SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018
5:00 PM + Ann Wainwright

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018
8:15 AM + Charlie Kulnych
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018
NO MASS

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018
9:00 AM + Fred Krepps

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018
9:00 AM – Special Intention of John Melhorn

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018 ASCENSION THURSDAY
9:00 AM + Diane Frey
7:00 PM – People of the Parish

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018
9:00 AM – Special Intention

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018
5:00 PM + Pat Schwar & Jay Stevens

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018
8:15 AM + Lorrie Raubenstine
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20-26
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11-19

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 Renaut, John Feiser, Doris Pohlman, Marilyn Drummer, Louise Snoots, Norma Woerner, Alice Williams, Brenda Freed, Micheline Starcher, Ken Jacoby, Syndia Helmers, Addie Mannarino, Carmen Miranda, Kai Goley, Richard Doll, Ethan Slagle, Maria Tweardy, Gerald Serfoss, Susan Pieczynski, Becky Tako, Ronnie Reimert, Valerie Strine, Robert Despres, John Melhorn, Theresa Staub, Joanne Hallisey, Scott Hale and Nickolas Willis.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – “God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.” Are you open to the call to be sent into the world as a priest or consecrated religious, that others might live in Christ? Talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS – All announcements, flyers, etc. must be received in the parish office by the end of business day on Monday. Anything received after that day will be included in the next week’s bulletin.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE
May 6-12

Sunday, May 6th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM
Sunday, May 6th – Adult Enrichment Class in the Social hall, 9:30 – 11 AM
Monday, May 7th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM
Monday, May 7th – Charismatic Prayer Group in social hall, 7 PM
Monday, May 7th - Legion of Mary Meeting in Rel Ed Bldg, Room 5, 7 PM
Tuesday, May 8th – Bible Study in the den, 9:30-11 AM
Tuesday, May 8th – Pre-RCIA in the Den, 6:30-8 PM
Wednesday, May 9th – Boy Scouts, 7 PM
Wednesday, May 9th – PCW in social hall, 7:30 PM
Thursday, May 10th – Faith Sharing Group in Den After 9 AM Mass
Friday, May 11th – VIV Dinner, 6:30 PM
Friday, May 11th – Fusion Bible Study in the Den 7-8:30 PM
Saturday, May 12th – Fusion Fun & Games Night In social hall, 5 – 9 PM

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun May 12-13
5:00 PM Mass: Aaron Oravitz, Bob & Luke O’Brien
8:15 AM Mass: Anastasia, Sophia & Madelyn Galvash
11:15 AM Mass: Autumn, Madi and Alex Kuhn Coordinator is Lori Kuhn.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun May 12-13
5 PM MASS – Margaret Mary Thorne
8:15 AM MASS – Kevin DePaulis
11:15 AM MASS – Wendy Behr Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun May 12-13
5:00 PM: Barbara Reichart, Mat & Holly Robinson, Sam Spiese, Amanda Wicker
8:15 AM: Kristy Bucholtz, Margie & Sam Leese, John Maysilles, John Melhorn
11:15 AM: Kevin Behr, Bonnie Hensel, Joyce Menges, John Schaline, Jr., Leland Steinke 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 29, 2018 we sold $980 for a profit of $49.00.
FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

6th Sunday of Easter

1. May 10th is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a holy day of obligation. Masses here at IHM will be at 9am and 7pm that day. And there will also be a vigil Mass the evening before (May 9th) at Immaculate Conception, New Oxford at 7pm.

2. On Friday, May 11th, our V.I.V. (Very Important Volunteer) Dinner will take place at 6:30pm here in the social hall. ANYONE who serves (or volunteers) in ANYWAY here at IHM is invited to sign up and join us for this free appreciation dinner for all that you do to make our parish so wonderful. Sign-up sheets are found in the church.

3. On May 13th during the 11:15am Mass, our annual May Crowning of the statue of our Blessed Mother Mary will take place. On this weekend that we honor our earthly mothers, we also honor the spiritual mother Jesus gave us – His mother, who reigns with Him in the glory of heaven.

4. Thank you to all who responded so very generously to the Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal. Towards our goal of $60,100 current pledges have totaled $73,530 to date!! This year’s appeal has been a success because of each and every contribution we received – in short, because of your generosity! Please note that all monies raised above our goal, come back to our parish to assist with the continuing growth and needs of our parish. Your support is greatly appreciated by me, as pastor, as well as by Bishop Gainer, on behalf of the entire Diocese of Harrisburg. Please know that your financial gift to the Bishop’s Annual Lenten Appeal helps subsidize some 47 important ministries and programs, which serve more than 250,000 of our neighbors in need throughout the Diocese. For those who may have not yet contributed to this appeal, know that there is still time. Simply visit our parish website or call the parish office.

