

# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH



NOVEMBER 29, 2020 • THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## CLERGY

*The Reverend V. Wayne LeBleu, Pastor  
The Reverend Joby Mathew, H.G.N., Priest In Residence*

## DIRECTORY

*Website: [ihmp.weconnect.com](http://ihmp.weconnect.com)  
Email: [ihmchurch@suddenlink.net](mailto:ihmchurch@suddenlink.net)*

## PASTORAL CENTER HOURS

*Monday Through Friday  
8:30 a.m. to Noon  
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

*Mass continues to be celebrated only in Founders' Hall.  
Seating has been arranged to safely observe social distancing.*

*A face mask or facial covering is required when  
attending mass.*

## WEEK-END MASS SCHEDULE

*Saturday: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.*

## WEEK-DAY MASS SCHEDULE

*Tuesday Through Friday  
7 a.m.*

*No Weekday Mass Celebrated on Monday.*

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Thursdays Following 7 a.m. Mass*

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

*Saturdays: 3 p.m. — 3:45 p.m.  
Thursdays: During Adoration Following 7 a.m. Mass*

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Contact the Pastoral Center to schedule an appointment with  
clergy before preparation class and baptismal date can be set.*

## MARRIAGES

*Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.  
Diocesan preparation course is mandatory.*

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## FATIMA CHAPEL

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# WATCHFUL



*"Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when  
the time will come."*

MARK 13:33

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 • THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

 <b>Mass Intentions for the Week</b>	 <b>Readings of the Week</b>
<p><b>Saturday, November 28, 2020</b>  <b>4:00 P.M.</b> Agnes Theodile, Florence Green, Percy Thomas, Angelus Ceasar Jr., Bernice Ceasar, The Anniversary of Joseph "JP" Guidry  <b>Sunday, November 29, 2020</b>  <b>7:00 A.M.</b> Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)  <b>8:30 A.M.</b> Francis Jackson, Jr., Agnes Theodile, John Edwards, Sr., Willie Jarod Zachary  <b>11:00 A.M.</b> Mr. &amp; Mrs. John Pappion, Leo Rideaux, Sr., The Health of Willie And Mae Bell Smith, The Anniversary of Elvina LeBlanc  <b>Monday, November 30, 2020</b>  No Scheduled Mass</p>	<p><b>November 29—December 5, 2020</b></p> <p><b>Sunday:</b> Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37  <b>Monday:</b> Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22  <b>Tuesday:</b> Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24  <b>Wednesday:</b> Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37  <b>Thursday:</b> Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27  <b>Friday:</b> Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31  <b>Saturday:</b> Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, December 1, 2020</b>  <b>7:00 A.M.</b> Davey Wayne Van Wright  <b>Wednesday, December 2, 2020</b>  <b>7:00 A.M.</b> Celebrants Intention  <b>Thursday, December 3, 2020</b>  <b>7:00 A.M.</b> Rodney James Guillory  <b>Friday, December 4, 2020</b>  <b>7:00 A.M.</b> Celebrants Intention  <b>Saturday, December 5, 2020</b>  <b>4:00 P.M.</b> Courtney Lewis, Florence Green, Bernice Ceasar, The Health of Shelia Prescott  <b>Sunday, December 6, 2020</b>  <b>7:00 A.M.</b> Bernice Ceasar  <b>8:30 A.M.</b> Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)  <b>11:00 A.M.</b> Percy Thomas, Recka Williams, Ruby Guillory, Melba Gallien, Madgon Lavergne</p>	<p><b>First Sunday in Advent</b>  </p> <p><i>Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light in our dark world.</i></p> <p><i>The most common Advent tradition involves four candles nestled in an evergreen wreath. The candles are usually three purple (1st, 2nd, and 4th candles) and one rose-colored (3rd Candle). Sometimes a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth. Often holly leaves and berries are added to the wreath, with their red color representing Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins.</i></p> <p><i>This Sunday is the First Sunday in Advent and we light the first purple candle which stands for "HOPE". This candle is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.</i></p>
 <p>We remember those who have died. May angels lead all of our deceased family members and friends into paradise. Upon their arrival, may the martyrs receive them and lead them to the holy city of Jerusalem. May the ranks of angels receive them, and with Lazarus, once a poor man, may they have eternal rest.</p>	<p><b>Advent Prayer to Prepare My Heart for Christ' Coming</b></p> <p>Father, just as you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart, too. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from all-out worshipping You this Advent. Lord, I await Your coming! As I celebrate the first Advent—the first coming—I look toward to the day where I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like. Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for You coming on a daily basis. Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence. My offering to You today is my righteous life for I know I am only clean because of Jesus. Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven. Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness and to then change my ways.</p> <p>— Author, Sarah Martin</p>
 <p>Need a quiet place to find peace to pray and reflect? The Day Chapel is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for individual private prayer. The Day Chapel is disinfected during the day. When others are present in the Day Chapel, please social distance and wear a face mask. Thank You!</p>	
 <p><b>Congratulations to Lincoln and Laura Richardson Who Celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary On November 27th</b></p>	
<p><b>Please Notice This</b>  </p> <p>Effective immediately, Bishop Provost has lifted the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation. Churches will still observe CDC guidelines on church sanitization, wearing of face masks, use of hand sanitizer, and social distancing, as well as the state's 75% occupancy directions. Any parishioner who is ill, or cares for ill family members, are still excused from Mass attendance.</p>	<p><b>Celebrating 60 Years</b>    <b>Congratulations to Johnny and Joycia Guillory who Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on October 29th</b></p> <p><b>Congratulations to Joseph and Mary Wilda Cook Who Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary On November 12th</b></p>



