

October 29, 2023 | Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Fr. Larry's Weekly Letter #537



Things were very complicated during the time of Jesus, especially when people tried to practice their faith. The early Jewish community had over 700 rules and regulations that clearly stipulated what they could and could not do on a daily basis. Even more, the legalistic groups, like the Scribes and Pharisees, would "police" communities to point out when someone broke one of the traditional Mosaic Laws.

You might remember the scene when Jesus was publicly called out by the elders who questioned him. "Why do your disciples not fast? Or, why do your disciples not wash their hands before they break bread? Why did you heal this man on the sabbath day?"

What an exhausting way to live. Such scrupulosity is paralyzing. Believing in God turned into a heavy burden for many, and Jesus knew it.

This is why our gospel for this Sunday is so refreshing. Jesus keeps life simple. When it comes to following him as one of his disciples, he does not want to make our lives any more complicated than they already are.

Jesus beautifully brings it all down to just two commandments that even a child in First Grade can remember. "You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

So, if we are to love our neighbor properly, we must begin by seeking God and God's help first. We must start at the source of all generous love. We must be in touch with the divine love and mercy that is poured out to all of God's people.

This is why "prayer " needs to be deeply woven into our lives if we desire to follow Jesus. Through prayer our hearts become filled by the eternal font from which we are to pour out our love to others.

We might be going through a dry spell in our prayer time. Maybe we don't even have the desire to pray. But when we make time for Jesus, whatever our feelings at the moment might be, the truth is ... we are loving him.



When flying on an airplane, you typically hear these instructions by the flight attendant as you taxi out to the runway. "In an event of an emergency, secure your oxygen mask first, then help others in need." If you run out of oxygen yourself, you can't help anyone else with their oxygen mask. When we do not have the life-sustaining breath we need, our capacity to serve others is cut off.

Continued on the next page

A family of families

So how do we secure our own oxygen mask? Well... start with practicing loving God with all your heart, soul and mind before discerning how best to serve. The wisdom that Jesus offers is to seek God first before heading into a situation where love of neighbor becomes demanding. Once we receive God's presence and love, then we are called to share that same love with others.

"Love your neighbor as yourself" is a radical call. Who is my neighbor? Who are the widows, the orphans, the vulnerable and needy in our lives? To whom are we called to extend generosity and care?

We do not have to look far find someone who needs our love that is put into real acts of care and compassion. Our neighbors are the homeless and the migrants right here in our neighborhood. Our neighbors are those who struggle with addictions, doubt and fear. Our neighbors are the victims of senseless acts of violence and hate crimes. Our neighbor is the one searching for God in their life.

May this be our prayer. *Jesus help me to see how I can love you and my neighbor today.*

REMEMBERING THE HEROES OF OUR CHURCH

This week, the Catholic Church will celebrate the feast of All Saints Day on Wednesday, November 1st, which is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated here in our parish at:

9:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Church

(All School Mass) Fr Larry Lisowski

6:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church

Fr. Larry Lisowski

Note that **St. Michael's Parish** in Old Town, our Catholic neighbors to the north, will be celebrating Mass on **November 1st at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m.**

We remember the many heroes of our Church who faithfully embraced the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. Often it was through their simple and ordinary actions of kindness and compassion that they lived an extraordinary and holy life.

During the month of November we also hold in our prayer, all of our loved ones who have died, especially those within the last year. At all the Masses next weekend, we will read the names of those who have been buried from our parish within the past year, and we will light a memorial candle in their honor.

Also, throughout the month of November, there will be a memorial table set-up in church that will be devoted to our beloved dead. Parishioners are invited to bring pictures, mementos or holy cards of their family and friends and place them on the memorial table. We will hold these persons in our prayers over the next several weeks and thank God for their faith and love.

MASKING UP AGAIN

I came down with a case of COVID two weeks ago and I had to dismiss myself at the last minute from celebrating my two weekend Masses. Thank God for Fr.McBardy and Fr. Ed Vella from St. Michael's parish in Old Town who covered for me.

It took about 5 good days to shake the virus even though I have been fully vaccinated. My symptoms were mild, but I did not want to be out in the public knowing that I could easily infect somebody.

You will notice at Mass now that the priest and our Eucharist Ministers have return to wearing a face mask when distributing Holy Communion. This is out of an abundance of caution. You may know someone who has recently caught COVID again.

Feel free to wear a face mask at Mass. Extra masks will be provided by the parish if you need.

MICHAEL MURPHY Eternal Rest Grant Onto Him O Lord!

Michael Murphy (age 87) was a holy man, a quiet saint, a generous steward of God's blessings and a long-time parishioner of Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish. He had a deep devotion to the Eucharist.

