

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

JULY 6, 2025 | 14TH 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

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

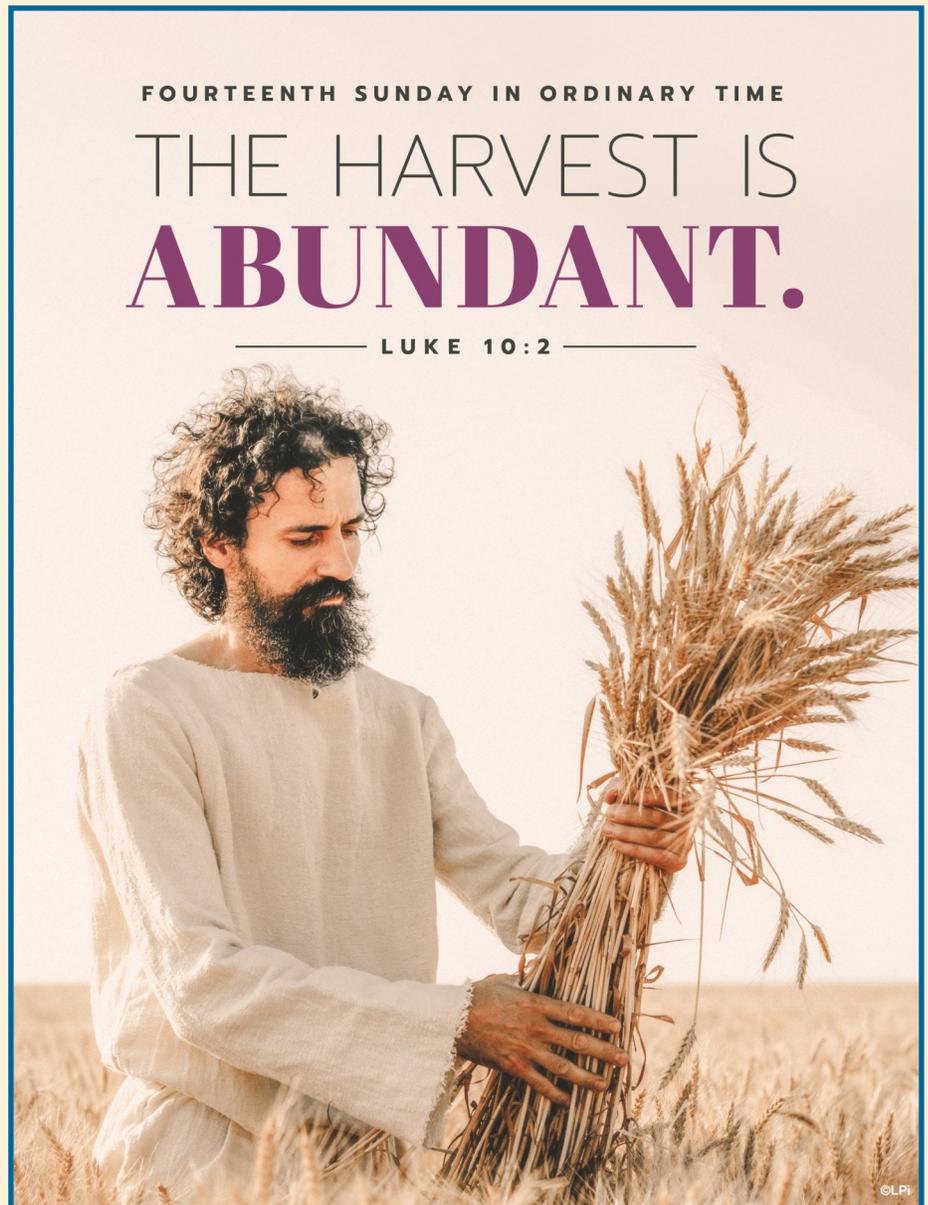
Robert G. Carson

CANTOR

Bridget Klofft

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mark Cutler



**SATURDAY, JULY 5*****Vigil of the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

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

SUNDAY, JULY 6***14th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

7:30am † Bishop John Foley, by a parishioner
10:00am † Ray Jackson, by the Freeman family

MONDAY, JULY 7

9:00am † Harry Parker & Jane Cobill, by family

TUESDAY, JULY 8

9:00am The Parishioners of IC

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

9:00 am

THURSDAY, JULY 10

9:00 am

SATURDAY, JULY 12***Vigil of the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

4:00pm † Yvette Saint Hilaire, by the family

SUNDAY, JULY 13***15th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

7:30am

10:00am † Joseph William, by his daughter

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.

