

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

March 2020 Newsletter



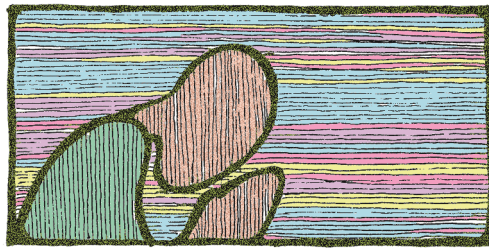
March Prayer

Jesus, part of Lent is coming to know ourselves a little better. More often than not, we fail to go out of our way for You. Weekend Mass and daily prayer, usually, but anything more than that it depends. It never occurs to us that we might be missing a very special Word of encouragement or hope. We ask of You the grace to stir ourselves to do a little extra during Lent. Amen.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are now in the midst of the Holy Season of Lent. I hope and pray that these 40 days can be a time of letting go of our sins and for growing in God's grace for all of us. Although we have not suffered very much this year from the cold or bad weather, it will be good when Spring arrives. Likewise, Lent is meant to be the springtime of our spiritual lives. We are invited to experience a rebirth of ourselves and to pass into the new life of Christ. I hope that you have already begun to well spend these Lenten days. It is up to each individual to decide what they will do to make them beneficial. In years past, most children simply gave up candy. Those who did so certainly appreciated what it was like to have Easter treats. Likewise, they realized that they were doing something special during the Lenten Season. For a while there was great emphasis upon trying to do more good deeds. These behaviors led to many kind actions taking place for the benefit of others. If you have not yet begun any type of Lenten practice, consider the many options available. Fasting from pleasures as a personal reminder of our love for Christ can affect us. More good taking place will certainly make our society better.

Recently, I came across these suggestions of how to spend Lent. I think at least one or more will speak to your heart and will prompt some spiritual awakening. I hope they are of help to you.

- ◆ Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness.
- ◆ Give up hatred; return good for evil.
- ◆ Give up negativity; be positive.
- ◆ Give up complaining; be grateful.
- ◆ Give up pessimism; be an optimist.
- ◆ Give up harsh judgments; think kind thoughts.
- ◆ Give up worry; trust Divine Providence.
- ◆ Give up discouragement; be full of hope.
- ◆ Give up anger; be more patient.
- ◆ Give up pettiness; be more mature.
- ◆ Give up gloom; enjoy the beauty all around you.
- ◆ Give up jealousy; pray for trust.
- ◆ Give up gossiping; control your thoughts.
- ◆ Give up sin; turn to virtue.

Please remember that on March 27th and 28th we will have 18 Hours for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Especially during the season of Lent, come and receive the grace of God's mercy. On the weekend of March 28th and 29th, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick for all those in need. Let us pray that there will be many healings of spirit, mind, and body in our community during those days.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Tom

Brothers and Sisters,

A few days ago, I was talking with someone about the book of Job; Specifically about the question “*does Job really submit to God’s will?*”. As we all probably know, this fascinating book deals with the problem of the suffering of the innocent and with the meaning of suffering in general. In this month of March I offer you a quick review of this biblical book so that we can be more interested. As we are immersed in the season of Lent, this book can help us to meditate and grow throughout our spiritual journey.

The experience of Job for many people in today’s society seems to be a story of injustice and great suffering, undertaken by the powerful or even by God Himself. On the contrary, I would say that the story of Job is not a rebellion against God’s will, instead it is a story of total submission to God, as we can see throughout the whole book. The book of Job is one of the greatest stories in the wisdom literature. It has an amazing outlook regarding human suffering in the world; the justice, the punishment to the evildoers, the trust in the will of God, and of course, the total and disinterested subjection to God’s will. The book tells us the story of a just man, Job, who praises God and offers sacrifice for the possible offences of his children. God exalts his good behavior among his members of the divine council. All of Job’s material things perish, his children die, his wife abandons him, and he loses his health. Despite all of these events, and even though his wife advises him to curse God, he remains faithful to God. At this point of the book, we can testify that Job submitted to the will of God using the answer that he himself gives to his wife; “We accept good things from God; should we not accept evil?” (Job 2:10). Even in adversity he believes that all things are in God’s Hands, and God will render whatever God deems fit.

Then, in this scenario of suffering, Job is visited by his three friends. They came to offer consolation and council to him. Thus far, Job seemed to be suffering quietly and in his friends are quietly too. But in chapter three Job explodes in a storm of laments and cursed the moment in which he was born saying, “Perish the day on which I was born, the night when they said, the child is a boy!” (Job 3:3). Under those circumstances, the three friends could not remain silent. One by one, each of his friends give him an answer to which Job had a replay too. Despite Job’s confidence in God, from time to time he falls into despair, saying “As God lives, who takes away my right, the almighty, who has made my life bitter” (Job 27:2). He blames God for all his suffering saying; “His wrath tears me and assails me, he gnashes his teeth against me.” (Job 16:9). We easily can conclude that Job does not submit to God’s will, but, we have to consider that it is just a way to go through the suffering and his way of trying to understand his afflictions.

By the chapter 32, another important character appeared, Elihu, whom according to the scriptures is a young man. He impetuously and impatiently upbraids Job for his boldness toward God, as well as the three friends for not successfully answering Job. Elihu defended the justice of God tries to show that Job is wrong with his accusations. What Elihu is doing is reaffirming the law of retribution that the other friends were appointing. However, Elihu locates the suffering in the divine plan and anticipates the content of the divine speeches.

