

Welcome to
Immaculate Conception Parish

A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ

December 6, 2020 - Second Sunday of Advent

Love



“One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of His sandals. I have baptized you with water; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” - Mark 1:7-8

Love God • Serve Others • Make Disciples

Worship...



Worship with IC from home...

- Sunday Mass (Livestreamed @ 10:30 A.M.)
- Daily Virtual Mass @ 7:00 P.M. (Monday-Friday)
- School Virtual Mass @ 8:30 A.M. (Wednesdays)

Gather with us virtually as we pray with, and for, one another during our Masses which are broadcast live through **Twitch TV** (www.twitch.tv/icchicago) and through **Facebook Live** on our Facebook page: *Immaculate Conception Parish Chicago (Talcott)*. Direct links to both platforms are easily accessible on our parish website (www.icparish.net). For your convenience, all Masses are recorded and archived for a limited time.

Donate...



IC Scholarship Fund...

In response to the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and to encourage students from IC to attend Catholic high schools, Immaculate Conception Parish would like to start a scholarship fund for graduates of Immaculate Conception School and our Religious Education Program to use for tuition at Catholic high schools.

If you would like to contribute to our IC Scholarship Fund, please visit: www.givecentral.org/location/349/event/28631 (a direct link is also easily accessible on our parish website as well as on our Facebook page.) The fundraising deadline is **Monday, March 1, 2021**. Please contact Fr. Robert at 773.775.3833 Ext. 102 or via email at rcarlton@archchicago.org with any additional questions.

Phase 2 Reopening Mass Schedule:

**Sunday Mass in Church (with reserved seating)
@ 5:00 P.M. (Saturday), 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.**

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Tuesday, December 8th @ 7:00 P.M. in Church (with reserved seating)

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 www.icparish.net to register.

***Christmas Mass in Church (with reserved seating) @ 5:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M. & 9:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th) and @ 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. on Christmas Day (Dec. 25th)**

***Registration for our Christmas Masses will open on Saturday, December 19th.**



Opportunities for **Confessions** will be offered from **6:00-7:00 P.M.** on the following Tuesdays during Advent: **December 8th, December 15th & December 22nd**

Support IC through Give Central...

We are truly grateful for the continued generosity of our faithful parishioners as we would not be able to maintain our parish and continue our mission without you.

If you are able, please consider contributing electronically via Give Central at www.givecentral.org/location/349 to assist us in maintaining the vital ministries and services we provide on behalf of our community. If you have any questions regarding setting up your online donations through Give Central, please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 and a member of our Parish Staff will be happy to assist you.

If you would prefer to support our parish with an offertory donation through cash or check, please mail your envelopes to our Parish Office at:
7211 W. Talcott Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60631.



"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." - 2 Corinthians 9:11

A New Season of Alpha is Beginning at IC in 2021



In our readings to start the season of Advent, Jesus commands us to be watchful and awake. Being ‘awake’ has many meanings, but in the context of faith it means an alertness and readiness to receive God’s word in your heart. For “*you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep*” (Romans 13:11).



Alpha is a program that allows people to deepen their faith by working together with fellow seekers. They may be disciples, onlookers, and the curious. Jesus came to all such people, and sent his disciples to these same people because all people can learn from the one we call Teacher. While its format is simple, it draws on one of the most powerful principles of our faith, “*Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them*” (Mt 18:20). Being together in faith and discussing how it fits into our lives is a benefit to anyone and to everyone.

I encourage you this Advent to reflect on the state of your faith and consider participating in this program either at the beginning of 2021 or later in the year— we will offer two sessions every year. Our Alpha team leaders will be at our Masses in the coming weeks to answer your questions and to tell you more about why Alpha might be of interest to you.

