

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

January 2020 Newsletter

The Song of the Martyrs

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith as a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could get you imprisoned.

The songs gifts are hidden meaning to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem!" The other symbols mean the following:

- 2 **TURTLE DOVES** = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 **FRENCH HENS** = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 **CALLING BIRDS** = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 **GOLDEN RINGS** = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch," which gives the history of man's fall from grace
- 6 **GEESE-A-LAYING** = the Six days of Creation
- 7 **SWANS-A-SWIMMING** = the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Seven Sacraments
- 8 **MAIDS-A-MILKING** = the Eight Beatitudes
- 9 **LADIES DANCING** = the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 **LORDS-A-LEAPING** = the Ten Commandments
- 11 **PIPERS PIPING** = the Eleven faithful Apostles
- 12 **DRUMMERS DRUMMING** = the Twelve points of Doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

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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. Last year, we added a new addition to the Traveling Worship program: our **Traveling Vocation Crucifix**. Both are 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.





Pastor's desk
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Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that 2020 will bring all of you many blessings. People often say how quickly a year passes. Without a doubt, 2019 seems to have flown by. That's why it is good at the start of the new year to resolve to make the most of all the time that we have. I encourage you to try to live each day well. Make a point of not letting time simply pass you by. Rather take the effort to live each day to the fullest. People often make resolutions at the start of the new year. One of the most popular always seems to be the desire people have to lose weight. Health clubs go out of their way to attract new members and seem to successfully do so. I think it is good to make realistic goals and to try to meet them.

What will you do to improve your life during this year? Do you need more time for relaxation? Should you be spending more time with family and friends? Would your life be better if you found a new career? Would you have more peace if you found time to dedicate yourself to a deeper relationship with Christ? Is prayer an important part of your daily life? Can you make Sunday truly the Lord's Day, combining both Mass and rest? In a new year, we can also take the time to develop our skills and talents. It is always very rewarding to learn how to do something new. Most people feel a sense of purpose when they recognize the needs of others and try to respond to them. Instead of holding on to anger and harsh feelings towards another, letting go of these sentiments can be very exhilarating. Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive? Can you find more time each day for prayer? Have you ever thought about reading the Bible from cover to cover?

I hope these thoughts offer you some encouragement as to how each day of a new year can lead towards a better life. Consider making 2020 the best year of your life. By taking the effort and time to do so, we can all make changes within ourselves that will lead towards having more happiness.

The Holy Season of Christmas comes to an end this weekend as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. I hope all of you had a very blessed celebration. May the Lord Jesus, who was born in a stable, now live more deeply within each and every one of us. On Monday, January 13th, we return to ordinary time. During this liturgical season, we stop and recall the life of Christ and all that He has done for us. Our next major season of the church year begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. Thank you to all of you for the many generous things done during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Once again, our outreach successfully helped many people receive special gifts. Thank you for the many cards we received and the many other expressions of joy.

Thank you also for your generous donations both towards our Christmas collection and the We Are IC! Capital Campaign. Soon we will be celebrating the opening of the new entrance and lobby to our Sacred Heart Chapel on the York St side of the building. Soon we will also be making available to you the opportunity to memorialize pews as we have done in the church. Memorials are a lasting opportunity to pay tribute to our families and loved ones who are both living and deceased. Please continue to pray for God's blessing through the intercession of the Sacred Heart upon our parish and all that we do.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Tom

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

January for most of us represents not just the beginning of another year but also the continuation of the good work and the renewed impulse to begin an old or a new project. I believe that our crucial work in our life is to consciously keep striving to become the best version of ourselves in every sphere of our life. All of these, of course, in the presence of God. Thus, in order to achieve this, we need to aim high and even higher for the increasing and growing in our human values. Those that are not subject to futile purposes. True to be told, material things will sooner or later be gone but strong values that define your character never fade. When strongly formed, nothing can take those away from you. When we have built a strong and steady character, there will not be anything that brings us down in our life. This, brothers and sisters, is to build our house upon the rocks, according to the advice of our Lord Jesus Christ, ***"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock." (Matthew 7:24)*** So, at the beginning of and throughout this year, let us keep our attention to the word of God that leads us on the right path.

