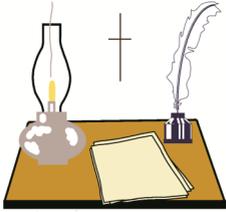


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

January 2019 Newsletter

From the

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Pastor's desk

© Migdala Galarriz

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope and pray that this special time of the year has been a source of many blessings for all of you. This year, we are very fortunate that the Christmas Season lasts a little bit longer than it has in recent years. On January 6 we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. On January 13 we will celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Both of these days are significant celebrations of the Christmas Season. We return to the ordinary time of the year on January 14th. Many people, however, keep the European custom of keeping their cribs present within their homes until February 2nd, the Feast of the

Presentation. No matter how long you keep your Christmas decorations around, try to keep the spirit of Christmas alive within your hearts. Many Christmas songs speak about how good it would be if every day were like Christmas. I'm sure you have seen, as I have also experienced the overwhelming kindness and love that is present at this time of the year. The spirit of Christmas does not have to fade away on the 14th of January. THE GOOD NEWS of the birth of Christ is a tremendous message of hope and love that we can bring into every day of the new year. If we all try to keep this message present in our words and actions, think about what a better place our world will be.

Thank you to all who have been so generous in so many ways to our parish during this season. The tremendous outpouring of gifts for those in need made a great difference in the lives of many. The many extra hours that so many sent in helping our parish prepare for Christmas cannot be counted. Our Christmas liturgies were beautifully celebrated because of the many liturgical ministers who assisted in countless ways. Our environment in the Church, Chapel, and MPH came from the dedicated service of staff and parishioners. It was also very encouraging to see the large number of people in attendance at all of our liturgies on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Likewise, so many came to Mass on the Holy Day, January 1st, to start the new year.

Father Chris, the seminarians, and I are also very grateful for the many personal expressions of Christmas that we received. We truly appreciate the cards sent to us by parishioners as well as the many kind gifts that came our way. We also hope that you have enjoyed the parish Christmas book. There are still a few copies available in the narthex of the Church. The beautifully wrapped gifts were prepared by many dedicated parish members under the guidance of Ray Hill.

May 2019 be a year of great blessings and much happiness for our community, families, and friends. Your ongoing generosity to the We Are IC Capital Campaign will help us to move forward as funds are available to renovate the Sacred Heart Chapel. We look forward to the installation of the elevator in June, 2019 and the rest of the project to take place as soon as possible.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Tom

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Father Christopher Lankford
January, 2019

Dear Friends,

Last year at this time I noted what a gift it is to have memories. "Thanks be to God we have memories. The ability to go back and reflect upon past experiences, even though we can't be there in person. Now as things start to settle down, and we get back to the regular routine, let us take some time to use our memories. To go back, take some quiet time, and live again the experiences and the graces of the past couple weeks. To go back where you encountered God in these days and relive that moment with Him, truly embracing the blessings He was giving you." These words still feel true. 2018 was a wonderful year. So many things happened and I am so grateful to be able to think back upon them.

This is such an exciting time. As we look forward to 2019, we get to decide what kind of memories we will make. We get to choose what new things we do and see. I challenge myself and all of you to make this a year filled with kindness and grace. I pray and hope that when we reflect back on 2019 Christ is prominent in every memory. I pray that He is in every picture of every day in our minds. Let us allow Baby Jesus to be with us as we journey through this new year.

God Bless you all,
Fr. Chris

January Prayer

God of the universe,

Guardian of all creatures great and small, We bless you for the wonder of this new day.
Strengthen our spirits and guide our steps today.

May everything we accomplish begin with your grace, go forward with your assistance,
and be completed in your name.

The light of Christ shines in our hearts, And so we raise our voices in praise.

All honor and glory be yours, dear God, now and always.

Amen.

The Epiphany of the Lord



The blessing of the home on the Epiphany is an invitation to Jesus to be a daily guest in our lives and to bless all who come in and out of our home. There will be cards available to take home this weekend which include the following prayer to pray and chalk. The tradition is to write the numbers of the new year over your front door with the chalk. Pictured above are the numbers for 2019. C+M+B are the cross and initials of the Magi:

Caspar, **M**elchior and **B**althazar. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (Christ bless this house).

Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, the thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

We encourage you to participate in this activity.



