

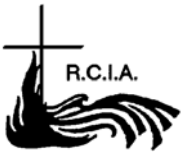
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH, WATERVLIET

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND....EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES

At St Joseph's in Green Island we have begun the procedure of publicly sending Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound from weekend Masses. We will soon begin this at St Patrick's and St Brigid's churches. This is a procedure that is widely done throughout the country (Many report that they have seen this done while visiting a parish somewhere else.) We do this for several reasons: (1) It heightens the awareness of the community that there are a number of members of the community who are not able to worship with us but who are still part of our community; (2) With this heightened awareness, perhaps more of our homebound will be identified so that we can minister to them; (3) It may "strike a cord" in some of our parishioners that they would like to become involved with this ministry; and (4) It goes back to the earliest traditions of the church in which communion to the homebound was related to the Sunday worship.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL? So often someone comes up either before or after Mass to ask to be remembered in prayer because he/she is going to the hospital. My usual response is to suggest that I minister the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. (Many years ago this was known as Extreme Unction.) This is most appropriate for anyone going into the hospital. It is an anointing for healing, as the name itself implies. Please, if you are going into the hospital, don't hesitate to ask for this Sacrament.

WHAT IS THE RCIA?



- Roman Catholic Intelligence Agency?
- Regional Central Intelligence Agency?
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults?
- None of the Above?
- All of the Above?

If you guessed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, you were right. The RCIA is one of the most important aspects of a vital, viable parish. It is the process for converting the parish as we bring new members into the parish. Foundational type work is being done on it within our parish right now (i.e., we are forming a team and educating them) and we will have an RCIA beginning this fall. The RCIA clearly emphasizes that initiation or reception of adults into the community is a fundamental part of the Church's life. Archbishop Pilarczyk of Cincinnati has written: "...it (the RCIA) suggests that concern about new membership for the Church is as much a part of parish life as Sunday Mass." Those are powerful words!!!! Over the course of the next several weeks excerpts from the official writings of the Church about the RCIA will be printed here in the bulletin. It is clearly one of the most exciting things, other than Liturgy, that takes place within a parish. It is a part of most parishes within most dioceses here in the USA and it will be a part of ours soon. In the meantime, do you know someone who is interested in looking at the Catholic Church with the possibility of joining us?

PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING Where are we with the issue of coming together in one church, addressing the budget deficit, etc, etc? A number of parishioners have been identified by a committee composed of myself, Deacon Nash, and the Parish Trustees (Tom Hanley and Rose Marie Kotansky) as potential members of a Building Committee. A letter was sent to them inviting their response. Also, a letter was sent to the Parish Pastoral Council inviting anyone interested in being on the committee to so indicate. One person will be selected from the Parish Pastoral Council, and one from the Finance Committee along with 7 – 9 from those other individuals who received letters. Hopefully the Committee will be formed within a couple of weeks and then we can begin to work with the Diocesan Architecture and Building Commission. We may be moving at what seems to be "glacial speed", but it is extremely important that we do this right rather than meet some artificial time table. As soon as the Building Committee is formed the names will be published.

MISSIONARY COOPERATION PLAN On September 6/7 we will welcome Sr. Jane Morrissey from the Diocese of Gonaives, Haiti, for all Masses. This is our annual Missionary Cooperation Plan in conjunction with the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. (You may recall that this was scheduled for July 26/27 but due to health problems the speakers were not able to come.) **Haiti, the poorest country in our hemisphere, has a 65% illiteracy rate and 60% unemployment. Because approximately 75% of the population lives in abject poverty, the infant mortality rate is appallingly high – 50% of children die before their fifth birthday. The Diocese of Gonaives is located in one of the most barren areas of Haiti. Water is sparse, and with a yearly income of only \$380.00 food is impossible to afford. The Diocese of Gonaives serves more than one million Catholics. There are more than 200 small, native parishes, but only 48 priests. The Church is also the only place for children to receive education and the Diocese also operates 18 feeding posts and 12 nutritional centers. Needless to say, your generosity will be greatly appreciated.**

