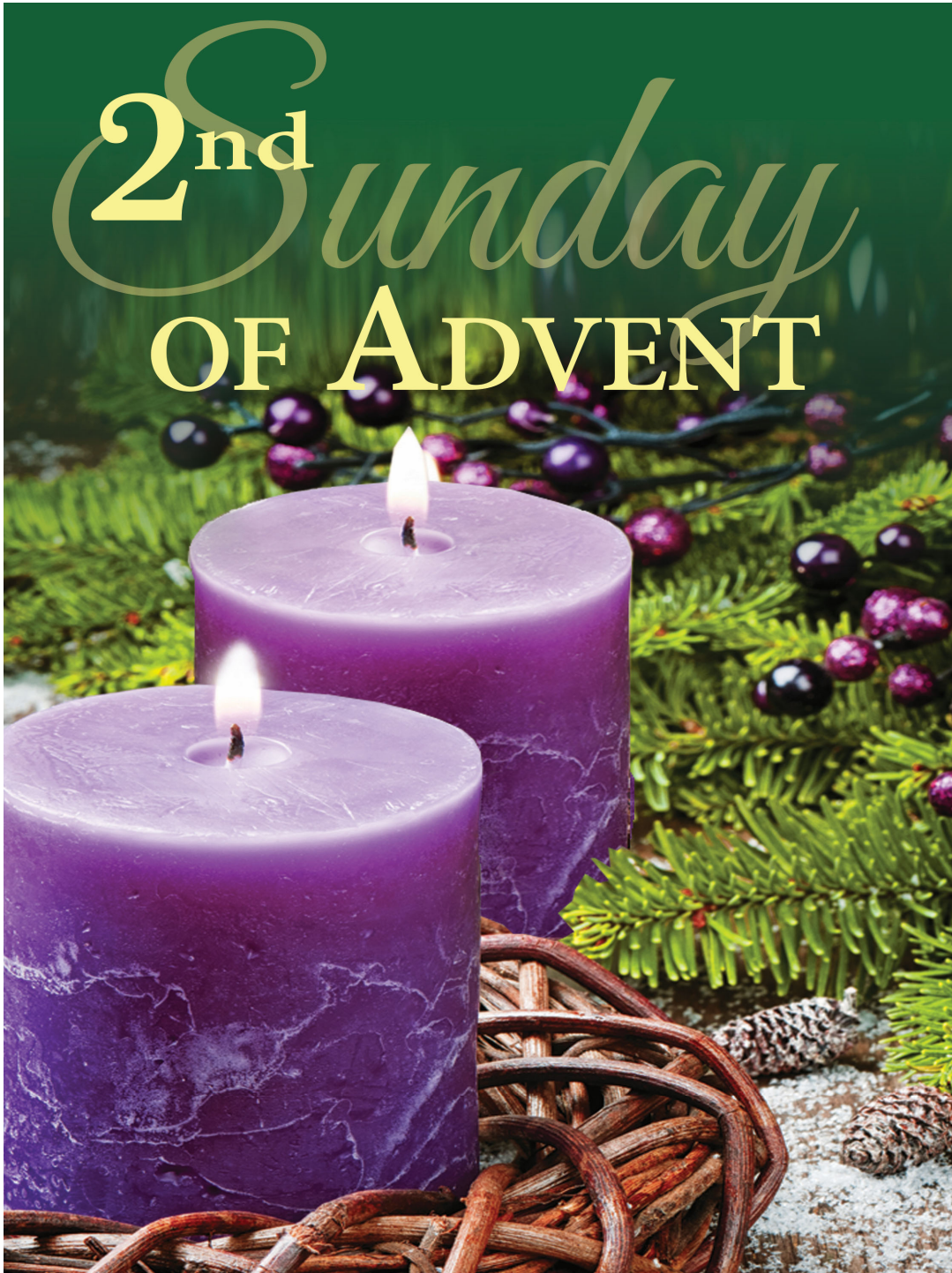


Immaculate Conception Parish Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023

Welcome

Very Reverend Thomas Paul, V. F. K.H.S., Pastor
Reverend Jeremy Leganski, Parochial Vicar



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Second Week of Advent
2

Advent Calendar
3

*75th Anniversary of the
Diocese of Joliet*
3

*Today's Readings &
Readings for the Week*
4

Mass Intentions
4

Prayer Intentions
5

Advent Reconciliation
6

Eucharistic Revival
7

Coming Events
8

Christian Ministry
9

Grade School
10

High School
10

Religious Education
11

Youth Ministry
11

Year End Giving
12

Christmas Flowers
13



Second Week of Advent

ADVENT
B.C. or A.D.

