

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

JANUARY 25, 2026 | 3RD 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

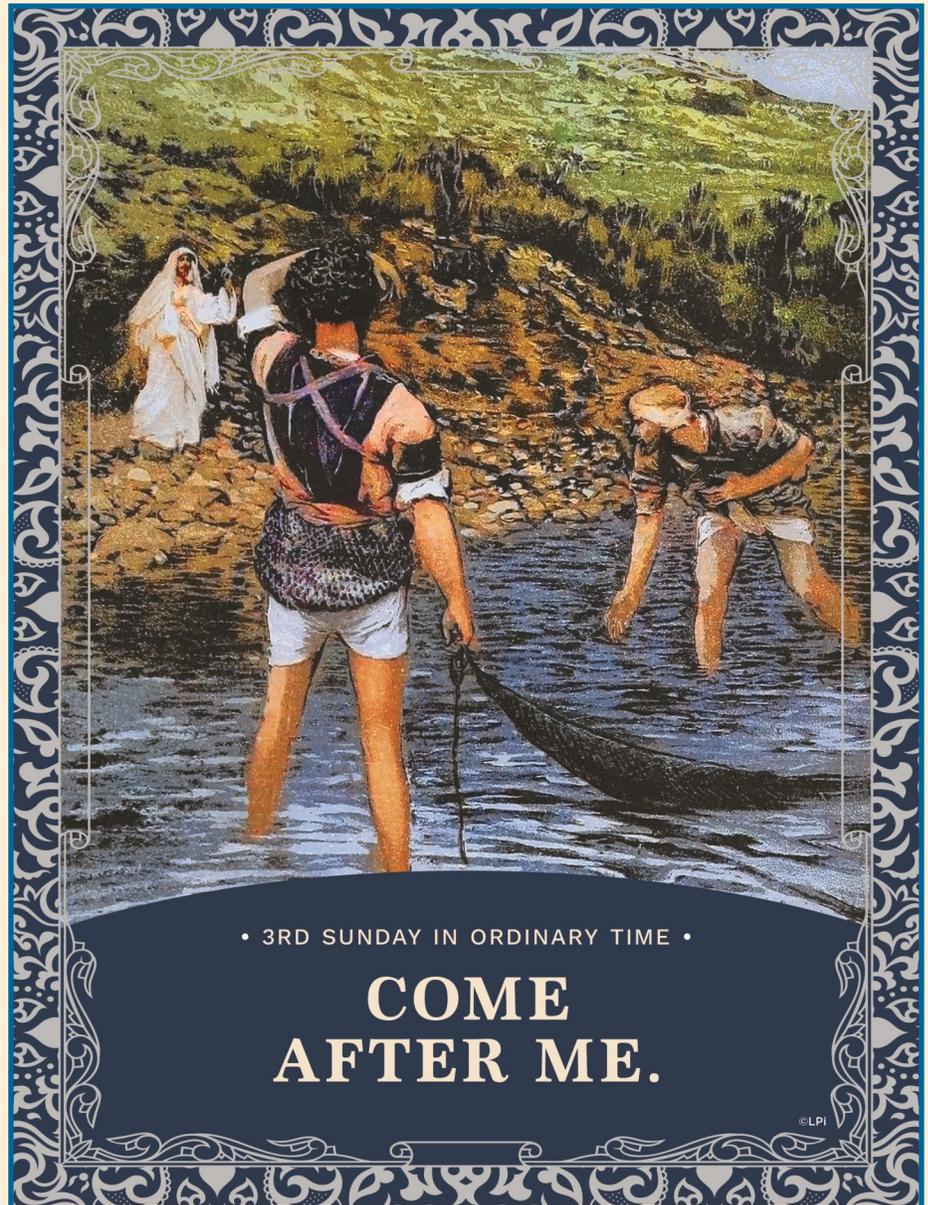
Kevin Deignan | kdeignan@charter.net
Frank Myska | Retired

SECRETARY

Claire Boligan
icworc@live.com

BOOKKEEPER

Jennefer Noberini



• 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME •

COME
AFTER ME.

©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 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

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Saint Timothy and Saint Titus, Bishops

9:00am † Ricunno Trio, by Mary Reynold

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

9:00am

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9:00am

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

9:00 am

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Vigil of the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † Doris, Kathleen and Michael Piscitelly, by family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Mildred Scannell, by family

10:00am

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 Lord is my light and my salvation.
(PS 27)*

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

Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, January 25th at 8:45am-9:45am for students in K-10th grade. Confirmation Class takes place at 10:45am-12:00pm at the Fr. Connors Center.

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.

FOOD PANTRY

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna and other canned meats, Maple Syrup, Ravioli/Chef Boyardee, Soups, Cereal, Rice Pilaf (boxed not bagged), Canned Vegetables, Spaghetti Sauce

2026 MEN'S CONFERENCE TICKETS ON SALE NOW DCU Convention Center Saturday, March 21, 2026

The time to purchase your tickets to the 25th Annual Worcester Catholic Men's Conference is now. With the cost of most events (concerts, movies, plays) skyrocketing, a Men's Conference ticket is only \$60 (until March 11) and Student tickets are always just \$30. All tickets include lunch! But it also includes an opportunity to connect (or reconnect) with your faith, and therefore an opportunity for Eternal Life. You're not going to get that at any other event. The speakers that will be presenting this year are absolutely incredible. Deep, Catholic thought leaders who will move you. Inspire you. Send you back home a better person, a better husband, a better father, a better grandfather, a better friend.

No agendas. Just straight up pure Catholic presentations that are designed to reach deep into your soul - and just maybe change your life. For more information on speakers and for ticket sales, please visit: catholicmenworc.com

SAINT JOHN BOSCO JANUARY 31

Saint John Bosco's theory of education could well be used in today's schools. It was a preventive system, rejecting corporal punishment and placing students in surroundings removed from the likelihood of committing sin. He advocated frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. He combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance, seeking to unite the spiritual life with one's work, study and play.

Encouraged during his youth in Turin to become a priest so he could work with young boys, Saint John Bosco was ordained in 1841. His service to young people started when he met a poor orphan in Turin, and instructed him in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. He then gathered young apprentices and taught them catechism.

After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, Don Bosco opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales for boys. Several wealthy and powerful patrons contributed money, enabling him to provide two workshops for the boys, shoemaking and tailoring.

By 1856, the institution had grown to 150 boys and had added a printing press for publication of religious and catechetical pamphlets. John's interest in vocational education and publishing justify him as patron of young apprentices and Catholic publishers.

Saint John Bosco's preaching fame spread and by 1850 he had trained his own helpers because of difficulties in retaining young priests. In 1854, he and his followers informally banded together, inspired by Saint Francis de Sales.

With Pope Pius IX's encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and mission work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist girls.

John Bosco educated the whole person—body and soul united. He believed that Christ's love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do—work, study, play. For John Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-a-week, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God and Jesus in everything we do, letting their love lead us. Yet, because John realized the importance of job-training and the self-worth and pride that come with talent and ability, he trained his students in the trade crafts, too.

(franciscanmedia.org)

HYMNAL READINGS: 934

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 (520)/ Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25
-26/Mk 3:22-3

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12,
13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a,
6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16
-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor
1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

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 have received **\$7,550** in donations. Thank you for your generosity.



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.