

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

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

December 8, 2025

Dear Family of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish,

Allow me to share an update with you about our parish's financial situation and the future of the IHM parish community. I regret having to be the bearer of troubling news, especially so early in my tenure as your pastor, but I know you appreciate hearing such news directly from me.

Today our parish filed for bankruptcy. We took this unfortunate but necessary steps given the large number of cases arising from the Child Victims Act that allege sexual abuse by a now deceased former lay employee at our parish.

This is not a decision that was made lightly. The future of this parish – and of our Church – is something we cherish and are committed to protecting for the long term. After much deliberation and prayer, we have come to the conclusion that these legal proceedings are the only way forward to ensure the long-term sustainability of IHM.

I know that now you will be wondering what comes next. So let me be clear: we have no plans to close our doors or shut down this parish. We will:

- Maintain our full schedule of Masses
- Continue our parish ministries, programs, and activities
- Celebrate the sacraments
- Support all that makes IHM the unique parish that it is

Allow me to say a special word about the school. Sister Mary Grace Walsh, ACSJ, has written to the school community assuring them that today's action will have no impact on the future of IHM school. There will be no interruption or change to your child's education or daily routine.

Of course, I and Fr. Thumma will still be available to you for pastoral care. Bankruptcy reflects a legal change in the state of our finances – not a change in our day-to-day operations or to the essence of what makes IHM such a vibrant parish.

On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we once again entrust our parish, our families, and all our present challenges to our Blessed Mother. Through her loving intercession, may we persevere in faith, remain steadfast in hope, and be ever united in Christ, so that these current difficulties may be swiftly brought to a just resolution.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

With prayerful best wishes for a blessed Advent, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,



Rev. Stephen Ries

Pastor