

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, located in South Saint Louis City, comprised of small neighborhoods filled with multi-generational families, strives to answer God's call to.....

- + COMMIT to live the Gospel;**
- +CELEBRATE Eucharist as a community;**
- +SERVE the needs of others;**
- + PARTICIPATE in parish life and ministries;**
- +STRIVE to be a sign of God's love!**

Contact Information

Rectory - 4092 Blow Street, St. Louis, MO 63116-2796
Website: www.ihm-stl.org

314-481-7543
Fax 314-481-6316

Parochial Administrator	Rev. Aaron Nord	314-481-7543	anord@ihm-stl.org
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Jim Murphey	314-481-7543	jmurphey@ihm-stl.org
Pastoral Associate	Mrs. Debbie Gartner	314-481-9385	dgartner@ihm-stl.org
St. Louis LifeTeen	Lauren Scharmer	314-288-8873	lauren@saintlouislifeteen.org
St. Vincent de Paul		314-289-6101 ext. 1187	

Celebration of the Holy Mass

Saturday 4:30 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)
 Sunday 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Weekdays Monday-Friday 8am Mass (Daily Chapel)
 1st Saturday of the Month 8:00 a.m. (Daily Chapel)
 Holydays As announced inside bulletin

Eucharistic Adoration

1st Saturday of the month following 8:00 a.m. Mass until 11:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Rectory. First time parents will need to attend one meeting prior to the baptism.

Sacrament of Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation is normally organized by the parish school or PSR program attended by the candidate. Others are invited to contact the parish priest for preparation to receive this sacrament.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please schedule an initial meeting with the priest or deacon at least 6 months prior to the tentatively planned date for the ceremony.

Holy Orders and Consecrated (Religious) Life

Those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life may contact the parish priest or the Archdiocese Vocations office at 314-792-6460.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Rectory to make an appointment with the parish priest.

Care for those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in nursing home. Please call the Rectory to arrange for Communion to be brought to any parishioner who is unable to come to Mass. Please inform the Rectory as soon as any parishioner is admitted to any hospital or nursing home.

Devotions

Perpetual Help Following Tuesday 8:00 a.m. Mass

Rosary Following weekday Masses

Becoming a Catholic

Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults/Youth or Catechumen Meetings are weekly from September thru May to discuss your questions and the Catholic Faith. Call the Rectory for information.

South City Deanery PSR

Catholic Religious Education for children attending public or private non-religious schools. Call 314-773-3070.

New Parishioners

Please register as soon as possible by calling the Rectory.

Bulletin items are due no later than 10 a.m. Monday for the following week's bulletin. (Holiday deadlines can change without notice.)

Mass for the Intentions Week

Mon.	12/21	8:00 a.m.	Don & Mary Broekelmann
Tues.	12/22	8:00 a.m.	John & Bernice Bock
Wed.	12/23	8:00 a.m.	Theresa Winkler
Thurs.	12/24	3:00 p.m.	Paul & Mary Nord
		4:30 p.m.	Jim & Rose Murphey
		10:00 p.m.	Our Parish Family
Fri.	12/25	9:00 a.m.	Adolph Wuenscher
Sat.	12/26	4:30 p.m.	Sr. Mary Ann Huelsing
Sun.	12/27	7:30 a.m.	Rose Marie Horejes
		10:00 a.m.	Our Parish Family

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER



Pray for those who are sick and their caregivers. Pray for Gayle Mohr, Bob Spellmeyer (Brother in law of Kathy Schulte), John Leaders, Andrew Freeman (Grandson of Jim and Roxanne Wolfslau), Edna Walters, Jerry Brendel (husband of JoAnn, father of Jason), Edna Walters, Stacey Long, Sandy Ceriotti, Alene May (mother of Annette DeGreef), Evelyn Vetz, Steve Baum (nephew of Jean Provaznik), Bob Simmons, Frank Sandrowski, Dorothy Seper, Rosemary Young, Don Smith, Therese Shurig, Kathleen Moody (daughter of Charlie & Julie), Deacon Jack Burke (brother of Joan Mowery), Stephanie Hagan (wife of Barry), Anna Corson, Nick Corson Lammert and those parishioners who are homebound, living in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes, and all in our Prayer Book. May our Lord Jesus bring them comfort and healing.

