

Welcome to the Parish of
Immaculate Conception

A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ

July 12, 2020 - Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time



"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us."

- Romans 8:18

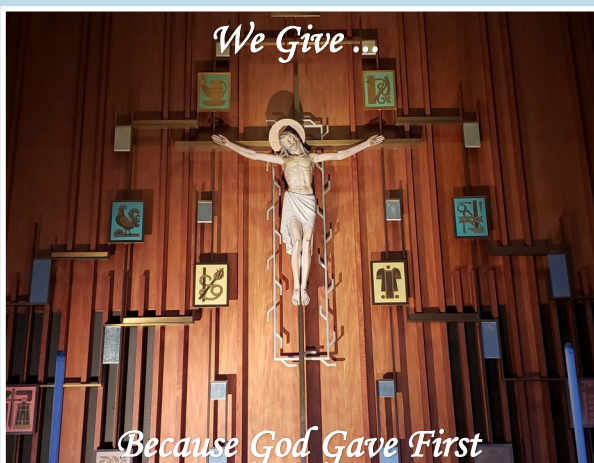
Love God, Serve Others, Make Disciples

Immaculate Conception Parish



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.

We also invite you to pray the **Rosary** and **Divine Mercy Chaplet** with us daily (Monday through Friday) at **3:00 P.M.** via Zoom. Additional instructions on how to join us are available on our website.



"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." - John 3:16

Phase 2 Preliminary Reopening Mass Schedule:

**Sunday Mass in Church (with reserved seating)
@ 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.**

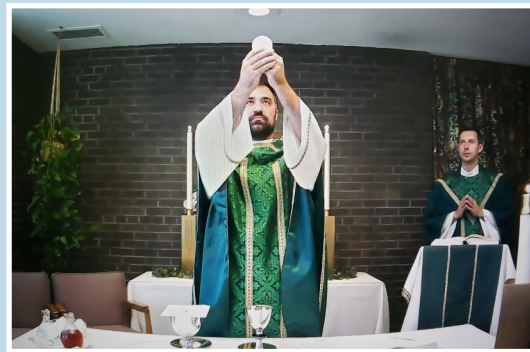
Please visit www.icparish.net to register.

First Friday Mass & Adoration in Church (with reserved seating) @ 5:30 P.M. (August 7th)

Worship with IC from home...

Sunday Virtual Mass @ 10:30 A.M.

Daily Virtual Mass @ 7:00 P.M. (Monday through Friday)



Opportunities for **Confessions** will be offered on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from **6:00-7:00 P.M.**

Next opportunity: *Tuesday, July 21st

***Reservations are required.**

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.



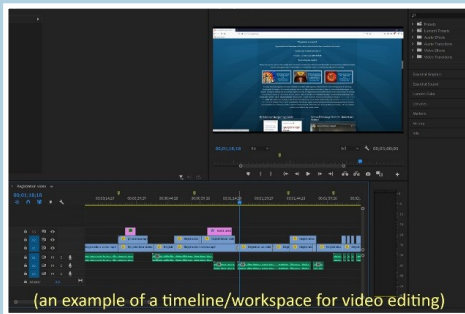
"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." - 2 Corinthians 9:11

Navigating a Pandemic...

As we move forward with the reopening of our parish, the current pandemic has provided a number of challenges and opportunities. I think there is always an element of fear when it comes to a disease that is both prevalent and unknown. It is why we are trying to exercise every caution with our reopening, including our public schedule.



On the other hand, the current pandemic has also provided a number of opportunities for introspection and organization, especially online. There is no doubt that being in-person is good for a number of reasons. Being able to build our skills online, however, is a blessing in its own right. With our online Masses, we have also dabbled with recording our choir, integrating social media, improving online giving by a wide margin, audio editing, and video editing.



What does all this mean? In honing our skills during this time, we can move forward with more options for ministry and service. St. Paul writes, *“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful ...for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work”* (2 Tim 3:16, 17). Scripture speaks in numerous places about being ready, open, and courageous. Learning from Scripture helps us to adopt this attitude and it allows us to be competent in service and equipped to do good.

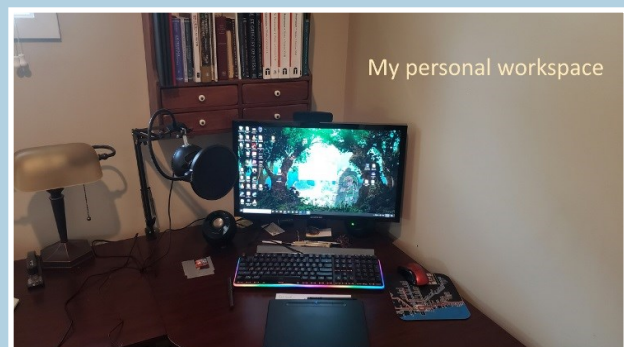
This moment has afforded us time, apart from the usual flow of our daily lives, to be courageous enough to try new things so that we can put them to use to build God’s kingdom. For example, rekindling my love for art and learning how to use technology and media better will improve my ability to communicate, preach, and teach.

