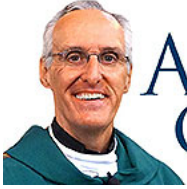


August 13, 2023 | Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



ALL
OF US

Fr. Larry's
Weekly Letter
#526

A GREAT SIGN OF GENEROUSITY

It was a pleasure to have our Sharing Parish, Mother of the Americas, visit us last month for prayer and our annual Taco Fiesta. Thank you for your generosity towards the Second Collection that was designated to help support their parish in their ability to pay their monthly bills.

The collection on Sunday, July 30th was **\$2,391.40**. In the past fiscal year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023), our Sharing Parish has received **\$11,209** in donations from our parishioners. Thank you for supporting the ministries of their parish.

SHHHHHHHH!

This Wednesday, I head to Boston to participate in an eight-day silent retreat that is being offered at the Jesuit Retreat House in Gloucester, Massachusetts. I am truly blessed (but others would say spoiled) to be able to enjoy this sacred time away from the parish. You will be in my thoughts and prayers throughout the week. We will certainly share a spiritual communion when we gather around the table of the Lord for the Sunday Eucharist.

One of the blessings of a silent retreat is that somewhere in the middle of the retreat you actually hear God say, "Will you just shut up and listen!?"

So often in our prayer we bombard God with our long list of wants, needs and complaints. That would certainly wear anybody down. Even God deserves a break from our constant demands.

Let us extend a warm welcome to Fr. David Godleski, S.J., from Loyola University, who will celebrate the 9:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, August 20th. It is great to have Fr. David come and help us out.

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY



On Tuesday, August 15th we will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven, which is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at:

9:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church
Fr. Larry Lisowski

6:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church
Fr. Larry Lisowski

Note that our neighboring parishes will also be celebrating Masses at these times for the holy day:

7:00 a.m. at Holy Name Cathedral

7:00 a.m. at Assumption Parish
(on Illinois Street)

8:00 a.m. at St. Michael's in Old Town

12:00 noon at St. Michael's in Old Town

12:00 noon at Holy Name Cathedral

This is a special day to remember Mary's faithfulness to God and the gift of her heavenly reward. Come and celebrate the patron of our parish.

Continued on the next page

GETTING READY FOR THE KIDS

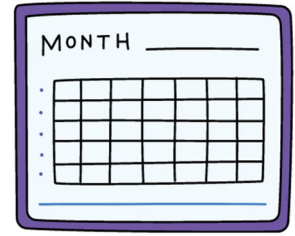
Our teachers of our parish school return this week to prepare for the beginning of a new school year. We welcome them back to the classrooms. They will engage in several long days of professional development before their classes officially resume on Wednesday, August 23rd.

Let us also remember in our prayers this week those students who are heading off to college campuses; and their parents who will be helping them settle into their new dorm or residence. It's a big adjustment in their life. I imagine that lots of Kleenex is used on the ride home after parents drop off their freshman son or daughter.

Fx. Lacey



*Parker Doan Nguyen
Baptized, Saturday, August 5th
Tien and Nancy Nguyen, older sister Sophia*



Mark Your Calendars!

August 21 | KnitWits

- 10am-1pm at St. Joseph lower level

September 7 | Alpha begins!

- Find out more at www.icsjparish.org/alpha

September 10 | Tunes on a Sunday Afternoon

- St. Joseph church at 2pm

September 16 | Liturgical Minister Training

- Immaculate Conception Church

September 18 | KnitWits

- 10am-1pm at St. Joseph lower level

September 22 | Wisdom, Women & Wine Book Club

- email Colleen cm.424.svdp@gmail.com

September 24 | Young Adults Brunch

- after 11AM Mass at Happy Camper

UPDATED DATE - November 16 | Parish Fundraiser

- The School House

**Look out for more details on
all events in our
News from the Pews!**

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

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koconnell@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 2

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

ICSJ School Co-Principal

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Assistant to the Pastor

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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

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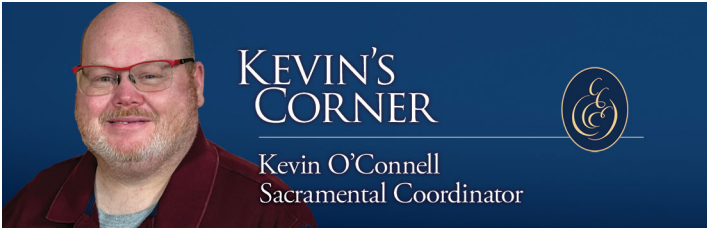
@icsjparish (Parish)



@i.do.at.icsj (Weddings)



@icsjparish



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Are you not Catholic but...