ST. BENEDICT THE ABBOT**July 11**

St. Benedict is believed to have been born around 480, as the son to a Roman noble of Norcia and the twin to his sister, Scholastica. In the fifth century, the young Benedict was sent to Rome to finish his education with a nurse/housekeeper. The subject that dominated a young man's study then was rhetoric -- the art of persuasive speaking. A successful speaker was not one who had the best argument or conveyed the truth, but one who used rhythm, eloquence, and technique to convince. The power of the voice without foundation in the heart was the goal of the student's education. And that philosophy was reflected in the lives of the students as well. They had everything -- education, wealth, youth -- and they spent all of it in the pursuit of pleasure, not truth. Benedict watched in horror as vice unraveled the lives and ethics of his companions.

Afraid for his soul, Benedict fled Rome, gave up his inheritance and lived in a small village with his nurse. When God called him beyond this quiet life to an even deeper solitude, he went to the mountains of Subiaco. Although becoming a hermit was not his purpose in leaving, there he lived as a hermit under the direction of another hermit, Romanus.

One day, during his time living in a cave above a lake as a hermit, the Devil presented Benedict's imagination with a beautiful, tempting woman. Benedict resisted by rolling his body into a thorn bush until it was covered in scrapes. It is said through these body wounds, he cured the wounds of his soul.

After years of prayer, word of his holiness brought nearby monks to ask for his leadership. He warned them he would be too strict for them, but they insisted -- then tried to poison him when his warning proved true. The story goes, the monks attempted to poison Benedict's drink, but when he prayed a blessing over the cup - it shattered.

So Benedict was on his own again -- but not for long. The next set of followers were more sincere and he set up twelve monasteries in Subiaco where monks lived in separate communities of twelve. He left these monasteries abruptly when the envious attacks of another hermit made it impossible to continue the spiritual leadership he had taken.

But it was in Monte Cassino he founded the monastery that became the roots of the Church's monastic system. Instead of founding small separate communities he gathered his disciples into one whole community. His own sister, Saint Scholastica, settled nearby to live a religious life.

After almost 1,500 years of monastic tradition his direction seems obvious to us. However, Benedict was an innovator. No one had ever set up communities like his before or directed them with a rule. What is part of history to us now was a bold, risky step into the future.

Benedict had the holiness and the ability to take this step. His beliefs and instructions on religious life were collected in what is now known as the Rule of Saint Benedict -- still directing religious life after 15 centuries.

In this tiny but powerful Rule, Benedict put what he had learned about the power of speaking and oratorical rhythms at the service of the Gospel. He did not drop out of school because he did not understand the subject! Scholars have told us that his Rule reflects an understanding of and skill with the rhetorical rules of the time. Despite his experience at school, he understood rhetoric was as much a tool as a hammer was. A hammer could be used to build a house or hit someone over the head. Rhetoric could be used to promote vice ... or promote God. Benedict did not shun rhetoric because it had been used to seduce people to vice; he reformed it.

Benedict died on 21 March 543, not long after his sister. It is said he died with high fever on the very day God told him he would. He is the patron saint of Europe and students.

(catholic.org)

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 **\$73,285** 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:

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.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- Pancake mix, Canned Chili Beans, Jam/Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Tuna/Chicken, Spam, Boxed Rice Pilaf (not bagged), Syrup, Ready Made Frosting, Granola Bars, Cookies/Crackers, Fresh Baby Carrots

HYMNAL READINGS: 969

Sunday:	Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9
Monday:	Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab/Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday:	Gn 32:23-33/Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b and 15/Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday:	Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19/Mt 10:1-7
Thursday:	Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 10:7-15
Friday:	Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mt 10:16-23

*Let all the earth cry out to God
with joy. (Ps. 66)*

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.

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