

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER , MA 01605

DECEMBER 3, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

Email: 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

PERMANENT DEACONS

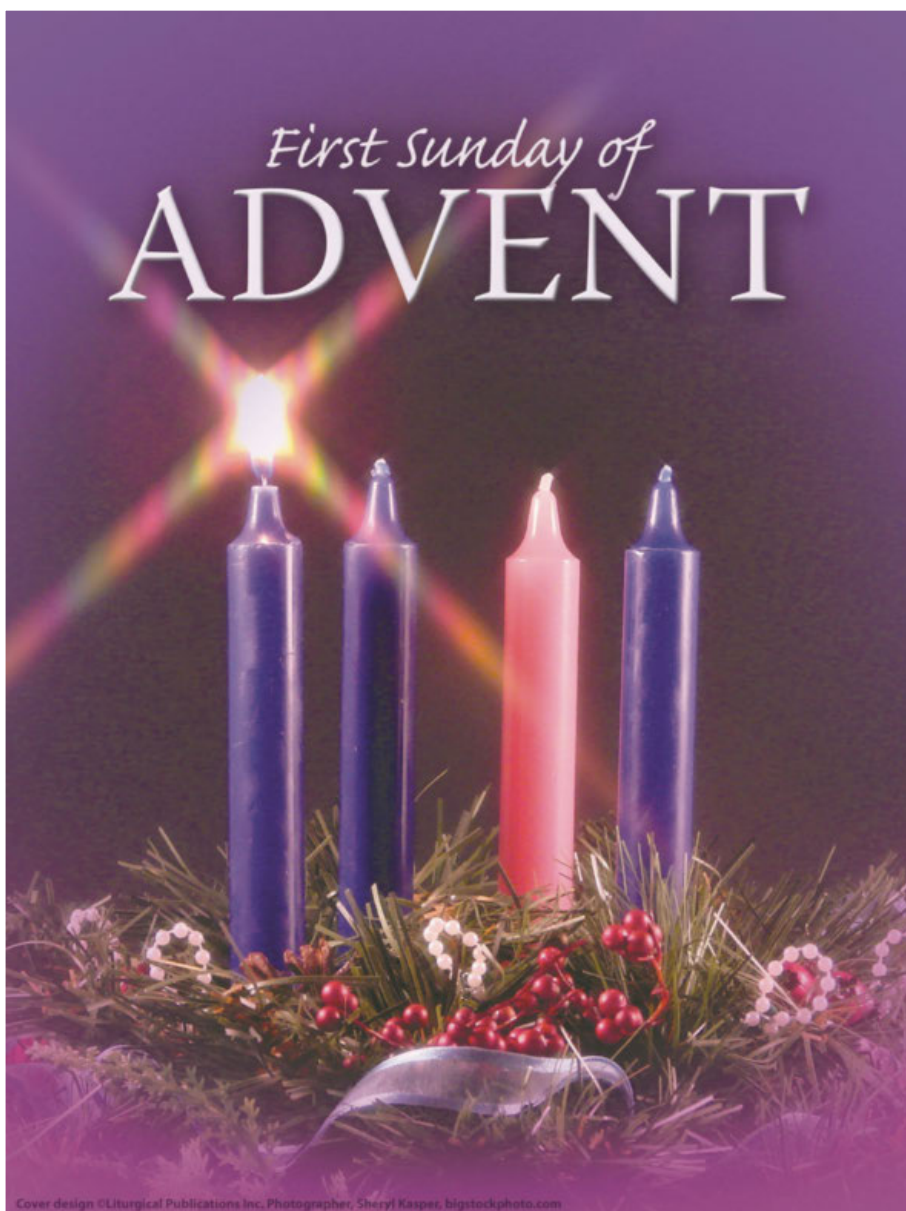
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Vigil of 1st Sunday of Advent

4:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

1st Sunday of Advent

7:30am

10:00am † Michael Barna (70th Anniversary), from Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00am † Dr. and Mrs. Robert Blute, Jr. from Elizabeth

O'Malley

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00am

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9:00am

Vigil of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:30pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00am

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

7:30am

10:00am †

*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face
and we shall be saved.*

(PS 80)

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.



ADVENT 2023

Advent is here! The Advent season in which we eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to center our thoughts on hope. It's a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our lost and dying world, and that He's given us through Jesus.

On this first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity; let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. Over this Advent, we pray that hope would rise up in our spirits in a tangible and life-giving way.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." Advent in the 4th and 5th centuries was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers. Over time, advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally Christians used this term to reference Christ's second coming, but by the Middle Ages, Advent was connected to Christ's first coming that we celebrate at Christmas.

Today, we celebrate Advent over the four weeks leading up to Christmas each year. Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off of the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle that can be associated with the Christmas season that often threatens to produce more hassle than delight. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from Heaven and took the form of a man so that we might believe.

The tradition for the first Sunday of Advent includes lighting the candle of hope. This candle of hope symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God as well as the hope we have in Christ. God crafted a great rescue plan that he lays out in Scripture. This plan foretells years in advance the arrival of Christ. The Bible also gives us a glimpse of the future and promises that God will come down to create a new heaven and Earth.

This first Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

Heavenly Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have hope in you. You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending. Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully. We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation! Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again. More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation. Amen.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on **Sunday, December 3rd, 8:45AM-9:45AM** for children in K through 10th grade.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

We are very excited to offer Children's **Liturgy of the Word at the 10:00AM Mass**. All children 4-12 years old are welcome to join us for this special ministry. The Children's Liturgy of the Word is a ritual of the proclamation of God's Word with Children appropriate to their understanding. It is time to hear God's Word at an appropriate level and an opportunity to hear the Gospel message and consider how to practice it in life.

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE *Blessed Virgin Mary*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – A HOLY DAY

On December 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, our patronal feast day as a country and as a Parish. Please join us to celebrate this Holy Day. **A vigil Mass will be held on 12/7 at 5:30pm and on 12/8 at 9:00am.**

This dogma of our faith is not about Christ's conception in Mary's womb. Neither is it about Mary being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the way Jesus was. This dogma declares that Mary was preserved from original sin by God's grace; that from the first instant of her existence, she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Dec. 7: 5:30 PM

Dec. 8: 9:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec. 23: 4:00 PM

Dec. 24: 7:30 & 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Dec. 24: 4:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Dec. 25: 10:00 AM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Jan. 1: 9:00 AM

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

HYMNAL READINGS: 859

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/
1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—
10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

GIVING TREE

RETURN GIFTS NO LATER THAN 11:30 a.m. NEXT SUNDAY.

Please return **UNWRAPPED** gifts with the need tag securely attached to the item. This will assure that the needed item you purchased will reach the correct family. Keep the original store tags attached to the clothing in case an exchange is needed. No batteries, no food, or candy allowed. No gift bags. We will have very large plastic bags for completed purchases.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The next St. Vincent de Paul Society group meeting will be **Thursday, December 7 at 7:00pm via Zoom**. New Members are always welcome! For more information please contact Jennefer at jen.noberini@gmail.com

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS

Please join us for a holy hour to pray for our priests on Friday, **December 8th at 7:00pm** in the church.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The next gathering of the Women's Prayer Group will be **Saturday, December 9th at 9am** in the Coffee Shop. We will pray, reflect, share, and have coffee. For more info, please email Bridget Klofft, at bridgetbakes@yahoo.com

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. 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(amounts include Electronic Giving)

11/19/2023

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,755.00
Fall Fuel	\$ 150.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 216.00
Christmas	\$ 135.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 10.00
Holy Days	\$ 10.00

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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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