

Welcome to
Immaculate Conception Parish

A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ

December 17, 2023 - Third Sunday Of Advent

My soul rejoices in my God.



*“May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23*

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

School Website:

🌐: 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



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 8th)

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:

2nd & 4th 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

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

Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice In The Lord

In Scripture, the Second Letter of Peter states, "The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ... But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Pet 3:9, 13).



When we reflect on the silence of God, we sometimes take silence to mean 'disinterest' or 'indifference.' But Peter relates that the 'delay' of God, or the silence of God, or even the absence of God, is the sign of His patience towards us.

When we talk about Gaudete Sunday, it is in reference to the Latin word for "rejoice." But "gaudete" is a command: we are commanded to rejoice and be joyful. What are we meant to find joy in? In my mind, the Advent Season, which prepares us for the Christmas Season, is a season of Reconciliation. In that famous hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" it continues... *Glory to the newborn king! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled...*

Jesus became like us in all things so that we might become like Him in all things. We can pursue holiness and righteousness because of Him. For this alone, there is reason to rejoice.

As Advent opens the new Church Year, this time of year also has us reflecting on the history of salvation. It reminds us through the prophet Isaiah, and through the Gospels, of the power of God to save us. It also reminds us that God chooses that redemption and salvation through acts of humility, simplicity, and love. The manifestation of God's power is not found in the sword or the dominance of will, but in the silence of a child, the simplicity of the family, and in the love of God. What Christ has done, we are called to imitate.

In the 4th century, St. Ephrem the Syrian, wrote in his *Hymns of Paradise*:

"The assembly of the saints bears resemblance to Paradise: in it each day is plucked the fruit of Him who gives life to all [i.e., the Eucharist]; in it, my brethren, is trodden the cluster of grapes to be the Medicine of Life. The serpent is crippled and bound by the curse, while Eve's mouth is sealed with a silence that is beneficial – but it also serves once again as a harp to sing the praises of her creator." (Hymn VI.8)

So many centuries ago, St. Ephrem speaks of the saints in heaven and of those on earth who eat from the Tree of Life, that is to say, Christ. The serpent, the enemy of man and the symbol of disobedience, is bound. Eve, who represents 'the mother of all,' is silent – a sign of being restored and of obedience to the commands of God – her obedience, like that of Adam, serves "once again as a harp to sing the praises of her creator."



We rejoice because we know the Word of God. We rejoice because we eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life. We rejoice because we have been entrusted with the covenants, the promises, the graces, the memories, the Scriptures, and the Spirit. I pray we all enter this spirit of joy, recognizing the One, True God. I pray we act on this joy in serving God and one another. Rejoice! - Fr. Matt

This Weekend @ IC: Family Mass



Please join us at our 10:30 A.M. Family Mass **this Sunday, Dec. 17th** (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!



Celebrate Christmas @ IC...

Parish Office Holiday Hours:



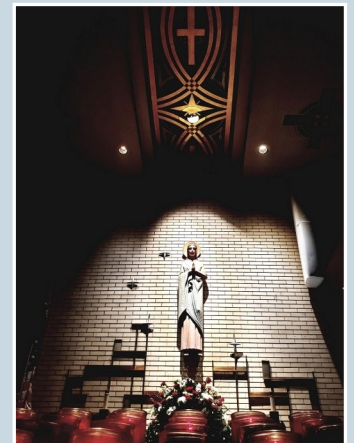
Our Parish Office will be closed in observance of
Christmas:

Monday, December 25th
Tuesday, December 26th

Beginning on **Wednesday, December 27th** and continuing through **Saturday, January 6th**, our Parish Office will be open from **9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. (with 1 exception).**

Our Parish Office will be closed in observance of
New Year's Day:

Monday, January 1st



The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)

Monday, January 1st
10:00 A.M. Mass
with Fr. Matt presiding

Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24th (Christmas Eve):

5:00 P.M. Family Mass

with Fr. Matthew Heinrich presiding

feat. our Choristers, Select Vocalists, John Eckhardt (Violin), Donovan Mixon (Guitar) & Jim Cox (String Bass) (Contemporary Music) (Livestreamed)

Midnight Mass

with Fr. Matthew Heinrich presiding

feat. Select Vocalists & Instrumental Soloist (Traditional Music)

Monday, December 25th (Christmas Day):

8:30 A.M. Mass

with Fr. Robert Fedek presiding

feat. Select Vocalists & Instrumental Soloist (Traditional Music)

10:30 A.M. Mass

with Fr. Robert Fedek presiding

feat. Select Vocalists & Instrumental Soloist (Traditional Music) (Livestreamed)

All are welcome!

icchicago.org

This Weekend @ IC: Second Collection - Christmas Flowers

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)



This weekend, we will have a special second collection to help defray the cost of our flowers for our Christmas decorations this year. Thank you for your kind generosity and for assisting us in

beautifying our Church for our Christmas celebration this year!



The breaking of the Christmas wafer is a custom that began in Poland in the 10th 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.



