A detailed mosaic depicting the Annunciation of Mary. On the left, the Virgin Mary is shown in profile, wearing a blue mantle over a brown robe, with her hands clasped in prayer. On the right, the Angel Gabriel is shown in profile, wearing a white and blue robe, with his hands raised in a gesture of proclamation. The background is a complex mosaic of gold, brown, and blue tiles, creating a textured, shimmering effect. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional Byzantine or Italian mosaic art.

BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN
SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON,
AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL,
WHICH MEANS "GOD IS WITH US."

MATTHEW 1:23



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019

Immaculate Conception Parish



Fourth Week of Advent



Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, when we light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath. Today's candle is the Angel Candle, or sometimes called the Candle of Love. We are reminded that the Angels announced the Good News of a Savior. We are also reminded of God's great love for us, and his only Son Jesus, who was sent to save us.

If you have an Advent Wreath at home, consider reciting this scripture passage as you light the first candle of Advent:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."
(John 3:16-17)

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.

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.

"The Lord is Coming"

Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24

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

5:00 pm Sacred Heart Chapel

11:00 pm Church

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

(Incense will be used at the 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Masses on Christmas Eve.)

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25

7:30 am Church

9:00 am Sacred Heart Chapel

11:30 am Sacred Heart Chapel

(No 5:15 p.m. Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Day)

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

Thursday, December 26 8:00 a.m. 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.*



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.

.....
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

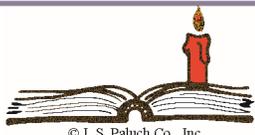
In Loving Memory Of: _____

Donated by: _____

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



Worship



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Welcome to the Word

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign:
The virgin shall conceive and bear a son
(Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalm — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory
(Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to
belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called
Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins
(Matthew 1:18-24).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* ©
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab,
8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps
89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

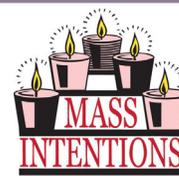
Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17,
27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;
Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13;
Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6,
11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6;
Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4,
6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12;
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8;
Mt 2:13-18

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5;
Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:15AM—†Francis Butler / Mickey & Mark Tovey
7:30AM—†Judy Qualgla / Pat & Tom Hill

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00AM—†Sean Lorenzen
3:00PM—†(Church) Conor Hendricks / Family
3:00PM—†(Sacred Heart Chapel) Rose & Stephen
Paul / Family
3:00PM—†(Plunkett Hall) Rosemarie Cougar-Parent /
Friends at Elmhurst Independent
5:00PM—†Albin & Emily Stall / Stall Family
11:00PM—†People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30AM—†Gwen & Tom Eddington & Family / Family
9:00AM—†George Hanrahan Family / Family
†Rose & Urban Phillips
†Francis Maloney / Bridget Maloney
†Frank Connell
11:30AM—†Fanelli & Orfei Family / Dolly Orfei

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:00AM—†Alan Montella / Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

6:15AM—†Regla Diaz / Martha Sosa
7:30AM—†Carl & Dorothy Moe / Karin Broton

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00AM—†Barry Tharp / Debbie Tharp
5:15PM—†Rose & Erik Hawkinson / Mary & Jean
Hawkinson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:30AM—†Parish Family
9:00AM—†Rennell Brown / Tom & Sue Westhoff
†David Rochford / Tom & Gladys Smith
†Catherine Buckley / Tom & Mary Cellitti
†Fran Butler
11:30AM—In Thanksgiving / Olivia Gow
5:15PM—Anniversary of Grace and Joe Barney

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. John of Kanty;
Hanukkah begins
Tuesday: Vigil of Christmas
Wednesday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Thursday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins;
Boxing Day (Canada)
Friday: St. John
Saturday: The Holy Innocents



