

Welcome to  
*Immaculate Conception Parish*

*A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ*

*December 10, 2023 - Second Sunday Of Advent*

*Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*



*"We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace."  
- 2 Peter 3:13-14*

*Love God • Serve Others • Make Disciples*

Contact Us

☎: 773.775.3833

📍: 7211 W. Talcott Avenue  
Chicago, IL. 60631

✉: parishoffice@icchicago.org

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
Saturday: 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
Sunday: Closed

Parish Website:

🌐: [www.icchicago.org](http://www.icchicago.org)

School Website:

🌐: [www.iccowboys.net](http://www.iccowboys.net)

Social Media



Facebook:

View our Masses, connect with fellow parishioners, and access exclusive articles and content. Simply search “**Immaculate Conception Parish Chicago (Talcott)**” and request to join our online community.

Twitch:

Membership-free platform where all are welcome to view our Masses and access content.

Visit us at [www.twitch.tv/icchicago](http://www.twitch.tv/icchicago)



Mass and Sacrament Schedule

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil @ 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday Mass @ 8:30 A.M.  
Sunday Mass @ 10:30 A.M.\*  
(\*Our 10:30 A.M. Mass is also livestreamed)

*Capacity limits have been lifted and reservations are no longer required. Masks are optional.*

*All are welcome!*

Weekday Mass Schedule:

*In-Person*

Monday through Thursday @ 8:30 A.M.  
(Rosary Prayers & Chaplet of Mercy prayed after Weekday Masses)

**(Please note: Friday daily Masses & First Friday Mass & Adoration temporarily suspended as of July 8<sup>th</sup>)**

*Online*

Wednesdays @ 8:30 A.M. (School Mass)  
(Worship with us virtually on our Facebook Page or Twitch)

Confessions:

Sunday mornings from 9:30 A.M.-10:15 A.M.  
(offered every other Sunday)

(Special dates & times offered during Advent & Lent)

Baptisms:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month @ Noon  
(except during Lent)

Donate

Church & Special Collections:

Interested in supporting our parish, specific ministries and projects?

Please consider giving online at Give Central:  
[www.givecentral.org/location/349](http://www.givecentral.org/location/349)

Offertory envelopes can also be mailed in or dropped off at our Parish Office.

Scan the QR Code below:



Text-To-Give: Text “Sunday” to 773-915-0503

*The Immaculate Conception...*

The Blessed Virgin Mary has been honored and venerated since the beginning of the Church. While the Immaculate Conception, the dogma that states that Mary was conceived and born without sin, was declared in 1854, the entire world has named churches and places after her.



In the 8<sup>th</sup> century, St. John of Damascus wrote, "O marvel above all marvels! A woman has become higher than the seraphim since God has been seen *made a little less than the angels* (Ps 8:6). Let the most wise Solomon be silent and let him not say, *There is nothing new under the sun* (Ecc 1:9). O Virgin, full of divine grace, holy temple of God which the Spiritual Solomon, Prince of Peace, constructed and inhabited; you are not adorned with lifeless stones, but in place of gold you shine with the Spirit."

We also honor and bless the Virgin Mary with our liturgies. First, we always honor her when we honor her Son, Jesus, every day, and every Sunday. Mary, ever a disciple, always leads others to the love and mercy of her son. Secondly, we honor her on her Feast Days, especially the Immaculate Conception which we celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Thirdly, we celebrate her and the Holy Family on Christmas, the Octave, and the Christmas season. Lastly, we offer honor to her during our Vespers services and other prayers (such as morning rosary at daily Mass).

I hope you were able to celebrate with us last week and will continue to honor Mary who is our guide and support.

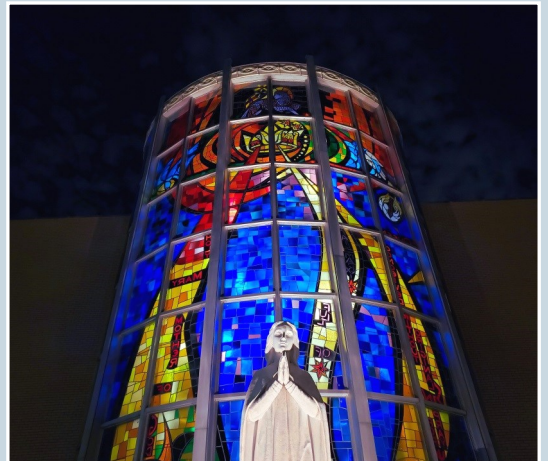
I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who have helped us this year and who are helping us to decorate, clean, and coordinate this Advent and Christmas season. Thank you for allowing our own spiritual temple to be a welcoming place of worship and prayer.