So, in this initiation of the year 2020, added to the resolutions that you may have already made, I suggest thinking about something—just one thing—that makes you better as a Human being. A good strategy for the successful accomplishment of these our goals can be the next ones. First, name this thing and define this thing. Write this down. Now, we need to be honest and clear with ourselves because If we don't have a clear goal, then we cannot put a clear plan in place to achieve it. On the contrary, if we can see with clarity the point towards which we are aiming, then we cannot lose our goal. Second, an important question that has to be answered is: why is this goal so important for us? I am very sure that if the answer is very convincing for us principally, there is going to be no obstacle that can stop us from achieving this goal. In moments of difficulties, trails, and discouragements, this answer will keep us afloat. And again, trusting in the Lord, as Saint Paul Said, ***"I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me" (Philippians 4:13).***

I wish you all the best throughout your activities in this month of January and throughout the year, and I reiterate my thanks to all of you. As well, I can assure you of my prayers for the success of all your resolutions, projects and the well-being of your families.

God bless each one of you.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Corona

January Prayer

Shine through me, and be so in me, that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you; none of it will be mine. It will be you shining on others through me.

Cardinal Newman "Radiating Faith"

The Epiphany of the Lord



The blessing of the home on the Epiphany is an invitation to Jesus to be a daily guest in our lives and to bless all who come in and out of our home. There will be cards available to take home this weekend which include the following prayer to pray and chalk. The tradition is to write the numbers of the new year over your front door with the chalk. Pictured above are the numbers for 2020.

C+M+B are the cross and initials of the Magi:

Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar.

They also abbreviate the Latin phrase

Christus Mansionem Benedicat (Christ bless this house).

Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

We encourage you to participate in this activity.

THE PROCLAMATION OF EPIPHANY

Dear brothers and sisters,

The glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of His return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation. Let us recall the year's culmination, the Easter Triduum of the Lord: His last supper, His crucifixion, His burial, and His rising celebrated between the evening of the ninth of April and the evening of the twelfth of April.

Each Easter – as on each Sunday – the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has for ever conquered sin and death.

From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the twenty-sixth of February.

The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on the twenty-fourth of May.

Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the thirty-first of May. This year, the First Sunday of Advent will be on the twenty-ninth of November.

Likewise, the pilgrim of Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the Holy Mother of God, the Feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history be endless praise, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Around the Parish in January

Mass schedule

Saturday	4:30 pm Sacred Heart Chapel
Sunday	7:30 am Church
	9:00 am Sacred Heart Chapel
	11:30am Sacred Heart Chapel
	5:15 pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Weekend 4/5

Sunday, 1/5

- Spiritual Classics 10:15 Dyer Center
- Religious Education 10:10am ICGS Classrooms

Tuesday, 1/7

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Room
- Cup of Hope 10am Meeting Room 2
- Women's CRHP 7pm Marian Room
- Eucharistic Minister and Lector Training 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Wednesday, 1/8

- Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room
- Religious Education 5:10pm ICGS Classrooms
- ICGS Board Meeting 6:30pm Dyer Center
- ICGS Parents Club 7pm Agnesian Room

Thursday, 1/9

- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel
- Baptism Prep 7pm Resource Room

Weekend 11/12

ICGS Raffle Tickets at all Masses

Saturday, 1/11

- Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30-9:30am Agnesian Rm
- Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:30-10am Resource Rm

Sunday, 1/12

- Fellowship Sunday Following the 7:30am and 9am Masses in Plunkett Hall
- Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center
- Religious Education 10:10am ICGS Classrooms
- Baptism 1pm Church

Monday, 1/13

- Parish Council Meeting 7pm Dyer Center

Tuesday, 1/14

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Room
- Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Resource Room
- Transit Housing Christmas Party 5pm Agnesian Rm

Wednesday, 1/15

- Bible Study 9:30am Resource Room
- Religious Education 5:10pm ICGS Classrooms
- Protecting God's Children Workshop 6:30pm Resource Room
- ICCP Board Meeting 7pm Dyer Center

Thursday, 1/16

- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel
- Faith Formation Commission 7pm Resource Room

January Reconciliation Times

Friday 3rd-Following	6:15am Mass Church
Saturday 4th	4-4:45pm Church
Saturday 11th	3:15-4:00pm Church
Saturday 18th	3:15-4:00pm Church
Saturday 25th	3:15-4:00pm Church

