Welcome to Immaculate Conception Parish

A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ

February 27, 2022 - Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time



"A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Luke 6:45

Love God • Serve Others • Make Disciples

Contact Us

Parish Office Hours:

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

: 773.775.3833

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

: parishoffice@icchicago.org

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.

Social Media

Twitch:

Membership-free platform where all are welcome to view our Masses and access content. Visit us at **www.twitch.tv/icchicago**



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. All are welcome!



Weekday Mass Schedule:

Online

Monday through Thursday @ 8:30 A.M. (Worship with us virtually on our Facebook Page or Twitch)

In-Person

Monday through Friday @ 8:30 A.M. First Friday Mass @ 5:30 P.M. each month followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction from 6:00-7:00 P.M.

Donate

School:

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.

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.

Confessions:

Parish Website: . www.icchicago.org

School Website:

🖳 : www.iccowboys.net

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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)

Adoration & Vespers: 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each

month from 6:00-7:00 P.M.

Reflections From Fr. Robert Carlton: Finding God In Nature

One of the silver linings to the pandemic is that many Americans spent more time outdoors and in nature than they had before. The benefits of spending time outdoors have long been known, but it is also clear that there are spiritual benefits to spending time in nature: indeed, many people who are not religious speak of having spiritual experiences in nature and of "*finding God*" in nature. As an avample of this, in Danali National Bark in Alacka, there is a hotal that was built on top of an oute



an example of this, in Denali National Park in Alaska, there is a hotel that was built on top of an outcropping of a rock about eighty miles from Mt. Denali itself (approximately a 45 minute flight from the entrance of the park). Among the many benefits of the hotel is that there is no cable, no TV, no internet, no cell phone, and no landline phone service either. Despite this, and perhaps *because* of it, visitors to the hotel speak of feeling a connection to the Divine out in the wilderness that they do not experience in their day to day lives. In fact, one visitor, who had recently lost his wife after a long marriage, spoke of feeling as if he could converse with her out there.

What is it, then, that these people are discovering in nature and, by extension, what can anyone else find in nature? The idea that we can simply "find God" in nature, like He is sitting on a park bench waiting for us is, of course, not true. Rather, venturing out into the wilderness and spending time in nature forces people into contemplation, an experience very similar to the Ignatian Contemplation on the Scriptures. The great spiritual writer Thomas Merton wrote of contemplation as: "It is a kind of spiritual vision [that] sees without seeing and knows without knowing." Mother Teresa spoke of something similar: "We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass - grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence...We need silence to be able to touch souls." Contemplation, then, requires silence and taking your time with something, which are, of course, two things that are not overly encouraged in our society. In nature, though, we are encouraged to slow down and enter the pace of the natural world, which by its definition is timeless and moves in centuries and not in the minimal increments of time that our world moves in. Nature, more importantly, can encourage one to spend time in silence and to listen not only to your own thoughts, but also to what is occurring in nature around you, and you may well find that you hear nothing, which is, in this case, still something. Listening intently to the silence can allow you to hear what God is really trying to tell you, much like what happens to people at the hotel in Alaska that is miles away from what could be termed "civilization." Ultimately, what we can find in nature is the world as God intended it to be and the world as God created it to be. When we are in the natural world, we can see that we are not in competition with the world, but rather that we are *a part of the world* and that we are better served in the long run by remembering these connections. In a sense, then, when we return to nature, wherever it is, we are really returning home. With the weather starting to change and spring and summer on the horizon, perhaps consider setting a goal to spend some time in the contemplation of nature, as you may be surprised by what you hear. - Fr. Robert

Fruitful Harvest: Perspectives From A Seminarian's Journey - Session One: The Gift Of Formation (February 27th)



A seminarian enters "formation" to learn how to be a priest. But formation is not just for priests. Christians are called to form themselves in the image of Christ. What will you do this Lent to form yourself?

All are invited to attend our new 3-part discussion series featuring our seminarians (*Deacon Joseph, Colin & Joseph*) entitled: "Fruitful Harvest: Perspectives from a Seminarian's Journey". Session One, which focuses on "The Gift of Formation", will take place this Sunday, February 27th @ 11:30 A.M. in our Rectory Assembly.