We are also making a video for January in honor of Mary with the help of our seminarians. It is currently being filmed and edited, so I hope you enjoy the reflection that we are preparing for you.

Lastly, as we move through this Advent Season, I hope you are able to use the quiet moments of winter to step away from shopping, parties, and rushing around and simply be with God. The serene example of Mary reminds us that *rest* is just as essential as work. "My soul, be at rest in God alone, from whom comes my hope. God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not fall." (Ps 62:6-7).

May God give you peace and rest this Advent Season, and may the Blessed Virgin Mary pray for all of us, that we might grow closer to her Son and one another this special time of year.

- Fr. Matt



*Next Weekend @ IC: Family Mass*

Please join us at our 10:30 A.M. Family Mass **next Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>** (with Fr. Matt presiding) as we celebrate our IC Teen Club. Our Choristers will join together with our Vocal Quartet to lead our congregation in song. A hospitality reception hosted by our IC Teen Club will follow the conclusion of our Mass in the Vestibule of our Church.



All are welcome and encouraged to join us!



Immaculate Conception Parish

Join us in prayer as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ...

*Advent Vespers Series*


December 5th

December 12th  
(Parish Reconciliation Service to follow @ 6:30 P.M.)

December 19th  
(Feat. Select Vocalists & Instrumentalists)

All are welcome!

Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.



icchicago.org

Join Us This Advent Season @ IC...

9:30 A.M. until 10:15 A.M.


*Advent Confessions*

Sundays

- December 3rd
- December 10th
- December 17th\*

\*Final Opportunity Prior to Christmas

Parish Reconciliation Service: Tue., Dec. 12 @ 6:30 P.M.



icchicago.org

Celebrate Christmas @ IC...

Special Second Collection: Christmas Flowers

Immaculate Conception Parish

*Christmas*

*Mass Schedule*

Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve):

5:00 P.M. Family Mass  
with Fr. Matthew Heinrich presiding  
(Contemporary Music) (Livestreamed)

Midnight Mass  
with Fr. Matthew Heinrich presiding  
(Traditional Music)

Monday, December 25th (Christmas Day):

8:30 A.M. Mass  
with Fr. Robert Fedek presiding  
(Traditional Music)

10:30 A.M. Mass  
with Fr. Robert Fedek presiding  
(Traditional Music) (Livestreamed)

All are welcome!



icchicago.org



Next weekend, we will have a special second collection to help defray the cost of our flowers for our Christmas decorations this year. Donations will be gratefully accepted by our ushers

as they pass the collection baskets during Offertory time.

Thank you for your kind generosity and for assisting us in beautifying our Church for our Christmas celebration this year!

*Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)*

The breaking of the Christmas wafer is a custom that began in Poland in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. It is considered the most ancient and beloved of Polish traditions that expresses unity in the brokenness of the shared wafer, as well as a link to the unbroken chain of Christ's own Body shared through the one Bread in His one Church. The sharing of the Christmas wafer also symbolized forgiveness and reconciliation, an essential key to unity. Our parish tradition of offering Oplatki to our community continues this year, now available at our Parish Office for \$3.00 (*while supplies last.*)





*Fourth Grade Explores Norwood Park History*

Our Fourth grade students took a walk to the oldest house in Chicago, the *Noble-Seymour-Crippen House*, right here in Norwood Park. This house is the home of the Norwood Park Historical Society, and is designated as a national landmark.

Our Fourth graders spent an hour in the house, beginning with receiving a brief summary of the house's history, and its significance in the history of Norwood Park. Then, each student was given a question to answer as we toured the 190-year-old house. They looked at photos, artifacts and furnishings while the docent explained Norwood Park's transformation from farmland, to village, to becoming part of the city of Chicago. Our students enjoyed seeing old photos of the train station (with a steam locomotive) as well as the Norwood Park hotel (late-1800s) and we were excited to find our school and the old white frame church on a 1949 aerial photograph of the area!

To wrap up our visit, each student shared the fact that they found to answer the question they had been given at the start of our adventure. We enjoyed our visit and learned a lot about our community!