Job, conscious that he was right, demands an answer for his suffering from God Himself; (Job 31:35) “let the Almighty answer me” to which God responds with a series of questions regarding how the universe works. He asked him if he is able to run it. God shows Job how grand and amazing the world is, a lot of things that we might see every day but really don’t understand at all. God knows everything in a perfect way. God shows Job that the universe is a vast and complex place in which He is paying utmost attention to each detail and to each creature. God has his eyes on all of it. Job, on the other hand, has only the small outlook of his life experience. His view is very limited. What looks like divine injustice from the point of view of Job must be seen in an infinitely larger context. Job is simply not in a place to claim injustice or to accuse God. It is important to realize that God does not give a direct answer to Job, but with all the things that God showed him, Job understands that he has been treading on mystery. God is the provident but nonetheless the mysterious God of creation. Also, he understands what the prophet Isaiah said; “For my thought are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways –oracle of the lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts” (Is 55:8-9).

All things considered, we can be assured that Job submitted to the will of God completely, because with all that he lived and all that God showed him, Job was left in a place of humility. His submission to God is completely disinterested and pure, based solely in his relationship with God, not on some promises of reward. His complaint is just about vindication and he is not concerned about possessions. Job is now the sort of person that no matter what comes, good or bad, he can trust fully in God, as we can see in chapter 42:3-6 “Who is this who obscures counsel with ignorance? I have spoken but did not understand; things too marvelous for me, which I did not know... Therefore, I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Brothers and sisters, I wish you the best throughout all your activities in this month of March and the Lent season. I reiterate my thanks to all of you for your prayers. As well, I can assure you of my prayers for the success of all your many projects and the well-being of your families.

God bless each one of you.

Yours in Christ

Fr. James Corona

A letter from Brian Geary

It's hard to believe that Lent is already here. Most of us are still getting over the Christmas season. It seems like the parties have just ended, and the decorations were only put away a few weeks ago. The weather certainly hasn't changed, and we're still in the dead of winter. Easter and spring seem so very far away. Yet the Church in her wisdom asks us to enter even more deeply into what might already seem like a penitential period.

Let's consider what the Church holds up for us as the three "hallmarks" of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. For many of us, fasting is the most obvious practice we take up during Lent. Of course, we fast from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all other Fridays during Lent. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday also provide us the opportunity to undergo a more rigorous fasting – abstaining not only from meat, but by taking only one "normal" sized meal, and two smaller ones. Fasting allows us to confront directly our own weaknesses, our own humanity. Why is it we never want a cheeseburger more than on a Friday during Lent? It is also customary to "give up" something else from our lives. Maybe its snacking, the internet, or TV. Maybe it's Starbucks, or the music you listen to in your car on the way to work. Pick something that will challenge you, and also help you grow. In all of this, we see that removing a good from our lives allows us to focus on the sole giver of all that is good: God. God cares for us in our weaknesses. We see that he provides for us, even when we can't have that snack or that Frappuccino (I'm partial to Caramel Frappuccinos myself), or when we want to flip on the TV for a few mindless hours. In all of this, God shows us what is really valuable – a relationship with him.

Lent is also a time for what is traditionally called "almsgiving." This means giving to those in need, whether monetarily, or through donations of other goods. At IC we have the opportunity every year to support St. Mary's Mission in Red Lake, Minnesota. What if we took the money we saved by fasting from Starbucks and donated it to the mission? Above all, let us be open to the different ways God may call us to serve others in need this Lent. He will not fail to surprise us with opportunities!

We cannot forget prayer. Because Lent is a time to focus primarily on our relationship with God, prayer must take front and center. And there are many practical steps we can take! Maybe it's an extra five minutes in the morning or before bed. Maybe it's waking up a little earlier and coming to one of the two daily masses we have here at IC. If we give up something that takes up our time, say browsing the internet or watching TV, maybe we use that time for silent prayer, the rosary, or reading a good spiritual book. Perhaps you haven't been to confession in a long time – here at IC we will be offering 18 hours of confession on March 27th and 28th. It doesn't matter how long you've been away – God is waiting to show you his love and mercy.

We cannot end without briefly mentioning Easter. While during Lent, we walk with the Lord through his bitter passion, so too at Easter do we share in his resurrection. In the Christian life, there is no death without a resurrection. When we die to ourselves in little ways, through the giving of our time, our fasting, and our service, we are certain that God will give us the joy of sharing in a new life with him.

May God bless you and your families during this Lenten season!

Seminarian Brian Geary

Lent 2020

Daily Masses

Daily Masses are celebrated in the Church Monday through Friday at 6:15 am and 7:30 am. Fridays when there is a school Mass, Masses will be held at 6:15 am and 8:15 am. Saturday Mass is at 8:00 am. Parishioners are especially encouraged to attend daily mass during these 40 days.

Stations of the Cross

All are encouraged to pray the Stations at 7:00 P.M. in the Church on the following dates:

March 4 March 11 March 18
March 25 April 1

ICGS students will pray the Stations
March 6: 2:30 P.M. Church
March 13: 2:30 P.M. Sacred Heart Chapel

Living Stations of the Cross

April 3 — 2:00—Grade School—Church

Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Sick will be available for all in need following all weekend Masses
March 28 & 29

Lectio Divina

Join Anne Hohbein on Tuesdays from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. to pray the Sunday gospel.

Reconciliation

March 27 12:00 pm—10:00 pm Church
March 28 8:00 am—4:00 pm Church
18 hours of Reconciliation. Priests from the 16 parishes in our Deanery will be available at all times for English Confessions and at some times for Spanish and Polish.

March 17 ICCP Students

March 31 ICGS Students

Individual Reconciliation will also be held on the following dates from 3:15-4:00pm:

March 7 (Sacred Heart Chapel)

March 14 (Sacred Heart Chapel)

March 21 (Sacred Heart Chapel)

April 4 2-4:00 pm (Sacred Heart Chapel)

April 7 4:00—7:00 pm (Church)



Adoration sign-up

Wednesday, April 1.

