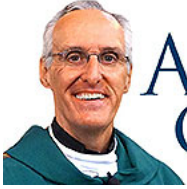


November 19, 2023 | Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



ALL
OF US

Fr. Larry's
Weekly Letter
#540

CAN'T PRAY? WELL... TRY THIS.

Let's be honest, sometimes praying is not easy, and for many reasons. We may just not feel like praying. Or we can't seem to get focused. Sometimes we are too distracted. We might be feeling disappointed, hurt, sleepy, busy or we have 1,000 other things that make us not want to pray. Sometimes, we try really hard but we just can't find the right words.

Spiritual directors have recommended a few simple ideas to help folks get out of their spiritual rut.

1.) Pray Anyway

The first tip, is to just pray anyway, even if it is for just 60 seconds. Even if we can't make a commitment to pray for a specific time, just start. You might be amazed how the Holy Spirit will guide you. The first step is to give it a try, and see where it goes.

2.) Choose to Listen

Remember prayer is a conversation with God. Sometimes it is your turn to talk, and sometimes it is your turn to listen. Allow God to speak to you.

On many silent retreats that I have taken, by the third day, I have heard God say, "Will you please shut-up!" I needed to stop and listen.

3.) Pray For Someone Else

There is always someone who needs our prayers. Remember your loved ones and friends. So many people today are in need of healing. They long for God to show up in their life in the way that only God can. Praying for others naturally helps us to remember how valuable and meaningful prayer can be.

4.) Count Your Blessings and Give Thanks

You can't mess up prayer if you start with a grateful heart. This has been a long-time remedy proven by many of our holy saints. There is often a sense of humility that comes when we give thanks and take the time to show our appreciation to others.

We quickly learn that it is much better to live with the awareness of all that we have, rather than always agonizing on what we don't have in life. If your heart is longing for peace, give thanks.

As we approach the feast of Thanksgiving, I took some time this week to create a simple litany of what I am grateful for in my life and in my ministry.

Thank You Jesus ... for all the people that walk through our church doors every week and who have made our parish their "spiritual home." I feel blessed whenever we gather around the altar of the Lord, and I carry with me a deep sense that we are a "Family of Families."

Thank You Jesus ... for those who are committed to helping the poor right here in our neighborhood. We are blessed by their works corporal works of mercy and compassion. They show us how to be the face of Jesus to others. They help us to see and respect those who often become "the invisible" part of our society.

Thank You Jesus... for allowing me to work with a talented staff that truly believes in the mission of Jesus. Their hard work, day after day, and week after week, makes our parish vibrant, and far from boring. I would be lost without them.

Thank You Jesus ... for what I would call the "silent saints" of our parish who, in their own way, give witness to Christ without any need for recognition or fanfare. I am grateful for the folks that come to Mass during the week; and ours teachers in our classrooms; our wedding sacristans who are able to calm down a nervous pale-faced groom on his

Continued on the next page

wedding day; and Ray our “Sunday Catholic Uber” driver who shuttles a van full of holy ladies to church; and our choir when they sing a meditation song after communion that melts your heart; or a Knight of Columbus who stands in our parking lot collecting food donations on a Saturday morning; our bereavement ministers who comforts a family in their time of loss; or one of our maintenance guys who willingly cleans-up after an altar server who got sick after hearing one of Fr. McBrady’s Sunday homilies, and then hurled their breakfast across the sanctuary.

If you want to know how to get to heaven, just follow in the footsteps of these “silent saints.” I identified just a few in our parish, but there are many, many more on the list. We are blessed because they are all around us every day.



I hope you can join us for our Mass on Thanksgiving that will take place at 9:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church.

My life-long dream has always been that on Thanksgiving Day, there would be “standing room only” in the church. What a great opportunity to let God know all the blessings we have received in our life, especially within the last year.

If you are in town for Thanksgiving, I hope you can join us for Mass. I guarantee that you will be home by 10:00 a.m.!!!

Enjoy Thanksgiving, wherever you may be, and remember to give thanks.