*Please join our parish family in prayer ...*

*For those who are sick;*



Nick Abbamonte  
 Mina Acevedo  
 Tom Altman  
 Paul Amandes  
 Amelia Aquino  
 Arnold B.  
 Robert Behrman  
 Sonia M. B.  
 Roberta Berger  
 Arlene Lacey Beyna  
 Vince Caeti  
 Mary Cali  
 Juanita Camacho  
 Donna Chaplin  
 Truman Collins  
 James Covello  
 Ronnie Cunningham  
 Joe Day  
 Paige Dicks  
 Emily Divarco  
 Eric Dulce  
 Lilia Dulce  
 Elizabeth Felix  
 Patrick Fisher  
 Richard Flanagan  
 Brooke Foreman  
 Patricia Furgat

Lila Gehner  
 Joan Geiger  
 Gloria Hernandez  
 Ofelia Hernandez  
 Judy Hull  
 Mary Ann Hurtig  
 Kevin Jaburek  
 Vivian Jester  
 Wayne Kinzie, Sr.  
 Donna Kirk  
 Craig Kloss  
 Ronald Kogol  
 Lillian Kohut  
 Katherine Kreuser  
 Anthony LaPash  
 Dawn LaVeau  
 Florencia Silva Lucas  
 Sean Lucas  
 Nathan Maisel  
 Benny Martinez  
 Edwin Martinez  
 Frank Martinez  
 Elsa Mazzoni  
 Mary McGrath  
 Nikki Mendoza  
 Pat Miaso  
 Gerry Michalek, Jr.

Helen Michalek  
 Ledoina Monacelli  
 Marta Morales  
 Deacon Rick Moritz  
 Veronica Murillo  
 Mike Murphy  
 Timothy Murray  
 Brendan Nelson  
 Barb Neustadt  
 Phillip Nuccio  
 Anne O'Brien  
 John O'Brien  
 Jackie O'Koniewski  
 David Olson  
 Camille Pavlis  
 Elaine Pellegrinetti  
 Ashton Peterson  
 Leo Pfest  
 Paul Posch  
 Mary Potwora  
 Baby Fiona Prades  
 Joe Rispoli  
 Pia Rizza  
 Sherry Rock  
 David Rodriguez  
 Cindy Rupp  
 Milagros C. San Juan

Carole Skorey  
 Edward Stanczyk  
 Jack Stewart  
 Bill Story  
 Julie Szwedo  
 Alma T.  
 Donna Tisdale  
 Beckie Tomala  
 Steven P. Trifilio  
 Mary Ellen Vanderman  
 Louis Ward  
 Miss Westhoff  
 Rita Zambon  
 Jerry Zschach  
 Nancy Zschach

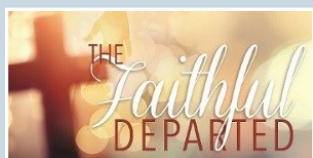
**\*Newly Added**

*For our faithful departed:*

Anthony R. "Tony" Rossetti, Jr. (Husband of June)  
 Logan Maverick Frigeni



"Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord,  
 and let perpetual light shine  
 upon them."

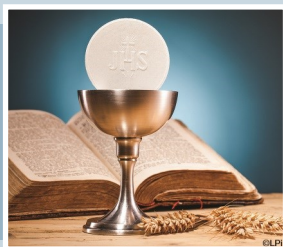


*For those who serve our country:*



**U.S. Army** - SSgt. John Francis Mikita, Sgt. Kevin Whalen, SSgt Martine Makita, Chris Dash, Pvt. Jason G. Cavanaugh, Major Christopher Walsh, Capt. Benjamin Monson, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Katherine D. Hartnett, SPC Michael J. Stone, Pvt. Charlie Cruz Pappas  
**U.S. Navy** - CMDR Michael Brasseur, LCDR Christopher Jenkins, PO Thomas T. Tudisco, Ensign Marina J. Monacelli  
**U.S. Air Force** - John Christopher Ocasio, Major Laurel Walsh, Major Paul H. Kolk, LT. COL. Michael O'Koniewski; Captain Colleen Bernal  
**U.S. Marines** - PFC Sebastian L. Rivera, Jr., PFC Christopher Hughes, PFC Algene D. Porticos, LCpl Daniel Wiczorek, LCpl Luis A. Corea, PFC Brian Mendoza

Please contact our Parish Office when these service people return home safely. If you are a veteran or know a veteran, the Archdiocese of Chicago has a website located at [vets.archchicago.org](http://vets.archchicago.org) that provides information that can be of assistance.



