

MARCH 9 & 10, 2024



I am Fr. Benjamin Garcia, originally from Santiago, Chile. I come from a family of five boys and one girl. I attended the Naval Academy for two years in Chile, and it was there that I decided to become a priest. I am happy to come to

Immaculate Heart of Mary, and I hope to be a good part of this family of faith. I like the outdoors, reading, playing the cello, camping, and always enjoy a good steak with good company. I look forward to meeting you all and being part of the parish community.



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.

NEW PARISH DIRECTORY The last Parish Directory was distributed in 2012, so it is time for an update! Family photos for the directory will be taken on May 2-4. You can sign up for your photography appointment in the foyer after the weekend masses or online at www.ucdir.com/schedule, using the church code "MD203" and password "photos". To avoid double booking, online scheduling is available only Monday through Friday. 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.

CEMETERY NOTICE As posted at the cemetery entrance, artificial flowers and other artificial decorations are not allowed during mowing season (March 11—November 15). Artificial decorations will be removed.



JOIN THE KNIGHTS! Got questions about the Knights of Columbus? Want to be a member? Contact Grand Knight Craig Davie at 240-434-6810 or Membership Director Curt Winters at 240-434-1796.

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@ihmrc.org for more information.

IHM CATHOLIC MOM'S GROUP For moms with children of all ages to connect, learn and grow in faith together. RSVP to emily.m.yazawa@gmail.com for our upcoming events. Monday, March 11th from 12-1pm at IHM: Mommy & Me Crafts & Lunch - bring your littles for Saint Patrick's Day activities.

Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 pm: Mom's Night Out - Leonardtown Wine & Design.

May 18, 10 am - 12 noon at IHM: Family Gardening Day - bring your family and your gardening tools and help beautify our church!

ANGEL'S WATCH FAMILY SHELTER Angel's Watch in offers emergency stay, comprehensive case management and referrals to social services for local individuals and families. Angel's Watch needs items used 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. No more books are needed! 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.

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

LENTEN EVENING OF RECOLLECTION On Tuesday, March 12 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The evening will include Eucharistic Adoration and a talk by Dcn. Ronnie on Repentance and Faith.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS Intentions

March 11 — March 17

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|------------------|---|
| Monday | Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54 |
| 9:00 am | Eduardo Quijano (S) |
| Tuesday | Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16 |
| 5:30 pm | Raul Gonzalez (D) |
| Wednesday | Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30 |
| 9:00 am | Lisa Crowe (D) |
| Thursday | Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47 |
| 5:30 pm | Laura Gwynn (L) |
| Friday | Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 |
| 9:00 am | Helen and Albert Imperial (D) |
| Saturday | Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53 |
| 9:00 am | Paul Crowe (S) |
| 4:00 pm | Carol Ann Black (D) |
| Sunday | Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 |
| 8:30 am | All IHM Parishioners |
| 11:15 am | Marlyne Matudio (D) |
| 1:00 pm | Iris M. River de Carreras (D) |

DAILY MASS TIME CHANGE: APRIL 25 On Thursday, April 25, Mass will start at 5 pm, not at the usual time.

DESSERT TABLE St. Vincent de Paul of IHM is hosting the dessert table for the Lenten Seafood Dinners every Friday until 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!

JOB OPENING St. Mary's Church and School is seeking a Director of Religious Education. This role will foster a vibrant and spiritually enriching educational environment. This is a full time role and will report to the Pastor. Candidates interested in applying for this position should send their resume to Deacon Jeff Johnson at deacon@bryantown.org. The pastor endorsement can be sent under separate correspondence to the same email address.

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 pieces), or the Baked Rockfish (6-8 oz), and \$18 for the Fried Oysters (10 pieces), 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!



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, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, 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 MARCH

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Follow us on



MARCH 9 & 10, 2024

SPACE SANCTIFIED (from *Sacred Signs* by Fr. Romano Guardini, 1927)

Of natural space we commonly predicate three directions—up, down, and beside. They indicate that in space there is order, and that it is not a chaos. They enable us to conduct a mode of life and move about from place to place, erect buildings and live in them.

In divine and supernatural space there is also this order of direction. It is grounded in a mystery.

Churches [traditionally] are built along the east to west direction of the sun's course. They face the east and the rising sun. The chord of the sun's arc runs through them. They are built to receive his first and his last rays. The sun of the supernatural world is Christ. Consequently the course of the natural sun, his symbol, governs all sacred architecture and determines all its forms and arrangements. At every line and point eternal life is kept in view.

