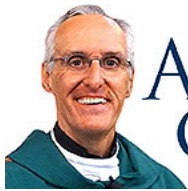


March 17, 2024 | Fifth Sunday of Lent



ALL
OF US

Fr. Larry's
Weekly Letter
#557

TWO GREAT SAINTS



During this fourth week of Lent we celebrate the feast days for two great saints, St. Patrick (March 17) and St. Joseph (March 19).

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, or as Fr. McBrady calls it, "the Holy Land." He also warned me that he might be wearing green vestments this weekend, even though we are still making our way through Lent.

Because Patrick is so closely associated with all things Irish, many people may be surprised to learn that he was not Irish. He was, in fact, born in Great Britain but was kidnapped as a boy by Irish pirates and brought to Ireland by his captors. He was a slave for six years until he managed to escape and make his way back to Britain.

However, during his time of enslavement Patrick grew closer to God and prayed constantly throughout the day. When he returned to his homeland, he became a priest and decided to return to Ireland as a missionary to bring the Good News of Jesus to the Irish people.

Throughout his 40 years of preaching, he managed to convert all of Ireland to Christianity. St. Patrick is believed to have died on March 17, 461.

St. Joseph is known to all of us as the adoptive father of Jesus. Because of this, St. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers. Being a carpenter he is also the patron saint of workers.

Joseph has also come to be known as one of the patron saints of Italy. This came about because of a drought that occurred in Sicily during the Middle Ages. The starving people of Sicily prayed to St. Joseph for rain for their crops. The rains came and the people were spared from a severe famine. To thank St. Joseph for his intercession in their prayers the people held a great feast in which everyone was invited.

Continued on the next page

For us, these two great saints that we honor this week are true examples of simple ordinary people who followed the call of God for their lives.

As we honor them, let's ask for their help with the following list of intentions.

St. Patrick and St. Joseph ... help us:

- To listen to the call of God in our life and follow Jesus where he wants us to build the Kingdom of God.***
- To never be afraid of putting our faith in to action.***
- To care for the poor, welcome the stranger and feed the hungry.***
- To deepen the bonds that we share with our family and friends.***
- To support the incarcerated who long for a fresh start in their life.***
- To foster a sense of unity in a world that is heavily divided.***
- To support vocations to the priesthood and religious life.***
- To be patient, kind and understanding.***
- To persevere when we get discouraged.***

ONE FABULOUS FEAST!!

I was so proud of our parish last Sunday! Our St. Joseph Table was a huge success. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make the feast such an enjoyable gathering for our parishioners and visitors.

It was such a great sight to see the decorated gym and transformed into an Italian restaurant and filled with people. A wonderful spirit of welcome and hospitality filled the air along with the smell of garlic and the sound of Frank Sinatra.



Gathered at the round tables were young adults and seniors, school parents and singles, folks who were visiting us from other parish communities and life-long parishioners who typically attend Immaculate Conception Church or St. Joseph Church for Mass.

Thank you especially to our chairpersons, Dan Stolze, Jutta Keenan, Gwen Miglio and Maria Scandariato who organized it all. They did a fantastic job!

It is a moment like this that we get a glimpse of what heaven is going to be like, when we will all be seated at the heavenly banquet with Jesus, surrounded by all our family and friends.

Life doesn't get much better than this!!!

Fr. Larry

WARNING - SPAM EMAIL ALERT: Fr. Larry, Fr. McBrady and the parish staff do not solicit individuals for gift cards or money via email or text. The emails look legitimate with a picture and full signature but they're not! Please mark them as "Spam" or "Phishing."



***John Sullivan Damus
Baptized Friday, March 8th
John and Meghan Damus
Older Sisters, Claire and Kate***



***Lola Emery Buhe
Baptized Saturday, March 9th
Brett & Genesis Buhe***



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!



ICSJ'S ANNUAL
ST. JOSEPH
Table
A Luncheon Feast in Honor of our Patron Saint

Thank you!

A huge *GRAZIE MILLE* to all who came out and contributed to the resounding success of our 2024 St. Joseph Table! With an incredible turnout of over 330 attendees, we experienced a joyous celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph as a Family of Families. • A monumental thank you is owed to our devoted team of 30+ volunteers, the Knights of Columbus, and our dedicated core committee members — Maria, Gwen, Dan, and Jutta. Their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts created a joyous ambiance of faith and belonging that truly made the event memorable!





