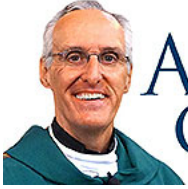


April 21, 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Easter



ALL
OF US

Fr. Larry's
Weekly Letter
#562

ONE BIG LEAP OF FAITH



"Hey, did you watch the news last night?"

That's what I asked Teddy Merkle, my life-long friend from childhood.

"No. I was at a soccer game with my grandson. What did I miss?" he asked.

"Well, I was watching the news with Fr. McBrady, and there was a really neat story about baby penguins in Antarctica?"

"Really?" Teddy said. I noticed a frown forming on his face. I could tell that somewhere in the back of his mind he was wondering why I just brought up the topic of baby penguins. Usually I have a couple of stupid dad jokes to share with him whenever we meet.

"Yes. It was a fantastic story. You should google it. There's amazing footage from the folks at National Geographic. They captured something for the first time on film.

Hundreds of baby penguins bravely dove off a massive 50-foot cliff for their first-ever swim in the icy ocean waters below. It's called fledging, when they take their first swim.

Normally, they just jump off some sea ice that is only one or two feet high. But the place they chose to enter was totally different- it was much more difficult and a lot more dangerous. Scientists are guessing that this has never done before."

"That sounds amazing," Teddy said with curiosity growing in his voice.

"The best part was when they got to the very edge of the cliff. There was this brief pause as they scope things out. They inched to the ledge, looking straight down into the icy waters.

It seemed like they were also looking at one another to see who wanted to be the first to jump.

Suddenly one brave chick leaps out. He flaps his helpless wings on the way down and lands in the water with a huge splash. The rest of his buddies on the cliff are scanning the water to see if he made it. A few seconds later you see the penguin pop up and safely swim along."

"That is neat," Teddy said.

"Yes. As you watch the video, it looks like the penguins were wondering, 'Okay...Who's next?' Then another guy takes off. Slowly one by one, they take this great leap of faith."

"Sounds like you got a good story for a homily," Teddy said.

"I do. I think many folks can really relate to having to take that leap of faith in their life. Sometimes, we have to be the first one to take a big risk. Sometimes we're not

Continued on the next page

A family of families

exactly sure how things are going to work out for us, but we pray and hope for the best- like starting a new job, or moving to a new city, or ending a relationship and starting a new one. Talk about surrendering totally!”

“Yes, Father,” Teddy said. “But I think there’s more to your story.”

“Like what?” I asked.

“Well, from my experience, when it comes to making a leap of faith, it’s not just once in our life, but we may actually have to make a bunch of them, over and over again.”

I complimented him with, “You’re right.”

Teddy continued, “For example, parents take leaps of faith all the time -like when their kids are born; when they grow up to be teenagers; when they move away to college; when they have to make a bunch of decisions for them that hopefully turn out to be good ones.”

“You’re right.” I said again.

Then, Teddy got really deep on me. He said, “Father, I bet you made a ton of ‘leaps of faith’ in your life. I bet you took a leap of faith on the day you were ordained. You certainly didn’t know everything about priesthood when you were 25 years old. I bet you still don’t know everything about priesthood even now at 65. The Church has changed and life continues to be full of surprises. Leaps of faith happen all the time.

What I have learned is to expect to be brought to the edge of the cliff, and to hope you have enough courage and faith to jump.

You know, Father, remember this, if the penguins don’t jump into the ocean, they will die of starvation. They have to go into the water to be fed.”

“Right,” I said. “I guess sometimes there is no other choice than to just jump.”

“Yep,” Teddy said. “But make sure that when you preach your homily, remind folks that even the penguins knew that God was with them. We are never on our own!”

I appreciated Teddy’s simple advice. Then I wondered... when God rolled the stone away from the tomb for Jesus, was he asking his son to make a leap of faith?


Fr. Larry



***Roman James Macke
Baptized Saturday, April 13
Ryan and Cassady Macke***




***Sloane Margot Thornton
Baptized Saturday, April 13
Sean and Paige Thornton,
older sister, Gwen***



KEVIN'S CORNER

Kevin O'Connell
Sacramental Coordinator



Do you want to help make one of the most important days in people's lives so special? Looking to give back to our church? If the answer is yes, then think about being a Wedding Co-Sacristan.

