

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

APRIL 30, 2023 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

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, APRIL 29

Vigil of 4th Sunday of Easter

4:00pm | +Kathryn Ciccolini, from the Chevalier and Pescheta Families

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

4th Sunday of Easter

7:30am | For All Parishioners

10:00am | +Robert Z. Freeman, from Family

MONDAY, MAY 1

9:00am |

TUESDAY, MAY 2

St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9:00am |

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles

9:00am |

THURSDAY, MAY 4

9:00am |

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Vigil of 5th Sunday of Easter

4:00pm | +Francis X. Mahoney, Jr. (8th Anniversary), from Family

SUNDAY, MAY 7

5th Sunday of Easter

7:30am | +Armand Halle (3rd Anniversary), from Paul & Denise Carlson

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

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Psalm 23)

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. 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.



THE SHEPHERD AND THE PELICAN

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who feeds his sheep. By laying down his life for them, he is "pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep" he has redeemed by his Precious Blood. Thus, he lays a table before them in the sight of their foes and their cup overflows.

From the earliest days of the Church, Jesus is depicted not only as the Good Shepherd, but as the mother pelican, feeding her young. After her chicks have hatched, the mother pelican leaves them in the nest as she forages for food, which she then feeds them with her long beak. The first food of pelican chicks, then, is often worms, small fish, frog tadpoles, crayfish or salamanders.

In times of drought, however, marshes or streams dry up and the mother pelican finds herself unable to obtain food for her chicks. In such extreme circumstances, the mother pelican rips bits of her own flesh from her breast and feeds the chick her own flesh and blood. In the more extreme cases the mother dies and the chicks survive. She has fed her chicks her own flesh and blood and given up her life for them.

This is why, from the first days of the Church, the mother pelican has been seen as a type of the Lord Jesus. We, like the chicks, dwell in the safety of his good care. As the mother is the head of the nest, so Jesus is the head of his Church.

The pelican's blood is drink for her chicks, just as the Blood of Christ is "true drink" for us. That same Christ lays down his life for us, that we may live, as does the mother pelican for the young.

So the next time you see the image of a pelican on a tabernacle, you will understand how this symbol helps us to enter more deeply into an understanding of the Eucharistic mystery.

(@ Office for Divine Worship)

MAY SCRIPTURE STUDY

All are invited to participate in a presentation and discussion of Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy on **Tuesday evenings, May 2, 9, 16 and 23** in the church sacristy from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. A ramp to the sacristy will facilitate handicap access. This Letter, most likely written just before his martyrdom at the hands of the Romans, reflects what Paul wanted Timothy and all followers of Jesus Christ to reflect upon and put into practice. Frank McGuire will serve as presenter and discussion moderator.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2023 Partners in Charity Appeal. Our Parish's goal is **\$88,500**. To date **\$26,105** has been raised. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please consider making one and visit partners-charity.net to do it online, or you can "text to give" by texting DONATE to 84576, or call the office at 508-929-4366. Partners in Charity is the Annual Appeal for the Diocese of Worcester, serving charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries. Thank you! We couldn't do it without you!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The last class for the 2022-2023 Catechetical Year takes place on **Sunday, April 30th** at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades K-10.

Thank you!

Thank you to the following men and women who have worked with love and patience in our catechetical program this year. Thank you, **Karen O'Brien, Joanna Jalbert, Nicole Hermance, Lee Morin, Catherine Tardie, Sandra Doucet, Trang Charlton, Jessica Tassone and, Stephen Sycks**. Thank you for the gifts they have shared in service to this parish. Your generosity with your time and devotion to the children of our Parish is a wonderful demonstration of God's love.

First Communion Prayer Cards

A number of children in our parish will share in an event of great joy for them and the entire Catholic Community. On **Sunday, May 14th**, they will receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. They and their families have been preparing for this sacrament for some time now, learning what the gift of Eucharist is about and what it means to share that gift with others. Please visit our display of the First Communion Class at the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the children in your prayers as they take the final steps in preparing for the sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Religious Education Registration 2023-2024

Registration is ongoing for the 2023-2024 Religious Education year. If you would like to know more about our Religious Education Program please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119.

FR. EDWIN AWAY

Fr. Edwin will be away from **May 2-11** on his first pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Please welcome the following priests who will say Mass while Father is in Israel:

Weekdays: Fr. Andres Araque, chaplain at UMass Memorial

Weekend of May 6-7: Fr. Jose Manjakunnel representing the Archdiocese of Imphal, India.

The mission diocese of Imphal in Northeast India is home to 34 tribes of Mongolian origin. The first Catholic baptism in the diocese was recorded in 1952. The Catholic population has grown up to 1,01283 now. The diocese has 45 parishes, and 8 Mission Centers, 174 priests including 114 indigenous tribal priests. The growth of the Church has always been accompanied by various challenges and persecutions during the past decades. Between 1990 – 2001, six of our young and dynamic missionaries were killed for witnessing the gospel. Besides direct evangelization, the Church is actively involved in the everyday life of the people through other forms of apostolate like education, health care, self-help program, rehabilitation of the sick, drug addicts and the orphans. Much remains to be done for this interior and underdeveloped region through your participation and generous support. In spite of the many challenges, missionary efforts are yielding an increase in vocation to priesthood and religious life. The proceeds of the 2023 Mission appeal will be used for providing a Tribal Youth Animation and Training Center in the diocese. We look forward to your generous support for the implementation of this humanitarian project. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Hymnal Readings: 907

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/
Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22)/1 Pt 2:4-9/
Jn 14:1-12

FROM BISHOP MCMANUS

The Archdiocese of Boston has recently noted that the “Satancon” convention will be held in Boston from April 28-30 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. The organizers of this convention are billing it as “the largest satanic gathering in history.”

It is sad to witness that there are people who find satisfaction in celebrating the power of evil in the world. Perhaps they have never experienced the sense of joy and the power of redemption that we find in this Easter Season. We are a people of hope, thanks to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, who offers all believers the path to life eternal in the loving embrace of God.

By baptism we are called to be witnesses to the Good News, in particular in light of this Satancon event. Let us remember that our power to combat evil lies in the power of prayer. To that end, I join my voice to that of Cardinal O'Malley in asking that we not organize or encourage any parishioners to go to the event to protest. It will only fuel the hate of those who support it and feed the media with images.

We should not, however, stand by idly and feel powerless. Let us storm the Heavens with prayer, in anticipation of and during the event. Pause at any time during the days ahead and petition God to enlighten those who are calling on the prince of darkness to turn toward the light of his saving power. Use formal prayers, such as the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel or pray the Rosary, or simply use your own words. God will hear you if you simply call on him.

Join me in reciting The Prayer of Saint Michael, in particular during this month:

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(Amounts Include Electronic Giving)

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,603.00
Easter	\$ 5.00

4/23/2023

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Patricia Quintiliani

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