



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
& ST. JOSEPH PARISHES

The Ascension of the Lord
May 8, 2016

The Ascension of the Lord

*Men of Galilee,
why are you
standing there
looking at the sky?*


Acts 1:11



May 8, 2016

Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph Parishes are two Catholic communities united in faith, and committed to spreading the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and service to others. Our historic and diverse parishes share the same pastor, pastoral staff, sacraments, ministries, religious education programs and school.

WE WARMLY WELCOME YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH!

www.icsjparish.org  [facebook.com/icsjparish](https://www.facebook.com/icsjparish)

All of Us- #147**-by Fr. Larry****• “Dear God...”**

A little boy was kneeling beside his bed with his mother and grandmother and softly saying his prayers, "Dear God, please bless Mommy and Daddy and all the family and please give me a good night's sleep."

Suddenly he looked up and shouted, "And don't forget to give me a bicycle for my birthday!!!"

"There is no need to shout like that," said his mother. "God isn't deaf."

"No," said the little boy, "but Grandma is."

Happy Mother's Day to all the women who have been blessed with the vocation of motherhood. The beauty of today is watching how families humbly show their love and appreciation for their mothers who provide so much for them. Hopefully this is a prayerful and grace-filled day of recognition for many women.

Flowers, cards or candy are the token signs of gratitude on Mother's Day. But I suspect that what pleases a mom most is a simple hug or a kiss and hearing the words, "I love you" from her kids. It's free and powerful. If you are a mom, I hope you are blessed with this gift today. Sons and daughters don't be shy about it, just do it!

As a parish priest, it becomes more and more evident to me that mothers play an important role in the faith life of their children. They, along with their husbands, are the primary educators of their children in the ways of faith, and are the ones needed to nurture the spiritual life of their children. It is an important responsibility as our Catholic faith is passed on from one generation to another. May God's blessings be upon our Moms and may God keep them holy and filled with wisdom and grace.

Thank you Jane Kaup, Maureen Powers, Mary Alice O'Toole, Joan Moore, and Diane Petrow who have shared with us their reflections on "Motherhood and Faith" this weekend. We appreciate their wisdom and insights.

• Hail Mary

At the school Mass this week we honored the Blessed Virgin Mary with a May Crowning ceremony. Our students prayed to the patron saint of our parish asking for her help and intercession as we try to follow her example of listening and obeying God. A blessing was also given to the moms who were present.

**• Putting It All “On The Table”**

The Archdiocese of Chicago has partnered with the Kennedy Forum of Illinois in inviting parishes to host “On the Table” discussions about mental health and addiction issues on May 10th. Such conversations are designed to lessen the stigma of mental illness. People can manage mental illness and can be successful in life using medicine and therapy available, but the stigma surrounding the illness stops many from reaching out.

On Tuesday, May 10th I will host an “On the Table” discussion regarding mental illness at Immaculate Conception at 6:30 p.m. A simple dinner will be provided for 12. There is a sign-up sheet in church today for those who would like to participate in this conversation. As we celebrate this Jubilee Year of Mercy, as believers in Christ, we are invited to be people of compassion; bringing healing and hope to others.

In the April 17th edition of the *Catholic New World*, there is an informative article written by Joyce Duriga, entitled, "May 10th Event Aims To End Stigma Of Mental Illness." Duringa interviews our parishioner, Peter O'Brien, who for years has been committed to this mission. As you read the article you quickly realize the ripping affects that mental illness has upon a family and community. We are face with the challenge on how to care for all involved.

• It's Now Up To Us

This Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. This feast commemorates the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, and is closely tied in with another feast we will celebrate in just a few days: Pentecost.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, his apostles were suddenly left alone. The Acts of the Apostles tell us how they found it difficult to believe or understand what they just witnessed. For some time after he was no longer visible, they stood staring up into the clouds, probably feeling confused, abandoned and perhaps very scared. What will the future hold for them? They had accompanied Jesus throughout his ministry. They lost him when he was arrested, and lost him again when he died on the cross and was buried.

Now he is gone again- and this time his absence would be permanent. He had just instructed them to go out into the world to proclaim the good news of God's love. Jesus promised them the Holy Spirit, but they did not yet understand his words.

Jesus knew that the Holy Spirit would find them in their emptiness and would grace them with the courage they needed to face the future. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they would carry out the mission that Jesus had given them.

We have been entrusted with the mission of Jesus Christ; and we too have been blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit that will strengthen and guide us. Jesus is counting on us to be his disciples today.

Our parish recently completed the *Parish Transformation Program* and established several long range goals to enhance the vitality of our parish. These initiatives have recently been shared with parishioners through a parish mailing. Now we are in need of your time and talents so that these hopes and dreams become a reality.