A Message from Seminarian Michael Groth:

As part of the academic curriculum of Mundelein Seminary, I will be making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land beginning this Friday. Myself, my classmates, and some of our professors, will be spending the next nine weeks learning, praying, and encountering some of the principle sites of our faith. I would like to remember you, your families, and your prayer intentions as I visit these holy sites. You can send your intentions to me via email: mgroth@icelmhurst.org. Be assured that you and your intentions are in my heart as I travel on this pilgrimage.

Around the Parish in January

Mass schedule

Saturday	5:15p.m.	Sacred Heart Chapel
Sunday	7:30a.m.	Church
	9:00a.m.	Sacred Heart Chapel
	11:30a.m.	Sacred Heart Chapel
	5:15p.m.	Sacred Heart Chapel

January Reconciliation Times

Friday 4th-Following	6:15am	Mass Church
Saturday 5th	4-4:45pm	Church
Saturday 12th	4-4:45pm	Church
Saturday 19th	4-4:45pm	Church
Saturday 26th	4-4:45pm	Church

Wednesday, January 2 Respect Life Meeting
6:30-9pm PAC Christian Ministry Meeting Rm

Thursday, January 3 Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Thursday, January 3 Baptism Prep 7pm Resource Room

Weekend 5/6

ICGS Raffle Ticket Sales and Weekend Food collection accepted at all Masses

Sunday, January 6 RCIA Journey 8am-Noon PAC Resource Room

Sunday, January 6 Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center

Sunday, January 6 Religious Education 10:10-11:15am ICGS Classrooms

Monday, January 7 ICCP and ICGS Classes Resume

Monday, January 7 Transitional Housing Meeting 6:30pm Resource Room

Monday, January 7 ICCP Booster Club Meeting 7pm Costello Hall

Tuesday, January 8 Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass PAC-Resource Room

Tuesday, January 8 Cup of Hope 10-11:30am PAC Meeting Room 2

Tuesday, January 8 Grade School Board Meeting 6:30pm Dyer Center

Wednesday, January 9 Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room

Wednesday, January 9 Religious Education 5:10-6:15pm ICGS Classrooms

Wednesday, January 9 ICCP Board Meeting 7pm Dyer Center

Thursday, January 10 Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Weekend 12/13

Weekend Food collection and Baby Bottle Distribution at all Masses

Saturday, January 12 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30-9:30am PAC Agnesian Room

Saturday, January 12 Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:30-10am PAC Resource Room

Sunday, January 13 RCIA Journey 8am-Noon PAC Resource Room

Sunday, January 13 Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center

Sunday, January 13 Religious Education 10:10-11:15am ICGS Classrooms

Monday, January 14 Parish Council Meeting 7pm Dyer Center

Tuesday, January 15 Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass PAC-Resource Room

Tuesday, January 15 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Elmhurst Public Library

Tuesday, January 15 Worship Committee Meeting 7pm Resource Room

Wednesday, January 16 Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room

Wednesday, January 16 Religious Education 5:10-6:15pm ICGS Classrooms

Wednesday, January 16 Parish Children's Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Wednesday, January 16 Protecting God's Children Workshop 6:30pm Resource Room

Wednesday, January 16 Parent's Club 7pm Agnesian Room

Thursday, January 17 Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Thursday, January 17 Faith Formation Commission 7pm Resource Room

Weekend 19/20

CRHP Speakers, Blood Drive Sign-up, and Weekend Food collection accepted at all Masses

Sunday, January 20 RCIA Journey 8am-Noon PAC Resource Room

Sunday, January 20 Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center

Sunday, January 20 Religious Education 10:10-11:15am ICGS Classrooms

Monday, January 21 Martin Luther King, Jr Day
No School

Monday, January 21 Bereavement Support Group 6pm Resource Room

Tuesday, January 22 Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass PAC-Resource Room

Tuesday, January 22 Roe V Wade Memorial Mass 7pm Church

Wednesday, January 23 Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room

Wednesday, January 23 Parish Children's Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Wednesday, January 23 Religious Education 5:10-6:15pm ICGS Classrooms

Thursday, January 24 Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel



Weekend 26/27

Respect Life Baby Bottle Collection and Weekend Food collection accepted at all Masses

Sunday, January 27 Blood Drive 6am Plunkett Hall

Sunday, January 27 RCIA Journey 8am-Noon PAC Resource Room

Sunday, January 27 ICGS Curriculum Fair and New Student Registration 10:00am ICGS Classroom

Sunday, January 27 Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center

Monday, January 28 Bereavement Support Group 6:00pm Resource Room

Monday, January 28 Parish Finance Committee Meeting 6:30pm Dyer Center

Around the Parish Last Month

Highlights from our One World Fair Trade Market 2018



Toys for Tots on Giving Tuesday!