Children's Author Visits IC

Mrs. Ginny Graham O'Donnell, children's author of the book series, *Captain Clementine*, visited Immaculate Conception School on Thursday, November 30th. Mrs. O'Donnell is a relative of an IC school family. She read excerpts from one of her books as well as discussed all that goes into being a published author. The students had so many questions for her which she enjoyed answering. She also signed books for our students.



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
Grace Cabiao
 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

Nicholas Frank
 Patricia Furgat
 Lila Gehner
 Joan Geiger
 Gloria Hernandez
 Ofelia Hernandez
Katie Huber
 Judy Hull
 Mary Ann Hurtig
 Kevin Jaburek
 Vioian 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 Mazzone
 Mary McGrath

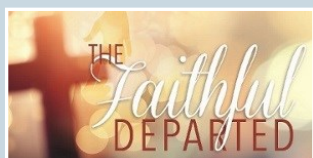
Nikki Mendoza
 Pat Miaso
 Gerry Michalek, Jr.
 Helen Michalek
 Ledoina Monacelli
 Marta Morales
 Deacon Rick Moritz
 Veronica Murillo
 Mike Murphy
 Timothy Murray
 Brendan Nelson
 Barb Neustadt
 Phillip Nuccio
 John O'Brien
 Jackie O'Koniewski
 David Olson
 Camille Pavlis
 Elaine Pellegrinetti
 Ashton 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:

Anne M. O'Brien
 Bishop Raymond Goedert



"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, 1st 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 that provides information that can be of assistance.



*Mass Intentions:
Sunday, December 17th
through
Sunday, December 24th*

Sunday, December 17th - Third Sunday Of Advent

5:00 P.M. (Saturday) – †Joan Larson (on her 11th Anniversary); †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Helen Rasmussen (on her 1st Anniversary); †Patrick Cahill; †William Joyce; †Michael Kelly; †Mary Alice Eckman; †Jean Christy (on her Anniversary); and Robert Altman (Living)
8:30 A.M. – †Marilyn Passeri (on her 4th Anniversary); †Robert Passeri, Sr.; †Christopher Passeri; and The Living & Deceased Members of The Urizarri & Leyhane Families
10:30 A.M. – †Joseph Zagotta (on his 10th Anniversary); †Bruno & Elsy Giacomuzzi; †Francis & Moira Cross; and The People of the Parish

Monday, December 18th - Late Advent Weekday

8:30 A.M. – †Joseph Zagotta (on his 10th Anniversary); and †Patricia Estimada

Tuesday, December 19th - Late Advent Weekday

8:30 A.M. – †Katharina Kraemer (Birthday Remembrance); †Frank Ghidara (on his 19th Anniversary); and Abigail Gonsalves (Living)

Wednesday, December 20th - Late Advent Weekday

8:30 A.M. – †James Forrestal

Thursday, December 21st - Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:30 A.M. – †Paul, Gloria & Steven Budziak

Friday, December 22nd - Late Advent Weekday

Saturday, December 23rd - Saint John of Kanty, Priest

5:00 P.M. – †Richard G. Zyrkowski; †Mary Schwarz; †William Joyce; and Ernesto & Andrea Leyba (on their 50th Wedding Anniversary)

Sunday, December 24th - Fourth Sunday Of Advent/Christmas Eve

8:30 A.M. – †Patrick J. Gavin
10:30 A.M. – †Charles Grayzeck
5:00 P.M. – †Edward Labuz; †The Boksa Family; †Tony & Jean Reszotko; †Anthony & Madeline Mazzoni; †Arthur Capra (on his 5th Anniversary); †Sandra Duchane; †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Manuel Mendoza; †Ammal Philip (on his 2nd Anniversary); and †Raymond & Sophia Starzynski;
Midnight – †Vincenzo Porcelli; †Marie Frances Hagarty; †Frank & Margherita Martino; †Anna & Nicola Chiusolo; †Patricia Neely; †Francis & Moira Cross; †Frank & Dorothy Tudisco; †Tom Tudisco; †The Tudisco Family; †The Schatz Family; and The People of the Parish

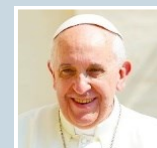
December 17th through December 23rd
 Our Sanctuary Lamp is burning this week for the repose of the soul of
Joseph Zagotta
 (on his 10th Anniversary)
 Requested By: The Zagotta Family

December 17th through December 22nd
 Our Blessed Mother Votive is burning this week for the prayer intention of
Brooke Foreman
 (Daughter of Jennifer (Zyke) & Jeremy Foreman)
 Requested By: Ray & Jan Ehrlich

December 17th through December 22nd
 Our St. Joseph Votive is burning this week for the repose of the soul of
Richard Hurtig
 Requested By: Mary Ann Hurtig

Pope Tweet of the Week...

"We have entered #Advent full of hope. We fervently implore the Prince of Peace to bring comfort to our wounded hearts and to nations suffering from wars and crises of every kind, so that all may live a dignified and peaceful life."



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

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 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

Thank you!

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink."



WITH JOYFUL HEARTS, WE WELCOME OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED.



