

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

NOVEMBER 16, 2025 | 33RD 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: 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Or By Appointment

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

Rev. Edwin Montana
fatheredwin31@gmail.com

PERMANENT DEACONS

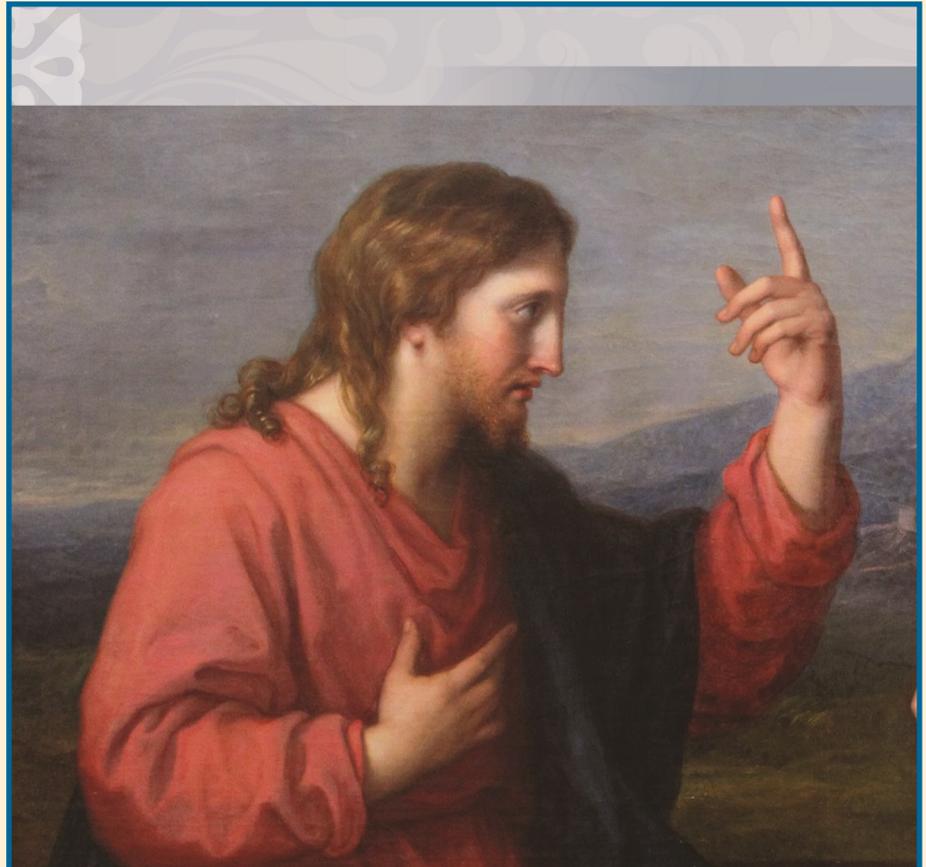
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net
Frank Myska | Retired

SECRETARY

Claire Boligan
icworc@live.com

BOOKKEEPER

Jennefer Noberini



33rd Sunday

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

"You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed." - Lk 21:16-18

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, NOVEMBER 15

Vigil of the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † Edward Groden, by family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Jackie Kohl, by a friend

10:00am † Denise Carlson, by her husband

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

9:00am † Marc Reich, by a friend

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin

9:00am The Forgotten Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

9:00am The Forgotten Souls in Purgatory

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

9:00 am † Bishop Daniel Reilly

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Vigil of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

4:00pm The Remillard, Senior, Daly and Barnes Family,
by family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

7:30am † Evelyn Carlson, by family

10:00am

*The Lord comes to rule the world
with justice.
(PS 98)*

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.



Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord; and let perpetual
light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

kimcameronsmith.com

PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

Have you ever wondered why Catholics pray for the dead? It's a topic that piques curiosity in both Catholics and nonCatholics alike. If death marks the end of earthly life, why pray for the deceased when their chance to turn to Christ seems to have ended? The answer is found in Scripture and Catholic Tradition, which form the foundation of the belief in purgatory.

What is Purgatory?

Purgatory is defined by the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a "purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven," which is undergone by those "who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified" (CCC 1030). The Catechism clarifies that "this final purification of the elect ... is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (CCC 1031). Heaven is the perfect union between God and man. Sin distances us from God, and to be in perfect communion with him, we must be completely free of sin. According to Scripture, one must be "clean" to enter heaven (Revelation 21:27). Therefore, a cleaning or "purification" is necessary for those who still require it. Just like a proper guest at a grand banquet, God desires us to be purified and properly attired to enter into the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Is Purgatory Painful?

