

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

SEPTEMBER 04, 2022 | TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WELCOME!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self-image, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here.

CONTACT US

(P) 508-754-8419 | (F) 508-459-9815

www.icworc.com | icworc@live.com

OFFICE HOURS - JULY & AUGUST

Monday - Wednesday | 9:30am - 2:30pm

MASS SCHEDULE

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil | 4:00pm

Sunday | 7:30am, 10:00am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Thursday | 9:00am

CONFESSION

Saturday | 2:45pm - 3:30pm

Other | By Appointment

ADORATION

Holy Hour for Priests

Second Friday | 7:00pm



23rd Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

GLPI

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Edwin Montana | fatheredwin31@gmail.com

PERMANENT DEACONS

Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net

Frank Myska | Retired

SECRETARY

Jennefer Noberini | icworc@live.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION &

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Mary Sycks | mks723@msn.com | 508-868-8119

MUSIC DIRECTOR

C. Henry Mason

CANTOR

Bridget Klofft

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mark Cutler

MASS INTENTIONS**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3****Vigil of 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00pm | +Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am | +Souls in Purgatory

10:00am | In Thanksgiving to God for good health, from Ebele Ojogbue

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

9:00am | +David Dockerty, from Kathleen Freeman

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:00am | +Eileen Lasseur, from Kathleen Freeman

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:00am | +Richard V. Freeman, from Kathleen Freeman

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:00am | +Peter Rocheleau, from Kathleen Freeman

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**Vigil of 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00pm | +Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am | +Souls in Purgatory

10:00am | +Elaine Candiano, from Kathleen Freeman

CATHOLIC SACRAMENTS**INFANT BAPTISM**

Celebrated on Saturdays at 2:00pm or Sundays at 11:30am. Please contact the church office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

From grades Pre-K to 11. Contact our Religious Education Administrator, Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119.

RCIA

For adults seeking full admission into the church through baptism, confirmation & eucharist. Please call the church office for registration which takes place during the month of September.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

For Catholics who received first communion but have not yet been confirmed a diocesan-wide adult (18+) Confirmation celebration is offered every year in February at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester. If interested, please contact the church office.

HOLY ORDERS

To learn more about the Permanent Diaconate, contact Deacon William Bilow at 508-929-4335. To learn more about entering the Priesthood, contact Rev. Donate Infante at 508-630-4473.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Contact the Pastor at least six months in advance.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & COMMUNION CALLS

Please call the office when a parishioner is confined at home, in the hospital, or placed in a nursing home. If there is an urgent need, dial the emergency extension.

PROTECTING OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you want to share feelings of hurt or betrayal, call Cathaleen Peloquin, Victim Services Coordinator, Office of Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363 (direct, confidential line).

THIS SUNDAY'S WORD

The Gospel for today can be a difficult one to understand. Jesus once again was on the road with his disciples and great crowds were following him. At one point, Jesus turned to the crowds and addressed them. He said: "If anyone comes to me who does not hate his father and mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters, and even his or her own life, he or she cannot be my disciple."

These are extremely strong words! Did Jesus truly mean that we are to hate our parents, brothers, sisters, children and friends? Or is Jesus telling us that if we choose to follow him, we need to realize that Jesus needs to be first in our lives? Jesus is making a very clear and strong point. Our primary allegiance always needs to be to Jesus. Jesus is not saying that we cannot or should not love and care for our families and our friends. He realizes that we have committed ourselves to our families and we need to live out that commitment.

It would be good to look closer at the word "hate" as used in the original Greek. This word is very strong in English. The word "hate" in the Bible is often used to express priority and preference rather than emotional hatred. In this biblical passage the Greek word means: – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another. One should not hate his mother and father. One should place them less than their love for God. Not all followers of Christ are disciples, but all followers are called to be disciples. We are all called to place God first.

Now, we can go back read the Gospel passage and see how different it feels when understanding the definition of the word "hate."

First and foremost, Jesus must be first in our lives. However, Jesus also wants us to love and care deeply for our family, our friends and for the world community. Today may we strive to love each person we encounter: the person we pass in the grocery store, a co-worker who is struggling, or an individual we simply do not like. The quality of love that Jesus hopes we will have for one another surpasses the simple notion of liking another person. Rather, Jesus hopes that we truly will love every person in our world. This may sound impossible. However, with Jesus' grace and love, we have the ability to do this. Will we choose to do this? Are we just a follower or a full disciple of Christ?

