

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER , MA 01605

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 | SIXTH 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

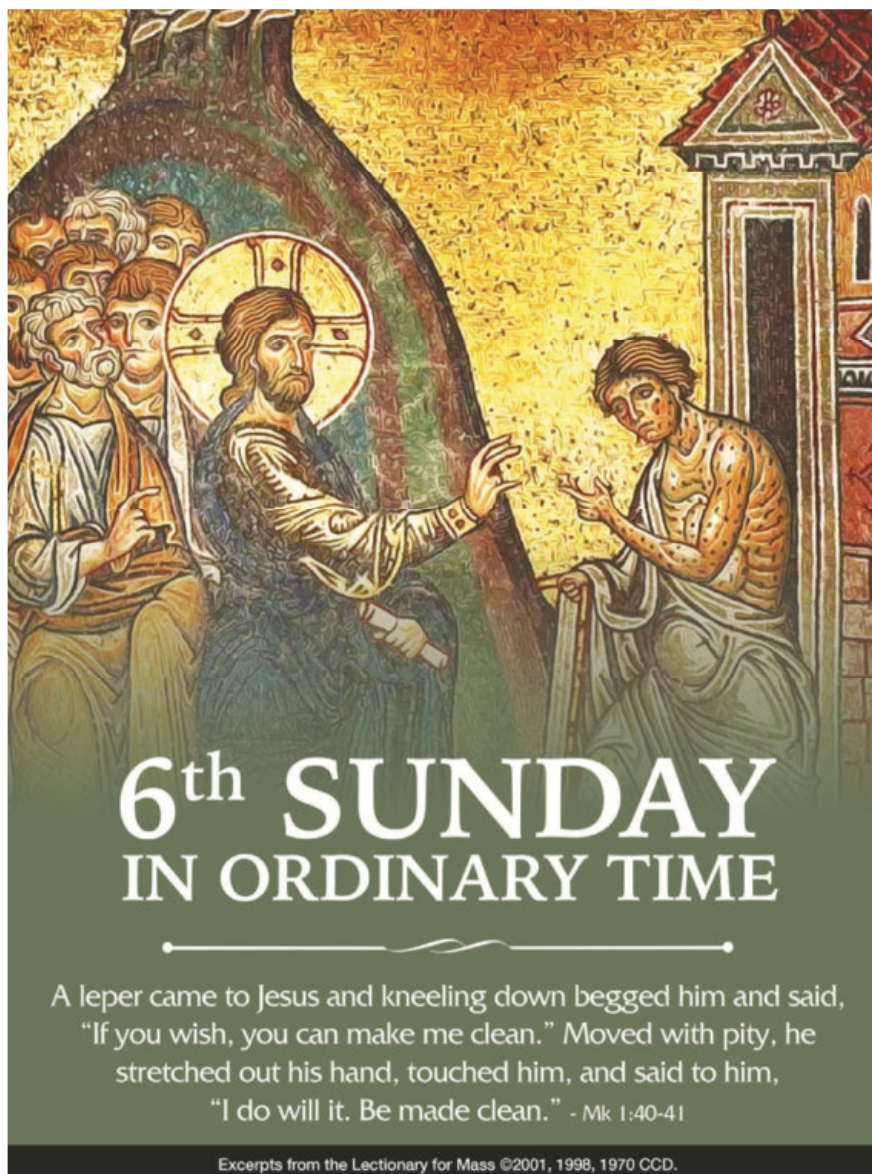
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net

Frank Myska | Retired

SECRETARY

Jennefer Noberini

icworc@live.com



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

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 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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:00am

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Ash Wednesday

7:00am

9:00am

5:30pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00am

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Vigil of 1st Sunday of Lent

4:00pm † Walter P. Antul III (35th Anniversary), from Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

1st Sunday of Lent

7:30am † Anita Gregoire (12th Anniversary), from Family

10:00am † Albert and Emilia Menard, from Family

*I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and
you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

(Ps 32)

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.

