

SAINT ISAAC JOGUES PARISH

8149 Golf Road, Niles, IL 60714 • 847.967.1060 • Fax: 847.967.1070 • Website: <http://sij-parish.com>

Mission: "A Catholic Parish sharing experiences of the Kingdom of God"

PASTOR: Rev. Mario Pereira, S.F.X.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Carlos Pereira, S.F.X.

Pastoral Staff:

Deacon Paul M. Stanton (Dolores)
Lori Ronczka, Business Manager
Dolores Stanton, Director of Religious Education
Lisa Hall, Director of Music

Weekend Mass Celebrant:

Rev. Bernard Kennedy, O.F.M.

Eucharistic Masses:

Monday - Saturday: 8:00 AM
Saturday: - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Parish Office: 8149 Golf Road, Niles, IL. 60714

Phone: 847-967-1060

Website: <http://sij-parish.com>

E-mail: office@sij-parish.com

Marlene Garber (A/R, Calendar Coordinator)

Parish Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - Closed

Religious Education: 847-966-1180

Email: sjre2004@yahoo.com

Parish School: St. John Brebeuf School

847-966-3266 or sjschool.org

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday, 11:00 - 12:00 Noon or anytime by request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Must be registered for six months prior to setting the wedding date with an additional six months for necessary preparation.

Note: The following wedding times can be scheduled:

Friday at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Sunday at 3:00 p.m. (Ceremony only)

Sacrament of Baptism: Second and fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30 PM. Baptism Preparation Session must be completed before Baptism.

Contact the Parish Office as soon as possible for details.



“Sir, leave the fig tree for another year;
perhaps it will bear fruit.”

Luke 13:8-9

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ST ISAAC JOGUES - Parish Leaders				
Parish Pastoral Council			Finance Committee Advisors	
Ted Lenart, Chairperson	Kathy Denning	Gerry Zeller	Kathy Denning	Barbara Watson
Kathy Lord, Vice Chairperson	Lori Ronczka	Dolores Stanton	Gerry Zeller	Irene Baron
Debbie Dexter	Barbara Napravnik	Maria Swidzinski	Lori Ronczka	Conce Mesquita
John Kadiri	Fernando Bonto	Sheila Magno		
Women's Club Chairperson – Louella Preston				
Men's Club Chairperson – Deacon Paul Stanton				
Fil-Am Chairperson – Jelly Carandang (Interim)				



FROM THE
Pastor's Desk

Sir, leave the fig tree for another year;
perhaps it will bear fruit.

The words in the Scriptures convey a powerful message and sounds as a warning to us all for a change of heart. Let's look into the gospel text of Luke 13/8-9 and what it signifies. The question that comes to my mind is this: what is the fig tree doing in a vineyard when it should have been in an orchard? To think like this is to misunderstand the agricultural methods of the time. It was a common practice to plant a variety of fruits trees in vineyards and even in vegetable gardens and for that reason, the presence of the fig trees in a vineyard was not unusual. The other reason is that fig trees and vines are often mentioned together in the Old Testament (Joel 1/12, 2/22) and have a spiritual meaning and symbolizes Israel as a nation.

When you plant a fig tree one must know that it takes at least three years before fig trees can yield fruits. So the man had come to the tree after three years had passed. Every year, for three consecutive years the man came looking for fruits but found none. I presume therefore that the tree must have been at least six years old. And the vinedresser requested the owner to grant it another year. Seven is a number of perfection of God's perfect patience. He waits until no more hope is felt. It is useless to go beyond that point as it is depleting the soil.

Remember that a fig tree, like any plant, takes a lot of moisture and nutrients from the soil to sustain its growth. Every year the tree remains barren is a loss to the owner. The other vines and fruit trees suffer. In the owner's judgment, the vineyard is better off without the fig tree if it doesn't bear fruit. The fig tree in the parable was supposed to bear fruit. It had been planted for that specific purpose. But it did not bear fruit. Although the tree is given another chance to produce fruit within one more year, the prospect of seeing it happening is not so good. It is very unlikely that a fruit tree which has failed to bring forth fruit for six consecutive years is going to produce anything at all. To be realistic, it is virtually impossible.

