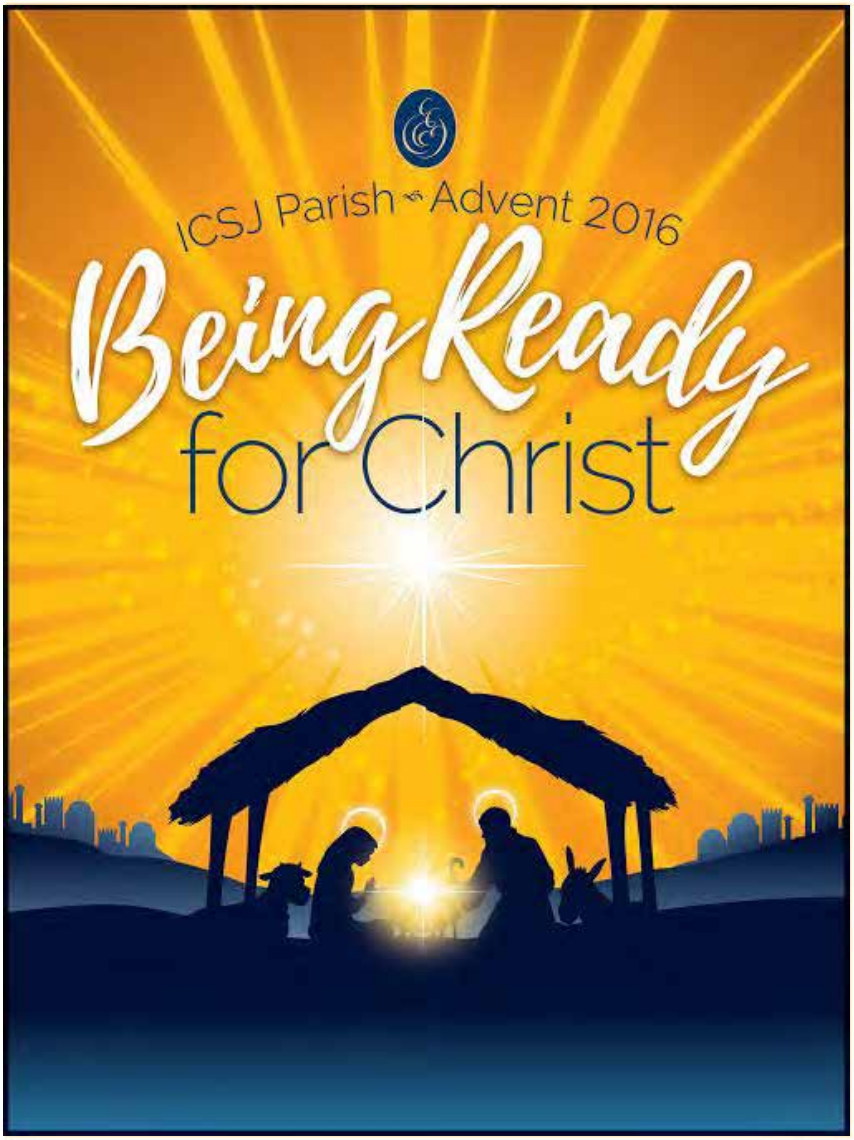
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

A family of families

DECEMBER 11, 2016 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Main Parish Office: 1107 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60610 | 312-787-7174 | Visit us online at www.icsjparish.org

Welcome!

We warmly welcome you to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish, a Catholic faith community located in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood. Our historic and diverse parish is an inviting "family of families," blessed with two inspiring worship sites and committed to spreading the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through prayer and worship, spiritual stewardship, and our missionary spirit.

Our Two Places of Worship

Immaculate Conception Church
1431 N. North Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60610
Free parking available in church parking lot; street parking also available.

St. Joseph Church
1107 N. Orleans Street, Chicago, IL 60610
Street parking available; free parking available across the street at ICSJ School,363 W. Hill St.