A "Time and Talent" overview explains how you can get involved with the *Parish Transformation* initiatives. The overview indicates interests or skills helpful to work on each initiative. The list of interests and skills is not all inclusive. Reply cards are available in church today. Please consider what type of commitment you can make to our parish. We need your help.

- **Helping the Poor and Vulnerable**

Thank you for your generosity towards the Catholic Charities collection this Sunday. Every year Catholic Charities serves over 1 million people in the Archdiocese. Many of them live in the same neighborhoods served by our parish.

Now is a particularly important time for us to give generously, as Catholic Charities must contend with the repercussions of the Illinois state budget crisis. At this time Catholic Charities is owed more than \$25 million from the State for services already rendered. This has placed tremendous financial stress on its ability to serve the poor and vulnerable.

- **Ad Multos Annos, Vivas!**

Congratulations to Fr. Pat Lee, my predecessor, who celebrates 40 years of priesthood this May. Today bulletin includes an invitation and details to his anniversary party.

"*Ad Multos Annos*" is traditionally sung at the end of major community events at Mundelein Seminary. It is a traditional Latin expression of goodwill and longevity of life and service which means "to many years."

Fr. Larry

Celebration of the Baptism



Stella Rae Stephens

Baptized

Sunday, May 1st

St. Joseph Church

Samantha and David Stephens

Happy Mother's Day



Numbers 6:24

The LORD bless thee,
and keep thee. (KJV)

**Happy
Mother's
Day**

handicrafts.resources2u.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Each year, the parish goes through a rigorous budgeting process to ensure that your stewardship dollars are being wisely spent. Over the past three years, expenses required to operate the ICSJ parish community have been reduced by over \$350,000. But, during that same time revenues have decreased by almost \$150,000.

Our budget, in order to break-even, requires weekly parishioner contributions of \$11,200 (not including the budget for Christmas and Easter collections). Year to date, we are \$46,514 dollars behind our budget with respect to these collections. While much has been done to turn the tide of losses, the reality is that just covering our basic utilities, maintenance, and insurance expense each month takes almost 2 weeks' worth of Sunday collections. The balance of the ICSJ parish expenses (including salaries, altar and liturgical supplies, etc.) then needs to be covered by the remaining collections. The ICSJ parish does not have surplus funds sitting in an account for reserves. Although we are striving to get to the point of establishing such emergency reserves, we are not yet in that financial position.

Ways to Help

- Register for Electronic giving, or if it has been a while since you established your giving levels, would you consider increasing your support?
- Easter Support – we are still celebrating the Easter season, so if you were away during the Easter weekend, please consider making your Easter contribution to the parish during this season. Although we reduced this years' budget to match what we generously received last year, our collections fell short by over \$12,000.
- Reminder we have a 2nd Collection for Catholic Charities on May 7th and 8th weekend.

Please call Mark Besztery ICSJ Business Manager with any questions 312-944-1230 X5

Scripture Study

Scripture Study is on hiatus until Saturday, June 4 at 9:30. Our next class will be on the "Acts of the Apostles." The presenter is Sister Laurie Brink, O.P., Ph.D. Sister Laurie is a dynamic presenter who brings the material to life.

The "Acts" is filled with miracles, mayhem, resuscitations, and harrowing escapes. Join us!



SAVE THE DATE

Who Is Your Neighbor?

A conversation and call to action to end gun violence in Chicago together

Featuring:

Fr. Michael Pflieger, pastor, St. Sabina Church
Camiella Williams, community activist and gun reform advocate
Fr. Dave Kelly, executive director, Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
Fred L. Walker, chief, Bureau of Patrol, Chicago Police Department

Saturday May 21

6-8 p.m.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

708 West Belmont Avenue

For more information email vgroark@aol.com

Organizing committee: Hilary Becker, Mike Jakubiak, Virginia and Josh Hale, Linda Bendixen, Judy Smith, and Phil Weiler



Joyful Again! Program For Widowed Men and Women

Are you widowed? Have you reached a crossroads? Are you at a turning point? Do you want to move forward with your life, while still treasuring your memories?

The Joyful Again program brings understanding and hope to help you in your life's new journey.

What: Workshop/retreat for Widowed Men and Women

Where: St. Julie Billiart Parish
Tinley Park, IL

When: July 9 & 10, 2016
(Also on July 23 & 24, Holy Family, Inverness)
For information or to register call:

Joyful Again Widowed Ministry
708-354-7211

Early registration is encouraged.

ICG J First Holy Communion



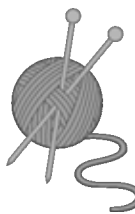
*Congratulations to all of our
First Communicants!*



Congratulations



**Julianne Knox and Luke Demmel
Married
Saturday, April 23
St. Joseph Church**



Knit Wits

We are a group of knitters and crocheters who have been getting together for a few years. Our purpose is to make baby blankets for an organization called Children's Place (<http://www.childrens-place.org>). One of their many services helps newborns who are brought to this facility if their parent(s) cannot care for them. The babies either go into the foster system, or are adopted. In some cases, they do go back to their birth parent(s).

