

Welcome to
Immaculate Conception Parish

A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ

November 29, 2020 - First Sunday of Advent

Hope



"God is faithful, and by Him you were called to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

- 1 Corinthians 1:9

Love God • Serve Others • Make Disciples

Worship...



Worship with IC from home...

- Sunday Virtual Mass @ 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:

<https://gf.me/u/y96q4v> (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.**

**First Friday Mass & Adoration in Church
(with reserved seating) @ 5:30 P.M. on December 4th**

**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.**



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

Next opportunities: December 1st & December 15th

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



Alpha, as its name and logo imply, is a beginning and a starting point. For some, it is their very first step into deepening their faith. For others, it is a new commitment to understanding their relationship with God. Alpha exists for those at all stages in their faith: the Catholic of 50+ years, the recently converted, those longing to go deeper, those who seek a more intentional community experience, those who are interested in faith or becoming Catholic, and those looking to try something new.



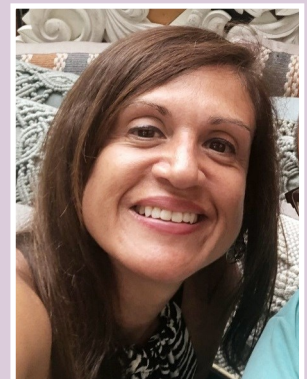
Alpha is a program designed to encourage inquiring minds and hearts. While its format is simple, it draws on one of the most powerful principles of our faith, *“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them”* (Mt 18:20). Being together in faith and discussing how it fits into our daily lives is a benefit to anyone and everyone.

Our leaders have worked and trained together. They have been through Alpha themselves. Below are some of their testimonies regarding the positive impact of Alpha in their lives:



“Alpha provides an opportunity for thoughtful reflection on God’s infinite love for us all. Participating in Alpha has been an insightful experience that has inspired me to want to grow more deeply in my faith.”

Mary Niewinski (Wife, Mother, IC Parishioner with her husband, Ed for 26 years. Their 4 children are graduates of Immaculate Conception School. Mary has been an active volunteer at IC over the years and joined our Alpha team in 2019. She plans to remain active in Alpha and hopes that others will find value in Alpha as well.)



“Alpha provides an experience for you to explore and deepen your relationship with God. You will better understand God’s unconditional love and the work of the Holy Spirit.”

Patty Rios (Wife, Mother, IC Parishioner and Volunteer)



“The Alpha program taught me to reflect more deeply on my personal relationship with Christ. It was a roadmap that created a pathway for me to show how the Holy Spirit can work in my life. It also showed me that my journey with Christ continues to evolve.”

Joe Yau (Husband, Father of 3, IC Parishioner for 20 plus years, Parish Council Member, Professional Actor and Part-Time Paraprofessional at a Therapeutic Day School)

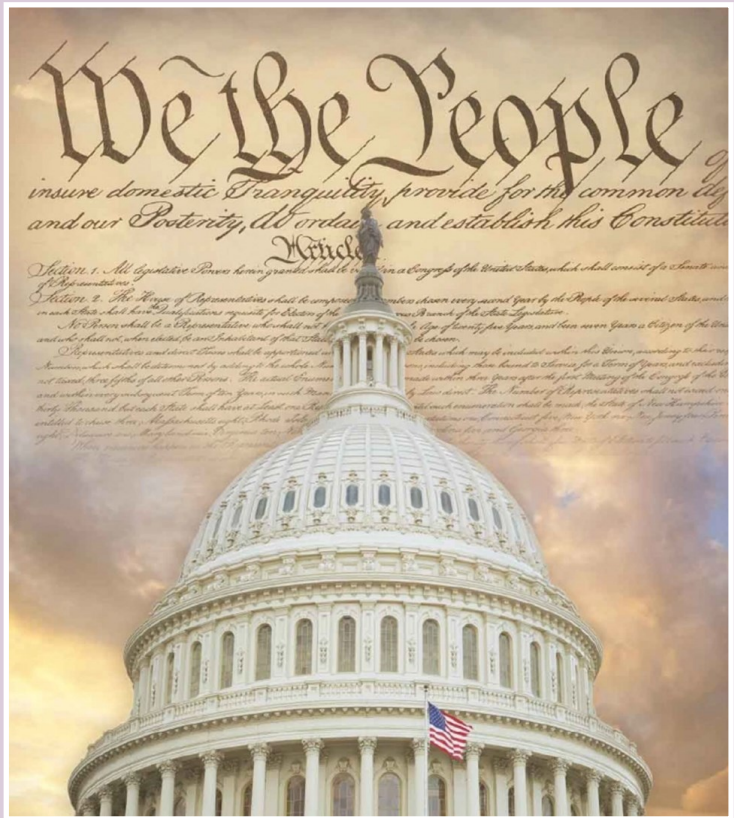


School News...

