

October 15, 2023 | Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



THE POWER OF BELONGING

A very interesting study was performed six years ago at the University of Houston by Dr. Brene Brown. She wondered if there was a "core need" that was shared by every human person. At the end of her research she simply concluded that "we are all wired for connection. We are created to belong, and our greatest fear is that we will not belong."

Christianity has always been about connection and belonging – belonging to Christ, and belonging to His body, the Church.

Jesus knew the power of belonging and connecting. He constantly reached out to those who were isolated and banished from society. He embraced the leper, forgave the sinner, mingled with the tax collectors, and associated with foreigners from other countries that were considered "ugly outsiders." He purposely crossed all types of social and religious barriers. He was truly the "King of Belonging."

Jesus spent his whole life reminding folks that all of us belong to God, our Father. God's heart naturally longs to be connected to His sons and daughters. This divine love has no limits.

YOU ARE INVITED

In the gospel for this Sunday, Jesus tells a jarring story to his audience of religious leaders who are seeking to destroy him. The parable is about a king who graciously welcomes all to a wedding feast for his son. Invitations keep going out until all the seats are filled in the banquet hall. The problem is that many who were invited to the feast ignored the king's personal invitation. In the end, the hall is filled not necessarily with the most virtuous, or the most powerful leaders, or those who come to church every Sunday, but those who are merely willing to hear and accept the invitation.



The good news is that none of our imperfections or failings are a barrier to God in sharing His abundance with us.

In one of his homilies, Pope Francis pointed out that a sense of belonging needs to be a hallmark of our church, especially when we gather for the Eucharist. He said, "The Eucharist is not the reward of saints, no, it is **the bread of sinners**." We come to Christ's table accepting the invitation to share in God's lavish abundance so that we may go out and lavishly share it with all.

This weekend, Fr. McBrady and I are preaching about the importance of belonging as we strive to be *"The Face of Jesus"* for others today. One of the main reasons a person will choose a particular Catholic parish as their spiritual home is because they automatically experience a sense of welcome and hospitality. They know that others are glad that you are there- that your presence is recognized and appreciated.

May all of us continue to foster a sense of welcome and hospitality within our community. We are all on the Welcoming Committee. I offer the following invitations.

Continued on the next page

- Introduce yourself to the person that you always sit next to at Mass on Sunday. It is probably the same person each week. Get to know their name. Ask them, "What would you like me to pray for today, and throughout the week?"
- Come to one of our parish social events like our Parish Fall Fundraiser in November; or Taco Fiesta in the summer, or our St. Joseph Table Feast in March. Meet your fellow parishioners.
- Often, the more you put yourself into something, the more you will get out of it. Well, the same is true with parish life.

Think of becoming engaged in a particular parish ministry. Offer the gift of your time and talents.

There are plenty of opportunities to serve the poor. For example, this Sunday, right after the 9:30 a.m. Mass, parishioners are invited to make sandwiches for the 200 migrants who are currently being sheltered at the 18th police station. The assembly will take place in the Parish Hall at Immaculate Conception.

We are also constantly looking for volunteers who can help with our various liturgies. Perhaps you can serve as a Greeter, Lector, Usher, Eucharistic Minister or Sacristan?

ONE BIG DISCONNECT

I was on a phone call last week that lasted for over three and a half hours! I was trying to cancel an existing airplane reservation with a little "mom and pop" company. I think the airline actually has only 8 planes that fly to only 10 cities.

I never got to speak to a real person on the phone. Luckily, I was able to get my refund by email.

Many of us have probably gone through similar experiences when we are looking for a human connection -a real person. It makes all the difference in the world when someone knows your name and hears your voice. That is what church is all about.

CHECK IT OUT-OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO

Our parish is blessed this weekend to participate in our city's "Open House Chicago" event. Come and learn about our historic and beautiful St. Joseph's church. Enjoy a wonderful pipe organ concert on Sunday afternoon. More details are included in today's bulletin.

A specially thank you goes out to Joan Moore, who helped to organize this special event for us, and who trained all of the volunteers for the Open House. It is an honor to proudly showcase one of the oldest churches in Chicago!

Fx. Jany

Decision Coaching Ministry

Often a brief or ongoing conversation with someone new can help to provide perspective on making big decisions, or on how to approach complex issues. This can be particularly true in charting new education, career, retirement, and post retirement directions. Parishioner Mike Traynor offers such free, confidential decision coaching for the ICSJ community.

Mike has been a leader and decision maker for many businesses and nonprofit organizations for over 40 years. His independent, experienced, and practical advice helps people make well-considered decisions and determine effective means to achieve their goals.

Every new decision or direction offers an opportunity to approach our relationship with God in a new way. Mike's approach to coaching is fully mindful of this opportunity, and its importance. All decision coaching is tailored to comport well with each person's interest in deepening their Christian spiritual life.

