

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

JANUARY 18, 2026 | 2ND 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

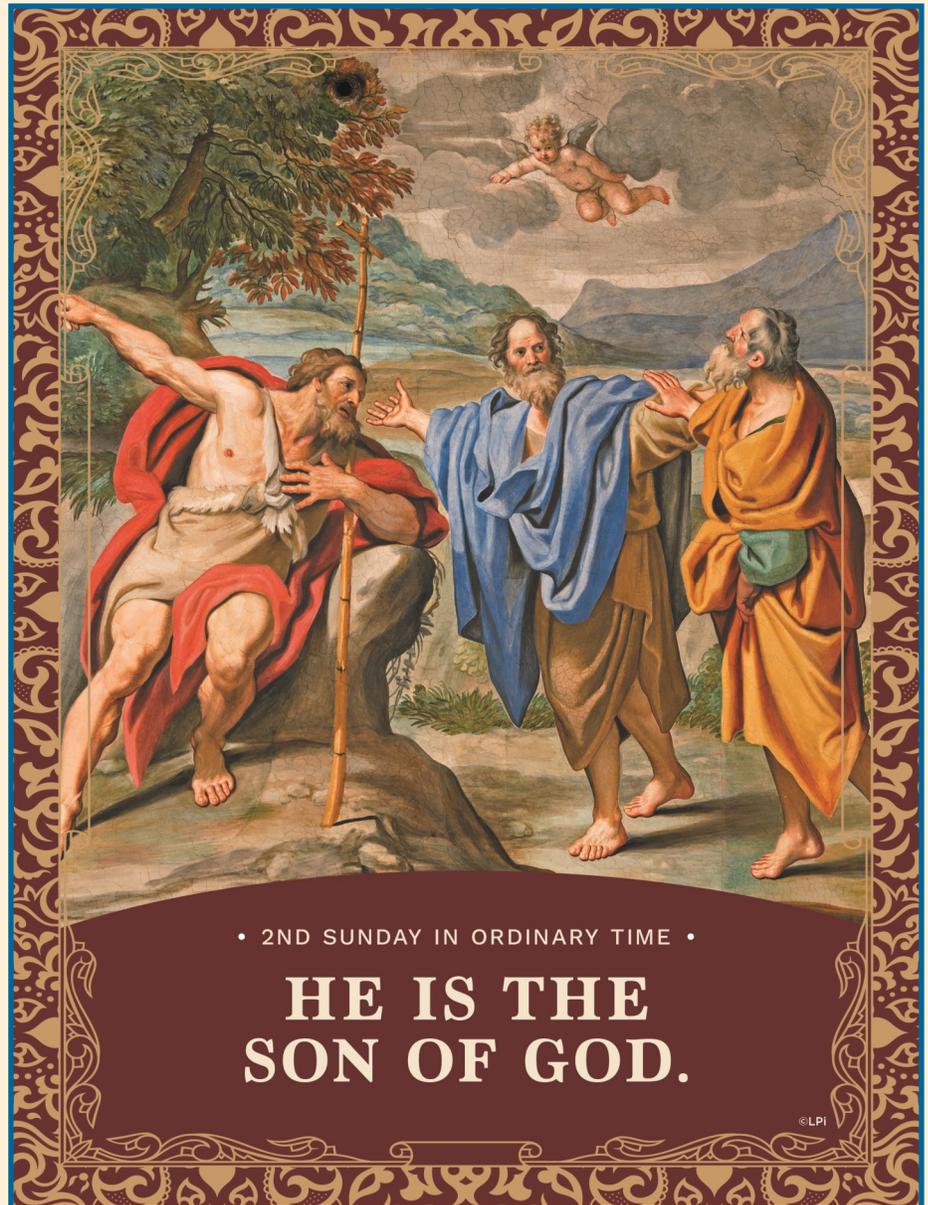
SECRETARY

Claire Boligan

icworc@live.com

BOOKKEEPER

Jennefer Noberini



• 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

HE IS THE
SON OF GOD.

©LPI

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, JANUARY 17

Vigil of the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † Ruth A. Gadbois, by family

SUNDAY, January 18

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Mildred Scannell, by family

10:00am † Mike Oreta, by a friend

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

9:00am † Sr. Mary Walsh, F.M.M, by family

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

9:00am Birthday of Dr. Regina Tan, by family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

9:00am

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

9:00 am

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Vigil of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † Linda Insani-Jengo, by her husband

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Mildred Scannell, by family

10:00am

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

(PS 40)

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.

THIS SUNDAY'S WORD

BY POPE FRANCIS

This Sunday's Gospel is beautiful. John was baptizing; and Jesus, who had been baptized prior to this — some days before — was coming towards him and came before John. And John felt the power of the Holy Spirit within him to bear witness to Jesus. Looking at him, and looking at the people around Him, he said: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". And he bore witness to Jesus: this is Jesus, this is the One who has come to save us; this is the One who will give us the power of hope.

