

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH, WATERVLIET/GREEN ISLAND

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Life Center

2416 7th Avenue, Watervliet, NY 12189

Phone: 518 273-6020 Fax: 518 273-3978

E-mail: ihm@rcpw.org web site: www.ihm.rcpw.org

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday:

4:00pm at St Brigid's

5:30pm at St Joseph's, Green Island

Sunday:

7:30am at St Joseph's, Green Island

9:00am at St Patrick's

11:00am at St Brigid's

7:30pm at St Patrick's

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday 8:00am at St Joseph's

Tuesday 8:00am at St Patrick's

Wednesday 6:30am at St Brigid's

Thursday 8:00am at St Patrick's

Friday 8:15am at St Brigid's

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 3:00pm – 3:30pm at St Brigid's

Saturday, 4:30pm – 5:00pm at St Joseph's

LESSONS AND CAROLS ADVENT PROGRAM

WHAT: Seasonal Scripture readings and carols

WHY: To help us prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ

WHEN: 2:00 PM on Sunday, December 3rd

WHERE: St Joseph's Church, Cohoes. (65 Congress Street)

WHO: For everyone. By choirs from churches in the Northern Albany deanery. We will have two choirs—one from St. Brigid's School and one from the Parish at large.

Refreshments will be served in the church hall following the program. Program should last about an hour.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

The Northern Albany Deanery will be having three reconciliation services during Advent. The first will be at St Mary's in Waterford on Tuesday, December 5th, the second will be at St Brigid's Church on Thursday, December 14th, and the third will be at Holy Trinity parish on Monday, December 18th. All will be at 7:00pm and a number of priests will be available at each service.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Any school age child who would like to be part of the pageant is welcome to fill out a form. Children in the faith formation program and our school have received forms already. There are additional forms available in the back of the church or by e-mail. The pageant will be part of the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Please plan to come to church and encourage your children to put Christ back into Christmas. As you build family memories, this will mean more to them than any present you could possibly afford to buy them.



GRIEVING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

This is a difficult time of the year for those of us who have lost loved ones or who no longer have a family to celebrate! On Wednesday, December 20th at 1:00pm and again at 7:00pm we will gather at the Parish Life Center on 7th Avenue to pray together, share memories and refreshments. Come and be with others who understand your loss.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Santa's elves are busy at work. We could still use a few workers for the breakfast, please call the office if you will be able to help the elves set up, serve food and clean up on Sunday, December 10th from 10 to 12. Pictures will be available during the following week at the parish office. Please call the office if you plan to attend:

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children: _____



ADVENT A NEW BEGINNING

This weekend we begin a new Church Year; we begin a new journey of faith looking at Jesus through the eyes of the Gospel writer Luke. Much is new here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish: we have a new Mass schedule; we have fewer worship sites; we have a new Faith Formation Center with a new schedule; we have had a series of new social activities; we have a new pastoral outreach program, to name a few. But we have some of the "old", or to use a more appropriate term "remaining" also: a strong tradition of helping the less fortunate through the Watervliet Food Pantry; our giving trees; our craft guild; our flea market; our St Brigid's Regional Catholic School; our CYO basketball program, again, to name a few. What will we be like at the end of this Church year and the beginning of the next? Hopefully, we will be more Christ like having listened to the gospel of Luke and seen how Jesus was so filled with compassion for the marginal members of society. May this be a year of grace and favor for all of us.

A nice way to begin our Advent Season and new Church year would be to attend the **LESSONS AND CAROLS** program at St Joseph's Church in Cohoes. Choirs from all the churches within the Northern Albany Deanery will come together to provide scripture readings and carols for reflection. 'Tis the Season....not to go crazy with Christmas shopping, but to reflect on the wondrous gift that God has given us through his Son Jesus. (Another article within the bulletin has more details.)



GIVING TREE

This year we have over 300 children (ages newborn-17) and many seniors to whom we will be providing gifts. On December 2nd and 3rd (beginning of Advent), the Giving Trees will be in each church. Please take a tag from the tree and sign your name and telephone number in the book provided. Please attach this tag to your wrapped gift(s) and return to any one of the three churches of IHM on or before December 16th/17th.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Those who volunteered to begin our pastoral care ministry met for the first time last Thursday afternoon. This group of dedicated men and women under the direction of Diane Keegan will be called the "FRIENDLY VISITORS". They divided the nursing homes, hospitals and list of parishioners who are homebound and will be calling on these folks beginning this week. The group believes that those who can no longer join us in our church buildings still need to be a part of our community. They will be doing their best to include them in our faith community. If you know someone who would enjoy hearing from these folks, please give Diane a call. If you would like to become a **FRIENDLY VISITOR** give Diane a call (273-3178). We will meet again on Thursday, January 11th at 1:00pm. At that time Jeannie Pitkins, a Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care, will come and work with our group of volunteers.

