THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018
5:00 PM + Ed & Pearl Bankert

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018
8:15 AM + Charlie Kulynych
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018
NO MASS

TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018
9:00 AM – Special Intention of Tammy Kittler

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018
9:00 AM + Theron Menges

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018
9:00 AM + Ruth Sharff

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018
9:00 AM – Special Intention of Troubled Teens

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018
5:00 PM + Phil Aumen

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018
8:15 AM + William Schintz
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
John 10:11-18

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SICK OF THE PARISH – Please keep our members in your thoughtful prayers: Susan Goughnour, Fred & Yvonne Staub, Kenneth Williams, Don & Roxey Myers, Helen & Laverne Lawrence, Polly Renault, John Feiser, Doris Pohlman, Marilyn Drummer, Louise Snoots, Norma Woerner, Alice Williams, Brenda Freed, Micheline Starcher, Ken Jacoby, Syndia Helmers, Addie Mannarino, Hector & Carmen Miranda, Kai Goley, Richard Doll, Ethan Slagle, Maria Twardy, Gerald Serfoss, Susan Pieczynski, Becky Tako, Ronnie Reimert, Valerie Strine, Doreen Oblack, Robert Despres, John Melhorn, Theresa Staub and Joanne Hallisey.

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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – “Now by this we may be sure that we know Him, if we obey His commandments.” Jesus wants to make Himself known to you through the vocation He chooses for you. Will you obey His call to the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org or check out www.dioceseanpriest.com.

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IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the soul of Diane Frey, daughter of Warren & Peggy Glass and sister of Ken Glass and Fred Hopper, father of Joanne Riley, who died last week.

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APRIL 15, 2018

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE
April 15-21

Monday, April 16th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM
Monday, April 16th – Charismatic Prayer Group in social hall, 7 PM
Monday, April 16th - Legion of Mary Meeting in Rel Ed Bldg, Room 5, 7 PM
Tuesday, April 17th – Bible Study in the den, 9:30-11 AM
Tuesday, April 17th – Pre-RCIA in the Den, 6:30-8 PM
Wednesday, April 18th – Boy Scouts, 7 PM
Wednesday, April 18th – Parish Council, 7 PM
Thursday, April 19th – Faith Sharing Group in Den After 9 AM Mass
Thursday, April 19th – Building & Grounds, 7 PM
Friday, April 20th – Eucharistic Adoration from 9:30 – 10:30 AM
Friday, April 20th – Fusion Bible Study in the Den 7-8:30 PM

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun April 21-22
5:00 PM Mass: Aaron Oravitz, Abbi Robinson, Regina Walton
8:15 AM Mass: Amelia & Adam Gerringer, Liam Miriello
11:15 AM Mass: Margaret, Clare and Nora Mailey Coordinator is Lori Kuhn.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun April 21-22
5 PM MASS – Betsy Miriello
8:15 AM MASS – Nick Stollar
11:15 AM MASS – Susan Altobelli Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun April 21-22
5:00 PM: Steve Hoffman, Dan Landis, Randy & Pat Slonaker, Sam Spiese
8:15 AM: Jason Duty, Liz Kohler, Margie & Sam Leese, John Melhorn
11:15 AM: Andy Altobelli, Kevin Behr, Bonnie Hensel, Joyce Menges, John Schlaline, Jr.
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

GROCERY CERTIFICATES – Please know how very grateful we are to all of you who support our Grocery Certificate Program and ultimately our Religious Education Program. During the week of April 8, 2018 we sold $1510 for a profit of $75.50.
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

3rd Sunday of Easter

1. This weekend please join us at our parish Ministry Fair in the social hall after each of the Masses for a celebration of the many ministries and organizations supported by our fellow parishioners here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Our theme is Growing our Faith Family.

   We invite you to review the list of all the ministries and organizations found in our updated “Parish Pastoral Booklet” (especially those of you unable to attend the Ministry Fair). Also, there’s a “Talent and Ministry” form for you too. (Copies of both of these can be found on the ledge behind the last pew in the church, or online on our parish website – www.ihmparadise.org). We invite you to prayerfully discern what special skills and talents God might be calling you to share with our parish family. Through the gifts of time and talent that our parishioners so generously share, we are able to truly be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our parish and community.

