

February 25, 2024 | Second Sunday of Lent





Fr. Larry's Weekly Letter #554

## "LISTEN TO HIM"



My dad, as he aged and entered into his early 80's, eventually needed hearing aids. He was reluctant to get a pair because he thought they were way too expensive and he proudly denied that he even needed them.

But it was obvious that when folks talked to him there was a great disconnect. People would ask him a question, and he would pretend that he heard the question and

would silently answer them by just nodding his head. One time I even caught him trying to read my lips.

It was frustrating when simple things have to be repeated over and over, and my voice had to become louder and louder, until my dad actually got the message. For both of us, our patience was tested.

When it came to convincing my dad that he needed extra help, the turning point came when his doctor bluntly explained what would happen if he didn't wear them. The doc told him that our brain needs to be stimulated. If we live in total silence our brain will weaken and slow down. Daily conversations exercise our minds and keep us sharp. Studies in audiology have shown that hearing loss can interfere with cognitive abilities because so much brain effort is put toward understanding speech.

Moreover, a loss of hearing, especially for those who are aging, will make them less engaged and distant from their family and friends. There is a sad and natural retreat into their comfortable silence.

Lent gives us the opportunity to sharpen our "listening skills." Prayer and reflection is our "spiritual hearing aid." It turns up the volume so that we can hear how God is speaking to us.

Continued on the next page

## A family of families

What exactly does God want us to hear? Well, the message is clear and simple, "Listen to my Son" That is what we hear in the gospel for this Sunday that describes the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain.



Jesus took Peter, James and his brother John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

"Listen to him." That's all. If we want to know what God is like, listen to him. If we want to hear God's voice in our own time, if we want to know God's will, listen to him.

This Lent, may we be able to find a place and a way to "listen slowly" to Jesus—whatever works for you. Hear the same message that he had for his terrified disciples. That is exactly what we need to hear too. "Do not be afraid." Those three words sum up why Jesus came. He came to remove fear by giving himself to us.

This Lent, may our hearts be transformed, because we have heard the loving voice of Jesus speak to our hearts.

When my dad put in his hearing aids, the first thing he would say to me is, "Why are you shouting at me?"

My hope and prayer is that the voice of Jesus is just as loud and clear for us this Lent.

## **COME HOLY SPIRIT**

This coming Saturday, our parish will joyfully celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our 8th Grade students from our Religious Education Program and Parish School. It is a proud day for our parish as we welcome Bishop Bob Casey who will administer the sacrament for our 41 students.

These fine young men and women, who are filled with life, energy and plenty of talents, remind all of us that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are with us in our journey of faith. We can always rely on these sacred gifts when we have to discern major decisions; or when we need the courage to do the right thing; or when we need perseverance to face the challenges of every-day life.

Our confirmandi are the hope and future of our Church! We are truly blessed because of them!





Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

# ICSJ PARISH Second Collection Schedule

As Catholics, we are part of a universal Church that extends beyond our own parish boundaries. Special collections combine our resources to support important causes that carry out the mission of the Church. Please mark you calendar with the dates listed below and thank you for your generosity!

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Collection for the Church in Latin America	January 28
Annual Catholic Appeal	February 3-4, February 10-11, February 17-18
Aid for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe	February 14
Little Sisters of the Poor	February 25
Sharing Parish: Mother of the Americas*	Palm Sunday – March 24
Holy Land	Good Friday - March 29
Catholic Charities	Mother's Day – May 12
Priests' Health & Retirement	June 9
Peter's Pence	June 30
Missionary Co-Op	A Sunday in July/August TBD
Sharing Parish: Mother of the Americas*	ICSJ Taco Fiesta Sunday – July 28
Seminarian Education	September 22
World Mission Sunday	October 20
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	November 17
Retirement Fund for Religious	December 8
Sharing Parish: Mother of the Americas*	Feast of the Holy Family – December 29

Contributions may be made in at our Masses or on our website at icsjparish.org/second-collections

\* for the benefit of ICSJ's Sharing Parish, Mother of the Americas Parish



Until we take the time to be quiet, we will not hear God. God cannot be heard in noise, restlessness, or distraction. God will speak to us if we give God a chance, if we listen, if we will be quiet. 'Be still' the psalmist wrote, "and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10).

