SAVE THE DATE

Friday, November 30
7 o’clock

IHM Talent Night
Dinner and Show

Consider sharing your talent. All ages are welcome. Registration forms will be available starting next weekend.
MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2018
5:00 PM + Ronnie Reimert

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018
8:15 AM – Special Intention of Lee Wicker Family
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2018
NO MASS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018
NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018
9:00 AM + All Souls

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018
9:00 AM – Special Intention of Paul & Marjorie Oakes

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018
9:00 AM + Justina & Sotero Villareal

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018
5:00 PM + Richard Crouse

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018
8:15 AM + Lou Breighner
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32


IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the soul of Loren Johnson, father of Beth Smith, who died recently and Sue Klunk, wife of Phil Klunk who died this week.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR this weekend are in memory of Leigh Ann Wurmb.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE
Nov. 11-17

Sunday, Nov. 11th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM
Sunday, Nov. 11th – Adult Enrichment Class in the Social hall, 9:30 – 11 AM
Monday, Nov. 12th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM
Monday, Nov. 12th – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg Room 4, 7 PM
Monday, Nov. 12th – Charismatic Prayer Group in social hall, 7 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 13th – Bible Study in the Den 9:30-11:00 AM
Wednesday, Nov. 14th – Boy Scouts, 7 PM
Wednesday, Nov. 14th – PCCW in social hall, 7 PM
Thursday, Nov. 15th – Faith Sharing Group in the Den after 9 AM Mass
Friday, Nov. 16th – Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
Saturday, Nov. 17th – Christmas Bazaar in social hall, 8-2 PM

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Nov. 17-18
5:00 PM Mass: Audrey Sell, Keira Slonaker, Harrison Smith
8:15 AM Mass: Ethan Aiello, Peyton Duty, Andrew Eyster
11:15 AM Mass: Nicholas Steinke, Margaret & Clare Mailey
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Nov. 17-18
5 PM MASS – Joe Schwar
8:15 AM MASS – Kevin DePaulis
11:15 AM MASS – Jane Kakalecz
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Nov. 17-18
5:00 PM: Bertie Kuhn, Holly & Charles Fletcher, Dan Landis, Steve Hoffman
8:15 AM: Jason Duty, Kevin Heilman, Carol Stroud, Elaine & Mitch Walton
11:15 AM: Rita Becoski, Carmelita Garcia, John Schaline Jr., Pat Spiridonoff, Stella Thomas
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. During the entire month of November there are many Catholic traditions that invite as the Church on earth to **pray for our beloved dead** – that is the Church being purified in purgatory. To this end, I invite you to take part in the following: 1) to write the names of deceased family and friends in the *Liber Defunctorum* (Book of the Deceased) located in in the main vestibule of the church by the image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. There is a sign there explaining this ancient tradition further; 2) if you haven’t already done so, to take an All Souls Intentions envelope (found at the entrances of the church) to write down the names of all your beloved dead that you would like me to pray for in a special way during Masses in the month of November. (Please return these envelopes in the collection basket at Mass, so that they are returned to the parish office). Then, I will be offering 7 Masses (the number of divine perfection) during November for all your intentions listed, which will be indicated in the bulletin as “All Souls Intentions”.

2. Thank you to the Boy Scouts and the DePaulis family for organizing our annual **Veteran’s Day** dinner and celebration.

3. This Sunday and Monday several of us will be travelling out to St. Emma’s Benedictine Monastery in Greensburg, PA for a **mini mission trip**. We’ll be assisting the nuns in cleaning up after their all-important Christmas Shoppe fundraiser. The Benedictine Sisters are wonderful women. I have had many a retreat at St. Emma’s over the years. It’s wonderful that we can give back to them.

4. Please join us on November 18th at 6pm at Zwingli UCC in East Berlin for an ecumenical **Thanksgiving service**. Please see the flyer in today’s bulletin.

5. During the month of November, it is a traditional Catholic tradition to **visit cemeteries**, especially the graves of our beloved dead. Here are some prayers that you might consider offering during these visits:

a) **May God remember forever my dear ones**, *(Name them)*,
who have gone to their eternal rest.
May they be at one with the One Who is eternal life.
May the beauty of their lives shine forevermore, and may my life always bring honor to their memory. Amen.

b) **O God, by Whose mercy the faithful departed find rest**, send Your holy angel to watch over this grave, through Chr8ist our Lord. Amen.

c) **Eternal rest grant unto (Name)**, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. **May (Name’s)** soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

**God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe**

**MATTHEW 25 COLLECTION** – The second collection next week will benefit the Diocesan-wide Matthew 25 Collection. This collection supports parish ministries as well as organizations within the 15 counties in the Diocese of Harrisburg which assist those in need with food, clothing and shelter. Because of your generosity last year, more than $187,000 was distributed to 30 organizations. Also, 25% of what is collected stays here at our parish.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS** – “Out of her poverty she has put in everything she had.” Will you respond with generosity should the Lord choose you for priesthood or the consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

