

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER , MA 01605

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 | FIFTH 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

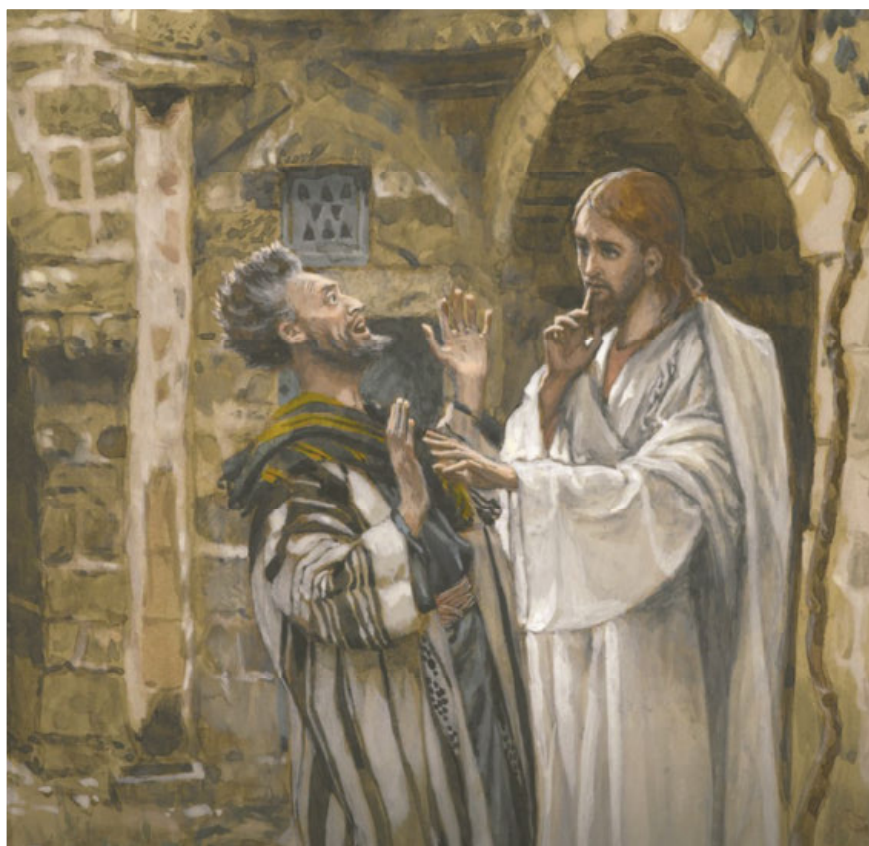
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net

Frank Myska | Retired

SECRETARY

Jennefer Noberini

icworc@live.com



5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

CLP

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, FEBRUARY 3

Vigil of 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Elenor Groden, from Family
10:00am

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

9:00am

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00am

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:00am

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Vigil of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day

4:00pm † Doris, Kathleen, and Michael Piscitelli, from Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day

7:30am † Hervey Gregoire (31st Anniversary), from Family
10:00am

*Praise the Lord, who heals the
brokenhearted.*

(Ps 147)

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

There are two quite different activities of Jesus presented in this morning's gospel reading.

The first is the activity of healing. Jesus heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law in the house of Simon and Andrew by taking her by the hand and lifting her up, and then goes on to heal many sick people who were brought to the door of the house. This healing activity of Jesus is very public and is greatly appreciated by everyone; the whole town came crowding around the door, according to Mark.

The second activity of Jesus is quite different. It is much more private. In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus goes out by himself to a lonely place to pray. Whereas Jesus' public activity of healing the sick was much appreciated by all, this second activity of going off by himself to pray is not appreciated by others. Even those closest to him didn't think much of it. Peter, the leading disciple, rebukes Jesus, 'Everybody is looking for you', as much as to say, 'Why are you wasting time out here on your own'. Yet, Jesus knew that the source of his life-giving work was his relationship with God, which is nurtured in his prayer. The activity of prayer was even more important to him than his activity of healing.

Prayer is as necessary for us as it was for Jesus. We need the Lord if we are to live as he desires us to live and if we are to share in some way in his work. In prayer we acknowledge and give expression to our dependence on the Lord; we open ourselves to the Lord's life-giving presence so as to be channels of that presence to others.

SAINT BLAISE

February 3

We know more about the devotion to Saint Blaise by Christians around the world than we know about the saint himself. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. In 1222, the Council of Oxford prohibited servile labor in England on Blaise's feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honor, and for decades many United States Catholics have sought the annual Saint Blaise blessing for their throats.



We know that Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blaise were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia. Blaise was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals.

The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused; he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. Finally, he was beheaded.

(@ Franciscan Media)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on **Sunday, February 4th 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.

During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about how we, as the People of God and the Body of Christ, gather on Sundays to give praise and thanks. Join them by reflecting on the words of the Gloria and the reasons you have to praise and thank God.



LENT 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY

On **February 14**, we begin the season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes on our foreheads. Masses will be celebrated at **7:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM**.

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

- Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions

This is a great opportunity to spend some quiet time with the Lord truly present in the most Blessed Sacrament from **5:00 to 6:00 PM**. Also, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during this time.

- Stations Of the Cross

The Stations are a very important devotion which allow us through prayer and reflection to follow Jesus Christ on his way to Calvary. They will be held at **6:00 PM**, immediately after Benediction.

MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest works of charity is to pray for the living and the dead. The greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass, since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. For that reason, all are encouraged to have Mass offered for a deceased loved one; for health and healing of a person who is sick or suffering; for a living person who is celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special moment in their life; in thanksgiving to God, our Blessed Mother or a saint; or simply for a special intention. A \$10 stipend, as determined by diocesan policy, is to accompany each Mass request. Persons/families who have a Mass intention on weekends are invited to bring up the gifts of bread and wine during the offertory.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(amounts include Electronic Giving)

1/28/2023

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,716.00
Winter Fuel	\$ 170.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 621.00

HYMNAL READINGS #941

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11/1 Cor 10:31 - 11:1/Mk 1:40-45

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2023

Any parishioner who would like to receive a statement for your contributions for 2023 for tax purposes, please call the rectory during office hours or email icworc@live.com and we will mail you a copy. Thank you.

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, February 10th 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.

TABLE RENTAL AVAILABLE AT INDOOR YARD SALE

On **Saturday, March 9 from 9 am - 3 pm**, St. Christopher Parish will host an Indoor Yard Sale at 950 W. Boylston St., Worcester. Table Rental are \$25 each or 2 for \$40. Must be reserved and paid in advance Call Liz Knott at 508-852-2348 for details. The day will also include a Bake sale and other foods and beverages will be available.

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.

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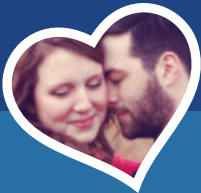
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