Light refreshments will be provided. After our panel reflection, we will invite everyone into small

faith-sharing groups. We encourage you to join us for this special opportunity to talk about faith, meet your fellow parishioners and learn about our seminarians!

From The Desk Of Our Director Of Worship...

Dear IC Parishioners,

This weekend, I have the pleasure of speaking at all of our Masses on behalf of IC's Parish Leadership Team. Our team is comprised of: *Fr. Matt, Melissa Anna, Vince Kennedy, Michael Tom,* and me. This team serves several functions, from strategic to project-based. One of the most important of these functions is the execution of the long-term, mid-term, and short-term goals set forth by our Parish Pastoral Council. An area that was identified as of key importance was the development of opportunities for prayer and spiritual growth outside of the context of our normal weekend Masses. Some of these you may already be somewhat familiar with: our Discipleship Group Study series with Deacon Rick and Carol Moritz; Fr. Robert Carlton's *Ignatian Spirituality* Series; Adoration; Alpha; *Fruitful Harvest*:

Perspectives from a Seminarian's Journey (a new IC offering beginning this weekend); and many more. You may be somewhat less familiar with our Advent and Lenten Vespers series that runs every week throughout these liturgical seasons. This year, our Lenten Vespers offering begins on Thursday, March 10th, at 7:00 P.M. Without delving into too much detail, Vespers is essentially sung evening prayer. Fr. Matt normally presides at Vespers and our professional vocal quintet (*Elizabeth, Katie, Justin, EmilyAnn & Ben*) leads most of the sung portions of the liturgy (with our congregation encouraged to join in singing the Psalm refrains and chanted portions of this part of the *Liturgy of the Hours*.) We occasionally supplement our services with additional instruments (other than piano) to add color and depth to the already beautiful Psalms and choral works that are carefully selected by both Fr. Matt and myself. This year, we even have two of our youth members that collaborated with us to plan Week Four in our Vespers series. It is always rewarding to include our young parishioners in these endeavors.

IC has been hosting Vespers for over three years. We have tried our best to advertise and invite from both within the parish, as well as externally. I must admit, I am somewhat perplexed as to why the participation of our parish community has not been higher, given that we strive to offer a high quality, prayerful experience through our Vespers series (with the love and effort invested into doing so being quite substantial.) After three years, despite some incremental growth, it simply has not borne the fruits we have hoped for. Perhaps it is a mistake to take the route of "*if we build it, they will come*", however, this is often how we must approach new projects from a parish leadership perspective.

With that in mind, I am extending an invitation to everyone in our parish this weekend to contact me. As your Director of Worship, I want to know what *you* are thinking. Maybe we have selected the wrong day of the week to offer our Vespers series? Or 7:00 P.M. is not the optimal time for you, your family, friends, neighbors, etc.? Perhaps we need to pair Vespers with another offering, such as a weekly Communal Penance service, either prior to, or immediately following, the event? Would offering weekly hospitality make a difference? Would you be more inclined to attend with your family during Lent this year if you had the pressure of getting dinner on the table removed from your *to-do* list? Whatever it might be, let's discuss it together. You can contact me at 773.775.3833 Ext. 104, email me at swill@icchicago.org, or set up an appointment to see me in our Parish Office. I promise that I will make the time to reach out to whoever contacts me to share their ideas or opinions.

I serve our parish with a profound sense of gratitude and respect for each and every one of you and I look forward to hearing from you. If feasible, we will try to implement any ideas that you may have as quickly as we can as we are committed to continuing to offer this special opportunity for prayer. The modern world is such a stressful one to live in. Would you please consider a contemplative alternative to the daily grind during this upcoming season of Lent? Peace in Christ - *Scott*



Experience Lenten Vespers @ IC on Thursday evenings beginning on March 10th @ 7:00 P.M.

Join us as we pause and reflect at the close of the day to bless God and one another in song, silence and prayer.

To discover more about Vespers @ IC (or to view examples from our Advent Vespers Series), please visit: icchicago.org/worship/vespers.cfm





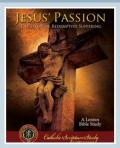
News:

Mrs. Deadwyler's Second Grade Class

In Room 15, our Second Grade children are busy working together and helping each other learn. First, we are celebrating *Black History Month* by working in groups to read and discuss influential African-Americans. So far, we have read about *Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks,* and *Thurgood Marshall*. Second, we love working on our Chromebooks and iPads. One of our favorite apps to use is *Epic*. We have read and finished 5625 books so far this school year! Lastly, we enjoy reading together and working with partners. We love Second Grade!