ICSJ'S ANNUAL
ST. JOSEPH
Table
A Luncheon Feast in Honor of our Patron Saint

Thank you to our wonderful donors!

Our deepest appreciation to the generous donors of food and wine, whose contributions ensure the success of this beloved tradition year after year. Their kindness and support enriches our parish community in countless ways.



145 N Dearborn Street



1206 N Wells Street



1800 N Halsted Street



516 N Clark Street



666 N Orleans Street



227 W North Avenue



1516 N Wells Street



536 W Erie Street



1401 N Wells Street



21 W Goethe Street



334 W Chicago Avenue



1925 N Lincoln Avenue



1711 N Halsted Street



3656 N Central Avenue



Available wherever
you buy fine wine



20 W Division Street



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
AND ST. JOSEPH PARISH

2024 Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH ~ MASS OF THE LORD'S PASSION

(Saturday) 5:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church *(Fr. Larry McBrady)*

8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church *(Fr. Larry Lisowski)*

9:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church *(Fr. Larry McBrady)*

11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church *(Fr. Larry Lisowski)*

HOLY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH ~ MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church *(Fr. Larry Lisowski)*

Adoration until 9:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH ~ SERVICE OF THE LORD'S PASSION AND DEATH

3:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church *(Fr. Larry McBrady)*

7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church *(Fr. Larry McBrady)*

Holy Communion will be distributed at these services

HOLY SATURDAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH

Blessing of the Food Baskets: 12:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church

Easter Vigil Mass: 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church *(Fr. Larry Lisowski)*

Fulfills Sunday Obligation

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST

8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church *(Fr. Larry McBrady)*

9:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church *(Fr. Larry Lisowski)*

11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church *(Fr. Larry McBrady)*



Your Continued 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:

GIVE BY VENMO

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

GIVE ONLINE

Make one-time or recurring
contributions on our GiveCentral page at
www.rebrand.ly/GiveToday-to-ICSJ

GIVE BY MAIL

ICSJ Parish
1107 N Orleans Street
Chicago, IL 60610



ICSU Lent 2024

Reflection Guide

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 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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

"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, ♥

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Thank you for...

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I am worried about...

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I need...

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PEOPLE I AM PRAYING FOR TODAY...

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Other things on my heart that I want to share with you...

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.....
.....
.....



Thank you
for hearing
my prayers.

Amen.

C.L.O.W. DURING LENT



Children's Liturgy of the Word 4 y/o to 3rd Grade

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

ICSJ PARISH & SCHOOL WITH THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Lenten Food Drive

9AM -12PM | MARCH 23, 2024

IC CHURCH PARKING LOT || 1431 N NORTH PARK AVE

This year's Lenten Drive will be supporting Blessed Maria Gabriella Church, Union Baptist Missionary Church, and the food pantries & programs of our LPOT Parish Grouping. We will be collecting the following items:

- peanut butter & jelly
- cereal & oatmeal
- canned meats/nonperishable entrees
- Maruchan single serve chicken or beef dry ramen (in cups!)
- multigrain bars (like NutriGrain or similar, not harder granola-type bars)
- snack size chips & cereal
- bottled water & juice boxes
- hearty soups

For more information please contact Allie Klazura at aklazura@icsjparish.org



OUR BURUNDI REFUGEE
FAMILY IS HAVING A

BABY GIRL!

