

## 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](http://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

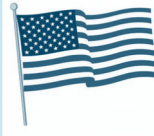
Mon.	12/14	8:00 a.m.	Adolph Wuenschner
Tues.	12/15	8:00 a.m.	Fran Mercurio
Wed.	12/16	8:00 a.m.	Mary Moriarity
Thurs.	12/17	8:00 a.m.	Rich Kage
Fri.	12/18	8:00 a.m.	Robert Vogel
Sat.	12/19	4:30 p.m.	Steven Zoricic
Sun.	12/20	7:30 a.m.	Ed Bucher
		10:00 a.m.	Our Parish Family



### 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.



**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



### COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF:

**December 6, 2020**

**Envelopes: \$7341**

**Loose: \$143**

**Maintenance Fund: \$787**

- 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



### REST IN PEACE

In your charity please pray for

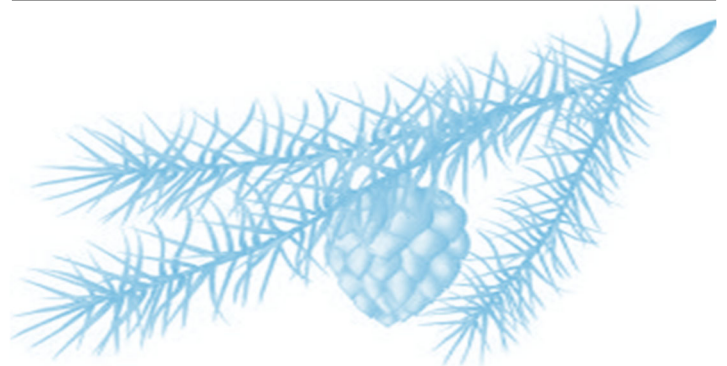
Pat Corson

Stacey Long

Alene May

John Maltagliati

**May they join their loved ones in joyful reunion with Jesus.**



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Thursday  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

# PARISH NEWS

## This is the last week-end to drop your Giving Tree gifts.

If you have any questions, please call Lina Silistria at 353-7581.

Thank you for always being very kind, and generous! We appreciate it very much!

Lina Silistria & Carol Sandrowski

The Giving Tree Committee



## \$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.



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!**

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.



## Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve  
3:00 pm  
4:30 pm  
10:00 pm

Christmas Day  
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



**I thought you should know – December 13, 2020**

Last week I told you about a goal your parish staff set: “dramatically better Sunday by August 15, 2020”, and I told you why we think this goal matters: our Lord wants us to be **a growing parish of growing disciples**. But why do we think that the most important step we can take to become a growing parish of growing disciples is to make Sunday dramatically better?

Sunday is where most people meet our parish. If Sunday worship is consistently fantastic, parishioners will have confidence inviting friends and family to come pray with us. If Sunday worship is consistently fantastic, people will grow here, change here, and love here, and they will want to share the treasure which they have found here with others.

If you are reading this, you probably know what a treasure we have at every Mass: Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, uniting us to his prayer to the Father and speaking to us in his words. People who are taking their first steps towards God don’t know what you know. Many of them won’t discover the treasure present in our Sunday worship unless our faith family, our music, our message, and our welcome on Sunday make them want to go deeper in faith and help them to seek God.

Ok, here is week 2 of our “Peace on Earth” message series for Advent.

How was your week? How was your prayer?

Since you might be new here, let me fill you in on what’s going on. Last week, we invited everyone to commit to daily personal prayer as part of our “Peace on Earth” message series to prepare for Christmas. Our idea is that Christmas is likely to be weird this year, but if we learn to pray well, we can taste God’s peace, and we can carry away from this weird Christmas a permanent gift for all the normal Christmases to come. Let’s prepare for Christmas by learning to pray well.

Toward that goal, I’m going to give you some coaching on prayer, and part of coaching is practice. So I’d like to invite you closing your eyes. If you are open to it, would you please close your eyes, relax, and follow along with this next part in your heart.

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.—Let’s look back on the last day, the last twenty-four hours, and whatever was good, let’s give God thanks for that now in our hearts.—Let’s look back on the last day, the last twenty-four hours, and whatever was bad, wherever we sinned or missed the mark, let’s ask God to forgive now in our heart.—Let’s look to the days ahead, to the weeks ahead, and whatever we’d like God to bless, whoever we’d like him to help, let’s ask him now in our own hearts to please help.—Finally, if you can, in the quiet of your own hearts, I invite you to say to God, “I love you.”

