

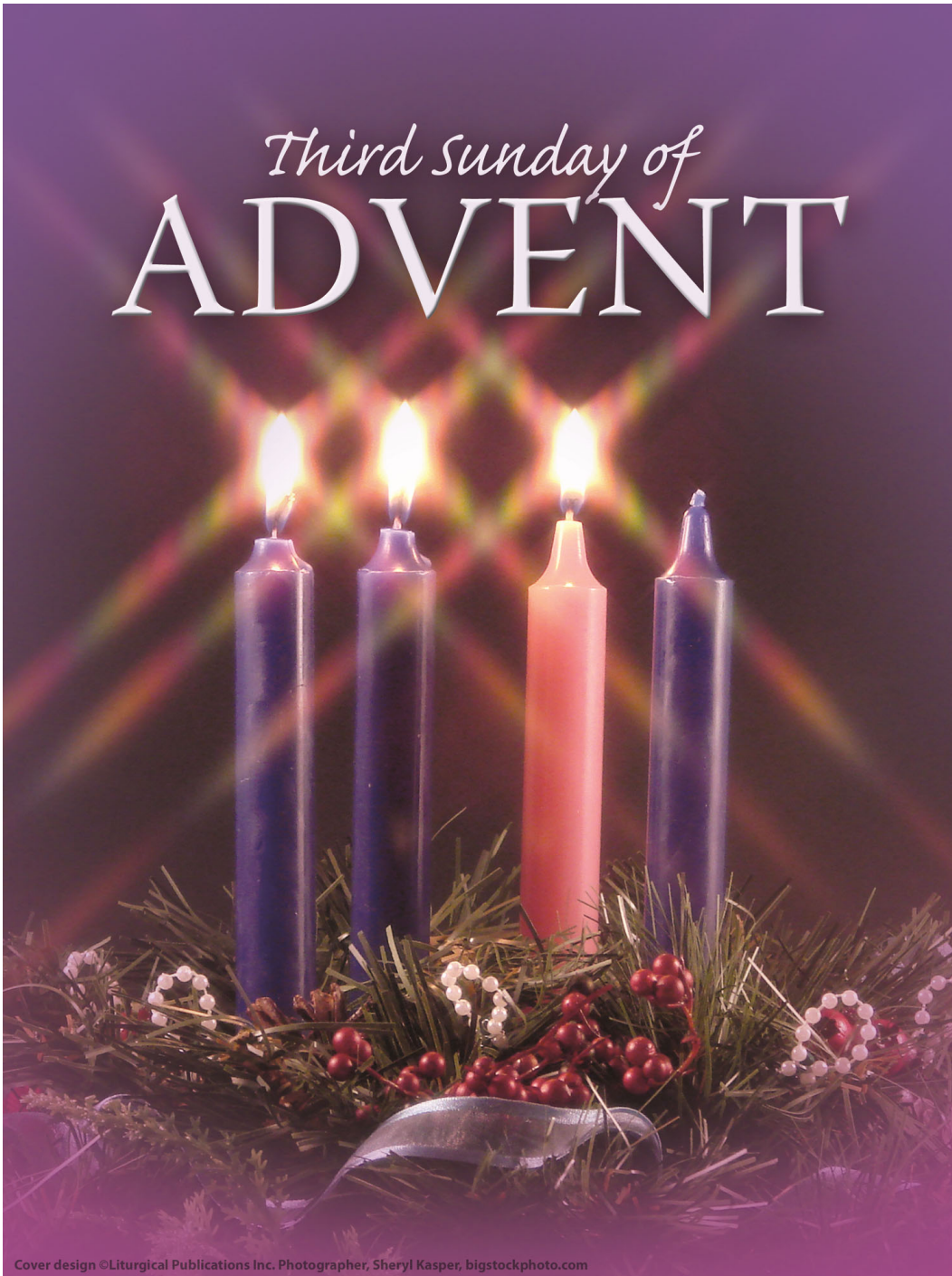
Immaculate Conception Parish Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

Welcome

*Very Reverend Thomas Paul, V. F. K.H.S., Pastor
Reverend Jeremy Leganski, Parochial Vicar*

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



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Third Week of Advent



Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, when we light the third candle on the Advent Wreath. Did you know that each candle has a name and a meaning? Today's candle is the Shepherd Candle, or sometimes called the Candle of Joy. This week is also called "Gaudete Sunday", and this candle is rose. This change in color provides us with encouragement to continue in our spiritual preparations for Christmas. We are reminded that the Shepherds were among the first to hear the angels' proclamations. We are also reminded of the great joy that Christmas brings.

