

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER , MA 01605

NOVEMBER 12, 2023 | 32<sup>ND</sup> 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

Phone: 508-754-8419

Fax: 508-459-9815

Website: [www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com)

Email: [icworc@live.com](mailto:icworc@live.com)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:30am - 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

Or By Appointment

### ADORATION

Holy Hour for Priests

Second Friday: 7:00pm

## 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)



## 32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’” - Mt 25:11-12

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

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### 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

## MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

**Vigil of 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00pm † Austin Kennedy (20th Anniversary), from Family

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am † Gerald R. Duclos, from Family

10:00am † Francis J. McGrath (30th Anniversary), from Charlie O'Connor

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

**St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin**

9:00am

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

9:00am

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

9:00am

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

9:00am

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

**Vigil of 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00pm † Deceased members of the Cronican Family, from Martha Greene

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am

10:00am

*My soul is thirsting for you,  
O Lord my God.*

(Ps 63)

## 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.

### OCIA

For adults seeking full admission into the church through baptism, confirmation & eucharist. Please call the church office for registration which takes place during 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 Diaconate Director Deacon Donald Pegg (617) 794-7702. To learn more about 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.

## WHY A CATHOLIC FUNERAL?

By Fr. Michael Cummins

The life of a parish priest affords a unique vantage point not just on developments within the Church but also on movements in society as well. It is quite amazing what you can pick up on as a priest as you make your rounds of home visits, pastoral calls, work with the poor and being present in moments of grief. Some of these movements you can notice are hope-filled while others, sadly, are troubling. A trend that I have been noticing that I do find troubling is a cheapening (for lack of a better word) of the funeral experience and ritual. I believe this cheapening testifies to a growing impoverishment of the human spirit.

I do believe that there are some honest factors regarding this trend – i.e. the cost of funerals as well as the business of the funeral industry, our society's unease with death, the reality of families being spread out and no longer living in close proximity to one another and therefore not in as much contact and conversation, effects of the increasing use of cremation as well as non-Catholic spouses or other family members who are not familiar with Catholic rituals and customs having to make choices in a very stress and pain filled time. These are honest realities and they need to be acknowledged. But there are other choices made around funerals that I do believe are unnecessary and, in fact, cheapen the celebration of a funeral and the prayers for a loved one. The choice of a family to forego all things "Catholic" for a funeral because they themselves are not or no longer Catholic even though the deceased was Catholic and was sincere in practicing his or her faith. In a similar vein, the choice to not have a funeral Mass or do anything at the parish church but rather have a service just at the funeral home or graveside in order to simplify things for everyone and sometimes even skirt around the possibility of offending someone who may be out of sorts with the Church. The choice to forego the rituals associated with a Catholic funeral in favor of more contemporary approaches often offered through the funeral business. In our consumer mentality we sometimes only attach value to something if we have to spend money on it and if it seems flashy.

As a priest I must admit that I am saddened when it is apparent that the deceased loved ones and family did not choose the Catholic funeral simply because they are not Catholic themselves or they just want to make things easy for themselves. This does happen and more and more so. I am saddened both for the departed who, in life, found great comfort in his or her Catholic faith and I am saddened for those left in loss because they are making the choice to miss an important moment to be nourished by the beauty and hope found in the Catholic funeral celebration. The Catholic funeral Mass and ritual is one of the most beautiful rituals of the Church and it speaks on a whole host of levels and it is meant for the deceased as well as the loved ones who are left in sorrow.

If there is a word that I think of in relation to the Catholic funeral it is "commend". In the Catholic funeral (from wake to funeral Mass to graveside committal) we commend our loved one into the mercy of God and we also commend ourselves, praying for God's comfort and peace in a time of loss. The options of readings, music choices (i.e. church hymns) and what it is appropriate to do within the ritual are there precisely in order to perform this ritual of commending the loved one into God's mercy and eternity. This structure of the ritual is not meant to deny or diminish the loved one or her or his life in any way. A "celebration of life" (a current expression

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

There are no Religious Education classes on Sunday, November 12th. **Classes will resume on Sunday, November 19th.**

**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 17th 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 3rd & 10th 11:00am-11:45am in the church & Dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 16th 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.

**BAPTISM**

Our Parish welcomes **Halle Louise Lesser** into the Catholic Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray that by the example of her parents and godparents, the gift of faith may grow in her day by day. Congratulations!

**GIVING TREE**

This year, our parish will again be blessed with the opportunity to experience a deeper spirit of Christmas. On November 25 and 26, our Christmas tree will be covered with colored tags, each representing a real and specific need for a child. There are no restrictions on the number of tags you can take. Items range from inexpensive toys to winter jackets. Whatever your heart is moved to do will be appreciated. You will have 2 weeks to purchase the need item you choose. All gifts should not be wrapped, nor in gift bags. All gifts will be donated to Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope. More information to come.

**MAKING PEACE BETWEEN FAITH AND SCIENCE: A CATHOLIC APPROACH**

Rather than focusing on the scientific evidence supporting belief in God, Fr. Steve Lundrigan explores how the Catholic approach provides a way to unite religious faith and the belief in the power of science and reason. This is a presentation that you don't want to miss! The program is being held at St. Columba Church, 10 Richards Ave. Paxton, MA. on **November 29th at 7pm**. Everyone is welcome.

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL IN WORCESTER**

St. Christopher Church, 950 West Boylston St., Worcester (next to Stop & Shop) will host its annual Christmas Festival on **Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** The Christmas Festival will feature raffles, games for all ages, crafts, jewelry, white elephant & Christmas items, baked goods, and more! Bring along your appetite and enjoy a delicious lunch! No admission fee - come enjoy the festivities to get you in the Christmas spirit! For more information, call St. Christopher Church at 508-853-1492.

**FOOD PANTRY**

At this time, the food pantry is in need of peanut butter, jelly, boxed rice (no bags), mashed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, garbanzo beans, and pancake mix. No expired food, please. Quality = dignity. Thank you.

**HYMNAL READINGS: 1021**

Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/1 Thes 4:13-18/  
Mt 25:1-13

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10/Lk 17:1-6  
Tuesday: Wis 2:23—3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Lk 17:7-10  
Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/Lk 17:11-19  
Thursday: Wis 7:22b—8:1/Ps 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175/  
Lk 17:20-25  
Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab/Lk 17:26-37  
Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43/  
Lk 18:1-8  
Next Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/  
1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30

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used in the funeral business) is all well and good but such a celebration ends at the grave and can go no further. The Catholic funeral, in its depth of ritual and meaning, reminds us that the grave has been overcome not by our wishing it so but by the death and resurrection of Christ our Lord! The Catholic funeral reminds us and brings us into this greater context and this is extremely important because only the resurrection of Christ conquers the tomb, only the resurrection of Christ says death is not the final word, only the resurrection of Christ gives the true hope that comforts and heals us in our sorrows.

No person likes to think of his or her death. We just don't want to go there but I encourage people to at least reflect on the beauty and meaning of the Catholic funeral and let your loved ones know your desires and wishes, and yes, to prepare financially for it. Many parish offices can even help people plan out how they wish their funeral to be celebrated and this information can be kept on file. In the end, the church has no legal way to require persons to celebrate a loved one's funeral in a particular way, even if information is on file, but making one's desires known and even keeping it on file at the church can be of assistance in a very difficult time. And it is important. A funeral should respect who a person is and a person's faith tradition is an essential component of who one is and the hope we have as Christians.

So, "Why a Catholic funeral?" is a valid and important question. The Catholic funeral is at the heart of who we are as Church – a people gathered, saved and redeemed by Christ our risen Lord! The Catholic funeral is a witness to a secular world that there is a greater context to both life and death. A Catholic funeral speaks to the hearts of the people gathered and even converts hearts that might be hurting and searching. In the resurrection of Christ, the tomb has been conquered. The Church has much to say and has been uniquely given the authority to speak about death and the hope of eternity.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

(amounts include Electronic Giving)

**11/02/2023**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 4,362.00
All Saints	\$ 418.00
Fall Fuel	\$ 255.00
Holy Days	\$ 50.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 29.00
Legacy of Hope Distribution	\$ 20,295.01

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Patricia Quintiliani

### Please Donate to the SVDP Recycle Bin behind the church Society of St. Vincent de Paul Immaculate Conception



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