Discipleship Group Study: Jesus' Passion: The Story of Redemptive Suffering - Thursdays @ 7:30 P.M.



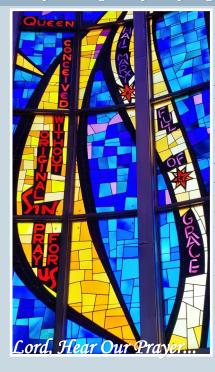
Please join us this Lent as we pray and discuss *Jesus' Passion: The Story of Redemptive Suffering.* This examines the Scriptural basis of Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*, and looks at how this powerful portrayal of the suffering and death of Jesus relates to the Bible and the teachings of the Catholic Church. A portion of the movie will be shown at each class. Please be advised: this movie may be disturbing to more sensitive viewers.

The 5 sessions will meet on the following **Thursdays**: **March 3**rd, **17**th, **24**th, **31**st, and **April 7**th. Please note: *There will be NO class on Thursday, March 10*th. Each session will run from **7:30 P.M.** to **9:00 P.M.** You are strongly encouraged to attend our parish Lenten Vespers service in our Church at 7:00 P.M. before our class. We will meet in our Rectory Assembly. The

study book is \$20. Please include the following form with your check. A limited amount of study books will also be available for in-class use only. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Rick at 773.775.3833 & leave a message, or email him at rmoritz@icchicago.org

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Name (s):					
Number of Books:	Amount Enclosed: \$	(\$20 x number of books)			
Email Address or Telephone Number:					
		(\$20 x number of books)			

Please join our parish family in prayer ...



Tom Altman Robert Behrman Sonia M. B. Roberta Berger John Bozek Mark Broler Vince Caeti Zita Castro Donna Chaplin Marie Conway James Covello Ronnie Cunningham Paige Dicks Paula Drew Ozzie D'Souza Dorothy D'Souza Richard Flanagan Brooke Foreman Patricia Furgat Lila Gehner Bonnie Jean Gorski Deacon Ron Gronek Ofelia Hernandez

For those who are sick:

Kevin Jaburek Claudia Kech Wayne Kinzie, Sr. Craig Kloss Lillian Kohut Katherine Kreuser Anthony Lavash **Benny Martinez** Edwin Martinez Frank Martinez Gerry Michalek, Jr. Helen Moore Molly Morris Veronica Murillo Timothy Murray Brendan Nelson Fr. Ronan Newbold, C.P. Mary Ellen Vanderman Judith Nosko Anne O'Brien John O'Brien Jackie O'Koniewski David Olson Mary Potwora

Helen Rasmussen Rosaleen Reilly Bill Remblake Joe Rispoli Pia Rizza David Rodriguez Elaine Schatz Jennie Sekula Don Skorey Dennis Slater Edward Stanczyk Ed Stanislawski Donna Tisdale Camilla Trevino Steven P. Trifilio Peter Vandenbergh Henry Wagener Rita Zambon

*Newly Added

For our faithful departed:

Marion E. Szumski



Mass Schedule:

Our blessing and distribution of ashes will take place @ the following Masses this Wednesday, March 2nd:



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

8:30 A.M. School Mass with Fr. Matt presiding 7:00 P.M. Mass with Fr. Robert Carlton presiding

All are welcome to join us in prayer (either in-person or virtually) as we mark the beginning of Lent together as a parish family!