Faith Formation For All Ages

skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

Gatherings:

Faith Formation Committee: August 26th

Catechists and members of the Sacrament Committee are invited to attend the next Faith Formation meeting on **Tuesday, August 26** at 6:30PM in the Faith Formation Center on 6th Avenue. We have been working throughout the summer to plan a really spectacular year in FF. Come and share your ideas for the Fall. **Sessions begin September 21st.**

Youth Ministry Meeting: September 11th

The Kickoff is almost here!!! We have all kinds of games and activities planned, but we need **your help** to make it happen.

Are you a great game player, love to do crafts, face paint, have lots of fun???? Come to our next meeting on **Tuesday, September 11th** at 6:00PM in the Faith Formation Center and we will help you find **your role** in making all this good stuff happen. Questions?? Call Sharon at 273-6020 or email skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org.

Faith Formation News

Registration for 2008 – 2009 Faith Formation

The next Parent Registration meeting will be on Tuesday, **September 9th at 7PM** in the lower level of St. Patrick's.

Sunday AM sessions are for **grades Pre-K/K to 5**. **Sunday PM** sessions are for **grades 6 and up**. Families must register their children **every year**. We cannot accept mail-in registrations or registration **during** the Sunday AM or PM sessions. Children must be registered **before** they begin attending sessions.

If your young person **did not** attend Faith Formation at Immaculate Heart of Mary last year and you would like them to this year, or if you have **questions** or **need more information**, please call the Faith Formation office at 273-6020 or email skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org.

Special note to families of candidates planning to receive First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation in 2008-09: Deadline for registration for those planning to receive those sacraments this year is **October 5th**.

People of Faith

Faith Formation Families please note: If your hectic lives make it difficult to fit in **27 weekly Faith Formation sessions between September 21st, 2008 and April 26th, 2009**, why not consider People of Faith? It requires a **commitment of 12 sessions** throughout the year. Why not **give it a try** during the summer months? **Next session: September 7th.**

Questions?? Call the Faith Formation office at 273-6020 or email skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org

Adult Faith Formation: New schedule for Scripture Sharing Sessions

Our look at the **Gospel of Mark** began on **Thursday, August 21st at 6:30PM** in the Faith Formation Center. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for the following **Thursdays: August 28th, September 18th, 25th, and October 16th, 23rd.** **All parishioners are invited to be part of this group.** No previous knowledge or study of scripture is required. Please contact Sharon Kowalski at 273-6020 or skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org if you would like more information or are in need of transportation

Ice Cream Extravaganza: Sunday, August 24th - 12noon to 2PM



Is it ever **too early** for ice cream? We don't think so. Join us on the lawns of St. Patrick **after the 11:00AM Mass on August 24th from 12 noon until 2:00PM** for a make-your-own extravaganza. Have it in a cone or a dish; plain or with toppings –just stop, relax and enjoy. See you there on Sunday, the 24th!!

Fall Kickoff: September 14th

It's almost here!!! 3 more weeks and we'll gather again for the 3rd Annual Fall Kickoff at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish!!!

Sign up sheets requesting donations for **hotdogs/rolls, salads, desserts and beverages** will go up in the 3 worship sites this weekend. Let us know what **you will bring** to make this the **best Kickoff event yet!!!**

Is God calling you to share your gifts as a Catechist?

There is nothing quite as rewarding spiritually as **sharing your faith experience** with young people and receiving in turn the **gift** of their emerging faith. We have some catechetical opportunities in our Sunday evening sessions.

God has listened and answered our prayers. We have a **new catechist** who will be joining our Sunday PM sessions in the fall. We still have some openings, however. **Is this something God is calling you to do?**

Please call Sharon at 273-6020 or email skowalski@ihm.rcpw.org for requirements and further details.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Children's Liturgy of the Word will resume in the Fall.