GIVING TREE 2018

Families came to help ensure that all gifts were in the right boxes for the right people.



Boxes ready for Sunday evening gift sort. Over 110 families benefited from IC's generosity. Boxes are generously donated each year by Hassett Movers.

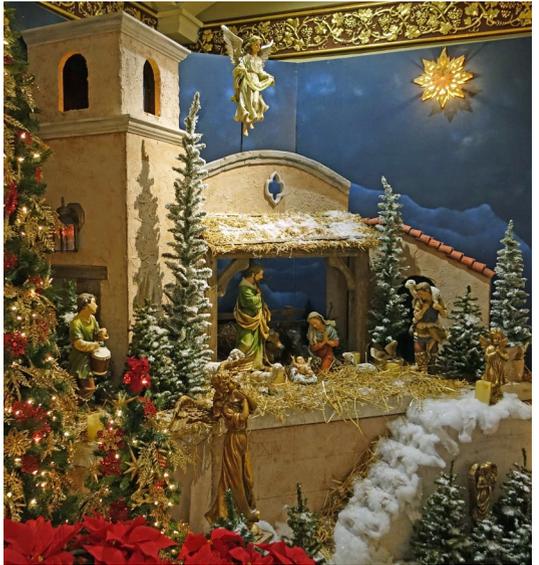


WONDERING HOW ALL THOSE GIFT BOXES GET UP TO THE CHAPEL FROM PLUNKETT HALL? It's courtesy of Mr. DeAngelis' PE class. Thank you, ICCP Students!



Katherine Bicknell and the staff of Advance Orthodontic Specialists, conduct an annual toy drive to benefit the IC Giving Tree and then allow each child to select an "extra" toy. They also serve hot chocolate and cookies to those waiting. We love their Christmas spirit and their generosity. Thank you, AOS!

Celebrating Christmas at IC



Coming Events



PRESENTATION SERIES

Eastern DuPage Deanery

Join Us as we Welcome

Father John Kartje

as he presents

Out of the Lab and Into the Chapel:

The Gift of Science to Faith



Western science owes much of its foundations to the worldview of the Bible and subsequent Catholic sacramental thought. Join us for a lively discussion of how science can enrich the Catholic spiritual journey and help restore the relevance of faith to a culture that struggles with spiritual apathy.

Father John Kartje is President of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary. A native of East Chicago, Indiana, Father Kartje is a graduate of Bishop Noll Institute in Hammond. He earned a B.A. degree in Mathematics and a B.S. degree in Physics from the University of Chicago where he also earned a Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics.

All are welcome to join us for an engaging presentation!

Tuesday, January 29th at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Parish 134 Arthur St, Elmhurst, IL 60126

A free will offering will take place at this event. Registration is required. Please go to easterndupagedeanery.org to sign up by filling out a very short form.

Save the Date! February 6, The Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Conlon will be speaking at Elmhurst College 7 p.m.



CUP OF HOPE

We offer prayers that you find peace and joy in 2019. If you are feeling the emptiness of missing a loved one during the Christmas season, please

join us as we gather for A CUP OF HOPE and a time to look ahead. We will meet on Tuesday, January 8 at 10:00 in the PAC (Rectory) to share a cup of your favorite beverage, some goodies, prayer, and our stories. We will also offer some suggestions for facing life without your loved one. We are a very informal group; so informal there's no need to reply. Just come. If you would like more information please call Loretta at 630-834-8664.

Give Blood...



Give Life.

SAVE THE DATE....IC BLOOD DRIVE IS BEING HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 27.

SIGN-UP IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 IN THE NARTHEX.