~ Fr. Matt

Below are some of their own reflections on their experiences with Alpha:



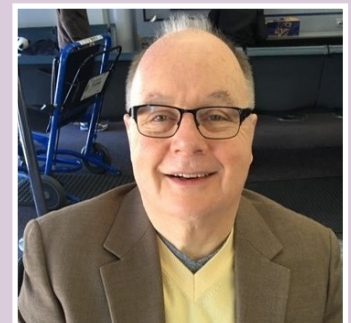
“The Alpha experience was not what I expected. I thought I was going to be “taught” or “preached to” before we started. Instead, we “experienced” a personal invitation to become closer to Christ, and to learn how to invite the Holy Spirit into our lives. There is something wonderful about being able to pray for someone, with that person, and to have others pray for you. There is a strength and comfort in small group prayer.

I never felt pressured to “feel” a certain way. We all completed ALPHA having experienced different things, and that is fine! There is no right or wrong, no levels of religiosity to attain. It is a personal journey. Not a class. Not “Sunday School.” I can’t stress that enough. There is no grade. There is no pressure. It’s a personal experience.”

Rob Lohman (*Husband, IC School Parent, Holy Name Men’s Club Member and Lawyer*)

“Alpha provided me with the opportunity to unleash my beliefs in Christianity and to hear from others on their similar journey with Christ. The Alpha process leads you through a prayerful process of discovery, leaving you wanting to be identified as a Christian in all aspects of your life.”

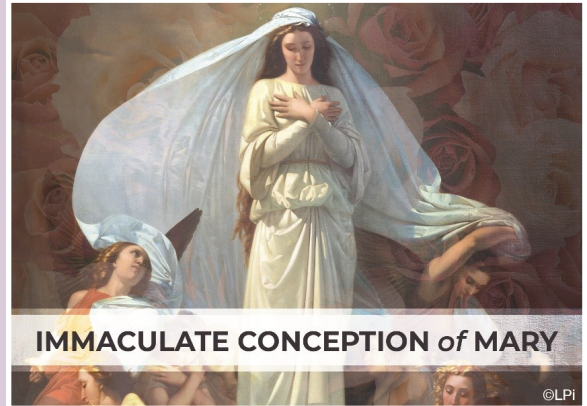
Phil McGrath (*Husband, Father, Grandfather and Parish Council Chairperson*)



To honor our patroness on the
**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of
 the Blessed Virgin Mary**

(Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America as well as the Feast Day of our parish), we will offer a special evening Mass at 7:00 P.M. this **Tuesday, December 8th** in our Church. (For those unable to join us in-person, our Mass will also be livestreamed via Twitch TV & Facebook.)

Reservations are recommended due to attendance restrictions and to assist with contact tracing. Please visit our parish website (www.icparish.net) or contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 to register.

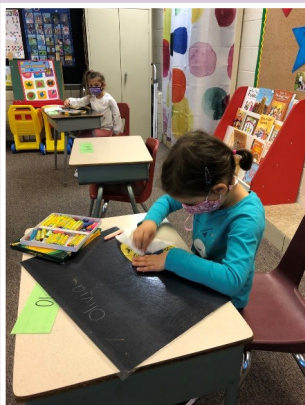


While the dispensation from Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation continues during this time, if you are able to do so, we warmly welcome you to gather with us in prayer on this special day as our parish family honors Mary and celebrates the Feast Day of our parish.



A Day In The Life Of Room 21...
 (featuring our 4 and 5 year old Preschool students)
 Kris McMorrow

- *Tabletop activities
- *Prayer circle
- *Flag and calendar time
- *Magic Bag
- *Religion series called Seeds
- *Handwriting Readiness workbook
- *Weekly themes (lessons and crafts are based upon this theme)
- *Introduction of letters and numbers
- *Gym, Music, Library and Art
- *Snack, lunch and rest time
- *Recess time



Immaculate Conception Becomes Hearing Accessible



Here at IC, we want to make sure that everyone is able to easily understand the readings, sermon, and song lyrics, regardless of hearing status. We are excited to now offer assistive listening devices for anyone who has difficulty hearing. These devices stream the church sound system directly to the device user's ear. This service is important because churches are some of the most difficult listening environments for people with hearing loss. The echo created as a result of the high ceilings and reflective windows makes it difficult to distinguish what is being said. Assistive listening devices eliminate the problems created by the echo and vastly improve the listening experience.

