

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

December 2019 Newsletter

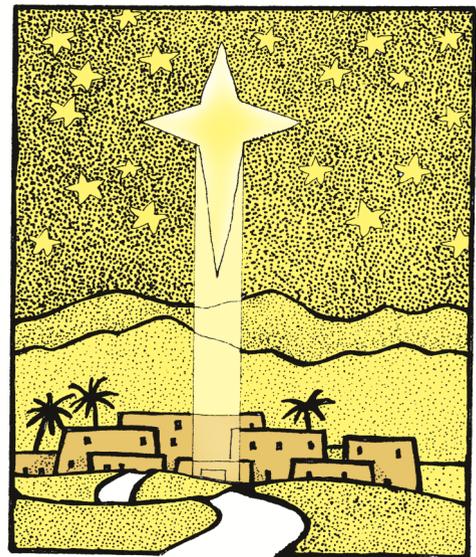
December Prayer

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your son, You did preserve her from all stain, so too you would permit us, purified through her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

Welcome To IC

Join us in welcoming our new parish families.

Almighty God We give you thanks for the many and varied ways you build up your Church. Bless these new parishioners. Grant them the peace of a new parish home. As we are enriched with their presence may they find enrichment through the Body of Christ present in this parish community.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of Immaculate Conception Parish are Christians who worship and glorify God as a sign of our faith. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim our faith to the world through prayer, education, concern, and service to our community. By participating in the sacraments and giving of our time, talent and treasure, we help to make Christ present and share God's love in our community and the world around us.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have now begun the Holy Season of Advent. Because Thanksgiving came so late on the calendar this year, the Season of Advent has quickly arrived. For most people, these days are amongst the busiest of the year. I encourage you to try not to allow these days to be over extended. Try to remember that Christmas begins on December 25th and continues to be celebrated this year until January 12th. Try above all to not only prepare your home for Christmas, but also your heart. If possible, each day try to find a few additional quiet moments when you can pause and consider the coming of Christ. We live these days in anticipation of His first coming into the world as a child. We are called to remember that the time will come when He will return to the earth. We also celebrate during Advent the many ways in which comes to us every day during our lives.

I certainly encourage you to also receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation of Christ's coming. Allow the Lord's presence in this sacrament of healing to come upon you abundantly. This year, the priests of our deanery will once again be participating in a 7 hour session for continuous reception of Reconciliation. On December 14th, from 9am to 4pm, in our church, priests will be available throughout this day to hear your confessions. There is no better time to come and receive this gift than on this day. If you have not received confession in a long time, perhaps the Lord is now personally inviting you to come and receive His pardoning peace. Please also let others know that we are making the sacrament available for them to come and receive.

Both Father James and I look forward to the celebration of Christmas. Remember that this is Father James' first Christmas as a priest and this will then be a very special one for him. Know that all of you are remembered daily in our prayers. We will also remember all of you in a special way during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. May the Lord, Jesus bless you abundantly with joy and good health. May the New Year 2020 be the start of another time of continuous blessings for us all and especially you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Tom

Dear Brothers and Sisters: We are initiating a new month, December, that—interestingly enough—is at the exact time we are initiating a new liturgical year. So, as we have the custom of wishing the best in the civil new year, I believe that it is nice to wish the best in this new liturgical year. As is the custom to make various resolutions at the beginning of the civil year, I believe it is very important to make firm resolutions in this new liturgical year. After all, Advent is a time of preparation for enjoying and living the richness of Christmas. So, at this particular time of Advent, I propose we reflect on the virtue of *magnanimity* and make the resolution to work towards this virtue.

Of course, we must first understand what *magnanimity* is. We can say that it is a mixture of noble behavior and thinking, of fairness and generosity. People who display the virtue of magnanimity are those who are seeking to do things of honor. Magnanimity, according to Saint Thomas Aquinas, is a “*stretching forth of the mind to great things.*” Tragically, in today's world, this virtue is consistently forgotten. These days people are not looking to expand their souls, but rather to expand their pockets and increase their profit margins. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with working to increase our capital. What *is* wrong is to focus only and uniquely on those aspects of our lives—or, or even worse, not to help those who are in need. To behave in this way is like being overly concerned about the outside appearance of a car but care very little or nothing about the motor, the engine, or the brakes. Without our full attention, for sure that car is not going to take us very far, and for sure that way of life is not going to bring us fulfillment.

Sadly, so many people in our society today are self-centered. Their selfishness leaves God totally out of the picture. The focus is on what I want, what advantages I can gain, what is needed so that I am great. Slowly but surely, people convince themselves that their “rights” are more important than responsibilities to others. We have forgotten that people's rights are indeed *our* responsibilities and vice versa. We cannot have a coin with only one side.

This attitude of “*it's-all-about-me*” leads directly to arrogance. Why believe in God when science and technology can answer every question with logic and rationality? Who needs God when we can control and dominate the world with scientific and technological wonders? Indeed, technology is the new god: out with the old and in with the new. Say goodbye to God and say hello to the latest technological device. This is the mantra of so many people in the world today. Striving towards greatness has come to mean striving for the latest-and-greatest products--ones that we choose.

Not surprisingly, a lack of magnanimity has a direct impact on other virtues. For instance, charity—which is defined as the love of God in which we are able to participate and in which we find the ability to love others—is terribly wounded. Another virtue that is greatly affected is hope, which is defined as trust in a positive outcome. Lack of magnanimity, therefore, leads toward despair and away from charity, hope, and the love of God.

As Catholics, we have to seek out the seeking of greatness. To do so, we must become more fully aware of the high calling God has for each of us especially in this time of Advent. This service to others has to be the uppermost in our mind as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. If we cultivate the virtue of magnanimity, then we will be on the path of achieving great deeds, not only for our benefit but also for the well-being and salvation of others. By deepening the virtue of magnanimity within ourselves, we will be willing to move beyond our comfort zone, to make the extra effort, to go the extra mile in order to serve others. In doing so, we are going to achieve plenitude, fulfillment, happiness, and peace because the Son of God is going to dwell in our hearts.

I wish you a happy and meaningful month of December in all your activities and a happy new liturgical year. We ask for the intercession of our Heavenly Mother, the Immaculate Virgin Mary so that we can achieve the virtuous life that corresponds to true children of God. I reiterate my thanks to all of you for your prayers and support, and I assure you of my daily prayers. God bless each one of you.

Yours in Christ
Fr. James Corona

Around the Parish in December

Weekend 30/1

Weekend Food collection accepted, Giving Tree, and First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, 11/30

- Centracco/Iannotta Wedding 2pm Church

Tuesday, 12/3

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Rm
- Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:00am Resource Room
- Cup of Hope 9:00am Meeting Room 2
- Advent Family Night 6:30pm Plunkett Hall
- Usher Safety Training 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Wednesday, 12/4

- Bible Study 9:30am Resource Room
- Religious Education 5:10pm ICGS Classrooms
- Women's Advent Night 7pm Marian Room
- Transitional Housing Holiday Party 7pm Agnesian Room

Thursday, 12/5

- ICCP Christmas Concert 6:30pm Sacred Heart Chapel
- Baptism Prep 7pm Resource Room
- Respect Life Meeting 7pm Christian Service Mtg Rm

Weekend 7/8

Weekend Food collection accepted, Giving Tree Tag Distribution, and Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, 12/7

- Tree Lighting and Caroling after the 5:15pm Mass

Sunday, 12/8

- One World Market Plunkett Hall
- Religious Education 10:10am ICGS Classrooms
- Youth Ministry Pot Luck 6:30pm Costello Hall
- Baptism 1pm Church

Monday, 12/9

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- After School Rosary 3:15pm Church
- Worship Committee Meeting 7pm Resource Room

Tuesday, 12/10

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Rm
- Cup of Hope 9:00am Meeting Room 2
- Eastern DuPage Deanery Priest Meeting 4pm Marian Room

Wednesday, 12/11

- Bible Study 9:30am Resource Room
- Religious Education 5:10pm ICGS Classrooms
- Parents Club Meeting 7pm Agnesian Room
- Christs NFP Mass 7pm Church

Thursday, 12/12

- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Weekend 14/15

Weekend Food collection accepted, Giving Tree, and Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, 12/14

- Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Resource Room
- Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Agnesian Room
- 7 Hours of Reconciliation 9am-4pm Church

Sunday, 12/15

- Religious Education 10:10am ICGS Classrooms
- Baptism 1pm Church

Monday, 12/16

- After School Rosary 3:15pm Church

Tuesday, 12/17

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Rm
- Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:00am Elmhurst College
- Cup of Hope 9:00am Meeting Room 2

Wednesday, 12/18

- Bible Study 9:30am Resource Room
- ICGS Christmas Pageant 7pm Gym

Thursday, 12/19

- After School Rosary 3:15pm Church
- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Friday, 12/20

- West/Limjoco Rehearsal 6:30pm Church

Weekend 21/22

Weekend Food collection accepted and Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, 12/21

- Midnight Mass Practice 8:30am Church
- West/Limjoco Wedding 2pm Church

Monday, 12/23

- Living Nativity Rehearsal 9am Sacred Heart Chapel

Tuesday, 12/24

- Christmas Eve (Mass Schedule on page 7)

Wednesday, 12/25

- Christmas Day (Mass Schedule on page 7)

Weekend 28/29

Weekend Food collection accepted at all Masses Feast of the Holy Family and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass schedule on page 7



Advent 2019

7 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 16 parishes of Eastern DuPage County will
be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Healing.**

**Saturday, December 14, from 9 am until 4 pm in
the Church**

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

All Catholics are invited to receive God's grace.

Formed

IC is happy to announce to you that we have paid for a subscription for our parishioners to access content on formed.org

Check out this site to access many Advent programs and content

- ◆ For children, Brother Francis' adventure is about Advent.
- ◆ Under Faith Formation, ANIMA there is an Advent Guide for small group discussions - perhaps you and your families or small faith groups gather, watch the video, and follow discussion and prayer guide - about an hour a week
- ◆ There are short clips for each Sunday of Advent 2019 ready to be watched. Opening the Word
- ◆ You can sign up to receive daily emails formed.org/advent

How to log in:

Go to 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!