Calling all men who love to sing! For the New Year, find some time for something **YOU** love; join the **Men of Spirito!** We rehearse on Tuesday nights. From

January through June we sing in two concerts and 3 service events; and we have a great time every time we're together! The Men of Spirito! Ensemble is for men 18 years of age and older who can carry a tune. Reading music is a plus but not necessary. Want to exercise your singing voice and your brain? Learn some new music? Enjoy the company of some great guys? Give the Men of Spirito! a try. For more information go to www.SpiritoSingers.org or give us a call at 630.581.5440. Rehearsals for our Spring Season begin on January 8 so don't delay!!!



"SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2019

To highlight the plight of those who hunger in our own community, ICGS, ICCP, RE students and IC Parish will collectively participate in our third annual "Souper Bowl" Sunday. **We ask that families in our parish faith community bring a can of soup to Mass with you on Super Bowl Sunday weekend to benefit the IC food pantry.** Our collection last year lasted through the winter months. Collection bins will be in the narthex. You may also bring your soup directly to the IC food pantry during normal business hours.

Thank you for your generosity!

Community Life

Lead Me, Guide Me...

You're Invited

Christ Renews His Parish

A personal renewal journey.

WILL YOU BE RENEWED IN 2019?

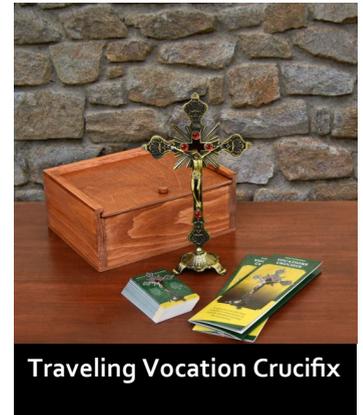
For more information and to register,
visit www.icelmhurst.org

MEN'S RETREAT: February 9 & 10, 2019
WOMEN'S RETREAT: February 23 & 24, 2019

IC is pleased to present **two** traveling worship opportunities for IC families!



Traveling Mary



Traveling Vocation Crucifix

Since the Year of Mary in 2013, IC families have been enjoying a visit from **Traveling Mary** as she becomes part of their family for approximately one month.

IC Moms Group

IC Moms is a parish group for moms and their young children (ages 5 and under). We plan playdates, nights out for moms and couples, service opportunities, and a faith-based reading group. IC Moms is an informal, low pressure group. Please join us when you can, even if it's not often! For more information or to be added to the group email list, please email icmomsgroup@gmail.com or check us out on Facebook.

IC is now pleased and proud to announce a new addition to the Traveling Worship program: our **Traveling Vocation Crucifix** is now available to visit IC homes to help families guide prayers for vocations. If your family would like to participate in the Traveling Worship program, [click here](#) for more information.

2nd Annual Sweetheart Dinner Dance

Sponsored By: Eastern DuPage Deanery Marriage Enrichment Ministry

Come Celebrate Valentine's Day

with your best friend as you attend Mass with a blessing for all married couples followed by a fun evening of dinner and dancing.

February 9, 2019

Mass is celebrated at 5 PM at Christ The King 1501 S Main St. in Lombard
Dinner dance follows in the hall.

Cost: \$60 per Couple

****Prepayment required By February 5th, 2019****

Make check payable to "IC" Mail to: MEM at 425 S. Main St. Lombard, IL 60148
Include name, phone number and email.

For more information contact: EasternDuPageMEM@Gmail.com Or Jillian at 216-925-3201

Christian Ministry



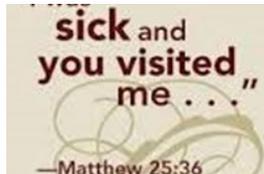
If you or someone you know are experiencing health issues, facing surgery, receiving or recuperating from medical treatments, healing through grief or experiencing a significant life crossroads and would like to receive a prayer shawl, please contact Rita Beese at 630-279-6811

or rdbeese@comcast.net

Prayer shawls are a tangible sign of healing prayers from our parish and a way in which to feel the healing presence of God.

HOSPITALIZED or HOMEBOUND? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Please remember to notify the Rectory if you or a member of your family is hospitalized and wants to receive Communion or a pastoral visit from one of our Ministers of Care or priests. We visit Elmhurst Hospital several times a week and convenient times can be arranged. If you are HOMEBOUND, unable to attend Mass (either on a temporary or permanent basis) and wish to receive Communion, our Eucharistic Ministers will visit on a weekly basis. Please call Pam at 530-3497 to arrange a convenient time.



Are you in need of an annulment? Do you have questions about the process, timeline or requirements? Please contact Pam Stefik at 530-3497 for information.



