

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

JUNE 22, 2025 | THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

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

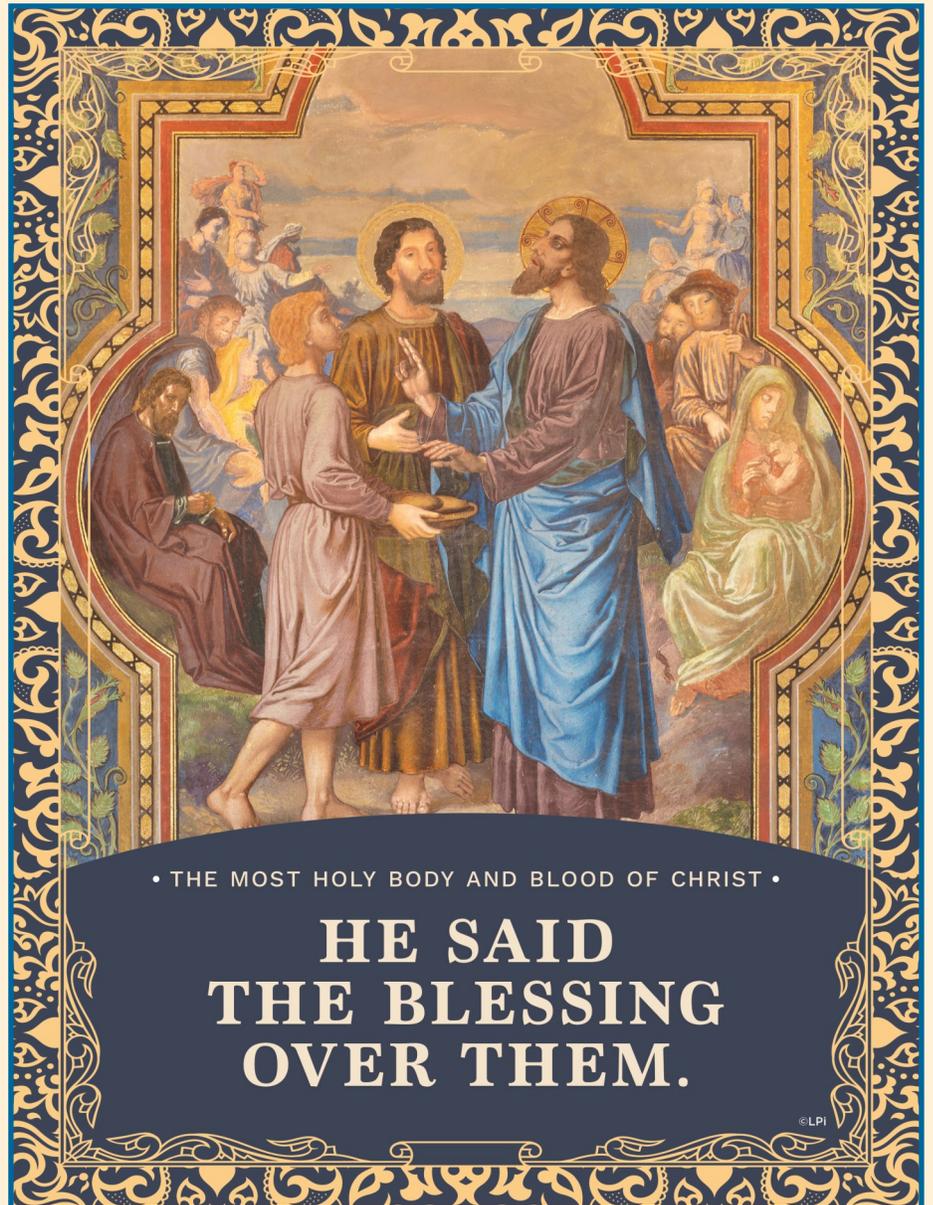
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net
Frank Myska | Retired

SECRETARY

Claire Boligan
icworc@live.com

BOOKKEEPER

Jennefer Noberini



• THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST •

HE SAID
THE BLESSING
OVER THEM.

