ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

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
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019
5:00 PM + Msgr. Francis Taylor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019
8:15 AM + John Melhorn
11:15 AM – People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019
9:00 AM + Pat Taylor

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019
9:00 AM + William H. Boeshore, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019
9:00 AM + Tom Harbaugh

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019
9:00 AM + Warren Glass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019
9:00 AM + Ron Filliben

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019
5:00 PM + Theresa Staub

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
11:15 AM + Pasquale R. Lery

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11


FAMILY PERSPECTIVE – Like John the Baptist, every parent “prepare the way of the Lord” in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask: “Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?”

The parish offices will be closed on the following days for the Christmas and New Year's Holiday:
Closed on Dec. 25th–27th, closing early Dec. 24th
Closed on Jan. 1st, closing early Dec. 31st.

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Dec. 14-15
5:00 PM Mass: Harrison, Landon & Ella Smith
8:15 AM Mass: Adam & Amelia Gerringer, Hans Liversberger
11:15 AM Mass: Alex, Autumn & Madi Kuhn
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Dec. 14-15
5 PM MASS – Betsy Mirielo
8:15 AM MASS – Lauren Wicker
11:15 AM MASS – Evelyn Heiliger
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Dec. 14-15
5:00 PM: Bertie Kuhn, Steve Hoffman, Larry Miller, Steve Signorelli, Sam Spiese
8:15 AM: Bill Bowker, Kevin Heilman, Jeff & Terry Seifert, Carol Stroud
11:15 AM: Rita Becoski, Kevin Behr, Bonnie Hensel, Pat Spiridonoff, Barb Wantz
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – Anyone who wishes to memorialize a loved one at Christmas with Poinsettias can find the envelopes at the Church exits. Please fill one out and place in the collection baskets no later than Dec. 15, 2019.

IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the souls of Jackie DePaulis, mother of Kevin DePaulis and Patrick Quinn, cousin of Sr. Rosanne, who died this past week.

DECEMBER 8, 2019

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE
Dec. 8th - 14th

Sunday, Dec. 8th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM
Sunday, Dec. 8th – Adult Enrichment Class in
The social hall, 9:30-11 AM
Monday, Dec. 9th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM
Monday, Dec. 9th – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg
Room 4, 7 PM
Monday, Dec 9th – Charismatic Prayer Group in
Social Hall, 7 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 11th – Boy Scouts, 6-9 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 11th – PCCW in the Rel Ed Bldg.
7 PM
Thursday, Dec. 12th – Faith Sharing Group in Den
after 9 AM Mass
Saturday, Dec. 14th – Boy Scouts Wreath Ceremony
1-3 PM

THE K.Y. PARISH

WEEK-END GLANCE

Dec. 8 – 14, 2019

Sunday, Dec. 8 – Religious Education 9:30 AM
10:00 AM – Mass: Adam & Amelia Gerringer, Hans
Liversberger
11:15 AM – Mass: Alex, Autumn & Madi Kuhn
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS
5 PM Mass: Betsy Mirielo
8:15 AM Mass: Lauren Wicker
11:15 AM Mass: Evelyn Heiliger
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC)
5:00 PM: Bertie Kuhn, Steve Hoffman, Larry Miller
8:15 AM: Bill Bowker, Kevin Heilman, Jeff & Terry
Seifert, Carol Stroud
11:15 AM: Rita Becoski, Kevin Behr, Bonnie Hensel,
Pat Spiridonoff, Barb Wantz
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the souls of Jackie DePaulis, mother of Kevin DePaulis and Patrick Quinn, cousin of Sr. Rosanne, who died this past week.

THE K.Y. PARISH
PRAYER FOR Vocations – How are you preparing the way for the Lord? What needs straightening in your life? Call on God in prayer to help you. (Matthew 3:1-12). If God may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, visit our website at www.hbgdiocese.org, call Father Jonathan Sawicki at 717-657-4804 or write: frisawicki@hbgdiocese.org.