Contact Mike at metraynor@gmail.com

Welcome

Inspired by God's great love, we are called to be the face of Jesus in today's world, welcoming all to our Family of Families, and walking as disciples through our works of compassion and mercy.

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 P Street parking available; free parking available across the street at ICSJ School, 363 W. Hill St.

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church 9:30 a.m. – Immaculate Conception Church 11:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – Immaculate Conception Church

> Monday · Wednesday · Friday 9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church

Contact Us

Parish Office: 312-787-7174 • Visit Us Online: www.icsjparish.org

Main Office 1107 N. Orleans Street, Chicago, IL 60610

Main Office Hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (closed Thursday)

North Park Office 1431 N. North Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60610

North Park Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday 4:00-8:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For questions regarding Weddings, Registration, Mass Intentions, Baptisms, Giving, volunteering, and other general information, please visit our website or call the Parish Office.

Follow ICS J Parish on Social Media



Staff Directory

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Evening/Weekend Receptionist Sherrine Manning 312-787-7174, ext. 0



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH



Our Vision

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Inspired by God's great love, we are called to be the face of Jesus in today's world, welcoming all to our Family of Families, and walking as disciples through our works of compassion and mercy.



HOW DO WE GET THERE?

We will be disciples on a joyful mission, constantly committed anew to praying, serving, growing, sharing and belonging in Jesus' name.

Be the Face of Jesus and change the world!



Imaging having a deep, rich prayer life which brings clarity, comfort, hope and joy into your life and to others!



Imagine feeling really close with God, who loves you always!



Imagine being God's hands and feet in this world, that desperately needs help and healing!



Imagine brimming with faith and God's love so that it spills over into every relationship and aspect of your life!



Imagine creating a diverse, loving community where everyone is welcomed and appreciated for who they are!

Visit icsjparish.org/mission for ideas on taking the next step!





65 E. Wacker Place Suite 1620 Chicago, IL 60601 Ph. 312-368-1066 Fx. 312-368-1090 108 E. Cook St. Springfield, IL 62704 Ph. 217-528-9200 Fx. 217-528 -7214 www.ilcatholic.org Diocese of Belleville Archdiocese of Chicago Diocese of Joliet Diocese of Poorla Diocese of Rockford Diocese of Springfield-in-IL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We, the Catholic bishops of Illinois, write with a sense of urgency. Unless the General Assembly acts to renew the Invest in Kids scholarship program, more than 9,000 children currently relying on this program to attend a non-public school may have their educational path disrupted. Without an extension of the program in Illinois law now, no scholarships will be awarded for the school year that will begin in September 2024. Most of these children will have to leave the school their families determined was their best chance to receive a high-quality education in a safe and wholesome learning environment. This is an injustice that should and can be avoided, but only if the General Assembly acts when it reconvenes on October 24, 2023.

Invest in Kids has proven to be a beacon of hope for thousands of Illinois students and their families. Children receiving Invest in Kids scholarships come from lower-income families who could not otherwise afford tuition at the Catholic or another non-public school that is the best fit for their child. Childhood is a limited time in the life of a human being and primary and secondary education is not something that can be put off to some future date when it is convenient for adults. This is our one chance to offer these Illinois children a good start. Please help keep education options available and a brighter future possible by contacting your state senator and state representative and telling them to continue the Invest in Kids Program.

Since its inception six years ago, Invest in Kids has generated overwhelmingly positive results. Nearly 40,000 scholarships have been awarded to students attending non-public schools across Illinois. Demand for scholarships is very high - for every scholarship granted, three students are turned down due to lack of funds. Contrary to what you may have heard, this is not a voucher program, nor does it take state funds away from the public schools. These scholarships are funded through contributions from donors who receive a tax credit for their donation on their Illinois state income tax.

What can you do to help? Please contact your state senator and state representative to let them know of your support for extending the Invest in Kids tax credit scholarship program in Illinois. We also encourage you to urge your fellow parishioners to do the same. Our collective voice is vital to the continued help for Illinois families. Please visit the Catholic Conference of Illinois website at www.ilcatholic.org or call the Springfield office at (217) 528-9200 for further information on how to locate your elected officials, request sample wording for a message to your legislator, or for information about how to donate to this program.

+ Stare 9. Cupic

His Eminence Cardinal Blase J. Cupich Archbishop of Chicago

+ Thomas John Paprocki

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

+ David J. Mally

Most Reverend David J. Malloy Bishop of Rockford

+ forald a. Hichs

Most Reverend Ronald Hicks Bishop of Joliet

+ mulue Mr Gover

Most Reverend Michael McGovern Bishop of Belleville

+ Lan !

