

Welcome to
Immaculate Conception Parish

A Catholic Community Inviting People to Follow Christ

January 3, 2021 - The Epiphany Of The Lord

O Come, Let Us Adore Him



"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you."

- Isaiah 60:1

Love God • Serve Others • Make Disciples

Contact Us

☎: 773.775.3833

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

✉: parishoffice@icchicago.org
(Please note: new email address)

Parish Office Hours:

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

Parish Website:

🌐: www.icchicago.org

School Website:

🌐: www.iccowboys.net

Social Media



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.

Twitch:

Membership-free platform where all are welcome to view our Masses and access content.

Visit us at www.twitch.tv/icchicago



Mass and Sacrament Schedule

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)

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 our website or contact our Parish Office to register.

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Online Only

Monday through Friday @ 7:00 P.M.
Wednesdays @ 8:30 A.M. (School Mass)
(Worship with us virtually on our Facebook Page or Twitch)

In-Person

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:

First and Third Tuesdays of each month from 6:00-7:00 P.M.

(Special dates & times offered during Advent & Lent)

Baptisms:

Saturdays @ 1:00 P.M.
Sundays @ 12:30 P.M.

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.

2020: A Year in Review

I preached at our evening Mass on Christmas about 2020 coming to a close. We should not simply place this experience of ours in the rear-view, ignoring the lessons it had to teach us. Any experience is valuable if we are willing to learn from it. Scripture is full of examples of the benefits of trials, exiles, and loss. It is not that we should necessarily pray for these things—life has its own way of bringing them about—but rather to accept them and grow from them.



“Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Heb 5:8-9).

Prosperity and poverty can lead to renewal with the right mindset.

What are some of the losses we experienced this year?

For some it was family, while for others it was money and work. Still others were separated from family and friends. Many of us were isolated, and others to rather crippling degrees.

In many ways, this year has allowed us unlike any other to strip away what is unnecessary in our lives. No amount of binge-watching shows can replace human interactions. No amount of technology can substitute intimacy. Many of us were able to return to simple holidays and more direct means of affection. Still others longingly wait to return to the world after receiving the vaccine, especially the elderly and vulnerable. In losing our normal way of life, we can perhaps appreciate the beauty of simplicity.

What are some of the things we gained?

Technology is a blessing in many ways, and we embraced it. Video calls, virtual meetings, streaming, and all sorts of things. Even in our Church, we experimented with live-streaming, recordings, and video messaging. I think we did so to great success, keeping people connected to us and each other in a way that would have otherwise been impossible, if not superficial. I do not think virtual Mass and prayer should become the norm for people able and healthy to worship—though that isn’t the concern at this time—but for the elderly, especially because of illness or weather, I think this is a fantastic thing. For travelers too, this can be very useful. How we integrate technology into a more normalized world is a question on the horizon, but for now let us be thankful for what we have.

Hospitality and communication also come to mind. Our volunteers have done an excellent job in making people feel valued, comfortable, and safe. This is something we need to build upon here at IC. It is my hope that as we have reduced our Mass schedule, it is not for the sake of making things easier. The purpose is that we as a community should want *excellence*. Excellent music, Masses, and community should all be goals we constantly strive for.

While 2020 was difficult, I look forward to what 2021 can bring. With all of us together, I am sure that we can do great things.

Fr. Matt





Snapshots from our Christmas celebration...

With truly grateful hearts, we thank all of our *Art & Environment* volunteers for their kind assistance behind the scenes decorating and preparing our Church for our Christmas celebration. We hope that you enjoyed the fruits of their labor. We also thank our dedicated *Parish Reopening Team* volunteers (led by Jocelyn Lim, Darlene Mroz and

Joe Jummati) who graciously sacrificed time with their own families to serve as greeters, hand sanitizers and ushers at all of our Christmas Masses to help us keep our parish family safe as we gathered together to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We are truly blessed at IC to witness God's love in action through the many good works of those who humbly care for our community. May God bless each one of them abundantly!