*Mass Intentions:  
Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
through  
Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>*

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday Of Advent**

5:00 P.M. (Saturday) – †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Terry Rutkowski (Birthday Remembrance); †Joseph Poelsterl; and †Patrick Cahill  
8:30 A.M. – †Elizabeth Serafin; †Alfreda Campagna; †The Deceased Members of The Leyhane Family; †Emily, Jadwiga & Stanislaw Serafin; and †Janina & Franciszek Sliwinski  
10:30 A.M. – †Marie Frances Hagarty; †Michael Naughton; †Marge Blum; †Francis & Moira Cross; and The People of the Parish

**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – Saint Damasus I, Pope**

8:30 A.M. – †Joanne T. Leck

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> - Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:30 A.M. – †Zoraida Cornejo

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

8:30 A.M. – †Katie Reitzell

**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

8:30 A.M. – †Francis Leving-Ning Chu (Birthday Remembrance)

**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - Advent Weekday**

**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - Advent Weekday**

5:00 P.M. – †Joan Larson (on her 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Helen Rasmussen (on her 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary); †Patrick Cahill; †William Joyce; †Michael Kelly; †Mary Alice Eckman; †Jean Christy (on her Anniversary); and Robert Altman (Living)

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday Of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**

8:30 A.M. – †Marilyn Passeri (on her 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); †Robert Passeri, Sr.; †Christopher Passeri; and The Living & Deceased Members of The Urizarri & Leyhane Families

10:30 A.M. – †Joseph Zagotta (on his 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); †Bruno & Elsy Giacomuzzi; †Francis & Moira Cross; and The People of the Parish



December 10<sup>th</sup> through December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Our Sanctuary Lamp is burning this week for the prayer intention of

**Brooke Foreman**  
(Daughter of Jennifer (Zyks) & Jeremy Foreman)

Requested By: Ray & Jan Ehrlich

December 10<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Our Blessed Mother Votive is burning this week for the prayer intentions of

**Vicki & Mike Williams**  
(on their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)

Requested By: Vicki & Mike Williams

December 10<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Our St. Joseph Votive is burning this week for the repose of the soul of

**Fr. Frank Keenan, C.P.**

**Pope Tweet of the Week...**

*“Let us ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten us so that we may be able to give an account of our faith and hope to today's world with words and, above all, with the testimony of our lives.”*





Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Caitlin Stack

Christmas Food Collection @ IC

# Christmas Food Collection

Benefiting Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Chicago operates seven food pantries across Cook County to feed the hungry — a mission more critical now than ever.

Please join our Immaculate Conception Parish in supporting them this Christmas. We will collect donations of non-perishable food in our Church Vestibule until December 20th.

Most popular items are: pasta and sauces, canned meat and tuna, cereal, soups and vegetables. Holiday cookies and candy would also be a sweet treat!

How you can help:

Please donate unexpired & non-perishable food items only



This Weekend @ IC: Second Collection

Legacy Gifts For Our Parish...

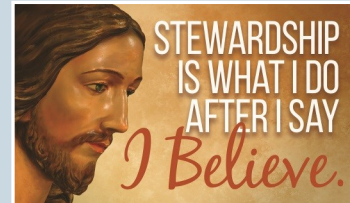


Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

## Retirement Fund for Religious

Please donate at your local parish or by mail at:  
National Religious Retirement Office  
3211 Fourth Street NE  
Washington DC 20017-1194  
Make check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious.



Please consider one of the greatest acts of stewardship an individual can make by establishing an estate plan. These gifts help us to build a solid foundation for the Catholic formation of future generations. A well-coordinated estate plan typically includes: (1) financial power of attorney, (2) will, (3) beneficiary designations, (4) charitable beneficiary designations and (5) health care documents, such as a living will and a health care power of attorney.

Create or update your estate plans today by contacting your estate attorney and financial advisor. For more information, please contact **Vince Kennedy** at [vkennedy@archchicago.org](mailto:vkennedy@archchicago.org) or 773.775.3833 Ext. 106 or visit [myimpact.archchicago.org/resources](http://myimpact.archchicago.org/resources). For a free step-by-step guide to reviewing your estate plan, please contact Marguerite Q. Zappa, Philanthropy Giving Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago at: 312.848.3068 or [mzappa@archchicago.org](mailto:mzappa@archchicago.org).



*Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained: Sharing Faith*

**Question:** My friend has never heard of Christ and I want to share the Gospel with her but I'm afraid to. How do I share my faith?

**Answer:** There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don't be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because he has faith in you! ©LPi



We believe in the power of prayer and would like to offer this special ministry (formed by our Evangelization Team) for anyone in our community who wishes to be prayed for or to have someone to pray with.

Representatives from our prayer team are available at the quiet room in the back of our Church after all our Weekend Masses (5:00 P.M. on Saturdays, 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. on Sundays).

As a parish, we are striving to become a community that prays intentionally for one another, sharing both joys and struggles as one family.

Even if you do not need prayers at this time, please pray for our team and those who make use of them and ask God that our community grow stronger together through prayer.