For the young people who participated in the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11AM Mass: There will be Children's Worship Bulletins in the back of the church. Pick one of these up and bring it home to share with Mom and Dad. There will be two age groups available: ages 3 to 6 and 7 to 12.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN OF FOOD PANTRY FAMILIES

Supplies are beginning to be brought in. But, we need a lot more!

Supplies needed include: packs of 6/18/24 crayons, 3-hole loose leaf paper, marble composition notebooks, protractors, baby wipes, bottles of Crayola glue or glue sticks, safety scissors, small pencil sharpeners with lids to catch shavings, boxes of colored pencils, green/blue/black pens, 3-subject notebooks, 12-inch rulers with inches & centimeters, colored pencils, highlighter markers, art boxes, 3x5 index boxes, small paintbrushes, & sturdy zippered pencil cases.

Supplies can be brought to the Parish Life Center, 2416 Seventh Ave, Watervliet between the hours of 9:00am-3:00pm Monday-Friday. Items can also be placed in the food pantry boxes at each of the churches.

For more information, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Linda Dunbar at 209-6446. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

IHM/WATERVLIET FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The Hunger Action Network of NYS (HANNYS) will be holding general interest meetings open to the public. In the Capital District the meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3rd at 12 noon at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State St., Albany. Topics to be discussed will include: the 2009-10 NYS budget, raising the welfare grant, the Economic Security Program, HANNYS Welfare to Work Survey (WWS), and overall health care coverage. Volunteers are needed for the WWS. For more information about the September 3rd meeting or to volunteer with the WWS, please call (518) 434-7371.

Our food pantry currently needs the following: peanut butter, canned food (meat, fruit, pasta, potatoes, sauerkraut, & tuna fish), soup, instant & decaf tea & coffee, cereal (hot & cold), low sugar jam & jelly, cake mix, low salt or vegetarian canned beans (baked, kidney, pork & beans), pancake mix, Jello, fruit juices (eg; cranapple, crangrape), pudding, & school supplies. Please include low/no sugar items so that we can help out the food pantry clients who are diabetic. A product with 'Splenda' (sucralose) is acceptable for a diabetic. Also, please note that food stamps do not include soap or paper products. Thank you! May all the guardian angels pray for you always!

IN NEED OF A CANISTER VACUUM CLEANER!



We are in need of a canister vacuum cleaner for St Patrick's location. If you have a canister vacuum in **good working condition** that you can donate to the church, please call the Parish office at 273-6020.

ALTAR/ROSARY SOCIETY

The next meeting will be held on September 3rd at 6:30pm at the Parish Life Center, 2416 7th Avenue. We will have election of officers at that time and installation will take place in October. If you wish to nominate someone for President or Secretary, all Donna Murray at 273-5083.

PRAYER TREE

If you would like to have someone prayed for or if you would like to join our prayer tree as a 'pray-er', please call Brenda Persons at 271-6184.

CRAFT GUILD NEWS

The next meeting for the Craft Guild will be held on September 2nd from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at St Patrick's, 19th St lower level. All are welcome to come down and find out what it is all about. If you have any questions, contact Toni at 273-6024.

IHM/ST BRIGID'S REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Wed, Sept. 3rd – Classes begin
9:30am Dismissal: Pre-School, Pre-K & Kindergarten
11:30am Dismissal: Grades 1-8
Thurs, Sept 4th – 11:30am Dismissal: Pre-School, Pre-K & Kindergarten
Full Day Grades 1-8
Fri, Sept 5th – 11:30am Dismissal: Pre-School, Pre-K & Kindergarten
Monday, Sept 8th – Morning & Aftercare Begins



POVERTY IN THE DIOCESE OF ALBANY: A THREAT TO THE COMMON GOOD

The demand for housing assistance is increasing as costs soar out of reach for low-income workers. For instance, more employed men are resorting to emergency shelters because their wages don't cover rent. And the wait for housing through Catholic Charities Housing Office has grown from less than 30 days in 2005 to at least four months in 2007, a four-fold increase. Catholic Charities is pleased that the 2008-09 state budget allocates funds to develop more affordable housing and calls on federal legislators to create a National Housing Trust Fund as a dedicated fund for affordable housing projects. (www.ccrda.org.)