[Prior to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council,] at the reading of the Gospel the missal is moved over to the left, that is, since the altar always faces east, it is moved toward the north. As a matter of history, the divine message proceeded northward from the Mediterranean region, and the memory of this fact is present. But the more profound symbolism is that the south is the region of light, and signifies the divine illumination, as the north signifies darkness and cold. The Word of God, who is the Light of the World, rises out of the light and shines upon the darkness and presses hard upon it in order to make itself "comprehended."

East to west, south to north. The third direction is from above down, from below up. When he is preparing the Holy Sacrifice, the priest lifts up first the paten, then the chalice. God is above; he is the All-Highest. "Out of the depths" the suppliant lifts up hands and eyes toward the holy hills. The bishop, when he gives his blessing, lowers his hand upon the head of the person kneeling before him; the priest, when he consecrates, upon the objects to be blessed. Creation is a downward act, blessing comes down from above, from the Holy One on High. This third direction of supernatural space is proper to the soul and to God. Desire, prayer, sacrifice ascend upward from below; grace, the granting of prayer, the sacraments, descend downward from above.

In accordance with these directions the worshipper faces the rising sun, and turns his gaze upon Christ, whom it symbolizes. The divine light streams westward into the believer's heart. West to east is the soul's orientation; east to west the rise and progress of God.

From the north the darkness looks toward the light of the divine word; and from the fiery heart of the south the divine word streams out upon the darkness in light and warmth.

From beneath upward, out of the depths toward the throne of God on high, the soul sends up her yearnings, prayers and sacrifices; and God's response in grace, blessing, sacrament, comes downward from above.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Tues: 6:30 pm
Wed: 10 am
Thurs: 10 am
Fri: 4-7 pm
7 pm
8 pm

March 11 — March 17

Lenten Evening of Recollection
Wednesday Morning Bible Study
IHM Craft Group
Lenten Seafood Dinner
English Stations of the Cross
Spanish Stations of the Cross



ALMOST IMMACULATE IHM THRIFT STORE is in need of help! Please stop by the store during operating hours to check out what we do. Then, if you want to help, please contact Deacon Mike at 240-542-8369. We are located in the Kerr House (white building at the street entrance). The thrift store is open Fridays and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Donations (no clothing) accepted during those hours. The thrift shop supports the food pantry and our local community, so stop by and see what you can do!



IHM MUSIC MINISTRY If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the parish, there is a place for you in this ministry! Please email Mary at mary@ihmrcc.org.

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!

LAZARUS COMMITTEE Are you looking for a way to support grieving families in our parish? Consider joining the Lazarus Committee, a group of volunteers who prepare and serve meals after the funerals of active and registered parishioners. This is a meaningful ministry that offers comfort and fellowship to those who have lost a loved one. To learn more or to sign up, please call Pat at 240-925-0021 or Linda at 240-298-5264. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

PAX CATHOLIC THEOLOGY ON TAP Calling all young adults in Southern Maryland! Join us for the reboot of PAX Catholic at 6pm on Thursday, March 21 at the Brass Tap in California. We'll hear from Deacon Kenneth Scheiber, of St. John's, on "Truth and Tolerance: Catholicism & Other World Religions". Email paxcatholicstmarys@gmail.com if you have any questions.

WHAT ARE THOSE NUMBERS? Maybe you have wondered what those numbers are that the lector refers to on the two boards. On the right-hand side, the numbers are for the Order of the Mass and the Readings of the Day. #140 is the Introductory Rite at the beginning of the Mass. #142 is the new Penitential Act which we have started to use during Lent. The next number is the starting number for the service Music for the Mass. Right now, we are using the Chant Mass which starts with #168. The Service Music includes the I, the Gloria (not during Lent), the *Sanctus* (Holy), Memorial Acclamation, Amen, and *Agnus Dei*. The final number is for the Readings of the Day-the first reading from the Old Testament, the Psalm, second reading from the New Testament, the Gospel Acclamation, and the Gospel reading. There are three cycles. Right now, we are doing the readings from cycle B.

On the left-hand side of the board are the numbers for the hymns being sung at Mass: the entrance, offertory, first and second communion, and recessional.

HOLY ANGELS CHURCH DRIVE-THRU SPRING DINNER On Sunday, March 24 from 11 am until sold out at Holy Angels Church in Avenue, MD. The menu for the dinner includes: fried oysters, steamed spiced shrimp, fried chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, beets, and a dinner roll. The cost of the dinner is \$30 payable in cash or check only. There will be a delicious homemade Bake Table. We look forward to seeing you! For more information, please call the rectory at 301-769-3332 or email holy01angels@aol.com.



