

The kie Sale To Combat World Hunger

Together we make a
difference!

Sale begins today through
Dec. 2, 2018. Cookies will be
distributed Dec. 8-9, 2018.

Gift trays with 24 cookies
including chocolates & greeting -
\$15.00 each.

The sale only lasts two weeks!



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018

5:00 PM + Richard Crouse

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018

8:15 AM + Lou Breighner

11:15 AM – People of the Parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018

NO MASS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018

9:00 AM + Joan Nolin

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2018

9:00 AM – Special Intention of Julia Melhorn Strong on her birthday

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018 THANKSGIVING

9:00 AM + Lori Brown

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2018

NO MASS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2018

5:00 PM + All Souls

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2018

8:15 AM – People of the Parish

11:15 AM + Theron Menges

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Daniel 7:13-14

Revelation 1:5-8

John 18:33-37

SICK OF THE PARISH – Please keep our members in your thoughtful prayers: Susan Goughnour, Fred & Yvonne Staub, Kenneth & Alice Williams, Don & Roxey Myers, Helen Lawrence, John Feiser, Doris Pohlman, Marilyn Drummer, Louise Snoots, Norma Woerner, Brenda Freed, Ken Jacoby, Syndia Helters, Addie Mannarino, Carmen Miranda, Kai Goley, Richard Doll, Ethan Slagle, Maria Twardy, Gerald Serfoss, Becky Tako, Robert Despres, John Melhorn, Joanne Hallisey, Scott Hale, Nickolas Willis, Charlotte Smith, Timothy Pieczynski, Steve Smith, Landon Merryman, Loretta Gambrell, Barbara & Kyle, Richard Gawthrop. Bob Fitzpatrick, Scott & Mary Becker and Steve Luckenbaugh.

IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the soul of Matthew Prang, father of Amy Shealer, as well as Shirley Oliver, mother of Nick Stollar, who died this week.

THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, NOV. 22 AND FRIDAY, NOV. 23 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Nov. 18-24

Sunday, Nov. 18th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM

Sunday, Nov. 18th – Adult Enrichment Class in the Social hall, 9:30 – 11 AM

Sunday, Nov. 18th – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Zwingli UCC, East Berlin, 6 PM

Monday, Nov. 19th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM

Monday, Nov. 19th – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg Room 4, 7 PM

Monday, Nov. 19th – Charismatic Prayer Group in social hall, 7 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 20th – Bible Study in the Den 9:30-11:00 AM

Wednesday, Nov. 21st – Boy Scouts, 7 PM

Saturday, Nov. 24th – Fusion Youth Night in the Den 6-8:30 PM

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Nov. 24-25

5:00 PM Mass: Landon & Ella Smith, Ben Wicker

8:15 AM Mass: Ian Frantz, Hans Livelsberger, Jonah Robinson

11:15 AM Mass: Alex, Autumn & Madi Kuhn
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Nov. 24-25

5 PM MASS – Kathy Schwar

8:15 AM MASS – Susan Fobes

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

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY

COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Nov. 24-25

5:00 PM: Donna Cassatt, John & Kelli Maysilles, Steve Signorello, Sam Spiese

8:15 AM: Liz Kohler, Margie & Sam Leese, Pat Robinson, Midge Stokes

11:15 AM: Jane Kakalecz, Joyce Menges, Diane Schlaline, Leland Steinke, Barb Wantz
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

GROCERY CERTIFICATES – Please know how very grateful we are to all of you who support our Grocery Certificate Program and ultimately our Religious Education Program. IHM receives a 5% profit from the sale of all the grocery cards purchased. **Before going for groceries, please consider purchasing Weis or Giant cards after each Mass at the front entrance.**

Cards can also be purchased in the parish office during the work week. Thank you for your support of this wonderful program! During the week of Nov. 11, 2018 we sold \$560 for a profit of \$28.00