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.*

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ancel, Brian | Kaprelian, Jean |
| Armato, Mique | LaMonica, Don |
| Chaplin, Scott | Pape, Mary |
| Curtin, Judith | Rogers, Fr. Jerry |
| Dunagan, Kevin | Ross, Bernadette |
| Frer, Michele | Roderer, David |
| Frer, Mike | Somora, Angela |
| Genthe, Denise | Thielen, James |
| Hernandez, German | Vana, Kathie |
| Johnson, Matt | Wilki, Susan |

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



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 in November at Immaculate Conception:

- * Michael Muisenga Quinn
- * Charles Erik Faust
- * Cecilia Noelle Ford
- * Vada Jean Lipka
- * Braden Cullen Penalosa
- * Evelyn Coby Walsh
- * Hayes McCallen Canfield
- * Connor Patrick Lynch
- * Maeve Elizabeth Tobin



**Congratulations to
Abigale West &
Charles Limjoco
Married December 21, 2019
Immaculate Conception,
Elmhurst, IL**

Our Troops

- Lt. Joe Doyle**, US Army, Son of Deb and Tom Doyle
- 1st Lt. Ryan Kenny**, USMC, Son of Mary Beth Kenny
- 1st Sgt. Melinda Jolly**, USMC
Daughter of Linda and Tom Makinney
- Pvt. Jeffery Crones**, US Army, Grandson of Joan Leyden
- Cpl. Ben Gieser**, USMC, son of Monica and William Gieser
- Specialist Jonathan M. Pichler**, US Army,
Son of Ginny & Mark Gronek, Grandson of Catherine Young
- Capt. Andrew Smyrniotis**, USAF, Brother of Stephanie Alfini
- Recruit Garrett Gong**, USMC
- LCpl. Troy Rosenbury**, USMC
- Cpl. Zack Bright**, USMC
- Sgt. Ben Bright**, USMC, Friend of the Genthe Family
- LCpl. 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
Nephew of Greg & Mary Pat Vanderlaan
- Paul Hornstra**, USMC, ICHS Class of '09
Son of Paul and Dawn Hornstra
- Sgt. Patrick O'Hara**, USM
Nephew of Francis & Sheila O'Hara
- Cpl. Brittney Young**, US Army,
Cousin of Denise and John Doherty
- Lt. Joe Shannon**, US Navy, Son of John & Maria Shannon
- Cpl. Matthew R. Mundle**, USMC Grandson of Evelyn Mundle
- Sgt. 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 & Greg Luczak
- Cpl. Joseph Fischer**, USMC Son of George & Sharon Fischer
- Capt. Kathleen M. Donofrio**, US Army Reserves,
Daughter of Tom & Marge Donofrio
- Pfc. Ian Morser**, USMC, Son of John and Tracy Morser
Cousin of Todd and Ellen Greer
- Sgt. Matthew Schlipper**, USMC, Son of Martha McAllister
- LCpl. Jack Mallon**, USMC, Grandson of Mary and Bob Mallon
Nephew of Mark Mallon and Lauren Lent
- 2nd. Lt. Dylan Sullivan**, US Army
Grandson of Mary Sullivan
- Capt. Samuel Westhoff**, US Army
Nephew of Tom and Sue Westhoff
- 1st. Lt. Liam Hendricks**, 101st Airborne, ICCP Class of '14
Son of Tim and Julie Hendricks
- 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
- 2nd Lt. Francesca Cervone**, US Army, ICCP Class of '15,
Daughter of Jeanmarie Cervone,
Granddaughter of Cay Calcagno
- 2nd Lt. Molly Manion**, US Army, ICCP Class of '15, Daughter
of Tom and Nancy Manion Granddaughter of Rita Manion
- MAJ Thomas Gildea**, US Army, Husband of Karina, Father of
Enya, Grace, and Ignacio
- 2nd. Lt. Kyle Koch**, 1st Cavalry Division US Army, ICCP
Class of '15, son of Laura & Paul Koch
- Sgt. Carla A. Schuit**, US Army Reserves,
Daughter of Lisa Schuit