Weekend 18/19

Baby Bottle Distribution

Sunday, 1/19

- 4th and 5th grade family Mass 9am
- Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center

Sunday, January 19 Religious Education 10:10-11:15am ICGS Classrooms

Monday, 1/20

- Martin Luther King, Jr Day No School
- Bereavement Support Group 6pm Resource Room
- Worship Committee Meeting 7pm Resource Room

Tuesday, 1/21

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Room
- Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Elmhurst College
- Eastern DuPage Steering Committee 7pm Agnesian Rm

Wednesday, 1/22

- Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room
- Roe V Wade Memorial Mass 7pm Church
- Religious Education 5:10-6:15pm ICGS Classrooms

Thursday, 1/23

- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Friday, 1/24

- ICGS Daddy Daughter Dance MPH 7pm

Weekend 25/26

Respect Life Baby Bottle Collection

Sunday, 1/25

- ICGS Mom Prom 7pm MPH

Sunday, 1/26

- ICGS Uniform Exchange 10am MPH
- ICGS Curriculum Fair and New Student Registration 10:00am ICGS Classroom
- Baptism 1pm Church
- That Man Is You Chili Cook-Off 6:15pm Plunkett Hall

Monday, 1/27

- Bereavement Support Group 6pm Resource Room

Tuesday, 1/29

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Room
- Parish Finance Committee Meeting 6:30pm Dyer Center

Wednesday, 1/29

- Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room
- ICCP Distinguished Alum Mass 9:15am Church

Friday, 1/31

- ICGS Distinguished Graduate Mass 8:15am Church



Coming Events



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



GOOD USED CARS NEEDED

IC Daybreak Transitional Housing partners with Bridge Communities, who provides numerous resources for our client families, which often include educational classes in nutrition, parenting, resume-building, office skills and more. One of the program requirements is that a client is employed full-time. One of the most significant barriers to finding and keeping employment is unreliable transportation. Many clients enter our program with either no car or a car that needs extensive and costly repairs. Bridge relies on donations to provide cars to these families. Reliable transportation is a necessity, as public transportation in DuPage County is limited. If you have a vehicle in working condition that you wish to donate, please contact Paul at Bridge Communities 630-403-5104 or paul.matthews@bridgecommunities.org. If you have additional questions, please call Pam at 630-530-3497. Thank you for considering a donation to our transitional housing program.

Join our Liturgical Minister team!

Training for both Lectors and
Extraordinary Ministers of
Holy Communion will be held



Tuesday, January 7th 7:00 PM
and

Saturday, January 11th 9:30 AM
in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

If you would like to attend this training
session, please contact Barb Repking at
brepking@icelmhurst.org or call 630.530.3479



Fellowship Sunday!

January 12, 2020

Donuts and refreshments will be
served after the 7:30 a.m. &
9:00 a.m.

Masses in Plunkett Hall
Please join in the fellowship!

Give Blood...



Give Life.

SAVE THE DATE....

IC BLOOD DRIVE
IS BEING HELD ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26.
SIGN-UP IS SUNDAY,
JANUARY 19 IN THE
NARTHEX.



"SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2020

To highlight the plight of those who hunger in our own community, ICGS, ICCP, RE students and IC Parish will collectively participate in our third annual "Souper Bowl" Sunday. **We ask that families in our parish faith community bring a can of soup to Mass with you on Super Bowl Sunday weekend to benefit the IC food pantry.** Our collection last year lasted through the winter months. Collection bins will be in the narthex. You may also bring your soup directly to the IC food pantry during normal business hours. Thank you for your generosity!

Deanery Events

WEEK of
PRAYER
for CHRISTIAN UNITY
2020



In honor of National Week of Christian Unity, All parishioners of the Eastern DuPage Deanery are welcome to join our Greek Orthodox neighbors as Father Andrew Georganas, Pastor of St. Demetrios in Elmhurst, gives us a tour of his church and leads a discussion on the differences and similarities between the Greek Orthodox Faith and Catholicism.

