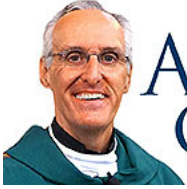


August 27, 2023 | Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



## ALL OF US

### Fr. Larry's Weekly Letter #528

**"SO... HOW DID WE DO?"**



Back in March of this year, throughout all of Lent, our parishioners were invited to take the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey that was being conducted by the Archdiocese of Chicago. The DMI survey was being offered to every parish so that they could obtain a clear sense of how they are doing.

Some of the biggest questions asked in the survey were these:

***Does your parish help you to develop a personal prayer life that connects you to God?***

***Would you recommend your parish to a friend?***

***Would you recommend your pastor to a friend?***

***Does your parish help you to grow spiritually as a Catholic?***

I will be speaking at all the Masses this weekend about our survey results. We have plenty to celebrate, yet, there are also more opportunities for growth and improvement. Our Parish Staff, Parish Council and Senior Leadership Team will use this information to help plan and shape our future.

Before Mass this Sunday, I invite you to read a synopsis of the results from the DMI survey. Just [CLICK HERE](#). The good news is that overall we did very well.

**"DON'T YOU KNOW  
WHO I AM?"**

I enjoyed my time away last week and grateful for the opportunity to be on retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The eight days of silence, prayer and reflection was truly a blessing and good medicine for my soul.

I would meet with a spiritual director each morning for a brief "check-in" just to see how the Holy Spirit was guiding me, and to share the things that I was being attentive to in the midst of the silence.

One morning we reflected upon the virtue of humility and the grace of gratitude. There is a sacred synergy between them. It's hard for one to be grateful if they do not have a humble heart.

Then my spiritual director told me this true story. There was a crowded United flight that was cancelled in Denver, Colorado. A single agent stationed at the counter was rebooking a long line of inconvenienced travelers. Suddenly, an angry passenger pushed his way up to the front desk. He slapped his ticket on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight, and it has to be FIRST CLASS."



*Continued on the next page*

The agent replied, "I am sorry, sir, I'll be happy to help you, but I have to help these people first, and I am sure we can work something out."

The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, **"DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?"**

Without hesitating, the agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone: "May I have your attention please," she began, her voice was heard clearly through the terminal. "We have a passenger here at Gate 14, **WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS.** If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to Gate 14. Thank you."

In the gospel for this weekend, it seems like Jesus is taking a public opinion poll. He wants to know what the crowds are saying about him. (It's like he is conducting his own DMI survey). He wants to get a sense of what the word on the street is about him.

But then he goes on to ask a bigger and more important question to his disciples. It is a question that makes all the difference – one more personal: **"Who do you say that I am?"**

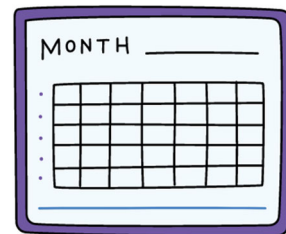
This same question makes all the difference for us as well. Who do you say that Jesus is?

Find some time today to take this question into prayer. Ask God to reveal Jesus more deeply to you and to convince you more powerfully that Jesus is your Savior.

Tell Jesus who you say that he is. Do not be afraid to let him know. If you felt his presence during a trouble time, praise him for being your friend and guide. If you experience the relief and joy of forgiveness, thank him for being a merciful and compassionate Savior. If he helped you through a grueling period of discernment, thank him for being a Shepherd. If you catch a glimpse of his glory, worship him with wonder and awe as the Son of God.

Who we say Jesus is, changes everything. So who is he for you?