   Then, next weekend, we will have “Participation Sunday”, when you’ll be invited to fill out a Talent & Ministry form after the homily and then return it in the “2nd collection”. The idea here is that you’ll check any groups you’d like more information on or might even like to become part of. Then, shortly afterwards, you’ll be contacted by the coordinator of the group you selected to provide you with further information, or to welcome you to that particular ministry or organization.

2. From time to time during the Easter Season, the Sprinkling Rite will occur at the beginning of weekend Masses in place of the Penitential Rite (“Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, etc.). The Sprinkling Rite reminds us that it was first at our baptism that Jesus washed away our sins in His precious blood, and that through Reconciliation, this forgiveness continues to come to us, washing our sins away.

3. Did you know that we have a local Catholic radio station? No kidding! AM 720 – Holy Family Radio. Depending at where you live will determine the strength of the signal. But the content is absolutely encouraging and uplifting. I highly recommend you tune in, and if you feel so led, to perhaps even financially support this diocesan ministry. This is an important way to evangelize not just ourselves as Catholics, but also all those in our local communities. See http://www.720whyf.com/ for more info.

   God bless you and your week. Fr. Marcoe

VIV DINNER – Our Very Important Volunteers Dinner will be held on May 11th at 6:30 PM. We will have sign-up sheets on the window ledges next weekend.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students at Delone Catholic High School for achieving honor roll status:

FIRST HONORS: Julia O’Brien, Audrey Sell and Harrison Smith
SECOND HONORS: Christian Powell
COMMENDABLE EFFORT: Abigail Sell

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry held on April 4th served 88 families which included 216 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on Wednesday, May 2nd is www.volunteersignup.org/EM933. Please remember to drop off health/beauty aid items, such as soaps, toothbrushes, diapers, as well LAUNDRY DETERGENT, etc. and place them in the food pantry barrels.

SPRING CLEANING? Please remember to donate any used clothes to the COMMUNITY AID BIN located in the IHM parking lot. Proceeds from the donations benefit Boy Scout Troop 127.

PCCW – The Parish Council of Catholic Women has a bassinet in the front of church to collect new baby gifts for the Gabriel Project, which helps babies in need. Gifts will be opened on Wednesday, May 9th after our monthly meeting.

FUSION NEWS - Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary’s youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12.

Did You Know? The month of April is dedicated to The Holy Spirit. The liturgical color is white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored).

Fridays, April 6th – May 11th, 7 – 8:30PM – Bible Study
Saturday, April 14th, 6 – 8:30PM – Youth Night
Saturday, April 21st, 6 – 8:30PM – Youth Night with Adoration

Tuesday, May 1st – Deadline to sign up for Seton Retreat
Tuesday, May 8th – Deadline to sign up for “Mission Territory”
Saturday, May 12th, 6 – 9PM – Game Night in the Social Hall
Saturday, May 19th, 6 – 9PM – “Laudate” Open Mic Night
Saturday, May 26th, 9AM – 3PM – Seton Retreat
Sundays, June 3rd – August 5th, 6 – 8:30PM – “Mission Territory” Summer Teen Program

DESIGNER PURSE BINGO – The IHM Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Designer Purse Bingo on May 5, 2018 at Delone Catholic High School, 140 S. Oxford Ave., McSherrystown). Doors open at 5:30 PM and the games start at 7 PM. Tickets are $25 in advance and $30 at the door if available. The Knights are soliciting contributions for Door Prizes and Raffles. Please contact John Schaline at 717-699-4534 or Bill Zimmer at 717-292-4870 for additional information.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION – a training session for NEW ministers for Holy Communion will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. The training will be held at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, 5125 Grandview Rd., Hanover. This two hour session begins at 6:30 PM and will be presented by Deacon Tom Aumen. Manuals will be provided. This training fulfills the requirements for a mandate. Applications are available at the parish office. Once the application is completed, an interview needs to be arranged with Fr. Marcroe. Applications need to be forwarded to the Diocese by April 27. Any EMHC needing a renewal of his/her mandate may also attend. You must also complete an application.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT – Discerning God’s Will 20’s, 30’s, married or single – this retreat takes place at Refreshing Mountain Retreat Center in Stevens, PA. It will begin with dinner on Friday, May 11th and end shortly after dinner on Saturday, May 12th. Retreat directors, Father Brian Wayne and Sr. Geralyn Schmidt, SCC will explore the reality that discernment is an ongoing process in which God calls us to do something and how prayer allows and nourishes authentic discernment. During this retreat, you will learn about practical methods of discerning God’s will, particularly following the rules of St. Ignatius. For more information and to register online, visit https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/young-adult-retreat-discerning-gods-will-life/.