THANK YOU! Little Flower School would like to thank the pastors and parishioners of our supporting parishes for their support of the 2024 Spring Benefit Auction. We are so grateful for your generosity!

MARYLAND DAY MASS Fr. William George, SJ will be saying a Mass at noon on Sunday, March 24 at St. Ignatius Church just outside Webster Field for Maryland Day.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, April 6 from 9 am until 2pm at Knights Hall (41605 Fenwick St., Leonardtown, MD 20650). To sign up, go to WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG, then insert "KOC1470" into the box "FIND A DRIVE" in the upper right corner, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). After registering for your donation appointment, use Rapid Pass the day of the drive to fast track your donation "check in." Go to www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass to learn more.

TRIP THROUGH THE HUDSON VALLEY The OLSS Travel Club in Solomons still has a few openings for their luxury motor coach trip in June to the Hudson Valley and West Point. Trip dates are June 10-12. The price is \$750 pp based on double occupancy and includes bus, lodging, tours, daily breakfast, and some meals. Visit FDR's homestead, Hyde Park, cruise the Hudson River, be guided through West Point, and much more. Contact Mary Beth Brown: 443-623-6368 or marybeth@bytheseatravel.com.

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. MARY'S GALA Chesterton Academy is hosting a Gala on Saturday, April 13 at the St. John's Monsignor Harris Center. The night will include dinner by Rita B's Catering, an open bar, and dancing! For more information, go to <https://www.chestertonstmarys.org/2024-gala> and for tickets go to <https://givebutter.com/c/jWpc5Z>.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POTLUCK St. Mary's Newport is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Potluck Event. The event will have a live music traditional Irish band, Irish Coffee & Spirits, and activities for children. The event is Sunday, March 17 from 4 pm to 8 pm in their St. Francis Hall.

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.

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).



March 10, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday in Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 | Eph 2:4-10 | Jn 3:14-21

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

“The floor is lava!” We used to play this game as children, and it still seems popular today: you arrange furniture and other objects in such a way as to make it from point to point, and even room to room, without touching the floor. There may be more than one way to go, but the crux of the matter is that you have to use these waypoints to stay alive in the game. Following Jesus is somewhat similar, although obviously infinitely more serious and important! He himself, through his sacrifice on the cross, opened the doors of salvation to us – he has provided the ways and means to live free from death. His sacrifice is the only thing that makes it possible for us to enter heaven. In other words, he has arranged the spiritual furniture, made clear those waypoints, and, differing from children who play the lava game, is ready and willing to help us at any time to move safely and confidently along the journey. St Paul writes, “we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

St. Paul also writes, “by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God.” And in today’s Gospel, St. John writes these words we know so well. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Both testaments include words of comfort, but John here also includes a call to action. Notice the word “might.” Like “may,” which is found in other translations, it indicates possibility, probability, and contingency. In other words, it is offered – freely given! – but we must accept. And acceptance means, just as the prophets shared with the Israelites, we need to follow God’s commands. It means that in our words and deeds we act from and in love of God and love of one another. For “whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

ENGAGE Today we are about halfway through Lent. If you haven’t yet taken advantage of the rich opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross with your family, do so this week. Most parishes pray the stations on Fridays during Lent, and perhaps other days as well. This ancient tradition of our Church is a beautiful and meaningful way to walk the Way of the Cross with our Lord.

We adore you, O Christ, and bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the whole world.



Monday of Holy Week, March 25

Penance Service — 6 pm
Mass and Healing Prayers — 7 pm

Holy Thursday, March 28

Morning Prayer and Confessions — 9 am
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper — 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
Service of the Lord's Passion — 7 pm

Holy Saturday, March 30

Morning Prayer, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Confessions — 9 am
Easter Vigil Mass — 8 pm

Easter Sunday, March 31

Mass — 8:30 am, 11:15 am & 1 pm (Spanish)
Easter Egg Hunt — after the 11:15 am Mass

Thursday, April 4

Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions — 5:30 pm

Friday, April 5

Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions — 9 am & 5:30 pm

Saturday, April 6

Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions — 9 am
Confessions — 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7

Mass: Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 8:30 am, 11:15 am & 1 pm (Spanish)
Sung Divine Mercy Chaplet & Confessions: 3 pm