Fr. Lacey

Advent Morning of Reflection
with Fr. McBrady and Elly Rodriguez
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH @9-11AM

How the Birth of Jesus continues to unfold today

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
BREAKFAST AND COFFEE AT 8:30AM



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





Teddy Bartlett
Baptized Saturday, November 11th
Chris Bartlett, Katie Bartlett & Michael Wolson



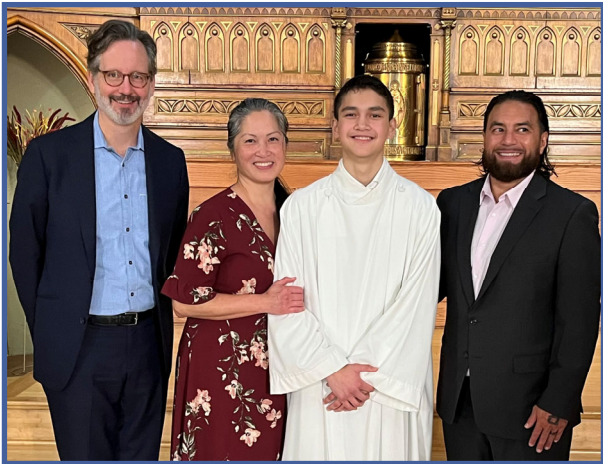
Archibald Jay
Baptized Saturday, November 11th
Connor Blankenship & Elizabeth Horan



Christian Michael Brouder
Baptized Saturday, November 11th
Michael & Suzanne Brouder
and older brothers Nate and Jack



William Grant Janowiak
Baptized Saturday, November 11th
Mark Janowiak & Mallory Malaney
and big brother Charlie



Ryan Saines
Baptized Wednesday, November 8th
Kathy Wong Saines and Richard Saines,
Godfather Ricard Ramos



LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD!

Thanksgiving Mass

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
9 AM AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH





ICSJ Parish

2023 Second Collection Schedule

THIS WEEKEND
Support our Campaign
For Human Development Collection

As Catholics, we are part of a universal Church that extends beyond our own parish boundaries. Second & Special collections combine our resources to support important causes that carry out the mission of the Church. Please mark you calendar with the dates listed below and thank you for your generosity!

Contributions may be made in-person at Mass or online via GiveCentral by visiting icsjparish.org/second-collections

| | |
|--|--|
| Collection for the Church in Latin America | January 22 |
| Annual Catholic Appeal | February 4-5, February 11-12, February 18-19 |
| Aid for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe | February 26 |
| Sharing Parish: Mother of the Americas* | Palm Sunday – April 2 |
| Holy Land | Good Friday – April 7 |
| Catholic Charities | Mother's Day – May 14 |
| Priests' Health & Retirement | June 11 |
| Peter's Pence | July 2 |
| Missionary Co-Op | July 16 |
| Sharing Parish: Mother of the Americas* | July 30 |
| Seminarian Education | September 17 |
| World Mission Sunday | October 22 |
| Catholic Campaign for Human Development | November 19 |
| Retirement Fund for Religious | December 10 |
| Sharing Parish: Mother of the Americas* | December 31 |

* for the benefit of Mother of the Americas, ICSJ's Sharing Parish



SCAN HERE
TO DONATE

CCHD 2023 COLLECTION

For over 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has carried out the mission of Jesus Christ to...

BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR

In a society where millions lack the necessities of life, particularly in the time of a global pandemic.

BRING LIBERTY TO CAPTIVES

When so many are enslaved by poverty, addiction, ignorance, discrimination, violence or disabling conditions.

BRING NEW SIGHT TO THE BLIND

In a culture where the excessive pursuit of power or pleasure can spiritually blind us to the dignity and right of others.

SET THE DOWNTRODDEN FREE

In communities where health, economic and moral forces leave people without real hope. (cf. Lk 4:18)

Please support the second collection in your parish on November 18 – 19.

Funds raised will provide support to local organizations across the Chicagoland area.

For more information on CCHD's mission and partner organizations or how to donate, please visit CCHDchicago.org.