If someone has been left off the prayer list or if you would like to add someone, please contact the rectory office.

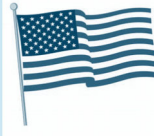


COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF:

December 13, 2020

Due to early bulletin submission, the December 13th collection was not available. It will be posted in the December 27th bulletin.

- Thank you to all who make our IHM Parish Family strong & caring!
- Thank you to all who give of their time and talent, helping out in so many ways!
- Thank you to all who give back to God so generously with your **hard-earned** donations



WE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THE ARMED FORCES. WE HOLD THEM IN OUR HEARTS AND AWAIT THEIR SAFE RETURN.....

Lance Cpl. Andrew Ceriotti, U.S. Marines
Pvt. David Walters, U.S. Army
LT. Benjamin D. Stolarski, U.S. Navy
Spec 4 Ian R. Larson, U.S. Army
P2 Derek Ryan, U.S. Army
Sgt. Lou Bollasina, U.S. Army
A1C John Pipes USAF
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Clark U.S. Force
Todd Bruemer, U.S. Navy
M.K. 2 Brett Winkelmann, Coast Guard
Cpl. Matthew T. Straub, U.S. Marines
Sgt. Victor A. Will, U.S. Army
Sgt. James A. Will, U.S. Army
Tech Sgt. James Dobrynski, U.S. Air Force
SSgt. Steve Appelbaum, U.S. Air Force
Pvt First Class Troy Smith, U.S. Marines

Christmas Schedule



Christmas Eve

Rectory office will be closed.
There will be no 8 a.m. Mass

Mass Times

3:00 pm
4:30 pm
10:00 pm

Christmas Day

Rectory office will be closed.
Mass 9:00 am

Due to capacity limits, we are taking reservations for all Christmas Masses. Please contact the rectory to make your Christmas Mass reservation.

Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule

Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm on December 31
Feast Day Mass at 9:00 am on January 1

Rectory office will be closed December 31 and January 1.

PARISH NEWS



\$10 Donation CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE GENTLEMEN OF PETER AND PAUL

In the past you have generously donated Dollar Tree gift cards. With the uncertainty of this year we feel a \$10 cash donation would be most beneficial.

You may put your donation in an envelope – Attn: Debbie, and place in the collection basket, drop off at the Rectory or mail to the Rectory. I will be collecting until **Monday, December 14th**. In advance, Thank you for your generosity and Christmas spirit.

Everyone must wear a mask entering and exiting the church. Parents with children nine and under may determine when the child is old enough to attend Mass and can abide by the safety guidelines.

We ask you to please sit in the open pews away from the aisles.

Please use your own best judgement concerning when you will return to Mass. Do not jeopardize your health.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the rectory.



IHM Boy Scout Troop 179 will once again be holding its annual Super Bowl Pizza Sale Fund-raiser. These pizzas are fresh, 14" and made by our Scouts themselves. All proceeds go towards helping our Scouts earn their way to Summer

Camp and other activities. We will be taking orders for pizzas from now until Feb 3, 2021. Pizzas will be available for pick up in the cafeteria between 2:00 and 5:30 PM on Saturday Feb 6th Orders can be placed with a Scout at the back of Church, or by calling John Ebert at 314-258-0613.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our Scouts!



*Donations
are greatly
Appreciated!*

Saint Vincent DePaul Christmas Basket Donations are needed!

Our Saint Vincent DePaul Society prepares numerous Christmas baskets for our neighbors who are going through difficult times. Your food donations or cash donations allow our SVDP volunteers to spread Jesus' love and compassion, as well as provide for families in need.



REST IN PEACE

In your charity please pray for

Bob Stege

**May he join his loved ones
in joyful reunion with Jesus.**

I thought you should know – December 13, 2020

It is almost time for Christmas? Are you excited? I am looking forward to seeing lots of people at Church this week! We want to welcome people here and help them pray on that holy day, and we also want to keep people safe.

I'm very grateful for the way everyone coming to church has been cooperating with a good heart in the safety precautions we have: wearing a mask, and staying spread out. Our area continues to have a high volume of cases. What is more, I think some people are going to be coming to church on Christmas for the first time in a long time. So, I want to ask you to take special care to look out for each other and keep everyone safe by responsible choice. I know that wearing a mask is troublesome for lots of us, and that some people have health issues that mean they can only wear a mask for a short time. That being said, since we'll have music at all the Christmas masses and we want everyone to join in our carols, I would sincerely ask and highly recommend that on Christmas you wear your mask not just while you come in and go out of church, but also while you are seated in your pew, if at all possible.