Most Reverend Louis Tylka Bishop of Peoria

Save My Scholarship

State lawmakers are considering ending the tax credit scholarship program referred to as "Invest in Kids." This program has provided nearly 40,000 scholarships to help families send their children to a school of their choice.

DO NOT LET THIS PROGRAM END!

Please act now and contact your state senator and state representative. Send them a strong message respectfully asking them to continue this valuable program.
You can do so by using the QR code below, by calling us at the Catholic Conference of Illinois at 217.528.9200, or visit our website at www.ilcatholic.org

To remain engaged on policy issues that affect Catholics in Illinois, join our Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network go to www.ilcatholic.org/takeaction/join-i-can



OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO

We are pleased to announce that historic St. Joseph Church has again been selected to participate in the Open House Chicago this year. Plan to join us October 14 from 10am-1pm OR October 15 from 1pm-5pm.

This is a very special event that will feature Derek Nickels who will present an organ recital on our historic 1892 Hutchings Organ on Sunday afternoon, **October 15 at 2pm**.



Derek E. Nickels is Director of Music at Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal), in Kenilworth, IL, and has performed recitals across the United States. He holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees in organ performance from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Music degree from Southern Methodist University. He has been a featured recitalist at several National Conventions of the Organ Historical Society as well as appearances with Ars Musica Chicago, Early Music Chicago, and the Phoenix Bach and Madrigal Society. He has performed recitals at the Washington National Cathedral and National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C., and Holy Name Cathedral, Fourth Presbyterian Church, and Loyola University's Madonna della Strada Chapel in Chicago. He is the past President of the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society, and serves on the board of the North Shore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Growing in Grace





The changing of seasons reminds us of how much our lives, our identities have transitioned over a lifetime, yet still offering us new opportunities.

On October 14, Growing in Grace invites you to join us as we take some time to reflect on how we might thrive in aging and embracing the changes, tending our souls, and investing in new relationships and opportunities for contributing our unique skills and wisdom toward enriching those around us.

REGISTER TODAY!



clement.org/growingingrace

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Gathering at 9:30 a.m. Program: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Saint Clement Parish Chapel



Saint Clement Parish | 642 W. Deming Place | Chicago, IL 60614 | 773-281-0371 | clement.org

HELP MAKE A MEAL FOR THOSE AT THE 18TH DISTRICT

Help us assemble and deliver lunch for the migrants & asylees at the 18th District Police Station

- When: Sunday, October 15th, following the 9:30am Mass at ~10:30
- Where: Immaculate Conception Church Parish Hall (1431 N North Park)
- Please RSVP (prior to Oct. 11th at the below link) by signing up to bring an item

www.mealtrain.com/potlucks/lkqzrd

Questions and/or interested in further migrant & asylee ministry opportunities?) 312–787–7174 ext 3 🛛 🖂 aklazura@icsjparish.org

© ICSJ PARISH PRESENTS Opening Your Heart

THE STARTING POINT

A Walking with Purpose Women's Scripture Study Group

Beginning November 7th

Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church • 1431 N North Park Avenue

All women are welcome! Register and learn more at www.icsjparish.org/oyh

or scan the code below





LAST YEAR WE HOWLED TO THE HEAVENS. JOIN US THIS YEAR AS WE GATHER TO **DINE & DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY**

WHILE BUILDING COMMUNITY & FAITH.

we hope to see you there!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 6-10PM

THE SCHOOL HOUSE

{LOCATED AT 1065 N. ORLEANS}

WE WILL LIFT OUR GLASSES, FAITH & HEARTS AS WE RAISE FUNDS TO BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATE THE ENTRYWAY OF OUR BELOVED IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH





TO PURCHASE FUNDRAISER EVENT TICKETS AND VIEW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CLICK THE QR CODE OR VISIT WWW.ICSJPARISH.ORG/RAISE. QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL JUTTA KEENAN AT JKEENAN@ICSJPARISH.ORG

KnitWits

We are a group of knitters and crocheters who have been getting together for several years. Our purpose is to make baby blankets, hats and/or 8x8 squares for an organization called



Children's Place <u>www.childrens-place.org</u>. 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 (or would like to learn), join us! We get together at St. Joe's once a month. Our next KnitWit gathering is **Monday, October 16th 10AM-1PM**. You can come for a half hour, a couple hours or for the entire time...whatever fits your schedule. Or, you can make a

blanket, a hat or 8x8 squares at your convenience and drop off at IC or SJ. If you have any questions, please leave a message for me at ICSJ or send an email to me, Kathy at kmust1@yahoo.com.