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, 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 - Sean Gronset, PFC Sebastian L. Rivera, Jr., PFC Christopher Hughes, PFC Algene D. Porticos, LCpl Daniel Wieczorek

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, February 27th through Sunday, March 6th

Sunday, February 27th– *Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time* 5:00 P.M. (Saturday) - [†]Salvatore Freni (Death Anniversary); and Edmund Belen (Living) (Birthday – For Good Health) 8:30 A.M. – [†]Harold Schatz; [†]Stanislawa Gaszcz; [†]Tadeusz Gaszcz; [†]Francis & Moira Cross; [†]Martin Kearney; and Gabriella Janus (Living) (For Healing)

10:30 A.M. – [†]Charles Villasenor; [†]Larry Bateman; [†]Elfie Smith; [†]Edward Daly; [†]Christopher Schuh; [†]Mitchell Kruzel (Birthday Remembrance); Candy Schill (Living); Rita Zambon (Living); and The People of the Parish

Monday, February 28th – Weekday 8:30 A.M. – [†]Feliks Bochnak

Tuesday, March 1st - *Weekday (Shrove Tuesday)* 8:30 A.M. – [†]Genowefa Wesolowski; and [†]Zeny Marcelino (on her 1st Anniversary)

Wednesday, March 2nd – *Ash Wednesday* 8:30 A.M. – [†]Mary Cassara (Birthday Remembrance); and [†]Beverly Griffin 7:00 P.M. – The People of the Parish

Thursday, March 3rd – *Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin* 8:30 A.M. – [†]Charles Villasenor

Friday, March 4th - *Saint Casimir (World Day of Prayer)* 8:30 A.M. – [†]Josephine Zientko; [†]Monica Ward; and [†]Romulo E. Medrano 5:30 P.M. – [†]Fr. Alan Phillip, C.P. (on his 1st Anniversary);

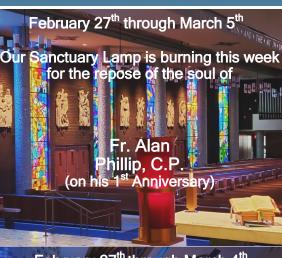
[†]Ellen "Nellie" Gavin; [†]Patty Dunleavy; [†]Harry J. Leahy; and Erma & Wayne Kinzie (Living)

Saturday, March 5th - Saturday after Ash Wednesday 5:00 P.M.—[†]Charles Villasenor; [†]Michael Kelly; and [†]Pat & Barbara McDonagh & their son Patrick

Sunday, March 6th - First Sunday of Lent

8:30 A.M.- ⁺Gaetana "Donna" Bova; and The Romero Family (Living)

10:30 A.M.— [†]Charles Grayzeck; [†]Tommy Fuller; [†]Katharina Kraemer (on her 16th Anniversary); [†]Linda Kowal; [†]Hugh Masterson; [†]Jessica Lynn Bryar (Birthday Remembrance); [†]Edward Daly; [†]Malachy Byrne; [†]Michael Byrne; [†]Noreen Nolan; [†]Francis & Moira Cross; and The People of the Parish



February 27th through March 4th

Our Blessed Mother Votive is burning this week for the prayer intention of



Our St. Joseph Votive is burning this week for the prayer intentions of

Ozzie & Dorothy D'Souza

Pope Tweet of the Week...

"Our love for God and neighbor is our passport to heaven. Our earthly possessions are dust that scatters, but the love we share – in our families, at work, in the Church, and in the world – will save us, for it will endure forever."







Lenten Food Drive For Catholic Charities - Des Plaines (March 5th Through April 10th)

Throughout the Lenten Season, we will be hosting a Parish Food Drive to benefit the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Des Plaines (located at 1717 Rand Road.) Both food and monetary donations will be gratefully accepted. Our collection will officially begin **next** weekend, March 5th & 6th (*First Sunday of Lent*) and will continue each weekend thereafter through April 9th & 10th (*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*). The items currently most in

need are as follows: Cereal; Rice; Beans; Dry Packaged Goods; and Pasta & Sauce.

If you are donating food items, please be certain to check expiration dates prior to doing so as we cannot accept expired food or opened packages/containers (**please note**: all donated food items must have the factory-seal intact.) Please deposit all food donations in the collection boxes located in the Vestibule of our Church. Food donations will also be accepted in our Parish Office during the week between the hours of 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. If you prefer to contribute to our Catholic Charities collection electronically, monetary donations will also be accepted via Give Central at <u>givecentral.org/</u>location/349/event/32488 or you may scan the following QR Code with your phone to donate:



Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture



What we say and how we say it reveals the true intentions of our hearts. The content and manner of our speech is a window into the recesses of our souls. Our consciences, attitudes, sentiments, weaknesses, and motives are displayed. As much as we think we can hide the truth of our lives from others, we cannot. Who we really are is not only expressed on our lips but is written on our faces. Jesus says precisely this, "For every tree is known by its own fruit." What does the fruit of our lives say about us?