This is where the supernatural element of the parable comes out. You see, this fig tree will never bear fruit unless a miracle happens. There has to be a complete and profound transformation in the fruit tree. It can be described as a miracle of regeneration in the tree and this vinedresser is actually looking for such a miracle to happen.

God gives us ample time to amend our ways while we are on earth but once we die, it is there that our judgment takes place and we will be awarded for the good we do but suffer for our bad choices. Let's use the opportunities that come our way during this season of lent to repent of our evil ways and to live a life pleasing to God. Let us purify our hearts by availing the Sacrament of reconciliation; by repenting for our sins and choosing to live a life worthy of God, so that we can bear fruits.

-Fr. Mario

**LENTEN REFLECTION: from Pope Francis'
Message for Lent 2019**

"Each year, through Mother Church, God 'gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed...as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ' (Preface of Lent I). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfillment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ's paschal mystery – 'for in hope we were saved' (Rom 8:24). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As St. Paul says, 'the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God' (Rom 8:19). In this perspective I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion..."

"The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ is a priceless gift of God's mercy. When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit and capable of acknowledging and obeying God's law, beginning with the law written in our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why St. Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus' paschal mystery may experience its fulfillment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticle of the Creatures" by St. Francis of Assisi (Laudato Si', 87). Yet in this world the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

"Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbors and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans 'I want it all and I want it now!' and 'Too much is never enough', gains the upper hand. "The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness...sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures. Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart...takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip." (continues next week)

St. Isaac Jogues News

This Week's Lenten Events:

Sunday: St. Joseph Table -- Noon Mass followed by table blessing and serving of food until 3 p.m. Today's alms recipient is **Heifer International**.

Monday: Day of Reconciliation, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.; 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.; 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Come celebrate the Lord's mercy and forgiveness as part of your Lent journey.

Thursday: Soup Supper, 6 – 7 p.m.; Biblical Perspective of the Ten Commandments w/Fr. Leslie Hoppe, OFM, 7 p.m. Come for one or the other or both; Free will offering.

Friday: Divine Mercy Chaplet & Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.

Saturday: Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11 a.m.

Weekend of March 31: Teen Group & Women's Club Sack Lunches Project, 200+ to be packed for the homeless, 11 a.m., all welcome. **Alms recipient – The Night Ministry** is a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, health care and human connection to members of the community struggling with poverty or homelessness. Please bring cookies (homemade or store-bought) to the Holy Family Room. If you can stay to help, we'll put an assortment of three cookies in a baggie for use on their outreach bus where our brothers and sisters in need will find a warm welcome, hospitality and medical attention. We'll also write a short message on the labels affixed to the bags. Monetary gifts are also welcome in the alms boxes.





ST. JOSEPH TABLE TODAY

This proud Italian and parish devotion and tradition glorifies God and thanks St. Joseph for his intercession & protection (originally from illness and enemies). We start with the Noon Mass, then the blessing of the St. Joseph Table (which is always meatless), beautifully arrayed with flowers, candles, pastas, salmon, symbolic breads, sweets and beverages. Food will be served from after Mass to 3 p.m. There is no charge but donations are appreciated to help the parish carry on its many good works in the name of our Lord Jesus. Invite your families, friends and neighbors (Italian or not)! All are welcome!

St. Joseph, pray for us!



+There is a Forgiveness Service for the Initiation and Gr. 1 classes Monday at 6:50 p.m. in Church. Family members are welcome to join them for prayer.
 +Confirmation Yr. II Candidates are asked to remind your sponsors that testimony forms are due to the RE Office by April 1st.
 +RE Family Event response forms and First Communion Retreat permission slips are due back by April 1st.
 +Grs. 5 – Con. Yr. II families are strongly encouraged to attend the Apr. 11 Soup Supper and talk on living the Ten Commandments today. More info in this bulletin.



