

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

JANUARY 4, 2026 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## 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](http://www.icworc.com)  
Email: [icworc@live.com](mailto: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](mailto:fatheredwin31@gmail.com)

### PERMANENT DEACONS

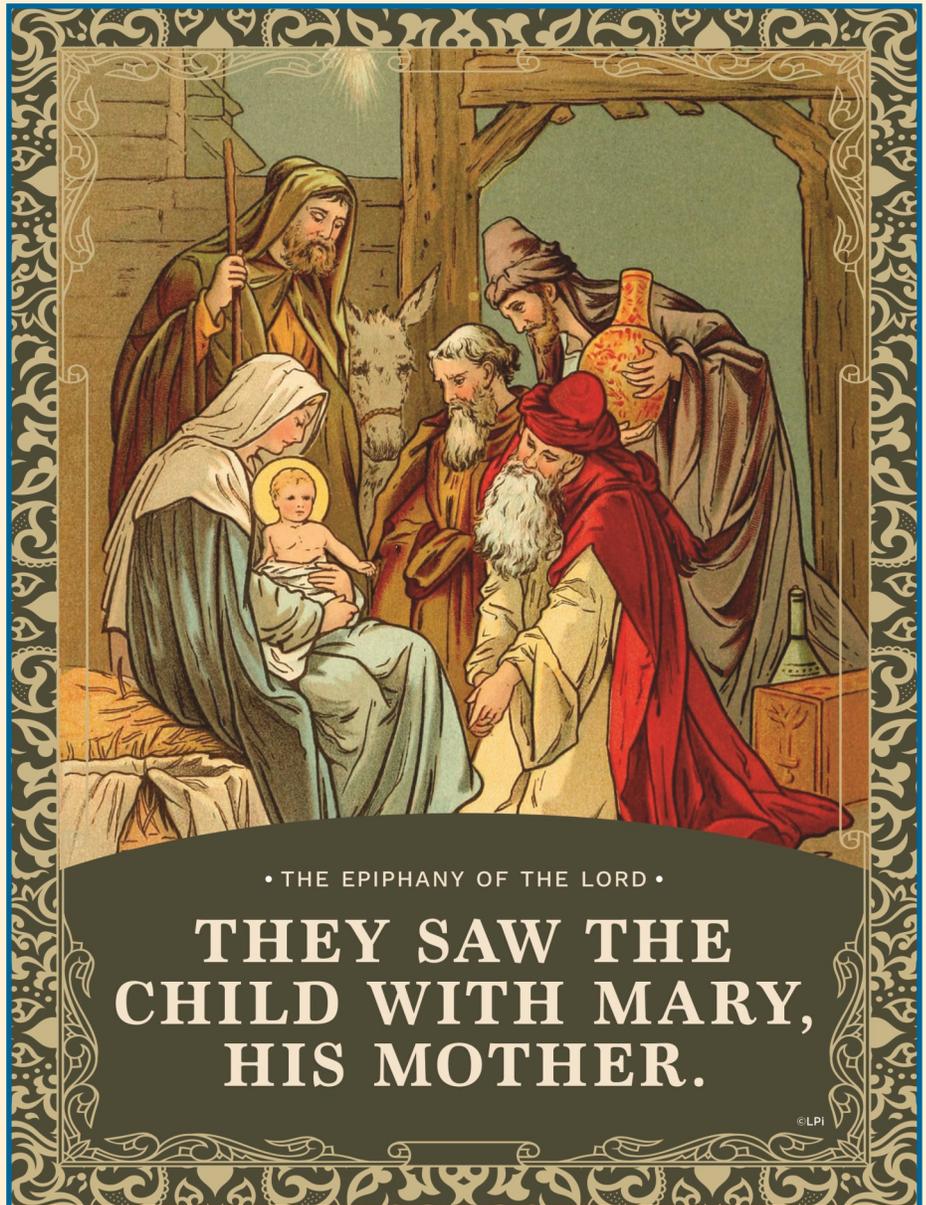
Kevin Deignan | [kdeignan@charter.net](mailto:kdeignan@charter.net)  
Frank Myska | Retired

### SECRETARY

Claire Boligan  
[icworc@live.com](mailto:icworc@live.com)

### BOOKKEEPER

Jennefer Noberini



• THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD •

THEY SAW THE  
CHILD WITH MARY,  
HIS MOTHER.

