

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

APRIL 6, 2025 | 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Mon - Wed

9:00am - 2:00pm

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

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Edwin Montana

fatheredwin31@gmail.com

PERMANENT DEACONS

Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net

Frank Myska | Retired

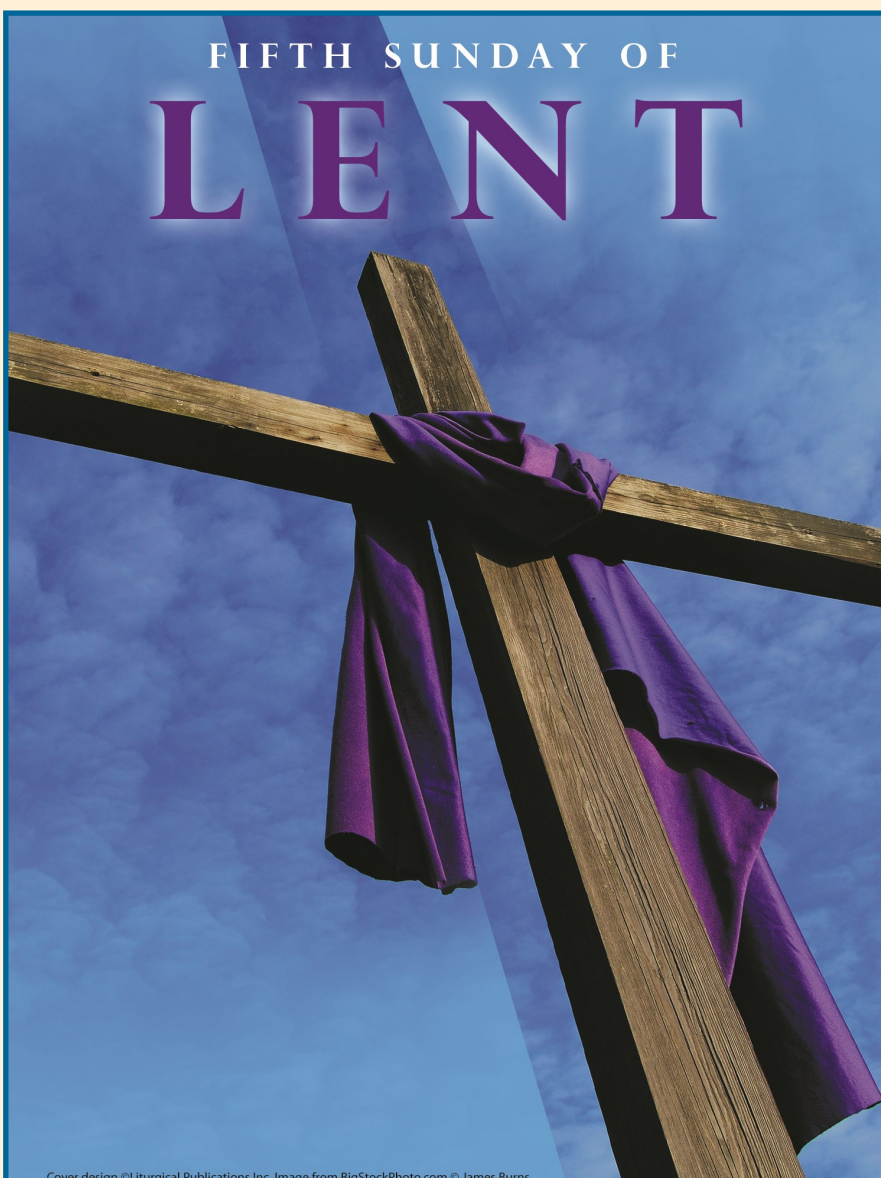
SECRETARY

Claire Boligan

icworc@live.com

BOOKKEEPER

Jennefer Noberini



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, APRIL 5

Vigil of the 5th Sunday of Lent

4:00pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

5th Sunday of Lent

7:30am † Jeannette Burns, Brian Colonies, and
Chuck Burns, by family

10:00am

MONDAY, APRIL 7

9:00am The parishioners of IC

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

9:00 AM

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

9:00am

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

4:00pm † Barbara Callan, by family

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:30am

10:00am † Michael C. Vassallo, by family

*The Lord has done great things for us; we are
filled with joy.
(Ps. 126)*

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.



PASSIONTIDE

Traditionally *the final two weeks of Lent* in the Roman Rite are used as an immediate preparation for the sorrowful events of the Easter drama. It is a period of time to focus more and more on the Passion and death of Jesus and so accompany him on his way to Calvary.