**COOKIE SALE** – The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger is in its 21st year of selling cookie trays and 100% of the proceeds from the sale supports Cross Catholic Outreach’s Haiti School Feeding Program. Last year the sales efforts fed over 3.6 million people in Haiti. **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish provided 37,750 meals to this program last year!** Here’s how we help – buy a gift tray, then sell a few to friends. There are 8 each of chocolate chip, snickerdoodle and peanut butter cookies in the attractive gift trays that make excellent gifts. **The proceeds from 1 gift tray provides at least 375 meals.** Order forms and all details will be in next week’s bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Anita in the parish office.

**THANK YOU!** BSA Troop 127 would like to thank everyone who helped with and attended the Veterans Day dinner. Thanks to Steve & Joanne Signorello, Larry & Melanie Miller and Jack & Kathy Krenitsky for a delicious meal. Special thanks to WAYNE NELL MEATS for donating the meat and RICHARD J. GROSS VFW POST for sponsoring the costs of the meal. Also, thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their donation of $150.00. Because of everyone’s generosity, we were able to raise more than $1,500 for the PA Wounded Warriors.

**TALENT NIGHT** – All parishioners are invited to participate in and/or attend the upcoming Talent Night on November 30th. Talent registration forms are available on the ledges behind the last pew, so pick up yours today and share your talent with the IHM family. It will be a wonderful evening (similar to the one we had three years ago).
CALLING ALL CHILDREN
It's that time of year again when we are looking for all children who would like to participate in the Children's Choir for the 5:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Children ages 4 and above are welcome! As in the past, rehearsals will take place on the Sundays in December from 3:00-4:15 PM in the choir loft. To sign your child or children up or for more information, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

50/50 CHANCES
Fifty-fifty chances will be sold the weekend of November 17th-18th to benefit the Retired Sisters of Saint Joseph who reside at Saint Joseph Villa. The chances are $1 each or 6 for $5.00.

CHURCH PRINT FUNDRAISER – Boy Scout Troop 127 will be taking orders for a signed, limited edition print of the IHM Church by local artist, Mary Moores. Only 100 signed prints will be made. Orders will be taken after Masses on Nov. 10-11 and Nov. 17-18. Orders will also be taken at the church bazaar. The price is $75 due at the time of the order. Delivery will be before Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Ann DePaulis at anndepaulis@centurylink.net.

PCCW – All women are cordially invited to attend the Parish Council of Catholic Women on Wednesday, Nov. 14th at 7 PM in the Church social hall for their monthly meeting. Come check us out! The Parish Council of Catholic Women will be sponsoring the Christmas giving tree. They will be working with New Hope Ministries again this year. There will be stars and ornaments with gift suggestions on them. If you take one, please return the gift unwrapped on or before Sunday, Dec. 2nd by 11:15 AM. There will also be angels on the tree for our parish shut-ins. If you take an angel, please deliver it to the shut-in and let them know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of the parish.

IHM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - Will be held Saturday, Nov. 17th from 8 AM – 2 PM. Enjoy a day of fun, food and yummy treats. Start/Finish your Christmas shopping. Find that “special gift” for that “special someone”! Breakfast and lunch can be purchased as you shop.

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 Nov. 4, 2018 we sold $1440 for a profit of $72.00.

FUSION - Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary's youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12.
Saturday, November 17th, 9 AM – 8:30 PM: Fan the Fire Youth Rally
Saturday, November 24th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night with Adoration
Friday, November 30th: Parish Talent Show
Saturday, December 8th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night

Saturday, December 22nd, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night with Adoration
For more information, please call or email Paul Oakes: (717) 259-0611 ext.8 or poakes@hbgdiocese.org

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR HANOVER HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS – The Hanover Hospital – UPMC Pinnacle Health has issued the following changes to their policy effective December 2018.

1. Clergy will not be able to view denominational lists at the front desk.
2. Clergy will not be able to obtain patient information at the front desk unless they have the patient’s name.
3. If the patient indicates a congregational affiliation in the admissions interview, the Chaplain will call the congregation. If the patient indicates to the Chaplain on his or her rounds that he or she belongs to a particular congregation and gives permission the Chaplain will call the congregation.
4. In an emergency situation if the patient or family indicates a congregational affiliation to the Chaplain or other staff and gives permission to call the congregation, every effort will be made to notify the congregation.

Because of these changes, it is very important that a family member contacts the parish when someone is admitted.

