

Welcome to  
*Immaculate Conception Parish*

*A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ*

*December 20, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Peace



*"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." - Luke 1:31-32a*

*Love God • Serve Others • Make Disciples*

## Contact Us

☎: 773.775.3833

### Parish Office Hours:

💻: [www.icparish.net](http://www.icparish.net)

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

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

**\*New Website:**  
[www.icchicago.org](http://www.icchicago.org)  
(\*scheduled to go live this  
**Saturday, December 19th**)

✉: [parishoffice@icchicago.org](mailto:parishoffice@icchicago.org)  
(Please note: new email address)

## 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)

*Reservations are recommended to  
assist with contact tracing.  
Walk-ins are welcome, but must  
provide name and telephone number  
(or email) upon entry.  
Please visit our website or contact  
our Parish Office to register.*

### Weekday Mass Schedule:

**Online Only**  
Monday through Friday @ 7:00 P.M.  
Wednesdays @ 8:30 A.M. (School Mass)  
(Worship with us virtually on our  
Facebook Page or Twitch)

**In-Person**  
First Friday Mass @ 5:30 P.M. each  
month followed by Adoration of the  
Blessed Sacrament & Benediction from  
6:00-7:00 P.M.

### Confessions:

First and Third Tuesdays of  
each month from 6:00-7:00 P.M.  
  
(Special dates & times  
offered during Advent & Lent)

### Baptisms:

Saturdays @ 1:00 P.M.  
Sundays @ 12:30 P.M.

## 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.

### School:

Interested in supporting Catholic Education for  
both present and future generations?

Please donate to our **Endowment Fund** (via Give  
Central) or support efforts by our **Holy Name  
Men's Club** and **Parents Club** posted on our  
Social Media or featured in our bulletin.



### *In Preparation for Christmas*

Last weekend, I preached at every Mass about Evangelization. I preached to everyone because it needs to be a central value and activity of all of us at our parish.

To recap: Evangelization has its source in God. Normally, we think of ourselves in terms of what we do. We choose, we work hard, and we accomplish many things—people recognize who we are by what we do. Faith must be the same, right? But faith turns things on its head. Our faith, and one of the central messages of Christmas, is that it is not us. God comes to us out of His bountiful, generous love. He gives us life and new life in Christ.

Evangelization is rooted in this. The word “evangelization” comes from the Greek word for Gospel, or Good News. I ask each one of you to engage in evangelization, which takes part in two ways:

First, it is an inward journey. No one can force you to love or to be thankful, you must want those things in your own heart. We believe that by looking inwards, we can see the God who made you in His image and likeness. Out of His love, you received life. As you look inwardly at yourself, you will also see your uniqueness, gifts, and talents. You will see God, and the you that God loves.

From that inward journey, another takes place outwardly. The core of our faith is God creating and loving generously. We are called then to love generously too. We must look inwardly and ask, “how can I be generous with who I am?”

This is the foundation of all things: love God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself. This is the inward and outward journey of evangelization as well.

We would like all our parishioners to pray for Evangelization at our parish, that we all may become a more loving and generous people. Many good things come from this starting point.

Secondly, we ask you to support our Alpha program, which we have expressed in our previous three bulletins. Our leaders, our brothers and sisters who live in our neighborhoods, have been working hard behind the scenes to provide a vehicle for personal growth and evangelization. You can read more about it on our website ([www.icparish.net](http://www.icparish.net)), as well as on our new website which will be going live around the time that you read this ([www.icchicago.org](http://www.icchicago.org)).

We hope that this charge entrusted to each one of you will serve as a nice compliment to our celebration of Christmas. After all, Christmas is a celebration of love and generosity, and we could all use more good news at the close of the year.