If you enjoy knitting and/or crocheting and would like to make baby blankets, become a KnitWit and come to our next gathering if you can. We now get together at St. Joe's. Our next KnitWit gathering is Tuesday, May 10th from 10am to 2pm. You can come for a half hour, a couple of hours or for the entire time...whatever fits your schedule. Or, you can make a blanket at your convenience and drop it off at IC or St. Joe's. If you have any questions, please leave a message for me at IC or St. Joe's - or send an email to me - sallybee@gmail.com. Thanks for your time.

Sally Streeter

"Come On Over, We Would Love To See You!"



Fr. Arturo Perez and our good friends from our Sharing Parish, Assumption BVM, have invited us to pray and celebrate with them at their 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, June 11th. A reception will follow afterwards so that we can share some food and plenty of fellowship.

Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish will provide transportation to and from Assumption, located at 26th Street and California. If you would like to reserve a seat on the bus, please call either Parish Office (see last page of bulletin). Angela or Clair will be able to provide you with more details and information about the Saturday evening trip.

Save the date – Saturday, June 11th – and join us for a great opportunity to deepen the relationship we share with Assumption Parish!

First Grade May Day Celebration



GROW PLAY & LEARN



The ICSJ Tot Program

allows caregivers a unique opportunity to foster the growth, independence, and social skills their child needs.

SESSION 1:
September - November

SESSION 2:
January - March

SESSION 3:
April - May

The ICSJ Tot Program will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am until 10:15 am. Children applying for the tot program must be two years old by September 1, 2016 and must attend program with a caregiver.

for more information:

Ashley Stephens, asetphens@icsjschool.org
312-944-0304, 363 W Hill Street, Chicago IL 60610



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Have you received our mailing?

All registered parishioners have been mailed information about our Parish Transformation Program that describes several initiatives we want to accomplish in the future and an overview of how you can get involved. This is a critical time for our parish. Your commitment, big or small, is needed to enhance the vitality of our parish. Please read the information very carefully. Extra copies are available in church today if you did not receive the mailing.



the PRAYER Connection

Request prayer for yourself or a loved one.

Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph's *The Prayer Connection* is a group of IC+SJ parishioners dedicated to praying for the needs of others. Whether for illness, job loss, births, surgery, moving, difficult situations, disability, or something else, no prayer request is too large or too small. There's no fee, and all requests remain confidential.

To request prayer for yourself or a loved one, or to become an intercessor on The Prayer Connection Team, visit www.icsjparish.org/the-prayer-connection

Prayer request forms are also located in the back of the church

PRAYER TIPS

"The God discovered in prayer should radiate out through you to the world, so that you become a source of illumination". Bishop Robert Barron

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL EVENING
 TO CELEBRATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE
 for PASTOR FATHER PAT LEE**



SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016 ----5:30 P.M. - 9:30 P. M.

BUFFET DINNER ---- CASH BAR ---- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

DREW'S RESTAURANT --3201 N. HALSTED (BELMONT & HALSTED)

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! Space is limited. Fill out form below and
 mail or bring to the Parish Office with payment of \$50.00 per person to:**

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL (40TH Anniversary)

708 WEST BELMONT AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60657

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO OLMC. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY MAY 9TH!!

CALL PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS 773-525-0453

For additional information or questions please call:

Elizabeth Bertucci, 312-388-5550 or Robert Bailey 773-294-2450

Name/Names: _____

Contact Information – Email or phone: _____

Address: _____

St. Joseph Parish Ministry Schedule

THIS WEEK				
May 8th	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan	Greeters
8:00am Mass	(1)J. Riedle	(1)	(1) E. Keen	(1)
Celebrant: Fr. Larry Lisowski	(2)	(2)		
11:00am Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan	Greeters
Celebrant: Fr. Larry Lisowski	(1)T. Anderson	(1)EJ Karsten	(1)T. Gamble	(1) E. Pena
	(2)J. Sender	(2)C. Rehkemper		(2)AM Lewis
		(3)K. Crowley		(3)A. Holmes
NEXT WEEK				
May 15th	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan	Greeters
8:00am Mass	(1)F. Truska	(1)R. Truska	(1) R. Truska	(1)
Celebrant: Fr. Larry McBrady	(2)T. Slavin	(2)T. Slavin		
11:00am Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan	Greeters
Celebrant: Fr. Larry McBrady	(1)FAMILY MASS	(1)M. Prendergast	(1) T. Gamble	(1)FAMILY MASS
	(2)	(2)T. Gamble		(2)
		(3)C. Rehkemper		