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

- Mt 16:19-20



Readings for the Week of August 24, 2008

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
 Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Mt 23:23-26
 Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Mt 24:42-51
 Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Mk 6:17-29
 Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 25:14-30
 Next Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT GROUP

College-age men and older meet monthly at St Isaac Jogues House of Discernment for Mass, dinner and good discussion. The meetings are attended by men who want to learn more about Priesthood as a possible life option without any "hard-sell" or pressure. Seminarians also join us for the evenings to offer their perspective as well. If you are between the ages of 18-52, and the possibility of Priesthood has crossed your mind in the past, contact Fr Walsh at jjwalshie@aol.com or call (518) 312-9397.

A RETREAT RENEWAL DAY W/FR MARTY FISHER

A day of renewal will be held on **Sat. Sept. 20th**, in the **Social Hall at St Edward's beginning at 9:00am and ending at 4:00pm**. Fr Marty Fisher (former pastor of Corpus Christi) will focus on the busyness in our lives or the "Martha and Mary" in all of us and how to achieve that balance needed for happiness in our journey through life. The day will end with Meditation and Healing Prayer by Phyllis Murphy. Pre-registration is required since space is limited, and the cost is \$20 which includes a light luncheon. No registration at the door. For further information call 518 371-7372.

HOMEWORK CAN BE FUN!

Attend a Marriage Encounter Weekend and learn a new way to communicate with your spouse. The next weekends are scheduled for September 12-14 and November 14-16. Call Ed & Rhonda Staats at 279-3243 for information

SANCTUARY CANDLES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 24TH - AUGUST 30TH



ST BRIGID – Special intention, donated by Lilia Langford

ST PATRICK – Carrie Delduce, donated by Marion Fotache

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15, 2007.....\$1562.06
 August 15, 2008.....\$1591.10
Weekly (including mail-in)
 August 19, 2007.....\$6174.50
 August 17, 2008.....\$5570.11

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The 36th Annual Marriage Jubilee Celebration sponsored by the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis & Family Life will be held **October 18th at 1:00pm** at **St Clare's Church**, Central Ave, Colonie, NY. Couples celebrating their **15th, 20th, 25th, 40th, 50th or other special wedding anniversaries** are invited to attend this celebration. Bishop Hubbard will celebrate the Liturgy and greet couples and their guests at a reception in the Parish Center (St Clare's) immediately following. To register, call the Parish Business office during business hours, 273-6020.



**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
 AUGUST 25th - AUGUST 31ST**

If you wish to schedule a Mass Intention, please call the Parish Office to speak with Tina or Judy at 273-6020 two weeks prior to the desired date so that we can list the intention in the bulletin before it goes to press. Thank you.

Monday, Aug 25

8:00am at St Joseph's – The Farrell & Synan families

Tuesday, Aug 26

8:00am at St Patrick's – Wilfred J Bouchard, req by Marge Centanni

Wednesday, Aug 27

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

Friday, August 29

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

Please Note:

****On September 5th the Friday morning Mass will resume its regular scheduled time – 8:15am during the school year.**

Saturday, August 30

4:00pm at St Brigid's – The Farrell & Synan families
 5:30pm at St Joseph's – The Farrell & Synan families

Sunday, August 31

7:30am at St Joseph's – James Heffern (60th Anniv), req by his sister Pat Fisk
 9:00am at St Brigid's – Dorothy Norton, req by Penny & Dennis Marie T Burke, req by Deirdre Pangle
 11:00am at St Patrick's – Charles Matthews, req by Margaret Centanni
Ann Parker, req by the Wellworth family
Bob Wortendyke, req by Lorraine Alund
 7:00pm at St Patrick's – Frank Blair, Sr (B'day), req by the family