Alright, you can open your eyes, if you want. Thank you for taking time for prayer.

I hope you had a moment of peace in that prayer; sometimes, however, prayer can be a desert. Maybe you’ve experienced desert prayer even in this last week. When I say “desert prayer”, and I’m talking about times when you go pray and the minutes crawl by, or you inside you feel empty or tired, or your mind is filled with distractions or doubts. Desert prayer is not fun; but God permits desert prayer for good reasons.

One time in my that happened was during my first year of seminary. I was trying to pray for a whole hour, which for me, was a big deal. As the hour started, I was distracted and restless, and as the minutes went by, I started feeling pressure inside, like I wanted leave and get out, stronger and stronger, till I started almost to feel a panic, and I began to worry that if I stayed there praying, I sustain permanent mental damage from praying so hard. I might crack up! (I can be a little melodramatic. ☹) Finally the clock said an hour had passed, and I genuflected and turned to get out, not feeling great, frustrated that prayer and been so hard and wondering what the point had been. And as I turned and walked out that chapel, God flooded into my heart this really strong sense of his presence, that he knew and he loved me. That moment was like what the Book of Sirach says in the bible: “For it is easy in the eyes of the LORD suddenly, in an instant, to make the poor rich”. That one moment made the whole hour of struggle totally worth it.

Prayer can be a desert, but in that desert, we prepare the way of the Lord, a highway for our God. And the Lord takes



down the mountains and fills up the chasms that separate us from him. One reason God permits desert prayer to occur is that desert prayer teaches us to love God for who he is, as a person, rather than just to love the good feelings or the gifts God gives. It is like when a new baby comes home: everyone loves the baby, till it's time to change the diaper. The dirty diapers challenges the family to love more the feeling of excitement that the baby brings, or how cute the baby looks, or the good hopes the baby stirs up. The dirty diapers challenge that family to *love that baby, and to help the baby by changing its diaper*. *God does not have dirty diapers—at least, not since Jesus grew up from being a baby* ☞ *—but God have desert prayer which challenges us to grow truer and stronger in love, and on the other side of desert gives us deeper peace.*

So, let's look at techniques for persevering you can use to work with God in desert prayer. Fair warning: these techniques do not pump your brain with endorphins to make yourself *feel better*. *Rather, they are like the techniques marathon runners use to push past mile 20 and keep going. They don't stop the hurting, but they do help you endure and finish and win through.*

The easier kind of desert prayer to handle is the kind that involves distractions. Pretty much everyone has some trouble with distractions in prayer, and the key technique is gently—gently!—turning your mind back to God. Think of your mind as a very cute puppy that you and God are taking for a walk. When the puppy goes running after a squirrel, there's no need to get all angry and upset or be mean to yourself. Rather, simply remember how much God loves walking with that little cute puppy in your head, and, gently give your mind a tug to bring it back to spending time with God. Even if a distraction really gets you and you have spent five minutes distracted before you even realize you were distracted, no problem—when you notice it, just gently turn your mind back to God. Distractions harm our prayer only when we deliberately chose to follow the distraction; when that happens, we stop praying. When distractions are persistent, it can be tiring to keep going back to paying attention to God. But remember: if you get distracted 8,000 times in prayer and 8,000 times you turn your mind back to God, then you just did 8,000 reps exercising your mind to love God: pretty cool you.

Ok. The harder kind of desert prayer is the kind that involves feeling empty or doubting or wanting to leave. For those times, I'll suggest three simply activities you can use to keep praying—remember, pray as you can, not as you can't. You can remember these three simple activities that rev up your desert using the acronym "Read, Express, Visualize", "R-E-V", "R.E.V." See what I did there? ☞ Read: read the bible or some spiritual book. Express: use some phrase to express over and over your desire: "Jesus, I love you. Jesus, I love you. Jesus, I love you." Visualize: picture some scene from Jesus' life in your mind, like the Crucifixion or the Manger Scene, and just keep trying to hold that picture in your mind. Read, express, visualize: REV.

There's another week of Advent ahead, a week to prepare for Christmas. By committed prayer, let's learn to pray well. For even though the desert, there is a way, and the Lord speaks of peace to his people.

-Fr. Aaron Nord

### Table of Plenty



We are in desperate need of volunteers for our Table of Plenty program.

If you are able to help by taking food to those who are unable to leave their home,

please contact the rectory office at 314-481-7543.

