

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 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

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

## MASS SCHEDULE

### LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil | 4:00pm  
Sunday | 7:30am, 10:00am

### WEEKDAY MASSES

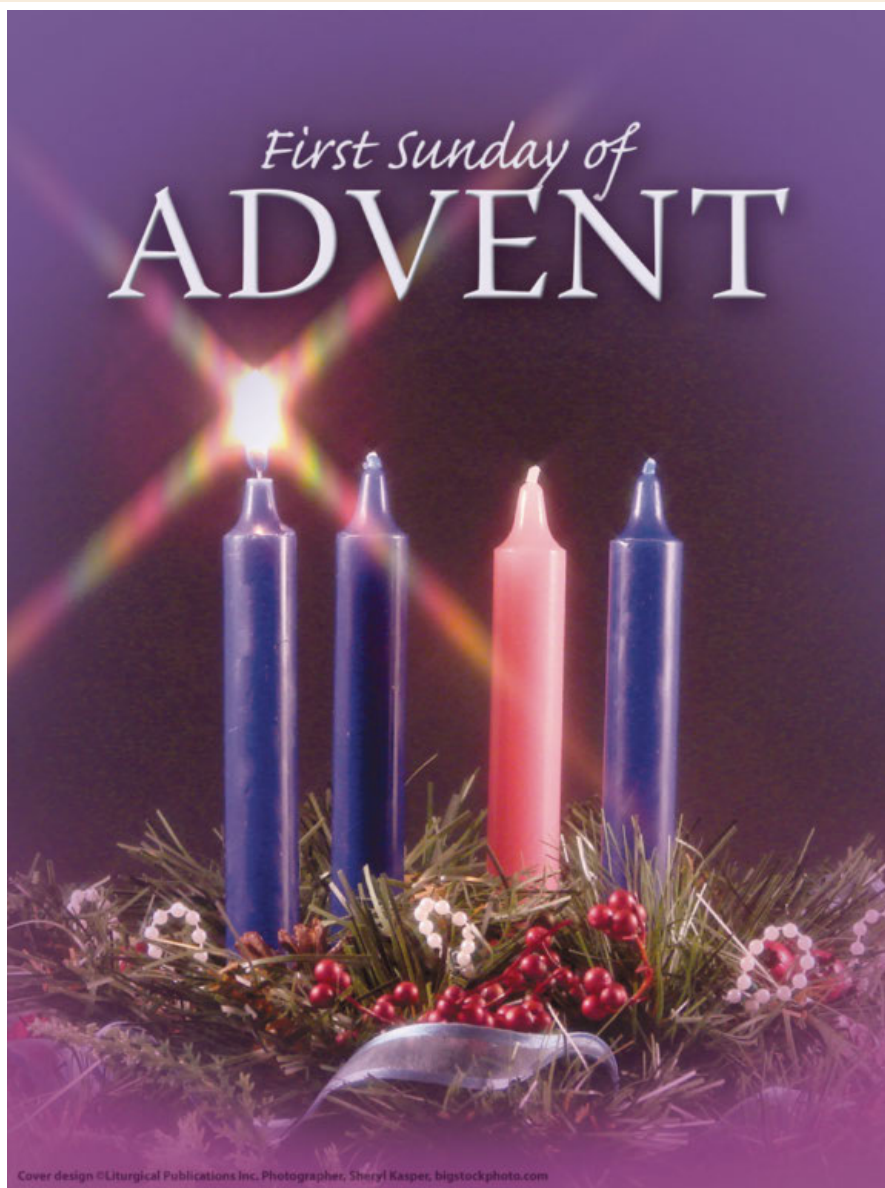
Monday - Thursday | 9:00am

### CONFESSION

Saturday | 2:45pm - 3:30pm  
Other | By Appointment

### ADORATION

Holy Hour for Priests  
Second Friday | 7:00pm



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## 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

Robert G. Carson

### CANTOR

Bridget Klofft

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mark Cutler

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26****Vigil of 1st Sunday of Advent**

4:00pm | +Maureen Janulewicz, from Kathleen Freeman

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27****1st Sunday of Advent**

7:30am | +Beverly Cochran, from Kathleen Freeman

10:00am | +Melba Sanford (Birthday remembrance), from Jane Sanford &amp; Family

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

9:00am | For the intentions of Jennifer, from Young Shin

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

9:00am | + Anne Wall, from Kathleen Freeman

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30****St. Andrew, Apostle**

9:00am |

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1**

9:00am |

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3****Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Advent**

4:00pm | +James Shugrue, from Family

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4****2nd Sunday of Advent**

7:30am |

10:00am |

**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 &amp; 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. Donato 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.

**ADVENT 2022**

Advent is here! The Advent season in which we eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to center our thoughts on hope. It's a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our lost and dying world, and that He's given us through Jesus.

On this first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity; let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. Over this Advent, we pray that hope would rise up in our spirits in a tangible and life-giving way.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." Advent in the 4th and 5th centuries was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers. Over time, advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally Christians used this term to reference Christ's second coming, but by the Middle Ages, Advent was connected to Christ's first coming that we celebrate at Christmas.

