

**ADULT RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
(ENRICHMENT)**

\* SUNDAYS 9:30 - 11:00 A.M.  
(while CCD is in session)

\* Discussions and clarifications  
important to knowing and  
defending our Catholic faith

\* This year's topic is:  
**MARY, Mother of God**

Classes begin Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Any  
questions, please contact Mike  
Gurgul at 717-357-6579 (leave  
message)

**MASS INTENTIONS**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2019

5:00 PM – Members of the Joseph & Helen Smith family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

8:15 AM – People of the Parish  
10:15 AM + Teresa & Anthony Strazzella

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019 - LABOR DAY

9:00 AM – John Melhorn

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

9:00 AM + Michael Horney

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

9:00 AM + Lorrie Raubenstein

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

9:00 AM + Teresa Staub

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

9:00 AM + Hector Miranda

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

9:00 AM + Ron Filliben  
5:00 PM + Edward Hoffheins, Jr.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

8:15 AM – People of the Parish  
11:15 AM + Pasquale R. Lery

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**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Wisdom 9:13-18  
Philemon 9-10, 12-17  
Luke 14:1, 25-33

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**SICK OF THE PARISH** – Please keep our members in your thoughtful prayers: Fred & Yvonne Staub, Kenneth & Alice Williams, Helen Lawrence, Marilyn Drummer, Louise Snoots, Norma Woerner, Brenda Freed, Ken Jacoby, Syndia Helmers, Addie Mannarino, Carmen Miranda, Kai Goley, Richard Doll, Becky Tako, Scott Hale, Nickolas Willis, Loretta Gambrill, Richard Gawthrop, Bob Fitzpatrick, Judy Goley, Steve Luckenbaugh, Candi Gilbert, Easton Tolson, Sharon Nowakowski, Stephen Nowakowski, Rose McMaster, Dianne Giampietro, Sarah Arigo, Dawn Kuhn, Jerome & June Rahm and Landon Felix.

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**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

Family life well lived confirms the words of Jesus in today's gospel, "Those who humble themselves will be exalted." Commitment, intimacy, loyalty and love are the rewards of humble service and care for one another.

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**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

September 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scouts, 6-9 PM

Wednesday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>- Knights of Columbus in social hall, 7 PM

Thursday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – Faith Sharing Group in Den after 9 AM Mass

Saturday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> – Knights of Columbus Chicken BBQ in social hall, 11 AM

**MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP**

**ALTAR SERVERS** for Sat/Sun Sept. 7-8

**5:00 PM Mass:** Jonah Robinson, Madison Small, Kayla Bream

**8:15 AM Mass:** Nathan, Emma & Hannah Maysilles

**11:15 AM Mass:** Margaret, Clare & Nora Mailey  
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

**LECTORS** for Sat/Sun Sept. 7-8

**5 PM MASS** – Pat Renaut

**8:15 AM MASS** – Barb Bowker

**11:15 AM MASS** – Evelyn Heiliger  
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY**

**COMMUNION (EMHC)** for Sat/Sun Sept. 7-8

**5:00 PM:** Rose Dietz, Paul & Marjorie Oakes, Mat & Holly Robinson

**8:15 AM:** Margie & Sam Leese, Pat Robinson, Marie & Rich Danglovitch

**11:15 AM:** Kevin Behr, Nicole Davis, Joyce Menges, Diane & John Schlaline

Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

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**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS** –“An attentive ear is the desire of the wise.” Is your prayer attentive to the wisdom of Christ? Is He inviting you to follow Him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Talk to Fr. Burger or Fr. Jonathan Sawicki, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 or check out [www.diocesanpriest.com](http://www.diocesanpriest.com).

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**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019 FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.**

**MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE –**

This weekend is our last weekend of the summer Mass schedule. As of September 8, 2019, our Mass times will revert back to the usual 8:15 AM and 11:15 AM.

**PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION** – Next weekend we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Please be generous.

**WELCOME!** We welcome the following into our parish family:

Chad & Angela Clabaugh & family, Abbottstown  
Charles & Donna Smith, East Berlin

**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 Aug. 25, 2019 we sold \$690 for a profit of \$34.50.

**ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK** – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> served 55 families which included 163 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> was 32 for a total of 79 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on **Wednesday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>** at the East Berlin location is [www.volunteersignup.org/P9LDY](http://www.volunteersignup.org/P9LDY) and **Thursday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>** at the Abbottstown location is [www.volunteersignup.org/Q9DFA](http://www.volunteersignup.org/Q9DFA). Please remember to drop off health/beauty aid items, such as soaps, toothbrushes, diapers, as well LAUNDRY DETERGENT, etc. and place them in the food pantry barrels.