Spend an hour with Jesus and open yourself to His Graces.

In an effort to ensure that He is not alone, please prayerfully consider spending time with Him. Half hour time slots are from 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

Use the link above to sign-up or email

Brepking@icelmhurst.org

Lenten Regulations

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
2. All from the age of 18 years up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.
5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Church year. All of the faithful are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial (in addition to following the Lenten regulations), serious prayer, and a performance of works of charity and mercy.

Those who are sick, pregnant, or nursing, or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting or abstinence, should not consider themselves bound by these norms.

Lent 2020

2020 PARISH MISSION

March 22, 23, & 24

Fr. David Mowry

"The Hound of Heaven"

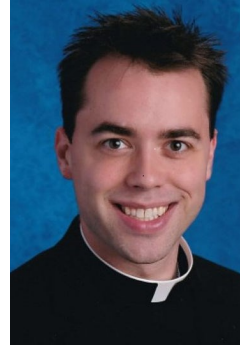
The search for meaning and happiness is as old as the human race itself. The great surprise during that search is discovering that while we were seeking, we were already being sought! Join Fr. David Mowry for three nights of discovering the joy of being sought, found, and brought home.

Sunday: The Great Chase

Monday: The Knock at the Door

Tuesday: The Way Home

Fr. David Mowry is a priest of the Diocese of Joliet. Growing up in Glen Ellyn, he first heard the call to priesthood while he was a junior in high school. Ordained in 2013, he served as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Parish in Elmhurst and then at St. Mary Immaculate Parish in Plainfield. He has spoken for confirmation retreats, days of renewal for liturgical ministers, Theology on Tap, and young adult events. He currently serves as instructor of homiletics at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

March 14

8:30-9:30 am in the Agnesian Room

Women's Lenten Prayer Breakfast

*Come and join the women of Immaculate Conception in fellowship this Lent as we discuss the book, *The Divine Dance* by: Richard Rohr. We will meet the six Saturdays of Lent starting February 29th following the 8:00am Mass in the Resource Room of the Parish Administration Center. Come for one, two or all six weeks - whatever you schedule allows. Please purchase a copy of this book at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and join us. We would love to share this Lent with you. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lynn at rpollastrini@sbcglobal.net.*

IC Lenten Outreach Project

Our Lenten alms bags will be distributed on Ash Wednesday. Bags will be available in the narthex and rectory thereafter. Once again, **our alms will benefit St. Mary's Mission** in Red Lake, Minnesota. As we know, St. Mary's lost their church in a devastating fire in November, 2018. They are struggling to keep their faith community together as they move ahead with plans to rebuild. As we pray and fast during the Holy Season of Lent, **let us also "give back" to God**, who has given us so much. Over the past few years, our alms have helped the children of St. Mary's Mission School in various ways. We have donated computers for all of the classrooms, which resulted in higher reading, math and testing scores. We also established a scholarship fund for those unable to pay full tuition. We provided funds to furnish a "sensory room" for the students, which is now operational. Funds have been used to implement a seventh-grade classroom. Last year, funds were used to establish an eighth-grade classroom and "baby space," both of which are now operational. This year, our funds will be used to help rebuild the church for the children living on the reservation. As we know, family is the foundation for passing along the Catholic faith to children. The family's attendance at Sunday liturgy helps form the lifelong thirst and love for our faith. The church space is also used for children's Masses during the school week, much as our church at Immaculate Conception is used for high school and grade school liturgies. **We need your help in offering these children HOPE for their future.** Let us prayerfully consider what we can give to St. Mary's in their efforts to build and strengthen the faith of the children and their families on the reservation and beyond. We are pleased to announce that Fr. Jerry will be present at our liturgies the weekend of March 14/15. **Checks should be made payable to Immaculate Conception, with a memo for St. Mary's Mission.** Alms will be collected on **Palm Sunday in the narthex.**

Around the Parish in March

Mass schedule

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday | 4:30 pm Sacred Heart Chapel |
| Sunday | 7:30 am Church |
| | 9:00 am Sacred Heart Chapel |
| | 11:30am Sacred Heart Chapel |
| | 5:15 pm Sacred Heart Chapel |

Weekend 29/1

Sunday, 3/1

- Spiritual Classics 10:15 Dyer Center
- Religious Education 10:10am ICGS Classrooms

Tuesday, 3/3

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Room
- Women's CRHP Meeting 7pm Resource Room
- Geary Vocations meeting 7pm Agnesian Room

Wednesday, 3/4

- Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room
- RCIA Children Classes 3:30pm Resource Room
- Religious Education 5:10pm ICGS Classrooms
- Stations of the Cross 7pm Church

Thursday, 3/5

- Piraino / Tassi Rehearsal 6pm Church
- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel
- Baptism Prep 7pm Resource Room

Friday, 3/6

- ICGS Stations of the Cross 2:30pm Church
- ICGS Play 7pm Gym

Weekend 7/8

Saturday, 3/7

- Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Resource Room
- Piraino / Tassi Wedding 2pm Church
- ICGS Play 7pm Gym

Sunday, 3/8

- Trinity Irish Dancers outside after 9am Mass
- Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center
- Religious Education 10:10am ICGS Classrooms

Monday, 3/9

- ICGS Board Meeting 6:30pm Dyer Center
- Worship Committee 7pm Resource Room

Tuesday, 3/10

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Room
- Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Resource Room
- Cup of Hope 10am Meeting Room 2
- Parish Finance Committee 6:30pm Resource Room