**Thursday, January 23, 2020
7-8:30pm**

**The Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios
893 N. Church Road, Elmhurst, IL**

3rd Annual Sweetheart Dinner Dance

Come Celebrate Valentine's Day

with your Best Friend as you attend Mass (5 pm) with a blessing for all married couples.
Followed by a fun evening of dinner and dancing.

February 8th, 2020

Cost: \$60 per Couple*

Where: Christ The King 1501 S Main St. in Lombard

Prepayment required By February 3rd, 2020

***ONLINE REGISTRATION** after 1 Jan at

www.EasternDuPageDeanery.org

OR by check payable to "IC" and mail to:
MEM at 425 S. Main St. Lombard, IL 60148

PLEASE Include: name, phone number and email address

For more information contact: EasternDuPageMEM@Gmail.com

Or Patty at 630.202.6063

Christian Ministry



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.



PLEASE REMEMBER US AS YOU DO YOUR WEEKLY SHOPPING

Food may be dropped after all masses on Sunday or at the Rectory during normal business hours. Our needs this month include cereal, oatmeal, pasta sauce, canned fruit pancake mix

and syrup, chili, eggs, soup, shampoo, bath gel, toothpaste and 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.**

HOSPITALIZED or HOMEBOUND? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

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 contact information. Please remember to notify the Rectory if you or a member of your family is hospitalized and wants 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.



Grace Café

.....is being sponsored by IC Parish on **February 3, 2020.**

Grace Café is an ecumenical ministry offered by numerous Elmhurst churches to feed those hungry in body, soul and spirit. Grace Café is offered every two weeks from September through May. Our parish now hosts this event twice per year.

Many hands are needed to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere, as well as a bountiful home-cooked meal. **We especially need people to prepare parts of the meal.** Please access the website listed below to see our specific needs and time commitments. **Please use the following link to sign up:** www.PerfectPotluck.com Coordinator name is King and the password is GC2020.



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



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 6:30 PM in the 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 beginning October - April. Numerous volunteers are needed to help pick up and deliver food (from the Rectory to the PADS site), purchase and/or 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.



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

"To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person and face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus." (Pope Francis, Address during Visit at the Homeless Shelter "Dona Di Maria," 5/21/13)



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.**

Christian Ministry



'TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE THANKS....

The Christian Ministry Office at IC would not and could not exist without the multitude of volunteers AND donors to its many Ministries. We fed and provided gifts for over 120 families this year. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach programs are massive undertakings and we would like to publicly acknowledge and thank many people.

- All who donated food, turkeys, grocery gift cards or money
- Elmhurst Elks Lodge #1531 for donating 20 complete Thanksgiving dinners
- Chicagoland Italian-American Charitable Organization for donating 20 complete Thanksgiving dinners
- The ICGS third grade class who purchased socks for St. Mary's Mission School students and provided food for our pantry as part of their Thanksgiving feast
- ICCP who collected cleaning products for our food pantry
- Jan Dorner, our chairperson for the One World Fair Trade Market
- Our One World Market volunteers who decorated the hall, helped the vendors load / unload their items and assisted with clean-up
- Kristin Suwanski, family and friends who adopted all of the Greencastle seniors for Thanksgiving and provided each with a bag of personal and cleaning sundries
- Scholle IPN in Northlake for fulfilling 40 Christmas gift tags
- Each and every volunteer who strung tags, decorated envelopes, sorted food, assembled food baskets or gift boxes, delivered baskets and gift boxes, distributed the food baskets and/or gift boxes, decorated our Giving Trees, assisted in the box assembly, acted as a "runner" at one of the Sunday Masses or otherwise assisted in our outreach programs
- Our Thanksgiving Chairpersons, Jill Riecker and Ann Kilgast and our Giving Tree Chairpersons Kathleen Hillsman, Cindy Gornick, Maureen McNicholas, Maria Shannon, and Sharon Whiteside for their leadership and dedication
- All who took gift tags and provided gifts and or/gift cards to over 120 families
- Thirty five families or individuals who adopted entire families for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas
- All who so generously donated to PADS
- All who donated extra gifts, gift cards or gave monetary donations
- Hasset Commercial Movers and Marty Schiller who provide all the packing boxes for our gifts every year
- Advanced Orthodontic Specialists in Elmhurst for donating toys from their annual toy drive and serving hot chocolate and cookies at the time of our Christmas gift distribution
- Anyone who prayed for the success of our programs and clients
- Anyone that I have inadvertently omitted
- Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting the IC outreach programs.