Immaculate Conception Parish Advent 2019

- December 1** First Sunday of Advent
Blessing of the Advent Wreath at all Masses
Advent Meditation Books will be available
Giving Tree Tags will be available
- December 3** Reconciliation Service for IC Catholic Prep students
Advent Family Night 6:30-7:30 pm Plunkett Hall
All Preschool -3 grade children and families are welcome
- December 4** “Tinsel, Silent, and Listen” 7:00pm—Women’s Advent Night Out
Sponsored by the Eastern DuPage Deanery register at easterndupagedeanery.org
- December 5** ICCP Christmas Concert
- December 6** Reconciliation 6:45—7:15 am in the Church
- December 7** Reconciliation 4 to 4:45 p.m. in the Church
The IC Community is invited to join caroling at the blessing and lighting
Of the Outdoor Crib on York Rd after 5:15pm Mass
- December 8** Second Sunday of Advent
Fair Trade Market 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.— Plunkett Hall
Oplatki Christmas Wafers will be available.
- December 9** The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patron of our parish and of our nation. Masses will be celebrated at 6:00 am, 7:30 am, and 9:15am in our Church. Mass will be celebrated at 8:15am in Sacred Heart Chapel. We will also have a Noon Mass at Elmhurst College.
- December 10** Reconciliation service for IC Grade School students
- December 14** Men’s Prayer Breakfast
Women’s Prayer Breakfast
Seven Hours of Advent Reconciliation. Priests of the Eastern DuPage Deanery will hear confessions from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in our Church. No 4:00 pm Confessions at IC.
- December 15** 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.
Giving Tree Gifts are due.
Oplatki Christmas Wafers will be available.
- December 18** IC Grade School Christmas Pageant 6pm Gym
- December 21** Reconciliation 4 to 4:45 p.m. in Sacred Heart Chapel
- December 22** Fourth Sunday of Advent
All Masses this weekend will be held in Sacred Heart Chapel
Oplatki Christmas Wafers will be available.

Liturgy Information

Reconciliation

Saturday, December 7	4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Church
Saturday, December 14	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Church
(7 Hours of Reconciliation sponsored by the Eastern DuPage Deanery)		
Saturday, December 21	4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.	Sacred Heart Chapel

Schedule of Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 21	5:15 p.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
Sunday, December 22	7:30 a.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
	9:00 a.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
	11:30 a.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
	5:15 p.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel

Christmas Eve:

(Doors open at 2:00 p.m., please do not save seats before Mass begins)

Tuesday, December 24	3:00 p.m. Mass	Church
	3:00 p.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel*
	3:00 p.m. Mass	Plunkett Hall
	5:00 p.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
	11:00 p.m. Mass	Church

Preceded by a program of Christmas music at 10:30 p.m.

(Incense will be used at the 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Masses on Christmas Eve.)

Christmas Day:

Wednesday, December 25	7:30 a.m. Mass	Church
	9:00 a.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
	11:30 a.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel

(No 5:15 p.m. Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Day)

(Incense will be used at the 9:00a.m. and 11:30a.m. Masses on Christmas Day.)

Thursday, December 26	8:00 a.m. Mass	Church
	(No 6:15 a.m. or 7:30 am Mass will be celebrated)	

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 28	8:00 a.m. Mass	Church
	(The Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be celebrated)	
	5:15 p.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
Sunday, December 29	7:30 a.m. Mass	Church
	9:00 a.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
	11:30 a.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
	5:15 p.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

A Holy Day of Obligation. All are asked to attend Mass.

Tuesday, December 31	5:15 p.m. Mass	Sacred Heart Chapel
Wednesday, January 1	7:30 a.m. Mass	Church
	9:00 a.m. Mass	Church
	11:30 a.m. Mass	Church

(No 5:15 p.m. Mass will be celebrated)

Eastern DuPage Deanery



PRESENTATION SERIES

Eastern DuPage Deanery

Join Us as We Welcome Dr. Mary Amore

Tinsel, Silent, and Listen

An Advent Women's Night Out

Tinsel, Silent, and Listen are created from the same six letters of the alphabet; yet each word expresses a different reality. Join us for a wonderful evening of reflection and discussion as we explore the ways we can rearrange the letters of our life so that we can prayerfully prepare our lives for the coming of Jesus this Advent season.

December 4th from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Light Refreshments will be Served

Registration is required.

Please go to easterndupagedeanery.org to sign up by filling out a very short form.

Event will be held at IC Parish, 134 Arthur Street, Elmhurst in the Marion Room

We are asking you to bring an item to donate to *Stepping Stones Women's Shelter*



THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET PRAYER REQUEST FORM IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE EASTERN DUPAGE DEANERY WEB SITE

The Divine Mercy Ministry at Christ the King Parish in Lombard prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet during Eucharistic Adoration on **Thursdays** for the Sick, Suffering and Dying within the Hour, for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and for all those for whom a Chaplet was requested.

We invite all Parishioners, including those who are homebound or in a Health Care Facility, to participate in the graces of this very powerful prayer by **requesting a Divine Mercy Chaplet** to be prayed

for yourself, a friend or loved one; living or deceased.

Simply go to: easterndupagedeanery.org and follow these steps:

Depending on the device you are using & once the site opens;

tap 'MENU' and then select 'Divine Mercy Chaplet' on the list or

if the Main Page opens with topics listed, select 'Divine Mercy Chaplet' & the next page will automatically open

In the NAME Box, type in the FIRST NAME of the person you wish us to pray a Chaplet for & then click 'Submit'.

Bless you!

Apostles of Divine Mercy

For further information, please contact Mary Jones at: 630-702-5689 or

mwjones@comcast.net.