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 23

6:15 am Mass Church

7:30 am Mass Church

Tuesday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**

8:00 am Mass Church

3:00 pm Mass Church

3:00 pm Mass Sacred Heart Chapel

3:00 pm Mass Plunkett Hall

5:00 pm Mass Sacred Heart Chapel

11:00 pm Mass Church

Wednesday, December 25 **Christmas**

7:30 am Mass Church

9:00 am Mass Sacred Heart Chapel

11:30 am Mass Sacred Heart Chapel

Thursday, December 26

8:00 am Mass Church

Friday, December 27

6:15 am Mass Church

7:30 am Mass Church

Saturday, December 28

8:00 am Mass Church

No Reconciliation Today

5:15 pm Mass Sacred Heart Chapel

Sunday, December 29

7:30 am Mass Church

9:00 am Mass Sacred Heart Chapel

11:30 am Mass Sacred Heart Chapel

5:15 pm Mass Sacred Heart Chapel



Coming Sunday January 5, 2020

Fr. McDonald Council #1911



Blood Drive

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Visitation Parish Hospitality Center

779 S. York Road, Elmhurst

**Many medications, diabetes, tattoos
and cancer survivors acceptable!**

**FREE Cholesterol Screening and
FREE Blood Typing!
Walk-ins Welcome!**

or register: Call Vitalant at 877.258-4825
Online at www.vitalant.org; code 026G.



Christ Renews His Parish Women's Renewal Weekend

January 25th-26th, 2020

Register online at icelmhurst.org.
Press the 'Women' CRHP button at the top of the
homepage.

For more information,
contact ahohbein@icelmhurst.org.

Please RSVP by January 20th, 2020



shutterstock: 100099481

A CALL FOR SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

The ICGS Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 here in Plunkett Hall We have seventh grade students that need their projects judged. Projects are independently judged against a set of objective scientific criteria. We are looking for more volunteers to judge projects in the areas of consumer science, biology, chemistry, physics, behavioral health, etc. The fair begins at 3:15 and will run until approximately 6:00PM. For more information, please call the school office at 630-530-3490. Thank you in advance for helping to provide this opportunity for our students!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Holy Season of Advent draws to a close, we will soon be celebrating the Anniversary of the Birth of Our Lord. The Great Feast of Christmas serves as a great witness of the tremendous love that God has for us. It's hard to put into words the immensity of this gift. God, our generous father, chose to send His only son, Jesus, into our world. I hope and pray that your celebrations will be filled with much happiness and love.

A word of welcome to visitors and family members who will come home or have already arrived to be with us during this season. It is also a special blessing to have our many college students return. May our many guests recognize the loving embrace of our parish family.

In the fall of 2018, we began our **We Are IC!** Capital Campaign for the renewal of Sacred Heart Chapel. We have seen a great response to the request that had been made for support for this effort. Likewise, some of the work has already been accomplished and/or is near completion. New doors were listed amongst the many needed items to update the chapel. We are very blessed that they have been installed and that they also have been fitted with an electronic safety system for both opening and closing. All of the windows that were installed in the early 1960's have been replaced. Asbestos caulk that was in the frames has been removed. Eight beautiful sections of stained glass are now part of the chapel. In the next few months, more of the windows on the east side will be added. Each set of two windows will include an image of a saint and a symbol related to that person. Some of the newest saints in our church will form this family of holy men and women that will surround us. Our new elevator is nearing completion. The long awaited dream of having an elevator that will service all three levels of the parish center building will soon be a reality. If all goes according to plan, without any holdups, we will have a blessing of the elevator on January 12th following the 9am Mass. More information will soon be available.

