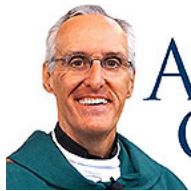


January 7, 2024 | Feast of the Epiphany



ALL
OF US

Fr. Larry's
Weekly Letter
#547



Let us also pray for those who are currently far from God. May they soon come to know the great love that God has for them.

A NEW YEAR FOR NEW THINGS

The beginning of a New Year comes with many hopes and promises that we make to ourselves. Many of them center around the desire to improve our lives, like to eat healthier, stop smoking, exercise more or drink less. We review our lives and see what changes can be made that will help us to be healthier and happier.

The beginning of a New Year is also a great opportunity to make some "spiritual resolutions." It can be a time for a fresh start to help deepen our faith and relationship with God. Some resolutions to embrace could be:

- Take a few minutes to read a section of the Bible.
- Join a scripture study group.
- Be more engaged in the parish. Join a particular ministry and share your gifts and talents.
- Participate more often at Mass.
- Read a book that will help you better understand our Catholic faith.
- Take more time for daily prayer and reflection.
- Find a spiritual director.
- Work for peace and justice.
- Perform one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy each week.
- Help the poor by donating food to our Parish Food Pantry.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The three kings travel to Bethlehem to honor the Jesus and present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Christmas story continues to unfold for us. God has revealed himself to all the world. This changes everything!

Why is this event so important? Well, because it shows us that God's love is far more expansive than anyone ever thought. We begin to see that in Christ, a loving relationship with God is open to everyone who comes to him, Jew or Gentile.

This includes you! And our annoying uncle, and the criminal on death row, the atheist on the YouTube channel, the person on the other end of a marketing call, and the guy who cuts us off on the highway.

The invitation to come to Jesus extends to everyone. Why? Because God desires to draw all people to himself. This divine love cannot be contained. No one is excluded from it!

Today, let us remember and give thanks to God who loves us so extravagantly. God opens his arms wide to welcome everyone who believes.

Continued on the next page

A family of families

- Tutor a child or assist the elderly.
- Join an Alpha Group so that you can share your faith with others.

How might God be calling you to something new this year? What dreams does God have for you this year?

A VERY BUSY 2023

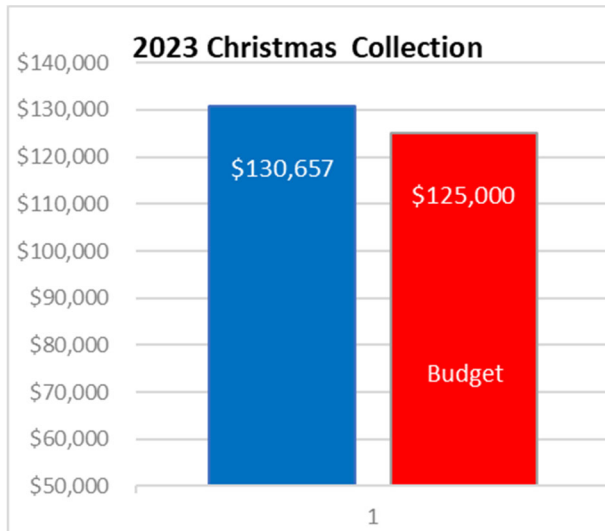
Our parish continues to grow in various ways. This is certainly reflected in the number of sacraments and rites that are performed throughout the year. Here are the totals for 2023.

Baptisms 43
Weddings 35
Funerals 7

These are huge spiritual moments for a family. This is often their first connection with the church after years of being inactive or absent. A relationship is often rekindled. They naturally embrace our parish as their “spiritual home.”

I am proud of how our staff and parishioners go out of their way to make sure that these are beautiful and meaningful experiences of Church. Through our hospitality, compassion and care, we work hard to make it a very positive experience.

ENDLESS GENEROSITY



Our Christmas collection has grown to **\$130,657**. We budgeted **\$125,000**. Thank you to all who helped us to reach and even surpass our goal. Our Christmas collection constitutes a sizeable portion of our annual budget and helps us to keep “running in the black.” It directly funds the ministries of our parish, and allows us to do the good things that we do. Thank you for your constant financial support.

Note that **53%** of our weekly collection is now given electronically through our E-Giving program. This is a great resource for those who are been unable to attend Mass in-person, or for those who do a lot of traveling.

