

Welcome to  
*Immaculate Conception Parish*

*A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ*

*December 25, 2022 - The Nativity Of The Lord (Christmas)*



*Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.*

*"Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all..."*  
*- Titus 2:11*

*Love God • Serve Others • Make Disciples*

Contact Us

☎: 773.775.3833

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

✉: parishoffice@icchicago.org

**Parish Office Holiday Hours:**  
(December 27<sup>th</sup> through January 7<sup>th</sup>)

Monday-Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 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.

**(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.

**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.

*Christmas Greeting From Fr. Matt*

2022



With half a school year already gone by, and with 2023 only a week away, 2022 has seemingly flown by. It feels like a distant memory that our new floors were installed in our school, followed by our annual Back to School Bash in August, which also marked the beginning of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fundraiser.

Sometimes the year goes by fast because we are busy, but I would not describe this year as mere 'busyness.' We have accomplished a lot and worked hard this year. Our Capital Projects continue year after year as we look to improve the health and appearance of our entire campus. As we rebuild ministries at our parish, I am proud that our Alpha program has served nearly 80 parishioners and neighbors. We now have a growing team of approximately 17 people who are serving and leading. We hosted our first Leadership Day, a day of reflection intended as a connecting point for parishioners from different spheres of influence. We started our Connect Group, a group for Alpha alumni to do furthering education – although 'education' does not quite grasp the concept fully – where approximately 30 of our 65 (at the time) alumni participated. Overall, we have accomplished a lot of positive growth, building up our community within a short span of time.

We capped off the year with our celebration of *Immaculate Conception* on December 8<sup>th</sup>. It was such a pleasure to have Bishop Bartosic join us. The choir and handbell choir added to the solemnity of the event, and our ushers, hospitality, and neighbors all helped to make the day special. I am also immensely grateful that, thanks to your incredible generosity, we were able to successfully raise just over **\$90,000** during our *60 for 60* Campaign, representing **150%** of our goal.

Thank you to everyone who prayed for, contributed, and assisted in making this half year special! In this coming half-year of our Anniversary (January – June), we plan to see our projects coming to life. Our new piano is first among them, and we are excited for you to experience the difference it will make in our worship together.

As we look forward to the new year, we have more plans on the horizon: completing the new flooring project in our school, fixing up varied areas around our Church, expanding some of our service opportunities, continued recruiting for leadership in our community, and more.

I would like to take this final section to thank everyone who makes all of this possible:

**Our Parish Staff:** *Melissa, Scott, Vince, Lisa, Cookie, Marilyn, Elizabeth, Deacon Rick & Carol, Deacon Ron & Connie, Mike, Chris, and Fr. Robert Fedek*

**Our School Staff:** *Sue, Tina, Mary, Teri and their entire team*

**Our Religious Education Program Staff:** *Julie, Vicki, and their entire team*

**Our Ministry Leads:** *Michael Tom, Mary Dosek, Darlene Mroz, Claudia Kech, Laurie Beckman, Sue Serb, Nancy Kremer, Colleen Mulligan and their entire teams*

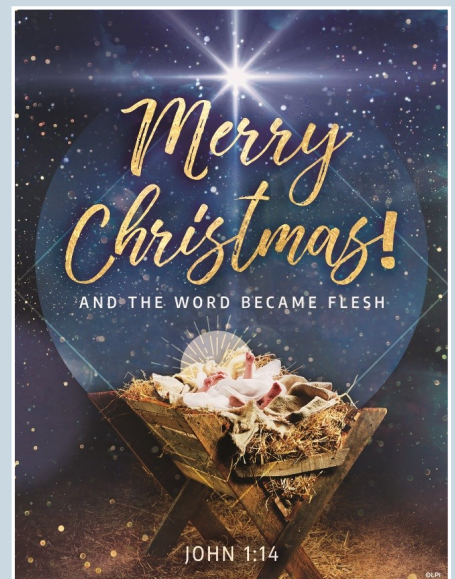
**Our Parish Council, Finance Council & School Board**

Lastly, to all our parishioners who sacrifice on behalf of our entire IC community – spiritually, financially, with your time, and with your energy – **thank you!**

2022 has been a blessed year, and we conclude it with that most special celebration of Christmas.