In October of this year, we published an update of the work completed and yet to be done along with a financial summary. It is our hope to do the major work of renovation and renewal in Sacred Heart Chapel beginning at the end of May. Following this timeline, we pray that we will then be able to rededicate it somewhere around our parish feast day, December 8, 2020. In the report, it was stated that as of September 15th a total of \$2,031,089.04 had been pledged or donated towards the campaign. It was also stated that the projects already completed or those in production cost \$1,414,096.62. The projected cost to complete the remaining work in Sacred Heart Chapel is \$2,000,000. As of September 15th, we were in need of \$1,383,007.58 to complete the project. We have been very blessed with generous donations and pledges. As of December 6, 2019 we have received in donations and pledges \$2,250,549.99. In order to complete the project, we are now in need of \$1,163,546.63. In order to begin the work on our proposed time table, it will be very important to have as much cash as possible on hand. Anything that you can do to help us reach this need will certainly make a difference.

Once our chapel has been renewed, it will become a beautifully dedicated space in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May all the future find great comfort through the loving heart of Christ. Thank you for your loving and continued support. I will continue, especially during the upcoming Holy Christmas Season, to keep all of you in my prayers in a special way.

Merry Christmas,
Father Tom

Immaculate Conception Grade School 530-3490

IC Catholic Prep 530-3460



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
OPEN HOUSE & NEW STUDENT
REGISTRATION:**

**Sunday, January 26, 2020 from
10am to 1pm.**

**Bring child's birth & baptismal certifs.,
last 4 #'s of SS #,
and \$300 deposit (made payable to ICGS).**

**Schedule a personal tour with
Mrs. Sheila Wachholder and see what makes
ICGS different.**

Call 630-530-3490 today!

4th Grade Celebrates Christmas Around the World

On Thursday, December 5th, our 4th grade students, after having researched the Christmas customs of a chosen country, displayed presentation boards and answered questions at a Christmas Around the World fair in MPH. They also dressed according to the colors and/or customs of their country.





**IC Grade School
REUNION**

Alumni, Alumni Parents
Faculty & Staff

*Register &
Spread the Word*

1.31.20

7 - 11 pm
Pints/Elmhurst

**Register for Reunion at
www.icgradeschoolelmhurst.org**



*Merry
Christmas*

FROM IC CATHOLIC PREP



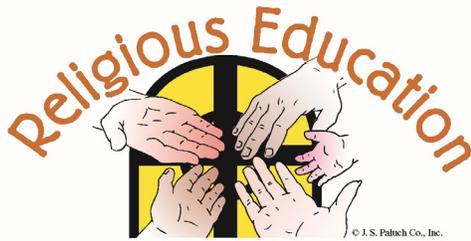
Giving to IC Catholic Prep Checklist:

- Give to the Annual Fund*
- Save on IL Tax with Invest in Kids*
- Set up a Planned Gift*
- Give to a Named Scholarship*



iccatholicprep.org/giving

Religious Education 530-3483



Second Semester begins on January 5 (Sunday) and January 8 (Wednesday), 2020

We are pleased to announce the date of Immaculate Conception's Confirmation. It will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2020, in the Sacred Heart Chapel at 2:00pm. The Most Reverend Francis Kane, Auxiliary Bishop from the Archdiocese of Chicago will be conferring the Sacrament. The reception will follow immediately afterwards in Plunkett Hall. Please mark this important date on your calendars.

Parents are reminded to use these Christmas vacation days to review RE lessons with their children and to pray the Act of Contrition with their 2nd Graders. The Celebration of 1st Reconciliation will take place in early February.

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, sin no more, and to avoid whatever led me to sin. Amen

All families are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve Family Liturgy on December 24th at 3pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Children from 4 years old through 2nd Grade may participate in the Living Nativity. Details are provided on the RE website.

Are you looking for a service project in the new year? Our RE Program is still in need of adults to assist as substitute Catechists and/or Catechist Aides. If you are willing to share your time and faith, please contact Sr. Mary Francis.



Our next Protecting God's Children workshop will be held on **Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30PM** in the Rectory. To register, please access www.icelmhurst.org and click on the "Promise to Protect/Pledge to Heal" icon on the left side. Click on "begin registration" and you will see all of the workshops offered throughout the diocese.