'Tis the season
TO JOIN THE ICSJ
CHRISTMAS CHOIR!

ALL CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE WELCOME!

Love to sing or play a musical instrument? Christmas is coming and the ICSJ Music Ministry Team invites all ICSJ families and parishioners—**adults and children 1st grade and up**—to join in song at our 2023 Christmas Eve Family Mass on Sunday, December 24th at 3:15 pm.

Interested? Use the [signup link](#) below and submit the [sign-up form](#) by **FRIDAY DECEMBER 1st.**

Then stay tuned for more information from our Director of Music, Kate Ryan!

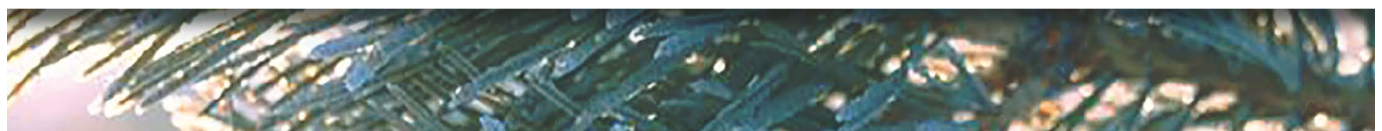
To be part of the 2023 Christmas Choir sign up today at

icsjparish.org/christmaschoir-signup



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

A family of families





OUTREACH OUTLOOK

Allie Klazura · Outreach Ministries Coordinator

Two Volunteer Needs

We have two volunteer needs that have recently been brought to us. The first is for our sharing parish, Mother of the Americas. They are looking for an individual who could provide consulting to them on future financial planning and projection. The second is for one of our refugee families. This family has an 11 year old son with special needs and a two year old daughter; the family needs an advocate who will help work with them to find a school-type setting for each of the children for the coming school year 24-25. They would also like help finding affordable housing for families with special needs children. If you think you could be one of these volunteers, please get in touch with me asap! aklazura@icsjparish.org

Giving Tree: November 18th - December 10th

It's that time of year again! Our parish and school will be making Christmas merry and bright for so many families and individuals through our Giving Tree program. While all of the details can be found on the flyer in this bulletin, I wanted to remind you of the basics. The program kicks off on 11/18 and runs until 12/10; all gifts are due back by the 10th! We are utilizing an online sign up system for gifts. Tags will be on trees in both churches, but do not have gifts listed on them. Rather, each tag has the link and QR code (you can find this on the flyer), and by following either you are able to review the options and sign up for the gift(s) you'd like to give. Therefore, it is not necessary to have a tag to give a gift; simply sign up online! If you are someone who doesn't have a computer or isn't comfortable using one, please allow me to help you sign up! We are working to have individuals following the Masses in the back of the church to help you sign up but can't guarantee someone will be able to be at every Mass. Therefore, if you are struggling to sign up but want to participate, please email or call me and I will be more than happy to help you.

Meal for Migrants Round 2!

In October our church prepared and assembled a meal for the migrants staying at the 18th District Police Station and we are now all set for round 2 on Sunday, December 3rd. This will be a Lincoln Park Old Town Parishes collaboration. Please join this multi-parish effort by signing up using the link on the flyer in this bulletin or online at icsjparish.org/migrants.



Opening Your Heart
A Walking with Purpose
Women's Scripture Study Group
meets Tuesday Evenings, 6:30pm-8pm.
For more details email Jutta at
jkeen@icsjparish.org

HELP MAKE A MEAL FOR THOSE AT THE 18TH DISTRICT *Round 2!*

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

- When: Sunday, **December 3rd**, following the 9:30am Mass from 10:30–noon
- Where: Immaculate Conception Church Parish Hall (1431 N North Park)
- Please RSVP (prior to Nov. 22nd at the below link) by signing up to bring an item

www.mealtrain.com/potlucks/417612

Laura Powell

School Outreach

✉ lcpowell80@gmail.com

Allie Klazura

Parish Outreach

✉ aklazura@icsjparish.org

ICSJ's 2023



GIVING TREE

NOV. 18TH - DEC. 10TH

Help make this Christmas merry and bright for the families of the incarcerated via Kolbe House Jail Ministry, our parish refugee families and our sharing parish, Mother of the Americas. With the help of Santa's Volunteers and the Knights of Columbus, we will also be supporting families in need in our neighborhood via Art on Sedgwick, families of Blessed Maria Gabriella Church, families of Union Baptist Missionary Church, and ICSJ's Food Pantry families.

