

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

JULY 27, 2025 | 17TH 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

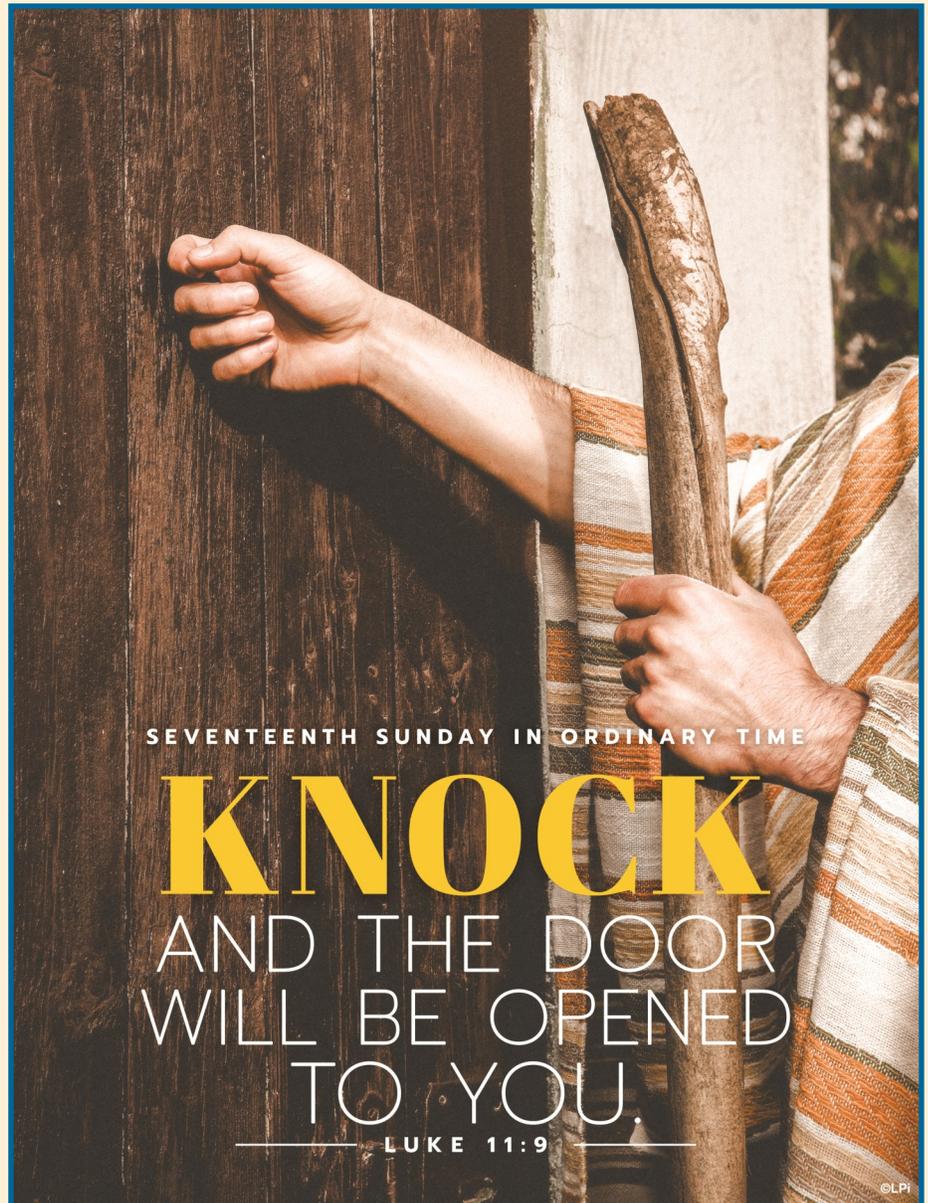
SECRETARY

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 26

Vigil of the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm

SUNDAY, JULY 27

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am

10:00am

MONDAY, JULY 28

9:00am

TUESDAY, JULY 29

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

9:00am The parishioners of IC

THURSDAY, JULY 31

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

9:00 am † Ellen M. Rocheleau, by family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Vigil of the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † Francis L. Walsh Jr., by the Walsh family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Special intentions for Samuel Barnhouse,
by family

10:00am † Francis X. Mahoney Sr., by family

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

In today's Gospel text, some of Jesus' disciples ask Him how to pray more effectively. Jesus' response is what we now know as "the Lord's prayer." While this prayer says many things, one of the most basic is that we can trust God.

"When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name,' Jesus says (Luke 11:2). The term Father is used here to express intimacy. God isn't an abstract idea, or a nameless force that we can call on for good luck; rather, the Creator of the universe knows us personally, and loves us unconditionally – like a good parent. This was an astonishing claim in Jesus' time, and still is.