You will not regret playing such a beautiful role. Each wedding necessitates just a two hour commitment, mostly on Saturday afternoon.

Come join the team and sign-up as you are available. Our parish hosts about 40 weddings a year and this is a major ministry at ICSJ. It's fun, easy, and so meaningful. This is a great opportunity to experience love and hope in our world. Please contact Kevin for more information: koconnell@icsjparish.org




blossoms of hope
brunch

Benefiting the
Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide
(LOSS) Program



Sunday, April 28, 2024
11:00am-2:00pm

NEW LOCATION!
Westin Chicago Lombard
70 Yorktown Center | Lombard, IL

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago

catholiccharities.net/events/blossoms-of-hope-brunch-2024

2024 Summer Organ Masses

8am - St. Joseph Church | 1107 N. Orleans St.

- MAY 5, 2024
- JUNE 2, 2024
- JULY 7, 2024
- AUGUST 4, 2024

Join us for a reflective Mass featuring hit tunes and hymns played on our historic organ. We hope you will join us for a refreshing Mass experience!

evening mass & reception



Sunday, April 21st at 5PM at
Immaculate Conception Church

ICSJ's young adult community, **FORMED**, invites you to join us at a special evening mass and reception to meet fellow young people in our parish!

formed
icsj young adults

OUR BURUNDI REFUGEE FAMILY IS HAVING A

BABY GIRL!

Please help us support them by purchasing items from [this Amazon Registry](#) or searching Baby Arakaza on Amazon's Find a Registry

This family is composed of a mom & dad, a 13 year old boy who is wheelchair bound due to cerebral palsy, and a 2 year old girl.

The parents both work alternating shifts in order to care for their children. In addition to supporting them via this registry, if you know of any affordable two bedroom apartments for rent please let me know; they are currently in a one bedroom and struggling to find something that is both affordable and wheelchair accessible.

Please contact Allie at aklazura@icsjparish.org if you have any gently used items you see listed on registry that you'd like to donate or with apartment leads!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY, MAY 5TH AT 12PM

We will host a small reception/shower to present these gifts in the St. Joe's basement following 11am Mass!



SUMMER *Volunteer Choir*

Join us for our summer volunteer choir opportunity. Rehearse before Mass at Immaculate Conception Church on any of the dates you are available. Sign-up below to receive an email reminder and PDF ahead of time for practice. Email jstracek@icsjparish.org for more details.

**2ND SATURDAY MAY THROUGH AUGUST
5PM MASS AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**

**SATURDAY, MAY 10
SATURDAY, JUNE 15**

**SATURDAY, JULY 13
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10**

Scan to
sign-up





SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, May 19th

Larrypalooza!



**Join us for Larrypalooza!, celebrating Fr. Larry's
40th Ordination Anniversary**

Come together with friends and family for an afternoon of fun, food,
and festivities as we celebrate Fr. Larry's four decades of priestly service.

Save the date and let's make this celebration one to remember!

Sunday, May 19th • 12-2pm
ICSJ School Hill Street Gymnasium

More details to come!

BE STILL

God's Great Love

ICSJ Women's Retreat

june 20-23

AND KNOW

SAVE THE DATE!

For more information contact
Elly at erodriguez@icsjparish.org



DOLPHIN DAYS

NEWS FROM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - ST. JOSEPH



A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT MAKE ICSJ SCHOOL SO SPECIAL...

Our Unique Co-Teaching Model – 2 Certified teachers in each PreK3 – 3rd Grade Classroom

Faith Based Curriculum – Daily Religion class period, plus Catholic principles integrated throughout the day

Average Student to Teacher Ratios – PreK3 - Kindergarten 10:1, Primary Grades 12:1, and Middle School 20:1

Higher Standards – Since 2005, ICSJ’s Early Childhood Program has consistently earned NAEYC accreditation

Exemplar Academic Results – Students across all tested grade levels (K-8) regularly in the top 10-15% on iReady Tests

High School Placement – Graduates are prepared for and earn spots at the top high schools in Chicago (95% 1st choice)

Athletics and Extracurriculars – League Sports Teams offered from 4th - 8th and dozens of clubs and enrichment offerings

Specials / Practical Fine Arts at All grade Levels – Art, Music, STEM, Spanish and Physical Education from PrK3 - 8th

Extended School Day Program – Before and After School Care taught by ICSJ teachers available at both campuses




IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Join us for an upcoming
ADMISSIONS TOUR

Friday, March 22 | 9 AM
Thursday, April 18 | 9 AM

RSVP on our school website at
www.ICSJSchool.org
or, by scanning
the QR code -->





IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

TOT PROGRAM


Tuesdays & Thursdays
9:30 - 11 AM

For Toddlers &
Their Caregivers

Final 8-week Session
begins April 9!