Below I've put the third week of our "Peace on Earth" message series. From Kevin, Debbie, Deacon Jim and myself, and from all our wonderful volunteers, a blessed end of Advent and a Merry Christmas to you and those you love!

Bob Capstick worked at the Post-Dispatch and attended mass at St. Lawrence parish in North St. Louis County. He loved the Holy Spirit and had committed prayer. He heard the Holy Spirit tell him to start a youth group. He protested to God that he had no training to start a youth group. Nor did he have any commission from his pastor or support from his parish. The Holy Spirit kept pushing him to start a youth group. He started God's Gang in his basement. First a few and then many teen gathered in his basement once a week; hearts changed there and wounds healed and young men and women met Jesus and learned he loved them. From that youth group came youth leaders and worship leaders who went on to bless even more. All because a man named Bob was sent by God; and Bob did not quench the Holy Spirit.

When we pray well, the divine power of the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Trinity falls down into our hearts. They enlighten, inspire, and direct us, and blessings go out from us for the healing, blessing and salvation of many others. That's why St. Paul today coached us on our prayer life in this way: "Do not quench the Holy Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances."

Here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, we are spending these weeks preparing for Christmas learning to pray well. Our idea is that if we prepare for this Christmas by learning to pray well, we can taste God's peace even when this Christmas is weird, and we can carry away from this weird Christmas a permanent gift to make all our future Christmases better. So, we've invited everyone to make a commitment to daily prayer, and we are also using a part of every homily for some guided personal prayer. So let's pray now. Can I invite you to please close your eyes, if you don't mind, and follow along with this next part in your heart?

Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of God. <Pause> Let's look back on the last day, the last 24 hours, and whatever was good in that day, let's give God thanks for it in our heart. <Pause> Let's look back on the last day, the last 24 hours, and whatever was bad in that day, wherever we sinned or missed the mark, let's ask God to forgive in our hearts. <Pause> Let's look to the days ahead, to the weeks ahead, and whatever we would like God to bless, whomever we would like God to help, let's bring him those people and those situations now in our heart. <Pause> Now, if you can, if you can, tell God in your heart, "I love you." <Pause>

Ok, you can open your eyes now, if you want. Thank you for taking time to pray.

If you haven't made a prayer commitment for Advent, there is still time; God is good and he can work very fast in our hearts when we start to let him in. From today, we have 12 days to Christmas; why not make them special by taking a little time each day to pray?

If you have made a prayer commitment, it might be that you have already seen some blessings from God in your daily prayer. Last week we talked about what to do when it is hard to pray, when we are distracted or when we just feel

empty and tired and filled with doubts, and that message is in this week's bulletin. One of the big messages from last week is that your prayer can be very powerful and very pleasing to God even when it is hard for you. For example, if you are distracted 8,000 times in prayer and 8,000 times you turn your mind back to God, you prayed really well. So the main way we evaluate our prayer life in the short term is simply by our faithfulness to prayer. Whatever commitment you made: did you keep that commitment? If you did, in a basic and important way, you prayed. However, prayer is not all struggle; prayer has times when God is blessing you lights, desires and resolutions. That's our topic for today.

The "lights" I am talking about aren't visions or lights that you see in your eyes or picture in your minds eyes. I mean the light of wisdom coming into our mind, giving us new insight into God the Father, into the mysteries of Jesus life, into the love of the Holy Spirit, insights into our Catholic faith or into our daily life. This increased understandings sometimes can be hard to put into words. Maybe we can compare it to the way that a loving married couple understands each other and their marriage better after 50 years of good times and bad than they did on their wedding day. It might be hard for them to put into words all that they have learned, but they know their love is so much deeper and they know each other so much better than they did on that first day of marriage. In a similar way, through committed prayer, God gives us lights in prayer that increase our wisdom, perspective, and understanding, taking us deeper in to faith, hope and love.