*Fx. Lacey*



## Mark Your Calendars!

### September 7 | Alpha begins!

- Find out more at [www.icsjparish.org/alpha](http://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](mailto:cm.424.svdp@gmail.com)

### September 24 | Young Adults Brunch

- after 11AM Mass at Happy Camper

### October 14 and 15 | Open House Chicago

- St. Joseph Church Architectural Tours

### **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](http://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](mailto:pastor@icsjparish.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 5

### Senior Priest

Rev. Larry McBrady  
312-787-7174

### Deacon

Neil Rogers  
[nrogers@archchicago.org](mailto:nrogers@archchicago.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 6

### Business Manager

Nancy Gies  
[ngies@icsjparish.org](mailto:ngies@icsjparish.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 7

### Sacramental Coordinator

Kevin O'Connell  
[koconnell@icsjparish.org](mailto:koconnell@icsjparish.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 2

### Director of Music

Kate Ryan  
[kryan@icsjparish.org](mailto:kryan@icsjparish.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 9

### ICSJ School Co-Principal

Katie Sullivan  
[ksullivan@icsjschool.org](mailto:ksullivan@icsjschool.org)  
312-944-0304, ext. 3

### ICSJ School Co-Principal

Heather Lux  
[hlux@icsjschool.org](mailto:hlux@icsjschool.org)  
312-944-0304, ext. 4

### Maintenance Supervisor

Colm Murphy  
[cmurphy@icsjschool.org](mailto:cmurphy@icsjschool.org)  
312-787-7174

### Parish Coordinator, Bulletin Editor

Angela Gore  
[agore@icsjparish.org](mailto:agore@icsjparish.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 1

### Director of Evangelization & Events

Jutta Keenan  
[jkeenana@icsjparish.org](mailto:jkeenana@icsjparish.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 8

### Assistant to the Pastor

Elly Rodriguez  
[erodriguez@icsjparish.org](mailto:erodriguez@icsjparish.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 4

### Outreach Ministries Coordinator

Allie Klazura  
[aklazura@icsjparish.org](mailto:aklazura@icsjparish.org)  
312-787-7174, ext. 3

### Assistant to the Director of Music

Josephine Stracek  
[jstracek@icsjparish.org](mailto: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



## You Spoke, We Listened!

Every few years the Archdiocese of Chicago conducts a survey (Disciple Maker Index) that provides individual parishes with insight on how they are doing, where parishioners are on their spiritual journey, as well as the parish's effectiveness in supporting them.



**Disciple  
Maker  
Index**

Over a third (36%) of you who regularly attend mass completed the survey. Thank you! Your voices have provided important feedback that will inform and shape our parish's future planning and development. A deep dive into the data revealed key learnings (listed below), which will guide us in writing our next chapter here at ICSJ.

Stay tuned, as we continue to communicate how your input will manifest itself in the works and life of our parish in the months to come.

### Reasons to Celebrate

- ▶ Our vibrant & engaging worship experience, especially our preaching and music.
- ▶ Our warm, welcoming & accepting community.
- ▶ Our parish, school and pastors are highly regarded and recommended to others.
- ▶ Information about ICSJ and parish life is easy to find.

### Survey Highlights

- 96%** "My parish offers preaching and homilies that connect my faith with my everyday life."
- 95%** "My parish makes me feel welcomed and accepted."
- 100%** "I would recommend the parish Catholic school to a friend."
- 97%** "My parish helps me by making information easy to find (via bulletin, web, email)."

### Progress to Build On

- ▶ Facilitating more conversations of how God is working in our lives today.
- ▶ Providing more opportunities to our grow personal faith (retreats, reflections, ALPHA).
- ▶ Enhancing the training and ongoing formation of our Ministry Leaders.

### Survey Highlights

- 88%** "My parish equips me to have conversations about my faith...by helping me recognize how God is working in my life."
- 70%** "My parish helps me grow spiritually by providing retreats, workshops, and resources to help me figure out my life's purpose."
- 53%** "My parish teaches me how to share my personal witness story"

### Opportunities to Invest In

- ▶ Explore how our parish and school can become one mind & heart, not just one mind.
- ▶ Evaluate opportunities for renovations and enhancements of our buildings and grounds.
- ▶ Improve follow-up to increase participation, connection and belonging.