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

So begins the Constitution of the United States of America. This year's incoming Class of 2021 began our school year preparing to take both the United States Constitution test as well as the Illinois Constitution test. In the past, our Middle School students would take these two required tests over the course of their last two school years at IC. This year, COVID-19 altered our usual preparation schedule. As seventh graders, our Class of 2021 started studying the U.S. Constitution in school, and just before it was time to take the big test - our state mandated quarantine prevented us from taking the test in-person.

As we returned to in-classroom learning this past August, our entire Class of 2021 painstakingly reviewed their Constitution materials and flashcards to study and prepare for taking the U.S. Constitution test and I am happy to report that our great group of Upper Classmen successfully passed that grueling assessment. With that major milestone out of the way, the Class of 2021 jumped into studying the Illinois Constitution after a brief classroom break to relax. Our senior Cowboys will finish the first trimester of the 2020 - 2021 school year completing two major requirements for graduation and are well on their way to becoming well-informed American citizens, with an in-depth understanding of how democracy works, the origins of the U.S. Constitution, how the Constitution is organized and its meaning, and how our government works within it.



Novena to the Immaculate Conception

As previously announced, we will regrettably not be able to gather in our Church this year for our annual Immaculate Conception Novena due to the pandemic. The Novena traditionally begins on **November 30th** and concludes on our parish's Feast Day, **December 8th**. For those who would like to pray at home, you may find the prayers here at the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) website: www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/day-one-13425.



For those who are not computer savvy, here is one novena you can do from the comfort and safety of your home:

Prayer to the Immaculate Conception (each day): *O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.*
(State your personal request here.)

November 30th: For grace on the Shepherds of our Archdiocese, living and deceased who like Mary have strived to live lives of Holiness to inspire the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

December 1st: Remember the priests, living & deceased of our Archdiocese who are called to serve the vineyard of Chicago with the same filial devotion. May they fall under your shadow of protection to have the strength and courage to be ministers of word and sacrament to the people of God.

December 2nd: For the young people of our Archdiocese who learn the faith through our Catholic School and Religious Education. May your divine love of your Son inspire them to learn and grow in the grace and love of Christ.

December 3rd: For the charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago who serve the poor, the marginalized, and the alienated. May their outreach be the hand of Christ who recognized the face of God in each human person.

December 4th: For our brothers and sisters who have left the Church, that they might accept the invitation to return and worship with us.

December 5th: That parishes become evangelizing parishes, sharing faith through Christian witness and service.

December 6th: For Immaculate Conception Parish, that we will live out our mission statement: *“To Love God, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.”*

December 7th: That each of us will take the opportunity to invite someone who has drifted away from the church to come back home and that they feel truly accepted upon their return.

December 8th: For those preparing for marriage and those who are married, that they live out the covenant relationship of the sacrament of marriage.

Pray one “Our Father”, one “Hail Mary”, and one “Glory Be”, and the Concluding Prayer: *O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from Him the granting of this petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.* (You may also add the Rosary, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Litany of Loretto], and the Memorare as well.) —Deacon Rick Moritz

Please join our parish family in prayer ...



For those who are sick:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Tom Altman | Esther Jarosh | David Rodriguez |
| Concetta Bartucci | Helga Jarosz | Elaine Schatz |
| Melissa Bednarz | Craig Kloss | Don Skorey |
| Celerina Behrman | Lillian Kohut | Edward Stanczyk |
| Robert Behrman | Benny Martinez | Marion Szumski |
| Sonia M. B. | Edwin Martinez | Donna Tisdale |
| Vince Caeti | Frank Martinez | Steven P. Trifilio |
| Jackie Campbell | Jan Merino | Henry Wagener |
| Rita Castillo | Fr. Eric Meyer, C.P. | Geoffrey Woittel |
| Donna Chaplin | Veronica Murillo | |
| James Covello | Timothy Murray | *Newly Added |
| Sherry Crocifisso | Mae O'Donnell | |
| Ronnie Cunningham | Mary Beth O'Grady | |
| Mary Dosek | Jackie O'Koniewski | |
| Richard Flanagan | David Olson | |
| Brooke Foreman | Fr. Alan Phillip, C.P. | |
| Lila Gehner | Mary Potwora | |
| Ofelia Hernandez | Bill Remblake | |

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:

Irene M. Hand (Daughter of Margaret Hand)



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

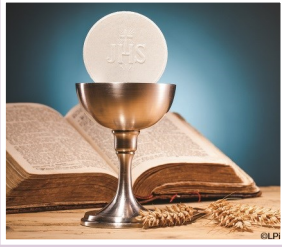


For those who serve our country:



- 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** - CDR 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, November 29th
through
Sunday, December 6th**

Sunday, November 29th - First Sunday of Advent

5:00 P.M. (Saturday) - †Irene & Louis Schatz; †Stanislawa Gaszcz (on his 35th Anniversary); and Terri & Don Baumgartner (on their 50th Wedding Anniversary) (Living)