Immaculate Conception Parish Ministry Schedule

THIS WEEK			
May 7th and May 8th	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan
5:00pm Mass	(1)A. Fielek	(1)J. Dadajewska	(1) John & Margaret Comer
Celebrant: Fr. Bill O'Shea	(2)S. Ozuk	(2)A. Fielek	
		(3)S. Ozuk	
9:30 am Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan
Celebrant: Fr. Larry McBrady	(1)J. Kennedy	(1)B. Jacobazzi	(1)Barb Jacobazzi
	(2)	(2)K. Morton	
12:30 pm Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan
Celebrant: Fr. Larry McBrady	(1)MA Tauscht	(1)M. Hennessy	(1)George & Donna Miles
	(2)G. Duday	(2)	
NEXT WEEK			
May 14th and May 15th	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan
5:00pm Mass	(1)V. Sullivan	(1)V. Sullivan	(1) Amy Fielek
Celebrant: Fr. Bill O'Shea	(2)R. Tromater	(2)J. Comer	
		(3)M. Comer	
9:30am Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan/Usher
Celebrant: Fr. Tom Croak	(1)J. Kennedy	(1)	(1)George & Donna Miles
	(2)	(2)	
12:30 pm Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Sacristan/Usher
Celebrant: Fr. Tom Croak	(1)A. Salamone	(1)M. Hennessy	(1)Terry Crisitello
	(2)G. Duday	(2)K. Morrissey	

Today's Readings

First Reading -- Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).
 Psalm -- God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Psalm 47).
 Second Reading -- God seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavens (Ephesians 1:17-23) or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23.
 Gospel -- As Jesus blessed his disciples he parted from them and was taken up to heaven (Luke 24:46-53).

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19
 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19
 Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17
 Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
 Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

Parish Information

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

1431 N. North Park Avenue
Phone: 312-944-1230

MASSES

Tuesday: Thursday: 7:00 AM
Saturday: 7:30 AM
Saturday Evening: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM; 12:30 PM

Coffee and Donuts after 9:30 AM Mass.

Holy Days: 7:00 AM, 5:30 PM

PARISH OFFICE

Clair Martin, Parish Coordinator
Samantha Stephens, Asst. Parish Coordinator
Sherrine Manning, Evening/Weekend Receptionist



ST. JOSEPH

1107 N. Orleans Street
Phone: 312-787-7174
Angela Gore, Parish Coordinator

MASSES

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00 AM
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Coffee and Donuts after 11:00 AM Mass.

Holy Days: 8:00 AM; 7:00 PM



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ST. JOSEPH STAFF

Rev. Lawrence Lisowski, Pastor
Rev. Larry McBrady, Senior Priest
Rev. Ronald Hicks, Resident Priest
Mark Besztery, Business Manager
Maria Hill, ICSJ School Principal (Hill Street Campus)
Katie Sullivan, ICSJ School Principal (North Park Campus)
Mary Beth May, Director of Religious Education
Kate Ryan, Director of Music
Libby Lucas, Bulletin Editor
Colm Murphy, Maintenance Supervisor

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Call either Parish Center
Marriages: Call either Parish Center at least four months in advance

Anointing of the Sick: Anytime by request. *Please notify the Parish Office if home bound or hospitalized.*

Reconciliation: Saturdays at IC: 8:30 a.m. or by appointment.

ICSJ SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Please call 312-944-0304.

New parishioners: Call either parish office to register or visit our parish website: www.icsjparish.org.

Mass Schedule

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Saturday, May 7th-7:30am

Steve Kadrich

Saturday, May 7th-5:00am

Ann Wynn

Sunday, May 8th-9:30am

Mildred Tortorello//Pasquale and Vincenzina
Lopardo//Dr. Elsa Gran

Sunday, May 8th-12:30pm

For Our ICSJ Parishioners

Tuesday, May 10th-7:00am

Jo Ann Bartow

Thursday, May 12th-7:00am

Joan Fogerty

Saturday, May 14th-7:30am

Hannah Heck

Saturday, May 14th-5:00pm

Tony Apollaro//Clinton Henry Tromater

Sunday, May 15th-9:30am

For Our ICSJ Parishioners

Sunday, May 15th-12:30pm

Alice Majewski

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Sunday, May 8th-8:00am

Ronald Andreleczyk

Sunday, May 8th-11:00am

Teresina Ruffolo

Monday, May 9th-8:00am

Kathryn O'Neill

Wednesday, May 11th-8:00am

Aldo A. Fortino

Friday, May 13th-8:00am

Christopher, Carolina & Julia Kuc

Sunday, May 15th-8:00am

Thomas Kuc Family

Sunday, May 15th 11:00am

For Our ICSJ Parishioners//

Salvadore Mendoza

SAINTS and SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; Mother's Day;
World Communications Day
Tuesday: St. Damien de Veuster
Thursday: Ss. Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras
Friday: Our Lady of Fatima
Saturday: St. Matthias