### Survey Highlights

- 39%**<sup>1</sup> "There seems to be a need to build a stronger bridge between the school and parish families."
- 39%**<sup>1</sup> "...needs some normal cosmetic improvement.... a few key projects need attending to...."
- 77%** "My Parish helps by following up with me when I express interest in becoming involved"



**To see how we scored on the Four Factors of a Thriving Parish scan the QR code or visit [icsjparish.org/dmi](https://icsjparish.org/dmi)**

<sup>1</sup>Percent of all respondents who chose statement from multiple choices. All other percentages reflect aggregate of respondents who either agree or strongly agree with the statement.



*Patrick Fitton & Colleen Froehlich  
Married Friday, August 18th  
Deacon Neil Rogers Presided  
St. Joseph Church*



*Blake Larson and Kelly Zonghetti  
Married Saturday, August 19th  
Rev Frank Latzko Presided  
St. Joseph Church*

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## Married in 1973?

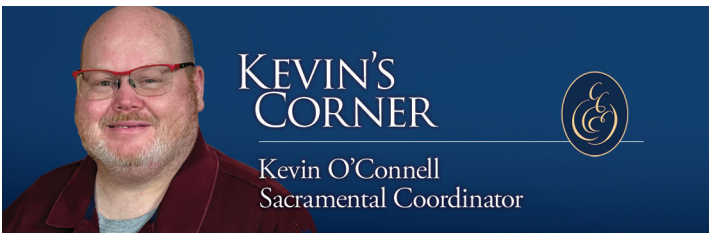
Have you registered for the annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass?

Couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary from across the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to gather together for the Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass that will be celebrated by Cardinal Cupich on **Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.** The Mass will be held at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois.

Please email [gwa@archchicago.org](mailto:gwa@archchicago.org) or contact your parish office with any questions. To register online, please visit [pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding](http://pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding).

We hope to see you there!





## 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](mailto:koconnell@icsjparish.org)



## ICSJ Music is looking for a volunteer drummer!

ICSJ Music is looking for a volunteer drummer to play with our wonderful choir at the 11am Mass on Sunday Mornings.

Interested in have a recommendation?  
Contact Director of Music, Kate Ryan at [kryan@icsjparish.org](mailto:kryan@icsjparish.org). Thank you!

## OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO

We are pleased to announce that historic St. Joseph Church has again been selected to participate in the Open House Chicago event on October 14 and 15 this year. If you would like to volunteer to help guide visitors on either day, please contact Joan Moore at [jbem28@msn.com](mailto:jbem28@msn.com) or sign up at the rear of the church this weekend. This is a very special event that will feature an organ recital on our historic 1892 Hutchings Organ on Sunday afternoon, October 15 at 2 pm as an added bonus for us and our visitors

