Mark your calendars and plan to be part of our newest Parish Directory!

Monday, Nov. 25, from 2-9 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 2-9 PM
Friday, Nov. 29, from 2-9 PM
Saturday, Nov. 30, from 10 AM - 4 PM

Other dates at area locations could also be available if these dates don’t work for you.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019**
5:00 PM + Frank Schuhart, Sr.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2019**
8:15 AM + Albert Burkevage, Jr.
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019**
NO MASS

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**
9:00 AM + Scott Uslin

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**
9:00 AM + Susan Klunk

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019**
9:00 AM – Special Intention of Dave Meixner

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019**
9:00 AM + John Horney

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019**
5:00 PM + Polly Renaut

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019**
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
11:15 AM + Susan Klunk

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**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS**

Amos 6:1, 4-7
1 Timothy 6:11-16
Luke 16:19-31

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**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

Despite all our time saving gadgets, we still have less leisure and family time. To solve this we created the Myths of Quality Time. Don’t be fooled: Quality Time is Quantity Time. Jesus counsels us today, we “cannot serve two masters” and expect to be happy. Dedicate time to your family. No one in their final hours regretted not spending more time at work.

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**IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS**, please pray for the repose of the soul of Anna DeRienzo, sister of Gerry Becoski, who died this week.

**SEPTMBER 22, 2019**

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

**September 22nd – 28th**

**SUNDAY, Sept. 22nd** – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM

**SUNDAY, Sept. 22nd** – Adult Enrichment Class in the social hall, 9:30-11 AM

**Monday, Sept. 23rd** – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM

**Monday, Sept. 23rd** – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg Room 4, 7 PM

**Monday, Sept. 23rd** – Charismatic Prayer Group in Social Hall, 7 PM

**Wednesday, Sept. 25th** – Boy Scouts, 6-9 PM

**Thursday, Sept. 26th** – Faith Sharing Group in Den after 9 AM Mass

**Thursday, Sept. 26th** – Following Christ in social hall 6:30-8:30 PM

**MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP**

**ALTAR SERVERS** for Sat/Sun Sept. 28-29
5:00 PM Mass: Jonah Robinson, Keira & Madelyn Slonaker
8:15 AM Mass: Adam & Amelia Gerringer, Andrew Oyster

Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

**LECTORS** for Sat/Sun Sept. 28-29
5 PM MASS – Mary Margaret Thorne
8:15 AM MASS – Cathy Heilman
11:15 AM MASS – Susan Altobelli

Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC)** for Sat/Sun Sept. 28-29
5:00 PM: Steve SIGNORELLO, Pat & Randy Slonaker, Sam Spies, Amanda Wicker
8:15 AM: Kim Aiello, Elaine & Mitch Walton, Pat Robinson, Midge Stokes
11:15 AM: Andy Altobelli, Diane & John Schaline, Pat Spiridonoff, Leland Steinke

Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS** – “Who will entrust to you the true riches?” The riches of truth belong to those who are faithful to Christ and their vocation. Will you follow Him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Talk to Fr. Burger or Fr. Jonathan Sawicki, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING INTO OUR PARISH FAMILY THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Logan Luke Rice, son of Andrew & Sharon Rice and John Toby Wagner, son of John Derek Wagner and Candice Abrahamsen.
FREE BOOKS – For the next two weeks you will see two tables filled with FREE BOOKS set up down in the social hall. These are very good spiritual books and we want you to feel free to “check the tables out” and take AS MANY books as you would like. As of Monday, Sept. 30th the books and tables will disappear.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – Please mark your calendars now! Our annual Christmas Bazaar is being held on Saturday, Nov. 16th from 8 AM until 2 PM. We will have a variety of vendors with crafts, homemade candy, etc. Plan to join us for this fun-filled day to “get into the Christmas spirit”!

DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG WOMEN’S CONFERENCE – All women are cordially invited to experience the 5th annual Diocese of Harrisburg Catholic Women’s Conference, Oct. 12, 2019 at Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg. The past three years, we have had 750-900 women attend this conference. Our theme is Women of Light, Sisters in Christ! The keynote address will be presented by Helen Alvare, internationally known speaker and writer. The conference features 41 workshops, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Rosary & Benediction, 25+ Priests hearing Confession, great music, Catholic exhibitors, tasty food, Mass with Bishop Gainer (also giving a workshop), and wonderful fellowship with hundreds of women from within and outside the Diocese. Early-bird, reduced-fee registration is $37 and lasts through Oct. 7. On-site, same day registration is $60. Register online at www.hbgdiocese.org/women. Contract Carol Stroud at 717-814-7918.

