COOKIE SALE TO COMBAT WORLD HUNGER

Again this year we are participating in the “cookie sale” to feed the 4.2 million starving people in Haiti.

Fill out the order form and place in the collection basket no later than Sunday, Dec. 8th.

Cookie trays will be here for pickup in the social hall after the Masses on Dec. 14-15, 2019.

Cost: $15 per tray
MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2019
5:00 PM - The Baummer & Miller Families

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
11:15 AM + Theron & Brenda Menges

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019
NO MASS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019
9:00 AM + Bev Hershey

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019
9:00 AM + Jules Neiderer

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019
9:00 AM + The Faithful Departed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2019
NO MASS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2019
5:00 PM + John & Dottie Schlaline

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44


FAMILY PERSPECTIVE – Today’s gospel reminds us the Kingdom of Heaven is not like Disney’s Magic Kingdom. Admission to Christ’s Kingdom is paid with the currency of acceptance, forgiveness, attention to the poor and love of one’s enemy.

Flowers on the altar this weekend are in memory of Jules Neiderer and Francis & Rosalie Miller.
THANKSGIVING SERVICE – CORRECTION: Sister Rosanne will be speaking at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service being held at 7:00 PM on Sunday, November 24th at Trinity Lutheran Church, East Berlin.

THANK YOU - A very special THANK YOU to Kelli Maysilles for coordinating our annual Christmas Bazaar. Thank you for all the “behind the scenes” time and effort you put into making it a truly enjoyable day! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for graciously providing breakfast and lunch. Also ~ to our 7th and 8th grade students for helping with the clean up. The clean up would not have happened as smoothly without you! You were all outstanding and we are most grateful!

Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors – We received a “thank you” letter from Mrs. Helen Sajer for the funds donated to the Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc. from the Veterans Dinner. IHM parish donated a total of $1,092.00 to Mrs. Sajer for veteran assistance. Your donations will go directly to help our Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, their families and veterans in emergency need situations. Requests for help have increased to 180 requests per month. THANK YOU!

Abbottstown/East Berlin Food Bank – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Nov. 6th served 51 families which included 133 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Nov. 7th was 35 for a total of 103 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on Wednesday, Dec. 4th at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/QJF99 and Thursday, Dec. 5th at the Abbottstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/BD89J. Please remember to drop off health/beauty items, such as soaps, toothbrushes, diapers, as well LAUNDRY DETERGENT, etc. and place them in the food pantry barrels.

Giving Tree – The Parish Council of Catholic Women will again be sponsoring the Christmas giving tree for New Hope Ministries. Please take an ornament, bring back the gift, unwrapped, on or before Sunday, Dec. 15th. If you take one of the shut-in angels, please shop for this person and deliver the gift directly to them at the address on the angel. Any questions, call Pat Slonaker at 717-824-3245.

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 Nov. 17, 2019 we sold $940 for a profit of $47.00.

Advent Penance Services
St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg, Dec. 2nd, 7 PM
Immaculate Conception, New Oxford, Dec. 10th, 7 PM
Annunciation, McSherrystown, Dec. 11th, 7 PM
Sacred Heart Basilica, Conewago, Dec. 14th, 10 AM
St. Vincent, Hanover, Dec. 15th, 2 PM
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Dec. 17th, 7 PM
St. Joseph, Hanover, Dec. 18th, 7 PM
St. Joseph, Bonneauville, Dec. 19th, 7 PM
St. Aloysius, Littlestown, Dec. 21st, 10 AM

Congratulations to the following students at Delone Catholic High School for achieving honor roll status:
FIRST HONORS: Audrey & Abigail Sell, Jacob Fleming
SECOND HONORS: Harrison Smith, Avery Kuntz & Julia O’Brien

Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary’s youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12.
All Fusion members – Season of J.O.Y. begins on December 1; don’t forget to collect your Advent booklets.
Nov 24: Youth Night, 5 – 7:30 PM: The Wild Goose, Episode 5
Dec 1 – 25: Season of J.O.Y.
Dec 1: The Way To Bethlehem Practice, 2:30 – 4 PM
Dec 7: Reel Talk, 6:30 – 9 PM: Antman & The Wasp: “Hope, Redemption & Marian Apparitions”
Dec 8: The Way To Bethlehem Practice, 2:30 – 4 PM
Dec 10: The Way To Bethlehem Final Dress Rehearsal, 7 – 9 PM
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

Remembrance Service – There will be an Ecumenical, Inter-Religious Candlelight Remembrance Service held for anyone who has experienced the death of a friend, family member or loved one to suicide. It will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019 at 6 PM at Sacred Heart Basilica, 30 Basilica Dr., Hanover. Light refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the service. All are welcome – does not matter when the suicide occurred. It is just a time for us all to come together to let you know you are not alone.