©LPI

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, JUNE 21

Vigil of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

4:00pm † J. Paul Deignan, by the family

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

7:30am † Gertrude McDermott, by the family

10:00am † Dr. Charles, Michael, and Vincent Vassallo,
by the family

MONDAY, JUNE 23

9:00am † Donald C Rocheleau, by the family

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

9:00am † Elizabeth Royball, by the Castro family

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

9:00 am † Ernesto Co, by the Castro family

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

9:00 am The parishioners of IC

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Vigil of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

4:00pm † Richard Parretti, by the family

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

7:30am † Archbishop John O'Connor, by a
parishioner

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. Donate 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.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ; Corpus Christi. It is a celebration that invites us to reflect on the nature of the Eucharist – the True and Abiding Presence of Jesus; but it also invites us to reflect on how fervent our own belief in the Eucharist is. This feast invites us into the wonder, the awe, the amazement – the miracle – that is the Body and Blood of Christ.

This ancient feast comes to us from the 13th century; an era in the history of the Church that was plagued by disbelief or incorrect belief about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. It was the experience of a priest, Peter of Prague that would make this a universal feast for the Church. In 1263, Fr. Peter was on pilgrimage to Rome. He was a good, pious priest who strived for holiness, but struggled with doubts about the Holy Eucharist. He agonized over whether, at the words of consecration, the bread and wine became really the true Body and Blood of Jesus.

During this time, he was celebrating Mass at the tomb of St. Christina and as soon as he said the words of consecration – “This is my Body” – the host in his hands began to bleed down his arms and onto the altar cloth below. He was awestruck and began to cry. Pope Urban IV was in the nearby town of Orvieto and he went to him. After investigating, the Pope declared a miracle and had the corporal brought to the cathedral in Orvieto. You can still go and see that blood-stained corporal in Orvieto’s Cathedral – almost 800 years later. One year after this miracle, the Pope extended the Solemnity to the universal church.

So, how can we renew our own fervor for Jesus in the Eucharist today and come to understand its value in our lives? We begin by remembering a few things. First, the Eucharist is nourishment for us. Jesus gives us food for our souls. In John’s Gospel Jesus says, “If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.” By receiving regularly and with fervor, we thrive spiritually on the body and blood of Christ. Second, through the Eucharist Jesus unites us with Himself. This union began in our Baptism, was strengthened in Confirmation, but reaches its peak in Holy Communion; a peak we return to every time we receive Holy Communion. Third, in the Eucharist Jesus makes us one with each other. The Eucharist embraces the whole community. It is not just my personal communion with Christ; it is our shared communion with each other in Christ. As St. Paul said, “As there is one bread, so we, although there are many of us, are one single body, for we all share in the one bread.” This is a social sacrament, a circle that includes Christ, yourself and all of your brothers and sisters. When we approach the altar, it is a sign of our love for each other, a pledge of kindness and compassion towards each other – a love that finds its source in the Eucharist. Finally, the Eucharist gives us assurance of our Heavenly destiny. Jesus said, “Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise them on the last day.”

And so, we pray today that through the great gift of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus, that we may all be nourished, that we may be united with our Lord, united with one another and assured of our eternal home in Heaven. May God increase in us our love, our belief, our fervor for the Most Holy Body and Blood of His Son.

At the very heart of our life as a Parish is the Eucharist. We gather in prayer around the Eucharistic Table daily to pray for the needs of the world and your intentions. We thank you for the many ways in which you support the Parish and its Mission. May each of us be rooted in Christ and fed by Word and Sacrament.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION 2025-2026

Registration is ongoing for the 2025-2026 Religious Education year. Classes for children in K through 10th grade take place at 8:45am-9:45am. Classes for students in 11th grade (Confirmation) take place at 11:00am-12:00pm. All Children in second grade will begin preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in September. All Students in 11th grade will begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation in September. All children are welcome to attend Religious Education Classes and will not be denied participation due to financial hardship. If you are new to the parish, and have a child entering K-11th grades, and would like to know more about our Religious Education Program please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119.

