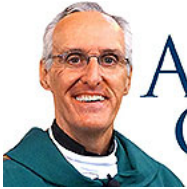


September 3, 2023 | Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



ALL
OF US

Fr. Larry's
Weekly Letter
#529

"LET US PRAY..."

On Wednesday morning, our entire school community gathered at St. Joseph's church for the celebration of our "Opening School Mass" with our faculty and students. As the children came into church, I automatically noticed that many of them got a lot taller and tanner over the summer. I could also tell from my conversations with them that they are happy to be back in school with their friends.



It is always a great experience to have our students from our North Park campus walk over and join the students from our Hill Street campus for Mass. A moment like this reminds me that we are one parish that is made up of a "Family of Families."

At Mass, we also welcomed to our community, our new students and new faculty members. We prayed for the Holy Spirit to bless and guide us throughout the new school year with the gifts of wisdom, peace and grace.



One of the best things about a Catholic education is our ability to incorporate prayer into our everyday life. Our students at the Hill Street campus (4th Grade and older) attend Mass every week. Our younger students at our North Park campus attend Mass about twice a month at Immaculate Conception Church.

The Eucharist that our children receive at a School Mass, and also on Sundays with their parents, strengthens their faith and affirms the Catholic education that they are receiving in their religion class.

When you think about it, this is the biggest ministry in our parish.



Continued on the next page

IF YOU WANT IT... YOU REALLY HAVE TO WORK FOR IT



One of the jobs that I had during high school was working at the Keystone Pharmacy as a stock boy. This old “mom and pop” store was located on the north side of Chicago, near Milwaukee Avenue and Pulaski Avenue. This was long before Walgreens, CVS and Amazon got big and popular.

I was just 16 years old, making about \$2.75 an hour. I can still remember marking the Pampers diaper boxes with a “\$2.99” sales tag before refilling the empty shelves. Yes, that’s how old I am.

When I got my driver’s license, the store owners were brave enough to let me deliver prescriptions to the elderly who were homebound. It was a great learning experience on how to develop good people skills, and how to dodge a big hungry German shepherd who was growling at the front door and licking his chops.

One of the best things that my parents did for me growing up was instilling a good work-ethic in me. At an early age I knew what it truly took to earn a buck. Even though I was privileged to grow up in a middle-class family, there were few freebies that came my way. My parents taught me that if you want something, you can certainly have it... you just have to figure out how you are going to make it happen... which meant, just work for it!

This early life lesson gave me a great appreciation for those who labor, especially those who perform everyday, menial tasks. I have a great respect for them.

This weekend our nation celebrates the Labor Day holiday. Our Catholic Social Teachings reinforce and clarify the role and dignity of work, and the rights of workers. All people must be recognized for their inherent dignity and gifts regardless of the color of their skin, their religious beliefs, their place of origin, or orientation. All

our God-given gifts need to be shared in order to build up the whole, in keeping with God’s plan for all of humanity.

Our Catholic Social Teachings say: “Work is more than a way to make a living; it’s a form of continuing participation in God’s creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected- the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to private property, and to economic initiatives. Workers must always be respected and valued.”

Let us take a good look at the work we do every day and appreciate the value in it. May we see, all that we do, as an expression of using our God-given talents and skills as part of God’s plan, and as way of transforming the world.

Let us also hold in our prayer those who are unemployed and struggling to find work. May they know our support in their time of difficulty.

WANT TO SHARE WHAT REALLY MATTERS?

It is amazing how many ways we can share information about ourself with others through social media. We can post our vacation pictures on Facebook so that our family and friends can enjoy the places we’re able to visit. We can tweet to others to let them know if we are having a good or bad day. If we are really bored, we can grab our phone and text our friends in seconds to connect with them. It seems that even if we spit or sneeze there is a chance that it might end up in a Tik Tok video.

But, how much of the stuff that is posted on social media is about what really matters? Do we live in a culture where we feel safe sharing our thoughts and feelings on a deeper level? Are we reluctant to do this nowadays because it might come back to hurt or embarrass us?

One of the best benefits of our Alpha program is that you can enter into a safe and neutral space where you will not be judged. You can have a healthy conversation with others about what really matters in your life.