Come Lord Jesus

Marantha! Come to your Church, O Lord, make us a home for your wisdom and your will; Come, guide us in truth.

Marantha! Come to our land, O Lord, may we hear your prophets' voice in the cries of the poor and weak.

Marantha! Come to our hearts, O Lord, let your freedom flower in our charity, may your liberty blossom, may its fragrance lead us to work for justice.

Marantha! Come to our streets, O Lord, guide us to see your face in the unwanted, the unloved, raise our hands to give them shelter and safety.

Marantha! Come to our dwellings, O Lord, shelter them with the peaceful light of love, fill them with abundant joy and laughter.

Marantha! Come to our dreams, O Lord, help us to hear your angels' tidings and yearn for your kingdom.

Marantha! Come to your Bride, O Lord! We unceasingly call out aloud with your saints and with your Spirit.

Immaculate Conception Parish Advent 2023

- December 17** The Third Sunday of Advent ~ "Gaudete Sunday"
Blessing of the Bambinos, Christ Child figures from the cribs in your homes will take place at the end of each Mass.
Oplatki Christmas Wafers will be available.
- December 18** IC Grade School Christmas Pageant 6pm Gym
- December 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Oplatki Christmas Wafers will be available.
Christmas Obligation Masses begin at 3pm.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 23 4:30pm in the Church

Sunday, December 24 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00 am in the Church

*Please note times and locations

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

CHRISTMAS MASSES—NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING

It does not take long for a newcomer or a visitor, or even a parishioner, to discover that parking can be quite an adventure at IC, especially during the busy seasons of the year. On our block alone, there are three churches, all of which offer simultaneous services on Sunday mornings. On December 24th, all three churches will be offering simultaneous Christmas Eve services. **Please respect the parking lots that belong to our neighboring churches when attending Mass at IC.** The lot directly behind the Chapel/Gym belongs to the First United Methodist Church. The lot directly behind the Rectory and east of the High School belongs to St. Peter's United Church of Christ. The entrances to these lots are clearly marked with the names of the appropriate churches. Please do not park in the lots of these churches.

Busy seasons call for creative responses. In addition to our parish lot on York Street, we have some additional parking in the Hawthorne School lot on weekends, with its entrance on Arthur Street. Additional areas are available on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There are a few spaces in Wilder Park at the intersection of Cottage Hill and Arthur. The Dist. 205 Main Office lot is a half block north of the Chapel on York Street. Gibbons Funeral Home lot is just one block north of the Chapel, also on York Street. A little advance planning might save some of the aggravation when all of the regular parking spaces are taken.

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24

3:00 pm Church, Sacred Heart Chapel* and Plunkett Hall

5:00 pm Sacred Heart Chapel

11:00 pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Preceded by a program of Christmas music at 10:30pm.

(Incense will be used at the 5:00pm and 10:30pm Masses on Christmas Eve.)

Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25

7:30 am Church

9:00 am Sacred Heart Chapel

11:30 am Sacred Heart Chapel

(No 7pm Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Day)

(Incense will be used at the 9:00am and 11:30am Masses on Christmas Day.)

