This Weekend’s Mass for Palm Sunday can be viewed on your smart phone, tablet, computer or smart TV on Sunday Morning. Click on the link on the IHM Website home page (www.ihmparadise.org) and it will link to a YouTube recording of the Mass. It will be available anytime on Sunday.

DAILY/WEEKEND MASSES – Effective immediately and until further notice, Bishop Gainer has temporarily suspended all daily and weekend Masses in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Also, all public liturgies and devotions are suspended as well. Church remains closed for ALL activities/gatherings until the order is lifted from Governor Wolf and Bishop Gainer.

A listing of live broadcasting and/or recordings of Masses from parishes throughout the Diocese is available on the Health Alerts page of the Diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org. Daily and Sunday Masses are also available from EWTN or online at https://video.ewtn.com/daily-mass. Bishop Robert Barron is also offering daily Mass on line at https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass.

Please visit the Diocesan website www.hbgdiocese.org – Health Alerts page for the most up-to-date information regarding the Diocese’s response to COVID-19, including a listing of Diocesan event cancelations and postponements, as well as additional COVID-19 prevention measures and recommendations.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – Are you willing to stay with Jesus/with others through difficult times? Pray for the strength to endure hardships. (Matthew 27:11-54). 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: frjsawacki@hbgdiocese.org.

HERSHEY PARK DISCOUNT TICKETS
Discount tickets to Hersheypark will once again be available to the friends and families of our parish for significant savings. Gate admission for Regular is normally $74.80; our price is $38.95 (All ages # and over). Watch upcoming bulletins for more information and an Order Form. Please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7 if you have any questions.
PALM SUNDAY

As we gather together remotely on this Palm Sunday 2020, it is very different for us. Different because we gather remotely, but the same because we listen to the same readings from scripture every year.

It reminds me of the time I went to see the Titanic starring Leonardo DiCaprio. I was amazed at how many people were standing in line waiting to fill the theatre to see a movie with an ending everyone knew.

We listen to the same readings every year and we know the story. But it is important for us to know and be reminded again and again what Jesus did for us. Because we are to go out and proclaim His message and continue His mission. So, we need to know the message of God’s deep abiding love for each and every person and a love so deep that God was willing to do whatever needed to be done to show us His love.

This is evangelization that we are all called to live out through preaching, teaching and by example. We do not all have to evangelize in the same way, but our example is paramount.

We may think it is not possible to evangelize. Here is what Matthew Kelly says about it. Pope Francis invited Matthew Kelly to the Vatican to speak at a conference on the New Evangelization. He began his remarks by saying, “Everybody evangelizes about something. Some people evangelize about their favorite vacation place. Some people evangelize about their favorite restaurant, their favorite movie, their favorite musician. Some people evangelize about their new iPhone. There are 2.5 billion iPhones on the planet today, and that didn’t happen without serious evangelization. The reality is that everybody evangelizes about something.”

And so we go forward at a time in our history that is very difficult but we support one another with hope because we have heard the message of God’s love for us and the promise that He will not abandon us. He loves us as we are and doesn’t give up on us as the readings today so clearly remind us.

Rev. Philip Burger

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

Mark your calendars now so that you don’t miss this fun-filled week, which is being held Monday, July 20th through Friday, July 24th from 6:00-8:30 PM. We invite all children ages 3 up to and including those who have completed 6th grade to hop aboard “ROCKY RAILWAY!” On this faith-filled adventure the children will discover that trusting Jesus will always pull them through life’s ups and downs. Watch the bulletin for more information!

NEW HOPE MINISTRY – We are so thankful to our amazing community friends who have been supporting us through this crisis. We are in need of additional volunteers. We currently have a sign-up sheet for those who would like to volunteer at our New Oxford center. Please know that we are adhering to appropriate social distancing requirements to keep everyone safe. If you are able to volunteer, go to www.nhm-pa.org or call 717-432-2087.