Mass Times

Monday..... 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church
Tuesday..... 7:00 a.m. at I.C. Church
Wednesday..... 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church
Thursday..... 7:00 a.m. at I.C. Church
Friday..... 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church
Saturday..... 7:30 a.m. at I.C. Church
5:00 p.m. at I.C. Church
Sunday..... 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church
9:30 a.m. at I.C. Church*
11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church*
12:30 p.m. at I.C. Church
Holy Days..... Watch bulletin and website for schedule

**Coffee and donuts following Mass. Reconciliation is held on Saturday at 8:00 a.m. in I.C. Church or by appointment.*

Contact

Main ICSJ Parish Office
1107 N. Orleans St, Chicago, IL 60610
Phone: 312-787-7174
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

North Park Office *(limited hours)*
1431 N. North Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60610
Phone: 312-787-7174
Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m.–Noon;
Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–4:15 p.m.;
Evening Meeting Hours:
Monday-Wednesday, 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Inquiries & Questions
Call us or visit our website at www.icsjparish.org for questions regarding Weddings, Registration, Mass Intentions, Baptisms, Giving, Ministries, Volunteering, and other general information.

Follow ICSJ Parish on Social Media
We're on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with even more news, photos, stories, and spiritual nourishment. Have your own parish photos or stories to share? Use **#icsjparish** or send them to siteadmin@icsjparish.org.

@icsjparish ICSJParish @ICSJParish

Parish Staff

Pastor
Rev. Lawrence Lisowski
pastor@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174

Senior Priest
Rev. Larry McBrady
312-787-7174

Resident Priest
Rev. Ron Hicks

Business Manager
Mark Besztery
markb@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174

Director of Religious Education
Kim Rak
krak@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174

Director of Music
Kate Ryan
kryan@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174

ICSJ School Principal North Park Campus
Katie Sullivan
ksullivan@icsjschool.org
312-944-0304

ICSJ School Principal Hill Street Campus
Maria Hill
mhill@icsjschool.org
312-944-0304

Maintenance Supervisor
Colm Murphy
cmurphy@icsjschool.org
312-944-1230

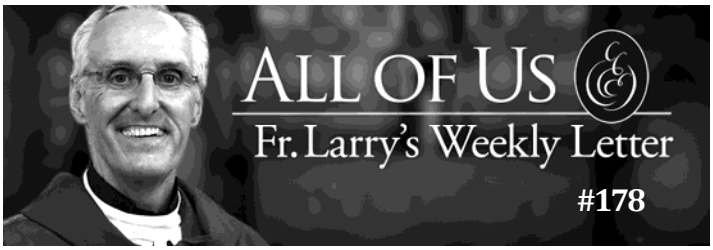
Assistant to the Pastor
Angela Gore
agore@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174

Parish Coordinator
Clair Martin
cmartin@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174

Events Coordinator
Samantha Stephens
sstephens@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174

Evening/Weekend Receptionist
Sherrine Manning
312-944-1230

Bulletin Editor
Libby Lucas
libbyl@icsjparish.org



- ***Why Pink?***

Before starting Mass last weekend the family that was invited to light the Advent wreath asked me, "Why is there a pink candle on the wreath, and all the other ones are purple?"

I told them that we light the pink candle next Sunday because we are "over the hump." We have journeyed past the half-way mark of the Advent season.

Actually, this Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, is known as "Guadete Sunday" (from the Latin meaning "rejoice".) Pink (or rose) is the color of joy. Our hearts are filled with the joy knowing that Jesus is almost here. We light the pink candle on the Advent wreath to represent the joy we feel to welcome Jesus in Christmas.

There is also great joy this Sunday as we welcome Cardinal Blase Cupich to our parish. We are blessed to have him join us at the table of the Lord, and to lead our historic and gifted faith community in prayer. We are grateful for the all the help, support and encouragement that the Cardinal has given to our parish. May we keep the Cardinal in our prayers as he shepherds the Church of Chicago.

• Advent Love

Next weekend, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated before all of our Masses. Fr. McBrady and I will be available to hear individual confessions in church. Consider using the sacrament as a way to help you spiritually prepare for the coming of Christmas. Even if it has been a long time since you went to confession, know that God's love and mercy is always waiting there for us. As priests, we are committed to making it a positive and renewing experience. We will guide you with care and understanding. What are the things you want to tell God that you are sorry about? Let yourself be embraced by God's love this Advent.

• The Gift of Giving

Thank you to all who have been so generous to our parish in the past few months.

Thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Giving Tree. Your gift will make a huge difference for so many families who are financially struggling this Christmas.

Thank you to all who have been able to make a commitment to our *To Teach Who Christ Is* capital campaign. I am thrilled to announce that we have reached $1.5M and that 198 families have made a commitment. If you have not made a pledge yet, you can do so on line at our parish website: icsjparish.org., or use one of the pledge cards today.

An early thank you goes out to those who will help decorate our churches for Christmas. In the back of church today you can sign-up to help. Our teens have also graciously offered to help clean our church for Christmas.

• Come And See Christmas

Today's bulletin contains our complete Christmas Mass schedule. You can refer to it as you make your holiday plans for church. I hope you and your family will be able to celebrate and worship with us this Christmas season. Our staff has been working hard to ensure that our liturgies are beautiful and sacred events as we praise God for the gift of God's son.

This Christmas, consider extending an invitation to someone who has been away from the church for awhile. Ask them to come, see and pray with you. Their presence at Mass would be a special gift.

One of the constant refrains in the gospel is "Come follow me!" Mother Teresa of Calcutta heard that call in September of 1948 and she never looked back. Peter, James and John left their nets and boats and pursued Jesus. Seldom do we hear Jesus telling people to stay home.

Like they say …"It doesn't hurt to ask."

• Another Job

Recently I was appointed by Cardinal Cupich to serve as the Dean for Vicariate 2-D, while retaining my position as pastor for Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish.
Our large archdiocese, that covers Lake and Cook Counties, is organizationally broken-up into six "Vicariates." Each Vicariate is assigned an Episcopal Vicar to shepherd the people of God. Bishop Frank Kane is our Vicar who is responsible to pastorally govern and support the 57 parishes of Vicariate 2.

Each Vicariate consists of several Deaneries that are a group of parishes – similar to how Wards work in the city of Chicago. Our Vicariate 2 consists of six Deaneries. Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish is in Deanery 2-D that has ten parishes; representing part of the downtown area of the city (e.g. Holy Name Cathedral and Assumption parish) as well as the near north side of Chicago (e.g. St. Clement and St. Josaphat parish.)

(continued on the next page)

Some of my responsibilities as Dean consist of assisting Bishop Kane in overseeing the 10 parishes in our region; to provide liturgical, formational, social and administrative leadership for the Deanery; to link the parishes of the Deanery with the larger Church; act as an advisor to Bishop Kane and serve as a member of the Vicariate Team.

One of the reasons I said, "yes" to the job was that I really have enjoyed working with the pastors and their staff members from our Deanery in the past three years. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and mutual support in carrying on the mission of Jesus Christ.

The reality is that I will have a more than handful of meetings to add to my schedule. Yet, I made a promise to myself that I will be faithful to my "day-off" which is on Thursday. Please keep me in your prayers as I accept this new ministry.

• Prepare A Way For The Lord

I came across an Advent prayer last week that was written by Fr. Austin Fleming. I liked it because at this time of year when things get real busy and nutty with lots of things to do for Christmas, this prayer can help to keep us spiritually focused and grounded in what we are actually celebrating. May this prayer bring you some peace this Advent.

Prepare a way for you, Lord?
I've got lots of work to do!

Help me prepare a way for you into my home, Lord: help me find a place, a room, a corner, a chair where you and I can meet each day to pray.

Perhaps I'll put a candle there, with a Bible;
maybe a statue or a picture; a rosary or a prayer card:
something to mark the spot as the place I keep to go each day to sit and rest, to take a deep breath, to remember your presence and open my heart in prayer.

Help me prepare a way for you on my calendar,
an "appointment" each day; even just ten minutes for you and me to get together,
to talk about the day, its ups and downs,
and get to know each other just a little better than yesterday.

Help me prepare a way for you to enter my thoughts, Lord.
When I'm trying to figure things out, nudge me to ask for your guidance and counsel, your Spirit and your wisdom,
when I'm making decisions and choices.

