**20**th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2018**  
5:00 PM – Special Intention of Dalton Wicker

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018**  
8:15 AM – People of the Parish  
10:15 AM + William & Nadine Kroft

**MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018**  
NO MASS

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018**  
9:00 + John Potocki

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018**  
9:00 AM + Nadine Kroft

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2018**  
9:00 AM + Charlie Kulynych

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2018**  
9:00 AM + Theron Menges

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018**  
5:00 PM + Ethel Schuhart

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2018**  
8:15 AM + Arthur J. Martin, Jr.  
10:15 AM – People of the Parish

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**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS**

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18  
Ephesians 5:21-32  
John 6:60-69

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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 Lawrence, John Feiser, Doris Pohlman, Marilyn Drummer, Louise Snoots, Norma Woerner, Alice Williams, Brenda Freed, Ken Jacoby, Syndia Helmers, Addie Mannarino, Carmen Miranda, Kai Goley, Richard Doll, Ethan Slagle, Maria Tweardy, Gerald Serfoss, Becky Tako, Valerie Strine, Robert Despres, John Melhorn, Theresa Staub, Joanne Hallisey, Scott Hale, Nickolas Willis, Cecilia Hopper, Dylan Strine, Tracy Haper, Charlotte Smith, Timothy Pieczynski and Noah Hirsh.

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**IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the soul of Edna Thoman of our parish who died this week.**

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**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 Aug. 12, 2018 we sold $1190 for a profit of $59.50.

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**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**  
August 19-25

**Monday, Aug. 20th** – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg  
Room 5, 7 PM

**Monday, Aug. 20th** – Charismatic Prayer Group in social hall, 7 PM

**Thursday, Aug. 23rd** – Faith Sharing Group in the Den after 9 AM Mass

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**MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP**

**ALTAR SERVERS** for Sat/Sun Aug. 25-26  
5:00 PM Mass: Jonah Robinson, Regina Walton, Bob O’Brien  
8:15 AM Mass: Amelia & Adam Gerringer, Anastasia Galysh  
10:15 AM Mass: Erich & Nick Steinke, Margaret Mailey  
Coordinator is Lori Kuhn.

**LECTORS** for Sat/Sun Aug. 25-26  
5 PM MASS – Harrison Smith  
8:15 AM MASS – Ann Parker  
10:15 AM MASS – Leland Steinke  
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC)** for Sat/Sun Aug. 25-26  
5:00 PM: Jen Gentile, Steve Hoffman, Bertie Kuhn, Mary Margaret Thorne, Amanda Wicker  
8:15 AM: Doug Barnhart, Jeff & Terri Seifert, Carol Stroud, Beth Smith  
10:15 AM: Andy Altobelli, Rita Becoski, Carmelita Garcia, Stella Thomas, Barb Wantz  
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

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**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS** – “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you have no life in you.” Are you being chosen to give life to His people as a priest or in the consecrated life? If God is calling you, talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

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**SAVE THE DATES:**  
**BLOOD DRIVE** – Boy Scout Troop 127 will be sponsoring a BLOOD DRIVE on Saturday, Sept. 29th from 10 AM – 3 PM in the IHM social hall.

**IHM VETERANS DAY DINNER** will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd, following the evening Mass.
FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As most of you know by now the recent Grand Jury Report, detailing instances of clergy sexual abuse of children, has been released. This is a very difficult time for many of us as individuals and as Catholics. I know for me personally, the emotions keep fluctuating from anger to hurt to disappointment to confusion to confidence in God and His grace. Sometimes I feel like talking about it, and sometimes I don’t. Some of you may also find yourselves experiencing similar thoughts and feelings.

To work through all of this, I have found it extremely important to, first of all, pray – talk to Jesus about the feelings and thoughts you are experiencing. Then, sit with Him in silence, knowing that He has truly taken all of this into His Sacred Heart. Trust that He truly wants to bring healing – to you, to all survivors of abuse, to our Church, even to those who have perpetrated these crimes. Going to God in prayer helps us sort through our thoughts and feelings so that we can begin to process through this complex problem, which is so far beyond us.

Others of us might then need to talk through this with someone we trust – a family member or a close friend. It can be very helpful to know that we are not the only one struggling or hurting in some way. I offer this caution, though – it’s important to go to God first in prayer, because if not, the hurt and woundedness we may be experiencing can get tangled up in the woundedness and hurt others may be experiencing. This can then hinder our ability to effectively process through all of this.

Amid the swirling of thoughts and emotions and daily news updates, I must say, in closing, that in the deepest part of my heart, I truly know that God only desires to bring true good forth from this sinful mess. This situation is not good; but God still is. How He will accomplish this; I don’t know. But, I believe He will. In the meantime, I will continue putting every facet of this crisis into His loving hands, knowing that He will bring each one of us, and our one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church, through it all. For, as He has promised, He will not let the gates of hell prevail against us (Mt. 16:18).

