

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

DECEMBER 14, 2025 | 3RDSUNDAY 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

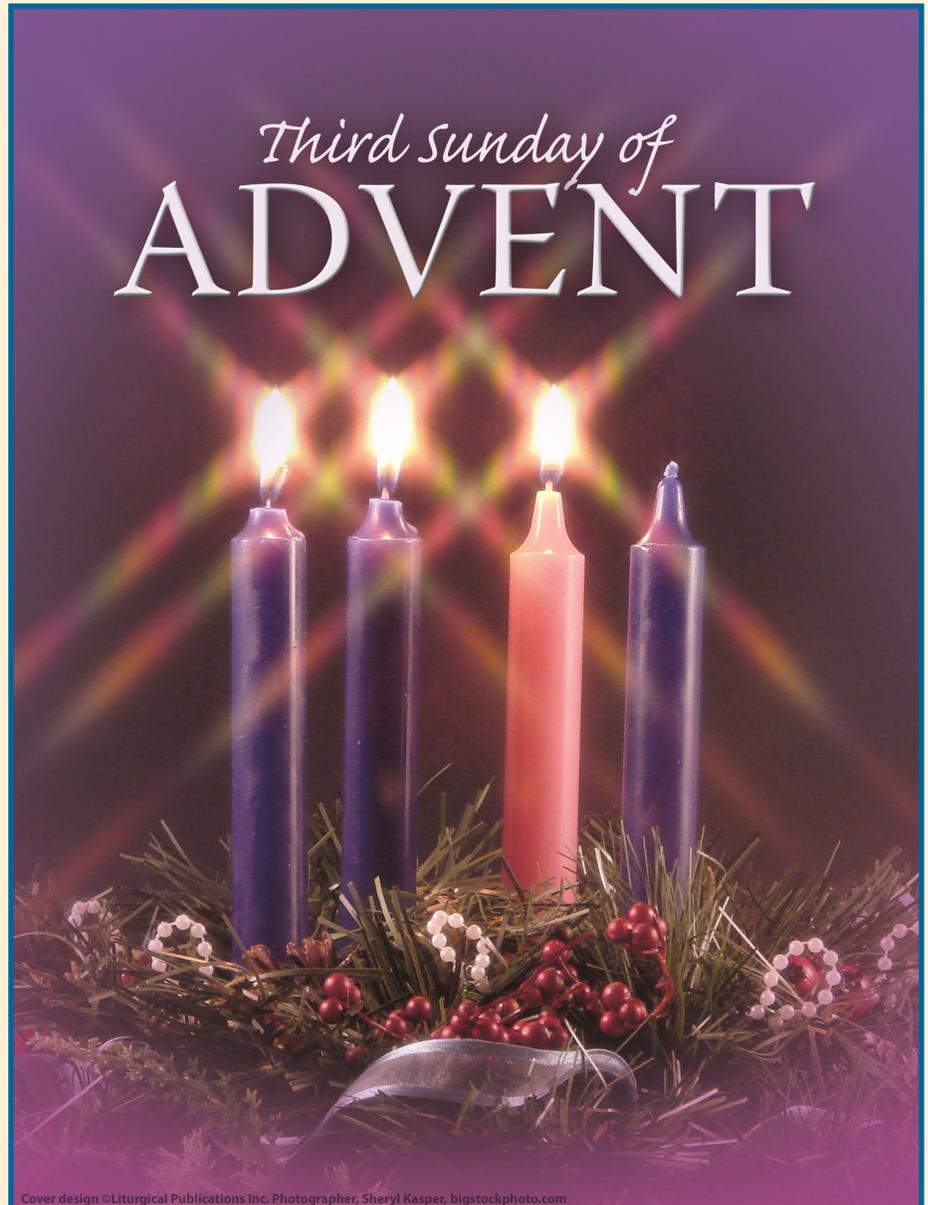
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BOOKKEEPER

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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, DECEMBER 13****Vigil of the 3rd Sunday of Advent**

4:00pm † Alisia & Henry Michalak, by family

SUNDAY, December 14**The 3rd Sunday of Advent**

7:30am † John Senior, by Ursula Arello

10:00am † Patrice A. Bisha-Valencia, by The Eglin family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00am

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00am † Bishop Daniel Reilly

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00am † Jeanne R. Kelly, by family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:00 am

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Advent**

4:00pm † Robert Beacon, by Lisa Regele

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**The 4th Sunday of Advent**

7:30am † President John F. Kennedy, by a parishioner

10:00am † Shirley Killeen, by family

*Lord, come and save us.
(PS 146)*

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.