Coming Events



All are invited to come to our **Mass for CHRISTS, NFP**, (the Elmhurst- based charity for needy children from India) which **former IC Vicar, Father Show Reddy** will be returning from India to celebrate on **Wednesday, December 11, at 7:00 pm, at Immaculate Conception Church.** This is the eve of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Life. The celebration will be **followed by a Christmas reception with refreshments & dessert.** 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 & Mary Kay Livorsi, or Attorney John Howlett.**



Women's Wine & Appetizer Night

LET GOD'S WORD BREW IN YOUR HEART

DEC 7 • 3:00-5:00 PM

HOSTED AT: HB JONES
RSVP: AHOHBEIN@ICELMHURST.ORG
630-530-8515



"How to Bless and Feel Blessed this Christmas"

An Afternoon Gathering of "Single-Again" Men & Women

When: Saturday, December 7, 2019 (1:00-4:00 p.m.)
12:45 p.m. check-in, ending with a 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Where: Blanchette Catholic Center
Diocese of Joliet
16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Dr. Jim Healy has spoken on family topics in over 90 dioceses across the United States as well as internationally. Described as being both funny and profound, Jim recently retired after 30 years as director of the Office of Family Ministry. He brings a message that will make you feel blessed and more ready to bless others. Come with whatever you're feeling and be uplifted!

Please register by December 2.

online at <https://conta.cc/2MsG6iu> by calling 815-838-5334 or by emailing us at familyministry@dioceseofjoliet.org



Attention all Liturgical Ministers!

(Lectors, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, & Ushers)

Christmas and New Year's Masses! Sign-up online begins December 4th

For those of you who do not have access to email or have a special family member who will be in town for the holidays and is qualified to volunteer, please call Barb Repking at 530-3479

Events Continued...

TREE LIGHTING AND CAROLING AT THE CRIB



After 5:15 pm Mass on Saturday, December 7, the IC community is invited to join in caroling at the blessing and lighting of the Outdoor Crib on York Rd. Please join us for this event as we gather as a parish outside the chapel to celebrate the songs and sights of the Advent Season! Hot chocolate & cookies will be served.

The Immaculate Conception Tree Lot is Open!

The 1900 Club comprised of IC grade School Dads sells trees, wreaths and garland in the Church parking lot and all proceeds go to the grade school.

MONDAY-FRIDAY 6PM-9PM

SATURDAYS 10AM-8PM

SUNDAYS 10AM-5:30PM



If you would like to volunteer to help on the lot, please contact **Pete Dolan** at ictreelot@comcast.net



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)

Community Life

Moms' Group

Play, Meet, and Mingle with other moms in IC Parish!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1170296366362780/>

Weekly Rosary: Kids are most welcome and can just play while we pray as best we can with kids running around! If you haven't prayed a rosary in awhile (or ever) there are plenty of "cheat sheets" with the prayers on them.

A beautiful way to pray!
Every Monday & Thursday

Vocations

The Vocation Ministry's mission is to create an atmosphere in our parish that is supportive of religious vocation and provides information about events where young people and families can learn more about discerning this call. One of our goals is to increase prayers for vocations in our parish. Please join us in adoration on every second Monday of each month, from 7-8 PM, at the Visitation Adoration Chapel.

Please remember these men and women in your daily prayers – Priests, Deacons, Seminarians, and Women & Men Religious in the Diocese of Joliet. Click [HERE](#) to download our Vocation Calendar for December 2019.

IC is pleased to present **two** traveling worship opportunities for IC families!



Christ Renews His Parish Women's Renewal Weekend

January 25th-26th, 2020

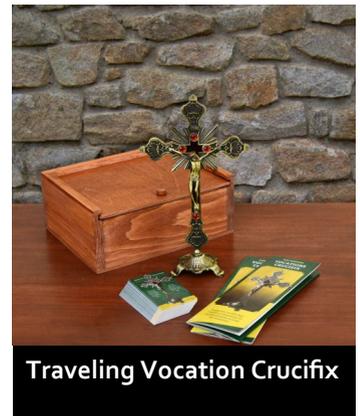
Register online at icelmhurst.org.
Press the Women' CRHP button at the top of the homepage.

For more information,
contact ahohbein@icelmhurst.org.

Please RSVP by January 20th, 2020



Traveling Mary



Traveling Vocation Crucifix

Since the Year of Mary in 2013, IC families have been enjoying a visit from **Traveling Mary** as she becomes part of their family for approximately one month.

IC is pleased to also offer our **Traveling Vocation Crucifix!** This is available to visit IC homes to help families guide prayers for vocations. If your family would like to participate in the Traveling Worship program, [click here](#) for more information.

Christian Ministry



ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Elmhurst Extended Care Ministry is a beautiful ministry that provides a weekly communion service or Mass to the residents of EEC. Volunteers help once a month on Tuesday afternoons

from 1:45 – 3:10 pm. The volunteers assist the deacon or priest by setting up the worship space and interacting with the residents who attend. This is an incredible way to help those who truly need some extra love and attention, while also sharing the Eucharist with them. We are seeking new volunteers to join us. This is an ideal ministry for moms of grade school children who want to volunteer in some capacity. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Colleen Maietta at cpmaietta@hotmail.com or Pam Stefik at pstefik@icelmhurst.org.

KITCHEN ANGELS NEEDED!

Immaculate Conception has a wonderful ministry that provides home cooked meals to those who have recently been hospitalized, had a baby, experienced a death in the family or otherwise need meals on a temporary basis. We also provide meals to our parish priests several times per week. When a request is made, an e-mail is sent to all who have volunteered to help. You do NOT need to help with every single request. You prepare meals when you are able. The more committed volunteers we have, the better able we can meet the needs of those who truly need meals. Please contact Jayme McConnell at jaymemcconnell@yahoo.com if you are able to help us!



If you or someone you know are experiencing health issues, facing surgery, receiving or recuperating from medical treatments, healing through grief or experiencing a significant life crossroads and would like to receive a prayer shawl, please contact Rita Beese at 630-279-6811 or rdbeese@comcast.net

Prayer shawls are a tangible sign of healing prayers from our parish and a way in which to feel the healing presence of God.