St. Josaphat School is on a mission to collect 250 winter coats, sneakers, and boots (kids' and adults' sizes) for newly arrived migrants who are about to experience their first Chicago winter. Please consider helping them. Bins will be in the back of **St. Josaphat church** (2311 N. Southport) **October 7-29**. Please deposit your clean, gently used items there. (ONLY winter coats, sneakers and boots, please)

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE APRIL 8 - 17, 2024

Join us for a 10-day tour which includes visits to Ars-sur-Formans, Shrine of St. John Vianney, Chartres, Lisieux, D-Day beaches, Paris and more! Hosted by



Vocation Director Fr. Timothy Monahan. Cardinal Blase Cupich will join us April 12 for the remainder of the pilgrimage.

Cost is \$4,269 per person, based on double occupancy (\$879 supplement for a single room).

For more information about what is included, visit vocations.archchicago.org/events/pilgrimage-to-france. The inquiry form is at bit.ly/3qrcGWS.





Join us for coffee and fellowship in the St. Joseph parish center after 9am mass All are welcome- young children and babies too. Every First **Friday** of the Month Feel free to bring a snack to share. Coffee and water will be provided.



DOLPHIN DAYS

News from Immaculate Conception - St. Joseph School



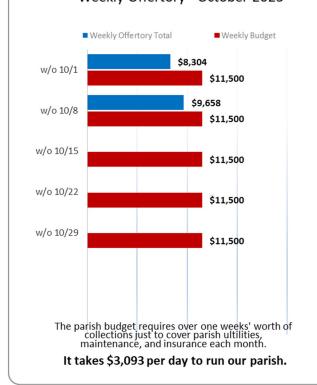
Learn more about Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph School at www.icsjschool.org!

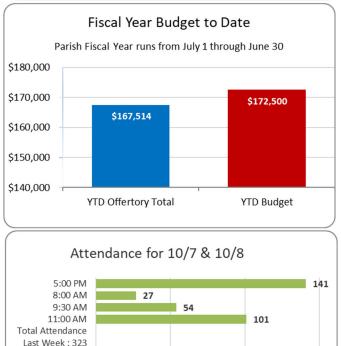


VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.ICSJPARISH.ORG | PAGE 14

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE Nancy Gies Parish Business Manager

Weekly Offertory - October 2023





Have you considered a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

A QCD gift (a.k.a. IRA charitable rollover) allows individuals age 70½ or older to authorize their IRA administrator to make a direct transfer of funds from their IRA to qualified charities, tax-free. This way of giving does not generate taxable income, which may lower your annual income level. If you are age 72 or older, the amount you transfer may count towards your required minimum distribution.

If you would like more information on how to make a QCD gift to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish please contact: Nancy Gies at ngies@icsiparish.org or (312) 787-7174 ext 7.

Sign up for eGiving

eGiving is a secure and convenient way of giving to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish. It is eco-friendly and cost-saving. Just click **HERE** and to make your one-time, weekly, or monthly donation.

To all our faithful parishioners who give their time, talent and treasure- thank you for your generosity!

Get Involved

Check out all the opportunities here at ICSJ parish, click **HERE.** Or let's set up a coffee so we can get to know each other, your talents and strengths and where they might be used best here at ICSJ. Contact Elly Rodriguez at <u>erodriguez@icsjparish.org</u> or (312)787-7174 ext 4.

Mass Intentions

week of October 14-20

Saturday, October 14 5pm at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski: Corky Hyland

Sunday, October 15 8am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: Mark Alles

Sunday, October 15 9:30am Mass at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski: Mildred Tortorello

Sunday, October 15 11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: For the well-being of Virginia Burd

Monday, October 16 9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski: Matthew Schweinberg

Wednesday, October 18 9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski: Corky Hyland

Friday, October 20 9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: Mark Alles

What is a Mass Intention?

Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish offers the possibility for you to request that a Mass be celebrated for a particular intention. Requesting a Mass intention means that you are asking that the grace of Christ's sacrifice in his death and resurrection be applied for a particular purpose, for example, for a deceased person or a living person who is ill or in thanksgiving for a favor received. An intention can also be made for an occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special need, or it can be directed to a cause, such as an increase of vocations or respect for life. Usually, a single intention is attached to a given Mass. But it is also possible to gather several intentions in one Mass with exactly the same effect.

To request a Mass Intention, please visit www.icsjparish.org/mass-intentions or call Angela at the parish office (312)787-7174 ext 1.

Prayer Request

Every month, we receive dozens of prayer requests on our website. No matter where you live in the world, you are invited to share your needs with those who have committed to pray on your behalf. Please visit **www.icsjparish.org/ the-prayer-connection** to submit a prayer Request. To join our ICSJ prayer ministry, email Angela at agore@icsjparish.org

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Consider taking advantage of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Going to confession is great for one's soul. Receive the wonderful gift of healing and peace that our God longs for us to have in our life. Contact Fr. Larry, at pastor@icsjparish.org, to schedule a time to meet.



431800 St Joseph/Immaculate Conception