The coming of Christ has changed the world –all of history is divided for us into B.C. “Before Christ” and A.D. “After Christ” or “In the Year of Our Lord.”

This is a chronological designation. But B.C.” or “A.D.” can also be a spiritual indicator as well.

Every year the Church reminds us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. And most of us, like the early Christians, see this as a preparation for the final coming of Christ at the end of time. Or, we may see this as a time to sharpen our spiritual vision to see Christ coming to us in the sacraments and in our neighbors, especially those in need. These ways of viewing Advent are laudable and spiritually valuable.

But there is another way of looking at Advent and the coming of Christ and those terms B.C. or A.D. And that way is triggered by this text from the Prologue of St. John’s Gospel: *“He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.”* {John 1:10-11}”

Christ has come. He was born in Bethlehem, grew in age and grace, and proclaimed God’s Rule of Love. He showed us in word and work how we are to live our lives in terms of God’s Rule of Love. St. Paul described it as Jesus Lording our lives, behaviors and attitudes. And when we do this we are living in the year of Our Lord, *Anno Domini* – A.D.

But, let us be honest. Do we not live most of our lives “B.C.” – “Before Christ,” as if Christ had not come at all; as if he never proclaimed the Good News of God’s Companionate Love and Rule. **Parts of our lives are in Advent.** Christ has not yet come into our world, our lives, our attitudes, values and behaviors.

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, and we will light the second candle on the Advent Wreath. Did you know that each candle has a name and a meaning? Today’s candle is the Bethlehem Candle, or sometimes called the Candle of Preparation. Preparation means to get ready, to prepare for something that is coming. Sometimes it is a small detail, sometimes it is a complete overhaul. We are reminded to be ready to welcome Jesus.

Second week: O Lord, as we prepare for your coming, let us reflect Your love in all that we say and do. Give us the strength to change our ways, rid ourselves of angry thoughts, bitter words, and selfishness, and any thing that distracts us from You. O Jesus, our hearts are open. The kingdom of heaven is near!

AN ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE HOME

A member of the family lights one or more Advent Wreath candles depending on the week in Advent being observed.

LEADER: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: Rejoice: The Lord is at hand.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus!

LEADER: (Reads Bible passage for the day.)

ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.

LEADER: The peace of the Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Let us pray.

(Personal Intentions can be prayed for)

ALL: Lord’s Prayer.

LEADER: The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

Family member extinguishes candles.

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”



Immaculate Conception Parish Advent 2023

- December 10** Second Sunday of Advent
Oplatki Christmas Wafers will be available.
- December 11** Diocese of Joliet 75th Anniversary Opening Liturgy
- December 12** Reconciliation service for IC Grade School students
- December 16** Men's Prayer Breakfast
Women's Prayer Breakfast
Six Hours of Advent Reconciliation. Priests of the Eastern DuPage Deanery will hear confessions from 9:00am to 3:00pm at Mary Queen of Heaven Parish. No Confessions at IC.
- December 17** The Third Sunday of Advent ~ "Gaudete Sunday"
Blessing of the Bambinos, Christ Child figures from the cribs in your homes will take place at the end of each Mass.
Oplatki Christmas Wafers will be available.
- December 18** IC Grade School Christmas Pageant 6pm Gym
- December 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Oplatki Christmas Wafers will be available.
Christmas Obligation Masses begin at 3pm.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 23 4:30pm in the Church

Sunday, December 24 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00 am in the Church

*** Please note times and locations**

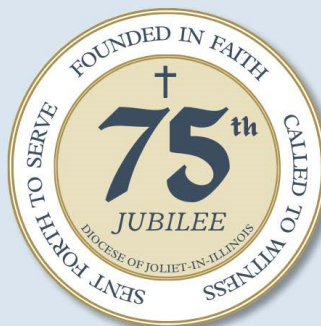
75th Anniversary Diocese of Joliet



The second episode of the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Joliet podcast series launched this month. Episodes will be released the first Monday of each month during the Jubilee celebration. Use the links below to watch or listen!

