

September 24, 2023 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Fr. Larry's Weekly Letter #532



This Sunday we hear a real interesting parable from Jesus about a bunch of vineyard workers. Initially the story seems blatantly unfair for many reasons. It presents itself like a HR case to be resolved.

Some workers, who put in a whole day's work and sweat, receive the same days wages as those who were there for only one hour. It makes us want to ask, "Jesus, what is going on here?"

It is good to remember that the workers who got the "usual daily wage" did not get a great sum of money. They got paid just enough to live on.

All of the workers back then needed that wage in order to supply their families with food for the day. Whether they were fortunate enough to get work first thing in the morning, or later in the day, the amount of money the hired workers had to earn in a day in order to survive did not change.

The last group of workers in the story, who worked only a couple of hours, must of have thought that God answered their prayers. They prayed that someone would give them some work before the day was done. They probably expected to just get only pennies for the few hours that they worked. The real shock comes when they get a "living wage" to bring home to their families.

The real point of the story is about the landowner being extremely generous. His compassionate actions mirror our Lord who offers salvation to all. Salvation is available to anyone who enters the vineyard, at any time. The good news is that our Lord does not offer "partial salvation".

We are recipients of the Lord's abundant mercy and generosity. His mercy is so outstanding that we can only know, love, and serve him all the days of our life. Whenever someone wakes up to this offer, they are blessed.

We have no reason to be envious of the good fortune of another, for ours is equal in measure and justice. So let me ask you:

Can we be open to others as was the landowner to his workers?

Can we let Jesus use our lives and our actions to demonstrate the same kind of kindness and justice?

Can we too be sensitive to people's desperation and respond with compassion, even at a cost to ourselves?



This weekend is Tootsie Roll Sunday! Our Knights of Columbus are asking for our support in their annual drive that supports the ICSJ SPRED program. SPRED (Special Religious Development) is an Archdiocese religious education program that is specifically designated to meet the spiritual needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Continued on the next page

Consider donating today to such a great cause. Just click: **DONATE HERE.**



On Wednesday, October 4th, we will hold a blessing of animals as we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Our Pet Blessing will take place at 3:30 PM in the parking lot of Immaculate Conception Church.

We recognize the beauty of all of God's creations, especially the adorable furry creatures that have become a part of our family that show us love and affection every day.

Bring your dogs, your cats, and even your hamsters and snakes. In my first year in the parish, someone actually showed up with a horse! Pray that all the animals behave themselves.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW -AND RAISE UP YOUR FAITH!

We hope you'll join us for our annual Parish Fundraiser "Raising Up Our Faith" on Thursday, November 16th, 6-10 p.m. at the old St. Joe's School right across the street from our church for a night of dining, dancing, fellowship, and fundraising!

All funds raised will go to the renovation of the exterior doors and entryway of our beloved Immaculate Conception Church. To purchase a ticket and/or donate directly, see our parish bulletin, parish website, or stop by our information table in the back of church on Sunday!





Diego Roa & Ailis Yeager Married Saturday, September 16th St. Joseph Church Rev. Lawrence Lisowski presided



Chad Beatty & Nedum Aniemeka Married Saturday, September 16th St. Joseph Church Rev. Lawrence Lisowski presided

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."

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



P 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 ICS J Parish on Social Media







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Knights of Columbus

Tootsie Roll Drive

Each year our Knights of Columbus don their familiar yellow aprons for their annual Tootsie Roll Drive. The Knights are at it again and plan to be at all the ICSJ Masses on September 23rd and 24th to collect your donations and distribute tootsie rolls. However, you can also choose to contribute online using the following website:



To support the 2023 Tootsie Roll Drive, please go to icsjparish.org/spred



Funds collected from the Tootsie Roll Drive go to the ICSJ SPRED program.

SPRED (Special Religious Development) is an Archdiocese religious education program specifically designed to meet the spiritual needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Through the experience of friendship in one-to-one relationships, our Friends with special needs discover a sacred place of belonging where they enjoy meaningful relationships in helping them realize their own giftedness and dignity.



