Welcome to Immaculate Conception Parish

A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ

January 9, 2022 - The Baptism Of The Lord



"After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove." Luke 3:22

Love God • Serve Others • Make Disciples

Contact Us

Parish Office Hours:

: 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. **Confessions:**

Parish Website: . www.icchicago.org

School Website:

🖳 : www.iccowboys.net

.

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 (as of January 2022)

Donate

Church & Special Collections:

Interested in supporting our parish, specific ministries and projects?

Please consider giving online at Give Central: www.givecentral.org/location/349

Offertory envelopes can also be mailed in or dropped off at our Parish Office.

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. 2

Outlook and (some) Priorities for 2022

As we look to the new year, there are many plans that we have moving forward. As these past two years have taught us, plans must be flexible. On the other hand, having tangible, visible results to indicate progress are absolutely essential for morale – both for our staff and for our parishioners.



The last two years saw: a new website, a repaired church ceiling, a new audio/video system, a renovated parish office, replaced and repaired kneelers, major repairs to our HVAC system in our school, as well as landscaping repair and upkeep around our campus.

There were other little bits dotted about, but all of these projects could be *felt* or *experienced* in some way. To that end, apart from other assorted projects, I would like to direct your attention to some specific projects that I would like to grow this year:

Alpha Program

Our next Alpha session begins on January 24th. I've been very proud of the dedication that our team has shown these past years, and I am looking forward, gradually and appropriately, to expanding our Alpha program. It is a program that emphasizes relationships, with God, others, and ourselves. It is both reflective and communal. Beginning this weekend, our team members will be publicly inviting you, the community, to join us.

Connect Groups

While this title is a placeholder of sorts, "*Connect Groups*" refer to what comes after Alpha. You have gone through Alpha, had a good experience, and are motivated to deepen your faith. Many of our participants have opted to join positions of leadership to stay connected and continue to grow. Many, however, because of family or work, are unable to commit to roles of leadership at this time. For that purpose, I would like to develop a team around keeping people connected and growing together after Alpha: for prayer, education, and simply time spent together. There is a lot to plan and consider, but this will be a major priority for 2022.

YouTube Channel and Online Presence

Along with streaming Masses, we are planning to increase our social media and output. One reason for this is that it is a sort of Evangelization. We promote ourselves and can invite others through media. I can work on scripts and content that helps to educate. In all of this, it is a sort of investment that allows our work to continue to do work for us once it's completed.

My current goal for 2022 is to have 200 subscribers to our YouTube Channel (currently at 57), and to create and post 50 new videos. A lofty goal, to be sure, but something we can strive for.

The 60th Anniversary of our Church

1962 marked the first time a Mass was celebrated in our current church. I would like to work with our community to celebrate this milestone. Along with the celebrations, I would like to make some updates to our equipment (e.g., piano, kneelers, and chairs in sanctuary, etc.) along with coming up with a little history of our parish. I'm excited to celebrate our beautiful church, a symbol of our faith and community.

Have a blessed and happy New Year! Let's make it a good one,

Fr. Matt

IC Alpha Winter Session Begins Monday, January 24th @ 7:00 P.M.

My dearest brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that another calendar year has elapsed. While 2021 has certainly had its share of ups and downs, there are two positives that I would like to share with you.

The first event occurred during our Alpha Weekend Retreat. This was the first time that the Alpha team and I managed the Saturday evening prayer session without assistance from Fr. Matt or Fr. Robert. Needless to say, it was a little nerve-racking, but we were willing to let the Holy Spirit lead us, and lead us He did.

I have been prayed over many times, and have felt the Holy Spirit resting upon me, but this was the first time that I've felt the Holy Spirit move through me as I was praying for our Alpha guests. I've come to learn that when we pray for someone else, we become a conduit for the Holy Spirit to move through us. While it doesn't happen on demand, when it does happen, it is unmistakable.

The second event also occurred during Alpha, but this time the Holy Spirit manifested Himself within the community, which formed while we were discussing our respective Alpha experiences at the end.