Wednesday, 3/11

- Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room
- RCIA Children Classes 3:30pm Resource Room
- Religious Education 5:10pm ICGS Classrooms
- Stations of the Cross 7pm Church
- Parents' Club 7pm Agnesian Room

Thursday, 3/12

- Bible Study 6pm Resource Room
- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Friday, 3/13

- Sophomore Mass with Ring Distribution 2pm Church
- GS Stations of the Cross 2:30pm Church

March Reconciliation Times

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Friday 6 th -Following | 6:15am Mass Church |
| Saturday 7 th | 3:15-4:00pm Sacred Heart Chapel |
| Saturday 14 th | 3:15-4:00pm Sacred Heart Chapel |
| Saturday 21 st | 3:15-4:00pm Sacred Heart Chapel |
| Saturday 28 th | 3:15-4:00pm Sacred Heart Chapel |

Weekend 14/15

Saturday, 3/14

- Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Resource Room
- Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Agnesian Room

Sunday, 3/15

- Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center
- Religious Education 10:10am ICGS Classrooms
- St. Joseph Table 12:30pm Plunkett Hall

Monday, 3/16

- Bread Breaking Group A 6:30pm Plunkett Hall
- Parish Council 7pm Resource Room

Tuesday, 3/17

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Room
- Prayer Shawl Ministry 9am Elmhurst Library
- Bread Breaking Group B 6:30pm Plunkett Hall

Wednesday, 3/18

- Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room
- RCIA Children's Class 3:30pm Resource Room
- Stations of the Cross 7pm Church

Thursday, 3/19

- Bible Study 6pm Resource Room
- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Weekend 21/22

Saturday, 3/21

- Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Resource Room

Sunday, 3/22

- Spiritual Classics 10:15-11:15am PAC Dyer Center
- Parish Mission 7pm Church

Monday, 3/23

- Parish Mission 7pm Church

Tuesday, 3/24

- Lectio Divina Join Anne Hohbein after the 7:30am Mass Resource Room
- Parish Mission 7pm Church

Wednesday, 3/25

- Bible Study 9:30-11:30am Resource Room
- RCIA Children's Class 3:30pm Resource Room
- Stations of the Cross 7pm Church
- Eastern DuPage Deanery 7pm Agnesian Room

Thursday, 3/26

- Bible Study 6pm Resource Room
- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel

Friday 3/27

- Parish Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sacred Heart Chapel
- 18 Hours Reconciliation Noon-10pm Church

Weekend 28/29

Saturday, 3/28

- 18 Hours Reconciliation 8am-4pm Church
- Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Resource Room
- Anointing of the sick after all Masses

Coming Events

St. Joseph Table

Family and Friends of Immaculate Conception Parish
Please join us as we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph
Immediately following the 11:30 am Mass
until 2:30 pm in Plunkett Hall
Sunday, March 15, 2020

Come for a Taste of Tradition

Would you like to **DONATE A DISH**? Would you like to **DONATE YOUR TIME**?
Email Barb Repking at brepking@icelmhurst.org or call 630.530.3479



Cod for God!

Every Friday 'Knight' during Lent of 2020, the *Knights of Columbus* will be serving their famous beer battered cod from *Supreme Lobster* (also available baked; DELICIOUS!)

1911 Club Hall of Fr. McDonald Council #1911
537 S York Street
(across from USBank)

Serving from 5 PM - 8 PM



2020 Camp Line-Up

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| SOCCER | JUNE 15-17 |
| BASKETBALL | JUNE 22-24 |
| FOOTBALL | JUNE 29-JULY 1 |
| VOLLEYBALL | JULY 8-10 |
| HOCKEY | JULY 20-22 |
| BASEBALL/SOFTBALL | JULY 27-29 |

REGISTER NOW!
www.CatholicSportsCamps.org



The Bible is at the heart of our Catholic faith – and our relationship with God. It is the living Word of God, where God meets with us and lovingly speaks to us. Understanding the Bible is not always easy. The *Good News* is that you *can* understand the Bible and *The Bible Timeline* makes it easy.

We are pleased to offer this series just in time for Lent, beginning on Thursday, February 27 at 6:30PM in the Parish Administration Center. Our facilitator is Beth Fisette. Pre-registration is necessary, as materials must be ordered in time for the first session. Registration is limited to 20 individuals.

Please register by contacting Pam Stefik at 630-530-3497 or pstefik@icelmhurst.org

"To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek him, the greatest adventure."
St. Augustine of Hippo

Deanery Events



Unlocking the keys of your faith

Sacraments

By

Fr. Larry Brunette

Father Larry Brunette will cover all seven sacraments and present a quick, but comprehensive overview of what each sacrament is for, who it is for, its affects, and how the Rite is administered.

Tuesday, March 10th

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

St. Alexis Parish

400 W. Wood St., Bensenville

A free will offering will take place at this event. Registration is required. Please go to easterndupagedeanery.org

Fr. Larry Brunette is a retired priest serving the people in the diocese of Joliet. He is a second career priest who was married for 32 years before his wife passed away 25 years ago. He has three children. After being in the computer business all his adult life, Fr. Larry attended Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary and was ordained on May 29, 1999 at the age of 57, with his three children walking him down the aisle.



18 Hours of Confession

When was the last time you received Reconciliation?
Was it recently? In the past year? Awhile ago?
The priests of Eastern DuPage County
will be available to celebrate the
Sacrament of Forgiveness of Sin!

Friday, March 27, from 12pm until 10pm
Saturday, March 28, from 8am until 4pm

There will be select times when the
Sacrament will be offered in Polish and Spanish.