May the justice of God bring peace to our hearts, homes, and world. May the love of God keep our hearts open to change and growth. May God keep you all in good health and in His grace.

A blessed Christmas from us all,  
- Fr. Matt



*Christmas Greeting From Cardinal Cupich*

Christmas 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“The Word was made flesh, and he made his dwelling among us.” These momentous words from the beginning of John’s Gospel describe exactly what we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, has indeed come among us and become a part of our human family. He shared our joys and our sorrows. He came to know the full expanse of our human experiences, those that lift us up and those that cast us down. Through his death and resurrection, he has transformed our lives and our very world. The One born among us as Son of God and Son of Mary has given us a new birth in hope.

We know the challenges that marked his life from the very beginning. We recall how the Holy Family shared the plight of refugees, when they had to flee to Egypt to protect their newborn child from violence. These challenges find an echo in our world today. We see people flee the violence of war and oppression and crushing poverty. Their plight moves our heart to do whatever we can to alleviate their pain. Their story, framed within the story of the Holy Family, also reminds of the unfailing hand of God’s providence that leads us and saves us. And that gives us joyful confidence.

Whatever the challenges we face as individuals and communities – from war, violence, disease, injustice, natural climate disasters – we do not lose hope. We know that the Word was made flesh and made his dwelling among us. He walks with us. He sustains us. He gives us a hope that will not disappoint.

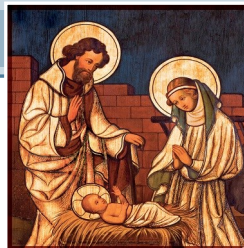
Join me in prayer this Christmas season. Let us ask God to deepen our faith in the Incarnate Word. Let us ask God to renew our hope and lift us up when we are weary. Let us ask God to keep our hearts joyful in all circumstances, because we have come to know God’s love for us.

God bless you and all your loved ones. As I celebrate the Eucharist in this Christmas season, know that I bring all of you to the altar with me.

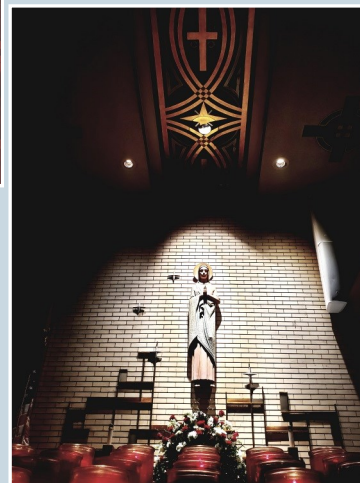
Sincerely yours in Christ



Archbishop of Chicago



*Parish Office Holiday Hours:*



Our Parish Office will be closed in observance of  
*Christmas:*

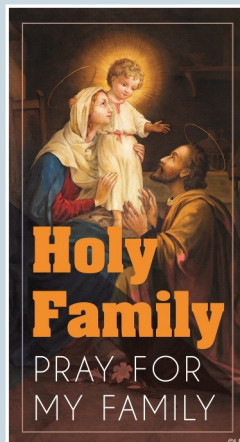
**Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Beginning on **Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>** and continuing through **Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**, our Parish Office will be open from **9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.** (with 2 exceptions).

Our Parish Office will be closed in observance of  
*New Year’s Day:*  
**Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Christmas Greeting From Our IC School Children*

*Upcoming Mass Schedule:*



*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*  
**Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 A.M. Mass**  
*with Fr. Matt presiding*

*New Year’s Eve*  
**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**5:00 P.M. Mass**  
*with Fr. Robert Fedek presiding*

*The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (New Year’s Day)*  
**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**8:30 A.M. Mass with Fr. Matt presiding**  
**10:30 A.M. Mass with Fr. Matt presiding**



*Mrs. Vitellaro's 4-Year-Old Preschool Class*

December is here and magic is in the air! Mrs. Vitellaro and Mrs. Tom's preschool class has been very busy painting and creating many Christmas-themed projects for their classroom and our school hallway! Their favorite art project included painting Santa & Rudolph photos, and A is for Angel.