Help me prepare a way for you, Lord,
in my family and among my friends, at work and at school, in my parish and in my neighborhood

Help me prepare a way for you to come into the hearts of those around me who are alone.

Help me prepare a way for you, Lord,
in the crazy rush of Christmas all around me.

Help me remember it's your birthday
and that you should get some presents—from me.
Help me remember the poverty of your nativity:
make your way into my wallet and spend generously on those whose needs are so much greater than my own.

Help me remember that of all the gifts I might receive, none is greater than the love you have for me.

Help me prepare a way for you
to enter my life decisively, Lord.
In the quiet of my prayer, Lord,
help me clear the path you walk into my life,
into my soul.

In the stillness of my prayer, Lord,
help me see you as you make your way towards me, and show me that no matter the roadblocks I put up, you'll find a way to come, to enter,
and to fill me with your presence. Amen.

(This prayer is a selection from *Good Morning, Good God!* by Fr. Austin Fleming, The Word Among Us Press, 2015).

May these days of Advent be good ones for you and your family.

• Where's The Heat?

I apologize for the lack of heat at St. Joseph's church these past few cold weeks. I have been wearing the heaviest vestments I could find, and even grabbed more candles to light.

Our 80-year old boiler, that looks like a rusty German tank from World War II, has been on "life-support." Our engineers been here daily have trying to solve the problem. I thank you for your patience and understanding.

After we pay the parish debt off with the money raised from our capital campaign, a new boiler will be next on the list. As homeowners know, it never ends.

Fr. Larry

News from Religious Education

On Sunday, December 4th,
Religious Education students and their parents gathered to create Advent wreaths to celebrate this sacred time in the liturgical year when we
"Watch and Wait in Wonder"
for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ
in to our midst.
We are joyful and hopeful!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – December 15th and 16th

Volunteers are needed to assist with the delivery of gifts collected in our Christmas Giving Tree program from Immaculate Conception to our sharing parish; Assumption BVM and to the Flannery Senior Apartments on December 15, 2016 and Friday, December 16, 2016 from 8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church.

You do not need a car to volunteer. We have a truck rented, but need volunteers to help with the loading/ unloading gifts at IC & Assumption churches.

Please contact Maureen Wilson (312) 515-6084 or Mark Besztery (312) 944-1230 X 5 at the Parish office if you can assist either of these days.

You don't have to go it alone.

Are you, or a friend or relative, facing a challenge and feeling alone in the struggle? Let *The Prayer Connection* help. **We're a group of ICSJ parishioners dedicated to praying for the needs of others**. Whether it's for healing, comfort or life's daily challenges, no request is too large or too small. Everything's confidential and there's never a fee. We've helped hundreds of ICSJ parishioners and their loved ones so far. We can help you.

Visit www.icsjparish.org/the-prayer-connection or fill out a request form at the back of the church.

Prayer Tips

"You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips but with your heart; in fact, on certain occasions you should speak to Him only with your heart" (St. Pio Pietrelcina)

Congratulations

Amanda Neiman and Patrick Barkley
Married Saturday, December 3rd
St. Joseph Church

Baptism Prep Classes 2017

- January 23rd at 6pm(February-April Baptisms)
- April 24th at 6pm (May-July Baptisms)
- July 24th at 6pm (August-October Baptisms)
- October 23rd at 6pm (November-January Baptisms)

To RSVP for a date parents should email Samantha Stephens at sstephens@icsjparish.org

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST. JOSEPH

TEEN CHRISTMAS PROJECT AND PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 . ~4ish PM ~ 7:30ish PM

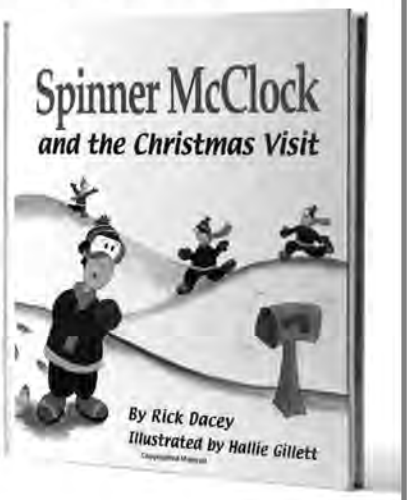
4 ~ 5:30	5:30 ~ 6:00	6:00 ~ 7:30
Clean Church and Unpack and arrange Poinsettias at St. Joe Church	Pizza and Soda in the St. Joe Church Basement	White Elephant Gift Exchange $5 Limit