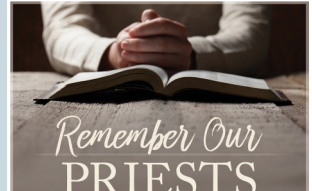
Casey Alexandra Maseth
Child of Adam James & Alexandra Frances (Ford) Maseth

Please Remember Our Priests...

Priests have dedicated their lives to the ministry of God's children, serving our needs as Catholics without asking for anything in return. Now, it is our turn to show our love and care for their ever-faithful support. Please consider including a legacy gift for Priests' Health and Retirement to support the healthcare needs of our active priests, as well as the medical and housing needs of our retired priests.

For more information, please call Priests' Health and Retirement at 708.449.8026. If you would like to make a gift today, please visit: prmaa.org.

Remember Our PRIESTS



Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained: The Sign Of Peace

Question: Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?



Answer: The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord’s Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus’ words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: “Our Father who art in heaven...” In this prayer, we call for the coming of God’s kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs – “Give us, this day, our daily bread” – to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ’s peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus’ teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion – united in love and peace – with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you’re at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ’s peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, “Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

©LPi

Ministry Schedules: Saturday, December 23rd & Sunday, December 24th

	Saturday 5:00 P.M. Mass Fourth Sunday Of Advent	Sunday 8:30 A.M. Mass Fourth Sunday Of Advent	Sunday 10:30 A.M. Mass Fourth Sunday Of Advent
Presiders	Fr. Matthew Heinrich	Fr. Robert Fedek	Fr. Matthew Heinrich
Lectors	S. Serb	N. Kremer	L. Beckman
Cantors	E. Doyle	Vocal Quartet	Vocal Quartet
Extraordinary Ministers	S. Witz; R. Altman	M. Dosek; A. Schnitzlein; D. Zamirowski; D. Sebastian	K. Sanchez; N. Kanoon; J. Campbell; R. Siciliano
Altar Servers	K. Giannola; J. Galeno; J. Nelson	E. Hyland; T. Cox	K. Catomer

Ministry Schedules: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

	Sunday 5:00 P.M. Family Mass Christmas Eve	Sunday Midnight Christmas Eve	Monday 8:30 A.M. Christmas Day	Monday 10:30 A.M. Christmas Day
Presiders	Fr. Matthew Heinrich	Fr. Matthew Heinrich	Fr. Robert Fedek	Fr. Robert Fedek
Lectors	M. Carroll	J. Lim; L. Beckman	D. Sebastian; J. Semmler	M. Niewinski
Cantors	Choristers & Guitar, Violin, & String Bass	Select Vocalists & Instrumental Soloist	Select Vocalists & Instrumental Soloist	Select Vocalists & Instrumental Soloist
Extraordinary Ministers	N. Kanoon; L. Womack	TBA	M. Zizzo; S. Witz; D. Zamirowski	R. Siciliano; J. Campbell; S. Serb
Altar Servers	B. Yak; A. McMahon; E. Carroll	L. Love; S. Eaglin; N. Eaglin	I. Magruder; O. Accardo; G. Reichle	E. Serb; C. Villafane; C. Beach



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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 swill@icchicago.org
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 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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 kessler@iccowboys.net
 haley@iccowboys.net

What's Happening @ IC...

Monday, December 18th –

10:15 A.M.-Noon – Monday Morning Bible Study; RA
 7:00-8:30 P.M. – Overtones Rehearsal; CH

Tuesday, December 19th –

8:30 A.M. – Cherub Concert (Kindergarten through 3rd Grade); PC
 6:00-6:30 P.M. – Advent Vespers Service; CH

Wednesday, December 20th –

8:30 A.M. – School Mass; CH
 2:00-3:30 P.M. – Choristers Rehearsal; CH

Friday, December 22nd –

School 11:30 A.M. Dismissal: Christmas Break Begins
 11:30 A.M.-6:00 P.M. – ICPC School Staff Christmas Party; PH

Saturday, December 23rd –

5:00 P.M. – Mass; CH

Sunday, December 24th –

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

8:30 A.M. – Mass; CH
 10:30 A.M. – Mass; CH

Christmas Eve

5:00 P.M. – Family Mass; CH
 Midnight – Mass; CH



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 to join our parish family.

Early Bulletin Deadlines:

December 24th Bulletin submissions due:
 Monday, December 11th
 December 31st Bulletin submissions due:
 Wednesday, December 20th

Bulletin submissions are accepted via email at:
parishbulletin@icchicago.org

(Practicing) Catholic: Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Testimony...

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair. Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

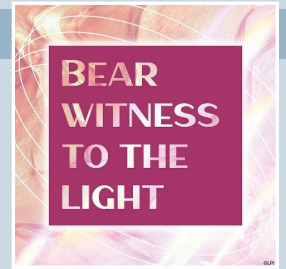
She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the "men in white coats" came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true – it *was* her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news. It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, "It's okay. I see it, too."

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions. How will you testify today?

"He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." – John 1:8 - Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi



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

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Robert Lohman
Parishioner/Parent

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