#### **RCIA**

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

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

#### **FOLLOWING CHRIST**

**Following Chris**, the second part of the "Christ Life Program" will begin here at Immaculate Heart of Mary on Thursday, **September 26th from 6:30 - 8:30 PM** in the Social Hall and will end on Thursday, November 7th. Following Christ is about developing the lifestyle of a disciple by growing in friendship and union with God. By the grace of God, this will be accomplished through our praying together, hearing discipleship-focused teachings, and growing together in small table groups through discussion. If you are interested in joining us for Following Christ, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7. by Monday, September 16th at the latest.

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

**ADAMS DEANERY PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL** is in desperate need of adorers for the following hours:

**Monday @ 12 am, 11 am**

**Wednesday @ 2 am**

**Thursday @ 12 am**

Friday @ 7 pm & 11 pm

**Saturday @ 4pm & 9 pm**

**The hours in bold are in desperate need!**

**COMMEMORATIVE MASS** – in honor of Father William Corby, who gave absolution at Gettysburg during the Battle of Gettysburg. The Mass will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM, next to the statue of Father Corby.

#### **BUS TRIPS – ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH**

The Saint Aloysius Friendly Group is sponsoring the following bus trips:

Sight & Sound "JESUS" on Wednesday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> with Shady Maple lunch - \$105.00

Raystown Lake, Fall Colors, Proud Mary lunch cruise on Thursday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> - \$82.00

Contact Jim Long @ text 717-965-6780 or jimlong52@embarqmail.com for details and reservations.

#### **THANKS TO**

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"The Beginning and the End: The Healing of Past Soul Wounds" (Rev 1:8). Breakout Session "Unleashing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit". Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019 from 8 AM to 4 PM at the Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Rd., Harrisburg. Keynote Speaker is Fr. Paul C.B. Schenck, Ed.D.

## *Message from the Pastor*

### **2019-2020 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

If you have a child/children who are not attending one of the Catholic Schools in the area, please call Sister Rosanne to register them for the 2019-2020 CCD Program. Our CCD Program provides quality Religious Education for children ages 4 up through and including Grade 8. For more information, or to register your child, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611.

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

### **RCIA PROCESS**

The RCIA Process makes four essential changes in the way in which converts were welcomed into the Catholic Church years ago.

**First**, the RCIA process restores the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation, which are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Today, these three sacraments are celebrated as the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

**Second**, the RCIA stresses the need for a lived experience of the Church and not just knowledge about the Church. Although the RCIA includes instruction in the truths of the Catholic Church, instruction is but one part of a much larger experience of living the Faith with members of the Church.

**Third**, the RCIA puts an end to the quiet, dark, almost secretive Baptism of adults, and makes the welcoming of new Catholics a public community event.

**Fourth**, the RCIA stresses that conversion is begun by the Holy Spirit, and is an on-going process.

For more information about RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

### **HOUSE OF WORSHIP PROGRAM**

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

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

Perhaps you have NOT noticed the 3 crosses and the picture frame on the ledge behind the last pew (**right hand side**) as you come into Church. There is an invitation from Fr. Burger in the frame for you to bring forth the gifts at the Offertory time. You just need to take the 3 crosses to the pew with you, and when the altar server goes to the back of the Church with the Processional Cross, you get out of your pew and head to the back of the Church. One of the ushers is there to assist you, if necessary. The gifts (the paten of hosts and the 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.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

The 12TH Annual "Swing for the Sisters" Golf Tournament to benefit the retired Sisters of Saint Joseph will be held on Saturday, September 28th @ Flatbush Golf Course in Littlestown, PA. For more information or to register for a Foursome, please call 800-482-6510.

**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 [jikilo1@hotmail.com](mailto:jikilo1@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 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](mailto:roywainwright3@gmail.com) or 717-619-7243.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following students at Delone Catholic High School for achieving honor roll status:

FIRST HONORS: Audrey & Abigail Sell, Christian Powell and Julia O'Brien

SECOND HONORS: Harrison Smith & Avery Kuntz

COMMENDABLE EFFORT: Christian Powell & Avery Kuntz

**FLOWERS** – Looking for a way to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? A beautiful way would be to order flowers on the altar. Most weekends are available from now through the end of the year. **Please call Anita in the parish office** to make arrangements.

**MASS INTENTIONS** – Mass intentions are a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, remember those who have died or are sick and in need of our prayers. Please consider this as a "gift" for someone. Call Anita in the Parish Office to arrange your Mass intentions.

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM**

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Adult Enrichment Class in The social hall, 9:30-11 AM**

### **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 (Español); 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 worshipping.

## **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 cremation 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. 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](http://www.YouthProtectionHBG.com)

***FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK***