Tuesday, December 26 8:00 am Mass Church

(No 6:15 a.m. or 7:30 am Mass will be celebrated)

**PLEASE NOTE: At the 3:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, in the Chapel (only), a special focus will be given to the children of the Parish. Children four years old, in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades will have the opportunity to participate in the Living Nativity. Patterns of sheep, stars and angels can be downloaded. You can simply print the pattern and trace and cut it out on poster board or cardboard. Decorate the sheep, star or angel and attach a paint stick or ruler to it. When Father is proclaiming the gospel and calls for the sheep, all who are sheep will come to the front, etc. The patterns will be available in the Grade School, Religious Education office and on the parish website. The Children's Choir will perform at this Mass.*



Worship

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

Second Reading: May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

Gospel: "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." (Jn 1:23)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/
Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,
16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3,
11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and
14/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3,
4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Thursday: St. Peter Canisius

Saturday: St. John of Kanty

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

Tree Lot Hours

MONDAY-FRIDAY 6PM-9PM

SATURDAY 10AM-8PM

SUNDAY 10AM-5:30PM



If you have questions, please contact us
at: ICTreelot@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:15AM †Francis Cruz, Jr. / Cadaoas Family

7:30AM †Charles LaMonica / Jo & Don

LaMonica

†James & Frances Brodnicki / Loretta

Kalina

†Clara Lomeli / Kaitlin Steele

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:15AM *Sharon Meyer

7:30AM †Tom Thrall / Thrall Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:15AM †Deceased members of the Campbell
& Crowley Families / Jack & Donna Campbell

7:30AM †Roberta Sobieraj / Jane Evans

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

6:15AM †Jerome & Bobbie Sobieraj /

Marianne & Brett Verner

7:30AM †John Growney / Joyce Callahan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:15AM †Art Sibik

7:30AM †Eileen Mulloy / Rose & Dick Kloak

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00AM †Pat D'Alessandro

4:30PM †Mary Flad / Jo & Don LaMonica

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30AM †Parish Family

9:00AM *Frank Guistolise / Jo & Don

LaMonica

11:00AM †Kevin Kelly

3:00PM Church †Conor Hendricks

Chapel †Deceased members of the

Thrall Family / Peggy Thrall

MPH †Edward Wolski / Taylor &

Avery Keller

5:00PM †Albin & Emily Stall / Stall Family

11:00PM †People of the Parish

†Denotes deceased

*Living Intention

You can visit the parish office to have a candle lit in honor of a living or deceased loved one at the Shrine of Saint Peregrine or the Sacred Heart Shrine. Each intention will be for a full week.

Week of December 17-23

Sacred Heart Candle: 50th Wedding Anniversary of
Chuck & Nancy Wallace

Stewardship of Our Prayer for...



We pray for those suffering from illness. Loving God, give strength and protection to all who struggle with illness of any kind. Calm their fears and uncertainties. Provide them with loving and tender care. Grant them courage when they are afraid and comfort when they are in pain.

Adkins, Finley	Koch, Susan
Bloc, Michael	Kuzlik, Therese
Bohn, Rob	Livorsi, Tom
Burke, Debbie	Lucchesi, Jim
Campbell, Donna	McCann, Mary
Devin	Pacurek, Michelle
Durgan, Bob	Quinn, Jack
Durgan, Lindsey	Reedy, Barbara
Durgan, Terri	Schramm, Colleen
Earnisse, Diane	Stella, Dawn
Earnisse, Dick	Teruel, Ellen
Ericksen, Kim	Toepfer, Al
Gow, Olivia	Vogel, Renee Moran
Kaprelian, Jean	Wilki, Carl

Please remember recently deceased family, friends and parishioners in your prayers. Grant them eternal rest and may your light shine on them forever.

“HEAVENLY FATHER, ACCEPT OUR PRAYERS WHICH WE OFFER FOR THEM”



We pray for the newly baptized babies in our church. May their journey of faith be one that is close to Jesus. We pray for their Godparents and parents as they bring Christ to the lives of the next generation of Catholics.