SAINT THERESE, THE LITTLE FLOWER – The 33rd Annual Evening of Prayer in honor of St. Therese, The Little Flower, will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 1st at 7 PM at Annunciation BVM Church, McSherrystown. Anyone wishing to bring a rose symbolizing their intentions may do so.

BIBLE STUDY – A Bible Study entitled “Revelation A Kingdom Yet to Come” will be held at Sacred Heart Basilica Parish Hall, 30 Basilica Dr., Hanover, beginning Thursday, Oct. 17th at 6:30 PM. The cost is $25.00. It is an 11 week study but will be broken into 5 weeks this fall, then the remaining 6 weeks in the spring. The deadline to register is Oct. 10th so as materials may be ordered. For more information, contact JoAnn at Sacred Heart Parish Office 717-637-2721 or John Barrett at 717-633-1082 to enroll or for additional information.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA BINGO – Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019 at Shiloh Fire Hall, 2190 Carlisle Rd., York. Doors open at Noon – bingo starts at 2 PM. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Proceeds benefit St. Rose of Lima School students. For ticket sales, contact Danielle Peters at 717-619-3072 or ryan0229@comcast.net.

THANKS TO
PRO-LIFE DINNER & PROGRAM – Come join Pro-life
speakers Ryan and Bethany Bomberger from The
Radiance Foundation for a dinner and program to benefit
Plaza San Juan Bautista, the after-school program of
San Juan Bautista Church. Listen to Ryan and Bethany
speak about the Consistent Life Ethic – how being pro-
life extends beyond the womb to every single human
person in our community. Every human being has
immense value and worth, and “Every Child Brings us
God’s Smile”. This event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 28th, at Plaza (441 S. Lime St., Lancaster). For more details or to RSVP, visit www.PlazaSJB.com or call 717-392-4118 ext 311.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES – New Hope Ministries is a finalist in the 2019 Aetna Voices of Health Competition! Please help us win the $20,000 grand prize by voting for New Hope every day. Go to www.bit.ly/votenewhope. Vote every day now through Oct. 13th! The winner is based solely on the amount of votes received. Just think about how $20,000 would help the 22,000 guests we serve every year at New Hope!

FISHERS OF MEN DINNER – And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.” Luke 5:10. The Diocese of Harrisburg has been blessed with 27 men, training to be “fishers of men”, but we need your help. The Diocese’s supports each man in formation for the priesthood to the tune of $40,000 annually, per seminarian. These men are giving their lives to service for the Church and its people. Will you help them along this journey? Please consider attending the Annual Fishers of Men Dinner on Friday, October 4, 2019 at the Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg. For information, including an RSVP form, go to www.hbgdiocese.org/fishersofmen or by calling the Diocesan Office of Vocations at 717-657-4804 ext. 282. Deadline for registration is Friday, Sept. 27, 2019.


ANNUAL WHITE MASS – The Catholic Medical Guild of the Diocese of Harrisburg invites all Catholic physicians, healthcare workers, medical students, residents and their families to attend the annual White Mass on Sunday, Oct. 20th at 9:30 AM at Saint Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg. The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, will be the celebrant and homilist. A reception will follow in the parish hall in the basement. Please RSVP for the reception to kneri@hbgdiocese.org.

IHM CHOIR – The choir welcomes those who enjoy and like to sing. The first practice is Sunday, Sept. 22nd at 9:30 AM and we’ll begin singing and enhancing the liturgy early October for the 11:15 AM Mass. Please consider joining this enthusiastic group. For more information and/or questions, please contact Roy Wainwright at 717-619-7243 or Kathy Schwar at 717-259-9086.

