25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018
5:00 PM + Frank Schuhart, Sr.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018
8:15 AM – Intentions of the Jacoby Family
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
NO MASS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018
NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018
9:00 AM – Special Intention of Loretta Gambrill

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018
9:00 AM + Jay Spiese

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018
9:00 AM + Emmitee Miller

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018
5:00 PM – Special Intention of Charles & Holly Fletcher & family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018
8:15 AM + William H. Boeshore, Sr.
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

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THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26TH.

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WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE
Sept. 23-29

Sunday, Sept. 23rd – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM
Sunday, Sept. 23rd – Adult Enrichment Class in the Social hall, 9:30 – 11 AM
Monday, Sept. 24th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM
Monday, Sept. 24th – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg Room 5, 7 PM
Monday, Sept. 24th – Charismatic Prayer Group in social hall, 7 PM
Monday, Sept. 24th – Burda SCC in the Den 6:30-8:30 PM
Tuesday, Sept. 25th – Bible Study in the Den 9:30-11:00 AM
Wednesday, Sept. 26th – Boy Scouts, 7 PM
Wednesday, Sept. 26th – Seifert SCC in Rel Ed Bldg Room 3, 6:30-8:30 PM
Thursday, Sept. 27th – Faith Sharing Group in the Den after 9 AM Mass
Saturday, Sept. 29th – Blood Drive in the social hall, 10 AM – 3 PM

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Sept. 29-30
5:00 PM Mass: Jonah Robinson, Madison Small, Regina Walton
8:15 AM Mass: Nathan & Emma Maysilles, Sadie Wicker
11:15 AM Mass: Jacob & Molly Fleming, Nick Steinke
Coordinator is Lori Kuhn.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Sept. 29-30
5 PM MASS – Joe Schwart
8:15 AM MASS – Susan Fobes
11:15 AM MASS – Susan Altabelli
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Sept. 29-30
5:00 PM: Dan & Barb O’Brien, Mat & Holly Robinson, Mary Margaret Thorne
8:15 AM: Jason Duty, Ken Glass, Margie & Sam Leese, Larry Miller
11:15 AM: Dianne Giampietro, Diane & John Schaline, Barb Wantz, Claire Wentz
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – “Wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield.”
Praying for wisdom will help you yield to Christ’s choice of your vocation. If you are discerning your vocation, talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org or check out www.diocesanpripest.com.
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. Next Sunday the Knights of Columbus are hosting an appreciation breakfast for the altar servers of our parish. We are blessed to have so many altar servers here at IHM. Thank you as well to the Knights for their generosity!

2. On Oct. 23 and 24, Fr. Dave Pivonka (the host of The Wild Goose series) is coming to St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg (at the Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Rd., Gettysburg). On Tuesday evening the doors will open at 6pm. Fr. Dave will begin at 7pm, finishing around 8pm. Then, Confessions will be held following. On Wednesday evening the doors will open at 6pm, and Fr. Dave will begin at 7pm. This evening will feature an amazing time of Eucharistic Adoration and Procession as well as healing prayers, finishing around 8:30pm. I have heard Fr. Dave speak before, and HIGHLY recommend attending this event! To register, please contact Kathy Reid (chair of St. Francis’ Evangelization Committee) at evangelized.blessed@gmail.com. There is no ticket fee; a free will offering will be collected each evening to assist Fr. Dave in his important work outreaching to active and inactive Catholics. I will be going at least one of the nights!

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

JOURNEY OF FAITH - Life is a journey in which a person is constantly growing and changing. If you want to be a member of the Catholic faith, the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process is a step on that journey providing you with an opportunity to grow spiritually, learn, ask questions and experience what is meant by being a Catholic Christian. The Catholic Church is always ready to welcome anyone who desires to become a part of our faith community. If you are an un-baptized adult, a member of another faith tradition or perhaps you are just interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

BLOOD DRIVE – Boy Scout Troop 127 will be sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, Sept. 29th from 10 AM – 3 PM. No appointment necessary. Please consider making a donation.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE - Thank you to all those who gave so generously through your prayers and support towards our Lourdeshouse Maternity drive. We were able to collect many toiletries, as well as clothing and monetary gifts for the mothers and their babies. What a gift to those who need our help and support in choosing Life. Please continue to pray for God’s protection and grace in the lives of these mothers and their unborn children. Thank you again for your generous response. The Respect Life Committee.

FISHERS OF MEN DINNER – To benefit the Seminarians of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, Friday, Oct. 5th at the Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Rd., Harrisburg. Hor d’oeuvres will be served at 6:00 PM and dinner will begin at 7:00 PM. Cost is $150 per plate, $800 per table of eight. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact the parish office.

