

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

JULY 20, 2025 | 16TH 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

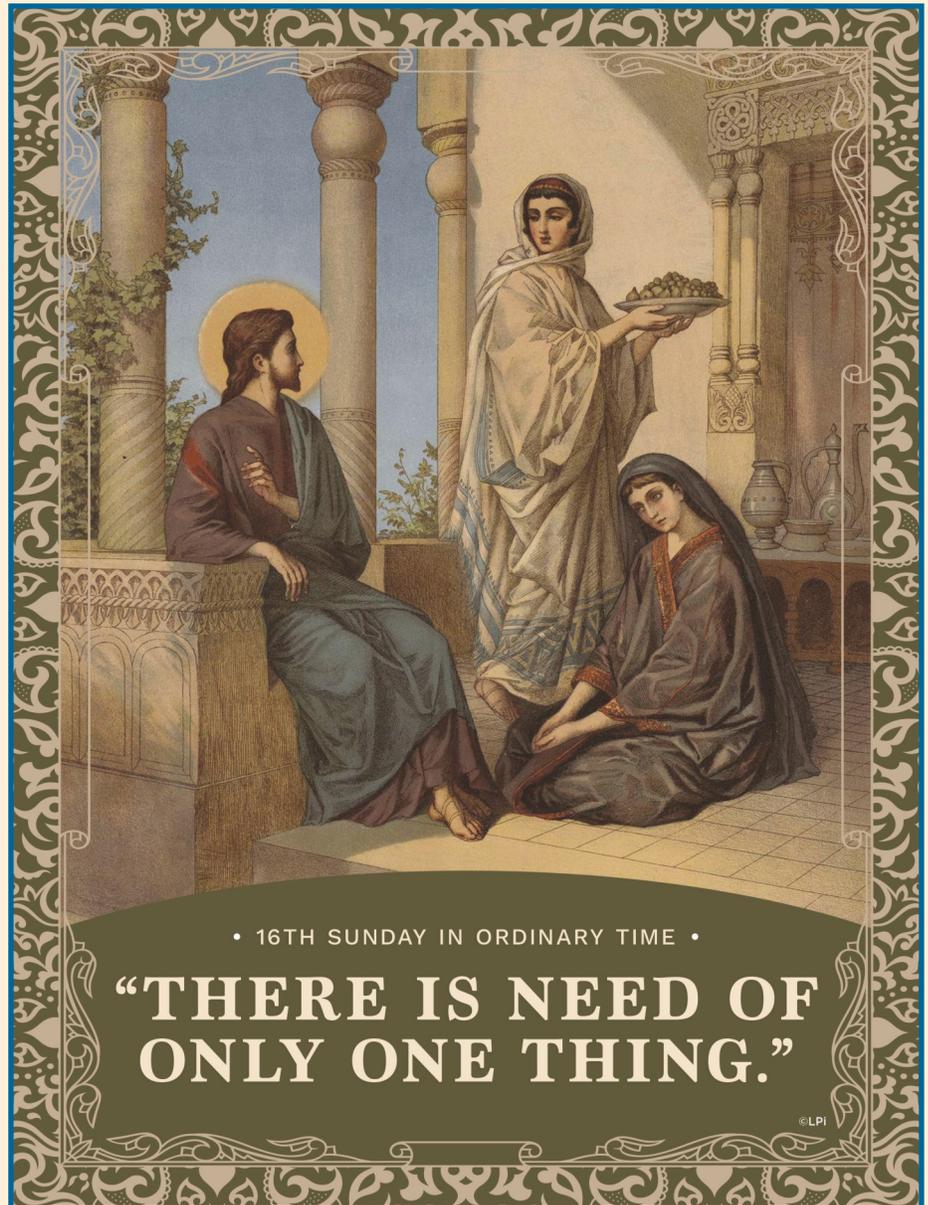
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net
Frank Myska | Retired

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 19

Vigil of the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm

SUNDAY, JULY 20

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am

10:00am † Beverly Freeman, by family

MONDAY, JULY 21

9:00am

TUESDAY, JULY 22

Saint Mary Magdalene

9:00am The parishioners of IC

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Saint Bridget, Religious

9:00 am

THURSDAY, JULY 24

9:00 am

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Vigil of the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm

SUNDAY, JULY 27

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am

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.