Soccer Challenge

The ICSJ and St. Mike's Knights of Columbus will be helping to host a Soccer Challenge for students at Our Lady of Tepeyac, the grammar school that is part of Mother of the Americas, our sharing parish in the Little Village neighborhood.

Students in grades 4-8 will have a chance to show off their penalty kick skills, and winners in each age/gender category will win a Knights of Columbus soccer ball and have a chance to compete at the Regional and State levels. ICSJ parishioners are welcome to join in and help at all or part of the event. It will be held on

> Friday, September 29 from 8:30 a.m. until Noon at 2414 S. Albany Avenue.

If interested, please contact Dan Stolze at danstolze@gmail.com or 312-622-2293



JOIN ICSJ YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY FOR MASS AND BRUNCH

Sunday, September 24th 11 AM | St. Joseph Church 12 PM | Happy Camper

Email erodriguez@icsjparish.org if you have any questions!

Decision Coaching Ministry

Often a brief or ongoing conversation with someone new can help to provide perspective on making big decisions, or on how to approach complex issues. This can be particularly true in charting new education, career, retirement, and post retirement directions. Parishioner Mike Traynor offers such free, confidential decision coaching for the ICSJ community.

Mike has been a leader and decision maker for many businesses and nonprofit organizations for over 40 years. His independent, experienced, and practical advice helps people make well-considered decisions and determine effective means to achieve their goals.

Every new decision or direction offers an opportunity to approach our relationship with God in a new way. Mike's approach to coaching is fully mindful of this opportunity, and its importance. All decision coaching is tailored to comport well with each person's interest in deepening their Christian spiritual life.

Contact Mike at metraynor@gmail.com



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 Gloria Hernandez at 773-247-0070 to coordinate drop off of items or with questions.

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

Blessing of Pets

There will be a blessing of pets as we remember the feast of

St. Francis of Assisi,

the patron saint of animals.

Dogs, cats, birds, turtles, all are welcome!

Wednesday. October 4th at 3:30 pm Immaculate Conception Parking Lot



Organist Clay Core

ICSJ MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS

MUNES ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

A CONCERT SERIES

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

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PERFORMANCE!



September 10th 2pm, St. Joseph Church

Josephine Stracek: Women Voices in Song

A solo voice recital featuring music by women composers at the turn of the 20th century

October 8th!



2pm, St. Joseph Church

Organist Clay Corso

A pipe organ concert featuring the historic 1892 Hutchings organ in St Joseph Church



November 12th 2pm, St. Joseph Church An Afternoon

An Afterno of Taizé

Join the Music Ministry team for a candlelit afternoon of meditative Taizé songs and prayer



December 10th 2pm, St. Joseph Church Lessons & Carols for Christmas

'Tis the season! Join the ICJS Music Ministry Team for a sing-a-long of all of your favorite carols

HELP SUPPORT THIS WONDERFUL SERIES! SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT ICSJPARISH.ORG/TUNES



HELP MAKE A MEAL FOR THOSE AT THE 18TH DISTRICT

Help us assemble and deliver lunch for the migrants & asylees at the 18th District Police Station

- When: Sunday, October 15th, following the 9:30am Mass at ~10:30
- Where: Immaculate Conception Church Parish Hall (1431 N North Park)
- Please RSVP (prior to Oct. 11th at the below link) by signing up to bring an item

www.mealtrain.com/potlucks/lkqzrd

Questions and/or interested in further migrant & asylee ministry opportunities?





aklazura@icsjparish.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE APRIL 8 - 17, 2024

Join us for a 10-day tour which includes visits to Ars-sur-Formans, Shrine of St. John Vianney, Chartres, Lisieux, D-Day beaches,



Paris and more! Hosted by

Vocation Director Fr. Timothy Monahan. **Cardinal Blase Cupich** will join us April 12 for the remainder of the pilgrimage.

Cost is \$4,269 per person, based on double occupancy (\$879 supplement for a single room).

For more information about what is included, visit vocations.archchicago.org/events/pilgrimage-to-france. The inquiry form is at bit.ly/3qrcGWS.