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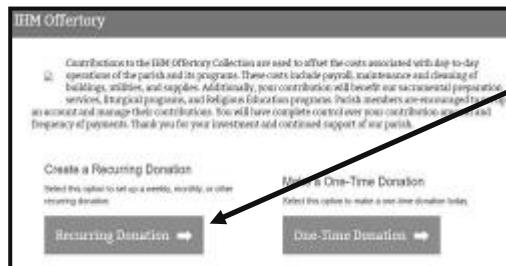
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### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

#### **In the Unexpected**

**"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.**

**No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.**

**Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.**

**This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.**

**— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS**

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### **Prayer List**



**Please contact the Pastoral Center at 337-436-8093 with the name(s) of anyone you'd like to put on the church's prayer list. You may also email your names to the office at [ihmchurch@suddenlink.net](mailto:ihmchurch@suddenlink.net). Prayer list will be updated every 4 weeks.**

### **PRAYER IN TIME OF ILLNESS**

**Lord Jesus, you came into the world to heal our infirmities and to endure our sufferings. You went about healing all and bringing comfort to those in pain and need. We come before you now in this time of illness asking that you may be the source of our strength in body, courage in spirit and patience in pain. May we join ourselves more closely to you on the cross and in your suffering that through them we may draw our patience and hope. Assist us and restore us to health so that united more closely to your family, the Church, we may give praise and honor to your name. Amen.**

**— Author Unknown**

### **Insurance Defrayment Fundraiser**

**IHM's Insurance Defrayment Fundraiser continues through the end of December. This fundraiser is intended to raise money normally raised during our Annual Fall Bazaar which was cancelled this year due to COVID-19 concerns. Proceeds from our Bazaars have paid the Church's insurance bill. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this important event. Thank you.**



As we continue our spiritual journey during this pandemic and post Hurricanes Laura and Delta times, it has surely been a time of many differences and "abnormalities". At this time last year, we were well into the Catechetical year with 100+ students. This year, we have barely taken off into the new Catechetical year. To date, we have 28 students registered for PREP classes. Only our sacramental students, which at this time is an average of 8 students, are in face-to-face attendance. For those who have registered in Grades K and 9-10, packets will be available for pick up Tuesday, December 1st. We are arranging for our Grades 1 and 3-8 students to begin the on-line course with Ignatius Press Faith and Life Series beginning December 1st.

If you have not registered your child, please do so as soon as possible. The registration fee remains \$30 per family. Remember, all students must register whether they are receiving packets, taking the on-line course, or are physically present in PREP classes. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about this year's PREP, please don't hesitate to contact Jacque Mathews at 337-436-8093.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**  
**ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S



# DESK

Dear Parishioners,

*What are you waiting for? We wait in lines at the grocery stores or when we are shopping. We may wait for a Doctor's appointment or for the Dentist. We wait for our turn to have our oil changed or our vehicle worked on. But what do we wait for spiritually? How are we to wait with patient endurance and in prayer? Can the Lord call us to patience, faithful, and fellowship in Christ?*

*Today's First Reading from Isaiah speaks of a people waiting for God to come to redeem them in their sinfulness to deliver them from their wretchedness of life. Advent is a time of being renewed and transformed; a time for hope in a world of darkness. Advent celebrates the Lord's coming again a time to be vigilant awaiting redemption for us from our world of pain and despair.*

*Advent isn't a time to see doom and gloom but one which we await with happiness and joy. We must find time to wait for the Lord in prayer and as St. Paul tells the Corinthians to give God thanks for He has enriched us in every way, so that we are not lacking any spiritual gifts as we wait for His revelation. We are called to be a joy filled people who are waiting for our redemption.*

*As we begin this new Liturgical year may we be renewed in this time which we are called to see as a new beginning with fresh eyes of faith, renewed hearts of love and mindfully focus in prayer.*

*Be at Peace,*

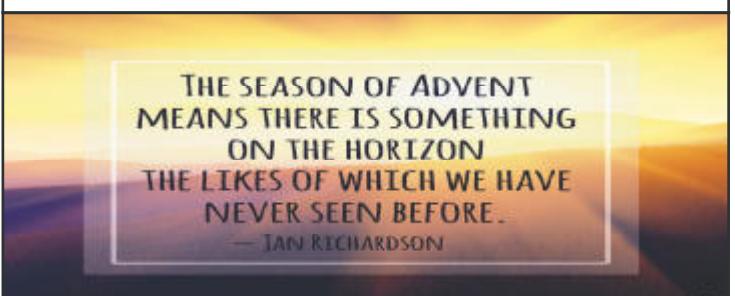
*Fr. Wayne LeBleu*

### LIVE THE LITURGY

#### Inspiration for the Week

*Be watchful! Be alert! The core message of Advent cannot be more direct or simple. As those who are postured in a spirit of readiness and anticipation, we must always be attentive and vigilant. We have to be ready not only for the anticipated arrival of our Lord, but watchful and attentive to the unexpected visit as well. While we know that the Christ is coming, we also do not know the exact time. Cultivating this expectant attitude is the purpose of this season. It is easy to grow slack, inattentive, and too self-assured. We can easily deaden ourselves to the wonder and surprise of God's presence. We get so absorbed in so many other distractions that it can seem like Christ's second coming, and even Christ's coming in time are of lesser importance. When it finally dawns on us that we have wandered far away from where we need to be, and lost our attentiveness and focus, we will wonder how this all happened. We may even try to put the onus on God and blame God for lack of involvement or presence. We are the ones, who through our own choice, put the distance in our relationship and lost touch. Now it's time to come back and perk ourselves up a bit!*

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**THE SEASON OF ADVENT  
MEANS THERE IS SOMETHING  
ON THE HORIZON  
THE LIKES OF WHICH WE HAVE  
NEVER SEEN BEFORE.**

— JIAN RICHARDSON



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