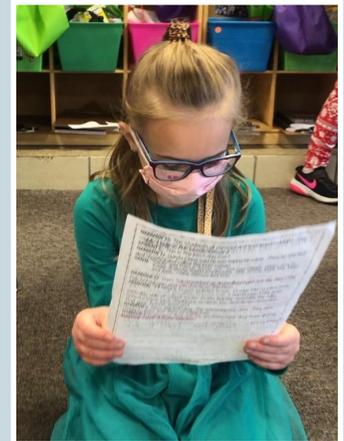


School News...

'Twas the Day Before Christmas Break...

Our Second Grade students read the Christmas Reader's Theater: *'Twas the Day Before Christmas Break*. This year looked a little different with masks and social distancing, but that didn't stop the excitement and great reading from these enthusiastic Second Grade children. Everyone practiced very hard all week to prepare! Regrettably, the children were unable to go from classroom to classroom to perform, however we were able to share the joy with parents on social media.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Mrs. Mannella's Second Grade Class, Room 14



Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship program through the "Invest in Kids" Act provides strong incentives for donors to support non-public school scholarships for low-income students in the state. Illinois students from low-income families may use these new scholarships to attend a non-public school of their choice, including the more than 200 Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools (like Immaculate Conception) in Cook and Lake Counties. For further details, please contact the TCS Hotline at 312.534.2617 or email tcs@archchicago.org or visit www.archchicago.org/tcs.

Note: Please designate *IC School* if you would like to benefit a parish family.

Please join our parish family in prayer ...



For those who are sick:

Tom Altman
 Concetta Bartucci
 Melissa Bednarz
 Robert Behrman
 Sonia M. B.
 Vince Caeti
 Jackie Campbell
 Rita Castillo
 Donna Chaplin
 James Covello
 Sherry Crocifisso
 Ronnie Cunningham
 Marilyn Donovan
 Christina Dziekonski
 Richard Flanagan
 Brooke Foreman
 Lila Gehner
 Ofelia Hernandez

Dennis M. Jaburek
 Esther Jarosh
 Helga Jarosz
 Erma Kinzie
 Wayne Kinzie
 Craig Kloss
 Lillian Kohut
 Benny Martinez
 Edwin Martinez
 Frank Martinez
 Fr. Eric Meyer, C.P.
Sam Milazzo
 Veronica Murillo
 Timothy Murray
 Mary Beth O'Grady
 Jackie O'Koniewski
 David Olson
 Fr. Alan Phillip, C.P.

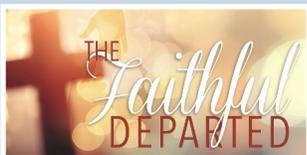
Bonnie Pirsoul
 Mary Potwora
 Helen Rasmussen
 Bill Remblake
 David Rodriguez
 Elaine Schatz
Jerzy Sadowski
 Jennie Sekula
 Lorraine Sekula
 Don Skorey
 Edward Stanczyk
 Marion Szumski
 Donna Tisdale
 Steven P. Trifilio
 John F. Vargo
 Henry Wagener
 Geoffrey Woittel
***Newly Added**

If you wish to have your name included in our prayer list (or removed), please contact our Parish Office at 773.775.3833.

For our faithful departed:

Charlene Bonomo (Cousin of Rita Zambon)
 Anna Milazzo
 Sr. Maria Schultz, C.R.