WOMEN’S RETREAT – The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) invites all women of the Diocese to join us for the Eighth Annual Weekend Retreat being held on the beautiful campus of Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, MD. It is from Friday evening on June 8th until noon on Sunday, June 10th. The Retreat Master is Very Reverend Neil Sullivan. The registration deadline is May 21, 2018. Contact Barbara McCarthy at 717-534-1858 or FranBarbMc@aol.com with questions or to register.

MAY CROWNING AT THE MOUNT – will be held on Sunday, May 6th. It will begin with Adoration at 10:45 AM in St. Mary’s Chapel, Reconciliation at 10:45 AM in the Confessional near St. Mary’s Chapel, followed by Mass at 12 PM at the Grotto Cave and the Procession and Crowning at 1 PM.

DEANERY CHAPEL – the House of Nazareth Adoration Chapel, 9 N. Third St., McSherrystown is in need of more adorer’s. Monday @ 6 PM, Tuesday @ 3 AM & 5 AM, Wednesday @ 1AM & 9 AM, Thursday @ 12 AM, Friday @ 7 PM, Saturday @ 1,6,7 & 9 PM. Hours in bold are in desperate need of coverage. The Chapel is closed on Sunday’s from 7 AM till noon for cleaning. Contact Gloria Murren @ 717-479-1071.

DELONE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – Squire Picnic (for students in grades, 3, 4 & 5). Delone Catholic High School Student Council will be hosting their annual Squire Picnic for students in third, fourth and fifth grades. There will be games, hamburgers, hot dogs, and prizes. The picnic will be held on J.T. Flaherty field at Delone Catholic HS on Sunday, April 29, 2018, starting at 1 PM and ending at 4 PM. Registration forms are available online at www.DeloneCatholic.org or in the school office. Registration deadline is April 21. For more information, contact Mrs. Lori Heberling at 717-637-5969 x209.

Little Squires Baseball Relay – All kids in grades K-3 are welcome to cheer on the Delone Catholic Baseball team at the baseball field on Monday, April 30 at 4:15 PM and participate in a fun-filled Little Squires event. Our National Honor Society students will be reading a baseball story to the Little Squires. There will be relay races, games and crafts, baseball cookies and snacks and of course a photo with the baseball team or your favorite baseball player. Event pre-registration is preferred. Please visit www.DeloneCatholic.org (under Quick Links) to register your Little Squire. For more information, contact Jennifer Hart at jhart@delonecatholic.org or 717-637-5969 x206. Please refer to the web site for any inclement weather updates.

The John Gastley Scholarship Foundation (TJGSF) TJGSF is pleased to announce the 10th Scholarship Award $100 Dinner Raffle with a grand prize of $5,000 and 29 other $100 prizes to be held at SAVES Hall in Brushtown on Saturday, May 12. One $100 ticket admits two people for food, select beverages and opportunities to play small games of chance. Doors open at 4:30, dinner is served at 5:30 and the drawing begins at 6:30 PM. You do not need to be present to win. (Under 21 admitted under direct adult supervision with no handling of alcohol or games of chance). To purchase tickets or more information, contact Andy Angel at andya@angelsystems.com or call Chris Cline at 717-624-6612. Tickets may be purchased online at www.gastleyfoundation.com. (Please select “Donation” and write a message noting “Ticket Purchase Request”.)
THANKS TO
4. This Wednesday, April 25th, is Administrative Professionals Day. Allow me this opportunity to thank our entire parish staff for all the valuable work they do and ministry they conduct on behalf of our parish family.