Baptized at Immaculate Conception in November:

- ◆ Isaac Zachary Denny
- ◆ Nathan Dale Denny
- ◆ Connor James Kirby
- ◆ Ashton James Peronto
- ◆ Malia Ann Wilkinson
- ◆ Elayna Catherine Stanko
- ◆ Daniel Brennan Naughton
- ◆ Francesca Marie Hermanek
- ◆ George Patrick Brophy
- ◆ Sebastian Fletcher Bettinazzi

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Give us peace. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

Maj. Joe Doyle, US Army, Son of Deb and Tom Doyle
1st Lt. Ryan Kenny, USMC, Son of Mary Beth Kenny
Pvt. Jeffery Crones, US Army, Grandson of Joan Leyden
Specialist Jonathan M. Pichler, US Army

Son of Ginny & Mark Gronek
 Grandson of Catherine Young

Sgt. Vincent Joseph Genthe, USMC Son of Denise Genthe

Capt. Jeffrey Robbins, USMC, Son of Barb & Larry Robbins, Grandson of Georgiana Ryan

Maj. Kevin Mott, US Army

Lt. Col. Andrew Tyson USMC

SGM Bill Benesi, US Army

Nephews of Greg & Mary Pat Vanderlaan

Paul Hornstra, USMC, ICHS Class of '09

Son of Paul and Dawn Hornstra

Cpl. Brittney Young, US Army,

Cousin of Denise and John Doherty

Lt. Joe Shannon, US Navy

Son of John & Maria Shannon

SSgt. Ethan Zielinski, USMC

Son of Michele & Dolph Zielinski

Capt. Christopher Bertucci, USMC,

Nephew of Mary Anne & Greg Luczak

Lt. Andrea Bertucci, US Navy

Niece of Mary Anne Luczak

Cpl. Joseph Fischer, USMC

Son of George & Sharon Fischer

Capt. Kathleen M. Donofrio, US Army Reserves,

Daughter of Tom & Marge Donofrio

Cpl. Cavan Sullivan, US Army

Grandsons of Mary Sullivan

Capt. Samuel Westhoff, US Army

Nephew of Tom and Sue Westhoff

1st Lt Matthew Kizys, US Army, son of

Marky and Nancy Tinsley

Chf. Warrant Officer John Dal Pino, US Army

Son of Joe and Valerie Dal Pino

1st Lt. Francesca Cervone, US Army, ICCP Class of '15,

Daughter of Jeanmarie Cervone,

Granddaughter of Cay Calcagno

Capt. Molly Manion, EOD US Army,

ICCP Class of '15,

Daughter of Tom & Nancy Manion

Granddaughter of Rita Manion

MAJ Thomas Gildea, US Army, Husband of Karina,

Father of Enya, Grace, and Ignacio

1st Lt. Kyle Koch, 1st Cavalry Division US Army, ICCP

Class of '15, son of Laura & Paul Koch

Capt. Carla A. Schuit, US Army Reserves,

Daughter of Lisa Schuit

1st. Lt. Grayson Becker, US Army

Lt. Keith Wolfe, CHC, US Navy

2023 ENGAGED COUPLES

Moira Hillsman & John Woodhull 12/29



75th Anniversary Diocese of Joliet



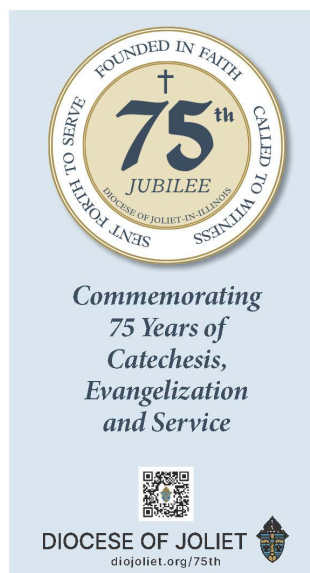
The second episode of the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Joliet podcast series launched this month. This month features St. Francis Xavier. Episodes will be released the first Monday of each month during the Jubilee celebration. Use the links below to watch or listen!

Watch: <https://bit.ly/3GomANh>

Listen: <https://bit.ly/3sYbH1Q>



On the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, December 3rd, a statue of the saint was blessed at the Blanchette Catholic Center. The statue will serve as a constant reminder of the patron saint of our diocese, since its founding in 1948. The model for the statue came from the existing statue that is in the Cathedral.