I am grateful for the hard work many people have done, because *“the harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest”* (Lk 10:2). God promises that the harvest is abundant and so we have much more to gain. In improving ourselves now, out of love for God and neighbor, how much more good can we do? What will you use this time for?

Please consider volunteering with our reopening team, if you are able, or being open, ready, and courageous in helping us live the Gospel in new ways as we move forward.

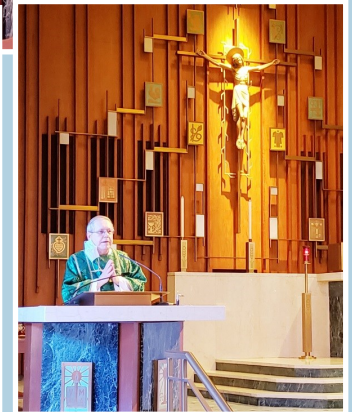
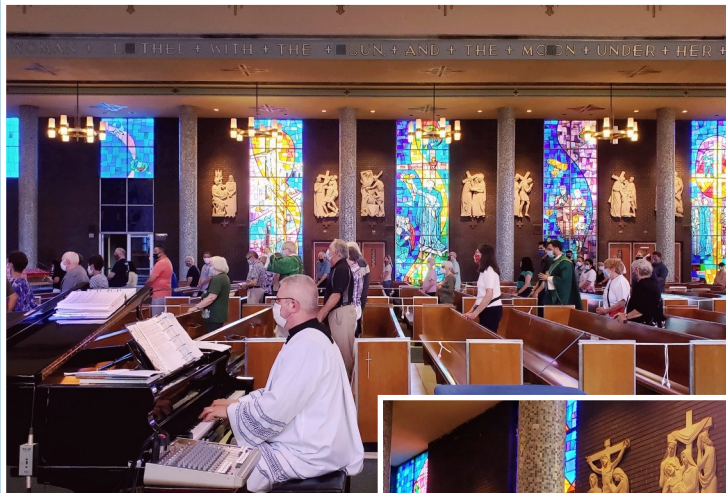
Be healthy and well, and we will see you all soon!

Fr. Matt



Immaculate Conception Parish

Snapshots from our celebration of the Eucharist at 8:30 A.M. on Sunday, July 5th as Fr. Matt celebrated his first public Mass as our Pastor...



*"I will appoint over you shepherds after my own heart,
who will shepherd you wisely and prudently."
- Jeremiah 3:15*

Immaculate Conception Parish

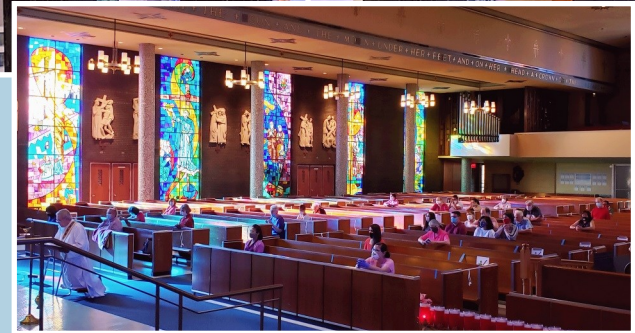
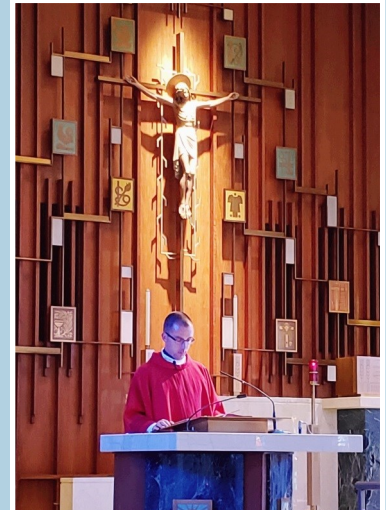


"Obey your leaders and defer to them, for they keep watch over you and will have to give an account, that they may fulfill their task with joy and not with sorrow, for that would be of no advantage to you." - Hebrews 13:17



Immaculate Conception Parish

Scenes from our First Friday 5:30 P.M. Mass on July 3rd (with Fr. Robert Carlton presiding) followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (led by Deacon Rick)...