Smartphone App Offered:

- **Williams Sound App:** If your hearing aids or cochlear implants have Bluetooth capability, download the Williams Sound App to your Iphone or Android smartphone. This app allows you to stream the church sound system directly to your hearing aids, cochlear implants, or headphones via Bluetooth.

Assistive Listening Devices Available for Checkout from Ushers:

1. **Telecoil Neckloop:** This device works as a transmitter, collecting the church's sound signal and sending it directly to the user's hearing aids or cochlear implants. This is the ideal option for a hearing aid or cochlear implant user who does not have a smartphone that is connected to their devices. In order for this Telecoil Neckloop to work, the hearing aids or cochlear implants must be in a "telecoil program." If you are unsure if your device has this program, ask your audiologist.
2. **Wireless Receiver:** This device is best for someone who would like to hear better, but does not have their own set of hearing aids or cochlear implants. It also works as a transmitter, collecting the church's sound signal and sending it directly to the user's ears via headphones. You can use the headphones provided by the church or bring your own set of headphones and connect them to the device.

Assistive Listening Device Checkout Procedure:

If you would like to check out an assistive listening device, please ask one of the church ushers. They will request that you give a driver's license or credit card when you check out the device. Your card will be given back to you upon return of the device after Mass.

If you need any assistance setting up the smartphone app or assistive listening devices, feel free to ask me before our 8:30 A.M. or 10:30 A.M. Sunday Masses. I am an audiology student and love to help people hear better.

EmilyAnn Duffley
(Church Musician)



Please join our parish family in prayer ...



For those who are sick:

Tom Altman
 Concetta Bartucci
 Melissa Bednarz
 Robert Behrman
 Sonia M. B.
 Vince Caeti
 Jackie Campbell
 Rita Castillo
 Donna Chaplin
 James Covello
 Sherry Crocifisso
 Ronnie Cunningham
 Mary Dosek
 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
 Jan Merino
 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
 Don Skorey
 Edward Stanczyk
 Marion Szumski
 Donna Tisdale
 Steven P. Trifilio
 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:

Celerina S. Behrman (Wife of Robert)
 Ron Tucker (Uncle of Tracy Reppen)
 Cesar A. Haslem (Father of Teresita Bailey)
 LaVerne Fieri (Mother of Fran Fogarty)
 Mary "Mae" O'Donnell



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

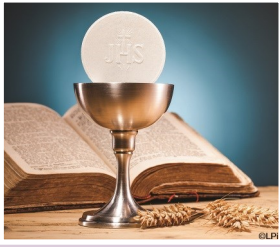


For those who serve our country:



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 that provides information that can be of assistance.



**Mass Intentions:
Sunday, December 6th
through
Sunday, December 13th**

Sunday, December 6th - Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 P.M. (Saturday) - †Jose Braz; †Tadeusz Gaszcz (on his 5th Anniversary); and †Mary McTighe (Birthday Remembrance)

8:30 A.M. — †Francis & Moira Cross; †Giovanni & Rosalia Porcelli; and †John Dosek

10:30 A.M. — †Joseph J. Lykowski; †Pietro Biancorosso; †Serafina Nocito; †Maureen Serb (on her 1st Anniversary); †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Carmencita E. Gonzalez; †Donald A. Kopec; †Ida C. Landini; †John Shiel; and The People of the Parish

Monday, December 7th - Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) — †Maureen Serb

Tuesday, December 8th - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 P.M. — †Maureen Serb; †Ann Kula; †Catherine Lacey; and †Sheila Gibbs

Wednesday, December 9th - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

8:30 A.M. (Virtual Mass) — †Fr. Michael Hoolahan, C.P.