Our next Alpha program begins this month. Sessions will be held on Thursday nights, starting September 7th at Immaculate Conception Church, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Continued on the next page

Those who have already participated in the Alpha program have found it to be a positive experience to be able to reflect upon their faith and have the ability to share it with others. They have felt supported and inspired. They have felt that it has truly helped them to deepen their faith, come closer to God, and feel more engaged in the life of our community.

So, let me ask you; are you tired of living life “just on the surface?” Are you looking for a place to talk about what really matters? Definitely check out our ALPHA program. You will learn a lot more about yourself, and life, than you will surfing through mindless YouTube videos!

More details are included in today’s bulletin. Or for more information, email Jutta Keenan at: Jkeenan@icsjparish.org.

Fx. Lacey



We are all familiar with the saying, “to bear the weight of the world on our shoulders.” We have all felt this at times in our lives. Perhaps it is the pressure that we put on ourselves, or perhaps it is the pressure we perceive others put on us. Our commitments, our responsibilities, our expectations, our desires.

As we reflect on the Gospel message today, I cannot image the pressure that St. Peter was feeling. One week ago, Our Lord offered him the keys to the kingdom and told him that “upon this rock I will build my church.” Today, Peter receives a very sharp rebuke, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me.” The weight of the world on Peter’s shoulders.

The readings today remind us that responding to God’s call is not easy. So, what can we do? We can focus on the three things that Jesus asked of Peter and the other disciples, “deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.” Denying ourselves means doing our best to remove any self-imposed pressure and ask Jesus to come into our hearts, to give us an ever-greater desire to be his true disciple. Carrying the cross with Jesus can be challenging. We bear the weight on our shoulders by giving of ourselves fully, focusing on the needs of others and not ourselves. And following Jesus means that we should live our lives through Jesus’ commandment of love.

I wish everyone a very happy, safe, and blessed Labor Day Weekend. A time where we remember the men and women that fought for the rights of workers in the labor movement of the late 19th century, and how their efforts contributed to the development and achievements of our great country. May this time of rest, reflection, and relaxation also draw us into a closer relationship with Jesus, who invites us to place the weight of our burdens on his shoulders.



Your feedback means a lot to us –and to others!

If you’re a longtime parishioner, or have recently had a great experience at ICSJ Parish, please consider taking a moment to leave us a Google review. We’d love to know what you think—and future visitors would too!

To leave a review visit www.icsjparish.org/reviews

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

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312-787-7174

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nrogers@archchicago.org
312-787-7174, ext. 6

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312-787-7174, ext. 7

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312-787-7174, ext. 2

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312-787-7174, ext. 9

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312-944-0304, ext. 3

ICSJ School Co-Principal

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312-787-7174, ext. 8

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erodriguez@icsjparish.org
312-787-7174, ext. 4

Outreach Ministries Coordinator

Allie Klazura
aklazura@icsjparish.org
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

Follow ICSJ Parish on Social Media



@icsjparish (Parish)



@i.do.at.icsj (Weddings)



@icsjparish

ICSJ MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS

Starts
September 10th!

Tunes

ON A 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.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:



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
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





*Charles 'Parker' Bell & Lauren Rooney
Married Friday, August 25th
Rev. Jack Clair Presided
St. Joseph Church*



*Ryan Shepard & Casey Miller
Married Saturday, August 26th
Rev Lawrence Lisowski Presided
St. Joseph Church*

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Married in 1973?

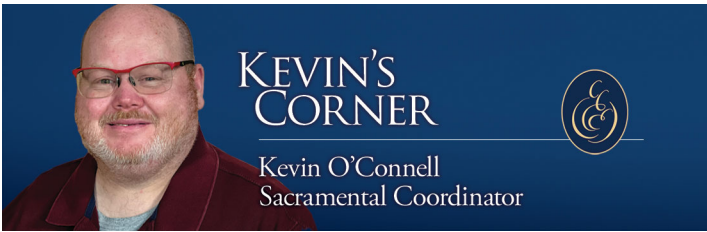
Have you registered for the annual Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass?

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 or contact your parish office with any questions. To register online, please visit 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?