Fr. Matt



### Christmas Mass Schedule



#### *Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve*

**5:00 P.M.** — *In-Person & Livestreamed\** (Feat. Contemporary Music) with Fr. Robert Carlton presiding

**7:00 P.M.** — *In-Person* with Fr. Robert Fedek presiding

**9:00 P.M.** — *In-Person & Livestreamed\** (Feat. Traditional Music) with Fr. Matt presiding

#### *Friday, December 25th – Christmas Day*

**8:30 A.M.** — *In-Person & Livestreamed\** with Fr. Matt presiding

**10:30 A.M.** — *In-Person* with Fr. Robert Carlton presiding

Reservations are recommended due to attendance restrictions and to assist with contact tracing. Online registration for our Christmas Masses will open this **Saturday, December 19th** which will also coincide with the launch of our new parish website. Please register at our new website which will be located at: **[www.icchicago.org](http://www.icchicago.org)** (as of December 19th.) For those without computer access, please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 to register. To adhere to social distancing guidelines, attendance will be limited to \*160 attendees per Mass (\*approximately 20% of our total capacity.)

\*For those unable to join us in-person, three of our Christmas Masses will also be livestreamed from our Church. Our livestreamed Masses may be viewed on either our parish **Facebook** page (**Immaculate Conception Parish Chicago - Talcott**) or on **Twitch** (**[www.twitch.tv/icchicago](http://www.twitch.tv/icchicago)**). Giving options and our electronic bulletin will be available through links provided on both platforms.



*School  
News...*

### *Welcome to 3 Year Old Preschool!*

Room 19 is filled with the excitement of learning and growing each day. For 3 year olds, this is their first school experience and they are now a part of our fantastic IC community.

Having a structured day with a consistent routine is the key to success for these little ones. The children enjoy their daily activities and are quick to point out if we stray from the norm.



We begin each day with our morning prayer. We recite the Pledge of Allegiance, dress Froggy for the weather, and count the monthly calendar. The children are improving their counting skills and love picking out their favorite weather appropriate clothes for Froggy.

Learning through play is the most important part of our school day. Whether the children are playing at the Block Center, Dramatic Play Center, Sensory Center, or Art Center, they are learning basic academic skills that reinforce math, literacy, social studies, and science. Through play they learn to be a good friend, share, take turns, raise a quiet hand, solve conflicts, and so much more.



Every week our schedule includes a Theme and a Letter. This week we introduced the "Letter K". The children learned to recognize the letter, listen for the sound, and even did some skywriting to reinforce how the letter K is formed. They are preparing to be brilliant, future readers.

The theme for our week was "Outer Space". How fun it is to discover what is way above the clouds! Our preschool children enjoyed learning about the sun, moon, stars, and all the planets that orbit the sun. They loved pretending to be astronauts that travel to space in their amazing rocket ships! They learned to count down from 10 and then . . . *BLAST OFF!*



As you can see, our preschool children are busy learning and growing each day. They are developing friendships that will last a lifetime. They love their school and are excited to be a part of IC. We are fortunate and blessed to have these little ones join our community and we welcome their families to IC as well.

Mrs. Gavin



Please join our parish family in prayer ...



For those who are sick:

Tom Altman  
Concetta Bartucci  
Melissa Bednarz  
Robert Behrman  
Sonia M. B.  
**Charlene Bonomo**  
Vince Caeti  
Jackie Campbell  
Rita Castillo  
Donna Chaplin  
James Covello  
Sherry Crocifisso  
Ronnie Cunningham  
**Marilyn Donovan**  
**Christina Dziekonski**  
Richard Flanagan  
Brooke Foreman  
Lila Gehner

Ofelia Hernandez  
Dennis M. Jaburek  
Esther Jarosh  
Helga Jarosz  
Craig Kloss  
Lillian Kohut  
Benny Martinez  
Edwin Martinez  
Frank Martinez  
Fr. Eric Meyer, C.P.  
Veronica Murillo  
Timothy Murray  
Mary Beth O'Grady  
Jackie O'Koniewski  
David Olson  
Fr. Alan Phillip, C.P.  
Mary Potwora  
Bill Remblake

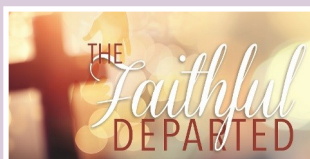
David Rodriguez  
Elaine Schatz  
Jennie Sekula  
Lorraine Sekula  
Don Skorey  
Edward Stanczyk  
Marion Szumski  
Julie Szwedo  
Donna Tisdale  
Steven P. Trifilio  
John F. Vargo  
Henry Wagener  
Geoffrey Woittel

**\*Newly Added**

If you wish to have your name included in our prayer list (or removed), please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833.