5. 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.

CONGRATULATIONS – We congratulate the following children from our parish who received their First Holy Communion this weekend:
- Samuel Aiello
- Grayson Dusseau
- Ellie Goldhahn
- Dorothy Grim
- Isabella Lomenzo
- Hannah Maysilles
- Alickandria Rahe
- Jayden Shepherd
- Anna Smith
- Jeremiah Willis

ADVENTURE CLUB
The Adventure Club is off again! This time to the Bible Museum in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, July 26th. This experience will help us to learn more about “The Bible, the Greatest Book ever written.” The bus will leave the IHM parking lot at 7:30 AM and arrive in DC at 10:00 AM. We will depart from DC at 3:00 PM, stopping in Frederick for a dinner buffet at Golden Coral, which is included in the $75 trip cost. Lunch and driver tip will be on your own. Please plan to join Fr. Marcoe and the Adventure Club on another spiritual and spirit-filled journey. Reservation deadline is June 1st. Call Janet McIntyre @ (717) 633-9384 or (717) 521-4218.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – My name is Tyler Raubenstine and I am holding a memorialization fundraiser for my Eagle Scout Project this summer. The fundraiser will involve a set donation amount that will roughly cover the cost of one paver and part of the price of the plaque. This can be a way for parish members to memorialize a loved one through this Rosary Garden in front of the Blessed Mother Statue, or any generous individuals willing to donate towards my endeavor. I will be outside the parish doors after every Mass starting Saturday, April 28th to answer any questions, hand out forms to complete and to accept any orders or donations. All forms and money are due on Sunday, May 13th after the 11:15 AM Mass. Thank you for your generosity!

MEMORIAL SERVICE – UPMC Pinnacle Hanover and Panebaker Funeral Home, Inc. extend an invitation to a special memorial service for those who have experienced a pregnancy loss. You are invited to be present with friends and family to acknowledge your loss. Families are invited to bring a note to their loved one that will be placed in the grave.
- Date: Saturday, May 12, 2018 at 11 AM
- Location: Mount Olivet Cemetery, 725 Baltimore St., Hanover. Please contact Eric Stenman, Chaplain, at 717-316-6905 for more information and to register your attendance by Monday, May 7th.

PARISH FLOWER BEDS – We still have a few flower beds in need of adoption! If you are interested in taking one of the flower beds, please call Anita in the parish office.

God bless you and your week. Fr. Marcoe
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 May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Fridays, April 6th – May 11th, 7 – 8:30PM – Bible Study
Saturday, May 12th, 6 – 9PM – Game Night in the Social Hall
Tuesday, May 15th – Deadline to sign up for “Mission Territory”
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
Monday, June 4th, 6:30 – 9PM – Healing Mass

For more information, please call or email Paul Oakes: (717) 259-0611 ext.8 or poakes@hbgdiocese.org

IN APPRECIATION - I would like to offer a sincere “thank you” to our church family and friends for your prayers and thoughts, and all the kindness shown to Doreen Oblack during her long journey to Heaven. A special thanks to Fr. Marcoe and Sr. Rosanne. And thank you for the kindness and support for me during this time. God’s blessings to all.

Janet McIntyre

EAST BERLIN COMMUNITY SINGERS – the East Berlin Community Singers, under the direction of Jane D. Johnston, will be holding their Fifth Anniversary Concert entitled “Hallelujah” on Sunday, May 20th at 4 PM at Paradise Lutheran Church, 3241 Church Rd., Thomasville. Bring along a canned good to donate to the Abbottstown/East Berlin Food Bank. A free will offering will be taken at intermission. Also featured is the Bermudian Springs High School Eagle Singers.

YORK COUNTY SENIOR GAMES – the 17th Annual York County Senior Games will be held June 18-22, 2018. The Senior Games combine sports, friendly competition and fellowship in a week full of fun activities for York County residents age 50 years and older. There is a $15 registration fee for an unlimited number of events. Registration booklets are available at many locations throughout the county or can be obtained by contacting the York County Area Agency on Aging at 717-771-9001 or 1-800-632-9073. They are also available on the web at www.ycaaa.org on the Forms and Documents page. Registration deadline is June 11th.