COOKIE SALE DEADLINE – All orders for the Cookie Sale must be turned in this weekend. Cookie trays will be available for pickup next weekend in the social hall after Masses.

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 717-624-3245.

CONGRATULATIONS – We congratulate the following students from our parish who were confirmed by Bishop Gainer this weekend:

- Brielle Baughman
- Dominic DeRienzo
- Amelia Gerringer
- Stephen Guaragno
- Jade Kent
- Clare Mailey
- Henry Rumbaugh
- Matthew Sheaffer
- Donovan Trees
- Maria Wirfel

May the gifts and fruits of the Spirit come to fruition in their lives in abundance!

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 Dec. 1, 2019 we sold $600 for a profit of $30.00.

ADVENT SOUP AND SERMON SCHEDULE – Our Advent Prayer Service and luncheon will be held each Wednesday during Advent from 12 Noon to 1 PM. Using short educational video clips from "The Bible Project", we will discover more about the importance of the central words of Advent: Peace, Hope and Love.

The following is a list of places and dates:

Wednesday, Dec. 11th – St. Johns Lutheran, Abbottstown
  Topic: HOPE

Wednesday, Dec. 18th – Trinity Lutheran, East Berlin
  Topic: LOVE

Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary's youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12.

Volunteers wanted for The Way to Bethlehem! Must be available on December 13. Service hours will be provided.

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, Adoration & Christmas Blast 3.0, 5 – 8 PM

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

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS – Mass will be celebrated in the Extraordinary Form (also known as the Traditional Latin Mass) during Advent at Sacred Heart Basilica, 30 Basilica Dr., Hanover, on the following Sundays: Dec. 15 & Dec. 22 at 6 PM and on Sunday Dec. 8 – the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at Noon. This Mass will fulfill your Sunday obligation and Holy Communion may be received for a second time that day.

ADVENT ADORATION – On each of the four Sundays of Advent, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Hanover will celebrate adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers at 4:30 PM, Benediction at 5:25 PM, and Holy Mass at 5:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come out of the spiritual cold and dark of their lives and into warmth and light of Christ’s love through the Eucharistic adoration and Holy Mass. Make time in the quiet of a Sunday evening to re-center in Christ and prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Confessions available upon request.

THE 3½ STORIES OF CHRISTMAS – St. Rose of Lima Church is hosting Frank Runyeon, a critically acclaimed Christian actor who brings the Bible to life with his live one man performances. On Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 PM he will perform "The 3 ½ Stories of Christmas". Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the Christmas story are tied together for the first time: from the light of Creation to the manger in Bethlehem, from the origin of Saint Nicholas to the secret of the Christmas Angel himself! Tickets are $10 for adults, free for children 18 and under. To purchase tickets, go to: saintroseoflimayork.weshareonline.org.
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES
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

WELCOME! We welcome the following new members into our parish family:
Clyde & Barbara Krebs & family, Abbottstown
Julianne Rowe & family, Hanover
Brian & Ruth Kaley, Dover
Derek & Amanda Albin & family, Spring Grove
Mark & Amy Gingrich & family, Dover

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.

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

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT –
Monthly Budget $36,400.00
Income for Oct. 6th $10,811.00
Oct. 13th 9,062.04
Oct. 20th 9,116.25
Oct. 27th 8,619.25
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME $37,808.54

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS:
Capital Improvements $1,696.70
World Mission Collection 1,829.00

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.

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 the following Sunday afternoons: December 8th, 15th and 22nd from 3:00-4:00 PM. If your child is interested, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7 by Tuesday, December 3rd!

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, 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.

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.

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 live 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!

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!

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 888-827-1713.

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 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 PROCESION – 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 cruet 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](http://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.

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](http://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 one place, and then marking that place with a name. “We mark the graves of our loved ones with a headstone to memorialize them, so we don’t forget them”. When visiting that person’s grave, just seeing his or her name can give comfort.

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

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

Tips for talking to children about difficult subjects/news reports

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

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

Additional information is available at www.YouthProtectionHBG.com

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK