

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

AUGUST 3, 2025 | 18TH 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



18th Sunday

I N O R D I N A R Y T I M E

[Jesus] said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." - Lk 12:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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, 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

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Saint John Vianney, Priest

9:00am The parishioners of IC

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

9:00am † Cecelia Provost, by family

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord

9:00am Special intentions for Matthew Freeman, by family

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

9:00 am

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Vigil of the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † Richard Parretti, by family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Joanne Deignan, by family

10:00am † Kevin Needham, 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

Today we begin reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes, another Wisdom book which follows immediately in our Bible after Proverbs. The word "Ecclesiastes" is a Greek translation of the original Hebrew title of the book, Qoheleth—a word which means 'Teacher', one who conducts an assembly or a school. As the Greek word for 'assembly' is ekklesia, that explaining the title we use.

The book teaches wisdom by highlighting the emptiness of most human pursuits: "All is vanity." The language often sounds negative and cynical. Even so, "in the face of death and 'vanity', Qoheleth repeatedly urges humans to embrace life and its goods – food, drink, love, work, and play – as gifts from God"

In the face of the emptiness and vanity of life, the Teacher makes two positive points: Fear God, and keep his commandments, for that is the whole duty of everyone. (Eccle 12:13)

As humans have no really effective control over their environment and spend much of their time chasing the illusory, the real good is to enjoy life as a gift of God, and it is in the area in which they find themselves that they are to find him.

The theme of the whole book is expressed in the opening words of today's reading: "All is vanity." The original meaning of the Hebrew word translated 'vanity' was 'mist' or 'breath'. It is one of a group of traditional images (e.g. water, shadow, smoke) used in Hebrew poetry to describe the transitory nature of human life. It is used thirty-five times altogether in this book, but in Qoheleth the word has lost its usual meaning. For him, 'vanity' signifies the illusory nature of things, and hence the delusions to which the human family is subjected. The basic thrust of Ecclesiastes is that all of life is meaningless, useless, hollow, futile and vain, if it is not rightly related to God. Only when based on God and his word is life worthwhile.

A life without God and the values we identify with God, however much energy is put into it, is meaningless.

What is the quality and purpose of my life at this time? Is my day spent in seeking and finding God or am I in search of something else which I have no guarantee of either finding or keeping? Or, on the other hand, am I so in touch with my Lord that, no matter when it happens, I will be ready to answer his call and run to him full of desire for perfect unity with him?

(@sacredspace.com)

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.

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 **\$73,985** 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!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- Pancake mix, Jelly, Syrup, Pasta Sauce, Apple Sauce, Peanut Butter, Cereal, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Baby Carrots (fresh), Canned fruits, Cake mix

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.

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

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.

PARISH SECRETARY ON MATERNITY LEAVE

Claire will be on maternity leave as she and her husband welcome their beautiful daughter into this world. Please keep her and her growing family in your prayers!

WORD OF LIFE

“Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together.”

HYMNAL READINGS: 981

Sunday:	Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1)/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-2
Monday:	Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday:	Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-1
Wednesday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36
Thursday:	Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 16:13-23
Friday:	Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21/Mt 16:24-28

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps. 90)

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

BY ST. JOHN VIANNEY—FEAST DAY: AUGUST 4TH

God, please give to your Church today many more priests after your own heart. May they be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness; tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments. May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry.
Amen.