75th Anniversary Prayer

All-knowing and loving God,
we give you thanks for your blessings upon
the Diocese of Joliet.

For 75 years, we have been
founded in faith,
called to witness, and
sent forth to serve.

In thanksgiving
for your abiding presence among us,
and with gratitude for the life and service
of those who have gone before us,
we recommit ourselves
to carrying out this mission entrusted
to them, to us, and to future generations.

Relying on the intercession of our patron,
St. Francis Xavier,
may our diocese continue to be a source of hope
for the Church and all peoples,
now and in the years to come.

We pray this in the name
of Jesus, your Son
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Eucharistic Revival



The “O” Antiphons

An antiphon is a verse usually from Scripture said or sung before and after a canticle, psalm or psalm verse. The **O Antiphons** are a set of seven antiphons that are recited or chanted preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours during the special period of Advent known as the Octave before Christmas, from December 17-23. The “O Antiphons” are a way of expressing the Church’s belief in the reality and importance of the Eucharist.

According to Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer (Bishop Emeritus from San Angelo) there is an Advent message hidden in the “O Antiphons”. The first letters of each Antiphon form the Latin word “Sarcore”, which read backwards is “Ero Cras”, which means “Tomorrow I come.” Together, these antiphons spell out a hopeful message about the coming of the long-awaited Messiah, of Jesus. They emphasize the Church’s belief in the divinity of Jesus and in the importance of receiving the Eucharist as a way of drawing closer to God. During the final days of Advent, all are encouraged to daily pray each of these prayers.

DECEMBER 17: “O Sapientia”/ “O Wisdom” (Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29)

O Wisdom of our God Most High, Guiding creation with power and love: Come to teach us the path of knowledge!

DECEMBER 18: “O Adonai”/ “O Lord” (Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22)

O Leader of the House of Israel, Giver of the Law to Mount on Sinai: Come to rescue us with your mighty power!

DECEMBER 19: “O Radix Jesse”/ “O Root of Jesse” (Isaiah 11:1; 11:10)

O Root of Jesse’s stem, Sign of God’s love for all his people: Come to save us without delay!

DECEMBER 20: “O Clavis David”/ “O Key of David” (Isaiah 9:6; 22:22)

O Key of David, Opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom: Come and free the prisoners of darkness!

DECEMBER 21: “O Oriens”/ “O Dawn of the East” (Isaiah 9:2)

O Radiant Dawn, Splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death!

DECEMBER 22: “O Rex Gentiu”/ “O King of the Nations” (Isaiah 2:4; 9:7)

O King of all nations, and keystone of the Church: Come and save humankind, whom you formed from the dust!

DECEMBER 23: “O Emmanuel”/ “O God with Us” (Isaiah 7:14)

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: Come save us, our Lord our God



Parish Children's Choir

Open Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 20

4:30-5:00pm

Sacred Heart Chapel

All are welcome to join us for a program of favorite Christmas hymns!

Spiritual Classics

St. Alphonsus Liguori was the founder of the Redemptorist Order which focuses on imitating the life and virtues of Christ. His writings are practical and emphasize the love and mercy of God. These writings are so popular that he has become one of the best selling authors of all time.

For our discussion we will use the short book, *Talking with God*, which includes four of his treatises on the Interior Life, ISBN 978061556370. Our discussion will begin on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024 from 10:15 – 11:15 in the Dyer Center, and will continue for 10 sessions. For more information, please call Len Hohbein at 708-544-7928.



Morning of Reflection

Saturday, January 6, 2024

8:00 - 11:30 am

Marian Room in Parish Administration Center



Are you missing the light of Christ in your life? After the bustle of the holidays, do something for yourself and your relationship with Jesus Christ. Spend a Morning of Reflection with other women contemplating the light of Christ in our lives and how we reflect it to others.

We will begin with 8:00 Mass, followed by breakfast and fellowship.

