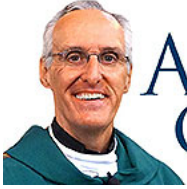


November 26, 2023 | Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



**ALL
OF US**

**Fr. Larry's
Weekly Letter
#541**

HOW DO YOU REALLY GET INTO HEAVEN?

There are probably a hundred of heavenly jokes circulating out there about people meeting St. Peter at the pearly gates after they died. For some reason he has been entrusted with the job of deciding who gets in and who does not. To get your name on his clipboard depends on how well you lived your life when you were down here on earth. Basically, the big questions will be: How well did you follow Jesus, and what good did you do for others?

Here's one that you can tell to your family on Christmas Eve.

A priest takes a taxi. They drive fast. They crash and die. The taxi driver meets St. Peter at the gates of heaven.

St. Peter tells the taxi driver, "Welcome to heaven. Here is your golden robe, golden stick, and your mansion is up here on the hill.

The priest meets St. Peter. St. Peter tells him, "Here is a set of old cloth robes, a wooden stick, and your house is way down there in the swamp."

The priest, very dismayed said, "But I dedicated my life to the lost and saving of souls. This is what I get?"

St Peter responded with, "Hey listen, while you were preaching, everyone was sleeping. But when this guy was driving his taxi, boy, did all the prayers start coming in! The end."

The gospel for this Sunday is very sobering because we are presented with a scene of the last judgement. We

hear the classic story of a shepherd who separates the "sheep" from the "goats." The separating of the sheep from the goats would have been a common and frequent task for the shepherds of Jesus' time. Animals were herded together and were separated when it came time for the market and for stocktaking.

The gospel message to us is very straight forward. We too will face judgement. This is certain. It is a simple judgement, not complicated by questionnaires or an extensive survey. Rather, we will be judged by how well we opened our heart to the Lord, and how well we loved our neighbor.

Our judgement depends on how well we live our lives now. Are we on the right side of the line? Do we recognize the presence of Jesus when we feed those who are hungry, give drink to those who are thirsty, welcome the stranger, provide clothing to those who are naked, visit those who are sick and in prison?

Our life is to be a life of service. This is what will determine whether we stand on the right or left hand of the Lord.

Remember, we will be judged by what we are doing now, not on our aspirations or desires. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to put our faith into action.

If we embrace these corporal works of mercy now, then we will have nothing to worry about when we see St. Peter at the gates of heaven. Fear not. Our names will hopefully be on his list, and he will say, "Well done. Come right in!"

MYSTERIES OF THE FAITH

Are you tired of watching the BEARS lose every week?

Let me recommend a good series on NETFLIX entitled, "*Mysteries Of The Faith.*" The documentary series

Continued on the next page

explores the secrets of Christianity's most legendary treasures from the Crown of Thorns to the iconic Holy Grail. The series captures in a beautiful way how these cherished relics have inspired millions of people for centuries.



The directors of the documentary describe their work this way, "Steeped in myth and legend, and credited with miracles, these relics have shaped human history. Now for the first time, global audiences can witness the hidden power and evolving mystique of these sacred objects as never before."

Check it out. It's much better than watching a 4th quarter meltdown on a Sunday afternoon!

Fr. Larry

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

*How the Birth of Jesus
continues to unfold today*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
BREAKFAST AND COFFEE AT 8:30AM

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

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



'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



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

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

at our Sharing Parish, Mother of the Americas
3047 W Cermak Rd., Chicago, IL 60623

Ways to Join in the Celebration:

Novenas - Rosary & Mass

Dec. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11: 6pm

Dec. 10: 5pm

Saturday, December 9th

Feast of San Juan Diego
with Bishop Bartosic

4:00pm - Rosary

5:00pm - Mass

Tuesday, December 12th

5:00pm - Mass

6:30 -7:30pm - Native
Dancers

Saturday, December 16th

2:00pm - Concert



For more information
please visit:

motheroftheamericas.org

or call:

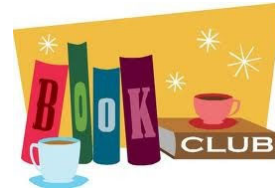
773-521-8400



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.

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

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



URGENT SCHOLARSHIP HELP NEEDED for Catholic Schools



Please make a gift to safeguard the future of Catholic education.