Watch: <https://bit.ly/47m1gDT>

Listen: <https://bit.ly/3QmkH8I>



*Commemorating
75 Years of
Catechesis,
Evangelization
and Service*



DIOCESE OF JOLIET
diojoliet.org/75th



75th Anniversary Prayer

All-knowing and loving God,
we give you thanks for your blessings upon
the Diocese of Joliet.

For 75 years, we have been
founded in faith,
called to witness, and
sent forth to serve.

In thanksgiving
for your abiding presence among us,
and with gratitude for the life and service
of those who have gone before us,
we recommit ourselves
to carrying out this mission entrusted
to them, to us, and to future generations.

Relying on the intercession of our patron,
St. Francis Xavier,
may our diocese continue to be a source of hope
for the Church and all peoples,
now and in the years to come.

We pray this in the name
of Jesus, your Son
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen



Worship

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! (Is 40:3)

Second Reading: We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (1 Pt 1:13)

Gospel: John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mk 16:4)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11,
12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50,
53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8,
19-28

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Damasus I

Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday: St. Lucy

Thursday: St. John of the Cross

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Tree Lot Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY

6PM-9PM

SATURDAY 10AM-8PM

SUNDAY 10AM-5:30PM



If you have questions, please contact
us at: ICTreelot@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

6:15AM

†Olivia Davison / Jorge Zapata

7:30AM

†Erin Potts / Friends

*Jack McComb / Laurie Collins

†Loretta Malone / Laurie Collins

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:15AM

†Dick & Stella Staab

7:30AM

†James Hendricks / Donna Chaplin

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:15AM

†Teresa Stock / Charles Hull Family

7:30AM

†Robert LaPointe / Mary LaPointe

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

6:15AM

†Francisco Cruz, Jr / Cadaoas Family

7:30AM

†Jerome Chaplin / Donna Chaplin

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:15AM

†Carol Rogers / Family

8:15AM

*In Recognition of the 46th

Anniversary of Fr. Tom Paul's Ordination / ICGS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:00AM

†John O'Connor / Family

4:30PM

†James Masterson / Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:30AM

†Deceased members of the James
Hendricks Family / Donna Chaplin

9:00AM

†Elaine Osmanski / Harken Family

†Jackie Costello / Tim Costello

†Kristin D'Alessio / Molly Howieson

†Dan Foley / Maureen Casey Kane

11:30AM

†Parish Family

7:00PM

†Pat Hill / Bill & Rosalee O'Connor

†Denotes deceased

*Living Intention



You can visit the parish office to have a candle lit in honor of a living or deceased loved one at the Shrine of Saint Peregrine or the Sacred Heart Shrine. Each intention will be for a full week.

Week of December 10-16

Sacred Heart Candle: +Maria Thu Tran



Stewardship of Our Prayer for...



We pray for those suffering from illness. Loving God, give strength and protection to all who struggle with illness of any kind. Calm their fears and uncertainties. Provide them with loving and tender care. Grant them courage when they are afraid and comfort when they are in pain.

Adkins, Finley	Koch, Susan
Bloc, Michael	Kuzlik, Therese
Bohn, Rob	Livorsi, Tom
Burke, Debbie	Lucchesi, Jim
Campbell, Donna	McCann, Mary
Devin	Pacurek, Michelle
Durgan, Bob	Quinn, Jack
Durgan, Lindsey	Reedy, Barbara
Durgan, Terri	Schramm, Colleen
Earnisse, Diane	Stella, Dawn
Earnisse, Dick	Teruel, Ellen
Ericksen, Kim	Toepfer, Al
Gow, Olivia	Vogel, Renee Moran
Kaprelian, Jean	Wilki, Carl

Please remember recently deceased family, friends and parishioners in your prayers. Grant them eternal rest and may your light shine on them forever.

**"HEAVENLY FATHER, ACCEPT OUR PRAYERS
WHICH WE OFFER FOR THEM"**



We pray for the newly baptized babies in our church. May their journey of faith be one that is close to Jesus. We pray for their Godparents and parents as they bring Christ to the lives of the next generation of Catholics.

