

# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH



DECEMBER 6, 2020 • THE SECOND 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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# PREPARE



“Prepare the way  
of the Lord.”

MARK 1:3

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Readings of the Week**

**4:00 P.M.** Saturday, December 5, 2020  
Courtnee Lewis, Florence Green, Bernice Ceasar, The Health of Shelia Prescott

**7:00 A.M.** Sunday, December 6, 2020  
Bernice Ceasar

**8:30 A.M.** Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)

**11:00 A.M.** Percy Thomas, Recka Williams, Ruby Guillory, Melba Gallien, Madgon Lavergne, Marjore Valerie

**Monday, December 7, 2020**  
No Scheduled Mass

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

**7:00 A.M.** Rodney Louis and Mary Lou Guillory

**7:00 A.M.** Wednesday, December 9, 2020  
Celebrant's Intention

**7:00 A.M.** Thursday, December 10, 2020  
Celebrant's Intention

**7:00 A.M.** Friday, December 11, 2020  
Celebrant's Intention

**7:00 A.M.** Saturday, December 12, 2020

**4:00 P.M.** Courtnee Lewis, Damon Guidry, Joseph "JP" Guidry, Agnes Theodile, Landry Boullard Sr., Angelus Ceasar, The Anniversary of Roy Collins

**7:00 A.M.** Sunday, December 13, 2020  
Celebrant's Intention

**8:30 A.M.** Irving Anderson, Ruby Guillory, Eurise & Melba Gallien, The Health of Shelia Prescott, The 40th Wedding Anniversary of Robert and Gloria Schexnayder

**11:00 A.M.** Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the People)

December 6-12, 2020

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47



Second Sunday of Advent

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming". Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ. However, Advent began as early as the 4th and 5th centuries as a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians. The first mention of Advent occurred in the 300's A.D. at a meeting of church leaders called the Council of Sargossa. It gradually developed into a season that stretched across the month of December. Advent last for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The Advent season not only symbolizes the waiting for Christ's birth but also for his final return.

On this Second Sunday in Advent, we light the second purple candle which stands for "Faith" and is called the "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

**Advent Prayer**

Jesus, as we prepare to welcome you again this Christmas, speak your words into our hearts and lives, that by our preparation for your birth, we might proclaim what still needs to be made ready if our world is to become more like your Kingdom. Soften our hearts, calm our fears, and give us courage to proclaim your coming into our broken world. Amen

— Author, Unknown



We remember those who have who 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.



**Holy Day of Obligation**  
**Tuesday, December 8th**  
**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
**Of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Vigil Mass: Monday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Feast Day Mass: Tuesday, December 8th at 7 a.m.**

The Pastoral Center will be closed on Tuesday, December 8th in observance of the Holy Day. We will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 9th.



**Congratulations and Best Wishes to**  
**Josh Morrow And Myra Ledet**  
**who were married Saturday, December 5th.**  
**May the new Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Morrow**  
**share many blessed years together.**



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!

**Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

Dear Jesus, I know that you are truly present in the most blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart (Pause to embrace Christ who is present in our hearts). I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself fully to you. Never permit me to separate myself from you. Amen.

Bishop Provost has lifted the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation. According to the medical experts, the United States is in another wave of COVID-19 as well as in cold and flu season. Federal and state authorizers ask that we continue our precautions during the upcoming holiday season and limit our travel and celebrations to our immediate family members. If you are ill or care for an ill family member, please stay home. Remember, we are our brother's and sister's keepers and we all have a part to play in slowing down this pandemic, so please follow the guidelines below so that soon we may all be able to get out and travel and enjoy time with our families and friends.

**During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic,  
Let Us All . . .**



**Keep Calm!!**

**Pray!!**

**Wear a Mask!!**

**Wash Your Hands**

**or Use Hand Sanitizer!!**

**Social Distance!!**

**We'll get through this as long  
as we show respect and concern for each other!!**

*"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9*

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

**Jubilation to Share**

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**Candles**

We have changed the supplier of our candles to ensure we are getting longer burning candles. The new 7 Day candle is in a disposable plastic container, which fits into a glass globe. The Church will provide, free of charge, a glass globe with your first candle purchase. Please remember to keep the globe and not toss it out with the plastic container.

Candles are still \$5.00 each. Additional globes are \$5.00 each.



**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. Proceeds from our annual fall bazaars in past years, have covered our insurance needs, without having to go into the general funds. Money raised during this fundraiser will go towards this year's bill. To date, through your generosity, we have raised about seventy percent of our \$48,000 goal. We understand the hardships suffered throughout our community due to two major hurricanes, on top of the pandemic. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this important event. Thank you!



**GOSPEL MEDITATION  
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**December 6, 2020**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

*People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!*

*We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.*

*Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?*

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**PREPARE  
THE WAY OF  
THE LORD!**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S

# DESK



Dear Parishioners,

*Our first reading for this weekend from Isaiah speaks of comfort, give comfort to my people. Well I don't know about you but these words strike me as a welcome news in a time when we have felt so much pain and turmoil in our lives over this last year. Isaiah goes on to explain preparing the way of the Lord. In ancient times it was to make the King's highway which lead from the Kingdom to where the King's palace so that subjects could easily access the King or the King could have access to his subjects to protect them. Isaiah is speaking of the Lord and it is to this manner that He wants to bring us comfort and protection, care and concern. He wants to care for us as a shepherd not as a overlord, nor does he want us in today's times to treat his people without the same concern and responsibility for those entrusted to the Church.*

*Is there easy access to God today in the Church? Are the sacraments including reconciliation easily accessible? During the Covid 19 restrictions, this has been very difficult for many of us to do. Due to the recent times we may even feel that the Church has placed too many rules or regulations on our accessing sacrament or being available for how we can worship. St. Peter's letter in our second reading challenges us to be patient and realize all things happen in God's time. With patient endurance we are first and foremost called to conduct ourselves in Holiness and devotion. The call is to trust in the Lord who shows us in His devotion that He cares for our spirit which he is the guardian of our souls and calls us to repentance and love.*

*May we encounter Him in as one who comes to bring us his blessed peace knowing how he cares for each and everyone as His own.*

Be at Peace,

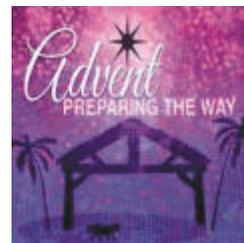
Fr. Wayne LeBleu

### LIVE THE LITURGY

#### Inspiration for the Week

*Prepare the way of the Lord! The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Given the humble means of our lives, how can we do this? It certainly does not require that we stand on street corners announcing God's future coming! We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing or lives of unnecessary, distracted clutter. By creating solid and deep spiritual lives, we can heighten our awareness of God's presence and help people point to and discover God's presence around them. By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know. As the world sometimes frantically unfolds around us, we can be people of patience who show others that it's okay to wait for God's gift to come. Conducting our lives in this manner, we will know the peace that comes from doing what we have been asked to do.*

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