Today, we celebrate Advent over the four weeks leading up to Christmas each year. Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off of the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle that can be associated with the Christmas season that often threatens to produce more hassle than delight. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from Heaven and took the form of a man so that we might believe.

The tradition for the first Sunday of Advent includes lighting the candle of hope. This candle of hope symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God as well as the hope we have in Christ. God crafted a great rescue plan that he lays out in Scripture. This plan foretells years in advance the arrival of Christ. The Bible also gives us a glimpse of the future and promises that God will come down to create a new heaven and Earth.

This first Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

*Heavenly Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have hope in you. You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending. Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully. We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation! Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again. More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation. Amen.*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are no Religious Education classes on Sunday, November 27th. Happy Thanksgiving! Classes will resume on Sunday, December 4th.

## Children's Christmas Pageant

We are very excited to announce the date of the Children's Christmas Pageant. The Christmas Pageant will be held **Sunday, December 18th at 9:15am** in the church.

All children at Immaculate Conception are invited to join us for Christmas Pageant **rehearsals** on the following dates: **Sunday, December 4th & 11th 11:00am-11:45am** in the church, and Dress Rehearsal on **Saturday, December 17th at 10:00am**.

We have many roles for all the children. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Mary Sycks 508-868-8119. Any adults who would like to volunteer as costume coordinators or "herders" to guide our littlest angels and sheep the morning of the performance please contact Mary Sycks.

## Youth Group Meeting

All students in grades 7-12 are welcome to attend the Youth Group Pot Luck meeting on **Sunday, December 4th** at 12:00pm in the Church Basement. Bring your favorite dish and a gift for the Yankee Swap! Faith and friends make a fun afternoon! We hope to see you there! Please contact Mary Sycks at [mks723@msn.com](mailto:mks723@msn.com) or 508-868-8119 with any questions.

## NEW HYMNALS

The new hymnals have arrived! Please notice the memorial bookplates stamped on most of the inside covers of the hymnals. There were some donations made that requested no bookplate. Also, notice that the Penitential Act (*I confess to almighty God...*), the Gloria and the Nicene Creed can now be found on the first page of the books. Thank you once again to those who participated in this campaign and let's all enjoy and take good care of the new hymnals.

Many thanks also to Michelle Deignan and the other women who helped preparing the hymnals with the bookplates and the ribbons.

## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This weekend, being the First Sunday of Advent, we will place our **Giving Tree** in the front right sanctuary of the Church. The tree will have tags with names and Christmas gifts/gift cards for children throughout Worcester county and for the seminarians of our Diocese.

**For the Christmas gifts for children:** the people of our Lady of Hope Apostolate have asked that gifts not be wrapped and be returned no later than next weekend December 5th/6th, when they will be picked up at our Church.

**For the gift cards for the seminarians:** please mail your gift card in the envelope attached to each tag. It has the address and the name of the seminarian who will receive your gift. Thank you to those who will participate in this annual giving program that serves the needs of the needy children in our communities and of our future priests.

## Hymnal Readings: 858

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Mt 8:5-11  
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24  
Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22  
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/  
Mt 7:21, 24-27  
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31  
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/  
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/  
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

## NATIVITY RAFFLE

Deacon Kevin and Michelle are raffling off a nativity set and donating the proceeds toward Church utilities. They will be selling tickets after all Masses this weekend and next weekend in the crying room. The drawing will be after the 10am Mass on December 11th. Tickets are \$5 for one ticket and \$10 for three tickets. This beautiful nativity set was purchased by Deacon Kevin and Michelle at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. It is a 9-piece set, in perfect condition, with a base and 8 figures, with an average height of 9". A picture of it will be on each bulletin board.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP MEETING

The Society Saint Vincent de Paul group will be meeting **Thursday December 1st at 6:00pm** in the basement of the church. Anyone is welcome to join. Members are dedicated to helping individuals and families in need in our community.

## WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Women of our parish are invited to join our monthly prayer group! All women aged 21 and older are welcome to join our next gathering on **Saturday, December 10th at 9am** in the Coffee Shop. We will have a mini Advent/Christmas celebration, pray, reflect, share, and have coffee. Let's nourish our spirit! For more info, please email Bridget Klofft, at [bridgetbakes@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgetbakes@yahoo.com)

## WINTER MASS CANCELLATION POLICY

If Worcester Public Schools are CLOSED because of inclement weather, daily Mass WILL NOT be celebrated and the Parish Office will be closed on that day. If school opening is DELAYED, daily Mass WILL BE celebrated and the office will open as usual. Weekend Masses will always be celebrated, unless there is a travel ban issued. Please take care of yourself and those around you during the winter months, especially by using common sense.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(Amounts Include Electronic Giving)

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,773.00
Fall Fuel	\$ 785.00
Holy Days	\$ 100.00
Retirement Fund for Religious- Share in the Care	\$ 25.00

**11/13/2022**





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