Sunday, April 15th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM
Sunday, April 15th – Adult Enrichment Class in the Social hall, 9:30 – 11 AM

APRIL – CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
The Diocese of Harrisburg is committed to the safety of children. We take very seriously the protection of youth in all Church related activities and programs. We are working to make the Catholic Church one of the safest institutions in the country. To report the suspected abuse of a minor you must notify both law enforcement and the Church. First, call the PA Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-932-0313. To report suspected abuse of a minor by a Church official, employee or volunteer, no matter when it happened, call the diocesan toll free hotline at 1-800-626-1608. In the Diocese of Harrisburg, we

- Have zero tolerance for anyone who is guilty of even one instance of abuse
- Offer opportunities to help victims to heal
- Screen all employees and volunteers before they can begin service
- Educate our youth on how to stay safe
- Train employees and volunteers on how to recognize and report abuse
- Disclose all allegations to local civil authorities
- Exceed State and national requirements

To learn more about what you can do to prevent abuse, how to report abuse, assistance available to victims and Youth protection efforts of the Diocese, please visit: www.hbgdiocese.org/safeyouth.

PARISH CARING COMMITTEE – Assists parishioners on an as needed basis, in times of need or stress and provides visitation, care giver relief, meals, errands, light household chores and local transportation. To request assistance or to become a Caring Committee Volunteer, contact Jen Gentile at 717-225-5059.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT –

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<th>Monthly Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Income for Feb. 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 11th</td>
<td>10,248.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 18th</td>
<td>7,599.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 25th</td>
<td>9,353.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME</td>
<td>$ 34,669.22</td>
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</tbody>
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SECOND COLLECTIONS:
- Black & Indian Mission: 1,487.50
- Capital Improvements: 1,493.70
- Membership Collection: 1,279.25

SUGGESTION CARDS are available on the back ledges and at the entrances of the church. If you have any suggestions on how to make our parish better, please fill one out and return it in the collection basket.
**IHM ADVENTURE CLUB** – The Adventure Club of IHM is planning a trip to the National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC on Thursday, April 5, 2018 to journey back in time to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and visit the tomb of Christ. Please plan to travel with us to share the experience. We will also visit the Franciscan Monastery for a Holy Land Exhibit. Cost of the trip is $76 which includes both the Museum, the Monastery and dinner. Lunch and driver tip is not included. Call Janet McIntyre at 717-633-9384 for more information and to reserve a seat on the bus. Deadline to signup is March 26th.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS** – The IHM choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, Feb. 25th at 9:40 AM in the church. They will begin singing for the 11:15 AM Mass on March 11th and through Holy Saturday. If you would like to join this fun group who like to sing, please consider coming to the rehearsals. For more information, contact Roy Wainwright at 717-619-7243 or Kathy Schwar at 717-259-9086.

**WEEKDAY MASS PARKING** – Anyone attending the weekday Masses are asked to park in the lot beside and behind the Church whenever there is snow and ice. This parking area will be made ready first for anyone on the property.

**NEW PARISHIONERS** – We welcome the following new parishioners to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church:
- Daniel Frey, Abbottstown
- Matthew & Danielle Rudisill & family, Abbottstown
- Bryan & Louise Cheeseman & family, Dover
- Ryan & Melissa Pysher & family, Dover
- John Orendorff, Thomasville

**MASS INTENTIONS** – Mass intentions are a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, remember those who have died or are sick and in need of our prayers. Please consider this as a “gift” for someone. Call Anita in the Parish Office to arrange your Mass intentions.

**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION** – Please keep collecting and sending in those BoxTops for Education for St. Teresa School. If you’d like to help out trimming those BoxTops, please contact kwenger@hotmail.com. All help is appreciated!