Maria Lunkiewicz (Grandmother of Melanie Barney & Melissa Stachura)
 Rosemary Eichberger (Sister of Fran Smith)



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



For those who serve our country:



U.S. Army - SSgt. John Francis Mikita, Sgt. Kevin Whalen, SSgt Martine Makita, Chris Dash, Pvt. Jason G. Cavanaugh, Major Christopher Walsh, Capt. Benjamin Monson, 1st Lt. Katherine D. Hartnett, SPC Michael J. Stone, Pvt. Charlie Cruz Pappas, Thomas Treslo, National Guard Specialist 4th Class
U.S. Navy - CMDR Michael Brasseur, Lt. Christopher Jenkins, PO Thomas T. Tudisco
U.S. Air Force - John Christopher Ocasio, Major Laurel Walsh, Captain Paul H. Kolk, LT. COL. Michael O'Koniewski; 2nd Lt. Colleen Bernal
U.S. Marines - Sean Gronset, PFC Sebastian L. Rivera, Jr., PFC Christopher Hughes, PFC Algene D. Porticos

Please contact our Parish Office when these service people return home safely. If you are a veteran or know a veteran, the Archdiocese of Chicago has a website located at vets.archchicago.org that provides information that can be of assistance.



*Mass Intentions:
Sunday, January 3rd
through
Sunday, January 10th*

Sunday, January 3rd - The Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 P.M. (Saturday) - †Jan Merino

8:30 A.M. — †David Ballog; and †Patrick Rodden

10:30 A.M. — †Joseph J. Lykowski; †Norman B. Schroeder;
†Angeline Guerrero; †Tommy Fuller; †Joseph M. Sipka (on his 20th
Anniversary); †William Mohlman; †Kazimiera Pelc; †Katie Foerster;
†Matt & Michael Wan De Iannitelli; †Beverly Sotir; and The People
of the Parish

Monday, January 4th - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) — Melissa Bednarz (Living)

Tuesday, January 5th - Saint John Neumann, Bishop

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) — †Dolores Capra (Birthday
Remembrance)

Wednesday, January 6th - Saint Andre Bessette, Religious

8:30 A.M. (Virtual Mass) — †Poor Souls In Purgatory

Thursday, January 7th - Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) — Erma & Wayne Kinzie (Living)

Friday, January 8th - Christmas Weekday

7:00 P.M. (Virtual Mass) — †Catherine Lacey

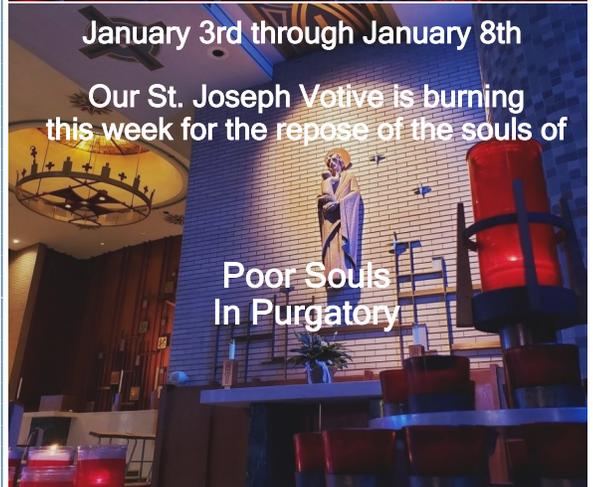
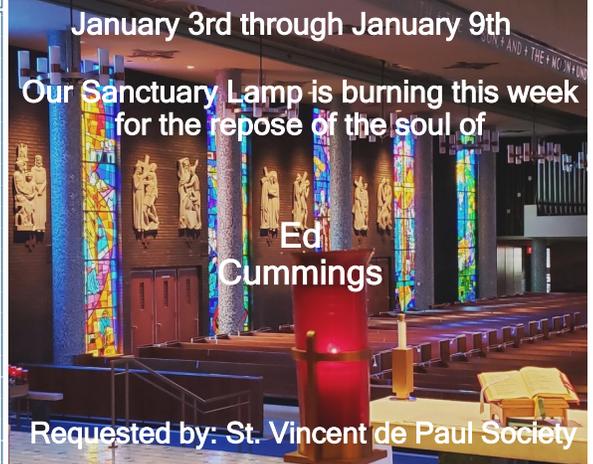
Saturday, January 9th - Christmas Weekday

5:00 P.M. - †Ed Cummings, Jr.