All are invited to receive God's grace

Please come to

Immaculate Conception Church
132 Arthur Street, Elmhurst 630 530-8515

Liturgical Day

Eastern DuPage Deanery Liturgical Enrichment Day

Come to Me All Who are Hungry:

The Bread of Life as Spiritual Food for the Disciples Journey

Saturday, March 21, 2020, 8:00 a.m. – Noon

Ascension Parish, 1S314 Summit Ave. Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

All Liturgical Ministers in our parish are encouraged and invited to attend, including Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Music Ministry, and Mass Captains. Ongoing formation for those involved in ministry is a very important part of serving in these roles. Even if you are not involved in a ministry, all are invited and welcome to attend.

To register online go to: **easterndupagedeanery.org**
OR fill out the form below and turn it into the parish office.

(No cost to attend)

Do **not** register directly to Ascension Parish.

Door will open at 7:30 to begin check-in. Our day opens with 8:00 a.m. Mass with Father Bradley Zamora

Check-in will continue with Continental Breakfast following mass

Come and hear **Fr. Zamora** present:
Encountering Christ in the Liturgy

The keynote presentation, as well as breakout sessions, will affirm and assist you in your ministry as you feed Jesus' lambs and His sheep.

I plan to attend the Liturgical Enrichment Day event on March 21st.

Name: -----

Phone: -----

Email: -----

Parish: -----

Christian Ministry

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking additional volunteers for our food pantry, especially during the summer months. The pantry is open from 10:00AM – Noon Monday

through Friday from Labor Day to Memorial Day (with the exception of holidays) and Monday through Thursday during the summer months. Volunteers work in teams of two or three, assisting clients in acquiring the food they need. Training is provided. Please contact Pam at 630-530-3497 or pstefik@icelmhurst.org if you might be able to help one or two days per month.

KITCHEN ANGELS NEEDED!



Did you know that we provide home cooked meals to those who have recently been hospitalized, had a baby, experienced a death in the family or otherwise need meals on a temporary basis? We also provide meals to our parish priests several times per week. When a request is made, an e-mail is sent to all our "Kitchen Angels" who have volunteered to help. You do NOT need to help with every single request. You prepare meals when you are able. The more committed volunteers we have, the better able we can meet the needs of those who truly need meals. Please contact Jayme McConnell at jaymemcconnell@yahoo.com if you are able to help us!

HOSPITALIZED or HOMEBOUND? PLEASE LET US KNOW!



If you know someone who is HOMEBOUND, either temporarily or permanently and unable to attend Mass, please let us know. We will contact them to see if they would like to receive Communion on a weekly basis. Mutually agreeable times and dates are determined between the individual and the Minister of Care. Please call Pam at 530-3497 with names and contact information.



Would you like information about the annulment process? Do you have questions about the process, timeline or requirements? Please contact Pam Stefik at 630-530-3497.



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



Joyful Again Retreats March 14 & 15

**Mount Assisi Center, 13820 Main Street
Lemont, IL**

Consider joining others who have lost a spouse at a weekend retreat designed to help attendees reflect and recognize new paths for their lives, while treasuring memories of their loved ones. Early registration is encouraged.

E-Mail: joyfulagain7211@gmail.com
Phone: 708-354-7211

Although our season is winding down, with only two months remaining, Immaculate Conception is still in need of volunteers to transport 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.



We can't do this without you! Please contact Sheryl Sloan at sloanfamily173@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)



Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Joliet operates an 18-bed homeless shelter in Villa Park called the Hope House. They are looking for volunteers to prepare and serve meals at the shelter. The ingredients will be provided, but volunteers are welcome to supplement the menu with other spices and ingredients. An adult must be present to supervise individuals/groups that include children/teenagers.

This is a great opportunity to help homeless families as they move toward self-sufficiency. Please contact Joy Newburn at jnewburn@cc-doj.org or 630-519-6547 for more information.



**catholic
charities**

Diocese of Joliet

Christian Ministry

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY refers its transitional housing clients and others to the following organizations, who provide many items free-of-charge.

Donations may be made to the following organizations:

Sharing Connections

www.sharingconnections.org 630-971-0565

Community Clothing Center UMC

www.umcelmhurst.org 630-834-2440

St. Vincent de Paul

www.svdpjoliet.org 630-628-9008

Poised for Success

www.poisedforsuccess.org 630-691-1455

Salvation Army

www.satruck.org 800-728-7825

40 BAGS IN 40 DAYS



A Lenten challenge to declutter and simplify

- each day in Lent, fill a bag (any size)
- donate the bags to charity

"WHOEVER HAS TWO CLOAKS Luke 3:11 SHOULD SHARE ONE WITH THE PERSON WHO HAS NONE..." Catholic Living



Immaculate Conception Altar of Repose

On Holy Thursday evening following the Mass of the Lord's Supper and our procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose in Immaculate Conception Church, you are invited to depart from our parish via bus to visit seven churches in Chicago, praying at their respective altars of repose. We encourage families to participate in this pilgrimage. Please consider joining us on this holy evening as we prayerfully prepare for the days to follow.

Your RSVP is necessary, as we will rent a bus for transportation. A minimum of 25 participants are needed to rent the bus. Please contact Pam Stefik at 530-3497 for further information.

**THANK YOU
FOR DONATING!**

From Vitalant:

24 individuals donated Whole Blood at your drive. The units that were collected at this drive will potentially save the lives of 72 patients!

Please extend our gratitude to everyone who gave unselfishly of themselves to help others. Their generosity will help Chicagoland area friends, family and neighbors in need, including cancer patients, critically ill newborns, burn survivors, accident victims, transplant patients and many, many more who have illnesses requiring treatment with blood products.