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.**

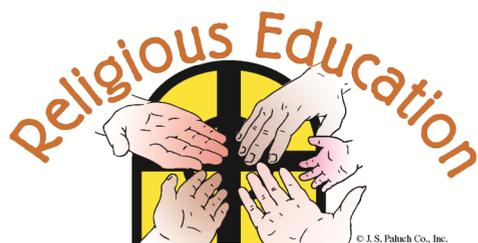
We have recently added a new family to our program and two families will transition out in May, 2020. It is a privilege to work with those who want to change their lives. participating in our program. We are currently interviewing for our fifth family. Our families all have unique stories, but share 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 MONTH (\$995)? FUND A FAMILY FOR A WEEK (\$250)? 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.** Please remit donations to IC Daybreak of Elmhurst, P. O. Box 2033, Elmhurst, IL 60126



Religious Education



<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Sunday RE</u>	<u>Wednesday RE</u>
January 5	January 5	January 8
January 12	January 12	January 15
January 19	January 19	January 22

The Act of Contrition

The Act of Contrition is usually associated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but Catholics should also pray it every day as part of their normal prayer life. Recognizing our sins is an important part of our spiritual growth. Unless we acknowledge our sins and ask for God's forgiveness, we cannot receive the grace that we need to become better Christians. There are many, many forms of the Act of Contrition. Here is the Act of Contrition that our second graders are taught in anticipation of the Sacrament. This is the prayer they will use through 8th grade. We encourage you to pray and practice this with your children.

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, sin no more, and to avoid whatever led me to sin. Amen

IMPORTANT DATES

We are pleased to announce the date of IC's Confirmation. It will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2020, in the Sacred Heart Chapel at 2:00 pm. The Most Reverend Francis Kane, Auxiliary Bishop from the Archdiocese of Chicago will be conferring the Sacrament. The reception will follow immediately afterwards in Plunkett Hall. Please mark this important date on your calendars.

Reconciliations

6th Grade

January 12th (Sunday)
January 15th (Wednesday)

5th Grade

January 19th (Sunday)

8th Grade

Please remember that your letters to Fr. Tom are due the week of February 2nd

Sunday Family Masses

4th & 5th Grade January 19th

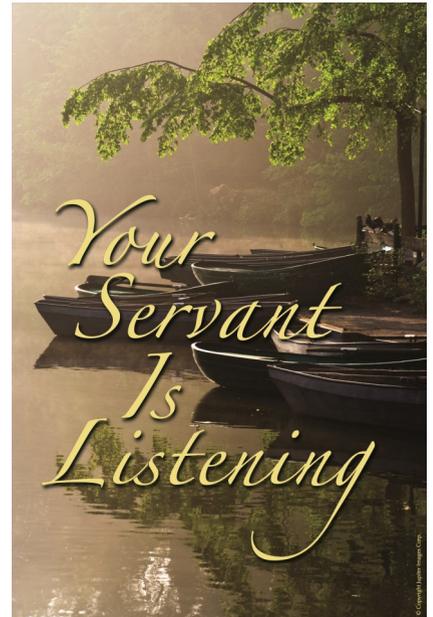
Contact Sr. Mary Francis to participate in your grade's family Mass. You may volunteer to read a petition, present an Offertory Gift, or serve as a Minister of Hospitality before or after the liturgy.

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 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.



Sessions resume in February!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

from 9:30am - 11am In the Parish Administration Center, 134 Arthur Facilitated by Beth Fisette.

Vocations



Thinking of joining the religious life?

Exploring Priesthood Weekend

is a retreat designed to help men Junior in College and older to discern God's call to the diocesan priesthood. To be called by God to serve him as a priest means to have one's soul stirred deep within. Throughout a weekend of prayer, discussion, presentations of diocesan priesthood and group interaction, men begin to better understand God's movement in their life.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the January 24-26th event.

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 January 2020.

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.