FUSION: Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary’s youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12. Reminder: Youth Nights will now be held on the second and fourth Sundays (unless noted otherwise) from 5 to 7:30 PM.
Sept 22: Youth Night, 5 – 7:30 PM: The Wild Goose, Episode 1
Oct 10: Youth Night, 5 – 7:30 PM: The Wild Goose, Episode 2
Nov 10: Youth Night & Adoration, 5 – 7:30 PM: The Wild Goose, Episode 4
Nov 17: Fan the Fire, 9 AM – 8 PM
Nov 24: Youth Night, 5 – 7:30 PM: The Wild Goose, Episode 5
Dec 13: The Way to Bethlehem, 6 – 9 PM
Dec 15: Youth Night, 5 – 7:30 PM: The Wild Goose, Episode 6
For more information, please call or email Paul Oakes: (717) 259-0611 ext.8 or poakes@hbgdiocese.org

RCIA
Some of you reading this bulletin were never baptized; some were raised as member of another Christian denomination. Some were baptized Catholic, but never instructed in the Faith; some of you married a Catholic and you have felt some kind of attraction to Catholicism. Some of you have been attending Mass, at least occasionally with Catholic family members or friends. You have listened to many homilies, but you still have questions concerning Catholicism. Perhaps you were ready to inquire before, but you did not know how to go about it. Is the Lord urging you to learn more? This year, Immaculate Heart of Mary will continue the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Process ~ a series of basic instructions in the Catholic Faith. For more information or to register for RCIA, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDAR! - The Diocesan Women’s Conference, Oct. 12, 2019 at Bishop McDevitt Center. The theme is Women of Light, Sisters in Christ! We have our largest number of speakers ever this year – 40+. Keynote Speaker is Helen Alvare, internationally known pro-life, pro-family speaker.

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. Last heating season, IHM was among the top 5 churches in donations received! To sign up, call 888-827-17136.

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.

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Aug. 7th served 55 families which included 163 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Aug. 8th was 32 for a total of 79 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on Wednesday, Sept. 4th at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/P9LDY and Thursday, Sept. 5th at the Abbottstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/Q9DFA. 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.

WELCOME! We welcome the following into our parish family:
Chad & Angela Clabaugh & family, Abbottstown
Charles & Donna Smith, East Berlin

SAVE THE DATE: The 6th Annual Veterans’ Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9th at 6:15 PM in the social hall. Tickets will be sold after Mass during the month of October.

MISSION TRIP – Is this the year you give of yourself on a mission trip – a Christian pilgrimage of service as a thank you for your blessings? Father Ho Lung (Missionaries of the Poor) in Jamaica can use your help taking care of the hundreds of castaways in Kingston; men, women and children. He gathers the resources, but needs your hands to serve these people. Roy and Margaret Wainwright (and granddaughter) are going this year November 2-10. Won’t you consider joining us? You must want to “die to self” and use your willing heart to serve others for the week. You will never be the same. Contact Roy Wainwright at roywainwright3@gmail.com or 717-619-7243. See more at our website www.ihmparadise.org/29.

RCIA PROCESS
The RCIA Process makes four essential changes in the way in which converts were welcomed into the Catholic Church years ago.
First, the RCIA process restores the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation, which are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Today, these three sacraments are celebrated as the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.
Second, the RCIA stresses the need for a lived experience of the Church and not just knowledge about the Church. Although the RCIA includes instruction in the truths of the Catholic Church, instruction is but one part of a much larger experience of living the Faith with members of the Church.
Third, the RCIA puts an end to the quiet, dark, almost secretive Baptism of adults, and makes the welcoming of new Catholics a public community event.
Fourth, the RCIA stresses that conversion is begun by the Holy Spirit, and is an on-going process.
For more information about RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

Message from the Pastor

HOUSE OF WORSHIP PROGRAM
We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to all those who participate in the Aero Energy House of Worship Program. Our parish received a check in the amount of $527.16 from this past heating season! IHM receives 4 cents per gallon for anyone using heating oil or propane that is a current customer of Aero Energy or anyone who becomes a NEW customer. If you are not already participating in this program and would like to, please call Aero Energy at 888-827-1713 to sign up for the House of Worship Program. There is no additional cost to anyone who participates – it is a donation from Aero Energy to our church. Thanks to all who participate!

OFFERTORY PROCESSION – For the benefit of you, our long-time parishioners as well as you, our NEW parishioners ~ we invite you and your family to participate in the Offertory Procession when you come to Mass on Saturday night or Sunday.