All ICSJ Parish and School Teens are invited to come and help unpack and arrange the flowers for the Christmas Eve Mass and then stick around for a Pizza Party and White Elephant $5 Gift Exchange.
Sign up in the back of church or RSVP to ameliathyen@gmail.com.
One service hour will be awarded to teens that help during the helping part.
Adult supervision will be provided.

Getting the Christmas Message Across to Young Children

Parents, I highly recommend this book for children ages 4 and up: ***Spinner McClock and the Christmas Visit.*** You can find it on Amazon. It's a "simple children's story" with a very powerful (and easy to understand) message. Many of my little nieces and nephews have loved this book.

– Fr. McBrady



Christmas Decorating Volunteers Needed

St. Joseph Church

Sunday, December 18th
12:00pm

Immaculate Conception Church

Thursday, December 22nd
1:00pm

Please join us as we prepare for the joy of Christmas

Bring Christmas Joy to Families in Need

Be part of our Annual ICSJ Christmas Giving Program

Spread holiday cheer and demonstrate your faith by purchasing a Christmas gift for a family member at our Sharing parish, Assumption Church, BVM; participants in our Food Pantry; or residents of Flannery Apartments, a CHA senior citizens building.

1. Choose an Ornament from the Giving Trees

Take one or more gift-tag ornaments from Christmas trees located at the back of the churches. Each ornament has the name and gender of a gift recipient along with suggested gift items.

2. Sign the Gift Roster

In the roster located next to the tree, provide your name and contact info next the name shown on the tag(s) you are taking.

3. Wrap & Return by December 11th

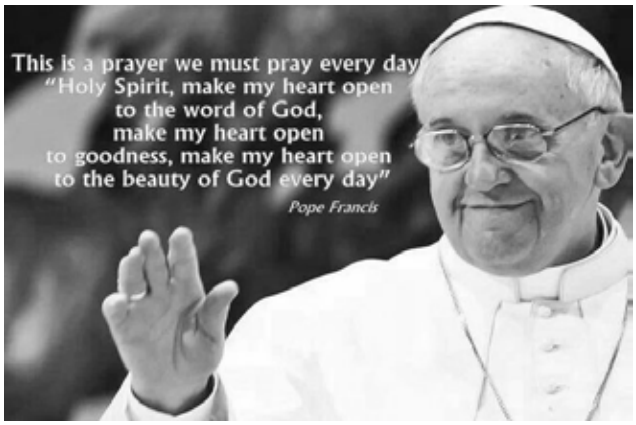
Wrap your gifts and mark them with the name from your gift tag ornament. Return them to either parish office on or before Sunday, December 11th. Please do not leave your gift(s) under the Giving Trees or in the churches where they may be lost or misplaced.

Your participation and generosity in bringing Christmas joy to others in need is greatly appreciated!

For more information, visit
www.icsjparish.org/xmasgivingprogram

Christmas and Year End Giving

- God calls us to be good and faithful stewards. Sharing our blessings helps us to build the Kingdom of God
- Your financial support helps us to continue the mission and ministry of Jesus
- As we approach Christmas and the year end, please review your parish contributions and your capital campaign pledge payments as you plan for your Christmas and year end donation
- Gifts made on or before December 31st may be tax deductible for this tax year
- Gifts of stocks and other securities, held more than one year, are excellent gifts to make. You may be able to deduct the stocks' fair market value and avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation of the stock
- Gift annuities are an option for people wishing to donate money to their parish over a long time frame
- Does your employer offer matching gift donations?
- Please consider donating your time, talent and resources to the church or school through one of the many church/school ministries or organizations. Volunteering can be such a rewarding experience



THE ICSJ FOOD PANTRY HAS A NEW HOME!!

