

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

JUNE 29, 2025 | SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

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

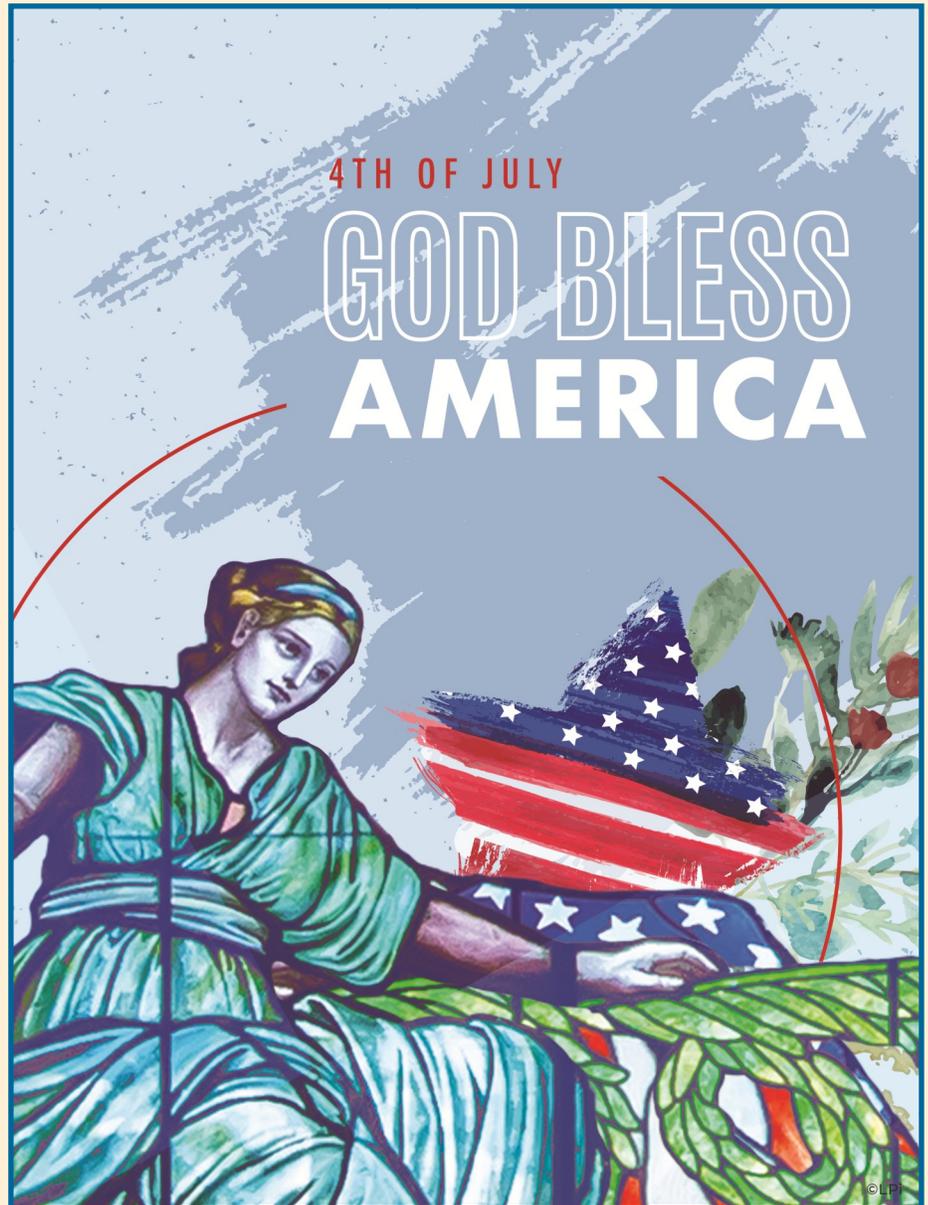
Robert G. Carson

CANTOR

Bridget Klofft

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mark Cutler





SATURDAY, 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

MONDAY, JUNE 30

9:00am

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Saint Junipero Serra, Priest

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

9:00 am

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Saint Thomas, Apostle

9:00 am

SATURDAY, JULY 5

Vigil of the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † William C. Herrmann & Arthur S. Lindsay, by the family

SUNDAY, JULY 6

The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Bishop John Foley, 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. 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.

