss, Katie Beuchert, Tom Chayka, Rob Buttrick, Victoria Zitaglio, Marie Rose, Paul Crowe, Rodney Finch

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 FEBRUARY

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Follow us on



FEBRUARY 17 & 18, 2024

TIME SANCTIFIED-MORNING (from *Sacred Signs* by Fr. Romano Guardini, 1927)

Though each hour of the day has its own character, three hours stand out from the rest—morning, evening, and, half way between them, noonday, and have an aspect distinctively their own. These three hours the church has consecrated.

Of them all the morning hour wears the most shining face. It possesses the energy and brightness of a beginning. Mysteriously, each morning we are born again. We emerge out of sleep refreshed, renewed, with an invigorating sense of being alive. This newly infused feeling of our existence turns to a prayer of thanksgiving for life to him who gave it. With an impulse to action born of fresh energy we think of the day ahead and of the work to be done in it, and this impulse also becomes a prayer. We begin the day in God's name and strength and ask him to make our work a work for him.

This morning hour when life reawakens and we are more keenly aware of our existence, when we begin the day with gratitude for our creation and turn to our work with fresh creative power, is a holy hour.

It is plain how much depends on this first hour. It is the day's beginning. The day may be started without a beginning. The day may be slipped into without thought or intention. But such a day, without purpose or character, hardly deserves the name. It is no more than a torn-off scrap of time. A day is a journey. One must decide which way one is going. It is also a work, and as such requires to be willed. A single day is the whole of life. The whole of life is like a day. Each day should have its own distinct character.

The morning hour exercises the will, directs the intention, and sets our gaze wholly upon God.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED On Monday, February 19.

NEW PARISH DIRECTORY The last Parish Directory was distributed in 2012, so it is time for an update! Universal Church Directories (UCD) will help us publish a new directory this summer. Family photos for the directory will be taken on May 2-4. You can sign up for your photography appointment at www.ucdir.com/schedule, using the church code "MD203" and password "photos". We need volunteers 5-10 minutes after each weekend mass to help our parishioners sign up. Please contact Les Pearson at nosrae@verizon.net if you can help.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Mon: All Day
Wed: 10 am
Fri: 4-7 pm
7 pm
8 pm

February 19 — February 25

Parish Office Closed
Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Lenten Seafood Dinner
English Stations of the Cross
Spanish Stations of the Cross

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).

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.



LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL AUCTION Little Flower School is proud to announce the return of the Little Flower School Spring Auction on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024. Tickets are \$100 per person, \$165 per couple, and \$650 for a table. Tickets include a fun night of LIVE and Silent Auctions, a dessert auction, numerous raffles, a St. Mary's County style dinner catered by Rita B Catering, a ONE NIGHT ONLY return of infamous Auctioneer Mr. Danny Raley, and an open bar. Tickets can be purchased on the school's website. Volunteers will also be available after Masses next weekend to sell tickets via cash or check, so if you prefer to buy your tickets that way, come prepared next weekend. The basic information is also in the bulletin. Little Flower School thanks you for your support!

2023 GIVING STATEMENTS Your contribution records for 2023 are available online at <http://my.ihmrcc.org>, or by contacting the parish office at 302-863-8144 x14 or office@ihmrcc.org. We can mail them, e-mail them or hold them for pick-up. Please contact the office before coming to pick it up, as the 2 people who have access to those records might not be available if you come without notice. Those who give online (or made an online payment for the Seafood Dinners) should have received by e-mail a statement with online giving transactions only. This was sent by our online giving system and does not include any donations made by check or cash. For the full record, please download it at <http://my.ihmrcc.org> or contact the office. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. Please note that Seafood Dinner payments are NOT tax-deductible.



February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 | 1 Pt 3:18-22 | Mk 1:12-15

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today is the first day of Lent! It is the beginning of a new liturgical season in the Church, a season of prayer, service and self-sacrifice. It is a time of preparation, culminating in the holiest day of the year: Easter. As we embark on our Lenten journey, we hear a reading from Genesis in which God makes a covenant with Noah where he promises, “the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings.” The Lord has said that no matter our disobedience, sin and rebellion, he will never destroy us! Saint Peter explains how the story of Noah, “in which a few persons ... were saved through water,” prefigures baptism, and baptism, as we know, marks us as the Lord’s own forever. We are sealed with a sign that can never be relinquished. So, just as the great flood signaled a rebirth for the world, our baptism is a rebirth of our soul in Christ. We are washed clean of our original sin, and the door to salvation is opened for us. It is fitting that at the beginning of our Lenten journey we hear the story of the beginning of our eternal covenant with the Lord. Both the covenant, and Lent, will be fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As a child, Lent meant lentils for dinner, Stations of the Cross on Fridays, and no TV ever. For a 10-year-old, it was a time to be endured. Now, as an adult, Lent can still be hard, but I recognize it as a time of opportunity as well. It is a chance to strip away all the excess in my life and focus on what matters most. While I am not exactly jumping for joy at the thought of fasting, I can’t deny that it is easier for me to spend time in prayer when I’m not mindlessly grazing on chips and chocolate all day long. I may grumble at times, but with God’s grace I have grown in understanding of the Church’s wisdom in encouraging us to fast, pray and give alms during Lent. All three practices invite us to reflect on the great sacrifice of the Lord and prepare our hearts to receive him each Sunday in the Eucharist, as well as on our final judgment day.

PRAY Lent is the perfect time to take stock of your current spiritual practices and add new ones to your daily routine. Remember the words we heard from Jesus today: “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Start off your Lenten season right by taking time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and designating a time each day to pray. If you aren’t sure what to say to God during this time, choose a verse or two of Psalm 6 and let your heart take it from there.



LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2024

Tuesday, February 13

Carnival Pancake Supper: 6-8 pm

Reflection with Eucharistic Adoration ("The Call to Repentance & Faith"): 6:30-7:30 pm

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Mass with Distribution of Ashes: 6:30 am, 9 am & 7 pm

11:35 am Mass at St. Nicholas, PAX River

Fridays of Lent, February 16 to March 22

Seafood Dinner: 4 to 7 pm (seafood.ihmrcc.org)

Stations of the Cross: 7 pm (English) & 8 pm (Spanish)

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction: 7:35 pm

Fellowship Sunday, February 25 & March 24

Doughnuts, Coffee & Conversation in the Parish Hall after Sunday Masses

Mass with Healing Service, Monday, February 26 & March 25

Confessions: 6:30 pm | Mass: 7 pm

Healing Service with Eucharistic Adoration after Mass

First Friday of the Month, March 1

Mass: 9 am & 5:30 pm

Confessions & Eucharistic Adoration after Mass

First Saturday of the Month, March 2

Mass: 9 am | Confessions & Eucharistic Adoration after Mass

Tuesday, March 12

Talk with Eucharistic Adoration: 6:30-7:30 pm

Palm Sunday, March 24

Saturday 4 pm (English)

Sunday 8:30 & 11:15 am (English), 1 pm (Spanish)

Holy Thursday, March 28

Morning Prayer and Confessions: 9 am

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual): 7 pm

Eucharistic Adoration: after Mass until midnight

Good Friday, March 29

Morning Prayer, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Confessions: 9 am

Stations of the Cross: 3 pm (bilingual)

Service of the Lord's Passion: 7 pm (bilingual)

Holy Saturday, March 30

Morning Prayer, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Confessions: 9 am

Easter Vigil Mass: 8 pm (bilingual)

Easter Sunday, March 31

Mass: 8:30 & 11:15 am (English), 1 pm (Spanish)

*Except for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday,
the regular Mass and confession schedule applies.*