A guest speaker from Mayslake Ministries and a small group discussion will help us gain perspective on the light of Christ in our lives.

RSVP preferred by January 1st to Donna Campbell at donnaccampbell@att.net or 630-805-0935. Or contact Donna for more information. Walk-ins welcome!



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of Immaculate Conception Parish are Christians who worship and glorify God as a sign of our faith. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim our faith to the world through prayer, education, concern, and service to our community. By participating in the sacraments and giving of our time, talent and treasure, we help to make Christ present and share God's love in our community and the world around us.

If you are new to our church or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not a home to you, we invite you to become part of our parish family. We are so glad you're here and hope you will come back again for Mass or become a parishioner.

Christian Ministry

Immaculate Conception Daybreak Transitional Housing for the Homeless 2023 Annual Appeal



For nearly 30 years, **Immaculate Conception Daybreak of Elmhurst** has rented apartments to house homeless families. This is a self-supporting ministry, funded solely through personal donations.

IC Daybreak commits to pay rent and utilities every month for the **FIVE** units it provides to those in need. Mentors meet with these families on a weekly basis to teach budgeting and life skills. Families transition out of these apartments within a two-year period. Since inception, **IC Daybreak has helped 90 families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.**

We currently have two families in Daybreak and just interviewed two new prospective families. We are extremely proud of our families' accomplishments. Your generosity in providing them safe shelter when it was needed, and our mentors' guidance has literally changed their lives. It is a privilege to work with those who want to change their lives. Our families all have unique stories, but they share in the same struggle to have a place to call "home" and learn the skills necessary to become and remain self-sufficient.

CAN YOU:

**FUND A FAMILY FOR A YEAR (\$12,000)? FUND A FAMILY FOR A MONTH (\$1,025)?
FUND A FAMILY FOR A WEEK (\$250) HELP IN ANY AMOUNT?**

Please prayerfully consider responding to the needs of the homeless within our community. **100%** of your donation is used for rent and utilities. **We need your financial support to continue this important outreach to homeless families. We are enormously grateful to those individuals and families who continue to support us year-after-year.**

Do you have questions about our program? Contact Dan Doherty at 630-292-8670

Please remit donations to IC Daybreak of Elmhurst, P. O. Box 2033, Elmhurst, IL 60126



LAST WEEKEND TO GIVE!!!

Our annual **Giving Tree** will consist of gifting retail or bank cards to our families in lieu of physical gifts, thereby allowing each family to purchase their own gifts.

In the past, we have purchased two gifts for each adult and three gifts for each child under the age of 18. Thus far, we have approximately 100 families on our giving list. Our names are vetted with other agencies to ensure that our recipients are not receiving anything elsewhere.

We will collect gift cards for Kohl's, Walmart and Target, along with Visa gift cards, in increments of \$25, \$50 or \$100. The generosity exhibited from our parish family in past years has been astounding. We are hopeful that Christmas, 2023 will prove to be as generous, especially since the need is great and resources for many people we serve remain meager. **Gift cards may be dropped off at the Rectory or in the collection basket from now until December 18.** Distribution to our families will occur on December 18. **Thank you** for your ongoing commitment to help those less fortunate.

If you or a loved one are in the hospital, please let us know. The priests of the Eastern DuPage deanery, and specifically priests from IC, Visitation, and Mary Queen of Heaven visit Elmhurst Hospital on most days. Call the office at 630-530-8515 or email us at info@icelmhurst.org so that we can make sure you're visited and that we can pray for you.



Calling or texting 988 will connect you with mental health professionals 24/7.





**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
GRADE SCHOOL**

630.530.3490

**FAITH. FAMILY.
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

ICGS 7th and 8th Graders attended the Called By Name Retreat at St. Isaac Jogues. It was a wonderful day shared with 11 schools within the Diocese of Joliet and filled with messages about God's unique plan for us all.



A CALL FOR SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

The ICGS Science Fair will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 in Plunkett Hall. The fair begins at 2:45 pm and will run until approximately 5:30 pm. For more information, please call the school office at 630-530-3490 or email Barb Repking at brepking@icgradeschoolelmhurst.org. Thank you in advance for helping provide this opportunity for our students!