©LPI

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Mary Sycks | [mks723@msn.com](mailto:mks723@msn.com) | 508-868-8119

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Robert G. Carson

### CANTOR

Bridget Klofft

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mark Cutler



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 3**

*Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord*

4:00pm

**SUNDAY, January 4**

*The Epiphany of the Lord*

7:30am † Bishop John Foley, by a parishioner

10:00am † Richard J. Trio, by the Freeman family

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5**

*Saint John Neumann, Bishop*

9:00am † Maureen Janulewicz, by the Freeman family

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 6**

9:00am Special intention for Dawn F., by the Freeman family

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7**

9:00am † Edward E. Rocheleau, by family

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8**

9:00 am † Bernice (O'Connor) Drake, by the Freeman family

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**

*Vigil of The Baptism of the Lord*

4:00pm † James T. Delaney, by the Freeman family

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

*The Baptism of the Lord*

7:30am

10:00am



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

**EPIPHANY, A PERMANENT PRESENCE**

By Michael K. Marsh

For most of us the beginning of a new year tends to focus our attention on the future. For some of us that focus is expressed in our New Year's resolutions, the intentions we have for our life, and the plans we make. Others of us may not make resolutions but we still have hopes and wishes for the coming year, and we consider the possibilities of what the year might hold for us. Some of us simply want a clean slate, a fresh start, a new beginning.

In whatever ways this gets expressed or experienced it touches a longing or desire within us. We seek something we don't have. Or we want something different. We are aware of an absence. Something is missing from our lives. It's the recognition that there are times in our lives when we experience absence.

Here's the paradox. That absent thing, that missing piece, is also present to us in and through our longing and desire for it. We may not see it or experience it and it may not yet be fully realized in our lives but it is there. It is present by its absence, and we experience that presence as longing, desire, and searching. It already exists within us.

Sometimes we don't know what it is we're after. We only know we're looking for something. Have you ever had that feeling that something was missing, you didn't know what, but you knew you'd recognize it when you saw it?

You might be wondering what this "absence" has to do with the epiphany. They sound mutually exclusive. But maybe it's not as simple as there's either something there or there's nothing there. What if the experience of absence and the accompanying longings and desires are the beginning of an epiphany for you? What if that sense of absence is the star of your life by which God is revealing God's self to you, his longing and desire for you?

Maybe epiphanies are the means by which God's expresses God's longing and desire for each of us. Maybe they are God calling and guiding us into the house of the divine. Maybe an epiphany is not so much an "Aha, I got it" kind of moment as it is an "Aha, it's got me" kind of moment. It's a moment that awakens us to the deep desires of our hearts, touches the longings of our life, and fills the absence in such a way that we get up and go, change our life, know ourselves in a new way, and travel along a different road.

**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.

What happened to the magi, happens to us as well. That star in the night sky illumined for the magi an absence. It shone on them as a longing and desire. They thought they were seeking the Christ child but it was really the child seeking them.

The star the magi followed was the word of Christ. They never traveled alone. All along, Jesus was with them and calling them to his house. His word, his presence, appeared to their eyes as a star, to their minds as a power to get up and go, and to their hearts as a longing and desire, an absence that held the divine presence within them. That's epiphany. And the star is always there. It shines for everyone. It may be unseen, unrecognized, or unfollowed but it's always there.

What is absent from your life today? What are your deep longings and desires? What is the word of Christ that you need to illumine your life tonight? Whatever you might name, that is the beginning of your epiphany. It is more than emptiness. It is God calling. It is a guiding star that illumines your life. It shimmers with God's longing and desire for you. It shines in the night sky of your life. It twinkles presence in the midst of absence. It is a beacon beckoning you home.

Trust the star. Follow it. Listen to it. Learn from it. Let it take you to the house of Jesus. Stand at the door with the magi, as a wise woman or a wise man, and listen to the child tell his mother,

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are no Religious Education Classes on Sunday, January 4th. Happy New Year! Classes will resume on Sunday, January 11th.

## FR. EDWIN AWAY

Fr. Edwin will be on vacation visiting his family in Colombia from December 30 to January 16. Please, welcome the following priests who will celebrate Mass while Father is away:

**Jan.3-4:** Rev. Peter Igwilo, who will tell us about the work of Cross Catholic Outreach, this institution was founded to forge a stronger and more supportive link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns serving the poor in the Caribbean, Africa, South East Asia, and Central and South America.

**Jan. 10-11:** Msgr. Francis Scollen and Rev. Stephen Gemme.

**Weekdays:** Rev. Juan Parra, associate Pastor at St. Paul's Cathedral.

## 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](mailto:fatheredwin31@gmail.com). Registration deadline is January 9.

## 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 **\$7,430** in donations. Thank you for your generosity.

## HYMNAL READINGS: 878

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

*Lord, ev'ry nation on earth will adore*

*you.  
(PS 72)*

## WOMEN'S GROUP

The next gathering of the Women's Prayer Group will be **Saturday, January 10 at 9am** in the Coffee Shop. We will pray, reflect, share, and have coffee. For more info, please email Bridget Klofft, at [bridgetbakes@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgetbakes@yahoo.com)

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

### Weekend of December 20 & 21, 2025

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,945.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 200.00
Holy Days	\$ 25.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 10 .00
Christmas Donation	\$ 40.00

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.