With the sunset of the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship program, thousands of Catholic school families cannot keep their children in school. The need for scholarship funding is greater than ever.

Thankfully, supporting scholarships has never been easier, and scholarship gifts are still tax-deductible.

Please visit archchicago.org/scholarships to make an online gift to any school in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Gifts can be made to a specific school or schools with the highest need.



CELEBRATE



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

6PM MASS IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

REFRESHMENTS & APPETIZERS

AFTERWARDS IN THE JOY ROOM



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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

TOT PROGRAM

Next 8-week Session Begins November 28

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

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
9:30 – 11 am

ICSJ NORTH PARK CAMPUS
1431 N. North Park Avenue

REGISTER TODAY!
www.icsjschool.org



Annual PreK Thanksgiving Feast!



3RD GRADE "FORCE AND MOTION" CARNIVAL!



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



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

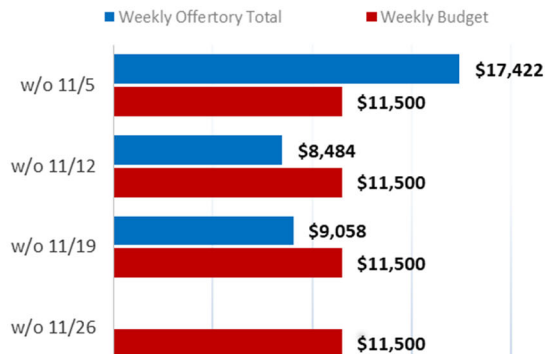
eGiving is a secure and convenient way of giving to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish. It is eco-friendly and cost-saving. Just click **HERE** and to make your one-time, weekly, or monthly donation.

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

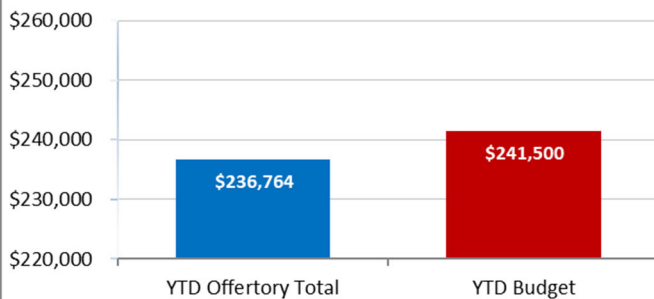


The parish budget requires over one weeks' worth of collections just to cover parish utilities, maintenance, and insurance each month.

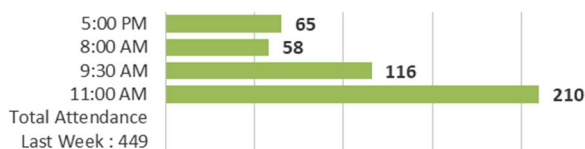
It takes \$3,093 per day to run our parish.

Fiscal Year Budget to Date

Parish Fiscal Year runs from July 1 through June 30



Attendance for 11/18 & 11/19



Mass Intentions

week of November 25-December 1

Saturday, November 25

5pm at Immaculate Conception with

Fr. Larry Lisowski:

For God's Blessings on Brian Lisowski

Sunday, November 26

8am Mass at St. Joseph with

Fr. Larry McBrady:

For the parishioners of the ICSJ parish community

Sunday, November 26

9:30am Mass at Immaculate Conception with

Fr. Larry Lisowski:

For the well-being of Lynn Ray

Sunday, November 26

11am Mass at St. Joseph with

Fr. Larry McBrady:

Irma Brown

Monday, November 27

9am Mass at St. Joseph with

Fr. Larry Lisowski:

For the well-being of Monica Greenwood

Wednesday, November 29

9am Mass at St. Joseph with

Fr. Larry McBrady:

For the well-being of Joseph Egan

Friday, December 1

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

For the parishioners of the ICSJ parish community

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.

Follow ICSJ Parish on Social Media



@icsjparish (Parish)



@i.do.at.icsj (Weddings)



@icsjparish

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
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312-944-0304, ext. 4

Maintenance Supervisor

Colm Murphy
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312-787-7174

Parish Coordinator, Bulletin Editor

Angela Gore
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312-787-7174, ext. 1

Director of Evangelization & Events

Jutta Keenan
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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