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

PARISH Pastoral Council - The Parish Pastoral Council would like to announce that we had two members of our parish community volunteer to serve on the council. Please join us in thanking and welcoming Rosemary Connelly and Lynn Murphy to the council. Given that there were only two vacancies, there will be no need to hold elections as in some years past. The Pastoral Council is here to serve our parish family. Please feel free to talk with any of the members when you have concerns, ideas or questions.

SSJ GOLF TOURNAMENT
The 11th Annual "Swing for the Sisters" Golf Tournament, to benefit the retired Sisters of Saint Joseph, will be held on Saturday, September 29th at Flatbush Golf Course, in Littlestown, PA. For more information, or to register, please call 1-800-482-6510 or email: development@ssjphila.org

RCIA ~ UPCOMING JOURNEY OF FAITH
You have heard the saying, "Keep the Faith." Jesus tells us not to just keep the faith, but to spread the faith. Jesus traveled about, calling many to "Come and See." Do you know someone who has expressed an interest in the Catholic Church? Follow Jesus’ example and invite them to come and see the beautiful richness and truth of our Catholic Faith. For more information, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC): A training session for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 5125 Grandview Rd., Hanover. Deacon Tom Aumen will conduct the training session. This 2 hour session (6:30-8:30 PM) covers the teaching of the Diocesan church regarding the responsibilities of being an EMHC, and explains the use of the sacred vessels used at Mass and for the distribution of Holy Communion. This training session is for new candidates; but, anyone seeking a renewal of their mandate (required every 3 years) may also attend. Please check with the parish office to complete a diocesan application form and if you are a first-time candidate, you must arrange for an interview with Fr. Marcoe.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR LOURDESHOUSE MATERNITY HOME – Lourdeshouse Maternity Home, a Catholic Charities residential program for pregnant women and their babies located in suburban Harrisburg, is in need of the following donations: paper towels, large plastic cups, 30-gallon trash bags, baby lotion, plastic silverware, laundry detergent, women's deodorant, toilet paper, women's slippers (sizes 7-10), young women's bathrobes (sizes small and medium), and newborn to 6 month old boys and girls clothing. Donations can be dropped off here in the collection site at the entrance of the church, labeled “Lourdeshouse”.

FUSION - Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary’s youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12.
Did You Know? Over the summer, Fusion collected donations for Cross Catholic Outreach. Our grand total is $178!
Saturday, September 8th, 6 – 8:30 PM – Youth Night
Saturday, September 15th – Uprise 2018
Saturday, September 22nd, 6 – 8:30 PM – Youth Night
Saturday, October 13th, 6 – 8:30 PM – Youth Night
Saturday, October 20th, 6:30 – 8:30 PM – Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk
Saturday, October 27th, 6 – 8:30 PM – Youth Night
For more information, please call or email Paul Oakes: (717) 259-0611 ext.8 or poakes@hbgdiocese.org
ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS – The Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg is hosting a night for young adults ages 21 to 40 from throughout the region called Get Connected on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018. The evening will begin with a 5 PM Vigil Mass at Saint Rose of Lima Church, York, followed by lite fare and a social at the Veranda Room at the York Fairgrounds. Registration and detailed information may be found at www.hbgdiocese.org/getconnected.

CENTRALIA PILGRIMAGE – All are invited to a Pilgrimage at the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Centralia, PA on Sunday, Aug. 26th. It begins at noon with Divine Liturgy with Bishop Andryi, of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Bishop Ronald Gainer will give a reflection and lead the praying of a Living Rosary at 7 PM before the historic and jeweled 18th century copy of the Icon of Our Lady of Pochaiv. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, religious goods and food service will be available. For information, please contact 570-339-0650.

MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS – The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving 3 presentations within the diocese concerning marriage, divorce and annulment according to Church teaching. These presentations will be helpful for divorced Catholics, those divorced who wish to marry Catholics, those parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and any others who may have a vested interest because of family or friends.

- September 10 – Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, 7PM
- September 12 – St. Philip Parish, Millersville, 7PM
- September 17 – St. Joseph Parish, Hanover, 7PM

No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, ext 304 or email: tribunal@hbgdiocese.org or visit www.HbgDiocese.org/annulments.

ADVENTURE CLUB – Okay Adventure Club travelers! We walked through the Tomb of Christ, experienced the mysteries of the Bible. NOW it is time for Sight and Sound in Lancaster to meet Jesus. Join us Tuesday, Oct. 2nd at 9:30 AM in the IHM parking lot to embark on this journey. After the “meeting”, we will dine at the Shady Maple Buffet and return home around 7:30 PM. Deadline for reservation is Friday, Aug. 31st. Call Janet McIntyre at 717-633-9384 to reserve a seat. Cost is $110 plus driver’s tip.