Continued on the next page

A family of families

He attended morning Mass daily which was part of his regular routine that provided him with the spiritual nourishment to keep his faith strong. His slightly noticeable east coast accent, that he acquired in his childhood, always added a special flavor to the scripture readings when he read at Mass.



Mike was the beloved husband of Adele Murphy, and father of Leslie (William) Barker, Glenn (Laura Kane) Murphy, and Christopher (Eileen) Murphy; and proud grandfather to seven grandchildren.

Besides his successful career working for a number of companies, Mike graciously served on a number of non-profit boards; such as the Big Shoulders Educational Fund, Catholic Theological Union, Northwestern Medical Hospital and several other prominent charities. He was very instrumental when our parish reopened our school back in 2022.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at **St. Joseph Church on Saturday, October 28th at 11:00 a.m.** Please keep Mike and his family in your prayers. May his reward be great in heaven. He was truly a good and faithful servant.





Kyle Stednitz & Alicia Talvera Married Saturday, October 21st St. Joseph Church Rev. Lawrence Lisowski presided



Pete West & Rachel Gray Married Saturday, October 21st St. Joseph Church Rev. Lawrence Lisowski presided

A family of families



This week, as we continue to discuss how we can "Be the face of Jesus and change the world," our Gospel message is on "Loving God and Loving our Neighbor as we love Ourselves." I found an article entitled 7 Ways to Love Your Neighbor as Yourself*, which I would like to share. I feel that it really hits home:

- 1. I will see my neighbor I will love my neighbors, whoever they are, by truly seeing them. If I am blinded by my own bitterness or anger, I will beg God to give me His eyes to see His beloved creation as He does.
- **2. I will ask for forgiveness and offer it** I'll ask God for forgiveness for all that keeps me from sympathizing with or loving another. If I need to ask for forgiveness from my neighbor, I'll humble myself and apologize. If I need to extend forgiveness towards a particular person or group, I'll extend it.
- **3. I will pray** I'll love my neighbors by praying for them, especially the ones I least want to pray for. I will pray for my neighbors' circumstances, salvation, and walk with the Lord.
- **4. I will rejoice and mourn** I will walk alongside my neighbors. I will rejoice when they rejoice and mourn when they mourn. I will align my spirit with theirs.
- **5. I will learn and be** teachable Christ's ways are often hard and challenging. I'll allow my neighbors to challenge my heart without taking offense or becoming bitter. I'll accept constructive criticism as the pathway that draws me closer to Christ.
- **6. I will ask hard questions about myself** Why do I think the way that I think? Why do I behave the way that I behave? Was that right? Was that Christ-like?
- **7.** I will refuse to be judgmental, but I'll be bold enough to encourage others to be more like Christ God calls us to action, to bring His good news to others in our words and deeds.
- * Holly Mthethwa, (www.ruggedandredeemed.com)

Why Register at a Parish?

- It is a sign of commitment and support to the life of a parish community and indicates willingness to belong to our parish family.
- Our Parish Staff will have the basic information needed to communicate with individual families, especially in times of emergency.
- Every Catholic needs to have their sacramental information documented. Copies of one's Baptismal, First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage records are required at various times in our life.
- Families that enroll their children in our Parish School or Religious
 Education Program should be registered and active in the parish, especially if they intend to have their children receive the Sacraments.
- Families are able to receive important information about the parish that often comes through direct mailing.
- For Godparents, it is required to provide information stating active parish registration, practice of faith and ongoing support to the overall life of the parish.
- **Parish Mailing list is **only used for church purposes** and never shared with businesses or other organizations.

Click Here to Register



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

A family of families

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.

OUR Mission

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!



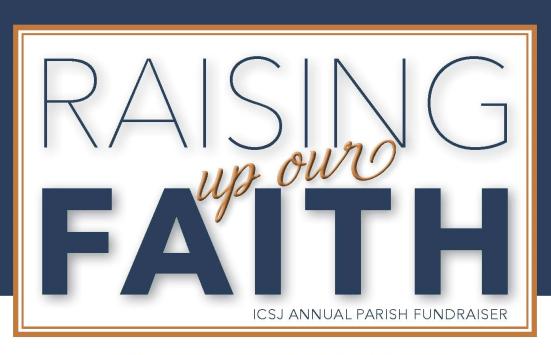
Imagine brimming with faith and God's love so that it spills over into every relationship and aspect of your life!



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!