Sometimes we may feel like we are too mentally or emotionally weary and tired to connect with God in our hearts. We just aren't there! The good news is that even during these times of trouble, we can turn our tired heart to God. Don't try to make the agenda for your prayer time. Just sit and "Listen to the Lord!"

During Lent we will use the questions below at our Sunday Masses to help us hear what God is try trying to tell us. May our Lenten gospels lead us away from the darkness we face in life and enable us to live in the light of God's love.

## Ash Wednesday

"Turn away from sin, and be faithful to the gospel"

- . What is your attitude as you enter Lent this year?
- What do you hope will happen this Lent?
- What would you like to do this Lent to make it more meaningful for you and your family?

## First Sunday of Lent

"Jesus is tempted in the desert by the Satan"

- What is one temptation that you may experience this week and what will you do resist it?
- Jesus was called into the quiet of the desert so he could better hear the calling of his Father. Where is a quiet place that you can go in order to better listen to your heart?

## Second Sunday of Lent

"Jesus is transfigured on the mountain"

- When, where, and how do you recognize Jesus when you encounter him?
- What was your last experience of awe?
- How were you changed by this event?
- · What is God trying to tell me through this encounter?

## Third Sunday of Lent

"Jesus cleanses the temple area"

- Where are places you experience the presence of God?
- What are the things within us that we need Jesus to overturn and drive out in order to live in God's light?
- Jesus was angry at times. When is your anger a good thing? When is it not?

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son"

- . What difference does Jesus make in your life?
- . What was it like to find light in the darkness?
- · How has God's love for you opened your eyes and heart?

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be gloried"

- · How do you identify yourself?
- What parts of your identity do you usually share with others (nationality, race, religion, gender, occupation or others)?
- . How do you live out your identity as a child of God?

## Palm Sunday

"Jesus dies on the cross"

- How do you identify with in this great story about love and sacrifice?
- Which person, or group of people in the Passion story, stands out the most for you? Why?
- Are there similarities in your life?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

John 3:16

## PRAYING FROM THE HEART DEAR JESUS, 💜 Thank you for ... I am worried about... PEOPLE I AM PRAYING FOR TODAY... I need... Other things on my heart that I want to share with you ... Thank you for hearing my prayers.

Amen.

# C.L.O.W. DURING LENT



During the beginning of Mass, Children will hear the Word of God, pray with friends, and do a small craft related to the Gospel.

Children return to their parents' pews after the Prayers of the Faithful.

At 9:30 Mass at Immaculate Conception: Kendra Yocom Feb. 18 & March 10 Mimi Leritz March 3, 17 & 24 There will be no session on Feb. 25th



## Kevin's Corner



Kevin O'Connell · Sacramental Coordinator

This Sunday, we celebrate two more laborers in the vineyard.
They have been hard at work preparing to receive First Communion and Confirmation. They also will become Catholic this Easter as well.

Thank you Jesus for their witness of faith to us.



## **Anna Harlow**

Hi everyone! My name is Anna Harlow, and I am thrilled to be in the RCIA program here at ICSJ. I recently graduated from the University of Alabama, and now live here in Chicago for my first full-time job. I am excited to become an official member of this church as I grew up going to Catholic school and have always wanted to convert, as I was baptized Methodist. I am eager to get to know all of you and grow in our faith journeys together!



## **Charlie Chmelik**

Hello all, my name is Charlie Chmelik. I graduated college last May, and moved to the city before beginning work in consulting. I am drawn to the Catholic Church as a result of attending a Catholic high school and a Catholic university. I picked up a major in theology throughout my time in college, through which I grew to appreciate the beauty and Tradition of the Church. I am also drawn to the distinctive community of the Church, which I have already begun to sense in this parish as well.



Easter Morning of Reflection
with Fr. McBrady and Elly Rodriguez
on Saturday, April 13th
from 8:30-11AM at Immaculate
Conception Church



Join ICSJ's

## Join our team of Wedding Sacristans!

A wedding sacristan serves at the wedding rehearsal and helps behind the scenes on the day of the wedding. They help with setting-up so that things run smoothly, and bring a sense of welcome and hospitality, especially to our visitors and guests.

Our parish has a reputation for making the whole wedding process a meaningful and positive experience for the bride, groom, and their family.

This is a truly a fun and rewarding ministry. Please give it some thought. We certainly could use your help!