For our faithful departed:

George M. Loescher  
Steve Kwasniak  
Carl D. Barone  
Edmund W. "Ed" Cummings, Jr. (Husband of Ellen,  
Father of Pat Cummings)



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

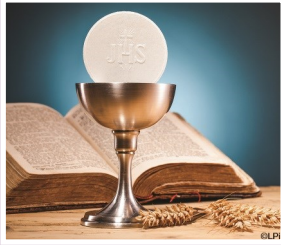


For those who serve our country:



**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, Thomas Treslo, National Guard Specialist 4th Class  
**U.S. Navy** - CMDR Michael Brasseur, Lt. Christopher Jenkins, PO Thomas T. Tudisco  
**U.S. Air Force** - John Christopher Ocasio, Major Laurel Walsh, Captain Paul H. Kolk, LT. COL. Michael O'Koniewski; 2nd Lt. Colleen Bernal  
**U.S. Marines** - Sean Gronset, PFC Sebastian L. Rivera, Jr., PFC Christopher Hughes, PFC Algene D. Porticos

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 20th**  
**through**  
**Sunday, December 27th**

**Sunday, December 20th - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**5:00 P.M. (Saturday)** - †Katharina Kraemer; and †Joan Larson (on her 8th Anniversary)

**8:30 A.M.** — †Clementine Longo; †Sophie Fudala; †Carmen & Irene Covello; †Alex Covello; †Francis & Moira Cross; and †Nicola Campanella

**10:30 A.M.** — †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Carmelo Gueli; †Jerry Gallo; and The People of the Parish

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

**7:00 P.M. (Private Mass)** — †Jack Quinn

**Tuesday, December 22nd - Late Advent Weekday**

**7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass)** — †Carmencita E. Gonzalez

**Wednesday, December 23rd - Saint John of Kanty, Priest**

**8:30 A.M. (Virtual Mass)** — †Ron Tucker

**Thursday, December 24th - Christmas Eve**

**5:00 P.M.** — †Arthur Capra (On his Anniversary); †Sandra Duchane; †Edward Labuz; †Daniel Reppen; †Don & Dina Markham; and †Brian Murray & Martin Murray

**7:00 P.M.** — The People of the Parish

**9:00 P.M.** — †Frank & Margherita Martino; and †Nicola & Anna Chiusolo

**Friday, December 25th - The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)**

**8:30 A.M.** — †The Feeney Family; †Tommy Fuller; †Joseph Zagotta; and †Krystyna Sadowska;

**10:30 A.M.** — †Pat Ralston; †Barbara & Patrick McDonagh; †Sophie & Stephen Oleksy; †Francis & Moira Cross; †Antoinette & Joseph Svoboda; †Paul Kokalj; †Gerald S. Michalek, Sr.; †Frank Owsiak; and †Marni Michalek Mensching

**Saturday, December 26th - Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**

**5:00 P.M.** - †Joseph Saccomonto; †The Boksa Family; †Sean & Tony Reszotko; †Mae O'Donnell; St. Stephen's Branch #153; and Maria Kula (Living)

**Sunday, December 27th - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**8:30 A.M.** - †Vincenzo Porcelli; and †David Ballog

**10:30 A.M.** — †Francis & Moira Cross; †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Carmencita E. Gonzalez; †Carmelo Gueli; †Michael Byrne; †Michael & Mary Raleigh; †Sheila & Nialus Byrne; and The People of the Parish