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

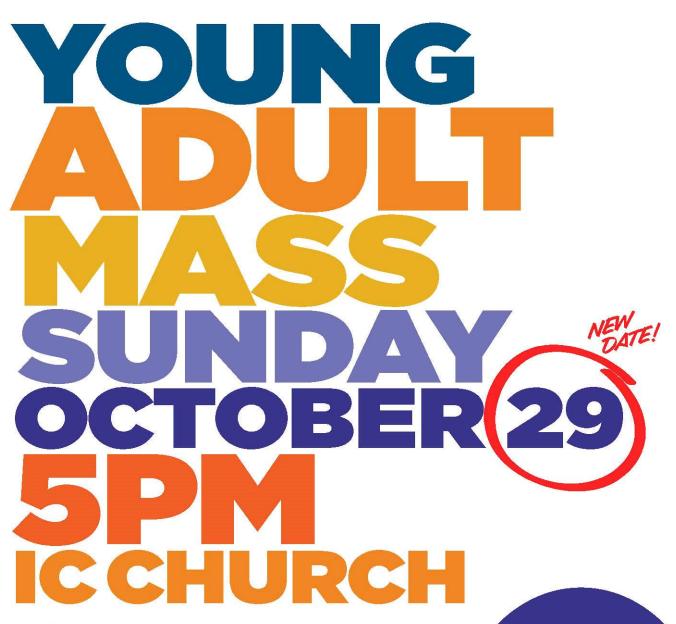
SCHOOL HOUSE

{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







WINE & CHEESE IN THE JOY ROOM



Young Adult Small Group

Sundays after 11AM Mass

COME JOIN US FOR
REFLECTION & FELLOWSHIP!
ALL YOUNG ADULTS WELCOME!

ST. JOSEPH PARISH CENTER

EMAIL ERODRIGUEZ@ICSJPARISH.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS





An November 12th
Afternoon of Taizé

ICSJ MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS

MUNES ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

A CONCERT SERIES

The ICSJ Music Ministry presenta *Tunes on a Sunday Afternoon*, a series of free community concerts featuring the talents of our ICSJ choir members and musicians, and other special guests.

JOIN US FOR OUR NOVEMBER PERFORMANCE!



September 10th 2pm, St. Joseph Church

Josephine Stracek: Women Voices in Song

A solo voice recital featuring music by women composers at the turn of the 20th century



st. Joseph Church Organist Clay Corso

A pipe organ concert featuring the historic 1892 Hutchings organ in St Joseph Church

November 12th



November 12th 2pm, St. Joseph Church

An Afternoon of Taizé

Join the Music Ministry team for a candlelit afternoon of meditative Taizé songs and prayer



December 10th 2pm, St. Joseph Church

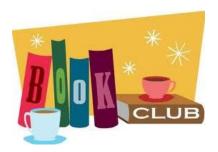
Lessons & Carols for Christmas

'Tis the season! Join the ICJS Music Ministry Team for a sing-a-long of all of your favorite carols

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE SERIES IS GREATLY APPRECIATED! SCAN THE QR OR VISIT ICSJPARISH.ORG/TUNES



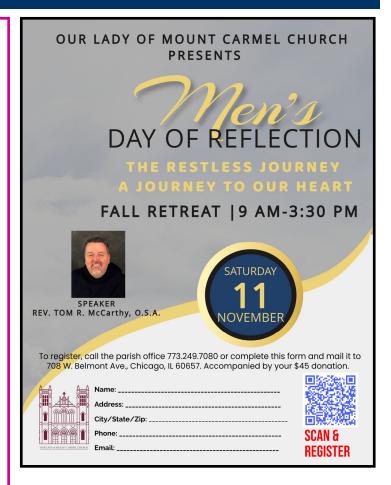
ICSJ Women's Book Club



The next book club is scheduled at 3:30 pm on Friday, December 1st

The book selected is **Small Fry** by Lisa Brennan-Jobs.

For more details, please email Colleen cm424svdp@gmail.com or Martha Martha_60603@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)



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.



WHAT MAKES ICSJ SCHOOL SO SPECIAL?

CO-TEACHING MODEL

Leveraging a unique co-teaching model, ICSJ offers two, full-time certified teachers in every classroom through Grade 3. The resulting low student/teacher ratios provide ample opportunities for 1:1 instruction and differentiated learning.

AVERAGE STUDENT TEACHER RATIOS

Preschool - Kindergarten 10:1 Primary Grades 12:1 Middle School 20:1

FAITH-BASED CURRICULUM

ICSJ integrates Catholic principles throughout the academic curriculum including daily religion classes for all students, regular prayers services and masses and sacrament preparation for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. However, you need not be Catholic to attend and build a solid, values-based educational foundation at ICSJ School.