Our children are learning that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus and how to prepare each day during the season of Advent. They have read many stories called "Room for Little One," "Christmas Star," "Donkey's Christmas Song" as well as created their own nativity. They also made Advent wreaths that are hanging in their classroom.

Mrs. Vitellaro and Mrs. Tom's preschool class wishes all Immaculate Conception families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!



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

*For those who are sick;*



Tom Altman  
 Paul Amandes  
 Arnold B.  
 Robert Behrman  
 Sonia M. B.  
 Roberta Berger  
 John Bozek  
 Vince Caeti  
 Mary Cali  
 Jackie Campbell  
 Zita Castro  
 Donna Chaplin  
 James Covello  
 Ronnie Cunningham  
 Paige Dicks  
 Margarita DiSalvo  
 Emily Divarco  
 Eric Dulce  
 Lilia Dulce  
 Ozzie D'Souza  
 Valerie Dziekonski  
 John Eckhardt  
 Richard Flanagan  
 Brooke Foreman  
 Patricia Furgat  
 Lila Gehner

Bonnie Jean Gorski  
 Marie Hagarty  
 Gloria Hernandez  
 Ofelia Hernandez  
 Mike Hickey  
 Judy Hull  
 Mary Ann Schmitt Hurtig  
 Kevin Jaburek  
 Wayne Kinzie, Sr.  
 Craig Kloss  
 Lillian Kohut  
 Katherine Kreuser  
 Anthony LaPash  
 Terri Latina  
 Dawn LaVeau  
 Benny Martinez  
 Edwin Martinez  
 Frank Martinez  
 Pat Miaso  
 Gerry Michalek, Jr.  
 Glen Molo  
**Ledoina Monacelli**  
 Mira Moroz  
 Molly Morris  
 Veronica Murillo  
 Timothy Murray

Brendan Nelson  
 Anne O'Brien  
 John O'Brien  
 Jackie O'Koniewski  
 David Olson  
 Ashton Peterson  
 Leo Pfest  
 Mary Potwora  
 Helen Rasmussen  
 Bill Remblake  
 Joe Rispoli  
 Pia Rizza  
 David Rodriguez  
 Don Skorey  
 Edward Stanczyk  
 Jack Stewart  
 Jill Swagler  
 Alma T.  
 Donna Tisdale  
 Camilla Trevino  
 Steven P. Trifilio  
 Mary Ellen Vanderman  
 Miss Westhoff  
 Rita Zambon  
 \*Newly Added

*For our faithful departed:*

Dennis M. Jaburek (Husband of Roberta)  
 Ricky Vera



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

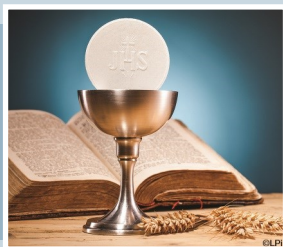


*For those who serve our country:*



**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  
**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

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:  
Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
through  
Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>*

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve**

5:00 P.M. — †Edward Labuz; †The Boksa Family; †Tony & Jean Reszotko; †Arthur Capra (on his 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary); †Sandra Duchane; †Michael Kelly; †Patrick, Barbara & their Son Patrick McDonagh; †Ann Butler; †Wally Heidkamp Family; †Joe Henmueller Family; and †Richard Hurtig (on his Anniversary)

**Midnight** — †Frank & Margherita Martino; †Nicola & Anna Chiusolo; †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Ammal Philip (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary); †Praxedes Andag (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary); and †Reynaldo Abrantes (on his 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