IC Grade School

**Happy New Year From Everyone at
Immaculate Conception Grade School!**



10 am to 1 pm
Sunday, January 26

ICGS OPEN HOUSE & NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Call Mrs. Sheila Wachholder at 630.530.3490 today
to schedule a personal tour or w/questions.

www.icgradeschoolelmhurst.org



IC Grade School REUNION

Alumni, Alumni Parents
Faculty & Staff

Register at
www.icgradeschoolelmhurst.org

1.31.20

7 - 11 pm
Pints/Elmhurst

Immaculate Conception Grade School is happy to announce our
2020 ICGS Distinguished Graduates,
Tom and Sue Westhoff!

The Westhoffs will be honored at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week.
All are welcome at our Mass on Friday, January 31, 2020 8:15am in the Church.

ICGS

Daddy

Daughter

Winter

BALL

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

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

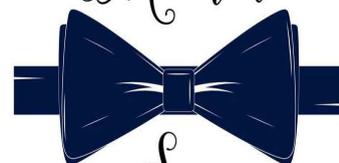
\$55 per family at the door

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

All event proceeds benefit ICGS

ICGS

Mother



Son

PROM

IC Catholic Prep



ICCP

IC CATHOLIC PREP

iccatholicprep.org



630-530-3460

Important Dates

Jan. 7 – Semester 2 Begins, 7:45am
.....

Jan. 10 – FACTS Early FinAid Package
.....

Jan. 15 – Tax Credit Scholarship Reservation Night
.....

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

Jan. 24 – Mom Prom
.....

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
.....

Feb. 1 – Coaches v Cancer
.....

Feb. 8 – Knight of Jewels

When was the last time you updated your IC profile?

iccatholicprep.org/alumni

#LeagueofKnights



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

Respect Life



Waterleaf "BABY BOTTLES FOR LIFE"

This month Immaculate Conception will conduct its Baby Bottles for Life campaign to benefit, support and educate pregnant women facing crisis or unintended pregnancies. The funds collected

through the Bottles for Life campaign support the programs and services of the Waterleaf Medical Clinic and Education and their Aspire Education and Resource Center located in Aurora.

Waterleaf provides practical help; pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, STD testing and treatment as well as continuing education and support for women in our community who would otherwise be at risk for choosing abortion.

Baby bottles will be distributed to parishioners on the weekend Saturday, January 18th and Sunday, January 19th to take home and fill. Bottles can be returned to the parish at any of the Masses the weekend of Saturday, February 1st and Sunday, February 2nd. Please pick up a Baby Bottle after Mass and fill it with your heartfelt financial donation. Please make checks payable to Waterleaf. Your support is greatly appreciated. For more information call Waterleaf at 630-701-6270 or visit them on the web at www.onechoiceonelife.org.



Evening of Prayer for the Protection of the Unborn and Pro-Life Witness

On **Wednesday, January 22nd, Immaculate Conception Parish** (134 Arthur St. Elmhurst) will host an Evening of Prayer for the Protection of the Unborn in solidarity with the March for Life 2020 in Washington, DC. January 22nd is the 47^h anniversary of the **Roe v Wade** Supreme Court Abortion Case. The Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated in the Church. The schedule is as follows:

6:30-7:00 pm

Pro-Life Rosary followed by Sacrifice of the Holy Mass (Church)

7:45-9:00 pm

"Fighting for the Dignity of Life in Illinois" by Dr. Steve Jacobs, Program Director, Illinois Right to Life (Agnesian Room)

Snacks and refreshments will be served. All are invited. Bring the entire family. Please contact Mary Kay at mklivorsi@comcast.net with any questions or call (630) 279-5825.



Join Us! Purchase a ticket for a seat on the bus.

Fill out the form and mail or return to the Parish Office: 134 Arthur Street, Elmhurst.

You can also purchase tickets online at Eventbrite.com by searching for March for Life Elmhurst.

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

TOTAL # OF MARCHERS: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT PAID: _____

Please make checks payable to Immaculate Conception Parish. **Must be received by January 8th.**
Contact Tess Hill with any questions at 630-732-1129 or t.hill@lwreedy.com

Around the Parish Last Month

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR SIXTH ANNUAL ONE WORLD FAIR-TRADE MARKET
 Both vendors and shoppers enjoyed a successful day!
 Thank you for investing in Fair Trade and changing lives!