THE "O" ANTIPHONS

The Magnificat antiphons in the Roman Liturgy of the Hours for the Last Week in Advent (**December 17-23**) are traditionally referred to as the "O" Antiphons. They date from sometime before the eighth century and give voice to the quickening urgency of the fulfillment of the hopes of the prophets in Christ's coming in Bethlehem and at the end of time. They are referred to as the "O" Antiphons because of the first word of the seven titles of the Messiah

December 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

The first antiphon recalls the prophecy of Isaiah, who wrote of the Messiah: "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord..." and who exclaims: "wonderful is his counsel, and great his wisdom." The antiphon also notably describes the Messiah as "coming forth from the mouth of the Most High," which resonates with the prologue of the Gospel of John, which proclaims Christ as the Word made flesh.

December 18: O Adonai (O Lord)

Adonai is the name used in the Old Testament out of respect to the sanctity of God's name. Thus, Isaiah refers to the coming Messiah as "the Lord," the judge, ruler and king who will save. Thus the antiphon recalls the full course of salvation history from Moses to David to the hope of the prophets.

December 19: O Radix Jesse (O Flower of Jesse's Stem)

As Micah prophesies that the Messiah will come from the house of David (Jesse is the father of David) and be born in David's city of Bethlehem, so Isaiah predicts that "A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse" and that "On that day, the root of Jesse [shall stand] as a signal for the peoples..."

December 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David)

The one who opens and shuts, the holder of "the key of the house of David" is also the one who will open the eyes of the blind and bring out prisoners from their confinement. He is the one who hold "the keys of death and the netherworld."

December 21: O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn)

The coming of the Messiah is like the rising of the sun in the East, indeed the Lord will return upon a cloud in the East to judge the living and the dead and "the Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in its wings." For on that day we will say that "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone."

December 22: O Rex Gentium (O King of All The Nations)

As Isaiah foretold: "a child is born for us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulders dominion rests. They shall name him Wonder-Counsellor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace."

December 23: O Emmanuel (O "God with us")

Emmanuel means God is with us. He was incarnate of the Virgin Mary in order to bring us salvation and he will be with us at the end of time as a judge of the living and the dead. For it was promised us that "the Lord himself will give you a sign, the young woman pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel."

(Diocese of Worcester, Orantes Advent-Christmas)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on **Sunday, December 14th, 8:45AM-9:45AM** for children in K through 10th grade at the Fr. Connors Center. Confirmation Class takes place at 10:45AM-11:45AM in the church.

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 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.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to **Drea Brock, Sonny Choe, Joseph Curran, David Grummell, Oliviya Mansfield, Beluchi Okeja and Aka Okeja** for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, December 6th. The peace of mind and soul which this sacrament imparts to us is one for which there is no substitute. It is a peace that flows from a certainty, rather than from an unsure hope, that our sins have been forgiven and that we are right with God. Thank you, Joanna Jalbert and Nicole Hermance, for sharing their time and knowledge of our faith to teach and form the children to be disciples of Jesus.

GIVING TREE

For Children: Last Monday, Deacon Kevin and Michelle delivered the Christmas presents to Urban Ministries of Our Lady of Hope, 242 Canterbury Street, lovingly referred to as The Little Store. Volunteers at The Little Store were thrilled with our donations, which will be sorted by numbers, placed into extra-large bags which are also numbered and then given to needy families with children. It is a sight to behold when you see hundreds of bags lined up, ready to go to the children's homes.

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.

Our sincere thanks to Dn. Kevin, Michelle, the Altar Guild who set up the giving tree, and those of you who participated in this annual giving program that serves the needy children and future priests in the Worcester community. God bless you.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Eve: 4:00 p.m. (Dec. 24 and 31)

Day: 9:00 a.m. (Dec. 25 and Jan. 1)

Let us celebrate together these Holy Days of Obligation, The Nativity of Our Lord and Mary Mother of God.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

This is an opportunity for any adult catholic (18+), who was baptized and received First Communion, to be confirmed. The 2025 Adult Confirmation celebration will be held on **Sunday, February 15 at the Cathedral of St. Paul at 3pm**. Candidates are invited to attend a retreat that will serve as preparation for this sacrament on Sunday, January 18 from 2 pm to 8 pm at Christ the King Parish in Worcester. Please email Fr. Edwin if you are interested: fatheredwin31@gmail.com. Registration deadline is January 9.

HYMNAL READINGS: 864

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

THANK YOU!

We are delighted to share that this year's Church Fair was a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, and generosity. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who organized and contributed— our activities committee, those who volunteered their time, prepared food, donated goods, organized activities, or simply came to enjoy the day. We raised: **\$3,189.25** for the support of our Parish. Thank you for helping make this year's fair both meaningful and successful! May God bless you for your generosity and service.

ALTAR GUILD

Come help us prepare our beautiful Church for Christmas on **Tuesday, December 23, after the 9 a.m. Mass**, which ends at 9:30. Replace purple-ribboned wreaths with red-ribboned wreaths; replace purple bows on two thin trees with gold ribbons and more. Arrange poinsettias in the Sanctuary. This task might take 1 ½ hours or less. Questions? Call or text Michelle Deignan at 508-596-4778

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 **\$7,230** in donations. Thank you for your generosity.

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.