

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## 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](http://www.icworc.com) | [icworc@live.com](mailto: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

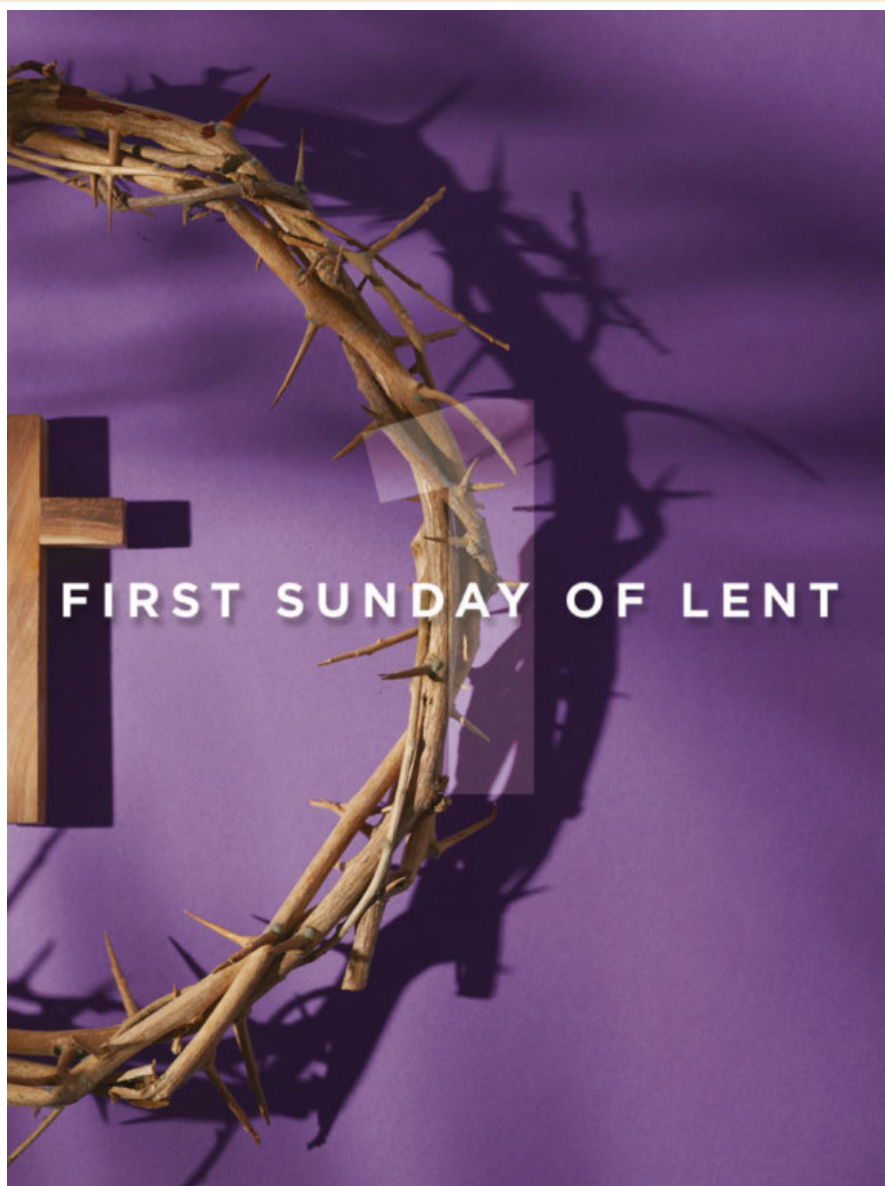
Saturday | 2:45pm - 3:30pm

Other | By Appointment

### ADORATION

Holy Hour for Priests

Second Friday | 7:00pm



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## PARISH STAFF

### PASTOR

Rev. Edwin Montana | [fatheredwin31@gmail.com](mailto:fatheredwin31@gmail.com)

### PERMANENT DEACONS

Kevin Deignan | [kdeignan@charter.net](mailto:kdeignan@charter.net)

Frank Myska | Retired

### SECRETARY

Jennefer Noberini | [icworc@live.com](mailto:icworc@live.com)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION &

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Mary Sycks | [mks723@msn.com](mailto:mks723@msn.com) | 508-868-8119

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Robert G. Carson

### CANTOR

Bridget Klofft

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mark Cutler

**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

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

9:00am | +George Cote, from the Freeman Family

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

9:00am | +Maureen Migdelaney (6th Anniversary), from Mike Casey and Family

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1**

9:00am | +Linda Cantwell, from the Freeman Family

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2**

9:00am | +David Cortese, from the Freeman Family

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4****Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Lent**

4:00pm | +Michael Patrick Senior (1st Anniversary), from Irene Dube

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5****2nd Sunday of Lent**

7:30am | +Jerry Duclos (3rd Anniversary), from Family

10:00am | +Janice R. Evanowski (1st Anniversary), from her husband Walter 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.