**ICGS Distinguished Graduate Award
Nominations Being
Accepted!**

Do you know an ICGS alum (graduated 10+ years ago) who has made a significant impact on the Catholic Church or American Life? Nominate them for this special award! Email nominations to: development@icgradeschoolelmhurst.org

Have an ICGS Alumni update? Email us at development@icgradeschoolelmhurst.org

ICCP
IC CATHOLIC PREP

LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.

*Save
THE
Date*

FEBRUARY 24, 2024



ANNUAL KNIGHT OF JEWELS GALA
Saturday, February 24, 2024
The Drake Oak Brook
2301 York Road
Oak Brook, IL

**COACHES VS.
CANCER
EVENT**

ALL BASKETBALL LEVELS WILL PLAY
ON SATURDAY 1/20

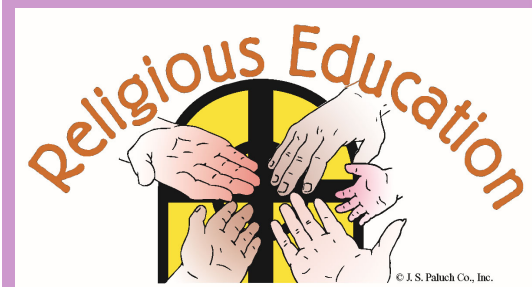
BOYS BASKETBALL WILL TAKE
ON CHICAGO HOPE ACADEMY

GIRLS BASKETBALL WILL TAKE
ON TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN

MASS at 4:30PM



Calling all ICGS Class of 2019 graduates! There will be a retake of the College T-shirt Photo on Sunday, December 17th, immediately following the 7pm Mass.



<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Sunday RE</u>	<u>Wednesday RE</u>
December 17	December 17	January 10
January 7	January 21	

Thank you to all families who joined us for our Family Advent event on Tuesday, December 5th. Your participation was appreciated. Let us continue to celebrate this holy season as we look to Christmas.

RE families are reminded to check the RE class calendar for scheduled sessions during the holiday months.

Families are invited to join us for the Christmas Eve Family Liturgy. Children are encouraged to participate in the Gospel story using the Nativity characters they cut out and color and bring to the liturgy. These characters may be found on the IC website and the RE website.

Youth Ministry



Please pray for the high school students of IC parish this week! They will be finishing up the semester with projects, papers and preparing for final exams!

Holy Spirit, please bless the teens at IC. Open their heart so they embrace the peace and presence of Jesus this week! Provide them with focus during their study time, gratitude for their blessings, health during this season, and success with academics and their personal pursuits.

If you have a teen that is stressing out, visit the IC Youth Ministry website (under Faith Formation) for tips on how to manage the feeling of overwhelm this week!

All teens and friends are invited to the "Students of Impact" monthly Youth Nights in Costello Hall from 5:30-7:00 pm. Teens will meet new and friendly people, enjoy great food, and be empowered to connect with God and become their BEST SELF!



Year End Giving

Advent is a time of preparation. The days ahead will seem to go by quickly as we decorate our homes, go shopping and attend the many gatherings that come with the holiday season. Yet, we encourage everyone to carve out time for quiet prayer and create a special place to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

Another way to prepare for the end of the year is through charitable giving. When we look back at the countless blessings many of us have received throughout the year, we hope that you will consider special ways to give back to the Lord for all He has given us. Please remember your spiritual home, Immaculate Conception, as well as our We are IC! Capital Campaign, as you discern your year-end gifts. For traditional monetary donations, contributions may be deductible for tax purposes. Whether you are using offertory envelopes or taking advantage of the safe and convenient Online Giving program, proper credit will be reflected on your Parishioner statement. As a reminder, you can access the Online Giving program on the IC Parish website by clicking the orange "Donate Online" button on the left.

Following are a few alternatives to traditional donations for your consideration. Please know that any form of donation is humbly and greatly appreciated.

