

August 6, 2023 | Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



ALL OF US

Fr. Larry's Weekly Letter #525

"SO, HOW DO YOU DO IT?"

A woman came up to me after the 11:00 a.m. Mass last Sunday and asked, "So, how do you guys do it?"

She had just attended the Mass and was now switching gears to witness the baptism for her cute little grandson, "Leonardo." She told me she lives on the south side of Chicago and traveled across town for this special day. By the joy in her eyes, and the excitement in her voice, I knew that she would not miss this day for anything.

"What do you mean?" I asked her. (I learned in the seminary that sometimes it is good to answer a question, with a question, when you're not exactly sure what is being asked of you. It buys you a little time.)

She answered with, "How do you get all these people to come here on Sunday? I noticed that you got young families with little kids. You got single young adults, and you got people my age. Where I come from, we don't have this many people at Mass. How do you guys do it?"

In the back of my mind, I was glad to know that her first impressions about our parish was a positive one. Yet, I also sensed that there was something much deeper spiritually churning inside her heart. It was obvious that she just had a good experience of "church."

Spiritual writers often call this an "Ah-ha Moment." It's a moment when a person experiences a sudden insight or discovery. It's when you are simply inspired by the very presence of God. Some folks have described it as having their breath taken away because they are overwhelmed by wonder and awe. Plus, this epiphany can even have a lasting effect on them.

"Well, we work really hard at it." I told the grandmother. "My staff and parishioners work hard at being a welcoming and friendly place where people can feel right at home. Like our Taco Fiesta today, we offer a lot of hospitality to help folks form relationships and build a sense of community. We try to make Mass meaningful for folks, with good music and a hopefully a 'decent' homily. It's important that when people leave church on Sunday, that they are filled with hope that will carry them through their week. I think that is how we do it. When you put it all together, it seems to work."

My conversation with the visiting grandmother reminded me of how hungry people are for a good experience of prayer, community, and church.

Catholics today will "shop around" to find a parish that fits best for them. That never bothered me because I always remind myself that we all have the "same Jesus" anyway. I totally understand the need for someone to go to a church where they feel that they are being spiritually fed.

If you are reading this, thank you for making Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph your spiritual home. Thank you for all the times you come in-person to pray with us on Sunday. Your presence in church is a precious gift to me and certainly to those sitting next to you in the pew.

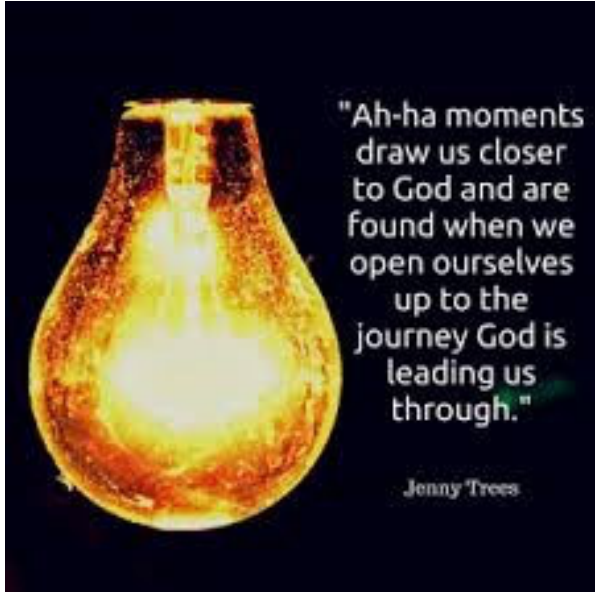
Thank you to all our extroverts who are not shy about extending a warm welcome to others, especially those who are visiting us and those who are new to our parish. Thank you to all who work behind the scenes every weekend to make sure our liturgies flow smoothly. Thank you to all our volunteers who breathe life into our parish that keeps us from being stale and obsolete.

I think even Jesus would agree that nobody likes a boring parish.

Continued on the next page

May our future be filled with many more "Ah-ha Moments."

With all of us, together, we can easily make that happen.



Fr. Larry

___ Needed ___

VOLUNTEER DRUMMER



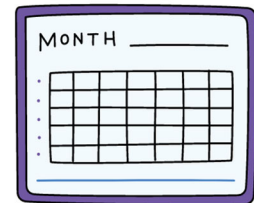
WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER DRUMMER TO PLAY WITH OUR WONDERFUL CHOIR AT THE 11AM MASS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH. INTERESTED? CONTACT [KRYAN@ICSJPARISH.ORG](mailto:kryan@icsjparish.org)

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

Mark Your Calendars!



August 4 | First Friday Mass and Coffee

- Join us for coffee after 9am Mass at the St. Joseph Church Parish Center

August 12 | Stroke Scan Plus

- Immaculate Conception Parish Hall

September 7 | Alpha begins!

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

September 16 | Liturgical Minister Training

- Immaculate Conception Church

September 22 | Wisdom, Women & Wine Book Club

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

November 9th 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
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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



*Isabella Juliet and Rhea Neda Speh
Baptized, Saturday, July 29th
Jonathan and Ghienhel Speh*



*Leonardo James Coci
Baptized, Saturday, July 29th
Daniel and Erica Coci*



*Isla Marie Griffey
Baptized, Saturday, July 29th
John and Laura Griffey*



*Glenn Michael Halasz & Mary Catherine Bort
Married Saturday, June 29, 2023
St. Joseph Church
Rev. Patrk Mary Briscoe presided*



Gracias!

