

--So far, the new year seems to be off to a good start and we are close to Catholic Schools week. There will be an open house at the school, student and parent speakers at Mass, and general opportunities to promote and be grateful for Catholic education. Thank you for your past donations to the Tax Credit Scholarship (TCS) fund. Unfortunately last year we were a bit underfunded, meaning we had families who qualified for the scholarship, but we were unable to help because of the underfunding, so know that your donation will go to good use!

More than 11,000 scholarships have been awarded since the program began in 2017. However, many students remain on wait lists hoping that a scholarship will help fund their Catholic school education. No donation is too large or small.

Through this program:

- An individual receives a 75% state tax credit on donations. For example, if a person donates \$1,000 they will receive a state tax credit of \$750.
- Individual donors can support a Catholic school of their choice or all of the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools.

Double Your Impact! Take advantage of a 1-for-1 Matching Program and donate to the scholarship program between Dec. 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, or until all matched funds are depleted (whichever comes first).

Individuals can reserve tax credits through [mytax.illinois.gov](http://mytax.illinois.gov) and by following the steps. Renewal donors do not need to re-register. Please contact [tcs@archchicago.org](mailto:tcs@archchicago.org) or 312.534.2617 to speak with the Tax Credit Scholarship Office at the archdiocese if you need assistance in making your donation.

--A big parish social and fundraiser is fast approaching - Casino Night, hosted in the school Auditorium on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. Appetizers and drinks are included in the admission charge. Your playing chips get converted to raffle tickets giving you the chance to win an array of great prizes, including a vacation package. This is a parish wide social and fundraiser and loads of fun. I look forward to seeing you there. If you are willing to help as a volunteer, please contact our chairperson, Nello Selvaggio: [nselfaggio82@gmail.com](mailto:nselfaggio82@gmail.com).

--This weekend is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, and as we read through the Gospel of Matthew we see that Jesus is beginning His public ministry after the death of John the Baptist. St. Matthew says that Jesus went immediately to the north, the land of Naphtali and Zebulun. Zebulun and Naphtali were two of the twelve sons of Jacob, but these tribes had been scattered in the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. by the Assyrians.

God had promised that the Kingdom of David and Solomon, that included all 12 tribes of Israel, would last forever, yet just two hundred years later, due to infidelity, the 10 northern tribes, starting with the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, were conquered and the people scattered among the Gentiles. First century Jews might have worried that God's promises that He made to Abraham and David were broken, because the Davidic Kingdom of the 12 tribes had been divided and scattered for centuries.

When Jesus Christ started His public ministry, He went first to the lost regions of Zebulun and Naphtali and began rebuilding the twelve tribes by choosing the twelve apostles. The Lord knew what He was doing!

God's way of keeping His promises might not have been what many expected or even wanted at first. The Lord did keep His promises and used the lost tribes of Israel as a means of gathering in all people, Gentiles included. Christ came for all people, that we might be united as one in Him, in real communion.

There may be times in each one of our lives when we wonder how the Lord is keeping His promises to us, and it is good to relate our hurts and fears to Him. Can we also ask Him to help us see how He is faithful, even if surprising at times?