

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

FEBRUARY 19, 2023 | SEVENTH 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

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



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." - Mt 5:44

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

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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, FEBRUARY 18****Vigil of 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

4:00pm | +Dr. Harry J. Kelly and his parents, from Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19**7th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

7:30am | +Anita Gregoire (11th Anniversary), from Family

10:00am | +Maeve Becker (1st Anniversary), from Family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:00am | +Bernard Dowd, +Joann Brosnan, +John Dowd, from Family

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:00am | +Lucas Freeman, from Family

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**Ash Wednesday**

7:00am | +Richard Trio, from the Freeman Family

9:00am | +John (Jack) Dowd, from the Freeman Family

5:30pm | +Catherine McElroy, from the Freeman Family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:00am | +Hazel DiBenedetto, from the Freeman Family

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**Vigil of 1st Sunday of Lent**

4:00pm | +Frank and Mary Oftring, from Ruth Ann Oftring and Tom White

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**1st Sunday of Lent**

7:30am | +Eleanor Groden, from Family

10:00am | +Rita Malone, from Rita & Gerry and Family

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. Donat 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.

THIS SUNDAY'S WORD

If you wanted to find the most challenging, most difficult, most confounding passage in all of the gospels, this just might be it. It is also the most fundamentally Christian – because it is the passage that calls on each of us to be the most like Christ. More than that, it calls on us to be “perfect, like the Father is perfect.”

And look at what it entails. Turning the other cheek. Giving away your cloak. And the most radical and counter-cultural of all: Loving your enemies and praying for your persecutors. It sounds so nice and reassuring. But do we know what that means?

Let's take a moment to think and reflect on our own lives. Consider all the people who have hurt you. Those who have lied to you. Stabbed you in the back. Remember the ones who spread rumors about you that were untrue. Those who have gossiped about you, or judged you, or mocked you, or bullied you. Consider the friend that you trusted, who betrayed you. The co-worker who broke a confidence. The person whose name you'd rather forget who wounded you, or disrespected you, or took advantage of you or even abused you. Look back on all the people in your life who have left bruises and scars, with a word or a look or a touch.

Now, imagine doing what Jesus commands. Love them. Love them and pray for them. Pray for their good. Pray that grace will come into their lives. Pray that their eyes may be opened, and their hearts may be healed. Because the chances are, if someone has hurt you or persecuted you...it's probably because someone once did the same to them. It is a vicious cycle. “Hurt people hurt people.” - that the cycle just keeps going — may be one reason why Jesus, in this gospel passage, says: Stop. Enough. Break the cycle. Let it go. Jesus knows we can do better. He knows we can aim higher. Be perfect, he says, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

In the final moments of his life, he showed us that perfection. From the cross, surrounded by his enemies and his persecutors, he prays: “Father, forgive them. They know not what they do.” At one time or another, each of us has been suspended on our own cross, feeling helpless, or hopeless, facing cruelty or injustice. Maybe some of us are there now, angry at what life has done to us. How do we pray for, and love, those responsible? How do we begin? Let's work to be more than what you are, Christ said. Strive to be perfect, like the Father. Jesus showed us the way. How could any of us not try to follow?

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. During school vacations please check the Immaculate Conception website or Facebook Page for information. 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are no Religious Education classes on Sunday, February 19th. Classes will resume on Sunday, February 26th.



LENT 2023

Ash Wednesday, February 22: Masses with distribution of Ashes will be held at 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Confessions: In addition to Saturdays at 2:45 p.m., this Sacrament will be available on Fridays during Lent 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: Fridays during Lent 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent at 6:00 p.m.

Fast and Abstinence

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows:

- Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.
- Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty- nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary, to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

BAPTISM

Our Parish welcomes **Beau Kim Brown** into the Catholic Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray that by the example of his parents and godparents, the gift of faith may grow in him day by day. Congratulations!

FOOD PANTRY

At this time, the food pantry in need of rice, canned mixed vegetables, oatmeal/hot cereal, hot chocolate mix. Thank you.

VOCATIONS RETREAT

Might God be calling you to the priesthood? Join us for our annual priestly vocation discernment retreat with Bishop McManus. This retreat is free and for ages high school aged and up. It will take place **6pm to 6pm March 31 - April 1** at the Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT 06260. To register, please go to <https://www.worcestervocations.com/retreat>

PROJECT RACHEL

Project Rachel is the Catholic Church's ministry of healing and reconciliation to those who have been wounded by a past abortion. Call 508-791-HOPE(4673) in strictest confidence to begin your healing journey.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(Amounts Include Electronic Giving)

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,681.00
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	\$ 250.00

2/12/2023

Hymnal Readings: 946

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13/
1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/
2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/
Rom 5:12-19, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

EUCHARIST AND NEIGHBOR

When Pope Francis was invited to address the United States' Congress seven years ago, he recommended the example of four extraordinary American Catholics. One of them was Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. "Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints," he told our legislators.

Dorothy Day is widely known as an advocate for social justice, but less is appreciated is how that advocacy was inspired by the Eucharist.

Dorothy was once asked what poverty looks like, and she responded with stark realism: "it's toilets out of commission... dishwashers who wipe their noses on the dish towels, people who are mental cases."

But she was equally blunt about the only way to address poverty.

"Without the Sacraments of the Church," she wrote, "primarily the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper as it is sometimes called, I certainly do not think that I could go on." "Food for the body is not enough," she insisted, "There must be food for the soul. Hence, leaders of the work, as many as we can induce to join us, must go to daily Mass. The Mass begins our day; it is our food and drink, our delight, our refreshment, our courage, our light."

Dorothy would have been touched by the words we heard from Leviticus this morning: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But most of all, she would have nodded knowingly, as our closing prayer asks "that we may experience the effects of the salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries."

(@ Office for Divine Worship)

WORD OF LIFE

"We often assume parenthood happens easily after 'I do,' but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility"
respectlife.org/navigating-infertility



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