If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Kevin O'Connell, our Parish Wedding Coordinator koconnell@icsjparish.org

## **YOGA AT IC**

Saturdays 9:30a.m. - 10:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall at Immaculate Conception Church

March 16- May 11, with no class March 30 and April 6 \$50 for 7-class series

All welcome! Join Jennifer Kim of The Peace School in this popular beginner level class. Each class includes stretches, basic yoga postures, breathing meditation and relaxation for a complete sense of well being. Pay on your first day of class by cash or check payable to The Peace School, and consider a donation to the Church for offering the space as a service to the community. Please bring your own mat. Make Saturdays your day to relax, refresh and rejuvenate through Peace Yoga!

To register or for more information: email Jennifer at info@peaceschool.org.

# Updates from One Parish One Prisoner Ministry

## A Note from Team Robb

I was in prison and you visited me...Matthew 25:36

For the past 18 months, two small groups of parishioners from ICSJ have been part of the One Parish One Prisoner ministry that pairs parish groups with an individual who is incarcerated and approaching release. The goal is to develop relationship and fellowship through letters and visits, and eventually continue that, along with

material support when they are released.

This has truly been one of the most meaningful (and challenging) programs we have ever had the privilege of participating in, and we have all grown together in our faith. Our individual, Robb, is scheduled for release in about 6 months, so these are going to be busy, anxious times for all of us.

There may be a time going forward when we reach out for some support, as Robb may have many needs. But for now, we just ask that you hold us, and Robb in prayer that we proceed in compassion and wisdom.



Thank you,

Lisa Dellagiarino Feriend, Susann Gilbert, Dominic Henry, Lois Miller, Dan Stolze

## A Note from Team Darnell

You may remember hearing from Team Darnell about his upcoming release date this past summer. As we have learned from this OPOP experience, things rarely turn out as you expect in the prison system. We ask for your continued prayers as we support Darnell through his sentence and for you to join us as we support Team Robert in celebrating Robb's release this summer!!

Peace,

Elly Rodriguez, Tom Prochaska, Kathy Elliot, Jill Pammler, and Margaret Nick



Presents our Annual

A Luncheon Feast in Honor of our Patron Saint



## **Sunday, March 10th**12:00-2:00 p.m. • ICSJ Hill Street Campus

Join us for St. Joseph Table, ICSJ's annual celebration in honor of our patron saint!

This complimentary lunchtime feast features delicious Italian selections from area restaurants, pot-luck dishes, wine, beer, soft drinks—and more! Gluten free options will also be available.

## All are Invited!

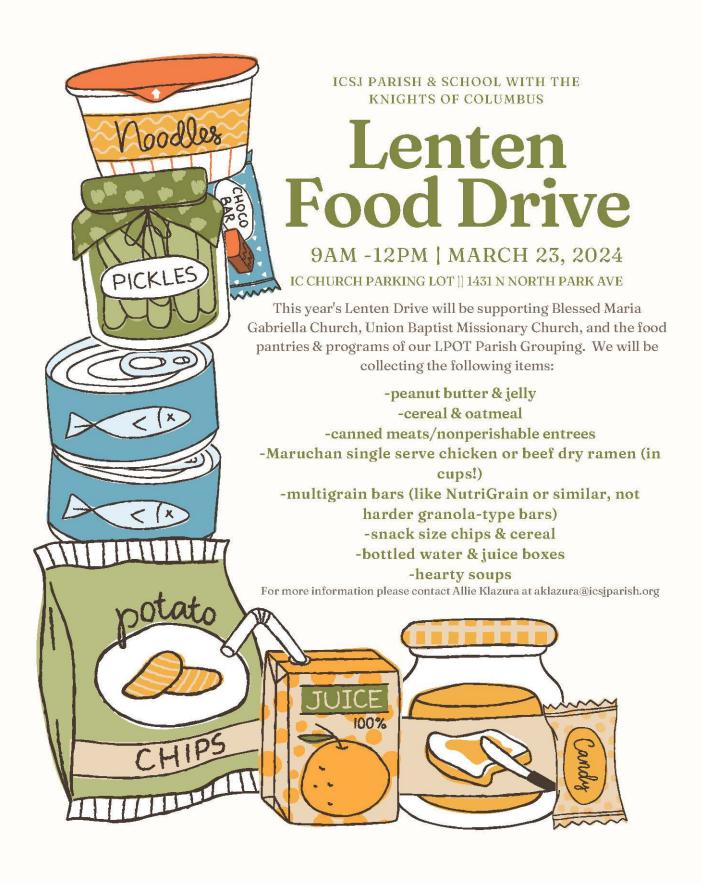
Volunteers needed, sign up here!