While there is no official explanation in Church doctrine on the exact nature of purgatory, the "pains" of purgatory are often categorized in two ways: the pains of sense and the pains of loss. The pains of sense refer to the purification that souls go through. Although the nature of this purification is not entirely known, Scripture refers to it as a "cleansing fire" (CCC, No. 1031; 1 Corinthians 3:15; 1 Peter 1:7). The pains of loss refer to the spiritual suffering of knowing God and longing for union with him, while recognizing the obstacles that prevent this lasting, true joy. St. Maria Faustina Kowalska wrote in her diary of a vision she had of the souls in purgatory. In her vision, she asked the souls what their greatest pain was. She writes that they all answered in unison, saying their "greatest torment was longing for God." Above all, there is immense hope for the souls in purgatory, as heaven is both guaranteed and within reach. St. Catherine of Genoa said: "For the souls in purgatory there is great joy as well as pain as they know for certain they are bound for Heaven!"

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, November 16th, 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in K through 10th grade. Confirmation Class takes place at 11:00am-12:00pm at the Fr. Connors Center.

RECONCILIATION CLASS

During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will be reflecting with their families and catechists about how the sacrament empowers us to live out our mission of being forgivers and reconcilers. Join them by reflecting on your experience of being a forgiver and reconciler.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We are very excited to announce the date of the Children's Christmas Pageant. The Christmas Pageant will be held **Sunday, December 21st at 9:15am in the church**. All children at Immaculate Conception are invited to join us for Christmas Pageant rehearsals on the following dates: Sunday, December 7 & 14 at 10:45am-11:45am in the church & Dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 20th at 10:00am. We have many roles for all the children. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Mary Sycks 508-868-8119. Any adults who would like to volunteer as costume coordinators or "herders" to guide our littlest angels and sheep the morning of the performance please contact Mary Sycks.

BAKERS NEEDED

We need bakers for the upcoming Church Fair! If you are interested in helping, please contact Alejandro Castro at 909-519-7663

CHURCH FAIR

Saturday, November 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fr. Connors' Center. There will be food, door prizes, vendors, 50/50 raffle, raffle of gift cards and baskets. **Santa is coming to town from 1 pm to 3 pm.** Take pictures with him. Cash and Venmo accepted. For questions call/message Alejandro at 909-519-7663 or email at el1ercoach@yahoo.com

GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is up and filled with 110 tags for needy families and the seminarians of our diocese. There are no restrictions as to how many tags you can take. Help yourself!

For Children: There are no restrictions on the number of tags you can take. Items range from inexpensive toys to winter jackets. Although there will be 2 gifts listed on each tag, **only 1 gift is necessary**. You will have 2 weeks to purchase the item you choose. **Be sure the giving tag is attached securely to the outside of your unwrapped gift**. No Christmas wrapping paper, no batteries, no food are allowed. **Return gifts in ordinary plastic bags by Sunday, December 7, by 11:00 a.m.**

For the seminarians: Please **mail your gift card** in the envelope attached to each tag. It has the address and the name of the seminarian who will receive your gift.

Questions? Call or text Michelle Deignan at 508-596-4778. Our sincere thanks for your participation in this annual giving program that serves the needs of the needy children in our communities and of our future priests.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal, Pasta Sauce, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Tuna Cans, variety of canned soup, canned mixed vegetables.

The holiday season is upon us and there is an **increase in the need for food**. The Food Pantry group and the guests appreciate your generosity.

HYMNAL READINGS: 1026

Sunday: Mal 3:19-20a/Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 (see 9)/2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-4

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d -12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

COAT DRIVE

There will be a coat drive to support families of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The coat drive will run on **11/8 & 11/9 and 11/15 & 11/16**. There will be bins at the entrances of the church for you to donate clean washed coats with no-rips. All sizes are welcome (infant, child and adult). Thank you for your support!

BISHOP'S HOLIDAY DINNER

We are about a month away from Catholic Charities Worcester County's Bishop's Holiday Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, and we are in need of compassionate volunteers to help make this meaningful event possible. Your time and support can make a real difference as we come together to serve individuals in our community who are facing hardship during the holiday season.

There are several volunteer opportunities available, including:

- Meal Packaging
- Meal Deliveries
- Sit Down Dinner

If you're available to volunteer on Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day, we'd be grateful for your support. Please use the link below to sign up for the opportunities that work best for you:

TABERNACLE RESTORATION

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 of 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. To date we have received **\$6,795** in donations. Thank you for your generosity.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of November 8 & 9, 2025

Sunday Ordinary	\$	3,390.00
Fuel	\$	1013.00
All Saints	\$	20.00
All Souls	\$	13.00