Be a part of our parish community! Volunteers are essential to our Religious Education Program. Help spread the word of God with the children of Immaculate Conception. We have training and a wonderful support group to help you with this mission. If you are interested in sharing your faith, please contact Mary Sycks.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

Altar Servers perform a very important and much needed role in liturgical services. This role includes assisting the presider so that the liturgy can be conducted with grace and reverence. It enables the presider to focus on leading all present through word, prayer and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Immaculate Conception is recruiting boys and girls for its Altar Server Ministry. The Altar Server Ministry is a special opportunity for children to participate in the life of the parish as they serve our Lord at the Altar. Altar Servers must be Baptized, have received their First Holy Communion, and be in the third grade or higher. Training is required. If you and your child(ren) are interested in pursuing this ministry, please contact Mary Sycks.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2025 Partners in Charity Appeal. Our Parish's goal is **\$88,500**. To date **\$69,865** 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!

FR. EDWIN AWAY

Fr. Edwin will be away visiting his family in Colombia from June 23 to July 11. Please welcome the following priests that will be celebrating Mass during Father's vacation:

June 28-29: Fr. Leo LeBlanc, a retired priest of our Dioceses who is in residence at Blessed Sacrament, Worcester.

July 5-6: Fr. Anthony Okoro, who will be speaking on behalf of the Missionary Servants of the Needy (MSN) located in South Sudan.

Weekday Masses: Fr. Carlos Ruiz, pastor of St. Anna's Parish in Leominster; and Fr. Juan Parra, associate pastor at St. Paul's Cathedral.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Jelly, Pancake Mix, Cereal/Granola Bars, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spam, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Canned Carrots, and a variety of Jell-o

WORD OF LIFE

"Christ's blood reveals to man that his greatness, and therefore his vocation, consists in the sincere gift of self. ...It is from the blood of Christ that all draw the strength to commit themselves to promoting life. It is precisely this blood that is the most powerful source of hope, indeed it is the foundation of the absolute certitude that in God's plan life will be victorious."

Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium vitae

HYMNAL READINGS: 927

Sunday:	Gn 14:18-20/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 (4b)/1 Cor 11:23-26/ Lk 9:11b-17
Monday:	Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22/Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday:	Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
Wednesday:	Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 7:15-2
Thursday:	Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 7:21-2
Friday:	Ez 34:11-16/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Rom 5:5b-11/Lk 15:3-7

You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek. (Ps. 110)

MASS WITH NO MUSIC

For a Mass to be valid, the following criteria should be met: the celebrant should be a validly ordained priest with the proper intention; bread and wine must be present to be consecrated; and the priest should say the specific words of consecration as prescribed in the Roman Missal. Music is not essential for a Mass to be valid, which is why there isn't always music at daily Masses and at earliest Mass on Sundays not only here at Immaculate Conception but in many other Parishes and chapels. However, this is not to deny the huge value that the Church places on sacred music in the liturgy because it adds so much to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Sacrosanctum Concilium, 112, says that music is "a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy". At the same time, there are places in music legislation which clearly indicate that music is not required at every liturgy. Consider Musicam sacram, 36: "There is no reason why some of the Proper or Ordinary should not be sung in said Masses." The text permits, but does not require, music at a said Mass. The Eucharistic celebration without music allows more time for silence, which is also a valuable and active part of the liturgy, serving as a time for reflection, prayer, and deeper engagement with the mysteries of the Mass. Sacred music will always enhance worship and help Catholics raise their minds to the holy realities. Sacred music helps us focus on God's gift to us—His Son in the Eucharist. The Church highly values music in the liturgy, but it is not a necessary component for a valid Mass nor is a Mass without music less than Mass with music.

SAVE THE DATES

September 20 : Pasta Night

October 25: Trunk or Treat

November 22 : Church Fair

More information to come

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Alejandro 909-519-7663

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of June 14 & 15, 2025

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,779.00
Ascension	\$ 20.00
Catholic Communications	\$ 20.00