IHM/WATERLIET FOOD PANTRY



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The Thanksgiving delivery was a huge success. You delivered over 170 turkey's and food baskets!

Now we need to gear up for the Christmas food basket delivery on December 19th. The next meeting of food pantry volunteers will be Tuesday, December 5th at 12:30pm in the Parish Life Center. All are welcome.

At this time we are in need of the following non-perishable items:

tea/coffee (regular & decaf)	hot chocolate
oatmeal	pancake mix
instant/canned potatoes	pancake syrup
canned meats/vegetables	crackers
ketchup/mustard/mayonnaise	cookies
	applesauce
	sugar

Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need. May God bless you always.

THE SHOE DRIVE IS OVER!!! – SHOES FOR THE SHOELESS



We have been informed that the deadline date for the shoe collection was incorrect. The drive has ended for this year. Please **do not** bring any more shoes to the parish life center. Thank you for sharing what you had with those less fortunate.

ROSARY/ALTAR SOCIETY

Rosary prayed 1st Saturday of the month at 5:00pm before the 5:30pm mass at St Joseph's, G.I.

The next Rosary meeting will be December 13th. There will be a short meeting and a Christmas party. Grab bag limited to \$5.00. If you would like to help with refreshments, call Gail at 272-8667. To join the grab bag, you must bring a gift to take one.

CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE

Don't forget to stop by the Craft Fair this weekend, Saturday until 6:00pm, Sunday, 9:00am-1:30pm. Also on December 10th – Craft Fair & Breakfast with Santa.

Faith Formation For All Ages

edavenport@ihm.rcpw.org

Class sessions this weekend: December 3 **FF Sessions are held in the Faith Formation Center** **(former rectory at St. Patrick's.)**

- Sunday at 10 a.m. for all elementary grades: K-5
- Sunday at 6:15 p.m. for grades 6 – 11
- Monday at 6:15 for grades 2, 4, 5, and 6 only: (if you would like this time slot, please let the FF office know).

On **Sunday, December 10 - ONLY the morning class sessions** will **not** be held so that families may visit with Santa at breakfast. Sunday and Monday evening class sessions will be held as usual.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Beginning Sunday, December 10, we will celebrate children's liturgy of the Word during the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's church. All children from K to grade 4 will be called forth following the opening prayer, to go to the chapel with a catechist to hear and discuss the readings. They will return to the church after the prayer of the faithful. We will offer CLOW each Sunday at the 9 a.m. Mass.

FF Families: please remember that you are asked to buy / or sell only one "Enjoy the City" book!!

Need a Christmas Gift??...How about...



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Green Island & Watervliet

"Enjoy the City" is designed with you in mind, providing hundreds of offers to your **local** area's most popular dining recreation, & retail establishments to benefit Faith Formation programs and special events!!

To purchase your coupon book of ONLY \$15. each, stop by the Parish Life Center office on 7th Avenue during business hours, 8:30am to 3:30pm Monday through Friday.

NEWS FROM ST BRIGID REGIONAL SCHOOL

School Board Meeting – December 4th at 7:00pm
Sound of Music, Cohoes Music Hall - Grades 1-6,
December 6th 8:30am-12:30pm
School Advent Show – December 6th at 6:30pm
Mass at St Brigid's – December 8th at 8:15am, Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." - Lk 21:27-28



Readings for the Week of December 3, 2006

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
 Monday: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

(December 4-10) Mass Schedule

If you wish to schedule a Mass, please call the Parish Life Center at least two weeks ahead of the desired date so that we can have the intention listed in the bulletin before it goes to press. Contact Judy or Tina at 518 273-6020. Thank you.

Please Note: The Mass with our school children will continue to be held each Friday but the schedule may change due to other events, at which time the change will be noted in the bulletin.

Monday, December 4

8:00am at St Joseph's – Haley Fisk, req by the Wife

Tuesday, December 5

8:00am at St Patrick's – Emily Decker

Wednesday, December 6

6:30am at St Brigid's – The Farrell & Synan Families

Thursday, December 7

6:00pm at St Patrick's – Emily Decker

Friday, December 8

8:15am at St Brigid's – (School Mass) – Emily Decker
 6:00pm at St Joseph's – The Farrell & Synan Families

Saturday, December 9

4:00pm at St Brigid's – William Egan, req by Regina Cannon
 Paulina Barnes, req by the Family
 Joyce Shufelt, req by M/M Clayton Shufelt, Jr & family, Gwen Korkemaz & Schuyler Hgts Ladies Auxiliary
5:30pm at St Joseph's – Emily Decker

Sunday, December 10

7:30 at St Joseph's – The Bulger Family
 Henry Carl (Anniv), req by the Family
 9:00am at St Patrick's – Antonio Valente, req by the Family
 Marjorie F Hennessey (3rd Anniv), req by Betty Gaynor
 Joseph Avonovich, req by Marion Fotache
 11:00am at St Brigid's – M/M Frank Belanger, req by the Family
 Grace Bonneville, req by her sons & Family
 Samuel Pastore, req by the Family
 7:30pm at St Patrick's – Emily Decker

BULLETIN MEMORIAL PAGE

Twenty six weeks out of the year we place the names of persons we love who have passed away on our **Memorial Page**.