ACCREDITATION

Since 2005, ICSJ's Early Childhood Program has consistently earned NAEYC accreditation (National Association for the Education of Young Children).

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT

95% of our recent graduates were accepted by their first choice high school. ICSJ graduates excel at Chicago's most competitive Catholic, independent and public Selective Enrollment high schools, including St. Ignatius, Loyola Academy, DePaul College Prep, Walter Payton College Prep, Jones College Prep, Whitney M. Young, and Lane Tech.

FACILITIES

Students learning and growth are enhanced by unique, modern facilities across two campuses; including a full-size gymnasium,rock climbing walls, libraries, secure playgrounds, a dance studio, science and foreign language labs and much more.

TECHNOLOGY

ICSJ integrates the latest technology to enhance instruction at every grade level. Our state-of-the-art STEM lab, classroom SMART boards and 1:1 iPad model for students in Grades 4-8 prepare students to be lifelong global learners.

ATHLETICS

75% of ICSJ students in Grades 4-8 participate in our competitive interscholastic athletic program.

EXTRACURRICULAR

ICSJ offers numerous extracurricular classes and clubs to students in K - Grade 8. Enrichment choices include Musical Theater, Student Council, Coding, STEM, Cooking, Choir, Yoga and Band.

SPECIALS

Specialists in the areas of Spanish, music, physical education, fine arts, library and technology provide ICSJ students at every grade level academic exploration beyond the core.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Many of our families require daily early morning and/or late afternoon coverage for their kids. Both before and after school care program options are available and



COME FOR A TOUR

We invite you to visit our school this fall. Speak with key members of our leadership team and current parents while touring our classrooms and learning spaces. See for yourself what our families love about ICSJ!

GROUP TOURS 9-10AM

Friday, October 27 Wednesday, November 8 Monday, December 4

MIDDAY ZOOM TOUR 12-1PM

Thursday, November 16

RSVP at www.icsjschool.org or, scan this QR code:



APPLICATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 8, 2023

NORTH PARK CAMPUS | Prekindergarten - Grade 3 (+Tots) | 1431 N North Park Avenue HILL STREET CAMPUS | Grades 4 - 8 | 363 W Hill Street | www.icsjschool.org | 312.944.0304 ext. 312

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

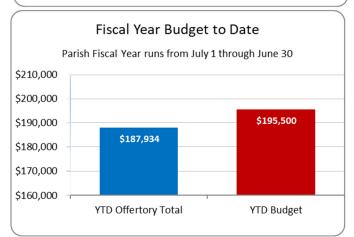


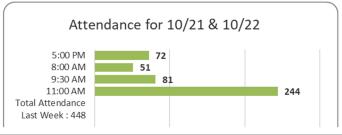
To remain engaged on policy issues that affect Catholics in Illinois, join our Illinois Catholic Advocacy Network go to www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/join-i-can





Weekly Offertory - October 2023 ■ Weekly Offertory Total ■ Weekly Budget w/o 10/1 \$11,500 w/o 10/8 \$11,500 w/o 10/15 \$11,500 \$10,543 w/o 10/22 \$11.500 w/o 10/29 \$11,500 The parish budget requires over one weeks' worth of collections just to cover parish ultilities, maintenance, and insurance each month. It takes \$3,093 per day to run our parish.





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@icsjparish.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 erodriguez@icsjparish.org or (312)787-7174 ext 4.

Mass Intentions

week of October 28- November 3

Saturday, October 28

5pm at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

Michael Murphy

Sunday, October 29

8am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: **Dennis Heller**

Sunday, October 29

9:30am Mass at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

For the well-being of Michael LeVerso

Sunday, October 29

11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: For the well-being of Irma Brown

Monday, October 30

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski: **Edward Lanctot**

Wednesday, November 1- All Saints Day 9:30am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski: Andy Cirillo

6pm Mass at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

Michael Murphy

Friday, November 3

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: **Emilio and Raffaella Pastore**

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@icsiparish.org, to schedule a time to meet.

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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Business Manager

Nancy Gies ngies@icsjparish.org 312-787-7174, ext. 7

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Director of Music

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ICSJ School Co-Principal

Heather Lux hlux@icsjschool.org 312-944-0304, ext. 4

Maintenance Supervisor

Colm Murphy cmurphy@icsjschool.org 312-787-7174

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Assistant to the Pastor

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Outreach Ministries Coordinator

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Assistant to the Director of Music

Josephine Stracek jstracek@icsjparish.org 312-787-7174

Evening/Weekend Receptionist

Sherrine Manning 312-787-7174, ext. 0