The **Lent Soup Suppers and Series**, hosted here at St. Isaac Jogues Parish and co-sponsored by St. Martha of Bethany Parish, **begin this Thursday, March 28** and continue on April 4 and 11. Soup is served from 6 – 7 p.m. and presentations begin at 7 p.m. Come for one, the other, or both. **Perspectives on the Big 10!** will look at the Ten Commandments from a biblical, moral, and practical viewpoint. There is no cost for the evenings but free will offerings are requested. To help plan, or to make soup, RSVP on the sheets in the Holy Family Room or contact the RE Office, 847/966-1180 or sijre2004@yahoo.com.

This Thursday we welcome **Fr. Leslie Hoppe, OFM**, who will pursue the biblical perspective. Fr. Hoppe is currently the Carroll Stuhlmuehler Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and general editor of the Catholic Biblical Quarterly. He is a member of the Assumption Province of the Franciscans and decades-long weekend celebrant at St. Rosalie Parish in Harwood Heights. Our other speakers will be Fr. Bernard Kennedy, OFM on Apr. 4 and Mrs. Anne Chrzan on Apr. 11. Invite your families, friends and neighbors to come, too!





ST. CATHERINE LABOURE

LENTEN MISSION

Sun. April 7 & Mon. April 8, 2019

Rev. Thomas Weinandy, OFM Cap.

“Jesus: Dying & Rising in Christ”

Fr. Thomas G. Weinandy is an internationally renowned and accomplished theologian. Former Chief of Staff for the USCCB Committee on Doctrine. Past President of Catholic Theological Society. Current member of the Vatican's International Theological Commission.

Fr. Weinandy has taught at several US universities and the University of Oxford. He has membership in US, French and British Theological Societies. He is a prolific author and speaker for both academic and popular audiences.

Sun. April 7, 7:30-9:30 PM

Healing prayer service for physical emotional healing

Mon. April 8, 7:00-8:30 PM

Sacramental Confessions for healing of the spirit

St. Catherine Laboure 3535
Thornwood, Glenview
Book Table & Book Signing
Free-Will Offering / 847-729-1414

Pray for

ROSE LUZ

ERIK JOHANSEN

TONY KOZA

MICHAEL NOBLE

JULIE HIGGINS

JOSEPH WHITE

STAN ZABOROWSKI

PATRICIA CRESSY

JIM MC CABE

NINA YOAKUM

REV. BERNARD KENNEDY

GIANNA MARTINO

JOSEPH BAUMAN

SARA KOZ

JERRY CRESSY

LARRY REAMER

ANTHONY MALATESTA SR.

AUDREY JANS

DEAN & GERI JOHANSEN

HAN YI ZAHN

MARCY SANTIAGO

BERNARD KENNEDY, SR

JAMES MAXWELL PASCALE

JIMMY RANCICH

DIANE & GENE KUFFEL

STACI VINCENT

WILLIAM PARRILLO

MICHAEL BEIL

ANN LINDSTROM

AVA MIDURI

OM THAKRAL

KERMIT TURNER

CLARIBEL KLAWITTER



Merciful Father, who know every hair on our head, embrace with your blessing and protection all who serve in the Armed Forces and as First Responders, especially our family members and friends. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Responders
United States Air Force
United States Army
U.S. Army Reserves
United States Marines

United States Navy
U.S. Navy Reserves
Illinois National Guard

Shane Long, Brad Markovich, Greg Zalewski
Joshua Aujero, Mason Janzen
Brian Caplin, Gale Renner
Christopher Dexter
Patrick Edward Echavez, Joseph John Zimmerman III,
Lance Renner, Gian Patrick Reyes
Timothy Kelly, David Perez, Paul Matthew Ledesma
William B. Dexter
Nathaniel Janzen



To add a name to the prayer list please contact the RE Office at 847/966-1180 or sijre2004@yahoo.com.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop 835 North Rush
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312.534.8230
archchicago.org

March 23, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With this letter I write to you about a development that should disturb us greatly, both as citizens and as disciples of Jesus, the Lord of life.