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. Please join us this Sunday, November 18th at 6pm at Zwingli UCC in East Berlin for an ecumenical **Thanksgiving service**.
2. A special **thank you** to Sr. Rosanne, the Knights of Columbus, the Boy Scouts, and all those who helped in anyway with the holiday **bazaar** that took place here at IHM this past Saturday, Nov. 17th.
3. This Sunday is **Bible Sunday**. Have you ever wanted to get deeper into the Sacred Scriptures, inspired Word of God? Here are some great suggestions:
 - Go to www.usccb.org each day to read the daily Mass readings
 - Check out the following resources from the US Bishops website:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/national-bible-week/>
 - Other good ideas: <http://catholic-resources.org/Bible/Reading-Bible.htm>
 - Want to read the Bible in a year? Check out this guide: <http://www.presentationministries.com/brochures/ThroughBible.asp>
4. This Thursday is **Thanksgiving**. I am very thankful to God for such a wonderful parish family, and for the many blessings I have received since coming here to IHM. A special **Mass** will be offered at 9am on Thanksgiving Day to thank God, for He is truly good!
God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.” How is Christ calling you to share His eternal words of salvation? Consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Call Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbqdiocese.org or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

COOKIE SALE PROGRAM STARTS TODAY! – 100% of the proceeds go to Cross Catholic Outreach's Haiti School Feeding Program. Last year the sales efforts fed over 3.6 million people in Haiti. The goal this year is to match or exceed that in spite of the increased food costs. There are 8 each of chocolate chip, snickerdoodle and peanut butter cookies in the attractive gift trays that make excellent gifts. The cost of each tray is \$15.00. **The sale only lasts two weeks!** Please use the order form in the bulletin to order your cookies. Ask friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to help support the people of Haiti by buying cookies trays this Christmas season! **The**

proceeds from 1 gift tray provides at least 375 meals. Please place your orders along with your payment in the collection basket. If you have any questions, please contact Anita in the parish office.

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.

TALENT NIGHT – Plan now on attending the Talent Night on November 30, where we will have both great talent provided by our parishioners and food provided by the K of C. There will even be an ice cream social for dessert. Sign-up sheets for the meal are on the windowsills. Registration forms for the talent are on the shelves behind the last pew.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN

It's that time of year again when we are looking for all children who would like to participate in the Children's Choir for the 5:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Children ages 4 and above are welcome! As in the past, rehearsals will take place on the Sundays in December from 3:00-4:15 PM in the choir loft. To sign your child or children up or for more information, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

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

FIRST HONORS: Audrey & Abigail Sell
SECOND HONORS: Julia O'Brien & Harrison Smith
COMMENDABLE EFFORT: Christian Powell & Avery Kuntz

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

Did You Know? Fusion is sponsoring Christmas Blast 2.0 on Sunday, December 2nd. Activities will include Christmas caroling at the Brethren Home, dinner provided by the Knights of Columbus, and watching a Christmas movie. Services hours will be provided. Please RSVP with Paul by Tuesday, November 20th.

Saturday, November 24th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night with Adoration

Friday, November 30th: Parish Talent Show

Sunday, December 2nd, 2:30 – 7:30 PM: Christmas Blast 2.0

Saturday, December 8th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night

Saturday, December 22nd, 6 – 8:30 PM: Youth Night with Adoration

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

ALL ARE INVITED TO MAKE AN ANGEL! Sunday, Nov. 25th at the Msgr. George W. Rost Social Hall at Sacred Heart Basilica, 55 Basilica Dr., Hanover. Class times are 1:00, 2:00 & 3:00. Cost is \$15 per angel (includes all supplies). The approximate time to make an angel is 1-2 hours. **RSVP by Sunday, Nov. 18th**

Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg Night with the Hershey Bears - Celebrate Catholic Schools' Week with the Hershey Bears Hockey Team vs. Laval Rockets at the Giant Center in Hershey on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 7 p.m. This fun-filled action packed night at the Giant Center is open to all and is a great way to celebrate Catholic Schools! Discounted tickets are available for \$16.00 each for all ages, from the regular admission price of \$25. Deadline to order is Friday, January 18, 2019. For more information see order form or contact jdise@HersheyPA.com

