VETERANS DAY DINNER

The annual Veterans Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9th at 6:15 PM in the church social hall.

The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children. Veterans eat free as our guests. Tickets will be sold after Masses through the first weekend in November.

ALL NET PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PENNSYLVANIA WOUNDED WARRIORS.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019**
5:00 PM + John & Dorothy Schlaline

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019**
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
11:15 AM + Phil Aumen

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019**
9:00 AM + Fr. Stephen Connell

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019**
9:00 AM + Fr. Paul Baier

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019**
9:00 AM + John Melhorn

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019**
NO MASS

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019**
9:00 AM + Warren Glass

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019**
5:00 PM – Special Intention of Ron & Violet Heinning on their Anniversary

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019**
8:15 AM + Lawrence Aumen
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

**NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS**
Exodus 17:8-13
2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
Luke 18:1-8

**SICK OF THE PARISH** – Please keep our members in your thoughtful prayers:

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** – The widow in today’s gospel is praised for her PERSEVERANCE. In our homes perseverance is a critical ingredient to resolving differences and teaching lessons and skills to children. Perseverance is always an act of faith in the goodness of the other person.

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**
**Oct. 20th – 26th**

**Sunday, Oct. 20th** – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM

**Sunday, Oct. 20th** – Adult Enrichment Class in the social hall, 9:30-11 AM

**Monday, Oct. 21st** – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM

**Monday, Oct. 21st** – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg Room 4, 7 PM

**Monday, Oct. 21st** – Charismatic Prayer Group in Social Hall, 7 PM

**Wednesday, Oct. 23rd** – Boy Scouts, 6-9 PM

**Thursday, Oct. 24th** – Faith Sharing Group in Den after 9 AM Mass

**Thursday, Oct. 24th** – Following Christ in social hall 6:30-8:30 PM

**MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP**

**ALTAR SERVERS** for Sat/Sun Oct. 26-27
5:00 PM Mass: Kayla Bream, Zachary Horst, Mary Murphy
8:15 AM Mass: Ian Frantz, Emma & Hanna Maysilles
11:15 AM Mass: Erich & Nicholas Steinke, Logan Bergels
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

**LECTORS** for Sat/Sun Oct. 26-27
5 PM MASS – Patricia Renaut
8:15 AM MASS – Barb Bowker
11:15 AM MASS – Vernon Lohn
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC)** for Sat/Sun Oct. 26-27
5:00 PM: Rose Dietz, Barb Redding, Randy & Pat Slonaker, Mary Margaret Thorne
8:15 AM: Kim Aiello, Doug Barnhart, John & Kelli Maysilles, Midge Stokes
11:15 AM: Kevin Behr, Bonie Hensel, Joyce Menges, Diane & John Schlaline
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS** – “Pray always and do not lose heart.” If you are considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, let the grace of prayer encourage you. Talk to Fr. Burger or Fr. Jonathan Sawicki, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 or check out www.dioceseanpriest.com.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK. WE WILL HAVE MASS AT 9 AM ON MONDAY, OCT. 21ST, BUT NO DAILY MASS ON THURSDAY, OCT. 24TH.**
SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT –
Monthly Budget $45,500.00
Income for Sept. 1st $10,632.00
Sept. 8th 9,994.51
Sept. 15th 9,643.50
Sept. 22nd 9,050.55
Sept. 29th 8,885.10
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME $48,205.66

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS:
Capital Improvements $2,168.25
Peter’s Pence Collection 2,245.00

PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – Sign up now!
The dates for family pictures for our new directory will be Monday, Nov. 25th, Tuesday, Nov. 26th, Friday, Nov. 29th and Saturday, Nov. 30th. You may go on line to reserve your time at https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b27v72m/. We will also have volunteers for the next few weeks at the front entrance to assist anyone who would like to sign-up in person rather than on line. **Anyone who has their photo taken will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 photo and free directory.** Also Lifetouch will give a $30 coupon to spend at Shutterfly with any photography purchase. **Another added benefit this year is Lifetouch will supply an “update” showing new families for four years.** Anyone who received the original directory will automatically receive any updated directories. If these dates do not work for you but you would still like to participate in our directory, or if you have any questions, please call Anita in the parish office at 717-259-0611 ext 5.

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. IHM receives a 5% profit from the sale of all the grocery cards purchased. **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! During the week of Oct. 13, 2019 we sold $750 for a profit of $37.50.

PCCW – The Parish Council of Catholic Women will be handing out White Ribbons Against Pornography next weekend, Oct. 26-27 after the Masses. We ask that you please display them on your vehicle, if possible.

RUTH’S HARVEST – Ruth’s Harvest packing will be Wednesday, Oct. 23rd from 10-11 AM at the Abbottstown Fire Hall. Consider joining others in this ecumenical ministry as we bag single-serving food items for elementary school students to take to their homes. For more information, call Pat Renault at 717-637-1110.

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. 17, 2019 at 12:30 PM at St. Joseph Parish, York. Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the celebrant and homilist. A light reception will follow the Mass. To assist with planning, it is requested that those attending from outside Saint Joseph Parish or in need of any special accommodations, kindly RSVP to LKiley@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804, ext 322 prior to Nov. 11, 2019. All are welcome to attend.

Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary’s youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12. **CALLING ALL ACTORS! On December 13th, we’ll be presenting The Way to Bethlehem, a dramatic production that follows Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem. Please consider participating in this once-in-a-lifetime event. If interested, please contact Paul Oakes by October 11th.**

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

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 Cathy Gunzelman at 717-225-5059.

DEANERY CHAPEL – The Adams Deanery Perpetual Adoration Chapel is in desperate need of adorers for the following hours:
Friday @ 12 pm, 7 pm & 11 pm
Saturday @ 4 pm & 9 pm
Contact Gloria Murren @ 717-479-1071.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BVM will hold their monthly “All-you-can-eat” turkey dinner on Oct. 20th in the parish hall, located behind the church, from 11 AM until 2 PM. Ticket prices are $9 for adults, $4 for children (6-12) and under age 6 – free.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THRIFT SHOP, 5 Carlisle St., New Oxford, is having a 50% off moving sale. Also we will NOT be accepting donations until after we have moved. Shop hours are Monday to Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM. Questions call 717-624-1272.

MEMORIAL MASS – A Memorial Mass for Babies Never Born will be celebrated at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 315 N. Constitution Ave., New Freedom on Wednesday, Oct. 30th at 7 PM. All Moms and Dads who have lost babies before they were born, along with family and friends, are welcome to this loving Memorial Mass. Call Pattie Evans 717-235-8833 for more information.

THANKS TO

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IHM CHURCH PRINTS – Boy Scout Troop 127 is currently taking orders for a limited edition, numbered print of a painting of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The print will be available for viewing the next few weekends after Masses and scouts will be available to take your orders. Order forms can be found on the ledges behind the last pew in the church, or can be obtained from the scouts after Masses or placed in an envelope marked Troop 1217 and dropped in the collection basket. The final date to order this limited edition numbered print will be Sunday, Nov. 17th. Prints will be distributed in December.

TRUNK OR TREAT - Mark your calendars now! Our annual “Trunk or Treat” celebration will be held on Sunday, October 27th from 4:00-6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to come out and share your creativity in costumes, have lots of fun and enjoy candy and other treats. More information will follow!
PARISH FLOWER BEDS – Fall is officially here and it is time to clean out the flower beds for the winter. Anyone who “adopted” a flower bed needs to trim back and clean out their respective flower beds. Thank you for making everything look so beautiful!

MOUNT 2000 – Mount 2000 is a weekend retreat for high school students that is lead by the seminarians at Mount Saint Mary’s University on Feb. 7-9, 2020. Please see the flyers in the back of the church or contact Holly Robinson at mjr229@msn.com or 717-965-7595. We ask that you continue to pray for the youth of our parish.

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Sept. 4th served 47 families which included 123 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Sept. 5th was 27 for a total of 64 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on **Wednesday, Oct. 2nd** at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/WML4C and **Thursday, Oct. 3rd** at the Abbottstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/QEQFB. 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.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS – We are often asked about which items are most in need. Well, the answer would include a number of non-food items because those items are very much needed but not donated as often as food. These items include such essentials as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, dental floss, toothbrushes, deodorant, toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, and laundry detergent. Of course, we can also use food donations; but we ask you to donate items with good expiration dates (or expired in the current year). Also, all donated items must be unopened. Any questions contact Pat Renaut at 717-637-1110 or patrenaut@hotmail.com.

ADVENTURE CLUB – Well Adventure Club friends, it is time to make your reservation for “Joy to the World Christmas Show” at American Music Theatre on **Wednesday, Dec. 11th**. We leave IHM parking lot at 8:30 AM for the 10:30 AM show. After the show we will eat lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasbord for “all you can eat buffet”, returning back to IHM around 5:30 PM. Price is $105.00 which includes transportation, show and buffet. Please plan to join us! Call Janet McIntyre at 717-633-9384. Reservations and payment due by Nov. 3rd.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER
From the middle of September until the beginning of May, Religious Education Classes are in session! Please be extra mindful of SAFETY on Sunday mornings after the 8:15 Mass as you are leaving the parking lot (especially if you are parked on the side of

or behind the Church). That is when our children are being dropped off for CCD. Cars are moving and children are walking and most likely “aren’t looking/noticing” that cars are backing up and pulling out.

Also around **11:00 AM** when children are being dismissed from the Religious Education Center and are waiting for their parents to "pull up in the car line" to pick them up. There are 150 children in the CCD and they and their safety are our #1 priority!

If you are in need of a “Handicap Parking” spot, please plan on coming to the **11:15 Mass by 10:55 AM**. You can come in the EXIT driveway and pull right into one of the spots. Parents pick their children up beginning at 11:00 AM. Once their cars start moving, it is about safety! If you choose not to do this and you get in the "parent car line" then please be patient. Please do not try and come up along side the cars that are in line. Most of the time all children get in their cars on the right hand side where adults are right there with them. Occasionally, the children need to get in on the left side because of infants in the car. It takes about 7 minutes to get every child in their car and on their way home safely. Thank you for your understanding!

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!**

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”!

WELCOME! We welcome the following new parishioners into our parish family: Jacquelyn Snyder & family, Spring Grove Emily Gately, Abbottstown Tom & Alicia Hagerman & family, Abbottstown

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.

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!

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.

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.

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 jkilo1@hotmail.com.

**SUMMER WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday 5 PM, Sunday 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM**

**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 homepage. 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

**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 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.

**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 ask 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.

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.

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 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.

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