Because we like to play the game of hide and seek with ourselves, in pretending that we are hiding we deflect attention others may give to us

by becoming more critical of others. After all, the more time one can spend analyzing others' behavior the less time one has to look at his or herself. Often, the behaviors we abhor most in others are the very ones we are guilty of ourselves. We just don't know it yet. The more we put ourselves in the role of a judge, the more satisfaction and control we seem to achieve. Yet, what about ourselves? In focusing our attention on the beams in others' eyes, the aridity and barrenness of our lives goes unchecked. St. Ambrose reminds us that "no one heals himself by wounding another." Bringing our brothers and sisters down by being overly critical, serves no positive purpose.

But the one who knows how easy it is to fall into sin and weakness and how quickly errors in judgment can be made, knows the depth of true compassion, mercy, and kindness. Having recognized our own poor choices, misguided opinions, negative emotions, and ability to do horrendous things, we can be more sympathetic and understanding of where others may be. We are designed to be mentors and guides to one another. In walking the journey together, we can help each other become the best we can be. Humility is the order of the day and the primary virtue that prevents us from being hypocrites. ©LPi

Girl Scout Daisy Troop 20357 Cookie Sale

Girl Scout Daisy Troop 20357 will be selling Girl Scout cookies at all our Masses this weekend, February 26th and 27th. If you are not able to make these times and would like to support this first year troop, please contact Susan Serb at 773.391.2135. Thank you for your support!



Ministry Schedules: Saturday, March 5th & Sunday, March 6th				
	Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Sunday 8:30 A.M.	Sunday 10:30 A.M.	
Presiders	Fr. Robert Carlton	Fr. Robert Carlton	Fr. Robert Fedek	
Lectors	N. Kremer	J. Semmler	R. Lohman & M. Carroll	
Cantors	Vocal Quartet	Vocal Quintet &Violin	Vocal Quintet & Guitar & Bass	
Extraordinary Ministers	R. Altman	A. Schnitzlein	R. Kopec	
Altar Servers	ТВА	ТВА	ТВА	
Lectors: 2022 Lector Workbooks are available for pick up in our Sacristy as well as in our Parish Office. If you				

<u>ectors</u>: 2022 Lector Workbooks are available for pick up in our Sacristy as well as in our Parish Office. If you have not already received your copy, please remember to pick one up at your earliest convenience.



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 Bednarz 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 Anthony Vitali, Maintenance

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

What's Happening @ IC...

Monday, February 28th -10:15 A.M.-Noon - Monday Morning Bible Study; RA 3:10-4:30 P.M. - Jr. Ringers Rehearsal; CH 7:00-8:30 P.M. - Alpha Winter Session; RA 7:00-8:30 P.M. - Overtones Rehearsal; CH 7:30-9:00 P.M. - IC Athletic Committee Mtg.; NWCR Tuesday, March 1st-7:30-9:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Table Planning Comm. Mtg.; Café Wednesday, March 2nd - Ash Wednesday 8:30 A.M. - School Mass (with Ashes); CH 2:00-3:30 P.M. - Choristers Rehearsal; CH 4:00-5:00 P.M. - Religious Education Program Class; Zoom 7:00 P.M.-Mass (with Ashes); CH Thursday, March 3rd-7:30-9:00 P.M. - Discipleship Group Study: "Jesus' Passion: The Story of Redemptive Suffering"; RA 8:00-9:30 P.M. - Holy Name Men's Club Mtg.; BA Friday, March 4th - School - 11:30 A.M. Dismissal 11:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M. – Parent/Teacher Conferences; SC 5:30-7:00 P.M. - First Friday Mass & Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration; CH 8:00-10:00 P.M. - Men's Basketball; SG Saturday, March 5th- IC Lenten Food Drive Begins 6:00-7:00 P.M. - Adoration (concluding with Vespers & Benediction); CH 6:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M. - IC HNMC Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration; PC Sunday, March 6th - First Sunday of Lent 9:30-10:15 A.M. - Lenten Confessions; CH

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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.

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