**December 20th through December 26th**

**Our Sanctuary Lamp is burning this week for the repose of the soul of**

**Erin Sampey**

**Requested by: The Sampey, Bailey & Curry Families**

**December 20th through December 25th**

**Our Blessed Mother Votive is burning this week for the repose of the soul of**

**Jan Merino**

**December 20th through December 25th**

**Our St. Joseph Votive is burning this week for the repose of the soul of**

**Joseph Zagotta**

**Requested by: Kathy Zagotta & Family**

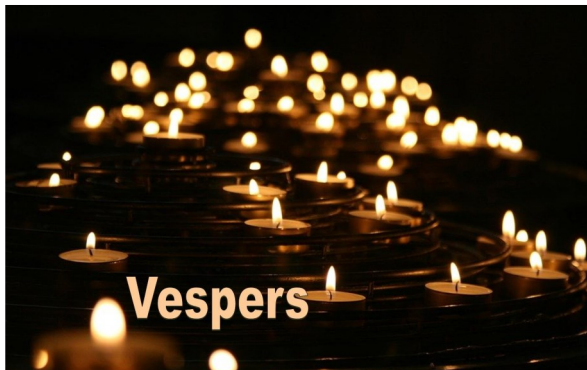
**Pope Tweet of the Week...**

"God listens to the cry of those who invoke Him. Even our reluctant questions, those that remain in the depths of our heart. The Father wishes to give us the Holy Spirit, which inspires every prayer and transforms everything. It is a question of patience, of supporting the wait."





**Advent Vespers Service:**  
*An Evening of Song & Prayer*



As we continue to prepare our minds & hearts for the coming celebration of the birth of our Savior, we invite you to gather with us virtually this **Wednesday, December 23rd** for our **Advent Vespers Service: An Evening of Song & Prayer** offered online from **7:30-8:00 P.M.** on our parish Facebook page (*Immaculate Conception Parish Chicago -Talcott*) as well as on our Twitch channel ([www.twitch.tv/icchicago](http://www.twitch.tv/icchicago)). A recording of our Advent Vespers Service will also be posted on our YouTube channel afterwards.

Please consider joining us for this special virtual prayer experience as we take time to pause and reflect at the end of our day to bless God and one another in song, silence and prayer.

***Live The Liturgy: Inspiration For The Week...***

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that "more" needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp? ©LPi



**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

**Monday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

**Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

**Thursday: (Morning)** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

**Friday: (Vigil)** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt

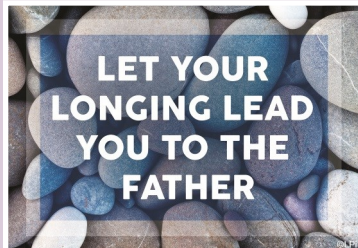
1:1-25 or 1:18-25. **(Night)** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. **(Dawn)** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. **(Day)** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6[3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

**Saturday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

**Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



### *Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture*



In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*" When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

©LPi

### *Everyday Stewardship – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments*

#### **The Journey...**

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.



Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember it is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



**Our Parish Staff:**

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

\*✉: **\*Please note:** new email addresses of our Parish Staff

fr.matt@icchicago.org  
 fr.carlton@icchicago.org  
 rmoritz@icchicago.org  
 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

canzoneri@iccowboys.net  
 fitzgerald@iccowboys.net  
 szwedo@iccowboys.net  
 kessler@iccowboys.net  
 tuition@iccowboys.net

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

**Tuesday, December 22nd –**  
 6:00-7:00 P.M. – Confessions; CH

**Wednesday, December 23rd –**  
 7:30 P.M. – Advent Vespers; Online

**Thursday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) -**  
 5:00 P.M. – Mass; CH & Online  
 7:00 P.M. – Mass; CH  
 9:00 P.M. – Mass; CH & Online

**Friday, December 25th (Christmas Day) –**  
 8:30 A.M. – Mass; CH & Online  
 10:30 A.M. – Mass; CH

**For more information on upcoming events, or to register for our Masses or Confessions, please visit our parish website.**



**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 for additional information.

**Bulletin Deadline:** The deadline for all bulletin submissions is Friday at Noon – 8 days prior to the Sunday it will appear. Bulletin submissions are accepted via email at: [parishbulletin@icchicago.org](mailto:parishbulletin@icchicago.org) (\*Please note: new email address.)