



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish

3815 South Cedar Street, Lansing MI 48910

June 21, 2020

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Dear Parishioners,

Welcome back. How good it has been to celebrate Mass with you again in person. We are in our fourth week of Masses in the parish. The number of participants continues to grow each day as more of you are getting comfortable with coming to Mass while maintaining social distancing and wearing a mask. I am especially grateful to Dave Wiseman and our hospitality ministers who have been present to assist you in meeting the safety expectations.

Look to our website (ihmlansing.org) each week for updates on Mass attendance options. We will continue to offer Mass by video for those who cannot attend.

Parish Bulletin: Although our office is still closed, we will provide you with an online bulletin beginning this weekend. We will work our way up to a multi-page bulletin as our various ministries become active once again.

Mass Reservations: This past weekend we introduced a new reservation system for our weekend Masses. Using the "Eventbrite" platform, you are now able to reserve a space from our website for a number of weeks in advance. 100 tickets are allotted for each weekend Mass. Hospitality Ministers will continue to be available to assist you as needed. For **weekday Masses**, we are asking those who attend to use the two center sections only. This will enable us to minimize the number of pews that need to be sanitized after Mass.

8th Grade Graduation: We celebrated with our 8th grade graduates this past Tuesday evening with Holy Mass and a presentation of awards earned during the past year. It was so good to bring them together one last time.

9th Grade Confirmation: Our ninth-grade students were confirmed this past Wednesday evening with family members present to support them. Thank you, Toni Waters, for preparing our teens. I pray that they will tap into the grace of this sacrament to meet the spiritual challenges of High School and beyond.

First Communion: On Sunday June 28th our second graders will be receiving Jesus for the first time in a special afternoon First Communion Mass. Please remember them in your prayers. Thank you parents, for your patience. This is such an important step in your children's journey to heaven.

Pastoral Care: Reconciliation: I am available to hear confessions by appointment and after daily Mass. We continue to offer this sacrament of God's mercy on Saturday at 3:00 pm as well.

Communion for the Homebound: There have been a number of requests for communion at home. If you or somebody you know can't leave home at this time, but would like to receive the Eucharist, contact me.

DSA: Bishop Boyea has asked all parishes to do a re-launch of our 2020 DSA campaign this weekend. It is our hope that this follow-up campaign will help us to reach the critical diocesan-wide goal. As you know it is our collective gifts that enable the diocese to continue the many services that support us. Hopefully you received a letter from him as I did this past week.

So many of you have already joined me in making a pledge. We are one of the leaders in the diocese in percentage of participation That speaks well for your continued generosity. I encourage those who have not yet made a pledge to join us in this second appeal. Thank You.

Happy Father's Day: Fathers show your children the way to heaven.

How important is it to you that your children have good grades in school, have lots of friends and succeed in sports and other activities? How much time do you spend helping your children with their homework, driving them to band practice or watching them play soccer? Now compare that with how much time you spend supporting your children in their spiritual journeys.

Your daughter's soccer statistics and your son's history grade are not indicative of their spiritual health. While these can be legitimate concerns, success in athletics and academics will not necessarily help them love their neighbor better or grow in their relationship with God. You must show your children the way to heaven—by your words and example. And you must pray for them.

Father, you have given me beautiful children. I want them to love you here on Earth and live forever with you in heaven. Fill them with your grace. Send down your Spirit upon them. Grant them faith, hope and love. Protect them from evil, and show them the way to you.

**From Prayers for Catholic Men, by Mike Pacer (Servant Books, 2008).*

Jesus Through Mary

Fr. John

DSA 2020



“Happy the one who trusts in the Lord.” This scripture text from the Book of Proverbs affirms a fundamental teaching of the Catholic Church— only in God will we find the truth and happiness that we seek, the happiness that we were made for.

Our Diocesan Services Appeal is an opportunity to participate personally in the service and care provided through the many good works of the Catholic Church. DSA contributions are put to work, right away, in a multitude of ministries and spiritual activities to offer direct assistance to individuals and families, to our parishes and schools.

Our 2020 Parish Goal: \$ 94,421

Pledged to date: \$ 66,052 which is 69.95% of our goal.

244 households have made a pledge which is 23.83% participation from our parish.

2020 DSA Prayer

Loving and gracious God, we praise you and we thank you for the bountiful gifts that you have bestowed upon us.

Help us to understand that it is only in You that we find the truth and happiness we seek—the happiness we are made for.

Help us to understand and embrace the Diocesan Services Appeal as a way to faithfully participate in the good works of Your Holy Catholic Church.

Please bless our united efforts and help us to see Jesus in all whom we encounter. Amen