The experience of grief is different for everyone. There are, however, common emotions that we all experience. Beginning on Monday, January 21 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. 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 information.



PLEASE REMEMBER US AS YOU DO YOUR WEEKLY SHOPPING

Food may be dropped after all masses on Sunday or at the PAC Rectory during normal business hours. Our needs this month include cereal, oatmeal, pasta and pasta sauce, canned fruit and

vegetables, pancake mix and syrup, chili, canned tuna and chicken, eggs, shampoo, bath gel, toothpaste and personal hygiene products. If you are **TOO BUSY TO SHOP**, monetary donations are always appreciated. By supporting our pantry, **you are helping members of our own community.**



Grace Café

.....is being sponsored by IC Parish on **February 4, 2019.**

Grace Café is an ecumenical ministry offered by numerous Elmhurst churches to feed those hungry in body, soul and spirit. Grace Café is

offered every two weeks from September through May. Our parish now hosts this event twice per year.

Many hands are needed to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere, as well as a bountiful home-cooked meal. **We especially need people to prepare parts of the meal.**

Please access the website listed below to see our specific needs and time commitments. **Please use the following link to sign up:**

www.PerfectPotluck.com Coordinator name is King and the password is GC2019.

Immaculate Conception hosts a PADS site on the third Saturday of each month beginning October - April. Hundreds of volunteers are needed to help pick up and deliver food (from the Rectory to the PADS site), purchase and/or prepare food, serve our guests, be present for the overnight hours, prepare breakfast and lunches and clean up. You do NOT need to help each and every month.

We can't do this without you! Please contact Julie Peterson at eastonjuliem@gmail.com if you can help in some way.

“To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person and face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus.” (Pope Francis, Address during Visit at the Homeless Shelter “Dona Di Maria,” 5/21/13)



IC will offer a Protecting God's Children workshop on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the Resource Room of the PAC/Rectory. Space is limited. To view a list of upcoming sessions and/or to register, please access www.icelmhurst.org and click on the “Promise to Protect/Pledge to Heal” icon on the left side. Registrations cannot be accepted over the phone. Any adult who works with minors in the parish setting must attend this class. Please call 630-530-3497 for further information.

Reporting Sexual Abuse

Anyone with reason to believe that a child has been abused or is being abused should report their suspicions to civil authorities. **Contact: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services: 1-800-25ABUSE (1-800-252-2873) and local police.** The Diocese of Joliet Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to help victims/survivors of child sexual abuse by a cleric, employee or

volunteer of the Catholic Church. The Victim Assistance Coordinator will report to Bishop Conlon and coordinate efforts of pastoral support and outreach to assist in the healing process. The Victim Assistance Coordinator can also assist in making a report to civil authorities. **Contact the Diocese of Joliet Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-815-263-6467.**

Christian Ministry



'TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE THANKS....

The Christian Ministry Office at IC would not and could not exist without the legions of volunteers AND donors to its many Ministries. We fed and provided gifts for over 110 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 15 complete Thanksgiving dinners
- Chicagoland Italian-American Charitable Organization for donating 20 complete Thanksgiving dinners
- All who donated turkeys or turkey breasts for our food baskets
- The ICGS third grade class who purchased and personally gift-wrapped socks for St. Mary's Mission School students
- The ICGS sixth grade class who wrote letters to St. Mary's Mission School students and purchased socks for them.
- 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
- Visitation Church for delivering a massive amount of food and personal sundries for our Thanksgiving outreach
- Scholle IPN in Northlake for fulfilling 35 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, Alina Cahill and Jill Riecker and our Giving Tree Chairpersons Kathleen Hillsman, Cindy Gornick, Maureen McNicholas, Maria Shannon, and Sharon Whiteside for their leadership
- All who took gift tags and provided gifts and or/gift cards to over 110 families
- Thirty 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
- Hassett Commercial Movers of Elmhurst who provides 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 2018 Annual Appeal

For over 25 years, **Immaculate Conception Daybreak of Elmhurst** has rented apartments to house homeless families. This is a self-supporting ministry, funded solely through personal donations.