Share your favorite pot-luck dish!

Questions? Contact Jutta at jkeenan@icsjparish.org or 312-787-7174 x2 or visit icsjparish.org/sjtable



## Growing in Grace





## Gratitude and Forgiveness

Paul of Tarsus, when writing to the feisty & feuding earliest Christians, repeatedly spoke of gratitude & forgiveness. It's a spiritual path, easy to remember. Join us with **Fr. Ken Simpson** on this 2-part journey as we reflect, discuss, & practice these two pillars of faith.

## March 2 - Gratitude

Let us give thanks to the Lord. It is right and just. It IS truly right and just, our duty and salvation, always and everywhere, to give thanks.

-Preface dialogue at Mass

The root of joy is gratefulness. It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful.

- Br. David Steindl-Rast

## March 9 - Forgiveness

Consider the advantages and disadvantages of forgiveness... then decide.

- a Zen Koan

The heart of God is Mercy.

- Francis



SATURDAYS, MARCH 2 & 9

9:30 a.m. hospitality 10:00-11:30 a.m. program

Saint Clement Parish Chapel



Saint Clement Parish | 642 W. Deming Place | Chicago, IL 60614 | 773-281-0371 | clement.org



## DOLPHIN DAYS

NEWS FROM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - ST. JOSEPH

















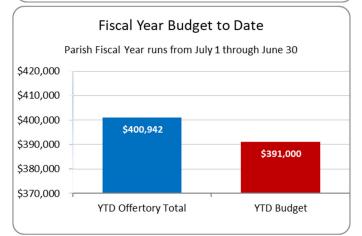


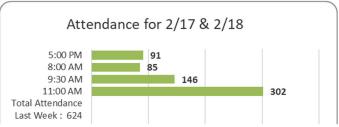
Who are you?
And, who
do you
want
to be
this Lent?"
- Father Larry

Learn more about Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph School at www.icsjschool.org!



## Weekly Offertory - February 2023 ■ Weekly Offertory Total ■ Weekly Budget \$15.999 w/o 2/4 \$11,500 \$13,039 w/o 2/11 \$11,500 \$11,125 w/o 2/18 \$11,500 w/o 2/25 \$11,500 The parish budget requires over one weeks' worth of collections just to cover parish ultilities, maintenancé, and insurance each month. It takes \$3,093 per day to run our parish.





# Have you considered a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

A QCD gift (a.k.a. IRA charitable rollover) allows individuals age 70½ or older to authorize their IRA administrator to make a direct transfer of funds from their IRA to qualified charities, tax-free. This way of giving does not generate taxable income, which may lower your annual income level. If you are age 72 or older, the amount you transfer may count towards your required minimum distribution.

If you would like more information on how to make a QCD gift to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Parish please contact: Nancy Gies at <a href="mailto:ngies@icsiparish.org">ngies@icsiparish.org</a> or (312) 787-7174 ext 7.

## Sign up for eGiving

eGiving is a secure and convenient way of giving to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish. It is eco-friendly and cost-saving. Just click **HERE** and to make your one-time, weekly, or monthly donation.

To all our faithful parishioners who give their time, talent and treasure—thank you for your generosity!

## **Get Involved**

Check out all the opportunities here at ICSJ parish, click **HERE.** Or let's set up a coffee so we can get to know each other, your talents and strengths and where they might be used best here at ICSJ. Contact Elly Rodriguez at <a href="mailto:erodriguez@icsjparish.org">erodriguez@icsjparish.org</a> or (312)787-7174 ext 4.

