

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 | 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

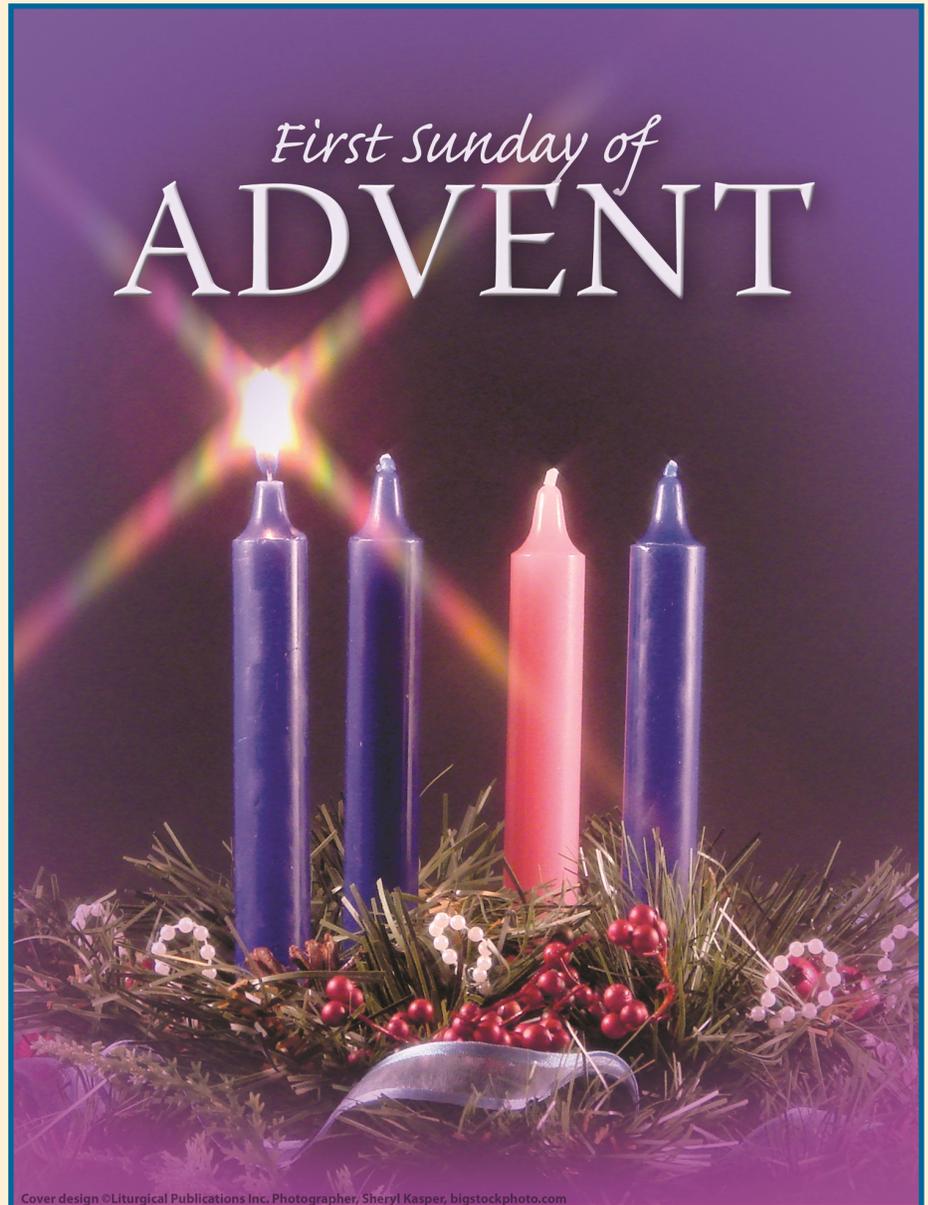
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SECRETARY

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BOOKKEEPER

Jennefer Noberini



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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 29