## WISDOM, WOMEN & WINE BOOK CLUB!



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

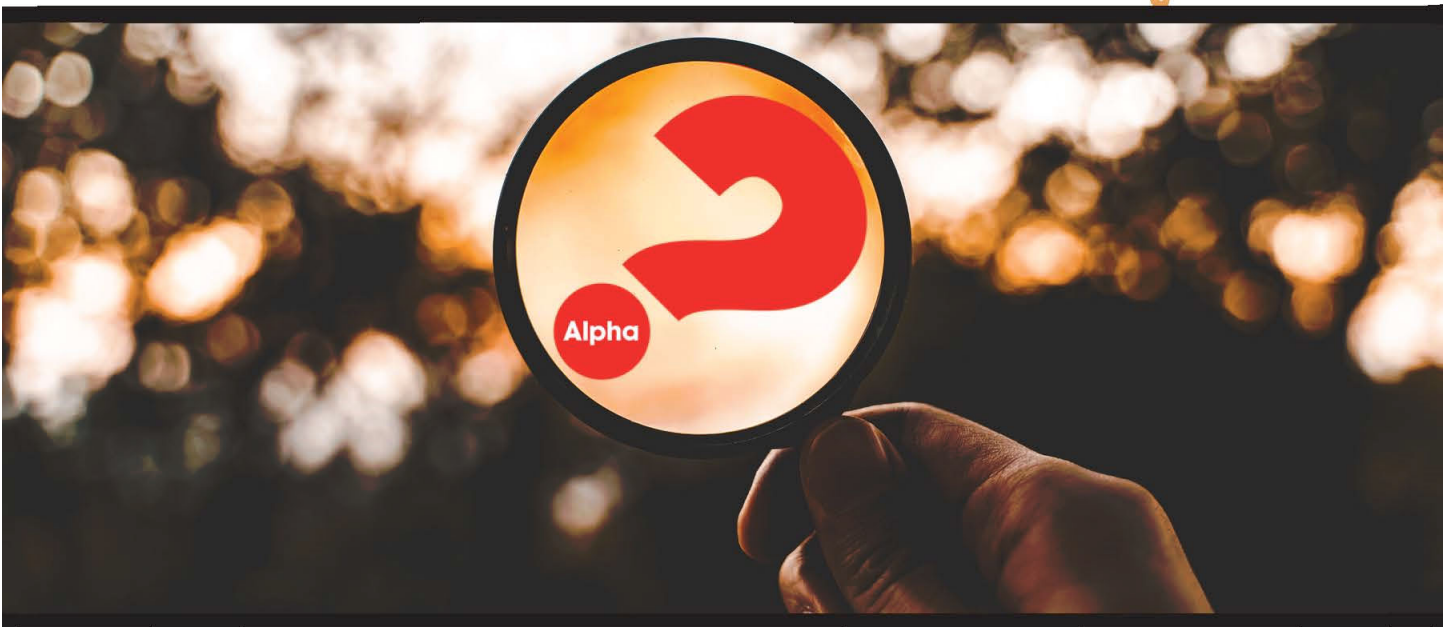
WE'LL BE DISCUSSING WITHOUT YOU THERE IS NO US: UNDERCOVER AMONG THE SONS OF NORTH KOREA'S ELITE BY SUKIYAKI KIM

PLEASE EMAIL  
COLLEEN [CM.424.SVDP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CM.424.SVDP@GMAIL.COM)  
AND/OR  
MARTHA [MARTHA\\_60603@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MARTHA_60603@YAHOO.COM)  
TO LET THEM KNOW YOU WILL BE JOINING.

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](http://www.icsjparish.org/alpha) for more details and to register for September 7th.

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

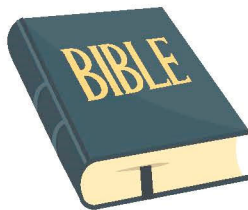
More details to come soon!



Looking to *grow* your faith? Feeling called to *serve*?

# Answer the Call

## Become an ICSJ Liturgical Minister



### Lector

Proclaim the  
Word of God



### Eucharistic Minister

Distribute  
Holy Communion  
at Mass



### Usher

Welcome the  
Community

Are you looking to grow in your faith and share your talents with ICSJ on Sundays? Join us for our upcoming Liturgical Ministry Training on Saturday, September 16th to receive formation as a lector, eucharistic minister, and/or usher. Belong to our growing community of ministers that help make our Sunday liturgies a vibrant service for all! **Please RSVP to Elly at [erodriguez@icsjparish.org](mailto:erodriguez@icsjparish.org) if you plan to attend.**

## Liturgical Minister Training

September 16th • 9:00-11:00 a.m. • Immaculate Conception Church



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

*A family of families*



# 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](http://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](http://www.icsjschool.org/totprogram) or, contact Jodi Thyen at [jthyen@icsjschool.org](mailto:jthyen@icsjschool.org) to learn more.*



Learn more about ICSJ School at [www.icsjschool.org](http://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](mailto:ngies@icsjparish.org) or (312) 787-7174 ext 7.