We are pleased to announce our food pantry was able to relocate two blocks down the street to **Union Missionary Baptist Church at 940 N. Orleans.** We are grateful the church has graciously provided space in its downstairs gathering center and look forward to a long hospitable partnerships as we serve neighborhood residents in need. Unfortunately, the new space does not permit the distribution of clothes or household good so **we will no longer be accepting donation of clothes or household goods.** We are in need for non-perishable food items. **Specific needs:**

Cold Cereal **Peanut Butter Jelly/Jam** **Hot Cereal (e.g. oatmeal, cream of wheat)**

Canned Meat **Soup** **Crackers** **Canned Pasta (e.g., spaghetti/ravioli)** **Juice boxes**

Popcorn **Breakfast/nutrition bars** **Instant Potatoes** **Pancake Mix** **Rice**

Nonperishable meals (e.g., Hormel/Hamburger Helper)

Boxes will be placed in the entrances of Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Churches for you to easily drop off food when you attend weekly mass. You may also drop it off at Parish office at either church. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!** Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

2016 Christmas Season

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Christmas Eve

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph – Fr. Larry Lisowski
preceded by Christmas Music Concert at 3:15 p.m.
5:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception – Fr. Larry McBrady

Christmas Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph – Fr. Larry Lisowski
9:30 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception – Fr. Larry McBrady
11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph – Fr. Larry Lisowski
12:30 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception – Fr. Larry McBrady

New Year's Eve

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

5:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception – Fr. Larry Lisowski

New Year's Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST

8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph – Fr. Larry Lisowski
9:30 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception –Fr. Larry McBrady
11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph – Fr. Larry Lisowski
12:30 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception – Fr. Larry McBrady

The Sacrament Of Reconciliation

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
4:00–4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
9:00–9:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception
10:30–11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph

Be part of our 2016 ICSJ Christmas Choir!

Love to sing? Play a musical instrument? Christmas is coming and the ICSJ Music Ministry Team invites **all parishioners age 4 and up** to join in song at the Christmas Eve Family Mass on Saturday, December 24th at 3:30 pm.

Interested? Visit **www.icsjparish.org/christmaschoir**, submit the information form, and our Director of Music, Kate Ryan, will be in touch.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

A family of families

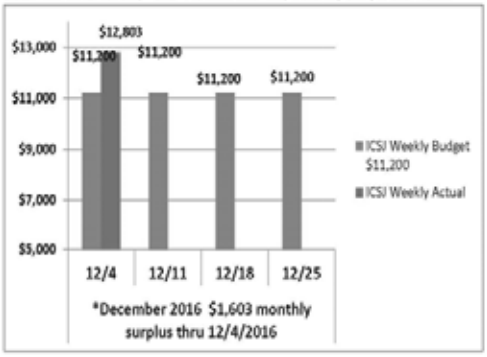
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Second Grade students visited the Museum of Science and Industry to study Christmas traditions around the world

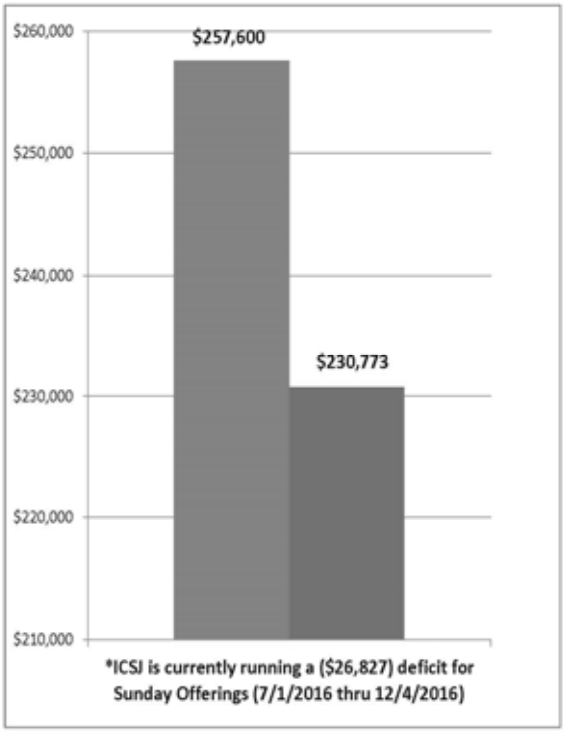
Early Childhood Students enjoyed a festive "Polar Express Day" last week where they were able to come to school in pajamas, have the Polar Express book read to them by our very own Conductor, and snuggle in with friends to watch the Polar Express movie complete with a hot chocolate treat!