LADIES – IT’S OUR TURN!
DIOCESAN WOMEN’S CONFERENCE – The 4th Annual Diocesan Women’s Conference will take place Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018 at Bishop McDevitt High School. The theme is Women of Life and Love: Celebrating the Beauty of Humanae Vitae. The keynote speaker this year is Jennifer Fulwiler. Besides the keynote address, there will be 36 topic choices offered. Come and enjoy beautiful music by Women at the Well and fellowship with women from around the diocese and beyond. Any questions, please contact Carol Stroud at 717-619-7572.

FUSION - Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary’s youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12. Did You Know? September 23rd is the feast day for St. Padre Pio. Along with being blessed with stigmata, he was miraculously cured of cancer, could levitate and bi-locate. He’s the patron saint of civil defense volunteers, adolescents, stress relief, and Pietrelcina.

Sunday, September 22nd, 6 – 8:30 PM – Youth Night with Adoration
Sunday, October 7th, 4 – 8 PM - Not Alone Bullying Prevention Program
Friday, October 12th: Deadlines for Fan the Fire and Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk
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 – 8:00 PM – Youth Night Saturday, October 27th, 8:15 – 9:15 PM – Festival of Praise Holy Hour

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

SAVE THE DATE! Nationally known Catholic speaker, Barry Sullivan, will present “Sowing the Seed of Life and Harvesting a Lifetime of Joy” at St. Aloysius Church, Littlestown on Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018 at 7 PM in the parish hall. Admission is free and all are welcome especially families and young people. Barry’s talk is based on his Six Principals for a Wonderful Life. Call Barb Renner for further details at 717-359-4604.

THANKS TO
SAINT THERESE, THE LITTLE FLOWER
The 32nd Annual Evening of Prayer in Honor of St. Therese, the Little Flower, will be held on Monday, Oct. 1st at 7 PM at the Annunciation B.V.M. Church in McSherrystown. Anyone wishing to bring a rose symbolizing their intentions may do so. The homilist will be Rev. Kenneth Smith.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – CAN YOU DONATE NEW YARN? During the last year, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has made over 50 items for our own parishioners, Rachel’s Vineyard retreatants, Cross Keys Village Skilled Nursing patients, Spiritrust Lutheran hospice and Hanover Hospital Maternity. **We rely on your donations to help with our yarn expense.** We can always use red, white and blue yarn for military veterans in hospice care. Please drop off your donations in the covered gray boxes at the entrances to the church. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please call the parish office at 717-259-0611. Thank you!

NEW PARISHIONERS – We welcome the following new parishioners to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church: Chris & Juanita Horst & family, Thomasville Scott & Adeline Brown & family, York Christopher & Victoria Bruha & family, East Berlin

ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASS – Beginning Sunday, Sept. 23rd, all are invited to attend the Adult Enrichment Classes held in the social hall from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. The topic this year will be what the Catholic Church and the Bible teaches concerning the last things. Some of the topics that will be covered include Heaven, Hell, judgement, the second coming of Christ and teachings concerning the end times.

CHOIR – Choir rehearsals start next Sunday, Sept. 16th, at 9:40 AM in the choir loft of the church. The choir is open to everyone, please come and join us! Contact Kathy Schwar at 717-259-9086 or Roy Wainwright at 717-619-7243 if you are interested or have questions.

TWO EVENINGS WITH FR. DAVE PIVONKA, TOR
Location: Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Rd., Gettysburg
Tuesday & Wednesday, Oct. 23/24. Doors open 6 PM Join Father Dave Pivonka, TOR for two evenings of conversation about the Holy Spirit in our lives. An internationally popular speaker, Father Dave spends much of his time helping others come to know God’s love for them through his dynamic preaching, writing, CD’s, and other spiritual outreach. He held several ministry positions at Franciscan University, and is presently the director of Franciscan Pathways, an evangelistic and preaching outreach of the T.O.R.’s (Third Order Regulars, a congregation of the Franciscans). Hosted by the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Evangelization Committee of Gettysburg. Praise and Worship music begins at 6:30 PM. Father Dave begins at 7 PM. Plenty of free parking. ADA and Handicapped accessible venue and bathrooms. There is no ticket fee, a free will offering will be collected each evening to assist Father Dave in his important work outreaching to active and inactive Catholics. Contact Kathy Reid, Chair, Evangelization Committee. Email: evangelized.blessed@gmail.com. Fr. Marcoe has been on retreat with Fr. Dave before and highly recommends going to hear him speak!