[www.icsjschool.org/
apps/pages/totprogram](http://www.icsjschool.org/apps/pages/totprogram)



TRY A FREE CLASS!
Contact Jodi at
312-944-0304 Ext. 312

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



**STEWARDSHIP
UPDATE**

Nancy Gies
Parish Business Manager



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

A family of families

Your giving is important.

Your Easter donation helps us pay our bills (*over 90% of our operating budget comes from your donations*) and continue to do the good work that we do. We offer three easy ways to give:

1. Online

You can make one-time or recurring contributions on our GiveCentral page by using this QR code or by visiting



www.rebrand.ly/GiveToday-To-ICSJ

2. Venmo

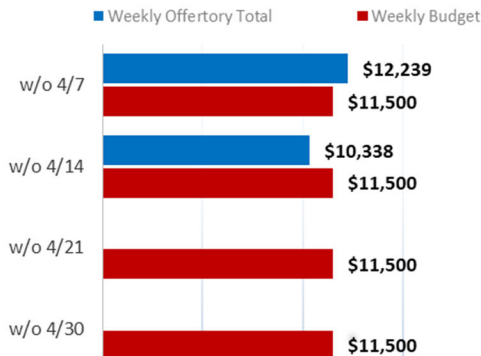
Send your payments to either venmo@icsjparish.org or the username **ICSJ-Chicago**

3. By Mail

Mail your checks to
ICSJ Parish
1107 N. Orleans Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Thank you for your loyalty and support!

Weekly Offertory - April 2023

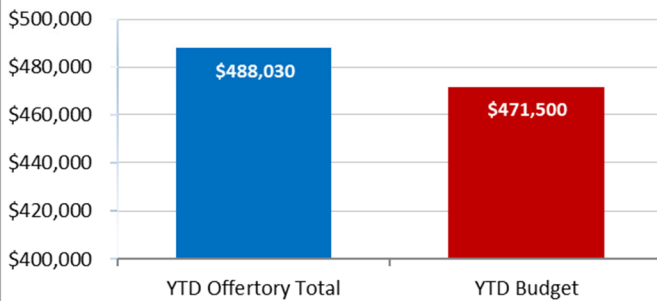


The parish budget requires over one weeks' worth of collections just to cover parish utilities, maintenance, and insurance each month.

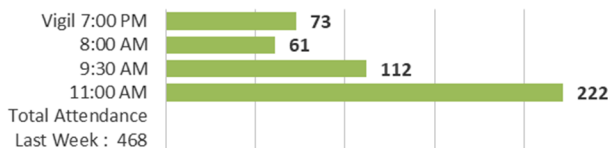
It takes \$3,093 per day to run our parish.

Fiscal Year Budget to Date

Parish Fiscal Year runs from July 1 through June 30



Attendance for 4/13 & 4/14



Mass Intentions

week of April 20-26

Saturday, April 20

5pm at Immaculate Conception with
Fr. Larry McBrady:

For the healing of Natalie Davies

Sunday, April 21

8am at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

Jim Lail

Sunday, April 21

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

Ignacio Cordova Jr.

Sunday, April 21

11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:

Jim Lail

Monday, April 22

9am Mass at St. Joseph Fr. Larry Lisowski:

Michael Murphy

Wednesday, April 24

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

For the well-being of Monica Lyons

Friday, April 26

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

David James Keefe

Jane Kennedy

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 pastor@icsjparish.org, 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!



PRAY

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



GROW

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



SERVE

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



SHARE

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



BELONG

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



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.

Staff Directory

Pastor

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

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312-787-7174

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Outreach Ministries Coordinator

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312-787-7174

Evening/Weekend Receptionist

Sherrine Manning
312-787-7174, ext. 0

Follow ICSJ Parish on Social Media



@icsjparish (Parish)



@i.do.at.icsj (Weddings)



@icsjparish