Baptized at Immaculate Conception in November:

- ◆ Isaac Zachary Denny
- ◆ Nathan Dale Denny
- ◆ Connor James Kirby
- ◆ Ashton James Peronto
- ◆ Malia Ann Wilkinson
- ◆ Elayna Catherine Stanko
- ◆ Daniel Brennan Naughton
- ◆ Francesca Marie Hermanek
- ◆ George Patrick Brophy
- ◆ Sebastian Fletcher Bettinazzi

2023 ENGAGED COUPLES

Moir Hillsman & John Woodhull 12/29

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Give us peace. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

Maj. Joe Doyle, US Army, Son of Deb and Tom Doyle
1st Lt. Ryan Kenny, USMC, Son of Mary Beth Kenny
Pvt. Jeffery Crones, US Army, Grandson of Joan Leyden
Specialist Jonathan M. Pichler, US Army

Son of Ginny & Mark Gronek
 Grandson of Catherine Young

Sgt. Vincent Joseph Genthe, USMC Son of Denise Genthe

Capt. Jeffrey Robbins, USMC, Son of Barb & Larry Robbins, Grandson of Georgiana Ryan

Maj. Kevin Mott, US Army

Lt. Col. Andrew Tyson USMC

SGM Bill Benesi, US Army

Nephews of Greg & Mary Pat Vanderlaan

Paul Hornstra, USMC, ICHS Class of '09

Son of Paul and Dawn Hornstra

Cpl. Brittney Young, US Army,
 Cousin of Denise and John Doherty

Lt. Joe Shannon, US Navy

Son of John & Maria Shannon

SSgt. Ethan Zielinski, USMC

Son of Michele & Dolph Zielinski

Capt. Christopher Bertucci, USMC,

Nephew of Mary Anne & Greg Luczak

Lt. Andrea Bertucci, US Navy

Niece of Mary Anne Luczak

Cpl. Joseph Fischer, USMC

Son of George & Sharon Fischer

Capt. Kathleen M. Donofrio, US Army Reserves,

Daughter of Tom & Marge Donofrio

Cpl. Cavan Sullivan, US Army

Grandsons of Mary Sullivan

Capt. Samuel Westhoff, US Army

Nephew of Tom and Sue Westhoff

1st Lt Matthew Kizys, US Army, son of

Marky and Nancy Tinsley

Chf. Warrant Officer John Dal Pino, US Army

Son of Joe and Valerie Dal Pino

1st Lt. Francesca Cervone, US Army, ICCP Class of '15,

Daughter of Jeanmarie Cervone,

Granddaughter of Cay Calcagno

Capt. Molly Manion, EOD US Army,

ICCP Class of '15,

Daughter of Tom & Nancy Manion

Granddaughter of Rita Manion

MAJ Thomas Gildea, US Army, Husband of Karina,

Father of Enya, Grace, and Ignacio

1st Lt. Kyle Koch, 1st Cavalry Division US Army, ICCP

Class of '15, son of Laura & Paul Koch

Capt. Carla A. Schuit, US Army Reserves,

Daughter of Lisa Schuit

1st. Lt. Grayson Becker, US Army

Lt. Keith Wolfe, CHC, US Navy



The Blessing of the Christ Child

Next weekend at the end of all of our masses we will have a special blessing for the Bambinos, the statues of the Christ Child. The central element of every home for the Christmas Season is the crib scene. The most important figure in it is the image of Christ. In many homes the crib has been part of a family from one generation to the next. It usually has a place of honor as a focal point amongst all other decorations. The image of Christ is placed in the manger on Christmas Eve. The empty manger awaits His arrival and reminds us to do the same. We will bless these images of the child Jesus as we continue to prepare ourselves for the celebration of His birth.

6 Hours of Confession

When was the last time you received Reconciliation?

Was it recently? In the past year? Awhile ago?

**You are invited to prepare your
heart and soul for Christmas.**

The priests of the 15 parishes of Eastern DuPage County
will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Healing of Sin.

Saturday, December 16, from 9am until 3pm

There will be select times when the
Sacrament will be offered in Spanish and Polish.