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA OPEN HOUSE

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School is still accepting applications for new and transfer students for the 2020-2021 academic year for Pre-Kindergarten 3 yr. olds – 8th grade. Limited openings available in certain classes. For more information, please call Melissa Guy, Director of Marketing & Enrollment at 717-637-3135 or send an email to mguy@stck8school.org. More information about the enrollment process can be found on the school website at www.stck8school.org.

HARRISBURG DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN is offering a $1,000 scholarship to a Catholic Senior Girl for her freshman year at an accredited college, university, or trade school. Applicants must be sponsored by a Mother or Grandmother/Guardian who is a member of a Parish Council of Catholic Women, is a resident of the Harrisburg Diocese, and must meet all conditions established by the Scholarship committee. Anyone interested in applying should contact the Parish CCW President, Pat Slonaker, for an application or Joyce Scott, Scholarship Chair, 717-737-0927 or email to joynbob10@aol.com. The application deadline is May 1, 2020.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Were you married in 1970? In honor of your 50th Wedding Anniversary, there will be a special Mass and reception on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2020 at 2 PM at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer will be the celebrant. To receive an invitation, please contact the parish office at 717-259-0611, ext. 5 no later than May 26th.
AREA PARISH WEBSITES – Due to the many activities that were already planned throughout our deanery, listed below are the websites for the local parishes. If you have any questions or need to know if an event is cancelled, please refer to their websites.

St. Vincent’s, Hanover: www.svparish.org.
Immaculate Conception: www.icbvmnewoxford.org.
St. Francis, Gettysburg: www.stfxcc.org.
WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE
March 15th – 21st

Sunday, Mar. 15th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM

Sunday, Mar. 15th – Adult Enrichment Class in The social hall, 9:30-11 AM

Monday, March 16th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM

Monday, March 16th – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg

Room 4, 7 PM

Monday, Mar. 16th – Charismatic Prayer Group in Social Hall, 7 PM

Wednesday, Mar. 18th – Soup and Sermon, Noon – 1 PM in social hall

Wednesday, Mar. 18th – Boy Scouts, 6-9 PM

Thursday, Mar. 19th – Faith Sharing Group in the Social Hall after Mass

Friday, Mar. 27th – Stations of the Cross, 7 PM

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Mar. 28-29
5:00 PM Mass:
8:15 AM Mass:
11:15 AM Mass:
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Mar. 28-29
5 PM MASS –
8:15 AM MASS –
11:15 AM MASS –
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Mar. 28-29
5:00 PM:
8:15 AM:
11:15 AM:
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

DELONE BINGO – Saturday, March 28th. Cost is $15 per ticket which includes a roast turkey platter and 20 games of regular bingo paying $50 per game. Doors open at 4 PM, dinner served from 5:00 – 6:15 and bingo starts at 6:30 PM. Contact Patty Smith for tickets 717-451-7618.

CEMETARY CLEAN-UP – Please clear off all Christmas and winter decorations from the cemetery as we prepare for the Easter season. Any decorations still on the graves on March 31, 2020 will be removed.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH (HANOVER) will be providing a bus to Harrisburg to attend the PA March for Life on Monday, May 18th. The cost is $11 per seat. To register please call Carolyn at 717-637-8061.

HARRISBURG DIOCESAN WOMEN’S CONVENTION

GROCERY CERTIFICATES – The sale of the grocery cards is very beneficial to our parish. 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. We thank all those who continually support the sale of the Weis and Giant cards. The cards are sold after each Mass at the front entrance door. They are also available in the parish office throughout the week. Please help support this wonderful program! During the week of Mar. 15, 2020 we sold $740 for a profit of $37.00. Due to the cancellation of all Masses, gift cards can still be purchased at the parish office Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM.

PARISH CARING COMMITTEE – Assists parishioners on an as needed basis, in times of need or stress and provides visitation, care giver relief, meals, errands, light household chores and local transportation. To request assistance or to become a Caring Committee Volunteer, contact Cathy Gunzelman at 717-225-5059.

HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES - 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 anytime you park in these spaces.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT –
MONTHLY BUDGET

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income for Feb. 2nd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16th</td>
<td>$8,815.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40,360.81</strong></td>
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</table>

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS:
- Membership Sunday $1,550.00
- Capital Improvements $1,544.00
- Black & Indian Missions $1,412.00

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020**
Mark your calendars now so that you don’t miss this fun-filled week, which is being held **Monday, July 20th through Friday, July 24th** from 6:00-8:30 PM.
We invite all children ages 3 up to and including those who have completed 6th grade to hop aboard “ROCKY RAILWAY!” On this faith-filled adventure the children will discover that trusting Jesus will always pull them through life’s ups and downs. Watch the bulletin for more information!

**ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK** – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Feb. 5th served 49 families which included 124 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Feb. 6th was 16 for a total of 41 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on **Wednesday, March 5th** at the East Berlin location is [www.volunteersignup.org/MYX8P](http://www.volunteersignup.org/MYX8P) and **Thursday, March 7th** at the Abbottstown location is [www.volunteersignup.org/FPFHR](http://www.volunteersignup.org/FPFHR). Please remember to drop off health/beauty items, such as soaps, toothbrushes, diapers, as well as LAUNDRY DETERGENT, etc. and place them in the food pantry barrels.

**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 Jan. 19, 2020 we sold $360 for a profit of $18.00.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**PARISH MISSION** with Rev. William Garrott, OP. He will preach at all the Masses on May 2, 3. The Mission will be held in the church May 3, 4, 5 at 7pm.

**PARISH CELEBRATION OF THE 175th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH** on June 7 at 10:15am. Most Rev. Ronald Gainer will be with us for Mass and the reception to follow.

**PARISH EUCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS** will be held on September 13, 14, 15 at 7pm and Rev. David Hereshko will be here to preach for our Devotions.

**THURSDAY MORNING FAITH SHARING GROUP** – All are invited to the Thursday Morning Faith Sharing Group’s presentation of Bishop Robert Barron’s The Mass beginning on Jan. 30th and ending on March 3rd. Each session will begin after the 9 AM Mass at approximately 9:30 AM until 11:00 in the social hall. The video presentation will begin at 9:45 AM. For more information, please contact Bernadine Filliben at 717-259-9006 or Midge Stokes at 717-515-2693. **Optional:** If you wish to purchase a workbook, which coincides with the series, please contact Deb Robinson at 717-357-8817.

**WEEKDAY MASS PARKING** – In inclement weather please use common sense for traveling for daily Mass. Do not put yourself in any harm. 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.

**WELCOME!** We welcome the following new members into our parish family:
- James & Karen Sunbury, New Oxford
- Thomas & Genevieve Delgaudio, York
- Jamie & Kathy Lehr, New Oxford

**Message from the Pastor**

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**
**WHEN:** Every First Friday of the month beginning Jan. 3, 2020
**WHAT:** Two Hours of Eucharistic Adoration
**WHERE:** Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
**TIME:** 7 PM – 9 PM

**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.** 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!

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** – **CAN YOU DONATE**
END OF THE YEAR NOTICES – Most taxpayers will no longer need to itemize their deductions and will take the standard deduction amount. Therefore, since many people no longer use the end-of-year statements for tax purposes, we will only send out to those who request them. If you are interested in receiving a statement, please contact Anita in the parish office. The Diocese will no longer automatically generate year end statements, unless it is requested by the donor. You may contact the Office of Stewardship & Development at the Diocese at 717-657-4804 ext 245.

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

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

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.

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 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 888-827-17136.

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

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

Perhaps you have NOT noticed the 3 crosses and the picture frame on the ledge behind the last pew (right hand side) as you enter 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 6 pm 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.

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 found 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 humble 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.

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 asks you to help someone in need by purchasing a gift card and to provide the codes on that card.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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