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.

WIND AND FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – Join us for a Charismatic Day of Renewal at the Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800 Union Deposit Rd., Harrisburg on Saturday, Sept. 22 from 8 AM – 4 PM. Music by “Breakthrough”. Keynote speaker Sister Pamela Smith, SSCM, Ph.D, Secretary for Education and Faith Formation for the Diocese of Charleston, SC will talk about the Holy Spirit and Biblical Living and Discernment & Healing. Registration: Make check for $20 per person payable to Diocese of Harrisburg. Mail check to Charismatic Renewal, c/o Cardinal Keeler Center, Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, 4800 Union Deposit Rd., Harrisburg PA 17111 OR call Joyce at 717-308-7245 for registration form or questions. OR register online at aliveinthespirit.net or hbgdiocese.org/renewal. Registration made prior to Sept. 10 will include lunch. Please do not call the Diocese to register.

WINE IN THE WOODS FESTIVAL – St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School presents its annual Craft Beer & Wine in the Woods Festival on Saturday, Sept. 15th from 11 AM – 6 PM at Basilica Picnic Woods, Hanover. This event features local wineries and breweries including 5 Schmucks Winery, Brookmere Wine & Tastin Room, and Aldus Brewing Company, local vendors and artisans, music by The Dixie Hiway Band and the AKT Duo, a Meet and Greet with Lincoln Speedway 350 Series Champion Tim Wagaman, art under the pavilion, great local food, food trucks, corn hole and more. Advanced tickets are $13 or $15 the day of event. Order online (additional credit card processing convenience charge) at stick8school.org or contact Mrs. Frizzell at 717-632-8715 to purchase tickets.

STEWARDSHIP: A MISSION OF FAITH, invites you to join Fr. Michael Gaitley, Jason Evert, Christopher West, Damon Owens, Msgr. John Esseff, Marty Rotella, Devin Schadt, Mark Forrest, Megan Murphy, Bishop Alfred Schlert and many more, for an adult conference this fall. The event will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 19th and Thursday, Sept. 20th. One and two-day tickets are available. The conference will be held in Elizabethtown, PA at the beautiful Stone Gables Estates which features the historic Star Barn Village and Ironstone Ranch. In between the 6 keynote talks, 24 workshops, daily Mass and evening adoration, you can enjoy 275 acres of God’s creation including horseback riding, wagon rides, campfires, an outdoor stations of the cross, Marian grotto, vineyard and more. For complete information, visit us at www.stewardshipmission.org and click on the Fall Conference link.

THANKS TO
PCCW – the Parish Council of Catholic Women and the Conewago District Council of Catholic Women cordially invites all women of the parish to join us for the 81st Annual Mass and Dinner on Thursday, Sept. 13th at St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg. Mass will be celebrated at 6 PM followed by dinner at the Lutheran Seminary Refectory, 148 Seminary Ridge. Menu is chicken, wild rice, green beans, salad, desserts and beverages. Cost is $20 per person. Guest speaker Sr. Marianne Therese Lallone, Vocation Director at Immaculata University will share information about the NCCW Vocation Purse Club, a program which assists young women entering religious life. Please RSVP no later than August 31st to Pat Slonaker at 717-624-3245.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE? Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the next program beginning with a weekend on Sept. 14-16, in Mechanicsburg, call 800-470-2230 or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

Check out our new website at www.ihmparadise.org.

NEW PARISHIONERS – We welcome the following new parishioners to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church: Bertram & Jacqueline Barnett, Dillsburg Thomas & Sally Martin, York Springs Mark & Julie Wallen, Hanover

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT –

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SECOND COLLECTIONS:

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ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry held on July 5th served 83 families which included 192 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on Wednesday, August 1st is www.volunteersignup.org/AR3J9. 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.

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.

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.

SUMMER WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday 5 PM,
Sunday 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM

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.

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.

IHM MUSIC MINISTRY – Have you received the gift of being able to play a musical instrument? What a great blessing! We would like you to share this with us at church. During summer months, we will encourage the various instrumentalists to play prelude music and/or preparation music for the Mass. Obviously, the music must be appropriate; the instrumentalist must be of suitable proficiency and have practiced with the accompanist. What a great way to give thanks to God for the gift you have received! Please contact Roy Wainwright at 717-619-7243, roywainwright3@gmail.com or text 717-586-8412.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Sunday, May 6th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM
Sunday, May 6th – Adult Enrichment Class in the Social hall, 9:30 – 11 AM
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, 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.

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.

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.

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 cremation 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.

MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE –
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 7 pm. 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