

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

DECEMBER 21, 2025 | 4TH 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

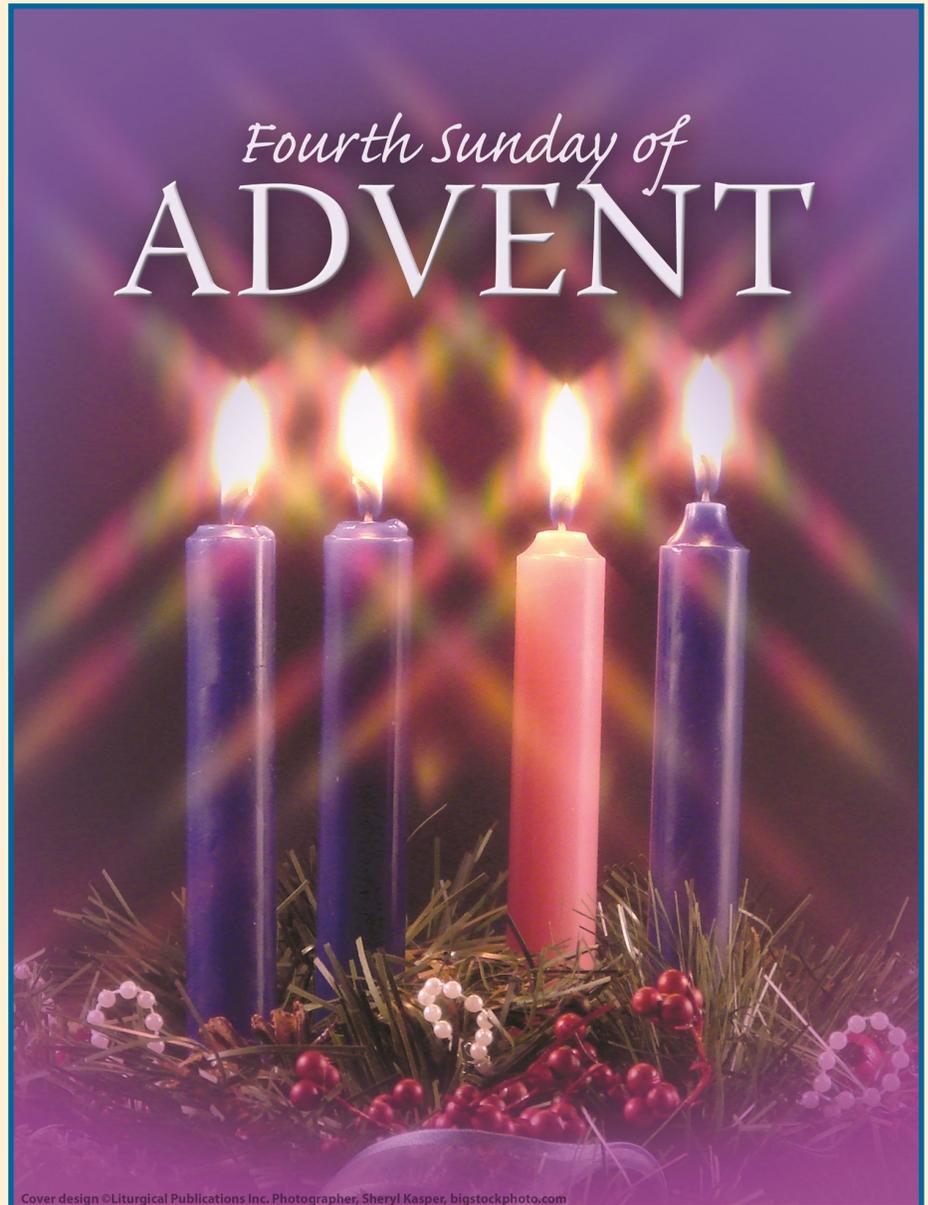
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net
Frank Myska | Retired

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, 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00am

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00am

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00pm Health and well-being of Gregory MacDonnell, by family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Vigil of The Holy Family

4:00pm † Gertrude and Joseph Deignan, by family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Family

7:30am † Archbishop John O'Connor, by a parishioner

10:00am † Florence Goulet, by family



*May the miracle of
His birth bring you
hope and joy.
Merry Christmas!*

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.

Christmas reminds us that God steps into our world not with fanfare, but with humility and compassion. In the quiet town of Bethlehem, hope was born in the form of a Child—Jesus, our Immanuel. As we reflect on the miracle of His birth, we are invited to remember that God still meets us in the ordinary places of life. He enters our struggles, our joys, and even our silence, offering a peace that no circumstance can take away. The Christmas story is not simply a moment in history; it is a living reminder that God is near and His promises endure.

As we look ahead to a new year, may we be reminded that the message of Christmas does not end at the manger. The same Savior who came in humility now invites us to walk with Him daily, growing in faith and extending His love to others. Let this season renew our commitment to follow Christ with joy and confidence, trusting that He is at work in us and through us. May the light we celebrate at Christmas continue to shine brightly in our lives long after the decorations are put away, guiding our steps and inspiring us to share His hope with a world that deeply needs it.

As we gather with family and friends, may we be renewed by the hope that Jesus brings—a hope that transforms, restores, and leads us forward. As we enter a new year, may the spirit of Christmas continue to shape our lives as disciples of Christ. Let us carry forward the message of the manger—generosity, mercy, and sincere love—into our parish community and beyond. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones with peace, joy, and renewed faith this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

From our parish family to yours, we wish you a blessed and grace-filled Christmas season

*Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.
(PS 24)*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All Religious Education students will be meeting in the Church Basement at 8:30am on Sunday, December 21st to participate in the Children's Christmas Pageant.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Please join us on **Sunday, December 21st at 9:15am** for the Children's Christmas Pageant. We hope that everyone will be able to join us for this incredibly special event. The pageant will take place in the church.

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

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.

WORD OF LIFE

“O Blessed Mother, at the angel’s word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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 **\$7,330** in donations. Thank you for your generosity.



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.

HYMNAL READINGS: 867

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of December 6 & 7, 2025

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,621.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 90.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 140.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 325.00



Scan the QR code to make a secure online contribution. Thank you for supporting our parish!



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.