Recently, two bills have been introduced in the Illinois House and Senate. The first, House Bill 2495 and Senate Bill 1942, both identical pieces of legislation, seeks to strip unborn persons of any protection - or even consideration - under the law and declare abortion to be a "fundamental right" and matter of health care. The end result is that an abortion could be obtained at any stage of pregnancy, including late term, for any reason and without any regulation. The law would no longer guarantee any modicum of humanity or compassion for any unborn person in Illinois, even if they are partially born. This legislation also repeals the Abortion Performance Refusal Act, which protects doctors, nurses and hospitals who refuse to permit, recommend, perform or assist in abortion. In so doing, rights of conscience, especially religious objections, will be lost.

The second piece of legislation House Bill 2467 and its identical Senate Bill 1594, repeals the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act. This law, upheld unanimously by the Illinois Supreme Court just six years ago, has the common-sense purpose of ensuring that parents would be part of the life-altering decision of their minor child in the case she seeks an abortion. This effective law has reduced abortions performed on minors by fifty-seven percent.

As citizens of a state and people of faith who care about the common good, I urge you to join me and my brother bishops in an effort to defeat this radical departure from current law and practice in our state. Please reach out your State Representative and Senator to urge defeat of these bills. You can find the name of your appropriate politicians and their contact information at <https://www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/action-center/>. To find out more about these bills, please consult the Catholic Conference of Illinois website, www.ilcatholic.org, or call the Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity at 312-534-5355 for further information.

Entrusting our efforts for all life, from the moment of conception until natural death, to the care of our Blessed Mother, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Archbishop of Chicago

Mass Intentions

Sunday - March 24, 2019	
8:00 a.m.	Lisowski Family
10:00 a.m.	Frank Schmidt
12:00 p.m.	Living & Deceased Members of SIJ David Kannenberg
Monday - March 25, 2019	
8:00 a.m.	Purgatorial Society
Tuesday - March 26, 2019	
8:00 a.m.	Thresia Putherickal
Wednesday - March 27, 2019	
8:00 a.m.	The Unborn
Thursday - March 28, 2019	
8:00 a.m.	K. V. Jacob Ester Luz
Friday - March 29, 2019	
8:00 a.m.	Souru Kadapparamban
Saturday - March 30, 2019	
8:00 a.m.	Maggie Kiesler
5:00 p.m.	Living & Deceased Members of SIJ Jean & Len Minelli
Sunday - March 31, 2019	
8:00 a.m.	Herminia & Dominador Babas Edgarlito Reyes Maria Saludmaya Robles Remedios and Teofilo Bengson Antonio Bernabe
10:00 a.m.	Harold Scanlon
12:00 p.m.	Allister Laurel

Liturgy Next Weekend March 30th & 31st

Confessions - 11:00 a.m.	Fr. Mario
5:00 p.m.	Fr. Mario
8:00 a.m.	Fr. Carlos
10:00 a.m.	Fr. Mario
12:00 p.m.	Fr. Carlos

5:00 p.m.	Lawrence Escarez Alaina Linang Aaron Linang
8:00 a.m.	Red Reyes Rylee Reyes
10:00 a.m.	Mark Magno Steve Livingston Nathan Ledesma
12:00 p.m.	Angelika Dacpano Engell Villarino Eugene Villarino



Sacristans
Theresa Noble, Francis Martel,
Arlene Turek, Nina Nissan, Louise Burdi

Log in to
givecentral.org and
register today!

**Give Central is available for your
"Assure Our Future" Pledge Campaign, Annual
Catholic Appeal and your parish
donations! Any questions, feel free to call the
rectory office.**

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

THANK YOU!