Perhaps you have NOT noticed the 3 crosses and the picture frame on the ledge behind the last pew (right hand side) as you come into Church. There is an invitation from Fr. Burger in the frame for you to bring forth the gifts at the Offertory time. You just need to take the 3 crosses to the pew with you, and when the altar
server goes to the back of the Church with the Processional Cross, you get out of your pew and head to the back of the Church. One of the ushers is there to assist you, if necessary. The gifts (the paten of hosts and the cruets of wine) are on the ledge by the picture frame. You bring those gifts, as well as the collection basket forward, following the altar server with the cross. Please consider having your family participate in the Offertory Procession. This is a simple way to participate more fully in the celebration of the Mass.

SCAM ALERT! Once again someone is using the Pastor's name to scam people into buying gift cards or giving their cell number to them. Neither Fr. Burger, nor any Diocesan Priest, will ever ask you to supply him with gift cards or give your cell number in order to help him out. Please DO NOT respond to any emails you may receive or any text message asking if you are available to do him a favor and purchase gift cards for someone who is sick.

HEALING HEARTS is a support group for widows and widowers. The group will meet once a week on Thursday nights from 6pm until 7:30 pm at Kim Aiello’s house at 1650 Pine Run Road, East Berlin. The meetings will consist of prayer, bible study, share time, Christian music, group social outings, like going to see a Christian movie, attending a Christian Concert, or listening to a Christian Speaker. The support group goal is to help heal the broken heart and replace sorrow with joy, by finding peace through a personal relationship with the Lord. Contact Kim Aiello at 717-476-7504 or emailing her at kilo1@hotmail.com.

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

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.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snare of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

NEW ENTRANCE PROCEDURE FOR THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTER –
I want to let you know about a new entrance procedure that we now have in place when coming to the parish office and the Religious Education Center. You will now find that the doors will be locked. We ask that you please ring the bell on the wall outside the door and you will be buzzed into the building. This safety system which now allows the staff to see who is at the door was installed this last week.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING SERVICES:
Depression and anxiety can occur when we have a loss or a major change in our life. A licensed skilled therapist can help you by listening, processing, and giving you the power to make positive change. Catholic Charities Counseling Services is accepting new clients for four office locations throughout the Diocese. Catholic Charities Counseling is for anyone: children, adolescents, adults, and couples. Services are provided in a confidential office setting. Services include individual and family therapy, marital counseling, and parent-child counseling. We accept Medical Assistance, or clients can pay for services (discount fee schedule available). Just call for an appointment: Capital Region 717-233-7978; Lancaster 717-299-3659 or 717-392-2113 (Espanol); York 717-845-2696; Paradise School Office (Abbottstown) 717-259-9537. Visit www.cchbg.org for more information.

ARE YOU CARING FOR AN AGING PERSON?
There is a safe website where you can get help and ideas. Go to www.agingcare.com. You can sign up for their emailed newsletter at the bottom of the home page. I have been following the newsletters and find a lot of articles which may be useful. If I can be of any help, please contact me at roywainwright3@gmail.com or 717-619-7243.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students at Delone Catholic High School for achieving honor roll status:
FIRST HONORS: Audrey & Abigail Sell, Christian Powell and Julia O'Brien
SECOND HONORS: Harrison Smith & Avery Kuntz
COMMENDABLE EFFORT: Christian Powell & Avery Kuntz
**Don’t Get Scammed!**

Scammers are now posing as priests and other clergy. In this latest scam, you might receive an email or a text message that appears to be from your Pastor or another priest that you may know. The scammer asks you to help someone in need by purchasing a gift card and to provide the codes on that card.

Here’s how to protect yourself from being scammed.
1. Know that scammers are out there. Be suspicious of any request for funds of any type via an email message or a text message. Verify any request with a call to the person who supposedly sent it or a call to the phone number of the text that you received.
2. Know that any email from a priest should be from a diocesan or parish email account. Messages sent from free services, such as Gmail or Yahoo, are more likely to be scammers.
3. Many clergy do not share their cell phone numbers publicly. If you receive a text message from someone not on your phone’s contact list, be suspicious.
4. Know that priests will NEVER ask for financial transactions via email or text messages.

**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.

**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.

**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!

**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.

**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!

**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

**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 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.
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.

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

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

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

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

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