Individuals working with minor children or vulnerable adults must attend this workshop prior to beginning their volunteer work. You may attend the workshop at a location of your choice, but must remit the Certificate of Attendance to IC upon completion. Please contact Pam Stefik at 630-530-3497 with any questions.

Christian Ministry

'TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE THANKS....

The Christian Ministry Office at IC would not and could not exist without the multitude of volunteers AND donors to its many Ministries. We fed and provided gifts for over 120 families this year. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach programs are massive undertakings and we would like to publicly acknowledge and thank many people.



- All who donated food, turkeys, grocery gift cards or money
- Elmhurst Elks Lodge #1531 for donating 20 complete Thanksgiving dinners
- Chicagoland Italian-American Charitable Organization for donating 20 complete Thanksgiving dinners
- The ICGS third grade class who purchased socks for St. Mary's Mission School students and provided food for our pantry as part of their Thanksgiving feast
- ICCP who collected cleaning products for our food pantry
- Jan Dorner, our chairperson for the One World Fair Trade Market
- Our One World Market volunteers who decorated the hall, helped the vendors load / unload their items and assisted with clean-up
- Kristin Suwanski, family and friends who adopted all of the Greencastle seniors for Thanksgiving and provided each with a bag of personal and cleaning sundries
- Scholle IPN in Northlake for fulfilling 40 Christmas gift tags
- Each and every volunteer who strung tags, decorated envelopes, sorted food, assembled food baskets or gift boxes, delivered baskets and gift boxes, distributed the food baskets and/or gift boxes, decorated our Giving Trees, assisted in the box assembly, acted as a "runner" at one of the Sunday Masses or otherwise assisted in our outreach programs
- Our Thanksgiving Chairpersons, Jill Riecker and Ann Kilgast and our Giving Tree Chairpersons Kathleen Hillsman, Cindy Gornick, Maureen McNicholas, Maria Shannon, and Sharon Whiteside for their leadership and dedication
- All who took gift tags and provided gifts and or/gift cards to over 120 families
- Thirty five families or individuals who adopted entire families for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas
- All who so generously donated to PADS
- All who donated extra gifts, gift cards or gave monetary donations
- Hasset Commercial Movers and Marty Schiller who provide all the packing boxes for our gifts every year
- Advanced Orthodontic Specialists in Elmhurst for donating toys from their annual toy drive and serving hot chocolate and cookies at the time of our Christmas gift distribution
- Anyone who prayed for the success of our programs and clients
- Anyone that I have inadvertently omitted

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting the IC outreach programs.



Immaculate Conception Daybreak Transitional Housing for the Homeless 2019 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 80 families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.**

We have recently added a new family to our program and two families will transition out in May, 2020. It is a privilege to work with those who want to change their lives. participating in our program. We are currently interviewing for our fifth family. Our families all have unique stories, but share in the same struggle to have a place to call "home" and learn the skills necessary to become and remain self-sufficient. We currently have 15 mentors working with our families.

**CAN YOU: FUND A FAMILY FOR A YEAR (\$12,000)? FUND A FAMILY FOR A MONTH (\$995)?
FUND A FAMILY FOR A WEEK (\$250) HELP IN ANY AMOUNT?**

IC Daybreak Transitional Housing is helping to solve the problem of homelessness one family at a time. 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.**

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



Give Blood...



Give Life.

The experience of grief is different for everyone. There are, however, common emotions that we all experience. Beginning on Monday, January 20 and continuing for six weeks, we will offer a bereavement support group for anyone mourning the loss of a loved one. Your loss can be old or new. Sessions will begin at 6:30 PM in the PAC Rectory. If you would like some help to understand and process your grief, please plan to attend. Please contact Pam at 630-530-3497 to RSVP or to request additional information.

SAVE THE DATE....IC BLOOD DRIVE IS BEING HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26.

SIGN-UP IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 IN THE NARTHEX.



Join Us! Purchase a ticket for a seat on the bus.

Fill out the form and mail or return to the Parish Office: 134 Arthur Street, Elmhurst.