Qualified Charitable Distributions

These typically include contributions from Donor Advised Funds, Required Minimum Distributions (RMD), or annuities. If you have an established Donor Advisor Fund or are contemplating creating one, please consider including Immaculate Conception as a charitable recipient of a donation from the fund. A Donor Advised Fund is administered by a third party for the primary purpose of managing contributions to charitable organizations, such as Immaculate Conception Parish.

Additionally, if you are age 70 ½ or older, you can contact your IRA Fund Administrator and arrange for a tax-free direct transfer of your RMD to Immaculate Conception as a charitable donation. By doing a direct transfer from your IRA, the donation may satisfy your required distribution yet may not increase your adjusted gross income for tax purposes.

Stock Donation

For those who may own stocks, a review of your stock portfolio before year end is possibly advantageous. For example, if you have stock(s) that have decreased in value over the past years, you may want to consider donating this stock to Immaculate Conception Parish. The donation could be eligible for a charitable contribution tax deduction, but also may offset capital gains for this year. If stock has increased in value, you may be able to claim a deduction for the full fair market value and eliminate any tax on the appreciation.

Employer Matching Gifts

Companies frequently match their employee's monetary contributions. If your employer has this type of program, please consider utilizing it on behalf of our Immaculate Conception Grade School or High School. Many corporations offer employee matching gift programs for educational institutions.

Charitable Gifts from Your Will or Trust

An easy way to make a gift to Immaculate Conception is to include a bequest in your will or trust. You can give a specific sum, a percentage of your gross estate or your residuary estate. The diocese has partnered with FreeWill to make planned giving easier than ever. Visit freewill.com/diocesefojoliet to write a will at no personal cost, and include the necessary language to support Immaculate Conception with a gift in your plans. FreeWill's online will writing tools allow you to make a lasting gift to IC quickly and easily.

If you have any questions relative to year end giving options,
please contact Colleen Lewandowski at 630-530-8848 or at clewandowski@icelmhurst.org.

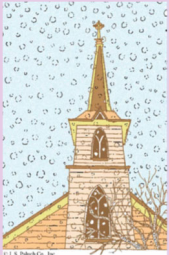
Thank you for your continued support. We are I.C.!



Stewardship of Time and Treasure

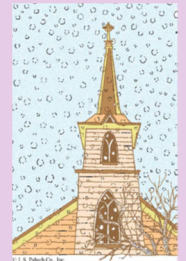
**For a complete schedule of liturgical ministers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses go to www.icelmhurst.org
If you have questions or a request to serve, please contact Marianne Sajn at 630-530-3498 or email msajn@icelmhurst.org**

Thank you for giving the gift of your time!



**PRESIDER'S SCHEDULE
DECEMBER 23 & 24
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

4:30 pm Fr. Tom assisted by Mr. Frank Perrotta
7:30 am Fr. Michael Pawlowicz
9:00 am Fr. Jeremy assisted by Deacon John
11:00 am Fr. Tom



DECEMBER 24 & 25

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

3:00pm Church Fr. David Mowry
3:00 pm Sacred Heart Chapel Fr. Tom assisted by Mr. Frank Perrotta
3:00 pm Plunkett Hall Fr. Jeremy
5:00 pm Fr. Michael Pawlowicz
11:00 pm Fr. Jeremy
7:30 am Fr. Conway
9:00 am Fr. Tom assisted by Mr. Frank Perrotta
11:30 am Fr. Jeremy and Fr. Michael Pawlowicz



Christmas Memorial Flowers



This year, we are giving our parishioners the opportunity to remember their deceased family members by donating flowers in their memory. The many beautiful Christmas plants that will adorn our Church and Chapel can be given in memory of loved ones. A list of those remembered will be included in the bulletin at a later date.

A flower envelope was included in your envelope packets - they are also available in the Narthex. You can also fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket or return it to the Parish Office.

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PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

In Loving Memory of: _____

Donated by: _____

Amount Donated: \$ _____ (Suggested donation is \$20 per plant)