## EXHAUSTED 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



### Do Not Quench the Spirit

We have the gift of the Holy Spirit within us. We can “Rejoice” in knowing the Spirit dwells in each and every one of us! The Spirit guides us, helps us pray, understand Scripture, turn from sin and discover peace in the midst of trials. We can become more and more aware of the Spirit through our actions of prayer, reflection, taking action when something comes to you in prayer and trying to live a life of holiness.

Our Lord does not call us to be perfect, but he calls us to be faithful. We are called to turn from sin and to use the gifts God gave us. Sin and neglecting to use our gifts can hinder our holiness; “Quench the Spirit.”

“Lord, thank you for dwelling within me. Thank you for your patience as I stumble in my attempt at holiness. May I find myself talking with you throughout my day, using the gifts you have given me and turning away from anything that is not pleasing to you. Amen.”

My prayers are with you,  
Debbie Gartner



**THANK  
YOU**

Thank you to our Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Family. Your prayers and cards have been a blessing. and was very much appreciated. My knee surgery was successful.

God bless you for your kindness.  
Tom and Juanita Bishop



### 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.

**Due to the updated Covid restrictions, RENEW has been cancelled.**

### Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Gaudete Sunday

Rejoice! On Gaudete Sunday we remember the joy that is coming soon to the world: Jesus Christ. Where do we find our joy in life? If we seek it in anything but Christ, we are missioning out because true joy comes from the knowledge that God loves us and has come to save us from sin and death. As John the Baptist preached, true joy comes by way of repentance. Our desire for holiness and pursuit of genuine freedom from sin and death inspire us to renounce evil and to open a place for Christ to enter our hearts, minds, and souls. When we are open to experiencing the grace of Christ, we can receive mercy, forgiveness, healing, consolation, and peace along with joy. (CCC 523-524, 719-720)  
[archstl.org/dynamic](http://archstl.org/dynamic)



Give To IHM

#### 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](http://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

Starting at 7:00 p.m.

Apply online: <https://stl-wwme.org>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/events/s/restore-rekindle-renew-enrichm/289517819094470/>

More Info Call: 314-649-7317



## Saint of the Week



### Saint Lucy

Saint of the Day for December 13

### Saint Lucy's Story

Every little girl named Lucy must bite her tongue in disappointment when she first tries to find out what there is to know about her patron saint. The older books will have a lengthy paragraph detailing a small number of traditions. Newer books will have a lengthy paragraph showing that there is little basis in history for these traditions. The single fact survives that a disappointed suitor accused Lucy of being a Christian, and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304. But it is also true that her name is mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer, geographical places are named after her, a popular song has her name as its title, and down through the centuries many thousands of little girls have been proud of the name *Lucy*.

One can easily imagine what a young Christian woman had to contend with in pagan Sicily in the year 300. If you have trouble imagining, just glance at today's pleasure-at-all-costs world and the barriers it presents against leading a good Christian life.

Her friends must have wondered aloud about this hero of Lucy's, an obscure itinerant preacher in a far-off captive nation that had been destroyed more than 200 years before. Once a carpenter, he had been crucified by the Romans after his own people turned him over to their authority. Lucy believed with her whole soul that this man had risen from the dead. Heaven had put a stamp on all he said and did. To give witness to her faith she had made a vow of virginity.

What a hubbub this caused among her pagan friends! The kindlier ones just thought her a little strange. To be pure before marriage was an ancient Roman ideal, rarely found, but not to be condemned. To exclude marriage altogether, however, was too much. She must have something sinister to hide, the tongues wagged.

Lucy knew of the heroism of earlier virgin martyrs. She remained faithful to their example and to the example of the carpenter, whom she knew to be the Son of God. She is the patroness of eyesight.

### Reflection

If you are a little girl named Lucy, you need not bite your tongue in disappointment. Your patron is a genuine authentic heroine, first class, an abiding inspiration for you and for all Christians. The moral courage of the young Sicilian martyr shines forth as a guiding light, just as bright for today's youth as it was in A.D. 304.



## 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](http://www.missourilifecaravan.org). Contact us at: 314-434-4900 or [mrl.eastern@yahoo.com](mailto:mrl.eastern@yahoo.com).

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### LECTORS

#### December 12/13th

4:30 p.m.	Howie Hirschfield
7:30 a.m.	Barb Vineyard
10:00 a.m.	Becky Will

#### 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.	
4:30 p.m.	
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

*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.

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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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