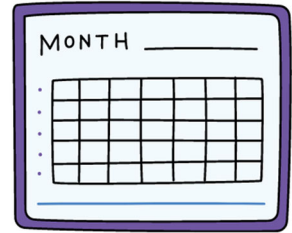
These are all great reasons to explore RCIA. Let's start the conversation! The new season begins in September. Your journey begins HERE! Contact Kevin, koconnell@icsjparish.org

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.

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 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.svd@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

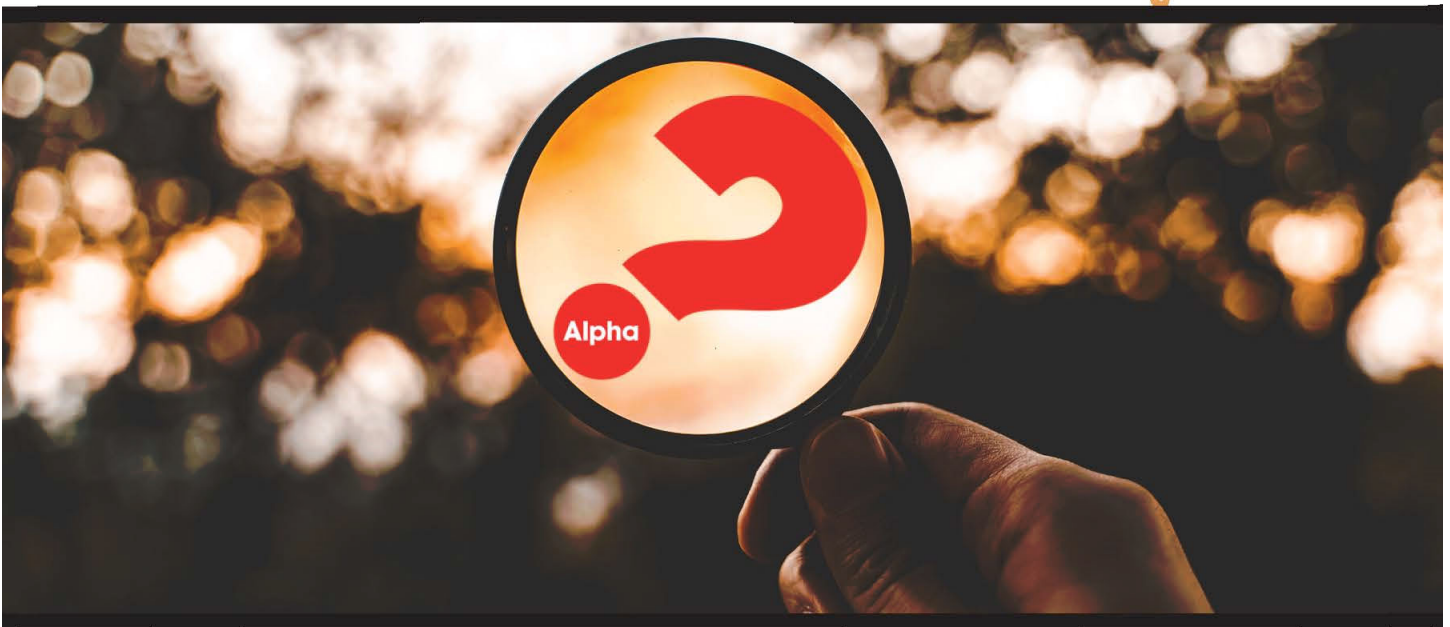
- The School House

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

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!

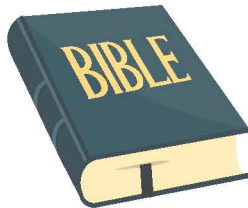


Join us the first few nights to give it a try! Visit www.icsjparish.org/alpha for more details and to register for September 7th.

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 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

HELP RESTOCK THE SHELVES!

FOOD & MORE DRIVE

9AM-12PM - SEPTEMBER 16TH

IC PARKING LOT - 1431 N NORTH PARK AVE

Our Knights of Columbus will be collecting food to restock ICSJ's Food Ministry & clothing items to restock St. Josaphat's Don's Helping Hands ministry. Needed items include:



- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Cereal & Oatmeal
- Canned Meats & Non-Perishable Entrees
- Individually packaged: multigrain bars(not harder granola-type bars), cookies, crackers, chips
- Dry ramen (in cups!)