Besides lights, a second blessing that can come in prayer are "desires", good and holy desires that come from God. You might have in prayer a desire to pray more tomorrow, or a desire to be more patient or more courageous. You might find your heart hungry to be a really good friend to others, or burning with new fire to keep a good promise you made. Holy desires are a big, powerful blessing in prayer, because by holy desires God lines up our wills—I mean, our power to choose—toward the choices that will help us and bless others.

A third blessing that can come in prayer are "resolutions". The Holy Spirit in prayer will point out to us ways he wants us to live or things he wants us to do. Most of the resolutions that show up in my daily prayer are small things that are specific to that day, but that make a big difference when I do them, like calling a certain person or prioritizing a certain task or going to bed at a certain time. Sometimes, though, like with Bob Capstick or with John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit points us towards a big change or a big project.

What do you do when God is blessing you with lights desires and resolutions? You try to keep up! I mean, the Holy Spirit does not have to move slowly, and if God is moves really fast in your life, and you are growing, you just try to keep up! Let me give you four ways you can respond to blessing in your prayer life, the little ones, and then the one big one. First, thank God for the gift; remember that this came not because you earned it, but because he loves you so much and is so generous in response to our little efforts. Second, be steady, remembering that a time will come when prayer is harder, and when that time comes, you want to be faithful. Third, keep praying; be careful to keep honoring your prayer commitment. Fourth—and this is the big one—carry with you out of prayer and into the rest of your life the blessings God gives you in prayer. If God gives you a resolution, keep it. If God give you a holy desire, look for chances to live it out. If God gives you a new light, bring that insight into your life.

Brothers and sisters, I invite you pray each day this week. Keep your prayer commitment, and look for some right or desire or resolution coming from the Holy Spirit, when that blessing comes, take action.

-Fr. Aaron Nord



HOW ABOUT THOSE BLUES?! DID YOU WATCH THE CARDS LAST NIGHT?!

If you are a sports fan or from St. Louis, you may have been asked one or all of these questions. These are important questions for many of us. We love our sports. We are committed fans.

Have you ever asked or been asked; "How's your prayer life?" THIS is an important question too! We have a God who loves us, who forgives us, who wants to be in relationship with us. How do you show God your love? How do you foster a deeper commitment and relationship?

Finding prayer time to talk and time to listen to God can bring us insight, guide us into action and bring us peace. Yes, commitment to prayer can bring peace! Our lives are unusual, upsetting and uncertain. It can rob our peace. God can restore that peace amidst these crazy and weird times.

I encourage you to pray each day, make the commitment. Reflect on the Spirit speaking to you....is there an understanding that came to you? Did you feel a desire to help someone, to be patient or say a kind word? Do you find yourself out of the blue, feeling at peace? That my friend is the power of prayer! That is the Spirit working. Do not quench the spirit. Allow God to flourish within you.

It is exciting to grow in a relationship, to become closer. It is a lifelong commitment. My prayers will be with all of you.

Debbie Gartner



Saint Vincent DePaul Blue Collection Bins

Please continue making donations to the bins. Your donations generate revenue for our parish, assist SVDP Thrift Stores and repurposing items are opportunities to care for our planet!

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that just by making Amazon purchases, you can help Immaculate Heart of Mary? All you have to do is order through Amazon Smile rather than Amazon and choose Immaculate Heart of Mary as your charitable organization. Then, every time you make an



We will no longer be collecting used stamps

Sr. Rosemary Brueggen CSJ is announcing that she will no longer be collecting used stamps. With the changing times and company procedures, the collections are no longer feasible.

Sr. Rosemary would like for you to know her sincere gratitude to everyone who has been saving stamps for all of these years. It is with a heavy heart that it must come to an end. Due to your diligence in sending in your stamps, over the past ten years, approximately \$20,000 was collected for the missions.

With the isolation at Nazareth Living Center, and not having the stamps to occupy her time, Sr. Rosemary asks for your prayers. This project has kept her busy for years. She wants to be active and useful. Please keep her in your prayers.

Thank you for your efforts and kindness.

If you would like to send her a card, please call my office; 481-9385.



Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Fourth Sunday of Advent- Surrender to God

Ecce ancilla Domini. Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). This is one of the most beautiful lines in Scripture. It conveys to us the total surrender and power of obedience to God's will in our lives. Because of Mary's fiat, the Savior entered the world to save us from our sins and to bring us back to God.