All Catholics are invited to receive God's grace

Please come to Mary Queen of Heaven

430 N. West Ave, Elmhurst, IL

630 279-5700

Formed

IC is happy to announce to you that we have paid for another year subscription for our parishioners to access content on [formed.org](https://www.formed.org) What is Formed? A technology platform for the delivery of award-winning Catholic content, children's programming, audio talks, e-books and more, attracting over 900,000 users across 5,000 parish communities. Check out the site to access many Advent programs and content and MUCH, MUCH MORE!

How to log in: Go to [formed.org](https://www.formed.org) Click "Sign Up" / Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization" / Find your parish – Type "Immaculate Conception Elmhurst" We should pop up. / Click "Next" / Type in your name and email. / Click "Sign Up"

You should absolutely not need to put in any type of payment information at any point. That's all it takes!

Eucharistic Revival



There will be a Holy Hour of Adoration on Thursday December 14th at 6:00 PM in the church. The Eucharist, also known as the Blessed Sacrament, is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. When we receive or adore the Eucharist during Mass or during Holy Hour, we are actually receiving and adoring Jesus Christ Himself.

During Adoration the Eucharist is displayed in the Monstrance, the vessel used to display the Blessed Sacrament. In the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament, you can receive Him in your heart by doing a spiritual communion. One prayer you can say:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”
(St. Alphonsus Liguori)

If you wish you may say a final prayer of the Divine Praises, a set of prayers that have the purpose of fighting against the world’s evil:

Blessed be God
Blessed be His Holy Name
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man
Blessed be the Name of Jesus
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart
Blessed be His most Precious Blood
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy
Blessed be her most Holy and Immaculate Conception
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse
Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints, Amen.



Spiritual Classics



St. Alphonsus Liguori was the founder of the Redemptorist Order which focuses on imitating the life and virtues of Christ. His writings are practical and emphasize the love and mercy of God. These writings are so popular that he has become one of the best selling authors of all time. For our discussion we will use the short book, *Talking with God*, which includes four of his treatises on the Interior Life, ISBN 978061556370. Our discussion will begin on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024 from 10:15 – 11:15 in the Dyer Center, and will continue for 10 sessions. For more information, please call Len Hohbein at 708-544-7928.

Advent Bible Study

Isaiah's voice is as relevant today as when he first spoke over 2,700 years ago. Open your Bible and Zoom in for a brief look at his prophetic words. Our small group will meet from 7:00 to 8:00pm on Tuesdays, beginning December 5. No homework, just interesting conversation. Email annehohbein@aol.com for the link and the course outline.

Come Join Fr. Allam for Mass on Dec 15

All are invited to come to our annual **Mass for CHRISTS, NFP**, (the Elmhurst-based charity for needy children from India) which **former IC Vicar, Father Show Reddy Allam** will be returning from India to celebrate on **Friday, December 15, at 6:00 pm, at Immaculate Conception Church.**

After Mass, Father will be available to describe his experiences in India and answer your questions. For more information go to www.christsnfp.org or ask CHRISTS NFP's Directors from IC: **Deacon John, Tom Kaiser, Bob Yesko, Larry Cada, Tom and Mary Kay Livorsi.**



Morning of Reflection Saturday, January 6, 2024

8:00 - 11:30 am

Marian Room in Parish Administration Center



Are you missing the light of Christ in your life? After the bustle of the holidays, do something for yourself and your relationship with Jesus Christ. Spend a Morning of Reflection with other women contemplating the light of Christ in our lives and how we reflect it to others.

We will begin with 8:00 Mass, followed by breakfast and fellowship.

A guest speaker from Mayslake Ministries and a small group discussion will help us gain perspective on the light of Christ in our lives.

RSVP preferred by January 1st to Donna Campbell at donnaccampbell@att.net or 630-805-0935. Or contact Donna for more information. Walk-ins welcome!



If you are new to our church or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home to you, we invite you to become part of our parish family. We are so glad you're here and hope you will come back again for Mass or become a parishioner.



Christian Ministry

Immaculate Conception Daybreak Transitional Housing for the Homeless 2023 Annual Appeal



For nearly 30 years, **Immaculate Conception Daybreak of Elmhurst** has rented apartments to house homeless families. This is a self-supporting ministry, funded solely through personal donations.

