

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

8 Carman Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583 | 914-723-0276 | ihm-parish.org

Dear Family of Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Thank you to all of you for your patience and understanding following the announcement earlier this week that our parish has filed for bankruptcy. While there have been a number of questions raised, the overwhelming response has been one of support and solidarity, which I, as your new pastor, greatly appreciate.

Allow me to address some of the most frequently asked questions.

1. Is this just the first step to our parish and school having to close?

A: No! In fact, this step, painful as it is, was taken to ensure that both our parish and school continue to operate and remain as vibrant and active as they already are. We are not closing our doors. The bankruptcy process allows us to resolve our financial obligations while allowing our operations to continue. Put simply: this legal filing will not change your day-to-day experience as an IHM parishioner.

2. Why did we need to declare bankruptcy? Are we out of money?

A: As you may be aware, as a result of the passage of the Child Victims Act in 2019, there were over 30 lawsuits filed naming IHM as a defendant, due to alleged abuse by a former lay employee from decades ago. With these legal proceedings on the horizon, our attorneys advised us that filing for bankruptcy was unfortunately the most reasonable path forward to allow us to continue day-to-day operations at our church and school with minimal disruption. Our commitment to justice and compassion for victim-survivors remains unwavering. I am grateful to His Eminence Cardinal Dolan for announcing the Archdiocese of New York is working on a global settlement agreement with victim-survivors from years past, and I pray those negotiations are successful in securing compensation, healing and justice for victim-survivors.

3. Should I stop giving money in the Sunday collection?

A: No! We do not take your generous donations for granted, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support. The money you contribute each Sunday and through your other contributions remains here in the parish, allowing us to serve you and your fellow parishioners. We will continue to celebrate Mass, hear confessions, provide the sacraments, and do everything else that makes Immaculate Heart of Mary the outstanding parish and school that they are.

Again, please know of my deep gratitude for the kindness you have shown to me during the past five months, and especially during this past week. Our parish has many wonderful events planned for this weekend, including our School's Christmas Fair, the Messiah concert, and our Breakfast with Santa. I look forward to seeing you at these events and at Masses this weekend.

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,
Reverend Stephen Ries
Pastor