CANDLELIGHT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE - There will be an Ecumenical, Inter-Religious Candlelight Remembrance Service held for anyone who has experienced the death of a friend, family member, or loved one to suicide. It will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2018, at 6:00 P.M. at Sacred Heart Basilica, Conewago, 30 Basilica Drive, Hanover, PA 17331. Light refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the service. All are welcome ~ does not matter when the suicide occurred. It is just a time for us all to come together to let you know you are not alone.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WINTERFEST CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held Dec. 1st at the New Oxford Social Club pavilion from 8 AM to 1 PM. There will be 36 vendors offering a wide variety of gifts and decorations. Breakfast and lunch will be available to enjoy. Buy some raffle tickets to win one of over 30 fantastic prizes. Skip your baking and buy homemade cookies at the cookie walk. Several door prizes will be called every half hour.

WHEN GRIEF COLORS THE HOLIDAYS – How to Manage the Absence of a Loved One During the Festive Season. A free program offered by the Spiritual Care Department of Wellspan Health. Presented by: The Very Rev. Dr. Vasyl E. Marchak on Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 from 7-8:30 PM at the Gettysburg Hospital's Boardroom. Seating is limited. Call 717-337-4300 for reservations. Parking is free.

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius Seek a Director of Mission Advancement
The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, seeks a professional to oversee their Mission Advancement Office. The Director will help guide fundraising efforts for the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius as well as Maria Joseph Manor. The Director will implement direct mail, grant writing, major gifts, special events, communications, and planned

giving. Successful candidates will have leadership abilities and consensus building skills, fundraising management and strategic planning experience, and a proven track record in developing and administering a mission advancement program. For a complete job description, contact Sister Michael Ann Orlik at smaosscm@hotmail.com.

PCGG Symposium: Prison Christian Growth Group (PCGG), a Catholic organization which brings the message of Christ to inmates in prisons all throughout Pennsylvania, will be holding a Symposium on Saturday, December 15, 2018. Internationally known motivational speaker, John Foppe will speak as well as our Bishop, Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer. Learn how you can be energized in your faith and hear how you can serve Jesus Christ by serving others. The registration fee of \$25.00 includes coffee, donuts and lunch. See flyer in back of the church or parish office for details.

THANKS TO

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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.

SHOE DRIVE – Donate your **gently** worn shoes to St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School: Help us raise funds for our school by donating your gently worn, used or new shoes! Our school will earn money for every pound of shoes we collect. Plus, all collected shoes are used to support micro-enterprise vendors in developing nations. (Micro-enterprises are small businesses operated by one person or a family.) All shoes can be dropped off during regular school hours in the collection bins located outside of the McSherrystown and Conewago school offices. There is also a plastic bin located at the entrance to our Church marked for this drive. Our shoe drive has begun and will run until Jan. 2, 2019. **We can**

only collect shoes that are in good condition, meaning that the soles are intact, they have laces (if necessary), there are no holes, they are dry & clean, and they still have life in them. Thank you! Please contact JoAnn Garman at 717-637-3135 with any questions.

GROCERY CARD SALES – Here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church we sell grocery cards for both Weis Markets and Giant Stores. The denominations include \$20, \$50 and \$100. IHM receives a 5% profit from the sale of all the grocery cards. This 5% profit is used to help support the cost of our Religious Education Program. 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!

CHURCH PRINT FUNDRAISER – Boy Scout Troop 127 will be taking orders for a signed, limited edition print of the IHM Church by local artist, Mary Moores. Only 100 signed prints will be made. Orders will be taken after Masses on Nov. 10-11 and Nov. 17-18. Orders will also be taken at the church bazaar. The price is \$75 due at the time of the order. Delivery will be before Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Ann DePaulis at anndepaulis@centurylink.net.