Feeling called to a deeper faith?

Looking for a place to belong, pray, share, serve and grow?

Curious about the Catholic faith?

Ready to receive the sacraments and become Catholic?

These are all great reasons to explore RCIA. Let's start the conversation! The new season begins in September. Your journey begins **HERE!**

Contact Kevin,
koconnell@icsjparish.org

Needed
VOLUNTEER DRUMMER

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER DRUMMER TO PLAY WITH OUR WONDERFUL CHOIR AT THE 11AM MASS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH. INTERESTED? CONTACT [KRYAN@ICSJPARISH.ORG](mailto:kryan@icsjparish.org)

NOW HIRING!

Spanish Teacher

Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph School
363 W. Hill St
Chicago, IL. 60610

For more information and a complete job description contact our Principal, Katie Sullivan at ksullivan@icsjschool.org

WARNING: SPAM EMAIL ALERT

Fr. Larry, Fr. McBrady and the parish staff do not solicit individuals for gift cards or money via email or text. We have had several reports from parishioners receiving spam emails from Father Larry. The emails look legitimate with a picture and full signature but they're not! Please mark them as "Spam" or "Phishing."

WHEN FAITH IS SHARED, FAITH IS STRENGTHENED

Alpha returns this Fall!

Thursdays starting September 7th from 6:30-8:15pm



Join us at the Immaculate Conception Parish Center for engaging videos, delicious food and inspiring conversations that take a closer look at our life, our faith and what it all means.



Everyone is welcome! Parishioners, neighbors, friends and family. Christian and non-Christians. Bring a friend! There's no pressure, no commitment, no homework and it's completely free!



Join us the first few nights to give it a try! Visit www.icsjparish.org/alpha for more details and to register for September 7th.



OUTREACH OUTLOOK

Allie Klazura · Outreach Ministries Coordinator



Thank You - July Migrant Assistance Drive

Big thanks to each of you who donated items for our July Migrant Assistance Drive, and another big thank you to our Knights of Columbus who picked up and dropped off the items each week. We also want to thank the outreach coordinators from St. Josaphat - they came by and dropped off box loads of items for donation. It's been so fun to see the collaboration on service projects such as this throughout our LPOT grouping. The volunteers at the Supper Service were so appreciative and the good you did by donating these simple items touched so many individuals and families. Pictured here are Freddie and LaToya, two Catholic Charities staff members who helped coordinate the donation drop offs each week.



Mother of the Americas / Kolbe House Adoption of Migrant Families - Items & Gift Cards Needed

Recently, Mother of the Americas parish and a Kolbe House employee helped two migrant families with housing. The families now have an apartment, but there are a significant number of items they need. Items can be dropped off at Mother of the Americas, 2226 S. Whipple St., M-F 9-5 with attention to the Gonzalez-Rivas and the Vasquez-Chacoa Families. Please call 773-521-8400 to coordinate drop off of larger items. If you're willing to provide monetary assistance toward these items, please contact me at aklazura@icsjparish.org

Here is the list we received detailing some of their specific needs: pots & pans, kitchen table w/chairs, beds (full), couch, towels, pillows, sheets (size full and twin), curtains (6), tv, lamps, gift cards to Target or Wal-Mart, and the following clothing:

Daughter - Children's Size 4 top; 4 pants; shoes 6

Adult Male - Men's XL top; 36 waist pants; shoes 9

Adult Female- Women's S top; 2/4 / S pants; shoes 5.5

Adult Male - Men's S top; 30 waist pants; shoes 8.5

Adult Female - Women's M top; 12/14 / L pants; shoes 7.5

Our 10th Refugee Family in Need of Grocery Help

This past week I was notified via the case worker at Catholic Charities, as well as by the father of the family, that 87% of the family's monthly food stamps amount was stolen off of their LINK card. Per the case worker, this is a crime on the rise and sadly several other families they work with have experienced the same thing. It happens when scammers place an unnoticeable device on a credit card machine that somehow steals the card information and makes it accessible remotely. It's terrible! As you can imagine, this is really scary for this family, as their card was just replenished for the month on 8/4. The grocery store closest to their home is Target. If you are willing to donate money to help us purchase them a Target gift card for food this month please visit <https://www.icsjparish.org/refugee-effort> and make a donation to our refugee fund. Thank you!

A Refugee Ministry Update

An Introduction to Our 10th Refugee Family!

I am so excited to share with you a bit of an introduction to the sweet family I've been spending time with as a refugee volunteer - the Thabit family; a father, mother, and 4 year old boy. They waited 9 long years in Jordan after fleeing their home country of Yemen and finally made it safely to Chicago. Because of all of this, there is a nearly tangible, overflowing spirit of gratitude when you're around them.



The time my sons and I have spent with them has been seriously wonderful. I expected the first meeting to be a little awkward - just meeting

one another, not speaking the same

language, and having an Exodus World Service representative present to kind of explain to us how this all works - but I was wrong. When my two sons and I arrived at the door of their apartment the mother was instantly helping me take my baby out of the carrier and kissing his feet and the father was introducing their son to my 2 year old. And now, with each visit that passes, we are more comfortable with one another, and it feels like we are spending time with friends.

Conversation is still tricky of course, and we mostly use Google Translate, but I can see improvement each week in their English! They are taking English classes Monday - Thursday. The last time we visited the father said to me, "Won't it be amazing years from now when we can talk to each other without a phone?!" When we are there, the mother loves on my baby,

makes us food and tea, and together she and I try to keep our 2 and 4 year olds from climbing on everything, potentially breaking something, and we are continually cleaning up their crumbs. There is plenty of shaking our heads and laughing together. The father mans the phone to help us all communicate because we have our hands occupied with the little ones, and plays with the two older boys who are usually racing trucks or trying to stick their tongues into the standing fan.

If I'm being honest, I word-vomited when I said I would volunteer with this family - their arrival happened so quickly and I knew they needed a volunteer quickly and the words "I'll do it" just spilled out, despite my feeling that life was too crazy and busy already. But, as these things usually go, you later realize it was the Holy Spirit getting you right where you're supposed to be. **Here are a couple of photos from our most recent visit - we celebrated their son's 4th birthday and took a walk to a nearby park.**



Thanks to your generosity, ICSJ's refugee fund made it possible to pay for the first three months of their rent and basic furniture for their apartment. This was coordinated through the resettlement agency, Catholic Charities. The family is now being assisted by both Catholic Charities and Exodus World Service as they continue to make Chicago their new home. They are so willing and eager to learn, I know they will do well here, but please keep them in your prayers. **While they don't ask me for anything, there are some things they've needed since their arrival. Through a couple of moms groups I'm in and more work of the Holy Spirit/their generosity, I've been able to provide them with a dresser, a nightstand, and a tv. The family would also like to have a cart for their groceries, as they are walking to and from the store, and some sort of a water filter. In addition, any books or toys or clothes for a 4 year old boy would be so appreciated. If you would like to donate any of these items or provide the funds for me to purchase them, please don't drop them at the church, but rather contact me at aklazura@icsjparish.org**

— Allie Klazura, Outreach Ministries Coordinator

All Young Adults,
please join us
for a fun and
meaningful night of



STORIES & SPIRITS



As Christians, our faith is based on the tradition of the divinely inspired storytelling of the Gospel. Join our *Theology on Tap* series, *Stories & Spirits*, to hear modern day stories of God working in the life of Catholic Chicagoans. We've all got a story! Are you ready to explore yours?

