

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER , MA 01605

DECEMBER 10, 2023 | SECOND 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

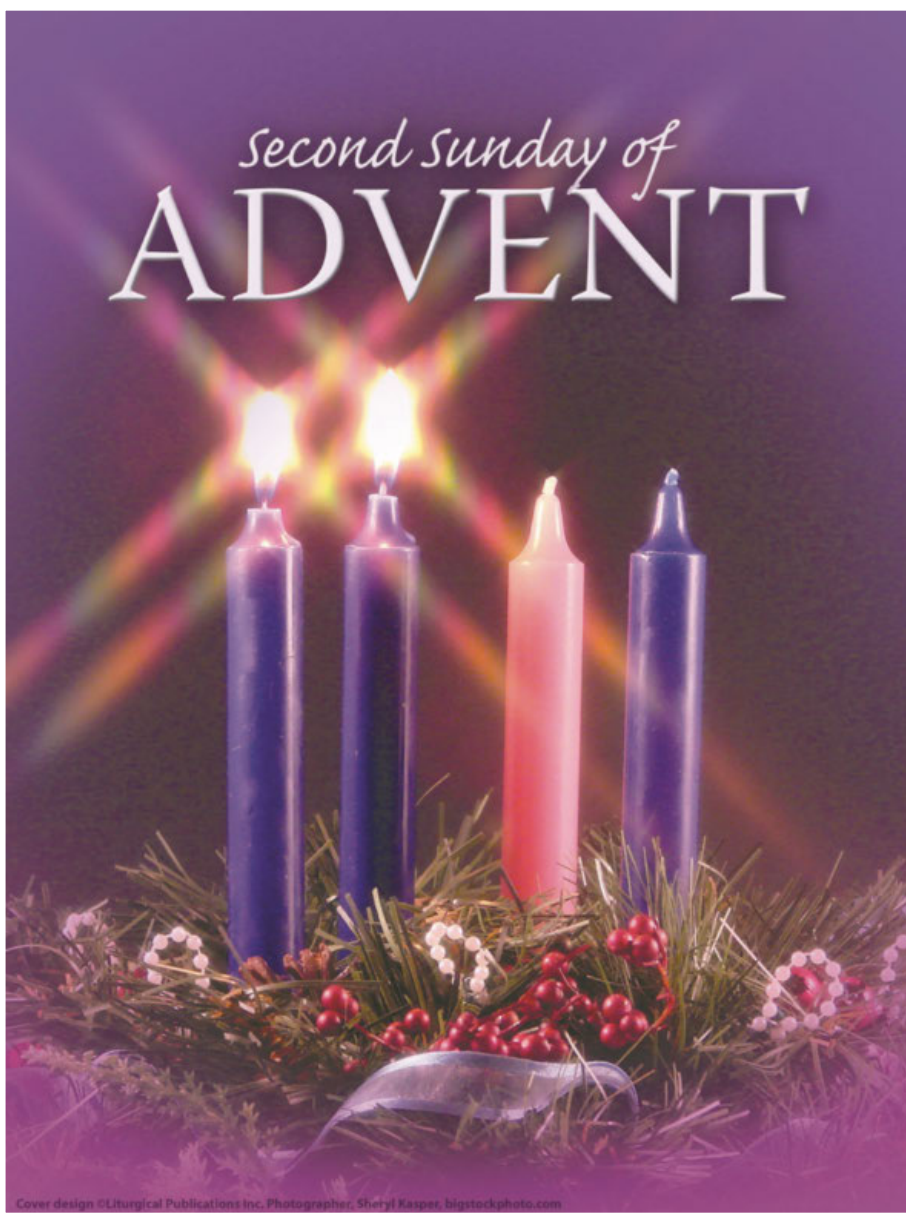
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net

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 9

Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Advent
4:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

7:30am
10:00am

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

9:00am

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe
9:00am

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
9:00am

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
9:00am

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Advent
4:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

7:30am
10:00am † Shirley Killeen (2nd Anniversary), from 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.

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.

THIS SUNDAY'S WORD

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

The second Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to prepare our hearts in faithful waiting, celebrate the birth of Jesus, and ready ourselves for his second coming. It's a beautiful chance to reflect on the ways prophecy has been fulfilled and to ponder what the future (promised to us through prophecies) will bring.

This week, we pause to remember who God is and what He has done for us. When our lives are hurried, we only have the chance to focus on our to-do lists. Making space in our schedules for prayer and meditation helps us to better see God at work in our lives and in our world.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we faithfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle of the season and the sadness that could accompany the different ways some of us may be choosing to observe the holiday season this year. Even when things feel chaotic, we can find peace in Jesus. 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 second Sunday of Advent includes lighting the second purple candle that is a symbol of faith. This second 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.

Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth joyfully! We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose. As we wait for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. Increase our faith! Amen.



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on **Sunday, December 10th, 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.

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to **Kailani Lopez, Johnathan Piorkowski, Calvin McCann, Milania Riley and Cameron Smith** for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, December 2nd. The peace of mind and soul which this sacrament imparts to us is one for which there is no substitute. It is a peace that flows from a certainty, rather than from an unsure hope, that our sins have been forgiven and that we are right with God. Thank you, Joanna Jalbert and Nicole Hermance, for sharing their time and knowledge of our faith to teach and form the children to be disciples of Jesus.

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.



UNWRAPPED Giving Tree items are due in by 11:30 a.m. this Sunday. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE. Remember, no gift bags. All gifts will be put into very large plastic bags and brought to the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope today. God bless everyone for participating with such generosity.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

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: 862

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

THANK YOU

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Immaculate Conception would like to thank all who assisted with our recent efforts to help our neighbors in need. **Through your kindness and generosity 40 Families received Thanksgiving Food Baskets!** Praise God! Our parish community has been very generous in supporting the Vincentian mission and a big THANK YOU is extended to parishioners and volunteers for their prayers, generosity, and support.

THE ASSOCIATION OF JESUS OF THE EUCHARIST

Dear Fellow Parishioners, I am inviting you to join me in a new association which I call "**The Association of Jesus of the Eucharist**". It is another opportunity to grow in our faith by performing the following, daily if possible:

- Attend Mass daily, or if possible watch it on TV.
- Pray the Rosary
- Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy
- Pray for the Souls in Purgatory
- Perform an Act of Kindness
- Pray 3 Hail Marys at the end of each day

Joseph Duggan | 508-847-7403 | Joebobduggan@outlook.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)

11/26/2023

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,957.00
Thanksgiving Day - St. Vincent DePaul Society	\$ 459.00
Fall Fuel	\$ 70.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 10.00

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*Tax receipts available for monetary donation
Contact us if someone needs help*

A Shower of Roses

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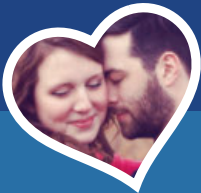
360 West Boylston Street
West Boylston MA 01583
Hours: T-F 10-5, Sat. 10-4

508-835-2828



Patricia Quintiliani

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