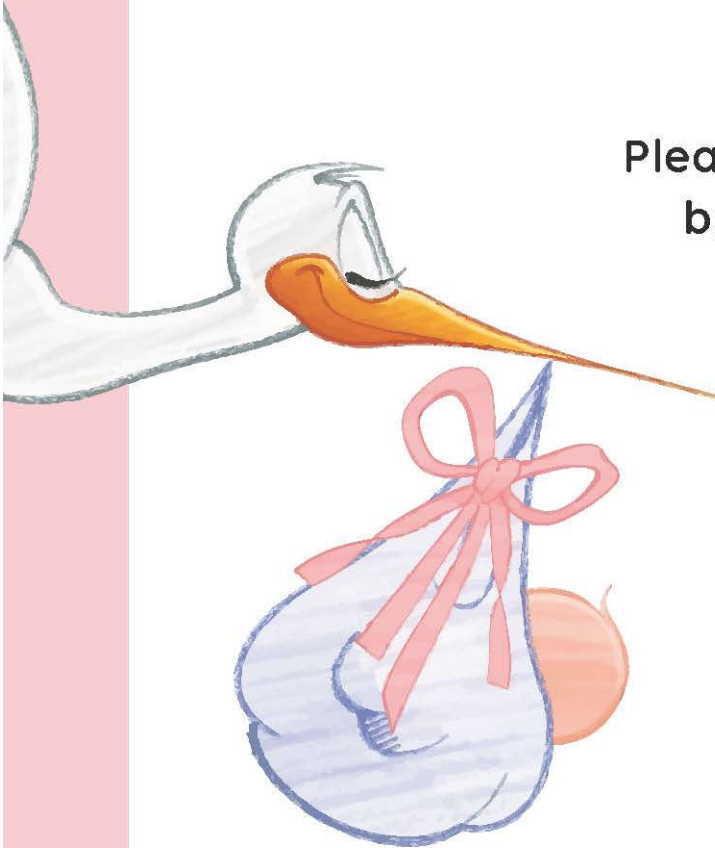
Please help us support them
by purchasing items from
this Amazon Registry

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!





**Are you curious?
A believer?
Still seeking?**



**Join a conversation
about life, faith
and purpose**



Learn more

Alpha at ICSJ begins Thursday, April 4th!

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





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



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 ngies@icsjparish.org or (312) 787-7174 ext 7.

Sign up for eGiving

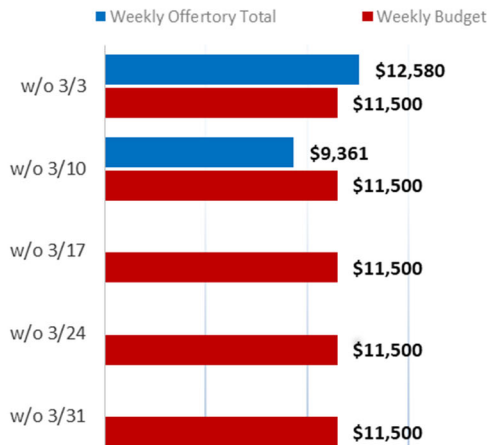
eGiving is a secure and convenient way of giving to Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph parish. It is eco-friendly and cost-saving. Just click **HERE** and to make your one-time, weekly, or monthly donation.

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 erodriguez@icsjparish.org or (312)787-7174 ext 4.

Weekly Offertory - March 2023

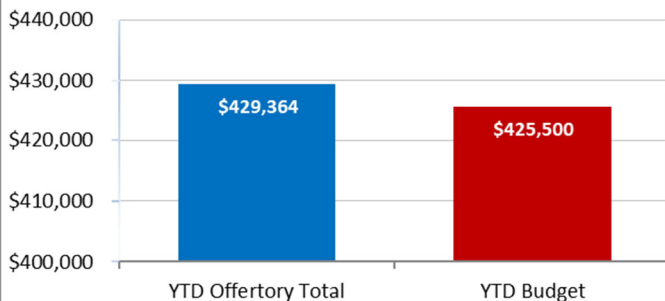


The parish budget requires over one weeks' worth of collections just to cover parish utilities, maintenance, and insurance each month.

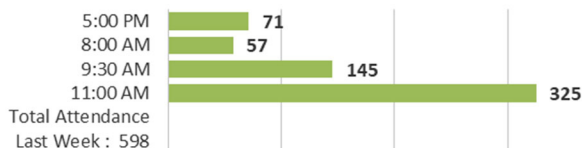
It takes \$3,093 per day to run our parish.

Fiscal Year Budget to Date

Parish Fiscal Year runs from July 1 through June 30



Attendance for 3/9 & 3/10



Mass Intentions

week of March 16-22

Saturday, March 16

5pm at Immaculate Conception with
Fr. Larry McBrady: **For the parishioners of our
ICSJ Parish Community**

Sunday, March 17

8am at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:
Jim Lail
Agnes Vespo

Sunday, March 17

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

Sunday, March 17

11am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry Lisowski:
Jim Lail
Rob Hernandez

Monday, March 18

9am Mass at St. Joseph Fr. Larry Lisowski:
For the well-being of Thomas Meehan

Wednesday, March 20

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

Friday, March 22

9am Mass at St. Joseph with Fr. Larry McBrady:
For the intentions of Nancy and Peter Buttitta

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.

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

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312-787-7174

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312-787-7174

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Sherrine Manning
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