WHY FAST?

When the season of Lent draws closer, every year Catholics are faced with the same questions. What should I give up for Lent? How should I plan my one meal for the days of fasting? Will I remember to not eat any meat on the days of abstinence? Somehow, year after the year the answers do not seem to get any easier. However, as the years go by and we continue to participate in these holy and ancient practices we are also allowed to grow in an awareness of why it is that we fast at all.

The Church reminds us that each Christian faithful is called to regularly embrace acts of fasting and penance in a way that is proper to each individual, and that there are also times throughout the year (such as Fridays and the season of Lent) when we are called to be united by a common observance. These are not simple exercises of endurance but spiritual practices which strengthen us in the fight against spiritual evils. There are at least three reasons by which fasting can help us grow in the life of holiness. The first reason is to help us calm down those desires that can often overwhelm our reason. Saying no to eating our favorite cookies trains us in letting go of our desire for things that are unnecessary or even sinful. The second reason is to help our thoughts more easily focus on heavenly things. Letting go of that which is unnecessary also forces us to think of that which is important and necessary. Our reason for saying no to those cookies has to be motivated by an awareness that our hunger will only truly be satisfied by something greater, and the discomfort we feel becomes a reminder of that. Fasting can very easily lead us into sincere prayer. The third reason is that fasting helps us make satisfaction for sins; it chips away at our pride, and nurtures humility in us.

It is worth noting that the Church prescribes these times of fasting in moments that immediately precede times of feasting. The fasting of Lent is meant to prepare us for better celebrating the feasts of Easter. This is why, similarly, we always fast before the reception of Holy Communion. Fasting is not so much about suffering because we are saying no to something that we would otherwise desire but, rather, it is about preparing ourselves to properly receive something that is much better than that which we are refraining from. The greater the hunger we allow ourselves to experience during this holy season of Lent the more we will enjoy and be nourished by the Paschal Feast the Lord has prepared for us.

(@worcesterdioceses.org)



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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on **Sunday, February 11th 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.

**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.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations are as follows:

- Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.
- Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty-nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.
- Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(amounts include Electronic Giving)

2/04/2024

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,570.00
Winter Fuel	\$ 120.00
Holy Days	\$ 50.00
Diocesan Collections	\$ 32.00
Legacy of Hope Distribution	\$ 322.51

HYMNAL READINGS #944

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

1 Corinthians 10:31-33: "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved."

As St. Paul says, Do it all for the glory of God. God also wants us to seek the good of our spouse. Learn the five tools for a better marriage by signing up and attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. You will be glad you did! You can find one by looking up WWME.org. Some of the dates to sign up are:

March 15-17, 2024 in Upton, MA

April 26-28, 2024 (non-residential weekend) in Connecticut

Jun 7-9, 2024 in Upton, MA

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Joe & Ginny Vatele at 978-870-5646 or <https://www.wme.org/>.

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry would like to thank the **Parishioners of Immaculate Conception**, as well as the **365Z Foundation**, and **The Retired Friends Club of Greendale** for their generous donations to the Food Pantry especially during this cold winter season. Thank you for your support!!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FREE PICKUP OF DONATIONS

The society of St. Vincent de Paul of Worcester County is now offering **free curbside pick-up** of clothing, shoes, books and household items. To schedule a free home pick-up, visit svdpworcester.org and click on "How You Can Help" tab, then "Schedule a Home Pick-Up." Or contact our partner (CMRK) at 508-474-8966 or scan the QR code below which will direct you to our website.

The funds received go to help our neighbors in need with services including food, clothing, rent and utilities.

Please help us help our neighbors in need! Thank you!



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



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www.svdpcworchester.org - 508-754-8419

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

A Shower of Roses

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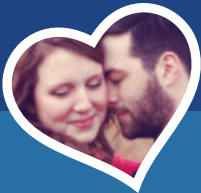
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West Boylston MA 01583
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