**All young adults
ages 21-35 are welcome!**

**Tuesdays in August at 7:00 p.m.
Black Barrel LIVE!, 455 W North Avenue**

TO REGISTER
scan the QR or visit
rebrand.ly/theologyontap23



SERIES SPEAKERS



Tuesday
8/8
BISHOP MARK BARTOSIC
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago,
Episcopal Vicar for
Vicariate II



Tuesday
8/15
EMILY CORTINA
Coordinator of Outreach
and Formation,
Kolbe House Jail Ministry



Tuesday
8/22
DR. KIMBERLY LYMORE
M.Div, D.Min, Associate
Minister, Faith Community
of St. Sabina



Tuesday
8/29
KEVIN PEASE
Director of IPS Scripture School
at Institute of Pastoral Studies,
Loyola University Chicago

Hosted by St. Teresa of Avila, St. Josaphat, St. Michael, and Immaculate Conception & St. Joseph Parishes



ICSJ MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS

Tunes ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON

A CONCERT SERIES

ICSJ Music Ministry is proud to present *Tunes on a Sunday Afternoon*, a series of community concerts featuring the gifts and talents of our choir members, musicians, and other special guests. The series, sponsored by our generous parishioners, will begin this fall and run through next spring.



Sunday, September 10th

Join us for our first concert,

WOMEN VOICES IN SONG

presented by Josephine Stracek

More details to come soon!

WISDOM, WOMEN & WINE BOOK CLUB!



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @3:30 AT IC CHURCH.

**WE'LL BE DISCUSSING WITHOUT YOU THERE IS NO US: UNDERCOVER
AMONG THE SONS OF NORTH KOREA'S ELITE BY SUKIYAKI KIM**

**PLEASE EMAIL
COLLEEN CM.424.SVDP@GMAIL.COM
AND/OR
MARTHA MARTHA_60603@YAHOO.COM
TO LET THEM KNOW YOU WILL BE JOINING.**

News About Our Children's Religious Education Program



OLD TOWN
PARISHES
Religious Education
at **ST. MICHAEL**

ICSJ Parish continues its partnership with neighboring St. Michael Parish to provide children's religious education. Our combined program, now called *Old Town Parishes Religious Education at St. Michael*, is proud to offer *Family Faith Formation* as its cornerstone.

The **Family Faith Formation** program offers a combination of in-class learning as well as at-home learning. Teaching children about the Catholic faith is first and foremost the privilege and responsibility of parents. That is the reason we strive to include families in our educational initiatives. We dedicate ourselves to helping families raise their children in the Catholic faith by promoting lifelong learning and growth in the Four Pillars of Faith: faith-formation, worship, service, and community.

The **Family Faith Formation** model is designed to give parents the tools, knowledge, and best practices to pass on the faith to their children. Further, the model allows parents to experience an ever-growing community in the parish, to find support among fellow Catholic parents, and to learn, experience, and grow in their faith along with their children. **Family Faith Formation** assists in not only strengthening one's relationship with Jesus but also within the entire family . . . even intergenerational!

To learn more about the program, or for calendar, tuition and registration information, please scan the QR code or visit www.st-mikes.org/religious-education





DOLPHIN DAYS

News from ICSJ School

ICSJ Tot Program

We are thrilled to announce that the ICSJ Tot Program will return to its original format for the 2023/2024 School Year. Please spread the word and join us for this fantastic opportunity to learn and grow with your toddler and experience the magic of ICSJ School.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

TOT PROGRAM



TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
SEPTEMBER 2023 - MAY 2024
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
ICSJ SCHOOL
1431 N NORTH PARK AVENUE

The ICSJ Tot Program is the ideal transition toddlers need to begin their evolution from a home-concentrated environment to a school-based setting. Children and their caregivers will enjoy circle time, playtime, Spanish, and gross motor exploration.

Open to children who will be 2 years of age by 9/1/23.

Please apply online at www.icsjschool.org/totprogram or, contact Jodi Thyen at jthyen@icsjschool.org to learn more.



Learn more about ICSJ School at www.icsjschool.org



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.