IC Daybreak commits to pay rent and utilities every month for the **FIVE** units it provides to those in need. Mentors meet with these families on a weekly basis to teach budgeting and life skills. Families transition out of these apartments within a two-year period. Since inception, **IC Daybreak has helped 90 families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.**

We currently have two families in Daybreak and just interviewed two new prospective families. We are extremely proud of our families' accomplishments. Your generosity in providing them safe shelter when it was needed, and our mentors' guidance has literally changed their lives. It is a privilege to work with those who want to change their lives. Our families all have unique stories, but they share in the same struggle to have a place to call "home" and learn the skills necessary to become and remain self-sufficient.

CAN YOU:

**FUND A FAMILY FOR A YEAR (\$12,000)? FUND A FAMILY FOR A MONTH (\$1,025)?
FUND A FAMILY FOR A WEEK (\$250) HELP IN ANY AMOUNT?**

Please prayerfully consider responding to the needs of the homeless within our community. **100%** of your donation is used for rent and utilities. **We need your financial support to continue this important outreach to homeless families. We are enormously grateful to those individuals and families who continue to support us year-after-year.**

Do you have questions about our program? Contact Dan Doherty at 630-292-8670

Please remit donations to IC Daybreak of Elmhurst, P. O. Box 2033, Elmhurst, IL 60126



Our annual **Giving Tree** will consist of gifting retail or bank cards to our families in lieu of physical gifts, thereby allowing each family to purchase their own gifts.

In the past, we have purchased two gifts for each adult and three gifts for each child under the age of 18. Thus far, we have approximately 100 families on our giving list. Our names are vetted with other agencies to ensure that our recipients are not receiving anything elsewhere.

We will collect gift cards for Kohl's, Walmart and Target, along with Visa gift cards, in increments of \$25, \$50 or \$100. The generosity exhibited from our parish family in past years has been astounding. We are hopeful that Christmas, 2023 will prove to be as generous, especially since the need is great and resources for many people we serve remain meager. **Gift cards may be dropped off at the Rectory or in the collection basket from now until December 18.** Distribution to our families will occur on December 18. **Thank you** for your ongoing commitment to help those less fortunate.

If you or a loved one are in the hospital, please let us know. The priests of the Eastern DuPage deanery, and specifically priests from IC, Visitation, and Mary Queen of Heaven visit Elmhurst Hospital on most days. Call the office at 630-530-8515 or email us at info@icelmhurst.org so that we can make sure you're visited and that we can pray for you.



Calling or texting 988 will connect you with mental health professionals 24/7.





**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
GRADE SCHOOL**

630.530.3490

**FAITH. FAMILY.
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**



ICGS Pre-school Aide, Mrs. Kathy Halick, retired in November so she could spend time with her new grandson. She served ICGS for over 17 years. Thank you for all you have done for ICGS and we wish you all the best!

A CALL FOR SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

The ICGS Science Fair will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 here in Plunkett Hall. We have seventh grade students that need their projects judged. Projects are independently judged against a set of objective scientific criteria. We are looking for volunteers to judge projects in the areas of consumer science, biology, chemistry, physics, behavioral health, etc. The fair begins at 2:45 pm and will run until approximately 5:30 pm.

For more information, please call the school office at 630-530-3490 or email Barb Repking at brepking@icgradeschoolelmhurst.org. Thank you in advance for helping provide this opportunity for our students!

ICGS Distinguished Graduate Award Nominations Being Accepted!

Do you know an ICGS alum (graduated 10+ years ago) who has made a significant impact on the Catholic Church or American Life?

Nominate them for this special award!

Email nominations to:

development@icgradeschoolelmhurst.org

**Have an ICGS Alumni update? Email us at
development@icgradeschoolelmhurst.org**

ICCP

IC CATHOLIC PREP

LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.