For several centuries the *Fifth Sunday of Lent* (this Sunday) was known as "Passion Sunday" and marked the beginning of a special sub-season called Passiontide, which extended up until Holy Saturday. During this time the Church's liturgy became more somber and a sorrowful mood was reflected in the various practices that occurred in the liturgy.

The most obvious example of a more somber mood was the *veiling of statues and images*, which remains an optional practice in the current *Roman Missal*: "In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from the fifth Sunday of Lent may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

It was also on the Friday of this initial "Passion Week" that the feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated (it is now fixed annually on September 15). The current *Roman Missal* still provides an alternative prayer for that day (Friday in the Fifth Week of Lent), remembering Mary's own bitter passion.

Palm Sunday was seen as the "Second Sunday in Passiontide," and is currently listed in the liturgical calendar as "Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion." It is on this day that the Passion narrative is read, the longest Sunday Gospel reading of the entire year. The Church beckons us on Palm Sunday to look toward the cross and see Christ's immense love for us, sacrificing himself for our sins. It is a preview of what is to come on Good Friday. After Palm Sunday, Passion Week gives way to Holy Week and the Church follows Jesus during his final days in Jerusalem. Wednesday during this week is known as "Spy Wednesday" and signified the day on which Judas betrayed Jesus and informed the Sanhedrin of his plan. Various other practices occurred during these final two weeks of Lent, such as *Stations of the Cross* and the *Tenebrae* services.

In the end, Passiontide is meant to be a special penitential period where we focus on Jesus' bitter passion and foster within ourselves sorrow for our sins. The good news is that Passiontide does not have the last say, and this somber period of preparation ends quickly so that our hearts can rejoice in the beauty of Christ's resurrection.



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 **5:30 to 6:30 PM**. Also, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during this time.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations are an important devotion which allow us through prayer and reflection to follow Jesus Christ on His way to Calvary. They will be held at **6:30 PM**, immediately after Benediction.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

- Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) to 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.
- 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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 12 & 13

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 14-26

9:00 AM Mass

Holy Thursday, April 17

7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (No 9:00 AM Mass)

Good Friday, April 18

12:00 PM Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Easter Sunday, April 19&20

7:00 PM Saturday Easter Vigil. (No 4:00 PM Mass)

Sunday: Regular Mass Schedule

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, April 6th at 8:45am-9:45am for students in K-10th grade.

PRAYER CARDS FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Please visit our display of the Confirmation Candidates located near the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the candidates in your prayers as they begin at this time a more focused study and deeper meaning of their Catholic faith. As they prepare for their reception of the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, April 27th at St. Paul's Cathedral, may we rejoice in their dedication, devotion, and hard work as they prepare to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Pancake Mix, Maple Syrup, Jam, Spam, Carrots in can, Mixed vegetables in can

HYMNAL READINGS: #897

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil 3:8-14/
Jn 8:1-11 Scrutiny: Ez 37:12-14/

WORD OF LIFE

"Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2024 Partners in Charity Appeal. Our Parish's goal is **\$88,500**. To date **\$38,840** has been raised. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please consider making one and visit partners-charity.net to do it online, or you can "text to give" by texting DONATE to 84576, or call the office at 508-929-4366. Thank you! We couldn't do it without you!

VENERINI ACADEMY

Discover the Venerini Academy Difference at one of our Open House Events! We warmly invite all interested families to join us at Venerini Academy, a leading Pre K3-Grade 8 private Catholic school, conveniently located in Worcester, MA.

Open House Dates:

April 29, 2025 5-7pm

May 1, 2025 6-7:30pm

May 12, 2025 5-6:30pm

May 20, 2025 5-6:30pm

Enroll now and be part of a community where we value academic excellence, spiritual growth, and the development of character. **To register or for more information, please call 508-735-3210 or visit www.veneriniacademy.com**

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

The next gathering of the Women's Prayer Group will be **Saturday, April 12 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, April 12 at 6:30pm** in the church basement. For more information, email Candace at cjaegle787@gmail.com

HOLY WEEK CONCERT

April 13th at 3:00pm (Palm Sunday) Blessed Sacrament Parish, 555 Pleasant Street, Worcester will be hosting a Lenten meditation featuring Travis Benoit, Elizabeth Noone, and the Canticum Novum Ensemble. Their performance will feature the choral works of James McMillan, Paul Jernberg, Palestrina, Bruckner, Pärt, Shaw, and more! Our hope is to inspire you to draw deeper this Lenten season and prepare your hearts for Holy Week. Admission is free but a good will offering is appreciated. You won't want to miss this!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Everyone between the ages of 3 to 95 are welcome to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt which includes 3 golden eggs on **Easter Sunday, April 20, after the 10 AM Mass**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of March 29 & 30, 2025

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,761.00
Easter/Flowers	\$ 75.00
Fuel	\$ 105.00