Are you in need of an annulment? Do you have questions about the process or timeline? Please contact Pam Stefik at 530-3497 for information.



PLEASE JOIN US ON DECEMBER 8 FROM 8:00 – 2:00PM IN MPH FOR OUR SIXTH ANNUAL FAIR TRADE ARTISANS' MARKET

Christmas shopping for individuals who “have everything” or “don’t need anything?” You’re sure to find one-of-a-kind beautifully crafted items for everyone! Items include gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters, socks, jewelry, baskets, ornaments, crèches, home décor, coffee, olive oil, chocolate and much more. All items are handmade by artisans in over fifteen developing countries. This is our largest market ever, with over eighteen vendors participating. Please join us!

FAIR TRADE CHANGES LIVES!



The experience of grief is different for everyone. There are, however, common emotions that we all experience. Beginning on Monday, January 20 and continuing for six weeks, we will offer a bereavement support group for anyone mourning the loss of a loved one. Your loss can be old or new. Sessions will begin at 6:30PM in the PAC/Rectory. If you would like some help to understand and process your grief, please plan to attend. Please contact Pam at 630-530-3497 to RSVP or to request additional information.

Immaculate Conception hosts a **PADS** site on the third Saturday of each month from October - April. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to help pick up and deliver food (from the Rectory to the PADS site), prepare food, serve our guests, be present for the overnight hours, prepare breakfast and lunches and clean up. **You do NOT need to help each and every month. This is an outstanding way for our eighth-grade students to obtain some service hours.**

We can't do this without you! Please contact Sheryl at sloanfamily173@gmail.com if you can help in some way.

HOMEBOUND?

If you know someone who is HOMEBOUND, either temporarily or permanently and unable to attend Mass, please let us know. We will contact them to see if they would like to receive Communion on a weekly basis. Mutually agreeable times and dates are determined between the individual and the Minister of Care. Please call Pam at 530-3497 with names and contact information.

HOSPITALIZED?

Please remember to notify the Rectory if you or a member of your family is hospitalized and wishes to receive Communion or a pastoral visit from one of our Ministers of Care or priests. We visit Elmhurst Hospital several times a week and convenient times can be arranged.



Christian Ministry

Immaculate Conception Daybreak Transitional Housing for the Homeless 2019 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 80 families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.**

We have recently added a new family to our program and two families will transition out in May, 2020. It is a privilege to work with those who want to change their lives. participating in our program. We are currently interviewing for our fifth family. Our families all have unique stories, but share in the same struggle to have a place to call "home" and learn the skills necessary to become and remain self-sufficient. We currently have 15 mentors working with our families.

CAN YOU:

FUND A FAMILY FOR A YEAR (\$12,000)?

FUND A FAMILY FOR A WEEK (\$250)?

FUND A FAMILY FOR A MONTH (\$995)?

HELP IN ANY AMOUNT?

IC Daybreak Transitional Housing is helping to solve the problem of homelessness one family at a time. 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.**

DID YOU KNOW. . .

- Over 60,000 individuals have received homeless prevention services in DuPage County.
- There are more than 750 homeless persons in DuPage County.
- Over 150 families are currently being housed in Catholic Charities, Bridge Communities and IC Daybreak of Elmhurst programs.
- Fair market monthly rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage County: \$1,232.00.
- Number of hours needed to work, per week, at minimum wage to afford rent: 115 hours
- IC Food Pantry provided food assistance to over 3,500 people this year.

Do you have questions about our program? Contact Dan Doherty at 630-501-0160 or Pam at 630-530-3497.

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



PLEASE REMEMBER US AS YOU DO YOUR WEEKLY SHOPPING Food may be dropped after all masses on Sunday or at the PAC/Rectory during normal business hours. Our needs this month include cereal, oatmeal, pasta sauce, pancake mix and syrup, chili, eggs, shampoo, bath gel, toilet paper, toothpaste, personal hygiene products. If you are **TOO BUSY TO SHOP**, monetary donations are always appreciated. By supporting our pantry, **you are helping members of our own community who need assistance.**

"The scandal that millions of people suffer from hunger must not paralyze us, but push each and every one of us to act: singles, families, communities, institutions, governments, to eliminate this in justice." Pope Francis 12/10/2013



Our next Protecting God's Children workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30PM in the Rectory. To register, please access www.icelmhurst.org and click on the "Promise to Protect/Pledge to Heal" icon on the left side. Click on "begin registration" and you will see all of the workshops offered throughout the diocese. Individuals working with minor children or vulnerable adults must attend this workshop prior to beginning their volunteer work. You may attend the workshop at a location of your choice, but must remit the Certificate of Attendance to IC upon completion. Please contact Pam Stefik at 630-530-3497 with any questions.

Reporting Sexual Abuse

Anyone with reason to believe that a child has been abused or is being abused should report their suspicions to civil authorities. **Contact: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services: 1-800-25ABUSE (1-800-252-2873) and local police.** The Diocese of Joliet Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help victims/survivors of child sexual abuse by a cleric, employee or volunteer of the Catholic Church. The Victim Assistance Coordinator will report to Bishop Conlon and coordinate efforts of pastoral support and outreach to assist in the healing process. The Victim Assistance Coordinator can also assist in making a report to civil authorities. **Contact the Diocese of Joliet Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-815-263-6467.**

Holiday Outreach

THANKSGIVING OUTREACH 2019 / MANY THANKS TO ALL



Thanks to the generosity of the IC Parish Family, we provided Thanksgiving food and gift cards to over **110 families** this past week. Many thanks to the Elmhurst Elks and the Chicago Italian American Charitable Organization, who provided forty-five turkeys and food boxes to our outreach. **Special thanks to our Thanksgiving Chairs, Jill Riecker and Ann Kilgast. Thank you to Alina Cahill for overseeing the Elmhurst Elks' donation and delivery. A special thank you to Kristen Suwanski for raising funds to provide all of our seniors at Greencastle with a bag filled with household sundries and personal care products.** Thank you for the time, treasure and talent that was so freely given by many over the past several weeks...adopting families, donating food, donating grocery gift cards, delivering and distributing baskets. **It is ONLY through the support and help of our parish family volunteers that we are able to reach out to these families each year.** We pray that God, who is never outdone in generosity, will bless you abundantly.



