

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER , MA 01605

JANUARY 21, 2024 | THIRD 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

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



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

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

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20****Vigil of 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00pm † Alicia and Henry Michalak, from Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am

10:00am † Elizabeth R. (Lamson) Metcalf (6th Anniversary),
from Family**MONDAY, JANUARY 22****Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**

9:00am

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23**St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr**

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24**St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

9:00am

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25**The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle**

9:00am †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**Vigil of 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00pm † John W. Callan, from Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am

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.

JANUARY 22 DAY OF PRAYER

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

On Monday, January 22, 2024, the Church throughout the United States will observe the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children". This observance is designated by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (n. 373), as a particular day of prayer and penance, reminding us of our preeminent priority to pray and work for an end to the tragic scourge of abortion. All the faithful in dioceses throughout the United States of America are called to observe this day in a spirit of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

While the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the case Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health thankfully overturned the infamous and unjust 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the U.S. throughout all nine months of pregnancy, the issue of the legalized abortion has now returned to the states and our work is far from over.

Fifty years of legalized abortion in this country has left an incomprehensible aftermath. With millions of lives lost, and countless women and men, mothers and fathers, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have been deeply wounded physically, emotionally, and spiritually by this tragedy, we need now more than ever to re-commit ourselves to defending life. I encourage our diocesan parishes and institutions, and all the faithful, to reverently observe the Day of Prayer and Penance on January 22nd both personally and within your communities. Let us unite our hearts and minds through special acts of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice on this day and in the months to come, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

As we reflect on this unspeakable tragedy, we also recall how the Church for many years has continued to reach out to those who have been so sadly affected by the culture of death, particularly through ministries providing aid to women and families in crisis pregnancies, offering the healing love and mercy of Christ to those wounded by abortion through the ministry of Project Rachel, and by continuing to teach and preach the truth and beauty about love and life that bring authentic freedom and happiness. It is through our prayers, charitable works, and loving sacrifices that the culture can be transformed.

Let us take this opportunity of the January 22nd Day of Prayer and Penance to renew our resolve to live and proclaim the Gospel of Life. May we respond generously to the challenge Saint Pope John Paul II put forth in *Evangelium vitae*: "A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. May an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and Lover of life, from the heart of every believer." Our active participation in the shared commitment to the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person will, with God's grace, truly work toward the building up of a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes will take place on **Sunday, January 21st at 8:45am-9:45am** for students in K-10th grade.

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.

WINTER MASS CANCELLATION POLICY (UPDATED: 1/5/2024)

Weekday Masses: 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. When school is not in session, please look at our website or Facebook page for updated cancellation information.

Weekend Masses: In severe situations, it may also be necessary for safety reasons to cancel some of the weekend Masses. Again, please consult our website or Facebook page for cancellation information.

Take care of yourself and those around you during the winter months, especially by using common sense. Thank you.

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 is in need of mashed potatoes, boxed rice, beef stew, beans, Spam, cereal, spaghetti sauce, and pancake syrup. No expired food, please. Quality = dignity. Thank you for your support.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY 2024 ITALIAN DINNER

You are cordially invited to a special Italian Dinner...As an ongoing supporter of Partners in Charity I want to cordially invite the parishioners of Immaculate Conception to a special **Partners in Charity 2024 Italian Dinner** scheduled for **Thursday, January 23** at St. Joseph Church Parish Center, located at 68 Central Street in Auburn. The dinner will start at 6PM. Please RSVP by calling 508-929-4366 or send an email to development@worcesterdiocese.org. As Bishop, I look forward to welcoming and seeing you along with your pastor as we launch the upcoming appeal. Gratefully, Bishop McManus

HYMNAL READINGS #935

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/
Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/
Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/
Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/
Mk 16:15-18
Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS

Please join us for a holy hour to pray for our priests on **Friday, February 9th at 7:00pm** in the church.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The next gathering of the Women's Prayer Group will be **Saturday, February 10th 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

G.K. CHESTERTON SOCIETY

The G. K. Chesterton Society of Worcester will be meeting on **Saturday, January 13th at 6:30pm** in the church basement. The group is currently discussing Chesterton's book on St. Thomas Aquinas. For further information, contact Candace at cjaegle787@gmail.com.

VIANNEY DINNER

The next Vianney dinner is **Monday, March 4** at the Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies at 51 Illinois St., Worcester. 6:05 pm Mass, 6:30 pm dinner, and 7:00-8:30 pm social. These are nights for men, high school aged and up, interested in learning more about a priestly vocation. Don't want to come alone? Bring a friend! You are welcome to come to all or part of the evening as your schedule allows. An RSVP is not needed but it is helpful in getting an accurate count for food. Email: dinfante@saintpaulknights.org.

NOTRE DAME HEALTH CARE

Interested in volunteering? If you have an hour a week our hospice patients and our Pedi Pals could use your company and support. Please contact Debbie Towne, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, Notre Dame Hospice at 508-852-5505 x1110 or dtowne@notredamehealthcare.org.

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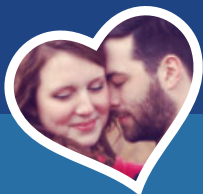
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