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES TRIP TO IRELAND** – Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Harrisburg and visit the grave of St. Patrick, the Diocese’s Patron Saint, on a 12 day pilgrimage to the Emerald Isle with Bishop Ronald Gainer. The trip will take place August 28 – September 8, 2018. The group will depart from Dulles Airport in Washington, DC. Bus transportation from Harrisburg to Washington is available. For more information, contact Mark Totaro, Catholic Charities Executive Director/CEO at 717-657-4804 (ext 276) or visit www.cchbg.org on line.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** – It has been noted that some people, who are dropped off or picked up for Mass, are doing so at the steps right along West Canal Road. Especially at night, and given the adjacent hill, it is deemed this is unsafe given the speed and flow of traffic. For accessible and safe access to the Church at all times, please use the side social hall doors. Thank you.

**EVENT NOTICE** – I have been a parishioner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for more than 40 years and employed in the newspaper business for more than 20 years. We have many wonderful events happening here at our parish and we’d like to get the word out to the public. Please feel free to send me any events that would be of interest to our local community – from Lenten dinners to youth events to Bible studies and everything in between! You can send information to: 6fletch@embarqmail.com. Don’t forget to tell me the following: WHAT is the event? WHO is invited? WHEN is the event? WHERE is the event? WHY should people attend? HOW can they get more information? If you have any questions, fee free to call or text me at 717-357-8051. Thank you!

Holly Fletcher

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING SERVICE** – Outpatient Behavioral Health Care is dedicated to providing access to high quality outpatient counseling for children, adolescents and adults in a small, friendly, confidential office. Services include individual and family therapy, marital counseling and parent-child counseling. Services are provided regardless of religious affiliation. Accepting Medical Assistance insurance (Medicaid) and County Mental Health funding (York and Dauphin Counties, for low income uninsured people who are determined to be eligible). Other clients can pay fee on a sliding scale. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay. Not accepting private/commercial insurances. Local offices are York Counseling, 253 E. Market St., York (717-845-2696) and Paradise Counseling, 6156 W. Canal Rd, Abbottstown (717-259-9537 – press 0 for secretary). Visit www.cchbg.org for more information.
HEARING IMPAIRED – Anyone who is hearing impaired may find it helpful to sit in Pew #9 on the Sacristy side. You will notice “hearing impaired” stickers on the side of the pew to indicate the best place to sit if you are hearing impaired.

PARISH WEBSITE HAS MORE PARISH INFORMATION, CALENDAR AND ACTIVITIES. VISIT WWW.IHMPARADISE.ORG.

HANDICAP PARKING – Please note that handicap parking spaces are available for parking near the social hall entrance to the Church. If you are attending the 11:15 AM Mass, in order to avoid the traffic associated with religious education letting out, the following two options are recommended: EITHER come in the EXIT lane BEFORE 11 AM, OR come in the usual entrance way AFTER approximately 11:07 AM.

HIPPA LAWS – Please note that HIPPA (health care privacy laws) prevent hospitals from automatically notifying the parish office when you are in the hospital. Therefore, we ask you to please give consent (permission) for the parish office to be notified. If you would like Fr. Marcoe to know of your hospitalization, please inform the parish office before going into the hospital OR once hospitalized, ask the nurse or hospital chaplain/pastoral care staff person to notify the parish.

LOST AND FOUND – Please check our Lost and Found bin in the sacristy for any items you may have left in Church. Any unclaimed items will be discarded.

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL – For everyone’s information, especially for those who may be new to our parish, there is a so-called Children’s Chapel or Cry Room here in the Church. It’s located in the front left corner of the church, where a restroom is also located. As a parish family, we want children and families to be welcome here at Mass, and so it’s important to have an appropriate place in the church for babies and young children when they get fussy and need extra attention. We really want to encourage parents to use this space to tend to their children as needed. Please, feel free to just get up when need be from the body of the church, and utilize this space. Then you can better tend to your children without feeling like you’re being watched. And this will also allow the other parishioners to be able to more fully focus on worshiping.

AERO ENERGY PLAN – For each parishioner who is or becomes an Aero customer, IHM receives up to 3 cents per gallon of oil or propane. This is an excellent way to help your parish! If you are not already registered with Aero Energy for this program, please call Aero Energy at 888-480-1271 and sign up for the House of Worship Program. Any questions, please call Anita in the parish office.