8:30 A.M. — †Pat Ralston; †The Furgat Family; †Francis & Moira Cross; †Laura Bresnahan Bush; and †Stanislaw Swiderski

10:30 A.M. — †Sophie & Stephen Oleksy; †Mr. & Mrs. J. Svoboda; †Paul Kokalj; †Vincenzo Porcelli; †Sr. Ann Beauvais (on her 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary); †Philip Milano; †Salvatore Azzariti (Birthday Remembrance); †Margaret O'Donnell; †Rev. Philip McGlynn, OSM; †Bill & Margaret Casey; †Ben Guazzo; The Bednarz Family (Living); and The People of the Parish

**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> - Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**

8:30 A.M. — †Joseph Saccomonto; †James Duffy; St. Stephen's Branch #153; and Maria Kula (Living)

**Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> - Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

8:30 A.M. — †Patty Dunleavy

**Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

8:30 A.M. — †Walter Nowak; †Genevieve Saccomonto; †Mike O'Donnell; and Living & Deceased Members of The O'Donnell Family

**Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> - Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr**

8:30 A.M. — †The Furgat Family

**Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:30 A.M. — †Brody Fisher; and †Fr. Alan Phillip, C.P. (Birthday Remembrance)

**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - Saint Sylvester I, Pope (New Year's Eve)**

5:00 P.M. — †John Chaplin (Birthday Remembrance); †JoAnn Barder; †Erin Adreani; and †Joseph Henmueller

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)**

8:30 A.M. — †James Duffy; and †Francis & Moira Cross

10:30 A.M. — †Jack Simone; †Tommy Fuller; †Ben Guazzo; †Marianne Shaw; and The People of the Parish

December 25<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

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

Erin Sampey

Requested by: The Sampey, Bailey & Curry Families

December 25<sup>th</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup>

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

Maureen McGee Kogen

Requested by: The McGee Family

December 25<sup>th</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup>

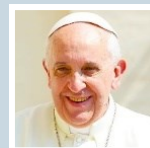
Our St. Joseph Votive is burning this week for the repose of the soul of

Orlando Kienzle

Requested by: The Kienzle Family

*Pope Tweet of the Week...*

"God is always greater than we imagine Him to be. His works are surprising compared to our calculations. His actions exceed our needs and expectations. And for this reason we must never stop seeking Him and transforming ourselves into His true appearance."





*You're Invited...*

**Join us for our upcoming  
Winter 2023  
Alpha Session @ IC!**

Alpha allows you to explore questions of the Christian faith in an open-minded and friendly environment. There's no cost and no pressure! Just lots of great conversation and space to think.

Each session begins with a meal, followed by a video presentation, then small group discussion. An hour and a half of the best time you will spend in an evening - or weekend morning!

Sign up now... spots are limited and fill up fast! Visit us at: [icchicago.org/connect/alpha.cfm](http://icchicago.org/connect/alpha.cfm) for more information and to register.



All are welcome!

**Immaculate Conception Parish**

**COFFEE HOUSE**



**Sunday  
Jan.  
8th**

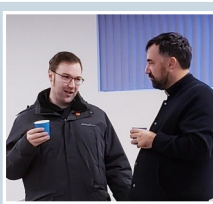
Join us for coffee, pastries & conversation in our Rectory Assembly after our 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. Sunday Masses

Special Guest Host: IC Alpha Team

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

*Coffee House: Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> (hosted by our IC Alpha Team)*

*Special thanks to our IC Athletic Committee who graciously served as our hosts at our Coffee House held on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>!*





*Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture*



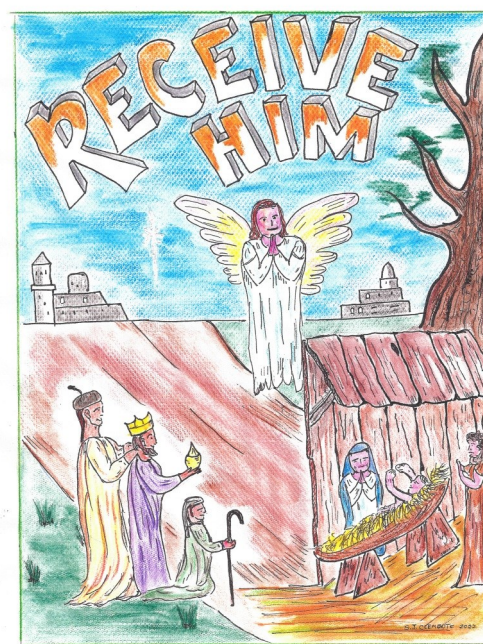
As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true

meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home.