Christian Ministry needs **junior high students** to assist in parish holiday outreach. The following are eligible for service hours.

“Runners” to take gifts down to MPH before each Mass the weekend of December 14/15.

Giving Tree Box Assembly / December 14 (9:00 – 10:00)



IC GIVING TREE IS NOW ONLINE!

Please go to www.icelmhurst.org and click on the Giving Tree icon to choose and register your gifts. A limited number of tags for those WITHOUT computer access are on our trees. PADS tags are also available on our trees.

Questions? Please contact Pam at 630-530-3497.



* We need **DRIVERS** who can help us **DELIVER** our Christmas gifts to those unable to pick them up either due to illness or lack of transportation. Deliveries are made on **Monday, December 16 at 1:30PM.**

* We also need adults to help **DISTRIBUTE** our gift boxes from the Chapel on **Monday, December 16 from 3:45 – 6:00PM.** If you are able to help, even for a portion of that time, please contact the Christian Ministry office at **630-530-3497.**

* Families and teens are needed to help with our “Gift Check” Sunday evening, **December 15, after the 5:15 Mass in MPH.** We have over 150 gift boxes and bags to sort and check for delivery/distribution on **Monday.** The more, the merrier! Thank you.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WELCOMES OUR NEW CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES!

God has been at work, doing what God does: calling people into a deeper relationship. On Sunday, November 25, we celebrated God's action among us with a ritual called the "Rite of

Continuing Conversion." Our three catechumens and five candidates publicly declared their intent to continue their journey towards becoming full members of the Catholic Church. Later that day, they were welcomed by Bishop Conlon at the Cathedral, along with their peers throughout the diocese who are in the RCIA process. Adults who are seeking to enter the Catholic Church or complete their Sacraments of Initiation, have been meeting since mid September and learning the basics of our faith. This Rite marks the beginning of a period of more intense spiritual preparation for the catechumens (unbaptized) and candidates (those already baptized) for the completion of their Christian initiation, which will occur during the Easter season, 2020.

Let us offer our prayers and support to our new catechumens, Stephanie Quach, Christina Rolon and Isaly Martinez. We also welcome our new candidates, Kseyna Kelly, Ryan Kelly, Jacob Gunther, Isabella Bernardini and Nathan Macias.

They are now entrusted to this faith community who is charged with the responsibility of nurturing their journeys of faith. They will learn what it means, through us, to live as Roman Catholics. Let us witness with our lives the joy that is our Roman Catholic faith. Please hold them close in prayer as they journey to the Easter Season and the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation.

Faith Formation



Spiritual Classics

St. Benedict of Nursia has been providing guidelines for spiritual life since he founded his order of monks and sisters in the 6th century. His "little rule for beginners" has provided insights for laity as well as members of religious communities.

We will reflect on his "Rule" beginning on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020 for 10 sessions. Our group meets from 10:15 – 11:15 in the Dyer center.

We will be using the book, "The Rule of Benedict, Insights for the Ages," by Joan Chittister. The discussion is open to all. For more information, contact Len Hohbein, lenhohbein@aol.com.

Youth Ministry

High School Youth Group

Christmas Cookie Exchange

All High School Age Parishioners Are Welcome

Sunday, December 8th 6:30-8pm

Costello Hall

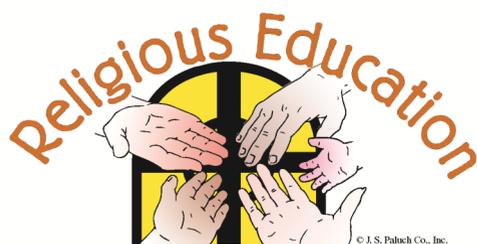


For more information about this and future events, please visit the Youth Ministry page on the IC website:

www.icelmhurst.org → Faith Formation → Youth Ministry

Questions? Mchabot@icelmhurst.org

Religious Education



<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Sunday RE</u>	<u>Wednesday RE</u>
December 8	December 8	December 4
December 15	December 15	December 11

IMPORTANT DATES

Second Semester begins on January 5 (Sunday) and January 8 (Wednesday), 2020

Sunday Family Mass

7th Grade Family Mass
December 8

8th Grade
Saint Reports are
Due the week of
December 8th
and 11th



Family Advent Night

Waiting
for
Jesus

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Place: IC Plunkett Hall

Age: Preschool - Grade 2 ONLY

Parents **MUST** accompany their child.
Parents **MUST** R.S.V.P

to srmaryfrancis@icelmhurst.org



IC Grade School

A CALL FOR SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES



The ICGS Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 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 more volunteers to judge projects in the areas of consumer science, biology, chemistry, physics, behavioral health, etc. The fair begins at 3:15 and will run until approximately 6:00PM. For more information, please call the school office at 630-530-3490. Thank you in advance for helping to provide this opportunity for our students

"It's Your Lucky Knight" Raffle



3 Chances to WIN BIG!!

- One \$25,000 Prize
- One \$15,000 Prize
- One \$10,000 Prize

Grand Prize Drawing February 21st at the ICGS Dinner Dance

Purchase tickets after masses the weekends of:

December 14-15th, January 11-12th, and February 8-9th

Or online at

www.itsyourluckyknight.com

Tickets are \$100 each and can be shared by a group!
Proceeds benefit ICGS.

