

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER , MA 01605

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | THIRD 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

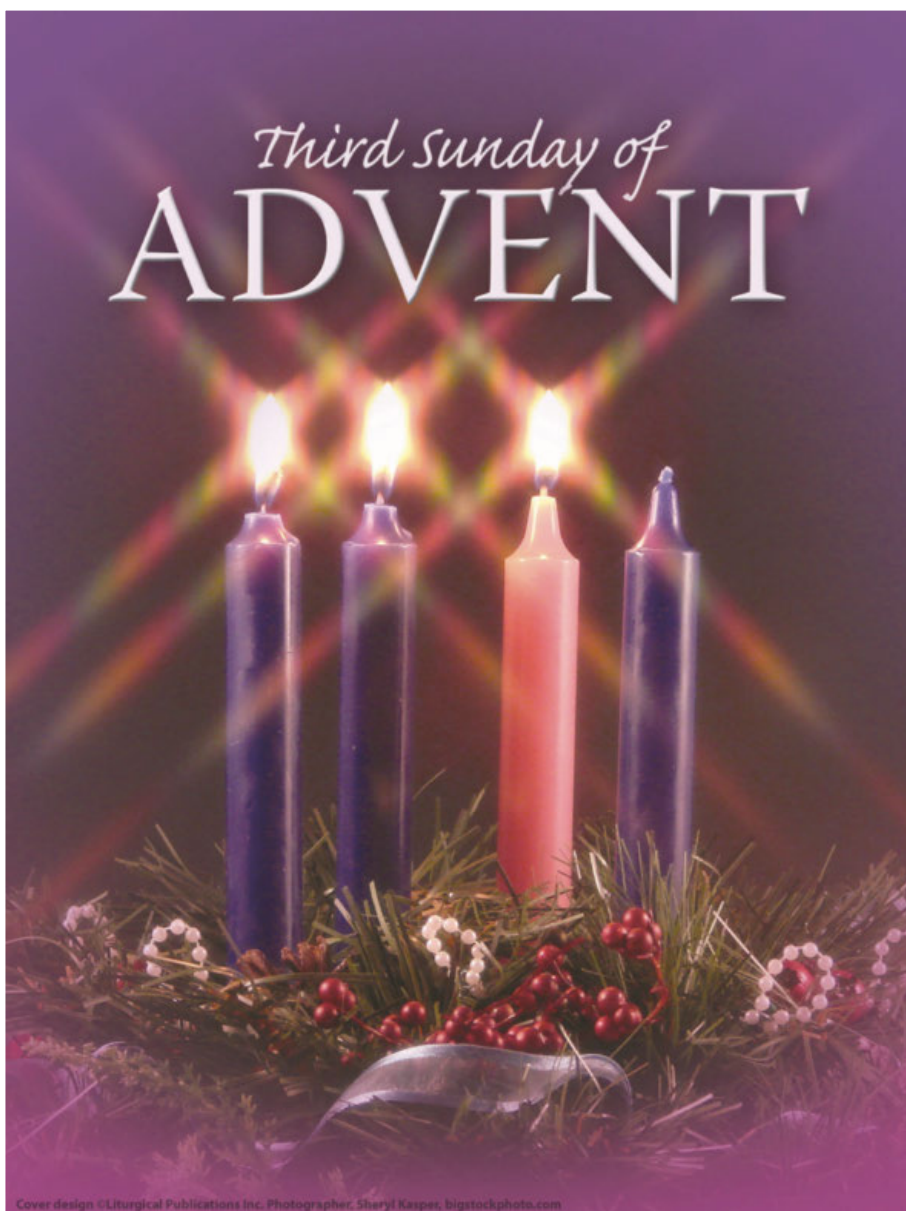
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net

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 16

Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:00pm † Paul Michalak, from the Freeman Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

7:30am

10:00am † Shirley Killeen (2nd Anniversary), from Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00am † Shirley Armendo, from the Freeman Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00am † James M. Carreau, from the Freeman Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00am † Betty Lou Wagner, from the Freeman Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00am † Viola Watt, from the Freeman Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

Vigil of 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00pm † Robert Bacon, from Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4th Sunday of Advent

7:30am † Edward Wisboro, from the Freeman Family

10:00am † Donald and Ellen Rocheleau, from the Freeman Family

Christmas Eve

4:00pm † Doris Hermann, from the Freeman 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.