THIS SUNDAY'S WORD

Imagine you're out to eat. You notice in opposite directions from you two couples. To your right is a young couple who are not saying a word, and aren't even looking at each other, seemingly because they're upset. Instead, they're clicking away at their smartphones. In the other direction you notice an elderly couple. They don't speak to each other, but not because they don't want to. They are not speaking because they don't need to. They understand each other so well, that they can see and hear things about each other, and can communicate and be in communion with each other, without the need for words.

In today's Gospel passage, we see two persons who are in the presence of Jesus, but in very different ways. Even though Martha is physically in the same house as Jesus, when He speaks, she's not listening to him. Martha is in the presence of Jesus, but she's not present to Him. She means well, she's been a good host. But not the type of host that Jesus wanted. Jesus wanted a listening ear. He's been through a lot. Last Sunday he was tested by a scholar of the law. Remember the question from last Sunday's gospel: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?". Jesus is tired and probably discouraged and he just wants to talk with his friends.

Martha is doing something good for Jesus, but is not doing what Jesus wants, what Jesus needs at that particular. Do you see yourself in Martha? Are you sincere in doing what you do, but nonetheless, not doing what God wants?

As a priest, as a parent, as a spouse, as a friend, as a child, as a caregiver...

We may be doing a lot for your loved ones. But are we doing what they really need? Are we listening to them so we can serve them better? We cannot know this until we become like Mary, until we listen. Mary is the wiser of the two sisters. Mary is in the presence of Jesus, and is also present to Him. Mary listens not merely to the words of Jesus, but to the Word Himself. There was no conversation between Jesus and Mary. There was no dialogue. It was not two-way communication. The words flowed in only one direction: from Jesus to Mary. Mary listened to the divine Word made Flesh: this is the better part. We live more in Martha's world than Mary's. May we choose Mary's part.

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.

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. (Ps. 15)

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE JULY 22ND

Except for the mother of Jesus, few women are more honored in the Bible than Mary Magdalene. Yet she could well be the patron of the slandered, since there has been a persistent legend in the Church that she is the unnamed sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus in Luke 7:36-50.

Most Scripture scholars today point out that there is no scriptural basis for confusing the two women. Mary Magdalene, that is, “of Magdala,” was the one from whom Christ cast out “seven demons” (Luke 8:2)—an indication at the worst, of extreme demonic possession or possibly, severe illness.

Writing in the New Catholic Commentary, Father Wilfrid J. Harrington, O.P., says that “seven demons” “does not mean that Mary had lived an immoral life—a conclusion reached only by means of a mistaken identification with the anonymous woman of Luke 7:36.” In the Jerome Biblical Commentary, Father Edward Mally, S.J., agrees that she “is not...the same as the sinner of Luke 7:37, despite the later Western romantic tradition about her.”

Mary Magdalene was one of the many “who were assisting them [Jesus and the Twelve] out of their means.” She was one of those who stood by the cross of Jesus with his mother. And, of all the “official” witnesses who might have been chosen for the first awareness of the Resurrection, she was the one to whom that privilege was given. She is known as the “Apostle to the Apostles.”

Mary Magdalene has been a victim of mistaken identity for almost 20 centuries. Yet she would no doubt insist that it makes no difference. We are all sinners in need of the saving power of God, whether our sins have been lurid or not. More importantly, we are all “unofficial” witnesses of the Resurrection. Saint Mary Magdalene is the Patron Saint of: Penitents, perfumers.

(@franciscanmedia)

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!

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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- Pancake mix, Jelly, Syrup, Pasta Sauce, Apple Sauce, Peanut Butter

HYMNAL READINGS: 975

Sunday:	Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 (1a)/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42
Monday:	Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday:	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Wednesday:	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28/Mt 13:1-9
Thursday:	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Mt 13:10-17
Friday:	2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28

THANK YOU

Thank you to all parishioners who generously supported the new Marian Grotto in Father Walter’s memory. The shrine can be seen at St. Joan of Arc church, 570 Lincoln Street.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the
whole cosmos in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of July 12 & 13, 2025

Sunday Ordinary

\$ 2,741.00