Thank you for joining us at this year's Taco Fiesta! Special thanks to Fr. Tom Boharic and his parishioners from Mother of the Americas for joining us. And many many thanks to the Knights of Columbus, and all of our wonderful ICSJ volunteers for pulling off another great event!

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





STROKE SCAN PLUS

Stroke Scan Plus will be hosting a Stroke, Vascular & Abdominal Ultrasound Screening at Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish on

Saturday, August 12, 2023

in the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall

They will check the Carotid Arteries on both sides of the neck for fatty plaque build-up which accounts for 80% of all strokes. They check the Abdominal Aorta which is the main Artery off the Heart for Aneurysms, the Thyroid which controls the Metabolism for cyst, nodules and enlargements, the Liver, Gallbladder and both Kidney's for cyst, masses, fluid build-up and tumors.

These screenings are typically NOT performed at annual check-ups, nor will insurance companies pay for them unless you are symptomatic. Collectively, these screenings cost thousands. Stroke Scan will be offering them to you for \$169 for all 7 combined. Health/Flex Savings Accounts are accepted. Please call 866-935-7226 to schedule an appointment today.

Prevention is the KEY to early detection.

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@icsiparish.org or (312) 787-7174 ext 7.

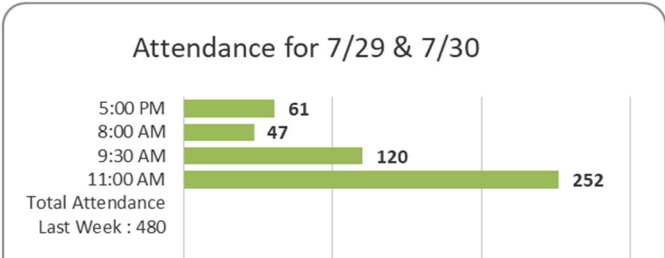
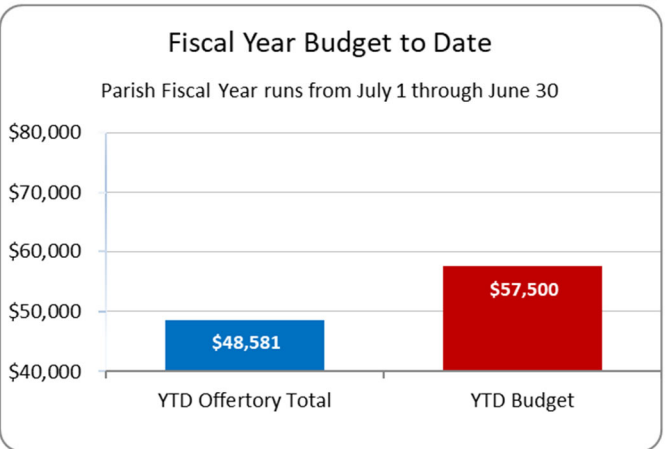
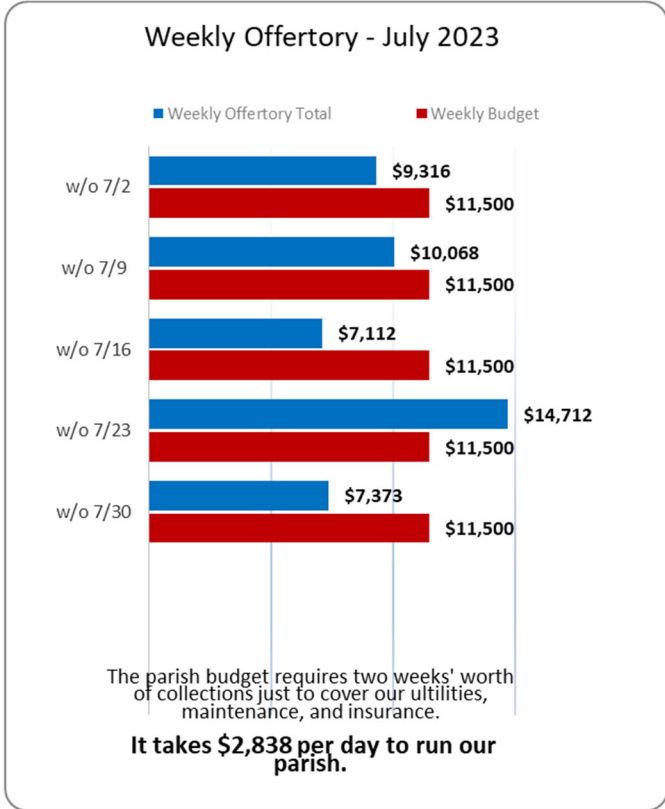
Sign up for eGiving

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.



Mass Intentions

week of August 5- 11

Saturday, August 5

5pm at Immaculate Conception with
Fr. Larry Lisowski:

**Corky Hyland,
Robbert L. Berner Jr.**

Sunday, August 6

8am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady:
Dennis Heller

Sunday, August 6

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

**Dorothy Myers,
Dennis Haugh**

Sunday, August 6

11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady:
Ronald Mailes

Monday, August 7

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:
**Officer Ella French,
Ed Lisowski Sr.**

Wednesday, August 9

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

Friday, August 11

9am at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady:
**John Rowan,
Kevin Rowan**

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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