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK

St Vincent de Paul of Immaculate Conception will be hosting a Friends of the Poor Walk on **Saturday, October 15th, 2022.**

Together, we will help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul raise funds—and awareness—to help our local Friends in Need who are struggling with homelessness, hunger, overdue bills, rents, and more during difficult times. Please join us for a family friendly fundraising event that helps people in our community. There are two options for the walk 2.5 miles or 5 miles. **Register for the walk or donate at: www.fopwalk.org/event/2746**, and share the link with friends and family! Contact Jennefer at the Rectory office at 508-754-8419 if you would like to volunteer for this event.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Opening Class and Family Kick-Off for Religious Education classes take place on **Sunday, September 11th**, 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in K through 10th grade. Parents, please plan on staying for the opening prayer, to meet your child's teacher and for a short presentation. All children are welcome to attend Religious Education Classes and will not be denied participation due to financial hardship. If you are new to the parish, and have a child entering K-10th grade, and would like to know more about our Religious Education Program please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119. Children in second grade will begin preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion on Sunday, September 11th. Students in 11th grade will begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, September 11th at 11:15AM. **BE A PART OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY!** Volunteers are essential to our Religious Education Program. Help spread the word of God with the children of Immaculate Conception. We have training and a wonderful support group to help you with this mission. If you are interested in sharing our faith, please contact Mary Sycks.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Altar Servers perform a very important and much needed role in liturgical services. This role includes assisting the presider so that the liturgy can be conducted with grace and reverence. It enables the presider to focus on leading all present through word, prayer and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Immaculate Conception is recruiting boys and girls for its Altar Server Ministry. The Altar Server Ministry is a special opportunity for children to participate in the life of the parish as they serve our Lord at the Altar. Altar Servers must be Baptized, have received their First Holy Communion, and be in the third grade or higher. Training is required. If you and your child(ren) are interested in pursuing this ministry, please contact Mary Sycks.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS - URGENT

At this time, the food pantry in urgent need of peanut butter, jelly, boxed pasta, spaghetti sauce, instant mashed potatoes, rice, rice pilaf, hamburger helper, pasta sides, soups, stews, broths, canned meats, baked beans, canned pasta (Spaghetti O's), canned fruit, cereal, crackers, and cookies. Thank you.

THANK YOU - NEW HYMNALS

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to our hymnal fundraiser. **All 302 hymnals were donated!** We look forward to start using the new hymnals at the beginning of the new Liturgical Year, the First Sunday of Advent. Thank you all for your generosity!

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS

Please join us for a holy hour to pray for our priests on Friday, September 9th at 7:00pm in the church.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

Thanks to all parishioners who have made their gift to the 2022 Partners in Charity Appeal. Our Parish's goal is **\$88,500**. To date **\$71,277.50** has been raised. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please visit partners-charity.net to do it online, or "text to give" by texting **DONATE to 84576**, or call the office at 508-929-4366. Thank you! We couldn't do it without you!

HYMNAL READINGS: 1016

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17/
Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/
Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/
Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/
Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19/
1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32

JULY BUS TRIP - SURPRISING UPDATE, BY MICHELLE DEIGNAN

Deacon Kevin and I went with 33 people on the July 21 bus trip to Hart's Turkey Farm and the musical "The King and I" in Meredith, NH. We had only viewed 45 minutes of the musical when the lights went out, permanently, due to thunderstorms in the area. I was assured that refunds would be made in due time. A few weeks later, I received a refund check which had to be divided by 35 people: \$6.50 each. Now came the hard part: how to get the cash to folks who came from many parishes in the diocese, including IC? After returning cash refunds in person to about half the bus, the remaining half became a dilemma, deliver in person or donate the \$6.50 to our St. Vincent de Paul's group for the Turkey Baskets in November? The remaining half were contacted by email and phone with all of them selecting to donate the \$6.50 to the IC Turkey Baskets. A total of \$104 has been donated for this purpose!! Additionally, it should be noted that we all had a fabulous time on this trip, renewing pre-pandemic friendships and making new friends. Of course, the final stop to Kimball's for ice cream, coupled with Diane Maguire's famous home-made brownies, was the icing on the cake!!

SEX EDUCATION

In the Spring of 2021 the Worcester School Committee adopted a very problematic K-12 sex education curriculum for the Worcester Public Schools. The curriculum, *Rights, Respect, Responsibility* is explicit, age inappropriate and without moral grounding. It will be taught in all grades beginning with kindergarten again this Fall. Under Massachusetts law, parents have the right to opt their children out of sex-ed programs, but they **must opt out again each year**. Bishop McManus is urging parents of Worcester Public School Students to review the *Rights, Respect, Responsibility* curriculum (<https://www.3rs.org/3rscurric-search>) and to opt their children out. Opt-out forms are available at your local Worcester parish. Please share this information with friends and neighbors who may be unaware of the content of this program or of their rights as parents to opt their child out. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(Amounts Include Electronic Giving)

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 6,168.00
Holy Days	\$ 42.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 370.00

8/28/2022



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