BASEBALL
BOYS BASKETBALL
GIRLS BASKETBALL
BASS FISHING
BOWLING
CHEERLEADING
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
DANCE
FOOTBALL
GOLF
BOYS LACROSSE
BOYS SOCCER
GIRLS SOCCER
SOFTBALL
BOYS TRACK & FIELD
GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
TENNIS
VOLLEYBALL
WRESTLING

17 Class of 2023 Student Athletes will continue athletics in college
288 Students participated in at least 1 sport during the 2022-23 school year
169 Among Student Athletes who HIGHS-SPORT ATHLETES

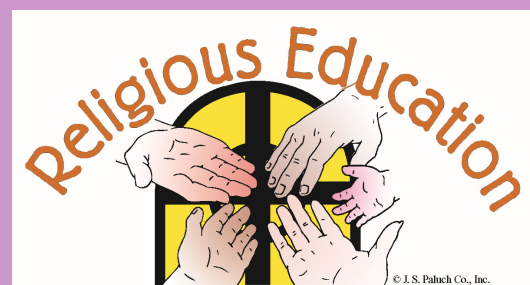
COMPETE LIKE A  KNIGHT

**ENTRANCE
EXAM**

MAKE-UP DATE

**DECEMBER 16
8:00 AM**

Calling all ICGS Class of 2019 graduates! There will be a retake of the College T-shirt Photo on Sunday, December 17th, immediately following the 7pm Mass.



<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Sunday RE</u>	<u>Wednesday RE</u>
December 17	December 10	December 13
January 7	December 17	January 10
	January 21	

Thank you to all families who joined us for our Family Advent event on Tuesday, December 5th. Your participation was appreciated. Let us continue to celebrate this holy season as we look to Christmas.



RE families are reminded to check the RE class calendar for scheduled sessions during the holiday months.

Families are invited to join us for the Christmas Eve Family Liturgy. Children are encouraged to participate in the Gospel story using the Nativity characters they cut out and color and bring to the liturgy. These characters may be found on the IC website and the RE website.

Youth Ministry



Reminder for parents of TEENS:

During this busy and often stressful season, remember that  **YOU ARE A GIFT**  God gives to your teen. You are the parent He choose to be a reflection of His love for them.

You are enough.

The very best gift you can give your teenagers is your time, your attention, love and encouragement.



At Students of Impact in December, teens enjoyed yummy treats and a hot cocoa bar and we embraced the mindset of Mary to better manage all the stress of the season. We practiced the skills of awareness, flipping negative thoughts to positive thoughts and GRATITUDE. Fr. Jeremy invited us to open our hearts during time with Jesus in adoration.

"I really liked how peaceful adoration was. I was able to get quiet and tell God 'thanks.'" — Participant

I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon December 13th!

Jenny



Year End Giving

Advent is a time of preparation. The days ahead will seem to go by quickly as we decorate our homes, go shopping and attend the many gatherings that come with the holiday season. Yet, we encourage everyone to carve out time for quiet prayer and create a special place to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

Another way to prepare for the end of the year is through charitable giving. When we look back at the countless blessings many of us have received throughout the year, we hope that you will consider special ways to give back to the Lord for all He has given us. Please remember your spiritual home, Immaculate Conception, as well as our We are IC! Capital Campaign, as you discern your year-end gifts. For traditional monetary donations, contributions may be deductible for tax purposes. Whether you are using offertory envelopes or taking advantage of the safe and convenient Online Giving program, proper credit will be reflected on your Parishioner statement. As a reminder, you can access the Online Giving program on the IC Parish website by clicking the orange "Donate Online" button on the left.

Following are a few alternatives to traditional donations for your consideration. Please know that any form of donation is humbly and greatly appreciated.

Qualified Charitable Distributions

These typically include contributions from Donor Advised Funds, Required Minimum Distributions (RMD), or annuities. If you have an established Donor Advisor Fund or are contemplating creating one, please consider including Immaculate Conception as a charitable recipient of a donation from the fund. A Donor Advised Fund is administered by a third party for the primary purpose of managing contributions to charitable organizations, such as Immaculate Conception Parish.

Additionally, if you are age 70 ½ or older, you can contact your IRA Fund Administrator and arrange for a tax-free direct transfer of your RMD to Immaculate Conception as a charitable donation. By doing a direct transfer from your IRA, the donation may satisfy your required distribution yet may not increase your adjusted gross income for tax purposes.