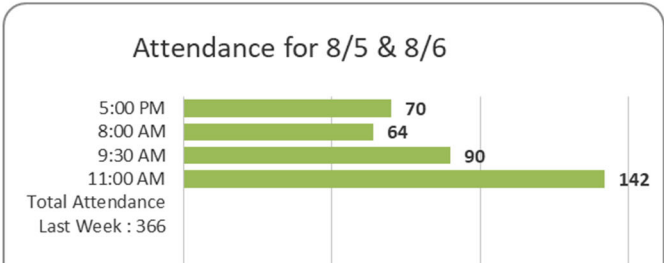
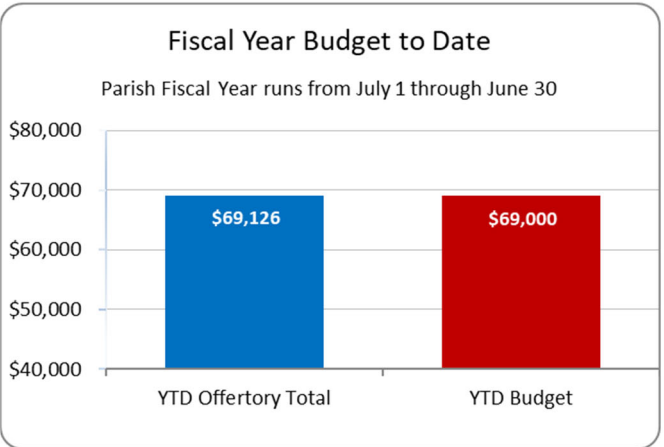
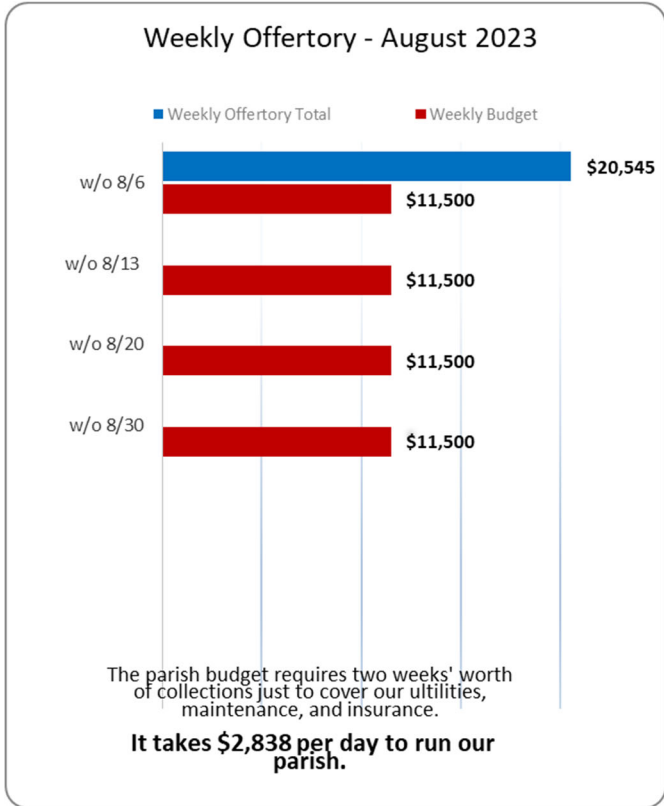
Sign up for eGiving

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 August 12 - 18

Saturday, August 12

5pm at Immaculate Conception with
Fr. Larry McBrady: **Chip Lacaillade**

Sunday, August 13

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

Sunday, August 13

9:30am Mass at Immaculate Conception with
Fr. Larry McBrady: **Philip Rashid, Louis Waris**

Sunday, August 13

11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:
Anne C. Brophy, Jay Wilkins

Monday, August 14

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:
**For the parishioners of our ICSJ parish
community**

Tuesday, August 15 - Assumption of Mary

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:
**For the parishioners of our ICSJ parish
community**

6pm Mass at Immaculate Conception with
Fr. Larry Lisowski: **Ann Mayer Scaffidi**

Wednesday, August 16

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Don Cambe:
For the well-being of Mary Lou Spitzer

Friday, August 11

9am at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady:
Marilyn Vondrasek

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.

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