THANK YOU, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!



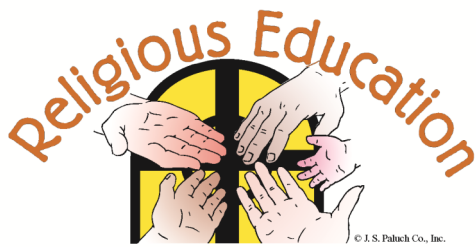
Immaculate Conception will offer its next Protecting God's Children workshop in May. If you are a volunteer and need to attend a workshop, please access the IC website at www.icelmhurst.org and click on the "Promise to Protect/ Pledge to Heal" icon on the left side. You will be directed to a list of

upcoming workshops throughout the diocese. You may attend the workshop of your choice and then provide your Certificate of Attendance to your PGC administrator. You will also be required to provide information on the Virtus site for your background check. You may contact Pam Stefik at 630-530-3497 with any questions.

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.**

Religious Education



| <u>Children's Church</u> | <u>Sunday RE</u> | <u>Wednesday RE</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| March 8 | March 1 | March 4 |
| March 15 | March 8 | March 11 |
| | March 15 | March 18 |

2nd Grade

- ♦ If you missed the Feb 23 1st Eucharist Presentation please contact Sr. Mary Francis to secure your important 1st Eucharist materials.
- ♦ If you would like a family member to be an Altar Server or Eucharist Minister at the 1st Eucharist liturgy in May, please contact Sr. Mary Francis. Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers be trained at IC.
- ♦ 1st Eucharist 2nd graders and their parents are invited to participate in the "Bread Breaking" ceremony on Monday, March 16 for Group A children and Tuesday, March 17 for Group B children. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. in MPH. Kindly RSVP to Sr. Mary Francis by March 12.
- ♦ Plan ahead...Reconciliation Service in Preparation for 1st Eucharist is scheduled for April 23 at 7 p.m. in the IC Church.

4th Grade

You and your parents are cordially invited to join Fr. Tom in a "Tour of the IC Church" at 7pm on Tuesday, March 31st.

This exclusive to 4th grade event was rescheduled from February due to weather. Please RSVP to Sr. Mary Francis.

8th Grade

Confirmation forms are now past due, as is the Letter to the Pastor. If you have not turned both of those in, please contact the Religious Education office as soon as possible.

Reconciliations

4th Grade

March 8th (Sunday)
March 11th (Wednesday)

Questions about enrolling in Religious Education at Immaculate Conception? Call our office at 630-530-3480 or visit our website at www.icelmhurst.org

Adult Faith Formation

On Sunday, March 1, our Catechumens, Isaly Martinez, Stephanie Quach and Christina Rolon, will be "sent" from Immaculate Conception to the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet for the Rite of Election that afternoon, celebrated by Bishop Richard Pates. They have affirmed their intention to be baptized and receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The following Sunday, March 17, our candidates will participate in the Penitential Rite. Candidates are those who are baptized Catholic but have not yet received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Candidates also include those who were baptized into another Christian faith tradition and now desire to join the Catholic Church. The celebration of this rite presumes that the candidates are approaching the maturity of faith and understanding requisite for fuller life within the Catholic community.

The Sundays during Lent are especially significant for those completing their Sacraments of Initiation. Over the next several Sundays, our Elect (those who will be baptized, receive Eucharist and be confirmed) will celebrate the Lenten Scrutinies. It is the primary way that the Church assists her in their conversion process during Lent. These ritual celebrations on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent are communal prayers celebrated around the Elect to strengthen them in overcoming the power of sin in their lives, while helping them to grow in virtue. The parish community does not scrutinize the Elect; the Elect scrutinize their own lives and allow God to heal them.

Taking seriously the dynamic of scrutiny and conversion gives us a richer perspective of Lenten "giving up." What we are to give up more than anything else is sin, that which keeps us from living out our baptismal promises fully. **Along with the Elect, we all need to approach the season of Lent by asking ourselves what needs to change in our lives if we are to live out the gospel values that Jesus taught us.** Our journey through these forty days should be a movement ever closer to Christ and to the way of life he has exemplified for us. As we listen to stories about the woman at the well, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus, we ask ourselves "for whom/what do I thirst? Do I recognize Jesus as the light of the world and ask him to remove my prejudice and complacency, allowing me to see the needs of others? Will I accept Jesus' offer of new life?"

As a parish family, let us prayerfully journey with those who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation. We pray for Isaly Martinez, Stephanie Quach, Christina Rolon, Jacob Gunther, Isabella Bernardi, Nathan Macias, Ksenya Kelly and Ryan Kelly.

Lord, we pray for those in the RCIA process who journey to you. Open their hearts to the fullness of your love. Deepen their understanding. Set their hearts on fire for the kingdom of God. We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life for all. Amen.



Vocations

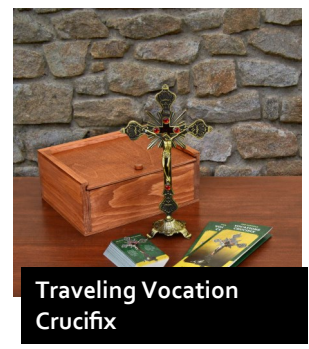
The Vocation Ministry's mission is to create an atmosphere in our parish that is supportive of religious vocation and provides information about events where young people and families can learn more about discerning this call. One of our goals is to increase prayers for vocations in our parish. Please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

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 March 2020.



Traveling Mary

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. Last year, we added a new addition to the Traveling Worship program: our **Traveling Vocation Crucifix**. Both are 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.