As we celebrate Christmas tomorrow, let us do so in the spirit of joy, welcoming the humble Christ-child into our hearts once more and asking Him to conform our hearts to His most sacred heart. In this joyful time, let us show love, kindness, and mercy to our loved ones who have fallen away and never lose hope in their return home. The angel Gabriel tells us, "For nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:37). May God bless you and your family this Christmas! Venite adoremus Dominum!

archstl.org/dynamic



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ON-LINE DONATIONS

to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish available through our website!

Please click on the **Give to IHM** button on our homepage (www.ihm-stl.org) to set up your donation. One-time and recurring (weekly, monthly and yearly) options are available.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law, and your on-line donation will be confirmed by a receipt from the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Thank you for your generosity to our parish!



7-Session Virtual Enrichment Experience

Mon/ Thur Evenings: January 18-February 8, 2021

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Saint of the Week



Saint Stephen

Saint of the Day for December 26

Saint Stephen's Story

"As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Greek-speaking Christians complained against the Hebrew-speaking Christians, saying that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 6:1-5).

Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen, but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. "...you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors" (Acts 7:51b).

Stephen's speech brought anger from the crowd. "But he, filled with the holy Spirit, looked up

intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' ... They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. ... As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ... 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).

Reflection

Stephen died as Jesus did: falsely accused, brought to unjust condemnation because he spoke the truth fearlessly. He died with his eyes trustfully fixed on God, and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips. A "happy" death is one that finds us in the same spirit, whether our dying is as quiet as Joseph's or as violent as Stephen's: dying with courage, total trust and forgiving love.



JOKE OF THE WEEK



**ROSES FOR EXPECTANT MOMS!!!**

If you are expecting a child, we as a Parish would like to pray for you throughout your pregnancy. There are red roses on the table in front of the Blessed Mother's statue in the back of Church. Please write the parents-to-be names and due date on the card attached to one of the roses asking for prayers until the delivery. After baby(ies) arrive, please call Kathy at 314-832-6553. We will then share your blessing in our bulletin.

Keep the following couples in your prayers:

Jessica & Patrick	December
Shannon & Andrew	March
Michael & Kat	July

Congratulations to Jesse and Ken on the birth of their daughter, Vivienne Elyse.

God Bless,
Immaculate Heart of Mary Pro-Life

**March for Life 2021 – Registration Now Open**

MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN is now accepting registrations for our bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. **Thursday- Saturday, Jan. 28- 30, 2021.** Until all life is protected, we will travel to D.C. to meet with our representatives and peacefully protest against the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion. This trip is open to anyone ages 7 and up (chaperones not provided). We depart from several locations in the St. Louis area and we do not stay in hotels as we sleep on the buses. Seats are limited because of COVID-19. The cost is \$230.

For more information, to register or to sponsor a rider go to www.missourilifecaravan.org. Contact us at: 314-434-4900 or mrl.eastern@yahoo.com.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE**LECTORS****December 19/20th**

4:30 p.m.	John Ruzicka
7:30 a.m.	Joyce Huelsmann
10:00 a.m.	Judy Hudson

CHRISTMAS EVE-December 24th

3:00 p.m.	Pam Donatt
4:30 p.m.	Judy Vonder Haar
10:00 p.m.	Becky Will

CHRISTMAS DAY-December 25th

9:00 a.m.	Rita Springer
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December 26/27th

4:30 p.m.	Rita Springer
7:30 a.m.	Glenn Mertens
10:00 a.m.	Kevin O'Sullivan

SOLEMNITY OF MARY VIGIL-December 31st

4:30 p.m.	
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SOLEMNITY OF MARY-January 1st

9:00 a.m.	Joyce Huelsmann
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January 2/3rd

4:30 p.m.	Art Benjamin
7:30 a.m.	Mike Kuhlman
10:00 a.m.	Becky Will

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BY THE PANDEMIC?****YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.**

A Stephen Minister can walk alongside you or a loved one to offer support and care—and it's free and confidential.

To learn more, contact one of our Stephen Leaders.

If you are interested in talking to a Stephen Minister, please contact Debbie at 314-481-7543



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All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company purchases, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both collaborating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 21 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice. prior to expiration. Expires 9/30/20



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