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Oct. 3rd served 67 families which included 187 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Oct. 4th was 34 for a total of 82 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on **Wednesday, Nov. 7th** at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/DJH83 and **Thursday, Nov. 8th** at the Abbottstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/WKFYE. 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.

LADIES SAVE THE DATE! Women’s Conference next year will be Oct. 12, 2019. Helen Alvare will be the keynote speaker.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

Annunciation Parish Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 8 AM – 2 PM in the school hall, 316 North St., McSherrystown. Breakfast & lunch are available for purchase. Fall items & Christmas items available for purchase. Decorated trees & wreaths, baked goods, outdoor items, filled box and filled basket raffle and childcare is available.

St. Vincent’s, Hanover will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 8 AM – 1 PM.

St. Francis Xavier Gift Fair and Holiday Bazaar Nov. 10th from 8AM – 2:30 PM at the Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Rd., Gettysburg. Vendors, fair trade items, timeless treasures, collectibles, children’s activities, baked goods, raffles and door prizes. Café serving breakfast and lunch items.

St. Joseph, Hanover Christmas Bazaar Will be held on Saturday, Nov. 10th from 8 AM – 2 PM.

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School will host their 2018 Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show On Saturday, Nov. 17th from 9 AM – 3 PM. The bazaar will be held in the Sacred Heart Gym at the Conewago campus, 55 Basilica Dr., Hanover. We will have a variety of commercial vendors and one of a kind products made by local artisans. Our famous “Classroom Basket Raffle” and “Silent Auction” will return this year with items that are sure to please everyone! Small games of chance will be available. Come eat breakfast or lunch with us. Santa will be there from 9 am – 1 pm, so be sure to bring your little ones! Hope to see you there!

Immaculate Conception BVM, New Oxford Will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 8AM – 2 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 Jen Gentile at 717-225-5059.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT –

Monthly Budget	\$ 45,000.00
Income for Sept. 2nd	9,513.00
Sept. 9th	9,832.58
Sept. 16th	10,042.50
Sept. 23rd	8,579.00
Sept. 30th	7,701.00

TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME **\$ 45,668.08**

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

Capital Improvements
Peter's Pence Collection

1,557.20
1,401.00

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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 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!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - The Parish Pastoral Council would like to announce that we had two members of our parish community volunteer to serve on the council. Please join us in thanking and welcoming Rosemary Connelly and Lynn Murphy to the council. Given that there were only two vacancies, there will be no need to hold elections as in some years past. The Pastoral Council is here to serve our parish family. Please feel free to talk with any of the members when you have concerns, ideas or questions.

Check out our new website at
www.ihmparadise.org.

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. Call 888-827-17136.

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.

SUMMER WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 5 PM,

Sunday 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM

LOST AND FOUND – Please check our Lost and Found bin in the sacristy for any items you may have left in Church. Any unclaimed items will be discarded.

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, fee free to call or text me at 717-357-8051. Thank you!

Holly Fletcher

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING SERVICE – Outpatient Behavioral Health Care is dedicated to providing access to high quality outpatient counseling for children, adolescents and adults in a small, friendly, confidential office. Services include individual and family therapy, marital counseling and parent-child counseling. Services are provided regardless of religious affiliation. Accepting Medical Assistance insurance (Medicaid) and County Mental Health funding (York and Dauphin Counties, for low income uninsured people who are determined to be eligible). Other clients can pay fee on a sliding scale. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay. Not accepting private/commercial insurances.

Local offices are York Counseling, 253 E. Market St., York (717-845-2696) and Paradise Counseling, 6156 W. Canal Rd, Abbottstown (717-259-9537 – press 0 for secretary). Visit www.cchbg.org for more information.

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.

PRAYER SHAWLS – Are you in need of a prayer shawl? Do you know someone who is? Please call Jan Melhorn at 308-2532. The next prayer shawl meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 14th at 1 PM in Room #3 of the RE Building. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, we can teach you. Skeins of new yarn are always welcome and there are bins at the church entrances for these donations.

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. 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