Sunday, January 10th - The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 A.M.- †Walter Aksumit; †Elizabeth Serafin; †Leonardo
Positano; †Vito & Rafaella Positano; †Mike & Filomena Pavone;
†Ed Cummings; and The People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. — †Sophie Oleksy (on her 10th Anniversary); †Eileen
Mascha; †Lee Fitz; †Sean Cooney; and †Andrew Story



Pope Tweet of the Week...

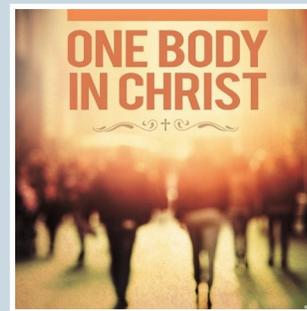
"May Christmas be an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, dialogue, forgiveness, fraternal solidarity and shared joy, a source of peace for all humanity."





Michael & Maggie Brasie and their children Piper & Paddy

John & Rose Vargo



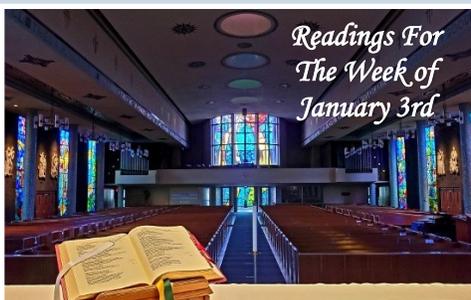
Jack William Taylor

Child of William Patrick and Eileen Patricia (Sweezy) Taylor

Live The Liturgy: Inspiration For The Week...

Even the slightest flicker of a light helps to properly orient us when we find ourselves in total darkness. Being in darkness can be unsettling and even a bit unnerving. We lose our focus and struggle to find our bearings and achieve balance. On life's journey we may think we are walking in the light but are really lingering in darkness. We do not see the full picture, either because we are distracted, disinterested, or even apprehensive. Sometimes, we even choose to close our eyes when the light is readily available to illuminate our path. Do we really desire to know the truth of who we are? In Jesus Christ, a light has been given to those who dwell in darkness. God's revelation gives us the light to see where we come from, who we are and where we are going. It also tells us that this Good News is not meant for just a privileged few but is intended to go out to all the world. Is this something we want to see?

©LPi



Readings For The Week of January 3rd

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 – 4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 – 5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/ Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Gospel Meditation - Encourage a Deeper Understanding of Scripture



"Where is that thing?" mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. "I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!" Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, "Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear." The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was." The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God's tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God's salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God's healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!

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Everyday Stewardship – Recognize God in your Ordinary Moments

Wise Men See God in the Simple Things...

If you are on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which. After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort – rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let us have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi





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*
Anthony Vitali, *Maintenance*

*✉:

fr.matt@icchicago.org
 fr.carlton@icchicago.org

 rmoritz@icchicago.org

 vkennedy@icchicago.org
 swill@icchicago.org
 m.anna@icchicago.org
 parishbulletin@icchicago.org
 parishoffice@icchicago.org

**Please note: new email addresses of our Parish Staff*

Our School Staff:

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

canzoneri@iccowboys.net
 fitzgerald@iccowboys.net
 szwedo@iccowboys.net
 kessler@iccowboys.net
 tuition@iccowboys.net

What's Happening @ IC...

Tuesday, January 5th –
6:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. – Confessions; CH

For more information on upcoming events, or to register for our Masses or Confessions, please visit our new parish website @ www.icchicago.org



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.

2021 Religious Art Calendars

2021 calendars are available in our Church Vestibule. They are once again the gift of Suerth Funeral Home. Many thanks as always to Dennis Krawzak, Donald Krawzak, Nancy Haran and Peter Heneghan. Your continued sponsorship is deeply appreciated!



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 (*Please note: new email address.)