

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

353 GROVE STREET, WORCESTER, MA 01605

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 | 5TH 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

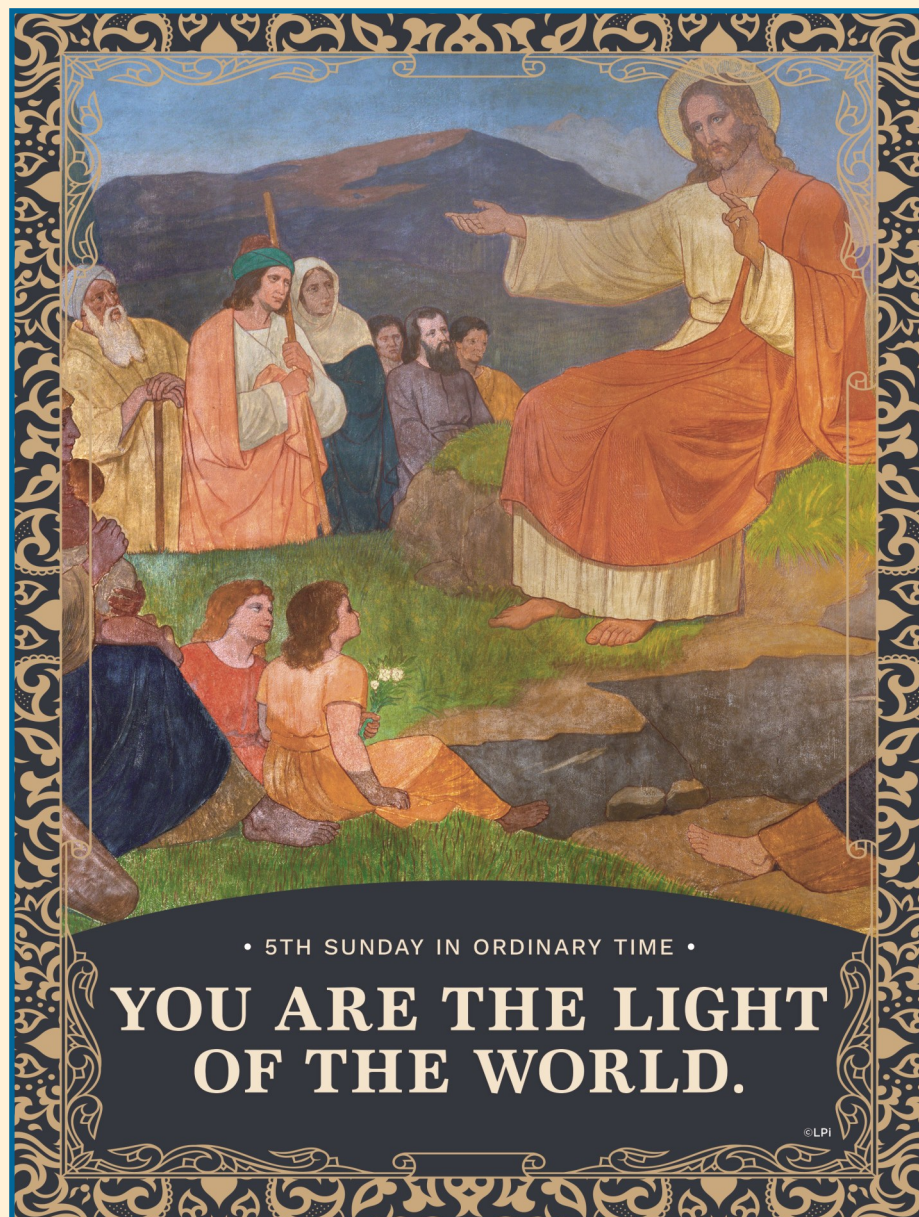
SECRETARY

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, FEBRUARY 7

Vigil of the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † Archbishop John O'Connor, by a parishioner

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Mildred Scannell, by family

10:00am † Mary Finnegan, by family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:00am † Dr. Martin Luther King, by a parishioner

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Saint Scholastica, Virgin

9:00am † Bishop John P. Foley, by a parishioner

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Our Lady of Lourdes

9:00am † Richard T. Murphy, by Chris & Susan Dougherty

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

9:00 am

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Vigil of the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm † Eleanor Groden, by family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am † Anita & Hervey Gregoire, 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 just man is a light in darkness to the upright.
(PS 112)*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That's why Jesus' words in today's Gospel are so challenging: **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden"** (Matthew 5:14).

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that's part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn't call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let's ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.

— Father John Muir

ASH WEDNESDAY

On **February 18**, we begin the season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes on our foreheads. Masses will be celebrated at **7:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM**.

BAKE SALE

The Activities Committee is sponsoring a bake sale after all Masses on February 14 and 15 with all proceeds going to the Tabernacle Fund. Bakers are needed. Drop goodies off in the Church basement on Saturday, Feb. 14 from 10 am to 12 noon. Questions? Call Michelle Deignan (508) 596-4778. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

St. Patrick's Dinner, Saturday, March 14, 5 p.m. Tickets will be pre-sold, starting Feb. 14/15. \$15 adults/\$5 children under 10.

WORD OF LIFE

"A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned."

Pope Francis, Message for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021

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

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the eternal repose of **Elizabeth O'Keefe**, 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, February 8th 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 how we, as the People of God and the Body of Christ, gather on Sundays to give praise and thanks. Join them by reflecting on the words of the Gloria and the reasons you have to praise and thank God.

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.

DCU MEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 21st – Worcester Catholic Men's Conference A powerful day of faith, inspiration, and brotherhood. Practical answers to today's challenges and new ways to grow deeper in your faith.

Break 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+ 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 Kloff, 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: 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 **\$8,550** in donations. Thank you for your generosity.

HYMNAL READINGS: 940

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

(AMOUNTS INCLUDE ELECTRONIC GIVING)

Weekend of January 31 & February 1, 2026

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,956.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$ 294.00
Catholic Free Press	\$ 39.00
Fuel	\$ 121.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 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.