SHOE DRIVE – Donate your gently worn shoes to St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School: Help us raise funds for our school by donating your gently worn, used or new shoes! Our school will earn money for every pound of shoes we collect. Plus, all collected shoes are used to support micro-enterprise vendors in developing nations. (Micro-enterprises are small businesses operated by one person or a family.) All shoes can be dropped off during regular school hours in the collection bins located outside of the McSherrystown and Conewago school offices. There is also a plastic bin located at the entrance to our Church marked for this drive. Our shoe drive has begun and will run until Jan. 2, 2019. We can only collect shoes that are in good condition, meaning that the soles are intact, they have laces (if necessary), there are no holes, they are dry & clean, and they still have life in them. Thank you! Please contact JoAnn Garman at 717-637-3135 with any questions.

* * * *  
THANKS TO  * * * *
ALL SOULS ENVELOPES – are available at the entrance doors to the Church. If you have not used the envelope in your packet, you may use these envelopes and list the names of those loved ones you would like remembered on the altar throughout the month of November.

TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS –
The next training session for new (and renewing) Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 5125 Grandview Rd., Hanover on Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018. Led by Deacon Tom Aumen, the 2-hour training/renewal session begins at 6:30 PM in the Church. Register at IHM parish office and submit a completed application. For new applicants, an interview with Fr. Marcoe is required. Deadline for registration is November 15th.

GROCERY CARD SALES – Here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church we sell grocery cards for both Weis
Markets and Giant Stores. The denominations include $20, $50 and $100. IHM receives a 5% profit from the sale of all the grocery cards. This 5% profit is used to help support the cost of our Religious Education Program. Before going for groceries, please consider purchasing Weis or Giant cards after each Mass at the front entrance. Cards can also be purchased in the parish office during the work week. Thank you for your support of this wonderful program!

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Oct. 3rd served 67 families which included 187 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Oct. 4th was 34 for a total of 82 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on Wednesday, Nov. 7th at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/DJH83 and Thursday, Nov. 8th at the Abbottstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/WK FYE. 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.

PRISON MINISTRY MENTOR TRAINING – The Adams County Christian Prison Ministry is formulating a new mentor program at ACACC. Inmates will be screened and approved for a one-year mentor program in which residents from Adams County will be able to support them following their release. To learn more, join us at our mentor training on Thursday, Nov. 15th at 7 PM at the Freedom Valley Church, 3185 York Rd., Gettysburg. Contact Pastor Gerry @ 717-624-3411 to register or to get more information.

LADIES SAVE THE DATE! Women’s Conference next year will be Oct. 12, 2019. Helen Alvare will be the keynote speaker.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS BAZAARS
Annunciation Parish Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 8 AM – 2 PM in the school hall, 316 North St., McSherrystown. Breakfast & lunch are available for purchase. Fall items & Christmas items available for purchase. Decorated trees & wreaths, baked goods, outdoor items, filled box and filled basket raffle and childcare is available.

St. Vincent’s, Hanover will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 8 AM – 1 PM.

St. Francis Xavier Gift Fair and Holiday Bazaar Nov. 10th from 8AM – 2:30 PM at the Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Rd., Gettysburg. Vendors, fair trade items, timeless treasures, collectibles, children’s activities, baked goods, raffles and door prizes. Café serving breakfast and lunch items.

St. Joseph, Hanover Christmas Bazaar Will be held on Saturday, Nov. 10th from 8 AM – 2 PM.

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School will host their 2018 Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show On Saturday, Nov. 17th from 9 AM – 3 PM. The bazaar will be held in the Sacred Heart Gym at the Conewago campus, 55 Basilica Dr., Hanover. We will have a variety of commercial vendors and one of a kind products made by local artisans. Our famous “Classroom Basket Raffle” and “Silent Auction” will return this year with items that are sure to please everyone! Small games of chance will be available. Come eat breakfast or lunch with us. Santa will be there from 9 am – 1 pm, so be sure to bring your little ones! Hope to see you there!

Immaculate Conception BVM, New Oxford Will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 8AM – 2 PM.

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.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT –
Monthly Budget $ 45,000.00
Income for Sept. 2nd 9,513.00
Sept. 9th 9,832.58
Sept. 16th 10,042.50
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME $ 45,668.08

SECOND COLLECTIONS:
Capital Improvements 1,557.20
Peter’s Pence Collection 1,401.00

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.

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.

MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES – The Diocese of Harrisburg’s annual Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg. Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the Celebrant and Homilist. This year also marks the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the 1978 Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities. A light reception will follow the Mass, which will include reflections on the 1978 Pastoral Statement. To assist with planning, it is requested that those attending from outside St. Catherine Laboure Parish or in need of any special accommodations, kindly RSVP to LKiley@hbldiocese.org or 717-657-4804 ext. 322 prior to Nov. 9, 2018. All are welcome to attend.

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, Spirittrust 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!

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.

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

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.

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

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

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, 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. 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.

**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.

**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. “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 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.

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