Imagine for a moment, a place where your cares, worries, fears, and desires take a back seat to being in the presence of the Lord. For a few precious moments, we were at peace, completely content with ourselves and with one another. If one of the fruits of the Spirit is Joy, then Joy was held by all, as a community. That event gave me a sense of what the early churches might have felt like at the time of Christ.

Without question, I am blessed beyond measure to present another season of Alpha at Immaculate Conception. Our next offering begins the week of January 24th. We meet once a week for 11 consecutive weeks, and in early March, we will gather together for a retreat. At each session, we share a meal, watch a video, and engage in thought-provoking conversation. If Alpha intrigues you, consider joining us. All are welcome!

For the weekends of January 8th & 9th and January 15th & 16th, myself and members of our Alpha Team will be available in our Vestibule to answer any questions that you might have regarding Alpha. We look forward to meeting you and accompanying you on your journey.

In Christ, Michael Tom

Adoration: First & Third Saturdays Of Each Month @ 6:00 P.M. (following our 5:00 P.M. Mass)



Beginning **next Saturday, January 15th**, all are welcome to join us in prayer following the conclusion of our 5:00 P.M. Mass as we offer Adoration on the first & third Saturdays of each month (approximately from 6:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.), concluding with Vespers & Benediction led by Fr. Matt.







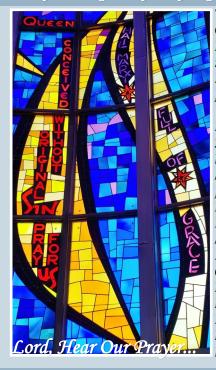


News: Fifth Grade ELA (English Language Arts) How-To Articles and Presentations

³⁴ ¹⁹⁰Our Fifth Grade students wrote and presented How-To Articles in ELA class. How-To writing is a form of exposition that provides information, guidance and directions for a task or goal. Our students selected a topic that could teach a reader either how-to do or how-to make something. They also had to be an expert on their chosen topic. Some of the How-To Articles included: how-to make pizza, pasta, cupcakes, waffle ice cream sandwiches, omelets, bookmarks, pop-up cards, as well as how-to do a crossover dribble (basketball), throw a baseball, pitch a baseball/softball, juggle a soccer ball, etc. Our 5th grade students enjoyed teaching their classmates something new and leading our class during their presentations. This sharing of knowledge also served to strengthen our students' writing, listening and speaking skills. Overall, it was a fun experience for each student to be in charge and to demonstrate his or her special talent to their classmates.



Please join our parish family in prayer ...



Tom Altman Caleb Anstett Robert Behrman Sonia M. B. Roberta Berger John Bozek Vince Caeti Rita Castillo Zita Castro Donna Chaplin Marie Conway *James Covello* Ronnie Cunningham Paige Dicks Margarita DiSalvo Paula Drew Ozzie D'Souza Richard Flanagan Brooke Foreman Patricia Furgat Lila Gehner Bonnie Jean Gorski

For those who are sick:

Ofelia Hernandez Kevin Jaburek Wayne Kinzie, Sr. Craig Kloss Lillian Kohut Katherine Kreuser **Benny Martinez** Edwin Martinez Frank Martinez Gerry Michalek, Jr. Sam Milazzo Molly Morris Veronica Murillo Timothy Murray Brendan Nelson Iudith Nosko Anne O'Brien John O'Brien Jackie O'Koniewski David Olson Mary Potwora Jaden Radcliff

Helen Rasmussen Bill Remblake Joe Rispoli Pia Rizza David Rodriguez Elaine Schatz Jennie Sekula Don Skorey **Dennis Slater** Edward Stanczyk Ed Stanislawski Marion Szumski Donna Tisdale Camilla Trevino Steven P. Trifilio Peter Vandenbergh Mary Ellen Vanderman John F. Vargo Henry Wagener Rita Zambon

*Newly Added

For our faithful departed:

Helmuth Warns



"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, 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.

