

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER , MA 01605

DECEMBER 24, 2023 | FOURTH 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 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

Vigil of Christmas

4:00pm † Doris Herrmann, from the Freeman Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

10:00am † Scott DePatsy, from the Freeman Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

St. Stephen, First Martyr

9:00am † Anna Bronzo, from the Freeman Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

9:00am † Lucas Freeman, from the Freeman Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9:00am † Joyce West (4th Anniversary), from Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Vigil of the Feast of The Holy Family

4:00pm † Gertrude and Joseph Deignan, and † Richard Deignan, from Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

The Feast of The Holy Family

7:30am For the intention of Rev. Edwin, for his pastorship and ministry, from Mike Casey & Family

10:00am

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.

CHRISTMAS 2023

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth involve a disparate group of people---the sinless virgin, the upright Joseph, an indifferent innkeeper, Jewish shepherds, pagan magi, the ruthless Herod, incurious scribes, and murderous soldiers. Among this radically varied group, there was one thing in common. They were all---each one of them---loved by God. They were each the reason Christ was born. To each He would call. For each He died.

What was true that long ago night in Bethlehem remains true this day in our world. God loves each one of us. He loves those in the pews each week, twice a year or not at all. He loves those who have just come from the confessional and those who have not yet made it there. He loves those who acknowledge and worship Him and those who do not recognize Him and are far off.

Jesus Christ is the one savior of the world. He loves us all and He calls us all. As people whose freedom God respects, our response is critical. It determines if we find peace in this life and in the next. His peace is a gift. We do not earn it. We can only accept it. We accept it by believing in Him and what He has revealed, by striving to follow Him with our lives, and, by our repentance, accepting His freely offered, limitless mercy for our failures.

I pray that, whatever our situation and circumstance this Christmas, we may all be deeply moved by the wonderful love of God who so loved the world that He sent His Son as our Savior. May we turn anew to Jesus Christ, find a welcome place in His Church, and with it the joy, peace and hope God intends for us all.

With every prayerful best wish for a Merry Christmas, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester
Christmas blessings!



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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are no Religious Education Classes on Sunday, December 24th. Merry Christmas! **Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8th.**

Inclement weather policy ~ For cancellations of Religious Education classes due to weather conditions please check the Immaculate Conception website or Facebook Page. You can also call the Office of Religious Education at 508-868-8119.

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!

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)

FR. EDWIN AWAY

Fr. Edwin will be on vacation visiting his family in Colombia from **December 26 to January 12**. Please, welcome the following priests who will celebrate Mass while Father is away:

Weekends: Fr. Richard Trainor, minister to the priests of the Diocese; Fr. Stephen Gemme, hospital Chaplain; Fr. Joseph Marcotte, senior priest.

Weekdays: Fr. Juan Parra, associate Pastor at St. Paul's Cathedral.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the **Women's Prayer Group** for their generous donations to the Food Pantry and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Immaculate Conception. The donations, food items, grocery gift cards, and prayers help to sustain the Food Pantry and the Vincentians who work to help our local neighbors in need.

At this time, the **Food Pantry** is in need of pasta sauce, pork & beans, instant potatoes, tuna, Vienna sausages, pancake mix and syrup. No expired food, please. Quality = dignity. Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(amounts include Electronic Giving)

12/10/2023

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 4,071.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 567.00
Christmas	\$ 45.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 105.00
Fall Fuel	\$ 30.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 1003.00

HYMNAL READINGS

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT #868

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

CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY #871

Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:22-40

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Colin R. Houlihan**, and keep his family in your prayers during this time of loss. May God grant them hope and strength in the days ahead.

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

AVAILABLE NOW!

PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Ginny Sgarzi from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.

LPi
Ginny Sgarzi
(800) 888-4574 x 3121



Our advertising sponsors make our bulletin possible! Do you own a business? LPi will ad "**Parishioner**" to your digital or print ad, readers will see this and want to support your business! Thank you!

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



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www.svpdWORCESTER.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"

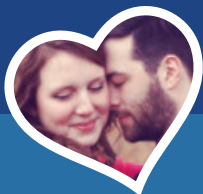
360 West Boylston Street
West Boylston MA 01583
Hours: T-F 10-5, Sat. 10-4

508-835-2828



Patricia Quintiliani

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