We are utilizing an online sign up system for gifts. Tags will be on trees in both churches, but do not have gifts listed on them. Rather, each tag has the link and QR code listed here, and by following either you are able to review the options and sign up for the gift(s) you'd like to give. Therefore, it is not necessary to have a tag to give a gift; simply sign up online! Please note that while many spots list several gifts, these are simply for ideas and not obligatory for purchase. The recommended amount per spot is \$25-\$50.

When returning your gift(s), please return wrapped and print the confirmation email sent to you by SignUp to attach to your gift. If you don't have printer access, please label the gift with your name and its contents.

Thank you for your generosity this holiday season.

VISIT rebrand.ly/giving-tree



Gifts can be returned at the Masses on 11/25&26, 12/2&3, 12/9&10, or at the SJ Parish Office at 1107 N Orleans M,W, or F from 10-3. **All gifts must be returned by 12/10.** For more information, help signing up for a gift, or with any questions, please contact Allie at aklazura@icjsparish.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 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 (or would like to learn), join us! We get together at St. Joe's once a month. Our next KnitWit gathering is

Monday, November 20th 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.

**Mark your calendar
with our future dates...**

December 18 2023
January 15 2024
February 19 2024
March 18 2024
April 15 2024
May 20 2024
June 17 2024
July 15 2024
August 19 2024
September 16 2024
October 21 2024
November 18 2024
December 16 2024

Decision Coaching Ministry

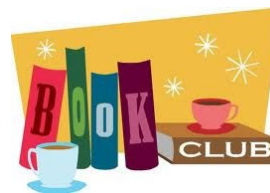
Often a brief or ongoing conversation with someone new can help to provide perspective on making big decisions, or on how to approach complex issues. This can be particularly true in charting new education, career, retirement, and post retirement directions. Parishioner Mike Traynor offers such free,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

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



DOLPHIN DAYS

NEWS FROM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - ST. JOSEPH



COME IN FOR A GROUP ADMISSIONS TOUR

Join us for a group tour to meet our teachers, students, and school leaders, and to hear some of our current ICSJ parents tell you what they love about ICSJ School!

UPCOMING GROUP TOUR DATES

Wednesday, November 29 | 9-10 am

Monday, December 4 | 9-10 am



RSVP

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

We are currently accepting applications at all grade levels for the 2024-25 school year. The recommended submission deadline is **December 8**.

Applications submitted prior to December 8 will receive priority status with an admissions decision provided before Christmas break. To apply, please scan the QR to get to our website. **APPLY**



Call to Schedule a Free Trial Tot Class!

8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION INSTALLATION



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



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

TOT PROGRAM

A fun, social, and learning experience for Toddlers ages 2+ and their caregiver

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
9:30 – 11 am

ICSJ NORTH PARK CAMPUS
1431 N. North Park Avenue

REGISTER TODAY!

Next Session Begins
November 28!

Visit our website at
www.icsjschool.org,
or scan this QR code.



REGISTER

Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph School is a premier PreK3 - 8th grade Catholic School on 2 campuses in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood.

Learn more at www.icsjschool.org or call Jodi Thyen at 312-944-0304, ext. 312.

OVERHEARD AT TOTS...

"...a great transition from home-based care to a structured classroom!"



"I love spending this special time together, without the distractions at home!"



"She's getting used to a school environment which will be a huge help when she heads to preschool!"



"Can I go to my school today?"



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Nancy Gies
Parish Business Manager



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

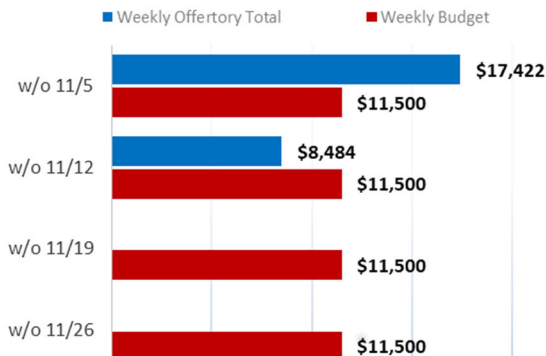
eGiving is a secure and convenient way of giving to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish. It is eco-friendly and cost-saving. Just click **HERE** and to make your one-time, weekly, or monthly donation.

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

Weekly Offertory - November 2023

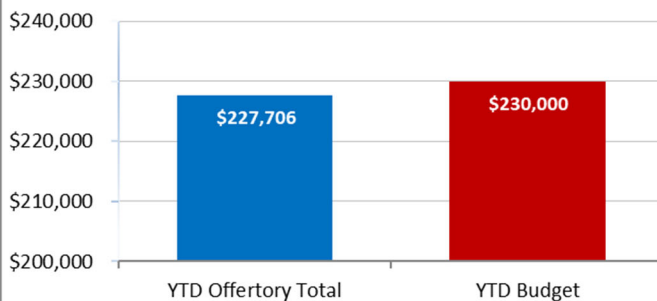


The parish budget requires over one weeks' worth of collections just to cover parish utilities, maintenance, and insurance each month.

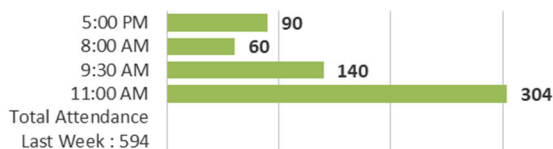
It takes \$3,093 per day to run our parish.

Fiscal Year Budget to Date

Parish Fiscal Year runs from July 1 through June 30



Attendance for 11/11 & 11/12



Mass Intentions

week of November 18-24

Saturday, November 18

5pm at Immaculate Conception with

Fr. Larry McBrady:

For the parishioners of the ICSJ parish community

Sunday, November 19

8am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

Carmen Vespo

Sunday, November 19

9:30am Mass at Immaculate Conception with

Fr. Larry McBrady:

Mark Alles

Sunday, November 19

11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

Charlie and Frances Salvo

Modiba Rebecca Rasebotsa

Monday, November 20

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

For the well-being Richard Greenwood

Wednesday, November 22

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

For the parishioners of the ICSJ parish community

Thursday, November 23

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

Donald Sapienza

Friday, November 24

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

Raffaella Pastore

Julie Reynolds Shaw

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.



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!



PRAY

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



GROW

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



SERVE

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



SHARE

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



BELONG

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!



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



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.

Staff Directory

Pastor

Rev. Lawrence Lisowski
pastor@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 5

Senior Priest

Rev. Larry McBrady
312-787-7174

Deacon

Neil Rogers
nrogers@archchicago.org
312-787-7174, ext. 6

Business Manager

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

Sacramental Coordinator

Kevin O'Connell
koconnell@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 2

Director of Music

Kate Ryan
kryan@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 9

ICSJ School Co-Principal

Katie Sullivan
ksullivan@icsjschool.org
312-944-0304, ext. 3

ICSJ School Co-Principal

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

Maintenance Supervisor

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

Parish Coordinator, Bulletin Editor

Angela Gore
agore@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 1

Director of Evangelization & Events

Jutta Keenan
jkeen@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 8

Assistant to the Pastor

Elly Rodriguez
erodriguez@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 4

Outreach Ministries Coordinator

Allie Klazura
aklazura@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 3

Assistant to the Director of Music

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

Evening/Weekend Receptionist

Sherrine Manning
312-787-7174, ext. 0

Follow ICSJ Parish on Social Media



@icsjparish (Parish)



@i.do.at.icsj (Weddings)



@icsjparish