*"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace."
— St. Alphonsus Ligouri*



Gospel Reflection...



"But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."
- Matthew 13:8-9

Why do you think Jesus explains the parable of the sower to his disciples but not to the crowds?

Immaculate Conception School

A Great Place to Learn!



Summer Tours are Available.

To schedule, please call the School Office at 773-775-0545.



Live the Liturgy - Inspiration for the Week

Any good farmer will tell you that regardless of how good the quality of the seed, its sprouting and bearing of effective fruit is dependent upon the quality of the soil. Preparing the soil is one of the most essential components of farming. There is no doubt that the seed of God's Word will eventually achieve its purpose. God cannot and will not fail. When and how that seed bears fruit is, however, dependent upon us. What is the quality and condition of your soil? Life's concerns and preoccupations can cause us to become inattentive to our inner life. This sometimes unintentional neglect can result in our soil becoming hard, overgrown with weeds, rocky, parched, and lifeless. When God's seed is sown, it doesn't always take root because it struggles to establish roots and flourish. How can you more attentively attend to the soil of your heart so that it will be a fertile and vital place for the fruit of the Gospel to grow?

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The Women's Center



Each year hundreds of women facing a crisis pregnancy come to our centers. In the past 34 years, we have helped more than 40,000 women choose life for their babies. With help from generous donors like you, we will continue our life-saving mission.

Even in this difficult time of the pandemic, our counselors continue to help women with counseling and material assistance. You can promote a culture of life by donating to our mission. Donate today at www.gotwc.org and your gift will help provide free services, including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and counseling. Please call 773-794-1313 for more information.

Seeking Donations: *We have a great need for baby food and all brands of baby formula (especially Enfamil Formula -the yellow box). All baby food must be in date.* Also needed are diapers in sizes 5 and 6 only, and receiving blankets. We are also in need of new pacifiers, baby bottles, baby wipes, baby shampoo, lotion and breast pumps. The families who receive these things are grateful for your generosity. For our address where you can deliver them to us, please call 773-794-1313.

Calling all students! Enter the 2020 *Step up for Life Pro-Life T-shirt Design Contest* for the chance to win the \$200 grand prize! Contest rules can be found at www.GoTWC.org/tshirtcontest.

Save the date...for our annual "*Step up for Life: Annual Walk for Life and Wiffleball Tournament.*" It will take place on **Saturday, September 26th** and details will be posted on our website www.gotwc.org.

Immaculate Conception Parish

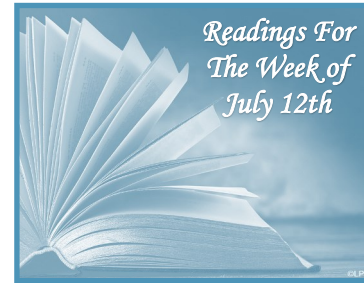
PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK

Concetta Bartucci	Arlene Lacey-Beyna
Melissa Bednarz	Richard Losik
Celerina Behrman	Benny Martinez
Robert Behrman	Edwin Martinez
Sonia M. B.	Frank Martinez
Vince Caeti	Jan Merino
Jackie Campbell	Veronica Murillo
Rita Castillo	Timothy Murray
James Covello	Mae O'Donnell
Sherry Crocifisso	Jackie O'Koniewski
Ronnie Cunningham	Mary (Kores) Potwora
Richard Flanagan	Bill Remblake
Brooke Foreman	Sebastian L. Rivera
Lila Gehner	David Rodriguez
Irene Hand	Elaine Schatz
Ofelia Hernandez	Edward Stanczyk
Nancy Kinzie	Steven P. Trifilio
Craig Kloss	John Varallo
Lillian Kohut	

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them...

Please join our parish family in prayer as we honor our faithful departed:

Lorraine Pauline Kaye (Mother of Sharon Foley)
Philip Gerard Vierneisel (Son of Helen)
Yolanda Vittore (Aunt of Emily Divarco)



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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT IC

For more information on upcoming events, please visit our parish website at www.icparish.net.

Please note: As a precautionary measure, all previously scheduled activities, meetings, and events have either been canceled or postponed until further notice. Additional scheduling changes may occur as the situation continues to develop.

Pope Tweet of the Week...

"Evil never gives peace. It causes frenzy first then leaves bitterness. Instead, God's voice never promises cheap, easily acquired joy. He invites us to go beyond our ego to find that true good: peace."



Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 [Lk 8:8]/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 10:34 – 11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 [cf. 9d]/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 [14a]/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21 [20b]/Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 [12b]/Mt 12:14-21

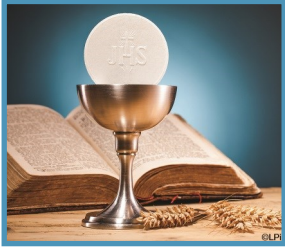
Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 [5a]/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Your Gifts to God and Parish

If you plan to move from the 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 call our Parish Office, so your envelopes can be stopped for that time period. If you use electronic giving and still receive envelopes, please contact our Parish Office so that we can discontinue your receiving of envelopes.

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 icparishbulletin@gmail.com.

PARISH REGISTRATION: Please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833 or visit our parish website at www.icparish.net for additional information.



**Mass Intentions:
Sunday, July 12th through
Sunday, July 19th**

Sunday, July 12th - Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

5:00 P.M. (Saturday) - †Nora & John Joyce & Families
8:30 A.M.— †Henry Kilian; †Giuseppe Di Maria (on his 22nd Anniversary); †Francis & Moira Cross; †Doris Kech;
†Giovanni & Rosalia Porcelli; and †Krystyna Sadowska
10:30 A.M.— †Irene Covello; and †Barbara Sanders (on her 1st Anniversary)
6:00 P.M. - The People of the Parish

Monday, July 13th – Saint Henry

8:30 A.M.— †Genevieve Saccomonto

Tuesday, July 14th - Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

8:30 A.M.— †Poor Souls In Purgatory

Wednesday, July 15th - Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:30 A.M.— †Joan G. Spurlin; and †Bill Sprincz (Birthday Remembrance)

Thursday, July 16th – Our Lady of Mount Carmel

8:30 A.M. — †Patricia Zubinski

Friday, July 17th - Weekday

8:30 A.M.— †Angela Mastandrea

Saturday, July 18th - Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest

5:00 P.M. - †Bob Chaplin (on his 14th Anniversary); and †Casimir Szpunar

Sunday, July 19th – Sixteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

8:30 A.M.— †Clementine Longo
10:30 A.M.— †Rocco Chiusolo; †Francis & Moira Cross;
†Deceased Members of the Palenica Family; †Corine Patricia Myers; and †Mary Alvarez
6:00 P.M. — †Tommy Beckman (on his 10th Anniversary)



July 12th through July 18th

The sanctuary lamp is burning this week for the repose of the soul of

Krystyna Sadowska



July 12th through July 17th

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

Helga Jarosz



July 12th through July 17th

The St. Joseph Votive is burning this week for the prayer intention of

Melissa Bednarz

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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, U.S. Army - 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. Marine - Sean Gronset, PFC Sebastian L. Rivera, Jr., PFC Christopher Hughes, PFC Algene D. Porticos

Let us pray for these women and men and all who are serving in the military. Please contact our Parish Office when these service people return home. If you are a veteran or know a veteran, the Archdiocese of Chicago has a website: vets.archchicago.org that provides information that can be of assistance.

Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture



Using the best seeds doesn't always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn't wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn't even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn't the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn't work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?

If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God's Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God's seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time again, giving it another try.

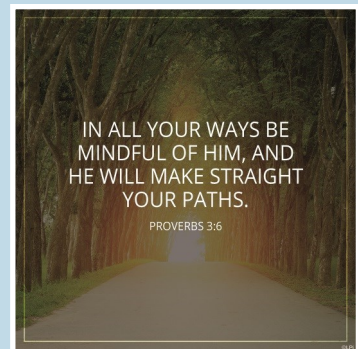
If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan for the seeds of God's Word? We need not only a source for water but a watering schedule. We need to weed, aerate the soil, nurture the young plants, protect them, and provide proper nutrients. What does our spiritual maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God's Word could produce in us!

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Everyday Stewardship – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

Focus on the Good...

When I was a child, my mother had a set of sculptures resembling three human heads. One head had hands over the ears, one had hands over the eyes, and one had hands over the mouth. Of course, they depicted the phrase, "Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil." I have seen these images repeated many times since then, usually as the monkey heads from a Japanese proverb, which would have probably seemed a little less creepy to me when I was a small child. Apparently, there is no consensus about the full meaning or certain origin of these three images nor the phrase. At the very least, it causes us to reflect on the need to avoid evil and look for the good in things.



As I have lived my life, I have come to believe there are more people who live their lives in a contrary manner to these images. It is not that they seek evil, but it is as if they "see no good, hear no good, and speak no good." Gossiping is the way they pass the time, and they always seem to find the negative in people and situations. Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but more than that, it means that we see the abundance of good things all around us. These gifts of God are big and little, profound and ordinary. By seeing the world in this way, we begin to change our personalities and our overall disposition. We always need to follow a new proverb: see all the good, hear all the good, and speak about the good. Amen.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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