Volunteers are also sought to help support the games. All volunteers must be at least 14 years of age. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call 717-771-9001 or email aging@yorkcountypa.gov.

ADORATION CHAPEL – The Adams Deanery
Perpetual Adoration Chapel is in desperate need of adorers for the following hours:
Sunday @ 4 pm; Tuesday @ 3 am, 5 am, 9 am & 3 pm
Wednesday @ 1am, 5 am, 9 am, 11 pm; Thursday @ 12 am; Friday @ 3 pm & 7 pm; Saturday @ 11 pm.

Hours that are in bold are in desperate need of coverage. Contact Gloria Murren @ 717-479-1071.

MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE –
June 8-9, 2018 – Be A Man, a 24 hour retreat for men with Fr. Larry Richards.
June 9-10, 2018 – the Catholic Alternative to Mindfulness. A 24 hour retreat for women, men, clergy, religious and families with Susan Brinkmann.
June 23-23, 2018 – From Defiance to Reliance: Navigating your spiritual path amidst the chaos of addiction. A 24 hour retreat of healing and recovery for men and women directed by Mark Christmyer, Marty Kenney, Anne Costa, Fr. Bill Dean and lay witnesses.
June 29-July 1, 2018 – Charismatic Healing Retreat with Fr. James Blount, SOLT and Sr. Ann Shields.

Men’s Retreats:
May 18-20: Mid-May Retreat; directed by Fr. Reilly
May 18-20: Matt Talbot #48 – a spiritual retreat for recovering alcoholics
May 25-27: St. Pius X – directed by Fr. Simeon Gallagher and Fr. Leonard Peterson

Men’s & Women’s Retreats:
July 27-29: Casting Nets Evangelism Institute for DRE’s, catechists, men, women and families. Led by Hector Molina, Chris Stewart and tony Brandt.

October 7: Tent Revival and Rosary Rally. From 1pm to 7pm. It is a day to honor the Blessed Mother as part of the National Coast-to-Coast Rosary Rally, along with invoking the Holy Spirit to re-ignite our spiritual lives and a day of family inspiration and celebration under the big top. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Timothy Senior, and there’s a special rosary walk. Speakers including Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Johnnette Benkovic, Jesse Romero, Fr. James Blount, Kathleen McCarthy, Jennifer Hubbard, Teresa Peterson (music) and Marty Rotella (music). Free admission for all.

Any questions regarding any retreats, visit their website www.malvernretreat.com

THANKS TO
HELP NEEDED! Anyone who would like to offer their assistance at the Gettysburg Battlefield for cleanup at the Peace Light, please contact Don Myers at 717-965-2617. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY – Our Tuesday morning Bible Study Group would like to welcome anyone interested to join them. They meet in the Den on Tuesdays after Mass until 11 AM. Topics discussed are the upcoming Bible readings. Any questions, please call George Severns at 717-292-0328 or email academia2@comcast.net.

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.

NEW PARISHIONERS – We welcome the following new parishioners to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church: Rosemary Connelly, East Berlin Mark McIntyre & Sasha Cutchall, New Oxford Dorothy Neiderer, New Oxford John & Melissa Juelich & family, East Berlin Michael & Debbie WinkelSpecht, East Berlin Margaret Barra, New Oxford Matthew & Sharon Weaver, Hanover Justin Weaver, New Oxford Peter & Janeann Kakalecz, Dillsburg

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP – Any items that were still on the graves from the winter/Christmas have been removed and placed behind the Church. If you want to keep any items, please pick them up. Anything left there after one week will be discarded. Thank you!

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA STEM CAMP – St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School will be hosting a Summer STEM Camp for students entering Kindergarten – Grade 6. The camp will run from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday, June 11-Friday, June 15, 2018 and will take place at our McSherrystown Campus (316 North Street). Cost is $150 for 1st camper and $100 for each additional sibling. Limited space available! Registration and payment due by May 11th. For more information, please visit the “Student Life” tab on our website: www.stck8schoo.org. Please note that you do not have to be enrolled in our school to participate in our camp. However, due to space limitations, all registered campers must be a member of an Adams Deanery parish to attend.

WOMEN’S RETREAT – The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) invites all women
All help is appreciated! Please collect and send 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!

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT –

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SECOND COLLECTIONS:

- Catholic Relief: $1,598.00
- Foundation Gift: $1,500.00

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.

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.

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

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.

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!

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, feel 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.


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
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 underground, 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 one 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.