

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | 4TH 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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Mary Sycks | mks723@msn.com | 508-868-8119

MUSIC DIRECTOR

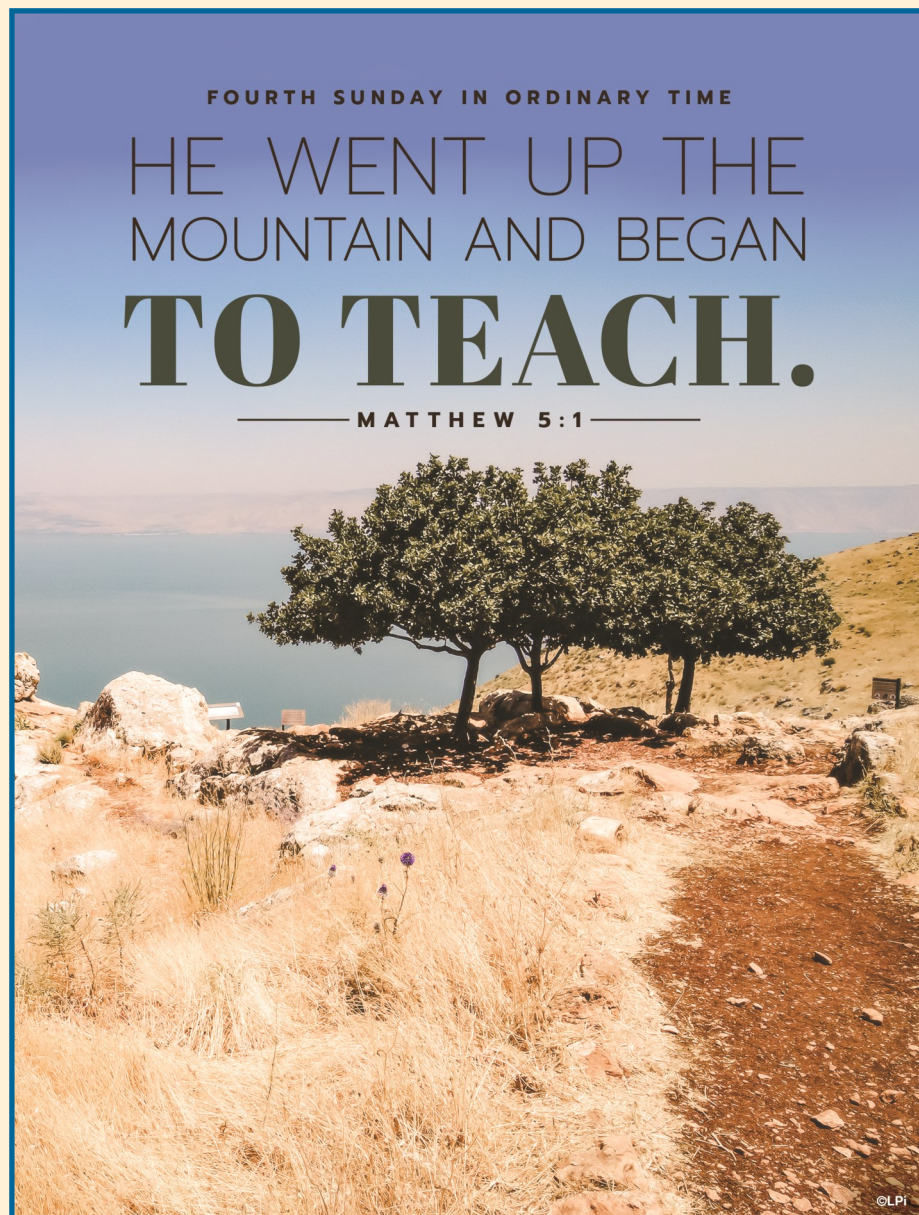
Robert G. Carson

CANTOR

Bridget Klofft

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Mark Cutler



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31****Vigil of the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am † Mildred Scannell, by family
10:00am

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2**The Presentation of the Lord**

9:00am Souls in Purgatory, by Joe Duggan

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3**Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr**

9:00am † Ricunno Trio, by Mary Reynold

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:00am † Jo-Ann Hiitt, by Joe Duggan

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5**Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**

9:00 am

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**Vigil of the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30am † Mildred Scannell, by family

10:00am † Mary Finnegan, by family

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.

Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

(PS 146)

THIS SUNDAY'S WORD

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad" (Matthew 5:11-12). Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

— Father John Muir ©LPI

SAINT BLAISE'S STORY— FEBRUARY 3RD

We know more about the devotion to Saint Blaise by Christians around the world than we know about the saint himself. His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern Churches. In 1222, the Council of Oxford prohibited servile labor in England on Blaise's feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honor, and for decades many United States Catholics have sought the annual Saint Blaise blessing for their throats.

We know that Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blaise were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already five years old, persecution still raged in Armenia.

Blaise was apparently forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears.

The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused, he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. Finally, he was beheaded.

(@franciscanmedia)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, February 1st 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.

First Communion Class

During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Join them by taking time to think about the effect that belonging to the Church has on your daily life.

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the eternal repose of **Francis J. Casey**, as well as for the consolation of his family during this time of loss. May God grant them hope and strength in the days ahead.

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 21st – Worcester Catholic Men's Conference at the DCU Center.

A powerful day of faith, inspiration, and brotherhood. Practical answers to today's challenges and new ways to grow deeper in your faith. Imagine breaking bread with over a thousand men—united, encouraged, and seeking more. Featuring inspiring speakers including:

Kevin Matthews: Legendary radio icon transformed by a profound encounter with the Blessed Mother. John Martignoni: Once a "watered-down" Catholic, now asking: *Does God want everyone to be Catholic?* ...and many more speakers. **All-day Adoration and Confession.** Explore 60+ Catholic vendors.

Tickets: www.catholicmenworc.com

Info: Joe Abbascia | joe@propertiescentral.com | 508-688-9060

WOMEN'S GROUP

The next gathering of the Women's Prayer Group will be **Saturday, February 14 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

GK CHESTERTON

The G. K. Chesterton Society of Worcester will be meeting on **Saturday, February 14 at 1:00pm** in the church basement. For more information, email Candace at cjaegle787@gmail.com

ADULT CONFIRMATION

This is an opportunity for any adult catholic (18+), who was baptized and received First Communion, to be confirmed. The 2026 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: fateredwin31@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 **\$8,550** in donations. Thank you for your generosity.

HYMNAL READINGS: 937

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

COLLECTIONS/APPEALS

- **Sunday, fuel, Holy Day envelopes, cash, and any donations made to IC:** these stay here in your parish and are used for monthly parish expenses throughout the year.

- **Partners in Charity (Bishop's Fund):** This is the Annual Diocesan appeal that helps all the Diocesan agencies and ministries. This campaign usually runs from March to the end of August and 100% of your donation goes to and stays in the Worcester Diocese.

- **Legacy of Hope:** this was a one-time capital campaign conducted by the diocese back in 2021. 60% of these pledges went to the diocese and 40% was already returned to the parish.

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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of January 24 & 25, 2026

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,019.00
Catholic Free Press	\$ 79.00
Fuel	\$ 295.00

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.