Merry Christmas! ©LPi



*Teaching Position Available @ IC*



Immaculate Conception School is looking for a **Middle School (Grades 7 & 8) Math/Religion Teacher**. If you are interested in applying for the position, or know someone who might be, please contact *Principal Sue Canzoneri* at: [canzoneri@iccowboys.net](mailto:canzoneri@iccowboys.net) or 773.775.0545.

*Ministry Schedules: Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> & Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>*

	Saturday 5:00 P.M. Mass New Year's Eve	Sunday 8:30 A.M. Mary, Mother of God	Sunday 10:30 A.M. Mary, Mother of God
Presiders	Fr. Robert Fedek	Fr. Matthew Heinrich	Fr. Matthew Heinrich
Lectors	E. Kinzie	D. Sebastian	N. Kremer
Cantors	E. Doyle	Vocal Quintet	Vocal Quintet
Extraordinary Ministers	S. Witz	M. Dosek	S. Serb & A. Schnitzlein
Altar Servers	E. Serb; C. Villafane; K. Yau	P. Beckman; E. Hyland; N. Rahlfs	K. Bowers; M. Gallagher; L. Love



**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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 rmoritz@icchicago.org  
 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**

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

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

**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> –**  
 Parish Office Closed  
**Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> –**  
 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. – Winter Break Sports & Games Camp  
 Begins; PC  
**Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> -**  
 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. – Winter Break Sports & Games Camp;  
 PC  
**Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> –**  
 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. – Winter Break Sports & Games Camp; PC  
**Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
 Parish Office Closed  
 8:30 A.M. – Mass; CH  
 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. – Winter Break Sports & Games Camp; PC  
 8:15 P.M. – Men's Basketball; PC  
**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve**  
 Parish Office Closed  
 5:00 P.M. – Mass; CH  
**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**  
 (New Year's Day)  
 8:30 A.M. – Mass; CH  
 9:30-10:15 A.M. – Confessions; CH  
 10:30 A.M. – 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.



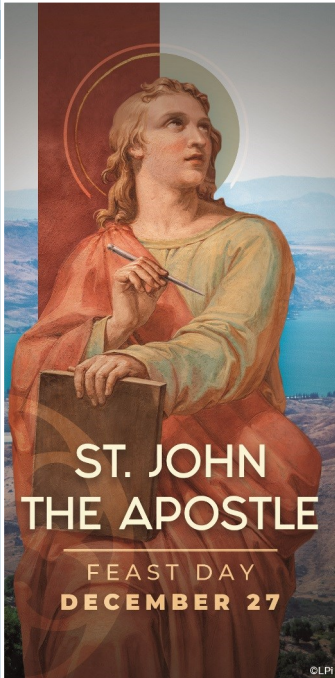
**Parish Registration:** Please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 or visit our parish website at [www.icchicago.org](http://www.icchicago.org) to join our parish family.

**Early Bulletin Deadlines:**

January 8<sup>th</sup> Bulletin submissions due:  
 Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

Bulletin submissions are accepted via email at:  
**[parishbulletin@icchicago.org](mailto:parishbulletin@icchicago.org)**





**ST. JOHN  
THE APOSTLE**

FEAST DAY  
**DECEMBER 27**

*Saint of The Week - Examples of Our Faith: Saint John The Apostle (December 27<sup>th</sup>)*

Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" – they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fifth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved

from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the Emperor Trajan. ©LPi

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