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.

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

Mark Your Calendars!

September 24 | Young Adults Brunch

after 11AM Mass at Happy Camper

October 4 | Blessing of the Pets

• 3:30pm at Immaculate Conception

October 8 | Tunes on a Sunday Afternoon

• St. Joseph church at 2pm

October 14 and 15 | Open House Chicago

• St. Joseph Church Architectural Tours

October 15 | Meals for migrants and asylees

• After 9:30am Mass at Immaculate Conception

October 16 | KnitWits

• 10am-1pm at St. Joseph lower level

October 21 | School Fall Festival

• see page 13 of the News from the Pews

November 16 | Parish Fundraiser

• The School House

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



LAST YEAR WE HOWLED TO THE HEAVENS.

JOIN US THIS YEAR AS WE GATHER TO

DINE & DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

WHILE BUILDING COMMUNITY & FAITH.

we hope to see you there!
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023
6-10PM

SCHOOL HOUSE

{LOCATED AT 1065 N. ORLEANS}

WE WILL LIFT OUR GLASSES, FAITH & HEARTS
AS WE RAISE FUNDS TO BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATE
THE ENTRYWAY OF OUR BELOVED
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH







DOLPHIN DAYS

News from Immaculate Conception - St. Joseph School

ENJOYING THE WANING DAYS OF SUMMER AT THE NORTH PARK CAMPUS!











UPCOMING GROUP TOURS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS... PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!



A PreK3 - 8th Grade Catholic elementary school with 2 campuses in Old Town



COME CHECK OUT OUR HANDS-ON APPROACH



Admissions Tours (9-10AM)

Thursday, September 28 Thursday, October 12 Friday, October 27 Wednesday, November 8 Monday, December 4

Lunchtime Zoom (noon-1PM) Thursday, November 12

RSVP at www.icsjschool.org



TOT PROGRAM

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

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 9:30 - 11 AM

ICSJ NORTH PARK CAMPUS 1431 N. NORTH PARK AVENUE

REGISTER TODAY!
FALL SESSION BEGINS OCTOBER 3!

Visit our website at **www.icsjschool.org**, or scan this QR code.



Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph School is a premier PreK3 - 8th grade Catholic School on 2 campuses in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood.

Learn more at at www.icsjschool.org or, call Jodi Thyen at 312-944-0304, ext. 312.

OVERHEARD AT TOTS...

"...a great transition from home-based care to a structured classroom!"



"I love spending this special time together, without the distractions



"She's getting used to a school evironment which will help when she heads to preschool!"

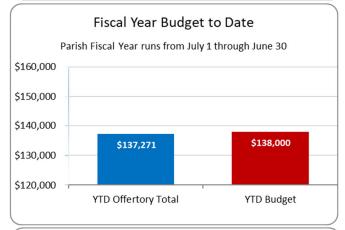


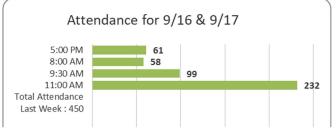
"Can I go to my school today?"





Weekly Offertory - September 2023 Weekly Offertory Total Weekly Budget \$13,232 \$11,500 \$14,065 \$11,500 W/o 9/17 \$11,500 The parish budget requires two weeks' worth of collections just to cover our ultilities, maintenance, and insurance. It takes \$2,838 per day to run our parish.





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 September 23-29

Saturday, September 23

5pm at Immaculate Conception with Fr. David Godleski, SJ: Sally Streeter

Sunday, September 24

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

Sunday, September 24

9:30am Mass at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Peter Breslin, SJ: **Amelia Labrador**

Sunday, September 24

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

Monday, September 25

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski: For our Alpha guests

Wednesday, September 27

9am Mass at St. Joseph with

Fr. Larry Lisowski: For the R.C.I.A. inquirers

Friday, September 29

9am 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.



If Care is what you need, we are here to Help! We offer live-in and hourly service for elderly.

Mary J. Hayes, D.D.S., M.S. Joanne R. Oppenheim, D.D.S. Marilla Montero, D.D.S.

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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.

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