To register for our E-Giving program, just go to our parish website at: icsjparish.org.

ICSJ'S DAILY ROSARY

Come as you are and join us in praying the Holy Rosary every...
Monday through Friday 12:30pm
Saturday and Sunday at 7:30am

****No experience needed. We will guide you.****

Pick up a card in the back of church that looks like this page for the zoom meeting ID and password or email Angela at agore@icsjparish.org or call (312)787-7174 ext 1



Looking for a new way to serve at ICSJ?

Join Coffee & Donuts Crew

To help after 11AM Mass contact
Kathy at kscherer@deloitte.com

To help after 9:30AM Mass contact
Maureen at maureenhaugh@yahoo.com

A family of families



Thank You TO OUR ICSJ CHRISTMAS CHOIR!

Thank you to all of our musicians and singers, big and small, who made this Christmas season so special at ICSJ. You helped to deepen our prayer and fill us with joy. We are so blessed by our vibrant and Spirit-filled music program, and look forward to making beautiful music together in 2024!

Peace,

Kate Ryan, Director of Music



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

A family of families

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, January 15th 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...**

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





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

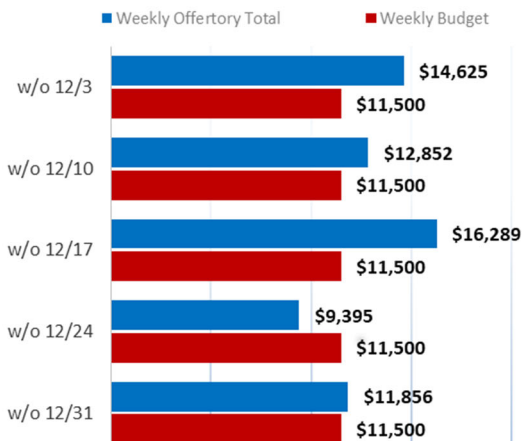
eGiving is a secure and convenient way of giving to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish. It is eco-friendly and cost-saving. Just click **HERE** and to make your one-time, weekly, or monthly donation.

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 - December 2023

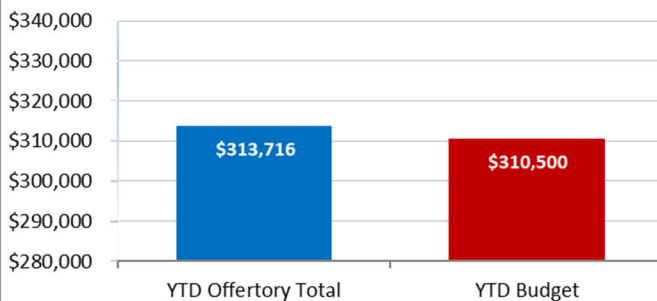


The parish budget requires over one weeks' worth of collections just to cover parish utilities, maintenance, and insurance each month.

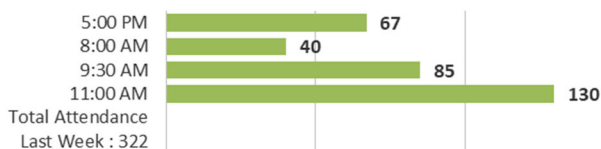
It takes \$3,093 per day to run our parish.

Fiscal Year Budget to Date

Parish Fiscal Year runs from July 1 through June 30



Attendance for 12/30 & 12/31



Mass Intentions

week of January 6 - 12

Saturday, January 6

5pm at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

For the parishioners of our ICSJ parish community

Sunday, January 7

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

William Babcock, Shirley Appleget

Sunday, January 7

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

For the R.C.I.A. Candidates and Catechumens

Sunday, January 7

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

Francesco Salamone

Monday, January 8

9am Mass at St. Joseph with a Redemptorist Priest from St. Michael's Parish:

For the parishioners of our ICSJ parish community

Wednesday, January 10

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Matt Litak:

For the R.C.I.A. Candidates and Catechumens

Friday, January 12

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

For the parishioners of our 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

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ICSJ School Co-Principal

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Director of Evangelization & Events

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Assistant to the Pastor

Elly Rodriguez
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312-787-7174, ext. 4

Outreach Ministries Coordinator

Allie Klazura
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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