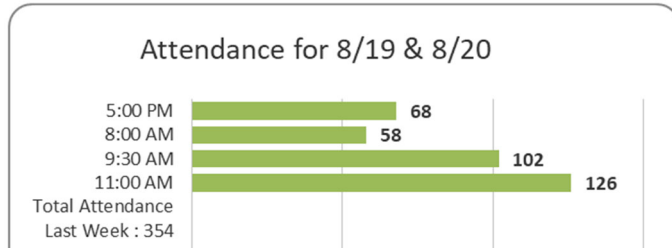
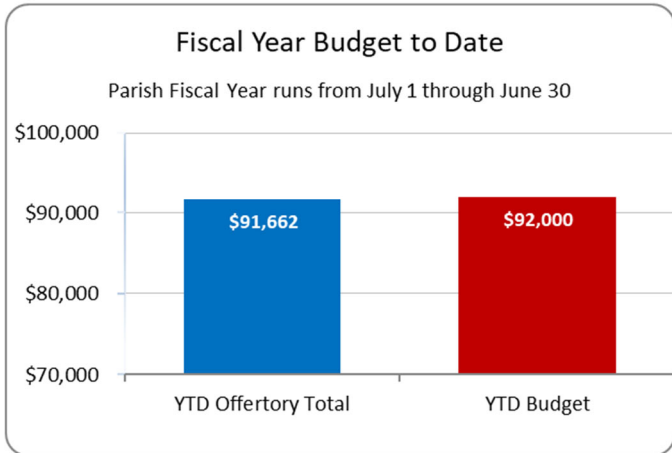
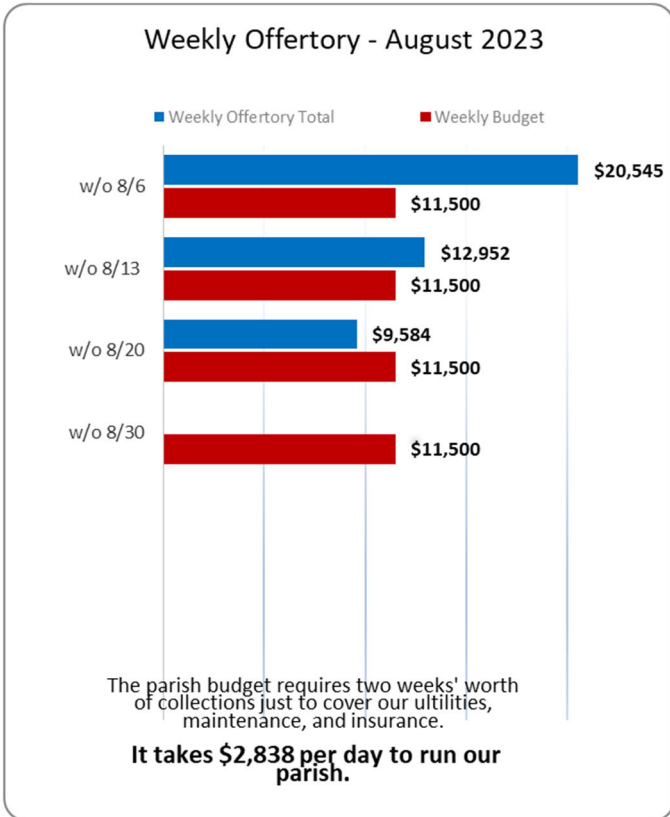
## Sign up for eGiving

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



# Mass Intentions

week of August 26—September 1

## Saturday, August 26

5pm at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski: **For the parishioners of our ICSJ parish community**

## Sunday, August 27

8am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: **For the parishioners of our ICSJ parish community**

## Sunday, August 27

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

## Sunday, August 27

11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: **Charlie Horn**

## Monday, August 28

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

## Wednesday, August 30

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski: **Thomas A. Reynolds**

## Friday, September 1

9am at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: **Thomas McVicker, George Lyman Jr.**

# 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](http://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](http://www.icsjparish.org/the-prayer-connection) to submit a prayer Request. To join our ICSJ prayer ministry, email Angela at [agore@icsjparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@icsjparish.org), to schedule a time to meet.

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**WHY ADVERTISE IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH BULLETIN?**

- GREAT COVERAGE - 97%** of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.
- GREAT VALUE - 70%** of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.
- GREAT LOYALTY - 41%** of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.
- GREAT PRODUCT - 62%** of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

**Learn More About Advertising In Your Parish Bulletin**  
Call us at **1-800-621-5197** Email: [sales@jspaluch.com](mailto:sales@jspaluch.com)