- Men's T-Shirts/Undershirts (M, L, XL)
- Men's Underwear (M, L, XL)
- Men's Sweatshirts (M, L, XL)
- Socks (Tube socks)

Contact Allie at aklazura@icsjparish.org with questions or to help volunteer during the drive!

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

Welcome back Dolphins!



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.

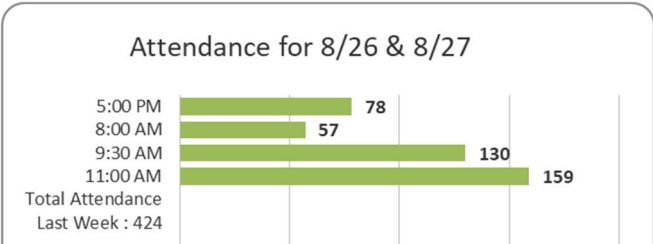
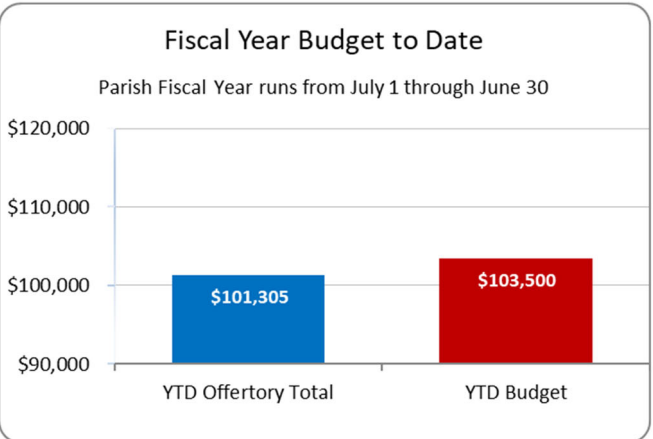
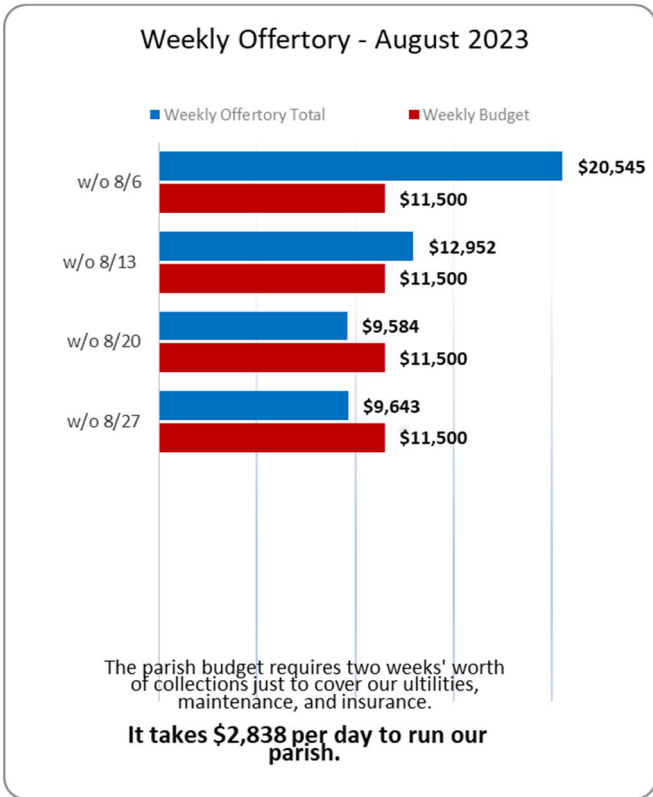
Sign up for eGiving

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 September 2-8

Saturday, September 2

5pm at Immaculate Conception with
Fr. Larry Lisowski: **John Rowan**

Sunday, September 3

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

Sunday, September 3

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

Sunday, September 3

11am Mass at St. Joseph with
Fr. Larry McBrady: **John Rowan**

Monday, September 4

9am Mass at St. Joseph with
Fr. Larry Lisowski :
Ed and Lorraine Lisowski

Wednesday, September 6

9am Mass at St. Joseph with
Fr. Larry Lisowski: **Mark Alles**

Friday, September 8

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.

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