If you would like to remember someone who has passed away on this *memorial page*, you can *pick up a form at the Parish Life Center office*, fill out all the information needed – drop it off at the front desk along with a check in the correct amount payable to: Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Your memorial will appear for the 26 weeks as you have requested it. This tribute begins in Advent and ends on the Feast of Christ the King. There are a total of 30 spaces available on the page, so it will be on a 'first come' basis.

**Fill out a form for each memorial.
 Each box is \$100.**



Let us welcome – the newly baptized into Immaculate Heart of Mary parish:
 Kaylie Dunn



The Sanctuary Candles at St Brigid's, St Joseph's and St Patrick's have been donated **December 3rd through December 16th**, for the members of Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Mount Carmel by their brothers and sisters in Immaculate Heart of Mary parish.

We ask God to send you extra blessings during these weeks of grief and loss.

NEIGHBORING NEWS

A 3-week look at the prophecies of Isaiah and how they are fulfilled in the Infancy Narratives of St Luke's Gospel will be held from 7:00 to 8:30pm in Holy Trinity Parish Center in Cohoes on the following Wednesdays: November 29th; December 6th; December 13th. The sessions will not only study the Scriptures, but will provide a source of meditation and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. All are welcome – bring your bible!

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Weekly.....	11/18-19.....	\$8158.80
Campaign for Human Development.....		\$1991.47
Thanksgiving Day Mass Collection.....		\$.336.00
Weekly.....	11/25-26.....	\$7340.17

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CALLED TO BE CHURCH....

Summary of comments from our second Town Meeting, held on Thursday evening, November 16th:

The Church teaches us that Baptism is the sacrament of service:

1. How have you been called in the past to use your gifts and talents to be of service to the Mission of the Church? Eucharistic minister and lectors; CYO coach; catechists; parish and pastoral councils; choir; organizer—fundraising, flea markets, community outreach; women's group, taking communion to shut-ins; leading ministry formation; FMP graduate; prayer group for senior citizens; priest; altar server; computerized church records; craft guild; major fundraising for CIA guild.
2. How has your ministry with others in the Church helped your faith community to grow? Helped youth understand the faith and develop spiritually; easier for people to obtain baptismal and genealogy records; brought Eucharist to shut-ins; volunteers seem to prompt others to volunteer; God becomes more visible when people see faith in action; The energy within—know it and feel it; established friendships and support groups; all contributions are important—none too small to count; brought me closed to church and God.
3. What do you see as the most essential ministries of the Church today? Priesthood; evangelization; social justice; liturgy; healing; hope; being the face and body of Christ; family ministries and education and support of youth programs; bible study; putting Christ in everything we do; sacramental life; Eucharistic Adoration; food pantry; love and care for each other; "Domestic Church-the home; a welcoming atmosphere—hospitality; communion to home-bound;
4. How do you see ministry or service in the Church changing in the future? More and more will be done by the laity; more lay ownership of works previously done by religious; conversion of "the faithful" into action; more bible study; back to early Christian community concept of church; expansion of the food pantry; establish committees using experience of older parishioners; number of priests will continue to decline; as society becomes more self-centered the importance of the gospels increases.
5. How does ordained and lay ministry complement each other? Different parts of one body (Letter to Romans); witness to Christ in different ways; every organization needs leadership; work together by example and experience; different gifts and functions but all work toward mission of the church; clergy should ask more and more people to be involved; recognition is important; openness is needed; lay ministry should be supportive—take on non-sacramental roles; like Trinity – each offers a different aspect and neither is whole without the other; laity is the original source of the ordained; ministerial priesthood exists only for ALL;

ONE ADDITIONAL QUESTION: TO WHAT MIGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT BE CALLING THE CHURCH OF ALBANY:

Embarking of a process to come together and be strong; respond to God's word; not resist; accept the will of the Father; be an example; be a picture for the rest of the dioceses; willingness to change is our biggest call; to have deep faith in the goodness of the people; the church has changed over 2000 years—continue that.

As always, your prayers are appreciated as we continue to come together as one community of faith.