8:30 A.M. – †Stanislaw Swiderski

10:30 A.M. – †Agostino & Francesca Chiamonte; †Francis & Moira Cross; †Carmencita E. Gonzalez; †Mae Nelson; †John J. Dosek; †Patrick Haugh; †Daniel Reppen (Birthday Remembrance); and The People of the Parish

Monday, November 30th – Saint Andrew, Apostle

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) – †Winston Fuller; †Bogdan Gaszcz (on his 30th Anniversary)

Tuesday, December 1st - Advent Weekday

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) – †Quintin S. Lim (on his 3rd Anniversary)

Wednesday, December 2nd - Advent Weekday

8:30 A.M. (Virtual Mass) – †Stefania Bochnak (on her 7th Anniversary)

Thursday, December 3rd – Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) – †Felix Bochnak (on his 9th Anniversary)

Friday, December 4th - Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

5:30 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) – †John Sexton; †Ellen “Nellie” Gavin; †Irene Hand; and Robert Altman (on his Birthday) (Living)

Saturday, December 5th - Advent Weekday

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

Sunday, December 6th – Second Sunday Of Advent

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; and The People of the Parish



November 29th through December 5th

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

**Fr. Eric C. Meyer, C.P.
(for good health)**



November 29th through December 4th

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

Phil Chiamonte



November 29th through December 4th

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

Irene Hand



Pope Tweet of the Week...

“Even a smile that we can share with the poor is a source of love. An outstretched hand can always be enriched by the smile of those who quietly and unassumingly offer to help, inspired only by the joy of living as one of Christ’s disciples.”





*Readings For
The Week of
November 29th*

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

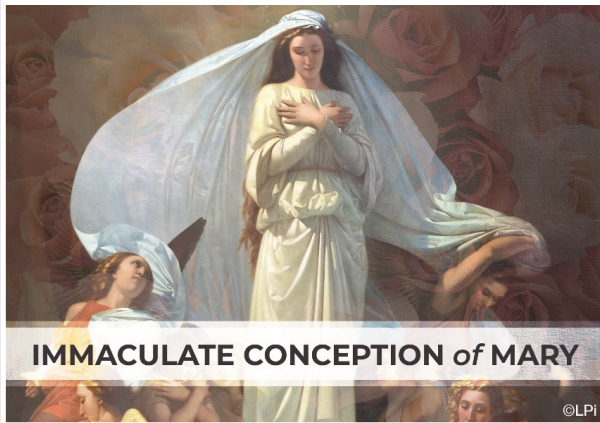
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35 – 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next 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



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of MARY

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. on Tuesday, December 8th** in our Church. 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.



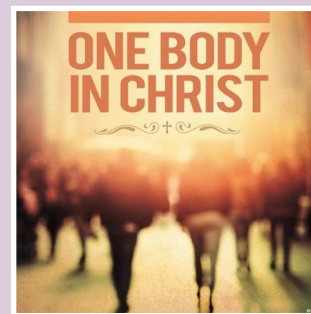
Barbara Galiga

Jennie Sekula

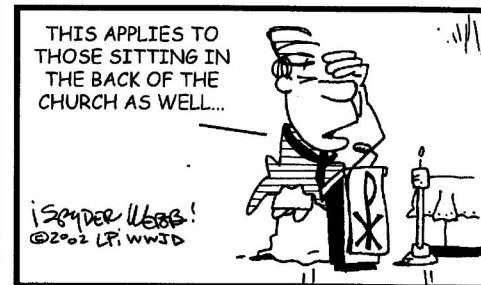
Gino Sabbini and his children Santino & Sienna

Patricia Almaraz and her daughter Marissa Gollogly

Mark & Rebecca Johnston and their son Dylan



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture



You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

©LPi

Everyday Stewardship – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

In the Unexpected...

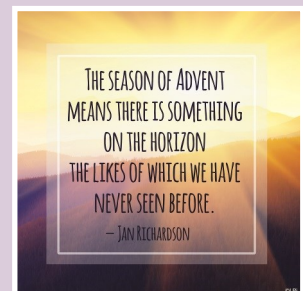
"What could happen next?" How many times have you asked yourself that question in the past year? Though we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way, this year it has been an expression of the constant changes to our world which the COVID-19 pandemic has wrought. But we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things, when the stars seem to align just right.




No matter what, we can say with certainty that tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world around us is increasingly complex. Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on Him to be there with you. He is now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

– 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 1st –

6:00-7:00 P.M. – Confessions; CH
7:00 P.M. – Pastoral Council Mtg.;
Zoom

Thursday, December 3rd -

8:00-9:30 P.M. – Holy Name Men's
Club Mtg.; RA

Friday, December 4th -

5:30 P.M. – Mass; CH
6:00-7:00 P.M. – First Friday
Nocturnal Eucharistic Adoration; CH



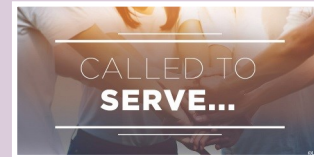
For more information on upcoming events, or to register for our Masses or Confessions, please visit our parish website at www.icparish.net.

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**