*Ministry Schedules: Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>*

	Saturday 5:00 P.M. Mass	Sunday 8:30 A.M. Mass	Sunday 10:30 A.M. Family Mass
Presiders	Fr. Robert Fedek	Fr. Robert Fedek	Fr. Matthew Heinrich
Lectors	L. Christy	J. Semmler	Youth Lectors
Cantors	E. Doyle	Vocal Quartet	Choristers & Vocal Quartet
Extraordinary Ministers	K. Gillespie; L. Womack	A. Schnitzlein; M. Zizzo; C. Mulligan; D. Sebastian	K. Sampey; J. Campbell; N. Kanoon; C. Kech
Altar Servers	D. Gillespie; S. Gillespie; K. Giannola	N. Rahlfs; K. R. Rahlfs; A. McMahon	M. Gallagher; E. Carroll; T. Cox



**Our Parish Staff:**

**Fr. Matthew Heinrich, Pastor**  
**Fr. Robert Fedek, Weekend Assistant**  
**Deacon Rick & Carol Moritz**  
**Deacon Ronald & Connie Gronek**  
**Vincent Kennedy, Director of Operations**  
**Scott Will, Director of Worship**  
**Melissa Anna, Office Administration & Communications/  
 Bulletin Editor**  
**Elizabeth Doyle, Assistant Director of Music**  
**Marilyn Sadowski, Receptionist**  
**Bernadette Anna, Parish Sacristan**  
**Michael La Haye, Head of Maintenance**



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 jmjdeaon@aol.com  
 vkennedy@icchicago.org  
 swill@icchicago.org  
 m.anna@icchicago.org  
 parishbulletin@icchicago.org  
  
 parishoffice@icchicago.org

**Our School Staff:**

**Sue Canzoneri, Principal**  
**Tina Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal**  
**Julie Szwedo, Religious Education Coordinator**  
**Lisa Kessler, School Accountant**  
**Mary Haley, School Secretary**

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 fitzgerald@iccowboys.net  
 szwedo@iccowboys.net  
 kessler@iccowboys.net  
 haley@iccowboys.net

**What's Happening @ IC...**

**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> –**

9:30-11:00 A.M. – School Advent Reconciliation (Grades 6-8); CH  
 10:15 A.M.-Noon – Monday Morning Bible Study; RA  
 12:30 P.M. – Parish Staff Mtg.; RA  
 7:00-8:30 P.M. – Overtones Rehearsal; CH

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> –**

9:30-11:00 A.M. – School Advent Reconciliation (Grades 3-5); CH  
 6:00-6:30 P.M. – Advent Vespers Service; CH  
 6:30-7:30 P.M. – Parish Advent Reconciliation Service; CH

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> –**

8:30 A.M. – School Mass; CH  
 2:00-3:30 P.M. – Choristers Rehearsal; CH  
 4:00-5:00 P.M. – Religious Education Class (*Final Class for Grade 8*); SC  
 6:30-8:30 P.M. – Alpha Executive Team Mtg.; RCR  
 7:00-9:00 P.M. – School Board Mtg.; RA

**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> –**

7:00 P.M. – IC School Christmas Play; PC

**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> –**

7:00 P.M. – IC School Christmas Play; PC

**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> –**

10:00 A.M. – Noon – Future City Mtg.; NWCR

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday Of Advent**

9:30-10:15 A.M. – Advent Confessions; CH  
 10:30 A.M. – Family Mass (Hosted By: *IC Teen Club*); CH  
 (*Hospitality Reception to follow in CH Vestibule*)  
 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. – Evangelization Team Mtg.; RCR  
 Noon-3:00 P.M. – IC Teen Club Christmas Party; RA



**Your Gifts to God and Parish...**

If you plan to move from our parish, please notify our Parish Office at least three months prior to your change of address. Also, if you will be away from home for more than 3 months, please contact us so that your envelopes can be stopped during that time period.

If you have transitioned to electronic giving and still receive offertory envelopes, please contact our Parish Office so that we can discontinue your receiving of envelopes.

**Parish Registration:** Please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 or visit our parish website at [www.icchicago.org](http://www.icchicago.org) to join our parish family.

**Early Bulletin Deadlines:**

December 17<sup>th</sup> Bulletin submissions due:

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

December 24<sup>th</sup> Bulletin submissions due:

Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

December 31<sup>st</sup> Bulletin submissions due:

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

Bulletin submissions are accepted via email at:

**parishbulletin@icchicago.org**

*(Practicing) Catholic: Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments*

**The World Is Pregnant...**

There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes – none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye.

*"For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."*

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen.

The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us.

*"We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." – 2 Peter 3:13*

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi



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Immaculate Conception Parishoner, Parent, Men's Club & Community Supporter

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