Community Life

FORMED

Immaculate Parishioners are able to sign up at www.formed.org for content provided to you with our parish subscription. Lent is a special time to take advantage of this gift! We encourage you to browse around this site and utilize the many Lenten programs available.



♪♪ Calling all 1st & 2nd graders who love to sing! ♪♪

The **Cherub Choir** will sing at our 2nd Grade Family Mass on **Sunday, May 3** at 9am in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Three Wednesday after school rehearsals will be held on **April 15, 22 & 29** from 3:30-4:00pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

Contact Lisa Grisolia to sign-up: lisagrisolia@icelmhurst.org
630-530-3489



That Man Is You! is open to men from all parishes

COME JOIN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY THIS SPRING

The That Man Is You! Battle Over The Bride program will be kicking off its Spring semester soon! Another successful Fall semester averaged ~50 men per session and showed men the true Catholic vision of love, improved relationships with spouses, and laid the foundation for a journey towards Easter. We encourage you to come to a session and see what it's all about. That Man Is You! is an interactive men's program combining the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the **VISION OF A MAN, FULLY ALIVE.**

MEETING INFORMATION

Saturday Mornings beginning
February 1st, 2020
6:30am - Breakfast and Fellowship
7:00am - Video Presentation
7:30am - Small Group Discussions
Concludes no later than 8:00am

LOCATION

Mary Queen of Heaven
Parish Barrett Hall
426 West Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(note 2/8 Session to be held at Visitation Parish, Elmhurst)

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

For more information contact either Andrew Morgan at 630-276-6401 or Ken Gillie at 847-980-2803. Advanced registration is preferred, but not required. To Register, go to www.TMIY.org:

- ♦ Click on 'FIND A GROUP/REGISTER FOR A CLASS'
- ♦ Search near Elmhurst, IL —> Select Mary Queen
- ♦ Complete Registration Information



ICGS

Immaculate Conception Grade School Presents

SHREK THE MUSICAL ICGS 2020

**Directed by Emily Leonard
Musical Direction by Jennifer McCormick
Choreography by Peg Koch**

**~
Friday & Saturday: March 6th & 7th, 7:00p.m.
Sunday: March 8th, 2:00p.m.
~**

**Immaculate Conception Parish
Gymnasium Theatre
Tickets: \$10 Available at the Door**

Scenes from our annual ICGS Dinner Dance. Thank you to the committee for all your hard work! We are IC!



IC Catholic Prep



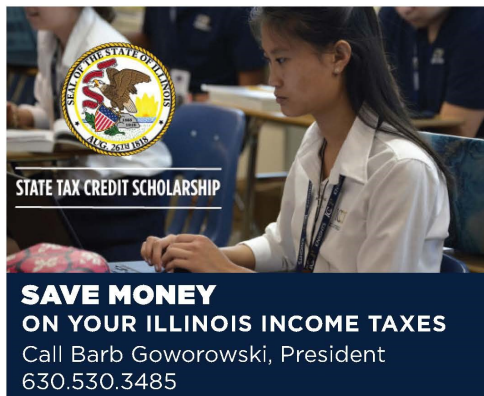
ICCP

IC CATHOLIC PREP

iccatholicprep.org



630-530-3460



Important Dates

Mar. 7 – Elmhurst St. Pat's Day Parade, 11:15am

Mar. 11 – Jr. High Art Workshop, 6:00pm

Mar. 12 – New Parent Coffee Gathering, 6:30pm

Mar. 13 – Sophomore Retreat

Mar. 17 – Lenten Reconciliation, 9:15am

Mar. 20 – Spring Break Begins

Mar. 23-27 – Spring Break

Mar. 30 – School Resumes

Apr. 8 – All School Service Day

Last Month around IC



GRACE CAFÉ 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to Roy King and Amy Miller for their leadership and cooking skills. Thanks also to the scores of volunteers who purchased food, made parts of the meal or assisted with set up, serving and / or clean-up detail. Thank you, Beth Butler, for the beautiful Valentine centerpieces!



Guests arriving early for IC's Grace Café. They gave "thumbs up" to their homecooked meal of chicken a la king over fresh biscuits, fruit salad and garden salad.

David McCaffrey offers Starbucks to our 90 guests— service with a smile! A hit with our guests every year!



Thanks to our ICGS first graders who made placemats for all of our guests.



ICGS 8th graders lovingly wrapped all of the utensils used at our dinner and stickered them with hearts!



Finally, desert... brownies and cookies are the base for our famous sundaes!



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

ICGS students collected over 20 baskets of soup for the IC Food Pantry. Our clients will enjoy hot soup for months to come. THANK YOU!