6



Mass Intentions: Sunday, January 9th through Sunday, January 16th

Sunday, January 9th- The Baptism of the Lord

5:00 P.M. (Saturday) - [†]Glordenia San Buenaventura; [†]Maureen Greene; [†]John Keane; [†]Mary Joyce; [†]Alice Kaye; [†]Catherine Lacey; and Lyn Christy (Living) (Birthday Blessings) 8:30 A.M. – [†]Elsie Adam; [†]Stella Zablocki; and Jaroslaw Sadowski (on his 50th Birthday) (Living) 10:30 A.M. - [†]Charles Grayzeck; [†]Sophie Oleksy; [†]Erma Reppen; [†]Sr. Mary Julianne Maciuszek, C.R.; [†]Peter Smith; [†]Juris Valainis; ⁺Francis & Moira Cross; Mary Dosek (Living); Wilfred Diamante & Family (Living); Mina Acevedo & Family (Living); Monday Bible Study Members (Living); Thursday Advent Bible Study Members (Living); IC Staff Members (Living); IC Holy Name Men's Club (Living); and The People of the Parish

Monday, January 10th - Weekday (First Week In Ordinary Time)

8:30 A.M. - ⁺Albin Wasczeniuk; and ⁺Elizabeth Serafin

Tuesday, January 11th - Weekday 8:30 A.M. – ⁺George Buschauer

Wednesday, January 12th - Weekday 8:30 A.M. - * Poor Souls In Purgatory

Thursday, January 13th - Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 8:30 A.M. – Peter Vandenbergh (Living)

Friday, January 14th - Weekday 8:30 A.M. - Dennis Slater (Living)

Saturday, January 15th - Weekday 5:00 P.M. - The People of the Parish

Sunday, January 16th - Second Sunday In Ordinary Time 8:30 A.M.- ⁺Rita Rose; and Gabriella Sadowski (on her Birthday) (Living)

10:30 A.M. – [†]Jack Simone; [†]The Deceased Members of the Cronin Family; ⁺Francis Brissette (on his 17th Anniversary); [†]Mary C. Busking; [†]Rose Guccione; [†]Francis & Moira Cross; Jocelyn Lomeli (Living) (In Thanksgiving to Baby Jesus); and Scott Will (Living)





January 9th through January 14th

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



January 9th through January 14th

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

Requested by: Kristina Seibert

Pope Tweet of the Week...

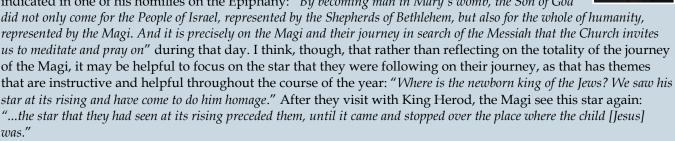
"God was born a child in order to encourage us to care for others. His disarming love reminds us that our time is not to be spent in feeling sorry for ourselves, but in comforting



the tears of the suffering."

Reflections From Fr. Robert Carlton: The Epiphany Of The Lord

Recently, the Church marked the Solemnity of the Epiphany. This day is meant to commemorate primarily the journey of the three Magi to visit the newly born Christ child. As Pope Benedict XVI indicated in one of his homilies on the Epiphany: "*By becoming man in Mary's womb, the Son of God*



What is the exact nature of this star? This question is one that has occupied and fascinated researchers for centuries. There are, to be sure, several biblical scholars who believe that the Bethlehem Star never existed and believe that the reason why Matthew is the only one who mentions it in his Gospel is that he wanted to emphasize the miraculous nature of the event. There are others, including some of the Church Fathers, who find it curious that a star this bright could have appeared in the sky such that only the three Magi would have been able to follow it. Indeed, if Herod was looking for Jesus as the text of Matthew's Gospel indicates, then he could have easily followed the star in the sky himself, just like the Magi did. However, there are others, like the great seventeenth century astronomer and mathematician, Johannes Kepler, who believe that there could have been such a star. Indeed, in 1603, there was a "*conjunction*" of Jupiter and Saturn, which was then joined by Mars, to form a triangle. This unusual pattern in the heavens produced a brilliant new star, which became known as Kepler's Supernova in October of 1604. Kepler then calculated that this conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn would have occurred in 7 BCE, just prior to the accepted death of King Herod in 4 BCE. This conjunction was followed by a similar new star, which could very well have been the Star of Bethlehem that the Magi followed.