Daybreak pays rent and utilities every month for the **FIVE** units it provides to those in need. Mentors (from IC and other local churches) 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 75 families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.**

It has been an exciting year for us. It is a privilege to work with those who want to change their lives. This year, two families moved to self-sufficiency after participating in our program. Another will successfully complete the program in May, 2018. Two additional families were recently added to our roster and are just beginning their journeys. 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 have also added three additional mentors to our team.

**CAN YOU: FUND A FAMILY FOR A YEAR (\$11,500)?
FUND A FAMILY FOR A MONTH (\$965)?
FUND A FAMILY FOR A WEEK (\$250)
HELP IN ANY AMOUNT?**

Do you have questions about our program?

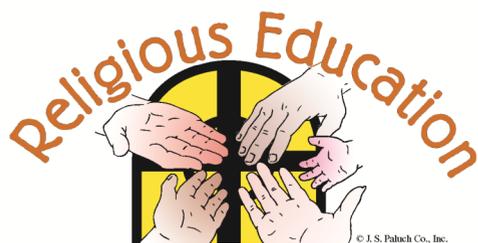
Contact Dan Doherty at 630-501-0160 or Pam Stefik at 630-530-3497.

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

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7



Religious Education



<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Sunday RE</u>	<u>Wednesday RE</u>
January 6	January 6	January 9
January 13	January 13	January 16
January 20	January 20	January 23

The Act of Contrition

The Act of Contrition is usually associated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but Catholics should also pray it every day as part of their normal prayer life. Recognizing our sins is an important part of our spiritual growth. Unless we acknowledge our sins and ask for God's forgiveness, we cannot receive the grace that we need to become better Christians. There are many, many forms of the Act of Contrition. Here is the Act of Contrition that our second graders are taught in anticipation of the Sacrament. This is the prayer they will use through 8th grade. We encourage you to pray and practice this with your children.

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Blessing Bags for IC PADS Project begins this month. Information given on January 6 and 9th in class.

8th Grade
Please remember that your letters to Fr. Tom are due the week of February 10th.

Reconciliations

6th Grade

January 9 (Wednesday)

5th Grade

January 13 (Sunday)

January 16 (Wednesday)

Sunday Family Masses

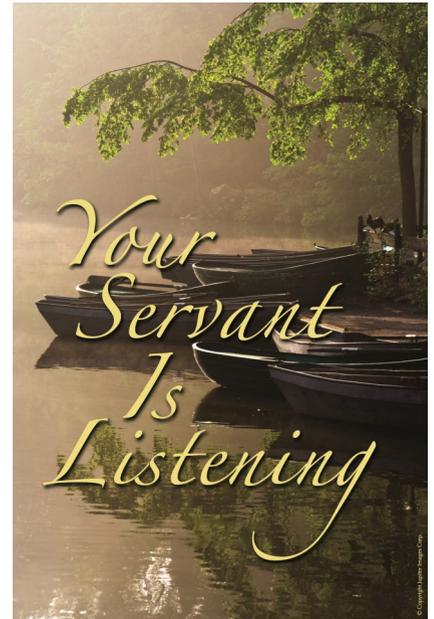
4th Grade January 20

Contact Sr. Mary Francis to participate in your grade's family Mass. You may volunteer to read a petition, present an Offertory Gift, or serve as a Minister of Hospitality before or after the liturgy.

Faith Formation

Spiritual Classics

St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor, is one of the most influential people in the history of the Church. His insights have guided Church teaching for 700 years to the present time. All are invited to join a discussion of his thought beginning Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019 and continuing for 8 sessions. We meet on Sundays from 10:15 to 11:15 in the Dyer Center. We will use Bishop Robert Barron's book, Thomas Aquinas – Spiritual Master, ISBN 10: 0-8245-2496-9.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study
from 9:30am - 11am In the Parish Administration Center, 134 Arthur
Facilitated by Beth Fiset.

Vocations

Please join us for a Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life Saturday, January 26th, 8:30- 9:30 AM Immaculate Conception Church, Elmhurst

The power of the priest is the power of the divine person; for the transubstantiation of the bread requires as much power as the creation of the world. - St. Bernardine of Siena

Please remember these men and women in your daily prayers – Priests, Deacons, Seminarians, and Women & Men Religious in the Diocese of Joliet. Click [HERE](#) to download our Vocation Calendar for January 2019.