GIVING TREE 2018

Families came to the Gift Sort on Sunday evening to ensure that all gifts were returned and are in the correct family's box.



Boxes ready for Sunday evening gift sort. Over 120 families benefited from IC's generosity. Boxes are generously donated each year by Hassett Movers.



WONDERING HOW ALL THOSE GIFT BOXES GET UP TO THE CHAPEL FROM PLUNKETT HALL? It's courtesy of Mr. Moore's and Ms. Tardiff's classes. Thank you, ICCP Students!

Katherine Bicknell and the staff of Advance Orthodontic Specialists, conduct an annual toy drive to benefit the IC Giving Tree and then allow each child to select an "extra" toy. They also serve hot chocolate and cookies to those waiting. We love their Christmas spirit and their generosity. Thank you, AOS!

Celebrating Christmas at IC



♪♪ *Many thanks to all who shared their musical gifts with us this Christmas!* ♪♪

Accompanists: Roger Dickman (3pm MPH), Victor Moreno, Phil Videckis (3pm Sacred Heart Chapel)

Cantors: Samantha D'Adamo (9 & 11:30am), Melanie Downey (5pm), Pamela Livorsi (7:30am), Brianna Maki (3pm MPH), Megan Marshall (3pm Church), Chloe Miller & Regan Wright (3pm Sacred Heart Chapel)

Instrumentalists: Matt Buhr (trumpet, 3pm Sacred Heart Chapel), Margaret FioRito (violin, 3pm MPH), John & Liz Mazzocco (violin, 11:30am), Beth Sennett (flute), Rick Temple (trumpet)

Parish Choir (11pm): Kari Conkle, Sue Conley, Marilyn Fitzpatrick, Carmine Grisolia, Judith Michalski, Joan Obial, Joe Thornton

Youth Choir (3pm Sacred Heart Chapel): Andrea & Chelsea Alcaraz, Ava Bolt, Ella Conkle, Giana Coomer-Jentel, Pilar Davis, Veronica Doughty, Maya Folsom, Eva & Julia Guttilla, Kyra Hickman, Cami Hill, Lily Kohl, Claire & Miriam McConnell, Chloe Miller, Kimberly Mondragon, Macie Rosenberg, Isabella Steik, Greta Sweley, Gemma Waddington, Roberto Williamson, Regan Wright

3pm Sacred Heart Chapel prelude solos & duets: Maya Folsom (violin solo w/choir, *O Come, Little Children*), Pilar Davis (vocal solo, *Still, Still, Still*), Veronica Doughty (piano solo, *The First Noel*), Lily Kohl (violin solo, *Silent Night*), Roberto Williamson (alto sax solo, *Good King Wenceslas*), Andrea & Chelsea Alcaraz (vocal duet, *In the Bleak Midwinter*)

Safety Procedures

In mid 2019, the Deanery provided us with a template for safety procedures during Mass. Parish Council and Worship Commission put together a team of Safety Ministers made up originally of Ushers and Mass Captains. Safety Ministers then met to create the safety procedures relevant to our Church and Chapel. This should be viewed as a great start, but the program must continue to develop and build on the original efforts. What do we need? More Safety Ministers. The greatest offense in Safety matters is PRESENCE. The more Ministers present the better.

If we had more Greeters, Ushers, or people who have experience in CPR, fire, security, nursing, police, or ALICE Training, you can be a great help. You may never need to do anything, but it will be beneficial for Safety Ministers to know who the doctor, nurse, security, or CPR trained person is in Mass. Please contact Jim Viola at iccjim@gmail.com if you can help.

IC Mass Safety Procedures

Medical Emergency

Safety Minister 1 attend to the injured person.

Safety Minister 2 to call 911

Depending upon severity of the situation, a Safety Minister or the Priest may ask for any medical professionals in the congregation to step forward.

Team members should be standing by to offer assistance to first responders. AND one Safety member to stay with the injured person.

HAVE THE INJURED person stay in the same position until an ambulance arrives.

Ushers will watch inventory of a first aid kit- water, band aids, Neosporin, Kleenex, Glucose tablets. And tools like mop, bucket, paper towels, etc.

Fire

Safety Ministers to know location of all exits, alarms, and extinguishers.