As Pope Benedict indicates, these questions about the exact nature of the star are interesting, but they do not really do anything to get us closer to understanding what was in the hearts of the Magi, which is the real question here. These Magi really wanted to see Jesus and were convinced that, as the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins states, *"the world is charged with the grandeur of God."* These Magi were completely convinced that they could see the presence of God in the created world and, as such, this was their primary focus and what was in their hearts. What, then, is the true star in our lives? Is it the Christ that the Magi



were so determined to go and see? Or is it something else? We have all witnessed people who were clear on the true star in their lives and became very happy as a result, while those who did not have a clear true star ended up not being as happy and successful as they could have been. Let us then pray for the grace to truly discern the true star in our lives, and to follow it in the same way that the Magi did.

Fr. Robert



Catholic Charities Food Collection:

Our Christmas Season Food Drive to benefit the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Des Plaines (located at 1717 Rand Road) concludes **this weekend, January 8th & 9th.** Many thanks to all

those who have already generously donated food and/or monetary donations via Give Central! To donate electronically, please visit: <u>givecentral.org/location/349/event/32488</u> or scan the following QR Code with your phone:



IC Catholic High School Scholarship Fund:

If you would like to contribute electronically to support our *IC Catholic High School Scholarship Fund*, please visit: <u>givecentral.org/location/349/</u><u>event/28631</u> or scan the following QR Code with

your phone:

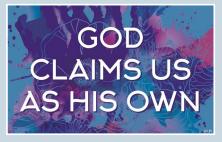
Many thanks to those who have already donated!





8

Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture



"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ." – Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple

gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear. ©LPi

Ministry Schedules: Saturday, January 15 th & Sunday, January 16 th			
	Saturday 5:00 P.M.	Sunday 8:30 A.M.	Sunday 10:30 A.M. Family Mass
Presiders	Fr. Robert Carlton	Fr. Matthew Heinrich	Fr. Robert Fedek
Lectors	N. Schroeder & S. Serb	M. Davila	Youth Lector
Cantors	E. Doyle	Vocal Quintet &Violin	Vocal Quintet
Extraordinary Ministers	D. Mroz	D. Zamirowski	A. Schnitzlein
Altar Servers	K. Giannola; L. Love; M. Moorehouse	C. Beach; P. Beckman; C. Villafane	D. Gillespie; S. Gillespie; I. Luna

Lectors: 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, PastorfnFr. Robert Carlton, Associate PastorrdFr. Robert Fedek, Weekend AssistantrdDeacon Rick & Carol MoritzrdDeacon Ronald & Connie GronekrdDeacon Michael BednarzrdVincent Kennedy, Director of OperationsvdScott Will, Director of WorshiprdBulletin EditorrdBulletin EditorrdBernadette Anna, Parish SacristanrdMichael La Haye, Head of MaintenanceAnthony 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, January 10th -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. - Overtones Rehearsal; CH Tuesday, January 11th -7:30-9:00 P.M. - Baptismal Preparation Session; RA Wednesday, January 12th -2:00-3:30 P.M. - Choristers Rehearsal; CH 4:00-5:00 P.M. - Religious Education Class; Zoom 7:00-9:00 P.M. - Parish Pastoral Council Mtg.; RA 7:30-9:30 P.M. - Parents Club Mtg.; NWCR Friday, January 14th-8:15-10:00 P.M. - Men's Basketball; PC Saturday, January 15th-Alpha Witness Testimonial & Recruitment @ 5:00 P.M. Mass (Hospitality to follow in Church Vestibule) 6:00-7:00 P.M. - Adoration (concluding with Vespers &

Benediction); CH Sunday, January 16th-

Alpha Witness Testimonial & Recruitment @ 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. Masses (Hospitality to follow in Church Vestibule) 9:30-10:15A.M. – Confessions; CH 10:30 A.M. – Family Mass; CH (Hosted by: 7th Grade & P3 Students) *⊠:

fr.matt@icchicago.org rcarlton@archchicago.org

rmoritz@icchicago.org

mabednarz@archchicago.org vkennedy@icchicago.org swill@icchicago.org m.anna@icchicago.org parishbulletin@icchicago.org

parishoffice@icchicago.org

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