Thinking of joining the religious life? Consider one of the following events:

- * Exploring Priesthood Weekend - Mundelein Seminary, Jan 18-20
A retreat designed to help men Junior in College and older to discern God's call to the diocesan priesthood.
- * Men's Priesthood Discernment Group (Age 18+)
- St. Anthony Church, Joliet, Jan 27, 2-4 PM
- * Women's Religious Life Discernment Group
- St. Anthony Church, Joliet, Jan 19, 1-2:30 PM

The Vocation Ministry's mission is to create an atmosphere in our parish that is supportive of religious vocation and provides information about events where young people and families can learn more about discerning this call. One of our goals is to increase prayers for vocations in our parish. Please join us in adoration on every second Monday of each month, from 7-8 PM, at the Visitation Adoration Chapel.

WE ARE IC!!!



Immaculate Conception Grade School

132 Arthur Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126/630.530.3490

(Pre-K 3 through 8th Grade)

Open House & Registration

Sunday, January 27, 2019

10 am to 1 pm

Catholic Formation & Sacraments - Before & After School Care

All Day Kindergarten - Full Time Nurse - Classroom Differentiation

Enrichment & Intervention - Action Based Learning Initiative

21 Illinois State Scholars (Class of 2015)

www.icgradeschoolelmhurst.org

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Daddy-Daughter “Masquerade Ball”

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2019
7-9 O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GYM

*Open for all ladies in preschool to
8th grades within the IC Parish,
Religious Education & Grade School*

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!
\$40/DADDY-DAUGHTER PAIR, \$5/EACH ADDT’L CHILD
(BASE TICKET PRICE INCREASES TO \$45/DADDY-DAUGHTER PAIR
AFTER 12/31). QUESTIONS? ICDADDYDAUGHTERDANCE@GMAIL.COM

Mom-Son Prom “A Night with the Stars”

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2019
7-9 O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GYM

*Open for all gents in preschool to
8th grades within the IC Parish,
Religious Education & Grade School*

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!
\$40/MOM-SON PAIR, \$5/EACH ADDT’L CHILD
(BASE TICKET PRICE INCREASES TO \$45/MOM-SON PAIR
AFTER 12/31). QUESTIONS? ICMOMPROM@GMAIL.COM



**DETAILS AND TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
[HTTP://ICPARTIES.GIVESMART.COM](http://ICPARTIES.GIVESMART.COM)**

Respect Life



Waterleaf "BABY BOTTLES FOR LIFE"

This month our parish will be participating in a special fundraiser to promote and further a Culture of Life within our parish and local community. The proceeds of this event will help support the life-saving work of Waterleaf, a Catholic pregnancy center serving the Diocese of Joliet with its pregnancy medical clinic and education center located in Aurora. Baby bottles will be distributed to parishioners on the weekend of **Saturday, January 12th and Sunday, January 13th** to take home and fill with your heartfelt financial donation. Please make checks payable to Waterleaf. Bottles will then be returned to the parish by the weekend of **Saturday, January 26th and Sunday, January 27th**. Your support is greatly appreciated. For more information call us at 630-701-6270 or visit us on the web at www.onechoiceonlife.org.



2019 Chicago March for Life Bus Transportation

IC Respect Life Ministry is sponsoring bus trips on January 13th from 12:50 – 5:00 pm from church to Chicago for the **2019 Chicago March for Life** at the Federal Plaza. Costs are \$15 per person and \$40 per family. To reserve your seat, go to <https://lifemarchicelmhurst.eventbrite.com> or use the form below below.



2019 Chicago March for Life January 13, 2019

Sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church *Respect Life Ministry*

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 by going to <https://lifemarchicelmhurst.eventbrite.com>.

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

Around the diocese

ANNULMENT SUPPORT DAY

Sponsored by: THE OFFICE OF FAMILY
MINISTRYDIOCESE OF JOLIET
SATURDAY, January 26, 2019 9:00 a.m
Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Rd, Crest Hill, IL

This day is designed for divorced persons who have already petitioned the Diocesan tribunal to begin the annulment process, and who need support to complete the long questionnaire. The \$25.00 fee includes morning coffee, lunch, and materials.