## **Mass Intentions**

week of February 24- March 1

## Saturday, February 24

5pm at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

For an organ donor and family Kathleen Whelpley

## Sunday, February 25

8am at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: For peace for Melissa Stucky and family

## Sunday, February 25

9:30am Mass at Immaculate Conception with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

**Dennis Snider** 

## Sunday, February 25

11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady: **Kevin Ramos** 

## Monday, February 26

9am Mass at St. Joseph Fr. Larry Lisowski: For the healing of Sarah Barry Berish

## Wednesday, February 28

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski: **Joseph and Michael Lyons** 

## Friday, March 1

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady:

**Dennis Snider** 

For the healing of Sarah

## What is a Mass Intention?

Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish offers the possibility for you to request that a Mass be celebrated for a particular intention. Requesting a Mass intention means that you are asking that the grace of Christ's sacrifice in his death and resurrection be applied for a particular purpose, for example, for a deceased person or a living person who is ill or in thanksgiving for a favor received. An intention can also be made for an occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special need, or it can be directed to a cause, such as an increase of vocations or respect for life. Usually, a single intention is attached to a given Mass. But it is also possible to gather several intentions in one Mass with exactly the same effect.

To request a Mass Intention, please visit www.icsjparish.org/mass-intentions or call Angela at the parish office (312)787-7174 ext 1.

## **Prayer Request**

Every month, we receive dozens of prayer requests on our website. No matter where you live in the world, you are invited to share your needs with those who have committed to pray on your behalf. Please visit www.icsjparish.org/the-prayer-connection to submit a prayer Request. To join our ICSJ prayer ministry, email Angela at agore@icsjparish.org

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Consider taking advantage of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Going to confession is great for one's soul. Receive the wonderful gift of healing and peace that our God longs for us to have in our life.

Contact Fr. Larry, at <a href="mailto:pastor@icsjparish.org">pastor@icsjparish.org</a>, to schedule a time to meet.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

A family of families

## OUR Vision

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Inspired by God's great love, we are called to be the face of Jesus in today's world, welcoming all to our Family of Families, and walking as disciples through our works of compassion and mercy.

## OUR Mission

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

We will be
disciples on a joyful mission,
constantly committed
anew to praying,
serving, growing, sharing
and belonging
in Jesus' name.

# Be the Face of Jesus and change the world!



Imaging having a deep, rich prayer life which brings clarity, comfort, hope and joy into your life and to others!



Imagine feeling really close with God, who loves you always!



Imagine being God's hands and feet in this world, that desperately needs help and healing!



Imagine brimming with faith and God's love so that it spills over into every relationship and aspect of your life!



Imagine creating a diverse, loving community where everyone is welcomed and appreciated for who they are!

Visit icsjparish.org/mission for ideas on taking the next step!



## Welcome

Inspired by God's great love, we are called to be the face of Jesus in today's world, welcoming all to our Family of Families, and walking as disciples through our works of compassion and mercy.

## Our Two Places of Worship





## Immaculate Conception Church

1431 N. North Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60610



Free parking available in church parking lot; street parking also available.





## St. Joseph Church

1107 N. Orleans Street, Chicago, IL 60610



E P Street parking available; free parking available across the street at ICSJ School, 363 W. Hill St.

## Mass Schedule

## Sunday

8:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church 9:30 a.m. - Immaculate Conception Church 11:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church

## Saturday

5:00 p.m. - Immaculate Conception Church

Monday · Wednesday · Friday 9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church

## Contact Us

Parish Office: 312-787-7174 • Visit Us Online: www.icsjparish.org

## Main Office

1107 N. Orleans Street, Chicago, IL 60610

## Main Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (closed Thursday)

## North Park Office

1431 N. North Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60610

## North Park Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday 4:00-8:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For questions regarding Weddings, Registration, Mass Intentions, Baptisms, Giving, volunteering, and other general information, please visit our website or call the Parish Office.

## Follow ICSJ Parish on Social Media





🔘 @ icsjparish (Parish) 🛛 @ i.do.at.icsj (Weddings) 🗜 @icsjparish



## Staff Directory

### Pastor

Rev. Lawrence Lisowski pastor@icsjparish.org 312-787-7174, ext. 5

### **Senior Priest**

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## Deacon

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### **Business Manager**

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### Sacramental Coordinator

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## **Director of Music**

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## ICSJ School Co-Principal

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## ICSJ School Co-Principal

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## Maintenance Supervisor

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## Parish Coordinator, **Bulletin Editor**

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## **Director of Evangelization & Events**

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## Assistant to the Pastor

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## **Outreach Ministries Coordinator**

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## Assistant to the Director of Music

Josephine Stracek jstracek@icsjparish.org 312-787-7174

## **Evening/Weekend Receptionist**

Sherrine Manning 312-787-7174, ext. 0