Jesus continues by telling His disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Luke 11:3). Here we see we can trust God to provide what we need, one day at a time. This can help keep us from worrying about the future, by focusing only on what we need today.

After Jesus tells His disciples how to pray, He tells a story about a man whose friend comes to him in the middle of the night asking for loaves of bread: "Even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs," Jesus says (Luke 11:8). Sometimes persistence is the only way to get what we need! So if it seems that God isn't giving us what we need, it's okay to "bug" God until we get it. God is big enough to take our anger and our bargaining, as the story of Abraham teaches (Gen 18:20-33).

The whole point of this story is, that if we stay persistent, we will get whatever it is we need. "Ask, and it will be given," Jesus says. "Search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you" (Luke 11:9). Sometimes this can be hard to believe, especially when it takes a long time. But the good news here is that we never need to worry about being "locked out" of heaven; if we really desire to be with the Lord, we will be!

Jesus ends this passage by making a comparison between God and a human parent. If our child asked for a fish, we wouldn't give them a snake, Jesus reasons; nor would we give them a scorpion if they asked for an egg! Jesus calls His disciples evil because in comparison to God's love, our love looks evil. That is how powerful and unconditional God's love is.

Jesus also says that if we ask, God will give us the Holy Spirit – and this is quite a gift! God's direct presence in us can sustain us in a way nothing else can. So if we're not feeling God's love, we can ask, and God will make this known to us.

Having said all of this, we have to admit that it can be hard for us to trust God sometimes – and I know I'm not the only one that struggles with this.

How can God be trusted, we may wonder, when we're sick and healing doesn't come? How can God be trusted, when we're struggling to make ends meet? How can God be trusted, when we've been looking for a spouse for years, and no suitable mate can be found? How can God be trusted, when it seems like all our loved ones are dying? How can God be trusted, when war, famine, and desolation never seem to end?

The truth is that God doesn't exempt any of us from suffering. Most of us will experience sickness, pain, loneliness, and grief at some during our lives – and all of us will die.

So yes, suffering and death come to everyone; but God's presence will give us the strength to bear it, and will remain with us always – both now and into eternity. Let this be our hope today. Amen!

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!

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

BAPTISM

Our Parish welcomes **Isabel Rose Fitzgibbons** into the Catholic Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray that by the example of her parents and godparents, the gift of faith may grow in her day by day. Congratulations!

TABERNACLE RESORATION

Our silver tabernacle and sanctuary lamp have been sent for a much needed re-plating. This tabernacle has been a part of our sanctuary since the foundation the church in 1956 and it was notoriously worn out. The cost of this restoration will be around \$14,000. If you would like to assist us in paying for this, feel free to put your donation in an envelope with the memo: "tabernacle restoration" and place it in the collection basket. Thank you for your generosity.

HYMNAL READINGS: 978

Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 (3a)/ Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-1
 Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-3
 Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
 Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53
 Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58

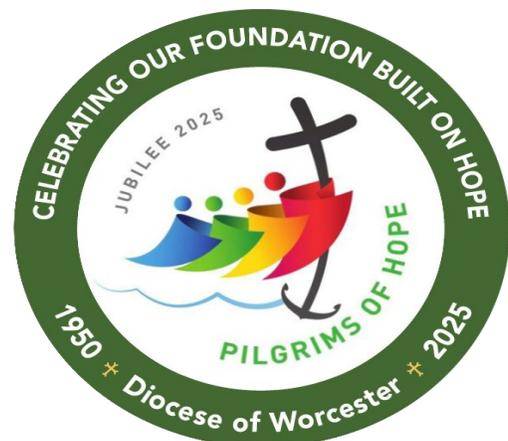
*Lord, on the day I called for help,
 you answered me. (Ps. 138)*

ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2025

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish invites you to our Italian Festival at 37 Massasoit Rd., Worcester. Hours of operation are: **Thursday, Aug. 14 (5-10 pm), Friday, Aug. 15 (5-10 pm), Saturday, Aug. 16 (Noon-10 pm), and Sunday, Aug. 17 (Noon - 6 pm)**. Come and enjoy Fried Dough, Sausage Sandwiches, Hamburgers & Hot Dogs, Beer & Wine, and, of course, **ITALIAN COOKIES!!** There will also be participation by **Boulevard Diner, a Cannoli Truck, an Ice Cream Truck**, and other great vendors. For entertainment we will have **Boom Box, XS Band, Decades by Dezyne** for the adults, Bouncy Houses for the kids, and Italian Novelties, as well as a Money Raffle. We will also honor Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto at our shrine. Mark your calendars now. Check our website, MTCARMELFESTIVAL.ORG for more information.

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.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of July 19 & 20, 2025

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 5,902.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 40.00