Raffle underwritten by our generous Ultimate Sponsors:

ICGS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

MONSIGNOR PLUNKET HALL (MPH)
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

OPEN FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH 8TH
GRADES WITHIN IC PARISH, RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION & GRADE SCHOOL

EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!
\$50 PER FAMILY PRE-REGISTRATION
\$55 PER FAMILY AT THE DOOR

DETAILS AND TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
[HTTP://ICPARTIES2020.GIVESMART.COM](http://ICPARTIES2020.GIVESMART.COM)

ALL EVENT PROCEEDS BENEFIT ICGS

Daddy
Daughter
Winter
BALL



ELMHURST
DERMATOLOGY

the
Autobarn
imports

Registration Now Open "WINTER WONDERLAND"

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2020

7-9pm O'clock in the Evening

@Monsignor Plunkett Hall (MPH)
Immaculate Conception Grade
School (ICGS)

Open for all junior gents from
Preschool through 8th grades
within IC Parish, Religious
Education & Grade School

Early bird tickets are available now!

\$50 per family pre-registration

\$55 per family at the door

Details and Tickets are available at
<http://ICparties.givesmart.com>

All event proceeds benefit ICGS

ICGS
Mother

Son
PROM



ROBERTO'S
RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA
est. 1962

the
Schiller
team
prospector



Lakeside Bank
It's about time.™



ICCP

IC CATHOLIC PREP

iccatholicprep.org



630-530-3460



When was the last time you updated your IC profile?

iccatholicprep.org/alumni

#LeagueofKnights

Important Dates

Dec. 3 – Girls Basketball Youth Knight, 5:30pm

Dec. 4 – Social for Prospective Parents, 6:30pm

Dec. 7 – Entrance Exam, 8:00am

Dec. 9 – Votive Mass in Honor of Mary, 9:15am

Dec. 11 – Boys Basketball & Dance Camp
Youth Knight, 5:00pm

Dec. 23 - Jan. 3 – Christmas Break - No School

Jan. 7 – Semester 2 Begins, 7:45am

Jan. 17 – Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 7:30pm

Jan. 26 - Feb. 1 – Catholic Schools Week

Jan. 29 – Distinguished Alumni Mass, 9:15am

Jan. 31 – Career Day, 11am

Jan. 31 – Wrestling Youth Knight, 5pm

FEBRUARY 8, 2020

ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

50

KNIGHT OF JEWELS
SAVE THE DATE



STATE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

**SAVE MONEY
ON YOUR ILLINOIS INCOME TAXES**

Call Barb Goworowski, President
630.530.3485

Thank you!



We are so grateful to all who donated to our annual coat drive, St. Vincent DePaul clothing/household goods drive and to Catholic Charities' Undy Sunday. We had an overwhelming response this year. May God continue to bless you for answering our many "asks." **THANK YOU.**

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of all. That is what love looks like.
-St. Augustine



Dear IC Parish –

Every year we are amazed at the number and quality of coats and cold weather items from your coat drive which are donated to the Elmhurst Clothing Center. The folks coming through our doors were so happy and thankful. From the tiniest infants to the elderly seniors, you have blessed so many with the gift of warmth. Thank you again and again for your generous donations. Grace and peace to you.

Beth / Elmhurst Clothing Center Director

(EXCERPT FROM St. Mary's Mission Newsletter, Fall 2019)

We are grateful to the students and parishioners of IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH in Elmhurst, Illinois and their Grade and High School students who made it possible to start Seventh Grade last year and Eighth Grade this year. St. Mary's has a very special and cherished relationship with IC for several years. St. Mary's has been the recipient of IC's Lenten alms. Each year, the students have a need for which they give alms. We are deeply grateful for the financial support, but even more grateful for the volunteer service the high school students have given over the years. IC Catholic Prep has a great history of being the first Mission Group to come each summer to staff our Summer Adventure Program, whereby they trick our students to get them to read and do math. IC has also hosted an annual Walley Fish Fry with the Knights of Columbus. The students who have been on Mission trips host and wait on the tables. They wear t-shirts with the message "Ask me about my Mission Trip" on them. They have become some of the best ambassadors for the Mission School. Our kids love them and anticipate them coming each summer. As one grandma stated: "What is going on...there's no missing Summer Adventures...they even insist on bathing before coming...when I asked "WHY?" they tell me, "But grandma, my friends are coming!" We indeed thank God for sharing His friends with us!

We are grateful to all the students who come each summer. Each group is unique with their own gifts and talents that we match with the needs of our students. On Thursdays, when they say "Goodbye" to each other, the tears flow and the proposals come "Will you marry my mom?" We are especially grateful that as a result of our summer program that the reading scores go up each Fall!

Never underestimate the good that you do!

Fr. Jerry

(We ask that you pray for Fr. Jerry in a special way as he battles health issues.)



Around the Parish



Father Tom and the ICCP Italian Club walked in the Columbus Day Parade downtown Chicago on October 14th!



The Immaculate Conception Childrens Choir and Junior Choir sang at the tree lighting on Spring Road on November 22nd.