RUTH’S HARVEST – the next Ruth’s Harvest packing is Wed., Aug. 30th at 10 AM at the Abbottstown Fire Hall. It only requires an hour (or less) of your time, so feel free to join us. Also, please remember to place donations in the Ruth’s Harvest boxes. We are collecting individual sizes of rice with chicken and vegetables (Chef Boyardee), beef stew (Dinty Moore), soup and fruit cups.

AERO ENERGY HOUSE OF WORSHIP PROGRAM – We would like to thank those parishioners who partner with Aero Energy for their oil/propane needs. Immaculate Heart of Mary receives 3 cents per gallon on all propane and oil throughout the heating season. This is a great opportunity for parishioners to give to your Church as well as savings for yourself. NEW this year is Aero Energy is offering $50 credit for any member of our Church who becomes a NEW customer to Aero Energy. They are also giving IHM $50 as well for any new customer. There are brochures on the pamphlet rack or you may call Anita in the parish office with any questions.

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA SCHOOL UPDATE – The current enrollment at St. Teresa of Calcutta School is 438 students with the possibility of adding 5 more. Sacred Heart Campus has 168 enrolled in grades K through 3 and McSherrystown Campus has 271 enrolled in grades 4 through 8. The school colors will be dark blue, light blue and orange and will be known as “The Crusaders”. Grades 2, 4, and 8 will have 3 sections and all other grades will have 2 sections. Let us continue to keep the students, teachers, staff and families of St. Teresa School in our prayers in this ongoing time of transition.

PRAYER SHAWLS – Are you in need of a prayer shawl? Do you know someone who is? Please call Jan Melhorn at 308-2532. The next prayer shawl meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 14th at 1 PM in Room #3 of the RE Building. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, we can teach you. Skeins of new yarn are always welcome and there are bins at the church entrances for these donations.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS NEEDED - Our Parish is in need of several more Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, especially for the 8:15 AM Mass. This ministry plays an important role assisting Father in distributing Holy Communion to our parishioners at Mass on weekends and Holy Days of Obligation. Please call Father if you feel God is calling you for this ministry. You must 18 years of age or older, a practicing Catholic and a member of our parish.
FLOWERS – Looking for a way to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? A beautiful way would be to order flowers on the altar. Most weekends are available from now through the end of the year. Please call Anita in the parish office to make arrangements.

CREMATION
Since 1963, Catholics have been allowed to choose cremation over burial as a means of laying a loved one to rest. Cremation is a popular choice since it is less expensive and more manageable than a full burial. Cremation, like death, is final. But that doesn’t mean you won’t have second thoughts. Susan Skiles Luke, a marketing consultant in Columbia, Missouri, had her mother cremated and buried in a family plot. Now, she wishes it was her mother’s body and not just the cremated remains that was in the grave. “When I go there, which isn’t often, I want to feel like her body is under ground, right alongside my grandparents and beloved great aunt, all dressed up in their Sunday best…”

Although creation is permitted, some Catholics have not been dealing properly with their loved ones remains. Common practices include scattering ashes, parting ashes out to friends and relatives, and keeping the ashes in a common area, such as a living room. While scattering ashes may seem romantic to some (but is also contrary to Catholic teaching), there’s something to be said about keeping your loved one in once place, and then marking that place with a name. “We mark the graves of our loved ones with a headstone to memorialize them, so we don’t forget them”. When visiting that person’s grave, just seeing his or her name can give comfort.

To instruct the faithful in this regard, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has issued updated guidelines. According to these, burial is still preferred, but cremation is an option. When a loved one has been cremated, their ashes must be kept intact, the same as one would treat a body. The ashes may not be separated or scattered. Instead, they should remain in a proper vessel that is interred in a proper place, such as a cemetery or church. Finally, the document stresses that Catholics who choose cremation for reasons contrary to the faith, (e.g., to have their ashes scattered) must be denied a Christian funeral.

In the end, whether cremation or burial is chosen, we await from the grave the second coming of Jesus Christ and the blessed Resurrection of the Dead.