PCCW – Are you celebrating a special wedding anniversary this year? Were you married 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or more years ago? A special mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Oct. 20th here at IHM at the 5 PM Mass. Fr. Marcoe will give the couples a special blessing. A reception of cake and coffee will follow in the church social hall. If interested in attending, you can sign up on the sheets on the window sills or call Pat Slonaker at 717-624-3245 by Oct. 14th. If you have a wedding picture you would like to share, please place it in the PCCW bin in the social hall.

FREE BIBLE APP – Download Jesus.com. The free contents include:
+ Full RSV-CE Bible
+ Gospel of Mark Dramatized Audio Bible
+ Daily Mass Readings
+ Catholic News Agency
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 in the collection site at the entrance of the church, labeled “Lourdeshouse”.

MEN OF THE PARISH – the next That Man Is You program begins on Sept. 15th. We hope to see you there! It is different than all of their other programs and is made up of 9 different speakers. The great thing about this year’s program is that even if you stopped coming in the past, now you can jump into this new content. We would love to have you join our small group Saturday mornings at 8 AM in the Immaculate Conception Adult Education room located in the parish center. Contact Pete Socks for more details at pete.socks@gmail.com or 717-521-3137.

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry held on August 1st served 92 families which included 235 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on Wednesday, Sept. 5th at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/EE3JJ and Thursday, Sept. 6th at the Abbotsstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/RYPJ8. 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.

SAVE THE DATE:

IHM VETERANS DAY DINNER will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd, following the evening Mass.

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.

RUTH’S HARVEST – Our Ruth’s Harvest ministry is resuming for another school year. Those interested in packing the bags should meet at the Abbotsstown Fire Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 29th, at 10:00 AM. Along with members of other area churches, we will pack 105 bags of food for students of the Bermudian Springs School District. For more information, call Pat Renaut at 717-637-1110.

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 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.

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 Marcoe. 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.**

**JULY FINANCIAL REPORT**

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<td><strong>TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME</strong></td>
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**SECOND COLLECTIONS:**

| Capital Improvements  | 1,734.00 |

**AERO ENERGY HOUSE OF WORSHIP PROGRAM**

This program was established to provide Aero Energy customers an opportunity to give to our church. To participate, Aero Energy customers sign up by phone or online and Aero Energy donates 4 cents for every gallon of fuel they use to us. Please call if you are not already part of this wonderful program. It's an easy way to benefit Immaculate Heart of Mary. Call 888-827-17136.

**DON'T GET SCAMMED!** Scammers are now posing as priests and other clergy. In this latest scam, you might receive an e-mail that appears to be from your Pastor or another priest that you may know. The scammer would ask you to help someone in need by purchasing a gift card, and then providing the code to that card to the scammer who is posing as clergy. Here's how to protect from being scammed:

1. Know that scammers are out there. Be suspicious of any request for funds of any type via an e-mail message. Verify any request with a call to the person who supposedly sent it.
2. Know that any e-mail from a priest should be from a diocesan or parish e-mail account. Messages sent from free services, such as Gmail or Yahoo, are more likely to be scammers.
3. Know that priests will NEVER ask for financial transactions via e-mail.

**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.
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.

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, pl ease 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 creation is permitted, some Catholics have not been dealing properly with their loved ones remains. Common practices include scattering ashes, paring 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.

Tips for talking to children about difficult subjects/news reports

The topic of sex abuse, particularly child sex abuse, is a daunting one for parents. Every parent must consider many factors including the best age-appropriate way to discuss the topic. Below are some points to consider adapted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and First Things First.

1. Make sure you are composed before you talk with your child.
2. If you believe your child is aware of news concerning abuse in the diocese, start the conversation. Not talking about a difficult event can make the event even more threatening in your child’s mind.
3. Listen carefully to what your child is asking or talking about.
4. Clarify just what any concerns are before you answer. Sometimes we make assumptions and give far more information than what the child needs.
5. Keep your answers simple and brief. Don’t answer questions that have not been asked. Do not overload your child with information that is beyond his/her level of understanding.
6. Assure your child that you and other adults that are in charge are doing everything possible to make sure they will be safe. This will give them a sense that adults are actively taking steps to protect those who are currently suffering.
7. Don’t make guarantees that such a thing can never happen again. Words like “never” and “always” should be used very carefully because small children trust that this is a promise from you.
8. Explain that we do not know why people treat other people badly.
9. Try to limit your child’s exposure to media coverage. A child believes what he or she sees on television, or in the newspapers is always true.
10. Let your children know about successful community efforts. You may want to share positive media images, such as reports of individuals helping those in need.

Additional information is available at www.YouthProtectionHBG.com