Jesus is called the Lamb: He is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Someone might think: but how can a lamb, which is so weak, a weak little lamb, how can it take away so many sins, so much wickedness? With Love. With his meekness. Jesus never ceased being a lamb: meek, good, full of love, close to the little ones, close to the poor. He was there, among the people, healing everyone, teaching, praying. Jesus, so weak, like a lamb. However, he had the strength to take all our sins upon himself, all of them. "But, Father, you don't know my life: I have a sin that..., I can't even carry it with a truck...". Many times, when we examine our conscience, we find some there that are truly bad! But he carries them. He came for this: to forgive, to make peace in the world, but first in the heart. Perhaps each one of us feels troubled in his heart, perhaps he experiences darkness in his heart, perhaps he feels a little sad over a fault.... He has come to take away all of this, He gives us peace, he forgives everything. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away sin": he takes away sin, it's root and all! This is salvation Jesus brings about by his love and his meekness. And in listening to what John the Baptist says, who bears witness to Jesus as the Saviour, our confidence in Jesus should grow. Many times we trust a doctor: it is good, because the doctor is there to cure us; we trust in a person: brothers and sisters can help us. It is good to have this human trust among ourselves. But we forget about trust in the Lord: this is the key to success in life. Trust in the Lord, let us trust in the Lord! "Lord, look at my life: I'm in the dark, I have this struggle, I have this sin..."; everything we have: "Look at this: I trust in you!". And this is a risk we must take: to trust in Him, and He never disappoints. Never, never! Listen carefully, young people, who are just beginning life now: Jesus never disappoints. Never. This is the testimony of John: Jesus, the good One, the meek One, will end as a lamb, who is slain. Without crying out. He came to save us, to take away sin. Mine, yours and that of the whole world: all of it, all of it.

And now I invite you to do something: let us close our eyes, let us imagine the scene on the banks of the river, John as he is baptizing and Jesus who is approaching. And let us listen to John's voice: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". Let us watch

Jesus and in silence, each one of us, say something to Jesus from his heart. In silence. (Pause for silence).

May the Lord Jesus, who is meek, who is good — he is a lamb — who came to take away sin, accompany us on the path of our life. So be it.

THIS SUNDAY'S WORD

Today we begin a semi-continuous reading of Matthew, as Jesus settles in Carpernaum and begins to call his disciples. Without being there ourselves, we can often boil the life of Jesus down to the basic Gospel accounts, as that is all we have. But there would have been much normality, much hum-drum to Jesus's life, too. We can imagine him settling into the area, finding places to eat, meeting new people and learning more about the specifics of the location. We might even chance to wonder where he slept, where he called home.

It's quite possible that Jesus was doing all this when he saw Simon and Andrew. Those first disciples probably won't have known who he was, but there was something engaging about him, something exceptional that they were not willing to overlook. Indeed, by the end of a short conversation they had made the decision to completely change their lives and follow Jesus.

Jesus's words, teachings and actions changed people's lives and turned worlds of understanding on their heads. But he is also fully human, and the humanity he showed flabbergasted those who came into contact with him. He was possessed with extraordinary empathy, and this was apparent throughout the Gospels.

It is Christ's deeply human identity that we most of all have the need to emulate. Whilst some may concentrate on his miracles or his deep asceticism, none of it is of any use if we do not seek to develop the beautiful humanity of Christ in our own hearts. It is this that intoxicated the first disciples and led them into a new life, a life of which we are the children.

The way that we develop it is by doing exactly what Jesus did, which is to have empathy with our sisters and brothers, to love those we come into contact with, to meet them on their level and to have dialogue and encounter at the heart of human relationships. None of this is easy. It can hurt, truly hurt, to give dignity to people when we feel they don't warrant it. But all humanity warrants dignity, all warrants love, regardless of any other factor. Jesus is the exemplar of this, appealing as he did to the very outcasts of society.

As we live our hum-drum lives, shopping, working, resting, socializing, we, too, can be the disciples of Jesus. We can follow him in a new and dynamic way. All of us are called to be disciples and, through Jesus's example and that of the first disciples, we pray for the grace to stay on that narrow road and seek his presence in all things. Amen.

@oursundayvisitor.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There are no Religious Education classes on Sunday, January 18th. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 25th.

Inclement weather policy ~ 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.

SILENT DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN

On **January 30 - February 1** (6 pm Friday to 2 pm Sunday) Little Sisters of the Poor at 1365 Enfield St., Enfield CT are holding a Silent Discernment Retreat for Single Catholic Women age 18 - 35 years old including Holy Mass, Adoration, Talks and abundant silence in which your heart may listen for the Lord's voice. At the beginning and end of the retreat, participants will enjoy a time of conversation and sharing with the Little Sisters of the Poor and with the other young women in vocational discernment. To register contact Sr. Carolyn at sc@littlesistersofthepoor.org by Jan 28. Questions? (860) 402-4478 There is no charge for the retreat, but early registration is appreciated.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the eternal repose of **Margaret Regele**, 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.

HYMNAL READINGS: 931

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
 Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
 Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19
 Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21
 Next Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

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.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of January 10 & 11, 2026

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,434.00
Holy Days	\$ 80.00
Christmas Donation	\$ 20.00
Catholic University	\$ 10.00

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.