Thursday, December 10th - Advent Weekday

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) — †Debbie & Tom Fuller

Friday, December 11th - Saint Damasus I, Pope

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) — †Elizabeth Serafin

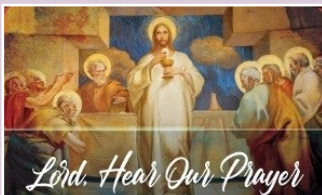
Saturday, December 12th - Our Lady of Guadalupe

5:00 P.M. - †Lawrence Gonsalves; and †Juan Gallardo Larrea

Sunday, December 13th - Third Sunday Of Advent

8:30 A.M.- †Carmencita E. Gonzalez

10:30 A.M. — †Francis & Moira Cross; †Stanislaw Swiderski; †Mae Nelson; †John Dosek; †Carmelo Gueli; †Giuseppe Columbia; †Paolo Ventura; †Jerry Gallo; and The People of the Parish



December 6th through December 12th

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning this week for the prayer intentions of

**The Strom Quads
(on their 4th Birthday)**



December 6th through December 11th

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

Celerina S. Behrman



December 6th through December 11th

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

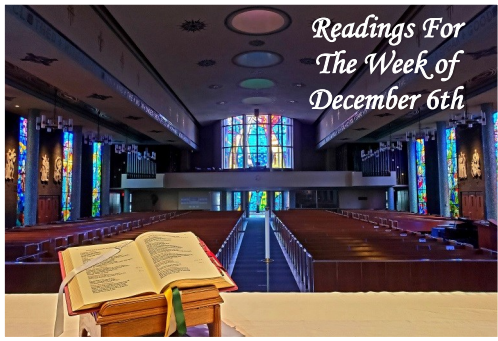
Marvin McHugh

Requested by: The McHugh Family

Pope Tweet of the Week...

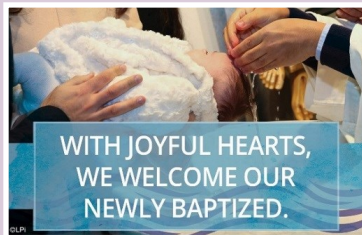
“God is more patient than we are, and those who knock with faith and perseverance on the door of his heart will not be disappointed.”





*Readings For
The Week of
December 6th*

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,
WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED.



Marriage Blessings
God's Blessings to...



*Nicolas Evan Negron
Child of Felix and Natalia Esther (Mejia) Negron, Jr.*



*Don & Terri Baumgartner
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary!*



First Holy Communion



*Teresa Catherine Marzen
Daughter of Andrew and Amy (O'Halloran) Marzen*

*Welcome To The Table
Of The Lord!*

Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture



People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

©LPi

Everyday Stewardship – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

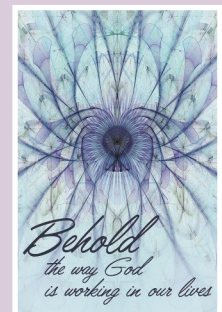
Jubilation to Share...

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.




When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.



– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Connect... : 7211 W. Talcott Avenue : 773.775.3833 : www.icparish.net

Connect with our Parish Staff...

Although our Church building will be open on a limited basis, our Parish Office will continue to remain closed for the time being. In the meantime, our Parish Staff is still available to assist you. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 773.775.3833 (voicemails are monitored daily) or connect with us via email at frontdesk@icparish.info with any questions, concerns or needs that may arise during this time.

Please take comfort in the knowledge that you are loved, missed and prayed for daily by all of us.

Follow us on Facebook...



Groups you can join:

Immaculate Conception Parish Chicago (Talcott)
Immaculate Conception School Alumni Chicago, IL
IC Cowboys (for current school parents only)

Pages you can "like":

Immaculate Conception School Chicago
Immaculate Conception Church



Twitch TV...

www.twitch.tv/icchicago

YouTube...

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv5KKsLvpD9Q2yuAR8naK4A>



Events...

What's Happening @ IC...

Tuesday, December 8th –
7:00 P.M. – Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; CH

Wednesday, December 9th -
7:30 P.M. – Parents Club Mtg.; Zoom



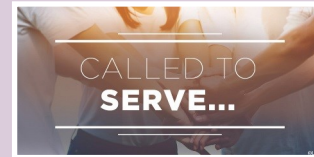
For more information on upcoming events, or to register for our Masses or Confessions, please visit our parish website at www.icparish.net.

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.icparish.net for additional information.

Bulletin Deadline: The deadline for all bulletin submissions is Friday at Noon – 8 days prior to the Sunday it will appear. The email address is: icparishcalendar@comcast.net



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**

Our School Staff:

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