Organized in Elmhurst by ICGS Alumni Grant and Lauren Schleiter, Pedal Power Bike Collection collected 65 bikes in Elmhurst contributing to the 317 across all the Chicagoland collection points. The joy on the faces of the Cesar Chavez schoolchildren when we pulled in with the trucks of bikes was a blessing to see. You've helped us make a difference in this kids lives and we sincerely appreciate it.

We Are IC! Capital Campaign

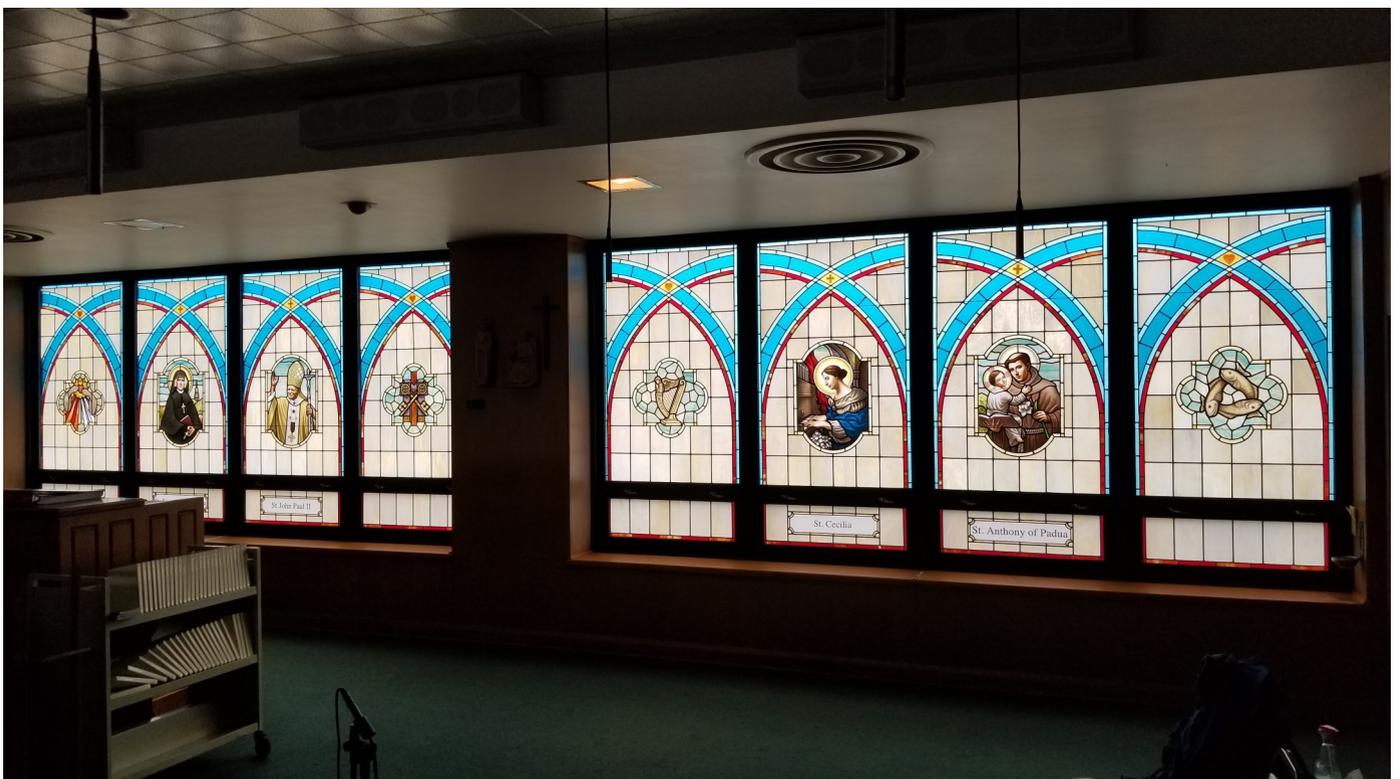
Memorial Donations

- ◆ Exterior Stained Glass Panels Memorial Donation \$5,000 each
- ◆ Narthex Upgrades Memorial Donation \$25,000
- ◆ Four Etched Glass Door Panels Memorial Donation \$25,000 each
- ◆ Sound System Memorial Donation \$30,000
- ◆ Fourteen Stations of the Cross Memorial Donation \$15,000 each
- ◆ Eight Stained Glass Saint Windows Memorial Donation \$25,000 each

Other Available Memorials

- ◆ Two Reconciliation rooms will be within Sacred Heart Chapel. Many people will receive God's mercy through the forgiveness of their sins in these spaces. Memorial Donation \$10,000 each.
- ◆ Four altar candle holders will surround the altar during the celebration of Mass. Memorial Donation \$5,000 each.
- ◆ Two processional candles for servers. Memorial Donation \$5,000 each
- ◆ Incense brazier and stand. Memorial Donation \$5,000.
- ◆ One credence table used for items during Mass. Memorial Donation \$5,000.
- ◆ Six sanctuary chairs used for priests, seminarians, and servers. Memorial Donation \$5,000 each.
- ◆ Eighteen symbol windows related to each of the saints. Memorial Donation \$25,000 each.

New Windows! The next set of stained glass windows have been installed. St. Anthony and St. Cecilia can be found on the York St side of the Chapel near the music.



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 are 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 satisfies your required distribution yet does 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 maybe advantageous. For example, if you have stock(s) that may 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 provide an offset to capital gains that you may have 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.

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

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