Sixth Grade students visited the Art Institute of Chicago to study Indian, Korean and Japanese art as part of their social studies unit.

Stewardship
A WAY OF LIFE



Our budget reflects weekly parishioner contributions of $11,200. It takes almost 2 weeks' worth of weekly contributions to cover just our basic utilities, maintenance, and insurance at the parish each month.



Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

ICSJ Parish Ministry Schedule

Sunday December 11	5:00 p.m. IC Church *(Saturday)*	8:00 a.m. SJ Church	9:30 a.m. IC Church	11:00 a.m. SJ Church	12:30 p.m. IC Church
Celebrant	Fr. Larry McBrady	Fr. Larry McBrady	Cardinal Cupich	Fr. Jim Rickey	
Lectors	(1)A. Fielek (2)R. Tromater	F. Truska	(1)A. Salamone (2)P. Ackerman	(1)B. Rickey (2)A. Cirillo	NO MASS
Eucharistic Ministers	(1)M. Lyman (2)P. Hantsch (3)A. Baranowski	(1)J. Riedle (2)M. Bowen	(1)T. Viancourt (2)B. Jacobazzi (3)Deacon Jin	(1)K. Germant (2)Wilkie (3)EJ Karsten	NO MASS
Sacristans	Catherine Siller		Julie Viancourt	Toni Gamble	
Greeters/Ushers				AM Lewis/T. Gamble	

Sunday December 18	5:00 p.m. IC Church *(Saturday)*	8:00 a.m. SJ Church	9:30 a.m. IC Church	11:00 a.m. SJ Church	12:30 p.m. IC Church
Celebrant	Fr. Bill O'Shea	Fr. Larry McBrady	Fr. Larry Lisowski	Fr. Larry McBrady	Fr. Larry Lisowski
Lectors	(1)A. Baranowski (2)J. Comer	F. Truska	(1)M. Hale (2)M. Warren	(1)J. Sender (2)J. Valle	(1)A. Salamone (2)M. Snider
Eucharistic Ministers	(1)Deacon Jin (2)M. Baranowski (3)A. Baranowski	TBA	K. Morton	(1)K. Crowley (2)M. Seibt De Valle (3)C. Rehkemper	K. Morrissey
Sacristans	Amy Fielek	R. Truska	G & D Miles	E. Holmes-James	Ralph Tromater
Greeters/Ushers				AM Lewis	

ICSJ Parish Mass Intentions

Intentions are available for the deceased or those who are ill. Visit **www.icsjparish.org/mass-intentions** or call the Parish Office to reserve a date.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Saturday, December 10th: 7:30am – Matt Merkt
Saturday, December 10th: 5:00pm– Our ICSJ Parishioners
Sunday, December 11th: 9:30am – Caroline Kanis//For the Living & Deceased Members of the Rae, McDermott & Blankenship Families
Sunday, December 11th: 12:30pm –
Tuesday, December 13th: 7:00am – Greg Lewis
Thursday, December 15th: 7:00am – Mary Drevant
Saturday, December 17th: 7:30am – The Schiml Family
Saturday, December 17th: 5:00pm – Tony Apollaro//The Doyle Shanahan Family
Sunday, December 18th: 9:30am – Brent Laso
Sunday, December 18th:12:30pm - The Cislo Family

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Sunday, December 11h: 8:00am – Sarafino & Rosaria Ruffolo// Caroline Kanis
Sunday, December 11th: 11:00am – Jim Elson
Monday, December 12th: 8:00am –All Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday, December 14th: 8:00am – Ray Rudis
Friday, December 16th: 8:00am – Bruno & Teresina Perfetti
Sunday, December 18th: 8:00am – Our ICSJ Parishioners// David Goldberg
Sunday, December 18th: 11:00am – Salvadore Mendoza