

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

MARCH 05, 2023 | SECOND 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 | 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



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, 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

MONDAY, MARCH 6

9:00am | +Albert Corte, from the Freeman Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

9:00am | +Thomas P. Daly, from the Freeman Family

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

9:00am | +Pamela Katinas Johnson, from the Freeman Family

SATURDAY, MARCH 11**Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Lent**

4:00pm | +Shirley Parlsow, from Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 12**3rd Sunday of Lent**

7:30am | For All Parishioners

10:00am |

TRANSFIGURATION AND TRANSUBSTANTIATION

What was the Transfiguration? Was it the change of Jesus into something he was not, or was it the revelation of who Jesus really was, as he is revealed to his disciples in dazzling light as the Son of God in whom his Father is well pleased?

Just as the Transfiguration was the manifestation of Christ's glory to his disciples, so too the Holy Eucharist allows us to partake of the glory we shall know with him at the Heavenly Banquet. The closing prayer for today's Mass describes it:

"As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven."

In a very real sense, all time and space disappear at Mass, as we receive the Bread of Angels while still on earth. We sit at the Heavenly Banquet, with the Lord truly present in our midst. We gather at the altar of the Lamb with all the Saints as a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, God's own Chosen.

That is why the priest does not just invite us to come to Communion, but to answer a call to the Supper of the Lamb!

The Mass, then, is a foretaste of heaven, in which we literally taste the Body and Blood of the Lord. In the words of the ancient prayer we pray at the conclusion of the Solemnity of *Corpus Christi*: "Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by our reception of your Precious Body and Blood."

(@ Office for Devine Worship)

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.

"Giving Up Something"

When many of us were children, we might remember our giving up candy for Lent. And, it seemed like a real sacrifice. As we grew up, it was often more difficult to decide what special thing to do, to make Lent a special season - to get our attention and to prepare ourselves for deeper sacrifices.

What would help me grow in freedom? That's the question to ask. For some of us, it could be, committing ourselves to give up judging others, every single day of Lent. For others, it could be giving up a bad habit we've developed. For still others, it is obvious what seems to be the important choice for me during Lent.

For many of us, the choice may not be to give something up, but to add something to our daily lives during Lent. We may commit ourselves to extra prayer time. We may decide to do some service to the poor, once a week during Lent. We may choose to increase our almsgiving to the poor - perhaps related to something we choose not to do, e.g., some might choose not to go out to eat one night a week, and to give that total amount to the poor.

Whether it is fasting, abstaining or other acts of penance, the whole desire we should have is to use these means to help us grow closer to our Lord and prepare ourselves *"to celebrate the paschal mystery with minds and hearts renewed."*

(First Preface of Lent)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on **Sunday, March 5th** 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 **Milania Riley**! Milania is a first-grade student in our Religious Education Program. She was nominated by her teacher, Ms. O'Brien. Milania attends Mass weekly with her family. The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. This importance is shown in attendance at Mass. Milania is an attentive student and eager to share her faith with her classmates. The class has been talking about ways to bring them closer to God during Lent. Milania and her family are praying daily and she has been helping her Dad prepare dinner for the family. Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. It is a time when Christians remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. For children, Lent might be most effectively explained as a time when we all think about ways, we can be kinder to others, and to ourselves. Congratulations Milania!

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will be meeting on **Sunday, March 5th at noon** in the Fr. Connors Center. Pizza and drinks will be served! All students in 7th-12th grade are welcome to join us!

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.

Hymnal Readings: 886

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42

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

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**. 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 Fellowship 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 before **March 13**. Visit the conference website at catholicmenworc.com for more information.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DISPENSATION

The Liturgical Commemoration of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, March 17, is observed this year, 2023 on a Friday of Lent that the Church prescribes as a Day of Abstinence from meat. In light of the importance of this feast day for many in the Diocese of Worcester, I am granting a dispensation from the rule of abstinence on Friday, March 17, 2023. I ask that those who take advantage of this dispensation perform another act of penance in its place on that day.

Most Rev. Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(Amounts Include Electronic Giving)

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