Thanks to
PARISH DIRECTORY – NEW DATES ADDED!
We are happy to say that we have two additional dates added for parishioners to take advantage of our new directory! Wednesday, Dec. 11th from 2-9 PM and Thursday, Dec. 12th from 1-8 PM have been added to our photo schedule. You can schedule your appointment on line at https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b27vx72m/ or by calling Anita in the parish office.

HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES - You may not have noticed, but last week more handicapped parking spaces were added on the rectory side of the Church and 2 spaces right behind the Church. We urge and encourage those of you who are in need of this service to please use them. They are so much closer to the Church. You may use the CHURCH EXIT to get into the spaces on Saturday night or for 8:15 Mass on Sunday. For the 11:15 Mass, you may use this entrance until 10:45 and be parked before the children are being dismissed from Religious Education classes. For safety reasons, please do not come in the EXIT and park the wrong way along the side of the Church. Please note ~ the same rules apply here as elsewhere in using these spaces. You must have a Handicapped Placard or it be indicated on your license plate. Thank you!

CHILDREN’S LITURGY - As you know, our children (ages 3 through 2nd grade) have a wonderful opportunity at the 11:15 Mass when they are called forth and dismissed for “Children's Liturgy of the Word,” the ability to learn about the scripture readings on their level. We are in great need of more volunteers, who have Diocesan clearances to participate in this ministry. If we have a pool of at least 6 to 8 volunteers, then everyone only has a turn every 6 weeks or so. PLEASE consider offering your services for this wonderful ministry for our children. If you are able to help out, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

PARISH CARING COMMITTEE – Assists parishioners on an as needed basis, in times of need or stress and provides visitation, caregiver 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.

CHURCH PRINTS - This coming year our parish is celebrating the 175th Anniversary of our Church. In conjunction with this Anniversary, our Scout Troop 127 is
offering us a unique opportunity to purchase a print of a beautiful painting of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, which was created by a local artist and Troop 127 mom, Mary Moores. A limited amount of prints will be available for $75.00 and will be individually numbered and signed by Mrs. Moores. The print is available at the front entrance of Church for viewing and order forms can be found on the ledges behind the last pews. Scout representatives will be available after all Masses this weekend and next weekend to take orders and answer any questions you may have. All orders are due by Sunday, November 17th. What a unique and memorable gift this would make for someone who has been in our parish most of their life! Please consider adding this beautiful print of our Church to your home.

ART CONTEST – The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) invites girls in grades 9-12 in the Diocese of Harrisburg to enter an art contest. The task: design the cover for the 95th Annual HDCCW Convention on April 25, 2020. The art work should be an original drawing or painting for a 9 x 12 folder and based on the Convention theme "Rejoice and be Thankful". The grand prize is $150, second prize is $75 and third prize is $50. The deadline to enter is Jan. 20, 2020. For complete details and Contest Guidelines, please refer to the HDCCW website http://hdccw.webs.com/. You may also contact HDCCW at 717-860-0700 or email hdccw1@gmail.com with questions.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN - It's that time of year again when we are looking for children for our "Children's Choir" for the 5:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Children ages 4 and over are welcome to join us. As usual, practices will take place on Sunday afternoons in December from 3:00-4:00 PM. If your child is interested, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

PARISH PICTORAL 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/b27vx72m/. 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.

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 Renaut at 717-637-1110.

WELCOME! Please join me in welcoming Msgr. William Richardson to our parish family. Msgr. Richardson is one our retired priests in our diocese and has worked mostly in his priesthood in the Harrisburg area. He was born and raised in Shamokin PA and is one of four children in the family. He has a sister Linda who lives in Philadelphia with her husband Chick. His sister Kathy lives in Reading with her husband Jack and two of their children live in the Reading area along with one grandchild and one son lives in New York. His sister Mary Carol lives in Elysburg PA. Monsignor served as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Harrisburg, St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg, St. Theresa Parish in New Cumberland, Sacred Heart Church in Lewisburg and St. George in Mifflinburg and his last pastorate was Mary, Gate of Heaven in Myerstown. Over the years, he served on many committee’s and councils in the diocese and worked in the Diocesan Office taking responsibility for a number of leadership roles. I am grateful for his presence and the gifts he will bring to our parish.

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!

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT –

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<th>Monthly Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Income for Sept. 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 29th</td>
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TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME $48,205.66

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS:

| Capital Improvements | $2,168.25 |
| Peter’s Pence Collection | 2,245.00 |
FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION – Our parish contributed a total of $2,000.00 in our annual Food Pantry Collection. This money is given to the New Hope Ministries which serve the Abbottstown/East Berlin Food Pantry. Thank you all for your generosity!

WELCOME! We welcome the following new members into our parish family:
Dennis Thompson, East Berlin
Harvey & Nancy Stimer, New Oxford
Ken & Louise Gerlach, East Berlin

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.

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!

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 888-827-1736.

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.

RCIA PROCESS
The RCIA Process makes four essential changes in the way in which converts were welcomes 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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?
WHERE is the event? WHEN 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

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

**FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK**