

**MARCH FOR LIFE
2019
BUS TO
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JANUARY 18th 2019**

**7:30am - Depart for Washington,
DC**

**7:30pm - Estimated return to
IHM, Abbottstown, Pa**

COST FOR THE BUS: \$10

**RESERVATION
DEADLINE DEC 18th, 2018**



MASS INTENTIONS

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018

NO MASS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018

9:00 AM + Diane Frey

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018

9:00 AM + All Souls

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2018

9:00 AM + Lolita Villareal

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2018

9:00 AM + Josephine Villareal

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018

5:00 PM – Special Intention of Ken Jacoby

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

8:15 AM – People of the Parish

11:15 AM + William & Nadine Kroft

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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 Helmers, 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, Landon Merryman, Loretta Gambrell, Barbara & Kyle, Richard Gawthrop. Bob Fitzpatrick, Scott & Mary Becker and Steve Luckenbaugh.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR this weekend are in memory of Ann Wainwright.

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Nov. 25-Dec. 1

Monday, Nov. 26th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM

Monday, Nov. 26th – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg Room 4, 7 PM

Monday, Nov. 26th – Charismatic Prayer Group in social hall, 7 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 27th – Bible Study in the Den 9:30-11:00 AM

Wednesday, Nov. 28th – Boy Scouts, 7 PM

Thursday, Nov. 29th – Faith Sharing Group in the Den after 9 AM Mass

Friday, Nov. 30th – Parish Talent Show in the social hall, 7 PM

Saturday, Dec. 1st – Confirmation 10 AM

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Dec. 1-2

5:00 PM Mass: Sadie Wicker, Kayla Bream, Hannah Fletcher

8:15 AM Mass: Adam & Amelia Gerringer, Hans Livelsberger

11:15 AM Mass: Brielle Baughman, Edie Rumbaugh, Erich Steinke

Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Dec. 1-2

5 PM MASS – Harrison Smith

8:15 AM MASS – Cathy Heilman

11:15 AM MASS – Leland Steinke

Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Dec. 1-2

5:00 PM: Jen Gentile, Steve Hoffman, Paul & Marjorie Oakes, Mary Margaret Thorne

8:15 AM: Doug Barnhart, Jeff & Terri Seifert, Beth Smith, Carol Stroud

11:15 AM: Andy Altobelli, Rita Becoski, Nicole Davis, Carmelita Garcia, Stella Thomas

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. 18, 2018 we sold \$1570 for a profit of \$78.50.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

1. The **Feast of Christ the King**, which we celebrate this weekend, was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of man's thinking and living, and organizes his life as if God did not exist. In those days, as is the case today, there is an increasing denial of Christ as king. Many people doubt Christ's authority and existence, as well as the Church's power to continue Christ's authority. Pius XI, and the rest of the Christian world, witnessed the rise of non-Christian dictatorships in Europe, and saw Catholics being taken in by these earthly leaders. These dictators often attempted to assert authority over the Church. The pope hoped the institution of this feast would help nations see the Church has the right to freedom and immunity from the State; that leaders and nations would see that they are called to give respect to Christ; and that the faithful would gain strength from this feast that reminds us that Christ must reign as Lord of our lives – in our hearts, minds, wills, and bodies. Does much of this sound familiar? We still need the feast of Christ the King in our own day!
2. Please come to our parish **Talent Show** this Friday, November 30th – I'll be playing the clarinet!
3. If you are a Catholic, who is **divorced** and not remarried, did you know that you are free to receive **Holy Communion at Mass**? Of course, the same requirement applies to you, as it applies to all Catholics – if you are conscious of serious (mortal) sin, you must go to Confession (Reconciliation) first before receiving the Eucharist. The reason for this is that it is divorce AND subsequent remarriage without an annulment that is the impediment, not simply divorce in and of itself. If you have any further questions about this, please just ask me.
4. Sunday, December 2nd is the **first Sunday of Advent**, which begins our liturgical and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas. Advent devotional booklets are available on the ledges behind the last pews in the church (one per family).

Please take one to help you make the most of Advent.

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – “My kingdom is not from this world.” The King is the servant-leader, who let go of his life for our sake. Who will follow the example of Jesus and renounce worldly power for the power of the children of God? Are you being called to proclaim the glorious reign of Christ the King as a priest or in the consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT –

Monthly Budget	\$ 36,000.00
Income for Oct. 7th	9,572.10
Oct. 14th	10,661.30
Oct. 21st	8,499.26
Oct. 28th	8,219.60

TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME **\$ 36,952.26**

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

Capital Improvements	1,916.22
World Mission Collection	1,417.00
Disaster Relief Collection	1,564.42

COOKIE SALE – The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger is in full swing. **But there is still one week to go and more cookies to be sold!** 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. **There are order forms on the ledge behind the last pew. All orders must be turned in by Sunday, Dec. 2nd.** Please place your orders along with your payment in the collection basket. If you have any questions, please contact Anita in the parish office.

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 show 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.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – I would like to thank everyone who donated (in the material and the spiritual) to my project. This was greatly appreciated and the money was enough to cover the cost for my project. Again, I thank everyone supporting me from the beginning of this project till the end of it.

Jonah Robinson
Troop 88

MARCH FOR LIFE 2019 – The Knights of Columbus Council #13692 will again sponsor a bus on January 18, 2019 for the March for Life. The bus will depart IHM parking lot at 7:30 AM and return approximately 7:30 PM. Cost is \$10 per person and reservation deadline is Dec. 18th. More details to follow. Contact Steve Signorello at 717-253-5924 or John Schlaline at 717-699-4534.

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Nov. 7th served 71 families which included 206 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Nov. 8th was 22 for a total of 45 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on **Wednesday, Dec. 5th** at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/9FDLT and **Thursday, Dec. 6th** at the Abbottstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/CAHME. 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.

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 Saturday, November 24th.

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

Saturday, January 12th, 6 – 8:30 PM: Pro-Life Night

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

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.

CHILDREN'S CANCER RECOVERY FOUNDATION is sponsoring an Open House & Craft Fair on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018 from 10 AM – 3 PM. Featuring: local craft vendors, Christmas wreaths, cookie sale, refreshments, pictures with Santa, Christmas caroling with Santa, outdoor fire with s'mores and hot chocolate. Door prizes and silent auctions. Located at 249 Lincoln Way East, New Oxford.

THANKS TO

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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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

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, feel 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 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