You can also purchase tickets online at Eventbrite.com by searching for March for Life Elmhurst.

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL _____

FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

TOTAL # OF MARCHERS: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT PAID: _____

Please make checks payable to Immaculate Conception Parish. Must be received by January 8th.
Contact Tess Hill with any questions at 630-732-1129 or t.hill@lwreedy.com

A Christmas Day Prayer

Praise to You, Lord God!
You have become one of us -- You have become a human being, while still retaining all your power and holiness as God!
You, O Lord, made the journey of the unborn child. By being an embryo, a fetus, and a newborn, you joined all unborn and newborn children to you!
From the beginning of history, O Lord, You were the Creator of every human life. Now, with Christmas, You join Yourself in an unthinkable way with the life You created.
Let this Christmas, O God, fill all of us with awe and wonder at how close human life is to You. Cleanse the world of all that tarnishes and rejects this gift. Purify our hearts of all that fears this gift.
Let our Christmas joy be the joy of welcoming *every human life!*
Amen!

**Respect Life Holy Hour
Rosary and Benediction
Thursday, December 26,
at 7:00 pm
Immaculate Conception
Church
Continuing on the 4th
Thursday of each Month**

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 are 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 satisfies your required distribution yet does 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 maybe advantageous. For example, if you have stock(s) that may 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 provide an offset to capital gains that you may have 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.

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

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

Stewardship of Treasure

Weekly sharing was not available at the time of bulletin publication.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS
 Our Parish Offices are closed for Christmas Break. We will open on Thursday, January 2 at 8:30 am.

Stewardship of Time

Time	Lectors	Servers	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday, Dec 28 5:15 PM	A. Paprocki (1) T. Paprocki (2)	R. Williamson (1) C. Phillips (2) T. Phillips (3) A. Bucolo (4)	P. Ahern, M. Cadaoas J. Geiger, J. Geiger M. Paprocki, S. Scott N. Williamson
Sunday, Dec 29 7:30 AM	T. Hill (1) T. Sullivan (2)	J. Petkus (1) M. Hilgart (2) N. Levy (3)	P. Cello, W. Dudek L. Hays, T. Hilgart J. Hilgart, M. Hilgart
Sunday, Dec 29 9:00 AM	D. La Monica (1) S. Whiteside (2)	J. DiMarco (1) M. DiMarco (2) P. McConnell (3) J. Guttilla (4)	J. Frey, B. Harezlak J. McConnell, M. O'Leary L. Reilly, S. Reilly
Sunday, Dec 29 11:30 AM	R. Cello (1) B. Buis (2)	E. Dacre (1) F. Spizzirri (2) A. Spizzirri (3) L. Reedy (4)	D. Garcia
Sunday, Dec 29 5:15 PM	D. Schierl (1) J. Vosicky (2)	C. Ptak (2) W. Gibbons (3)	J. Carroll, C. Cohen

Presider Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00 Sacred Heart Chapel	Fr. Tom assisted by Brian Geary
3:00 Church	Fr. James assisted by D. Michael (homily)
3:00 Plunkett Hall	Fr. Kearney assisted by D. John
5:00 Sacred Heart Chapel	Fr. James assisted by D. Michael (homily)
11:00 Church	Fr. Tom & Fr. James Assisted by Brian Geary & D. Michael (homily)

Christmas Day, December 25

7:30 Church	Fr. Conway
9:00 Sacred Heart Chapel	Fr. Tom assisted by Brian Geary
11:30 Sacred Heart Chapel	Fr. James assisted by D. Michael and Brian Geary

December 28 & 29

5:15	Fr. Tom assisted by D. Michael (homily)
7:30	Fr. James assisted by D. John
9:00	Fr. Tom assisted by D. Michael (homily)
11:30	Fr. Tom assisted by D. Michael (homily)
5:15	Fr. James

Christ the Apple Tree - by Stanford Scriven

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green; the trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the apple tree. This beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought; I miss of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree. I'm wearied with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile; under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.