Vigil of the 1st Sunday of Advent

4:00pm † John & Anne Callan, by family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

The 1st Sunday of Advent

7:30am Health of John Paul Dobson, by family

10:00am

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:00am Health of Gregory MacDonnell, by family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00am Health of Jane Chisholm, by family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

9:00am † Bishop Daniel Reilly, by family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 am † Clara Tan, by family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Advent

4:00pm William & Helen Callahan, and † Anita Callahan, by family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

7:30am † Anita Callahan, by Gerry & Rita Shea

10:00am

*Let us go rejoicing to the house
of the Lord.
(PS 122)*

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.



ADVENT 2025

Advent is here! The Advent season in which we eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to center our thoughts on hope. It's a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our lost and dying world, and that He's given us through Jesus.

On this first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity; let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. Over this Advent, we pray that hope would rise up in our spirits in a tangible and life-giving way.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." Advent in the 4th and 5th centuries was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers. Over time, advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally Christians used this term to reference Christ's second coming, but by the Middle Ages, Advent was connected to Christ's first coming that we celebrate at Christmas.

Today, we celebrate Advent over the four weeks leading up to Christmas each year. Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off of the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle that can be associated with the Christmas season that often threatens to produce more hassle than delight. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from Heaven and took the form of a man so that we might believe.

The tradition for the first Sunday of Advent includes lighting the candle of hope. This candle of hope symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God as well as the hope we have in Christ. God crafted a great rescue plan that he lays out in Scripture. This plan foretells years in advance the arrival of Christ. The Bible also gives us a glimpse of the future and promises that God will come down to create a new heaven and Earth. This first Sunday of Advent we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us (foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ), and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

Heavenly Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year. May we pause to remember that we have hope in you. You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending. Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully. We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation! Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again. More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation. Amen.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are no Religious Education classes on Sunday, November 30th. Happy Thanksgiving! Classes will resume on Sunday, December 7th

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.

GIVING TREE

For Children: **Return gifts in ordinary plastic bags by Sunday, December 7, by 11:00 a.m.** 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.

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.

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.

BAPTISM

Our Parish welcomes **Santino Robert Wetnicka** into the Catholic Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray that by the example of his parents and godparents, the gift of faith may grow in him day by day. Congratulations!

MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP—REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Plan now to attend the 52nd annual March for Life in Washington, DC on **Friday, Jan. 23, 2026!** Buses will leave from St. Paul Cathedral on Thurs., Jan. 22 following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 p.m., and will travel to the Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC in time for Friday morning Mass followed by the March for Life at noon. Buses will return to Worcester immediately following the March, arriving back at St. Paul's at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24. Cost is \$150 per seat. Registration deadline is December 12. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. For more details and to download registration forms visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life. Can't attend this year but want to help? Consider making a donation that will help defray expenses for our students who want to attend but might otherwise find it difficult to do so. Thank you!

HYMNAL READINGS: 858

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

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:

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the eternal repose of **Priscilla Calcagni**, as well as for the consolation of her family during this time of loss. May God grant them hope and strength in the days ahead.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of November 15 & 16, 2025

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,595.00
All Souls Day	\$ 20.00
All Saints Day	\$ 10.00
Fuel	\$ 200.00
Cycle of Poverty	\$ 10.00

WINTER MASS CANCELLATION POLICY

If Worcester Public Schools are CLOSED because of a winter storm, daily Mass WILL NOT be celebrated and the Parish Office will be closed that day. If school opening is DELAYED because of the same reason, daily Mass WILL BE celebrated and the office will open as usual. If real inclement weather takes place during a weekend, please check our website or Facebook page for updates. Please take care of yourself and those around you during the winter months, especially by using common sense.

For Religious Education

For cancellations of Religious Education classes due to weather conditions please check the Immaculate Conception website or Facebook Page. You can also call the Office of Religious Education at 508-868-8119.