Stock Donation

For those who may own stocks, a review of your stock portfolio before year end is possibly advantageous. For example, if you have stock(s) that have decreased in value over the past years, you may want to consider donating this stock to Immaculate Conception Parish. The donation could be eligible for a charitable contribution tax deduction, but also may offset capital gains for this year. If stock has increased in value, you may be able to claim a deduction for the full fair market value and eliminate any tax on the appreciation.

Employer Matching Gifts

Companies frequently match their employee's monetary contributions. If your employer has this type of program, please consider utilizing it on behalf of our Immaculate Conception Grade School or High School. Many corporations offer employee matching gift programs for educational institutions.

Charitable Gifts from Your Will or Trust

An easy way to make a gift to Immaculate Conception is to include a bequest in your will or trust. You can give a specific sum, a percentage of your gross estate or your residuary estate. The diocese has partnered with FreeWill to make planned giving easier than ever. Visit freewill.com/diocesefjoliet to write a will at no personal cost, and include the necessary language to support Immaculate Conception with a gift in your plans. FreeWill's online will writing tools allow you to make a lasting gift to IC quickly and easily.

If you have any questions relative to year end giving options,
please contact Colleen Lewandowski at 630-530-8848 or at clewandowski@icelmhurst.org.

Thank you for your continued support. We are I.C.!

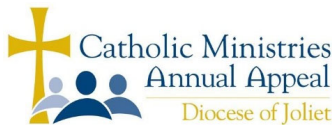


Stewardship of Time and Treasure

Weekly Sharing November 12, 2023

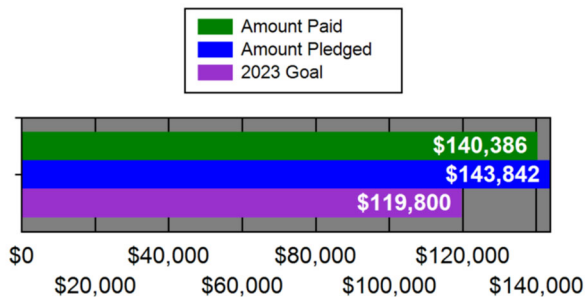
Sunday Envelopes Total:	\$ 11,661.00
Electronic Offerings:	\$ 14,095.38
Total Gifts:	\$ 25,756.38
Amount Budgeted Per Week:	\$ 29,000.00
Total Funds Collected FYTD:	\$ 581,450.00
Total Budget FYTD:	\$ 623,269.00
Budget over / (under) FYTD:	\$ (41,819.00)

Thank You in His Name!



We have met our CMAA goal of \$119,800. The diocese has already begun returning to us 70 percent of the amount over goal.

The rebate money helps us to make up for the deficit in our Sunday collections. Thank you in His name!



	Lector	Altar Server	EM	Greeter
Dec 16 4:30pm	R. Cello (1) B. Bruen (2)	I. Gildea C. Trachtman A. Bucolo	M. Cadaoas B. Cronin B. Daudelin	T. Kaiser
Dec 17 7:30am	M. Tyson (1) E. Cutri (2)	M. Bibbiano F. Bibbiano C. Bibbiano	W. Dudek	J. Callahan M. Smith
Dec 17 9:00am	T. Davis (1) M. Ashton (2)	C. Talluto Pilar Davis J. Aragones	J. Davis J. Geiger J. McFarlane	M. Tovey M. Tovey
Dec 17 11:30am	L. Kalina (1) B. Buis (2)	M. Leischner G. Guistolise	E. Bulthuis M. Durkin	J. Viola
Dec 17 7:00pm	J. Kenneally (1)			C. Cohen

Presider Schedule December 16 & 17

4:30 Fr. Tom / Mr. Frank Perrotta
7:30 Fr. Jeremy
9:00 Fr. Jeremy
11:30 Fr. Tom
7:00 Fr. Tom

*Schedule is subject to change.



Christmas Memorial Flowers



This year, we are giving our parishioners the opportunity to remember their deceased family members by donating flowers in their memory. The many beautiful Christmas plants that will adorn our Church and Chapel can be given in memory of loved ones. A list of those remembered will be included in the bulletin at a later date.

A flower envelope was included in your envelope packets - they are also available in the Narthex. You can also fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket or return it to the Parish Office.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

In Loving Memory of: _____

Donated by: _____

Amount Donated: \$ _____ (Suggested donation is \$20 per plant)