**LENT 2023**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Whether it's an annual check-up with the doctor, a tune up of your car or a review with your boss, we have periodic assessments to evaluate performance and to make adjustments so as to maximize the likelihood that we and the things we use can accomplish their intended end. The same is true in our faith lives.

Lent is a time of self-examination and adjustment that better prepares us to celebrate Easter and to attain the end for which God created us, Heaven. The measure of that examination is the Gospel, including the Commandments and the Beatitudes.

Over time, the demands of daily life, the currents of our culture and sin can cause us to drift, lose focus and neglect our proper spiritual priorities. We can slacken in our zeal for the faith, fidelity to prayer and selfless love of God and neighbor. Lent calls us back. It is a holy season that through deeper prayer, more focused penance and greater almsgiving re-orient us to a life centered on Christ, the abundance of His spiritual blessings and a selfless generosity towards others. In that call and in our response, we find a deep joy, meaning and a hope that the world cannot give. We also find strength.

In today's Gospel, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where He fasted for forty days. He was tempted by the Devil with bodily comforts (bread), pride (putting God to the test) and power (all the kingdoms of the world). All those temptations He rejected pointing us towards greater comforts (the Word of God), humility (trusting, not testing God) and true strength (worship and service of God). Rejecting those temptations and focusing on those greater goods, the Devil fled and angels ministered to Jesus. Similarly, when we undergo these forty days of prayer, penance and almsgiving, reflecting upon God's promises, trusting in Him and giving Him our praise, worship and honor, we will be strengthened in our faith, hope and love. Unlike Jesus, we are sinners and our forty-day Lent should include a good confession so that in that act of faith and humility we can experience the great peace of His mercy.

I pray that we all may make the most of Lent so that at Easter, renewed in our faith, we may celebrate the joy of the Resurrection not just as Christ's triumph but as the hope and promise of all who follow Him.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester*

**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

Religious Education classes take place on **Sunday, February 26th** at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades K-10. Confirmation Class takes place at 11:00am.

**Inclement weather policy** ~ For cancellations of Religious Education classes due to weather conditions please check the Immaculate Conception website or Facebook Page. You can also call the Office of Religious Education at 508-868-8119.

## Star Student of the Week

Our Student of the Week is **William Latham**! William is a third-grade student in our Religious Education Program. He was nominated by his teacher, Mr. Morin. William is a wonderful student who comes to class prepared to learn about our faith each week. His unique and deep understanding of our faith is productive in the classroom discussions. William helps out at home by doing chores and playing with his younger brother. William always tries to follow the footsteps of Jesus by living our faith daily. Congratulations William!



## LENT 2023

### Fridays of Lent

*Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions: 5 – 6 PM*

*Stations of the Cross: 6 PM*

### 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.

## OPERATION RICE BOWL

Cartons for Operation Rice Bowl can be found at each entrance to the Church. For those who participate in this Lenten program, we invite you to place coins in the carton and we will collect them at the end of Lent and forward the total to Catholic Relief Services. The money collected is used to serve the needs of the poor in America and throughout the world, and those who struggle through natural disasters.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(Amounts Include Electronic Giving)

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday Ordinary                   | \$ 4,426.00 |
| Earthquake Relief in Turkey/Syria | \$ 1,334.00 |
| Winter Fuel                       | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Catholic Home Missions Appeal     | \$ 22.00    |

## Hymnal Readings: 883

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

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/  
Mt 7:7-12  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 507a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48  
Next Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/  
Mt 17:1-9

## REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Richard Becker**, and keep his family in your prayers during this time of loss. May God grant them hope and strength in the days ahead.

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Immaculate Conception will be meeting **Thursday, March 2nd at 6:00pm** via Zoom. Please contact Jennefer at [icworc@live.com](mailto:icworc@live.com) or 508-754-8419, ext. 2 for the meeting link.

### Friends of the Poor® Walk

The Society St Vincent de Paul of Immaculate Conception will be hosting the second annual Friends of the Poor® Walk on Saturday, September 23, 2023. 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 give support in immediate crisis situations. Please consider becoming a sponsor for our Immaculate Conception's Second Annual Friends of the Poor® Walk. Sponsorship letters can be found at each entrance to the Church.

## HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS

Please join us for a holy hour to pray for our priests on **Friday, March 10th at 7:00pm** in the church.

## 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, March 11th at 9am** in the Coffee Shop. We will 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)

## MEN'S CONFERENCE

The Annual Worcester Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference – Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important in-person conference, scheduled for Assumption University on **Saturday, March 25, 2023**. Visit the conference website at [catholicmenworc.com](http://catholicmenworc.com) for more information. Come meet and hear: Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, Bear Woznick, Jeff Joaquin, Msgr. James Moroney, & The Catholic Man Show hosts David Niles and Adam Minihan. Our Parish Activities Committee has donated 10 tickets to this conference; tickets are on first come, first served basis. Each ticket includes a lunch. If you have any interest in attending, please speak with or contact Deacon Kevin.





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