ARE YOU MORE LIKE ST. PETER OR ST. PAUL?

By Rev. David Marcham

Today we remember and pray to two heroes in the faith, St. Peter and St. Paul. Two unlikely candidates to become disciples, apostles, evangelists, and martyrs for the faith.

So, who do you identify more with ... Peter, who answered Jesus' invitation with sincerity and best of intentions but at times doubted and even let Jesus down in his infamous denial in the garden of Gethsemane? Or is it Paul, who seems to have only one gear, total and unwavering belief, whether it was in persecuting the followers of Jesus before his dramatic conversion on the way to Damascus ... and then likewise as he gave everything to bring the Gentiles to faith in the very Jesus he had fought against?

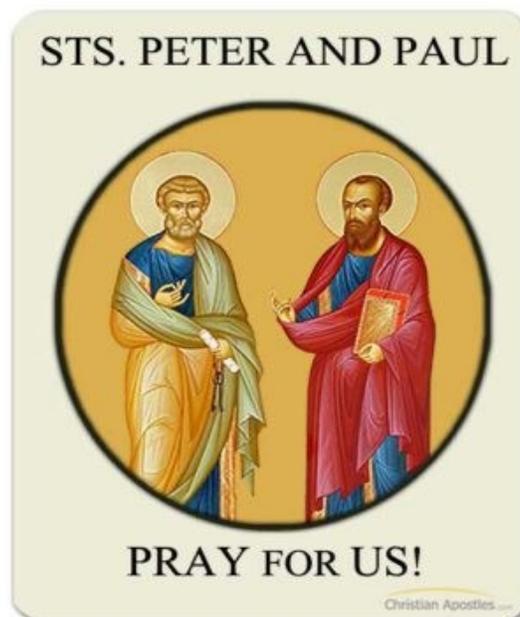
Most likely, we find ourselves a mixture of these two saints, perhaps depending upon our stage of life and current events, including whether we had that second cup of coffee. But, one thing is for sure, what we see is how God can transform the hearts and minds and lives of those who are willing to listen and speak with Him, no matter where we find ourselves.

For St. Paul, there was that one dramatic encounter with Jesus, and from that point on, he never wavered, even in the most difficult of trials, as we heard in today's reading. St. Peter's transformation was different. He needed to be with Jesus, to listen to His call, to both succeed and fail, and then to be restored through Jesus' healing words so that He could be that rock upon which the Church of Jesus stands.

On some days, we can go from St. Paul's unwavering zeal for the faith in the morning ... to St. Peter's taking his eye off Jesus while trying to walk toward Him on the water ... and then find ourselves wondering, what happened? That's reality and a reminder of why we need the examples and intercession of Saints Peter and Paul.

The common bond between these two holy and heroic men of virtue is their openness to God's grace and their humility in knowing they needed it.

The same is true for each of us, whether we are the one seeking a blessing from a priest, forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession, or someone to join us in prayer, countless other grace-filled times.



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 **\$73,235** 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.

PRAYER ROOM DEDICATION

Please join us on as we honor the memory of our former pastor **Fr. Walter Riley**, on **Sunday, July 13 after the 10am Mass**. We will go the prayer room and bless it in his honor and will add the framed Apostolic Blessing he received from Pope Francis on the 10th anniversary of his ordination. All are welcome.

BAPTISM

Our Parish welcomes **Alana Ngoc Phan, Sonny Preston Choe, Liliana Choe, and Rocky Mason Choe** into the Catholic Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray that by the example of their parents and godparents, the gift of faith may grow in them day by day. Congratulations!

HYMNAL READINGS: 1037

Sunday:	Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
Monday:	Gn 18:16-33/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 8:18-22
Tuesday:	Gn 19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12/Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday:	Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 8:28-3
Thursday:	Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29
Friday:	Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-1

The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him. (Ps. 34)

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 a Mass with music.

SAVE THE DATES

September 20 : Pasta Night

October 25: Trunk or Treat

November 1: End-of-Life Presentation

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 21 & 22, 2025

Sunday Ordinary

\$ 2,087.00