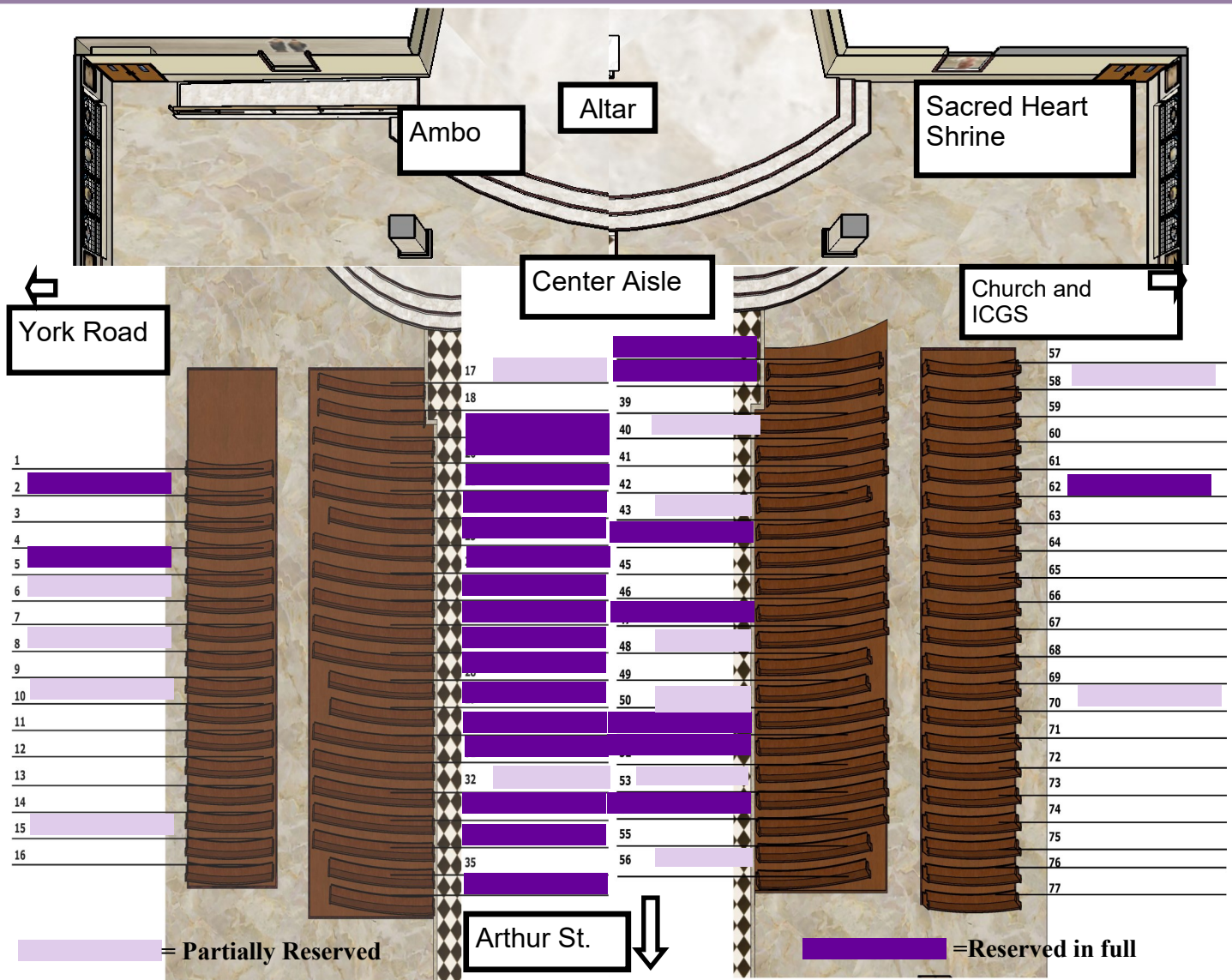


Thumbs up! for our annual Scout Mass and pizza party which took place on February 15th. Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts can earn religious badges every year to be presented at this Mass. These are some happy, cute kiddos!



Capital Campaign

WE ARE IC!



Pew Memorial Opportunities

Above is a diagram of the new pew layout in the Sacred Heart Chapel. We will install new curved pews throughout the worship space during the next phase of construction. You will be able to choose which pew you'd like to memorialize and a small plaque like those in the Church will be installed on each end of the pew. To have an entire pew memorialized in perpetuity, please pledge or pay \$3,000. To have only one side of a pew memorialized, please pledge or pay \$1,500. Parishioners are welcome to split pews in \$500 increments as well. We will give away the pew locations on a first come, first serve basis. To request a pew reservation, please contact Catey Cohen in the parish office at (630)530-8991 or email ccohen@icelmhurst.org

To make an online donation to our capital campaign, go to www.icelmhurst.org and click the donate today button located on the left side of the home page (pictured here.) 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.



Stations of the Cross Memorials

In the renewal of our Sacred Heart Chapel, a new set of Stations of the Cross will be used. The beautiful images will be an ever present reminder of Christ's final journey while He was here on earth. They will be made from stone and will relate to the rest of the finishes in the chapel. Opportunities to sponsor the stations still exist. Please consider doing so. Dedicating a particular one of them in memory of a family member or other loved one will create a lasting memorial. Discuss this effort with your families as they may well desire to be part of such an effort.

Many people have special devotion to Mary. In the 4th Station, Jesus meets His mother. Perhaps your wife, mother, or grandmother has passed away and she had a special love for Mary. Having this Station dedicated in her honor will be a way of remembering that bond that exists into eternity. On the way to Calvary, Jesus fell three times. How many times have every one of us fallen and then were helped up by the Lord? Perhaps you have had a crisis in your life when Christ was there for you. He helped you get through it. A memorialized Station of Christ's falls to the ground will serve as a sign of thanks for how He has picked you up.

Here listed are the 14 Stations. You are encouraged to prayerfully read through them and consider how in personal ways some of them especially relate to you. To obtain more sponsorship information, please contact Catey Cohen at ccohen@icelmhurst.org or (630)530-8991.

- I. Jesus is condemned to death.
- II. Jesus is made to bear His cross.
- III. Jesus falls for the first time.
- IV. Jesus encounters His mother, Mary.
- V. Simon of Cyrene is made to carry the cross.
- VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
- VII. Jesus falls the second time.
- VIII. The women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus.
- IX. Jesus falls the third time.
- X. Jesus is stripped of His garments.
- XI. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
- XII. Jesus dies on the cross
- XIII. Jesus is taken down from the cross.
- XIV. Jesus is placed in the sepulchre.



(The marble to be used for the background of the Stations of the Cross will be taken from the current rear wall of the Sacred Heart Chapel.)