In the event of a fire, Safety Minister 1 to activate fire alarm, Safety Minister 2 to call 911. Safety Minister 3 to attempt to put out fire with extinguisher- if practical.

If necessary, team members to direct attendees to nearest exit.

Extra Safety Ministers help or get help for the elderly

Team members to perform a final sweep of the building to ensure it is empty.

Go to nearest place of Safety, use the High School(?) as a safe place for minors without parents AND a designated meeting place for all.

Safety members to make Presider aware of need to evacuate

Intruder

All Safety Ministers should have a cell phone and be prepared to call 911 if needed.

Ideally have an Usher outside or near the glass exit doors with Usher badge on before and during Mass. Also could serve as one of the Greeters.

A good offense is 'Situational Awareness'. Know what a normal crowd looks like so you can identify non-normal people or events. i.e fidgety stranger.

Per Captain Joe Puckett- a) presence, b) verbal commands, and c) 'soft hands' takes care of 99% of all intruder issues. Might have to repeat a verbal command 2 or 3 times.

www.churchsecurityanswer.com

If concerned about a person, have an Usher sit behind the person. Also alert other Ushers of concern about the person's presence.

If there is a heightened concern about the person, call 911.

Structural Failure

Usher to call 911.

Evacuate.

Team members to assist parishioners, directing them to the proper exits.

Team members will perform final sweep of building.

Tornado

Should the tornado sirens sound, team members should lead worshippers to the designated shelter in place area. i.e Hallway outside Plunkett Hall, away from windows.

If the siren sounds as Mass is ending, team members should strongly urge parishioners to take shelter in the designated area until the danger has passed.

Tornado shelter for Church is the stairway leading up to the second floor of the GS and the GS hallway.

This is an abbreviated list of Procedures. See the full document on the web site under Worship; Worship Commission News.

We Are IC Capital Campaign and Sunday Offerings

Thanks to those who have increased their Sunday offertory giving and those who have made a pledge and supported the We Are IC capital campaign. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so. We need gifts at all levels and pledges can be paid over a five-year time period. Please fill out and return your Letter of Intent today. I know that some of you are not comfortable making a pledge and prefer to “give as you are able.” If you would like to support the capital campaign without making a formal pledge, please use the capital campaign envelope in your monthly envelope packet or make a one-time gift online.

To make an online donation to our capital campaign, go to www.icelmhurst.com and click the donate today button located on the left side of the home page. If you have not yet done so, you can create a profile and login. Once you are on the online giving page, click “Give a New Gift” and then select “2018 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.” Please call the rectory office if you need any assistance.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Renewal Prayer



O Most Holy Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion for us, please have mercy upon us as we place our trust in You. To You we surrender the many needs of Your church; asking for Your help, especially on those who are in pain. Please heal the hearts of those who are broken and help us to grow closer to You. As our

Immaculate Conception community anticipates the renewal of the chapel in Your honor, help our hearts, minds, and voices to be strengthened by Your goodness and love. We come before You grateful for all that You have done for us. Help us to be ever generous with what we have received as we return our blessings to You. Amen

Naming Opportunities

There are several ways to remember deceased loved ones or honor the living as part of the **We are IC** capital campaign. If you should choose to make a gift at one of these levels, or would like more information, please contact Catey Cohen in the parish office at 630-530-8991. In the next few weeks, naming opportunity for pews in the Sacred Heart Chapel will become available. You will be able to choose which pew you'd like to memorialize and a small plaque like those in the Church will be installed. There are still other naming opportunities available including the following:

ITEM TO RESERVE QUANTITY AMOUNT

Sound System	1	\$ 30,000
Stained Glass Saint Windows	9	\$ 25,000 each
Stained Glass Symbol Windows	18	\$ 25,000 each
Etched Glass Doors (Narthex & Nave)	4	\$ 25,000 each
Narthex upgrades	1	\$ 25,000
Stations of the Cross	14	\$ 15,000 each
Reconciliation Rooms	2	\$ 10,000 each
Additional Sanctuary Chairs (servers /seminarians /additional priests)	5	\$ 5,000 each
Altar Candles	3	\$ 5,000 each
Processional Candles for Servers	2	\$ 5,000 each
Incense Brazier and Stand	1	\$ 5,000
Exterior Glass Panels	7	\$ 5,000 each