*I rejoice heartily in the Lord,
in my God is the joy of my soul*

GAUDETE SUNDAY

The third Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to continue preparing in our hearts a sense of holy anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus as well as for his promised second coming.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for rejoice, and this Sunday is the time for us to rejoice because Jesus came and died so that we may live forever with him! We are invited to reflect on the joy we have access to because of our faith in Jesus.

One of the defining characteristics of Christ-followers is their joyful demeanor. Let's not allow the struggles of this year -and even of this season- steal from the great joy we have because of Jesus. Philippians 4:4-5 says, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

The tradition for the third Sunday of Advent includes lighting a third sometimes rose candle that is a symbol of joy. This third Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the joy that 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.

Over this Advent, would you pray that the joy of the Lord would be evident in your heart and home? May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we joyfully await the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king.

Lord God, we are determined to be people of faith, to share with all your gospel of hope, love and grace. Yet, it is hard to remain hopeful in a world that is broken and failing. It is hard to be filled with love for the other when loss and fear suffocates us and them. And yet, you call us to rejoice. And so, we remember that no matter how dark the present hour, you are with us. Your mighty arm protects us, your spirit fills us. You will never forget or forsake us. This we know: even in the absence of all other hope or love, you are with us. And so, rejoice we shall, no matter what rages around or against or within us. Our souls shall magnify you O Lord, for you are with us, even when all else that we trust is gone. We rejoice in each other. We rejoice in our faith. We rejoice in your Gospel. And, we rejoice in your presence. Amen

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.

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All Religious Education students will be meeting in the Church Basement at **8:30am on Sunday, December 17th** to participate in the Children's Christmas Pageant.



Children's Christmas Pageant

Please join us on **Sunday December 17th at 9:15am** for the Children's Christmas Pageant. We hope that everyone will be able to join us for this very special event. The pageant will take place in the church. Please stay for the 10:00am Mass following the Christmas Pageant for the Children's Liturgy of the Word.

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.

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)

INVITE SOMEONE TO MASS THIS CHRISTMAS!

So many messages during the Christmas Season are about coming home, being with family and friends. Consider inviting someone with you and your family to Mass this Christmas and experience the joys of the Christmas Season. It could be the greatest gift you give this year!



110 tags were tied to our Giving Tree. **God bless you for all your generosity and love!**

HYMNAL READINGS: 865

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/
Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/
Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

Any contribution, large or small, means we are able to help the needy in this community. Please make a tax-deductible contribution, and help us help people. Scan To *Donate*. Thank you for your 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

FOOD PANTRY

At this time, the food pantry of in need of peanut butter, jelly, instant potatoes, spaghetti sauce, pork & beans, beef stew, tuna, and Vienna sausages. No expired food, please. Quality = dignity. Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(amounts include Electronic Giving)

12/03/2023

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,761.00
Holy Days	\$ 118.00
Fall Fuel	\$ 15.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 42.00

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



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Easy Donation Bin
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Funds raised go to needs like fuel, rent, gas, food, repairs, and clothing to sustain a future store

www.svdppworcester.org - 508-754-8419

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

A Shower of Roses

RELIGIOUS SHOP

"Refresh Your Faith
With A Shower Of Roses"

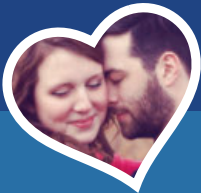
360 West Boylston Street
West Boylston MA 01583
Hours: T-F 10-5, Sat. 10-4

508-835-2828



Patricia Quintiliani

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