Pre-registration is required by January 20, 2019. To register please call: the Office of Family Ministry 815-838-5334 or register online: <https://conta.cc/2JqUyBe>

MAYSLAKE MINISTRIES

Mayslake Ministries - Men's Silent Winter Retreat January 18—20, 2019

Dates: Friday—Sunday (January 18—20, 2019)

Location: Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House, Barrington

Cost: \$295

Presenter: Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ

To **REGISTER** or learn more, call (630) 852-9000 or visit mayslakeministries.org

WeHaKee Camp for Girls, the only Catholic Girls camp in the nation, invites interested families to our OPEN HOUSES

JANUARY 19TH at Riverside Scout Cabin, 1-3pm

JANUARY 20th at Sheraton Northbrook 12-2pm.

Camp WeHaKee, a ministry of the Sinsinawa Dominicans since 1923, is a camp community immersed in faith, tradition and values. Located in the beautiful lake country of northwest Wisconsin, it offers an exploratory experience in a safe, fun and supportive atmosphere. Swimming, boating, horseback riding, gymnastics, pottery, water skiing - nearly 40 activities help girls become strong, independent young women.

Contact directors Maggie & Bob Braun at 1-800-582-2267

or Info@WeHaKeeCampforGirls.com

Or visit us virtually

at www.WeHaKeeCampforGirls.com.

Oh... we offer Family Camp & Mother Daughter Camp, too!



BANK OF AMERICA CHICAGO MARATHON **OR Shamrock Shuffle 8K**

Mission of Our Lady of the Angels (via the Franciscans of the Eucharist) provides **hope to the poor** on the west side of Chicago via food pantries, afterschool programs, seniors programs, community meals, and much more. **Consider running to support Mission OLA!**

Benefits of joining either team:

- ◆ T-shirts, pre-race Mass & dinner, place to stay the night before the race, and more...
- ◆ Sr. Stephanie (2:53 marathoner, NCAA D1 cross-country and track athlete) can write a training plan for you
- ◆ Each team member will get a personal prayer warrior!

Please see missionola.com/marathon.html for details

BANK OF AMERICA CHICAGO MARATHON (Oct 13, 2019) **WE HAVE A LIMITED # of GUARANTEED ENTRIES**

SIGN UP TODAY! Entries could run out at any time.

SHAMROCK SHUFFLE 8K (March 24, 2019)

Deadline to sign up: March 1

Please e-mail or call Sr. Stephanie at olamission@gmail.com or 773-486-8431 with questions or to sign up!



We Are IC Capital Campaign and Sunday Offerings

Thanks to those who have increased their Sunday offertory giving and those who have made a pledge and supported the We Are IC capital campaign. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so. We need gifts at all levels and pledges can be paid over a five-year time period. Please fill out and return your Letter of Intent today.

I know that some of you are not comfortable making a pledge and prefer to "give as you are able." If you would like to support the capital campaign without making a formal pledge, please use the capital campaign envelope in your monthly envelope packet or make a one-time gift online.

To make an online donation to our capital campaign, go to www.icelmhurst.com and click the donate today button located on the left side of the home page. If you have not yet done so, you can create a profile and login. Once you are on the online giving page, click "Give a New Gift" and then select "2018 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN." Please call the rectory office if you need any assistance.

Naming Opportunities

There are several ways to remember deceased loved ones, or honor the living, as part of the **We are IC** capital campaign. If you should choose to make a gift at one of these levels or would like more information, please contact Catey Cohen in the parish office at 630-530-8991.



Sacred Heart of Jesus Renewal Prayer

O Most Holy Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion for us, please have mercy upon us as we place our trust in You. To You we surrender the many needs of Your church; asking for Your help, especially on those who are in pain. Please heal the hearts of those who are broken and help us to grow closer to You. As our Immaculate Conception community anticipates the renewal of the chapel in Your honor, help our hearts, minds, and voices to be strengthened by Your goodness and love. We come before You grateful for all that You have done for us. Help us to be ever generous with what we have received as we return our blessings to You. Amen

Shrine of the Sacred Heart	\$100,000
Tabernacle & Stand	\$ 50,000
Family Chapel	\$ 50,000
Sound System	\$ 30,000
Etched Glass Doors	\$ 25,000
Narthex upgrades	\$ 25,000
Windows	\$ 25,000
Stations of the Cross	\$ 15,000
Reconciliation Rooms	\$ 10,000
Credence Table	\$ 5,000
Sanctuary Chairs	\$ 5,000
Altar Candles	\$ 5,000
Processional Candles	\$ 5,000
Incense Brazier and Stand	\$ 5,000