

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

144 East Merrimack Street  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

Rectory: 3 Fayette Street  
Tel: 978-458-1474 ✦ Fax: 978-446-0790  
Office Hours: 8:00 to 3:00, Mon.-Thurs. 8 to 12 Noon-Fri.

## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Nicholas A. Sannella, Pastor

Rev. Kenneth Healey, SM, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Raju Muringayil, O. Praem, Assisting Priest  
Bro. James Lucas, OMI, Ministry to the Sick  
Deacon Stephen M. Papik  
Sister Irene Martineau, SASV, Secretary & Bulletin Editor  
Ms. Claire Couillard  
Pastoral Associate  
Director of Religious Education Gr. 1-10

Catherine Fiorino, School Principal  
School Tel: 978-454-5339  
School Fax: 978-454-6593



## Sacraments

**Baptism** – On an individual basis by appointment.  
Please contact the Rectory Office.

**Reconciliation** – By appointment

**Matrimony** – Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.

**Ministry to the Sick** – Please inform the Staff about anyone confined in your home or in a Nursing Home. Communion is brought regularly to the homebound.



**Bulletin Deadline: Friday at Noon**

## Parish Meetings

**St. Vincent de Paul:** 7:00 p.m. Monday in Rectory

**Adult Choir:** 2:00 p.m. Tuesday in Church

**Religious Education:** Sundays, bi-monthly from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Immaculate Conception School



## Mass Schedule

### Weekends:

Saturday 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. Family Mass  
11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### Weekdays:

Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. (Rectory Chapel)  
Mon. – Fri. 12:00 NN (SMMC Chapel)  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Mass and Prayer Group (Rectory Chapel)

**Holydays** – As announced

### Adoration and Holy Hour

First Wednesday of each month 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00 p.m.  
Rosary 6:00 p.m. followed by Benediction and Mass

### Parish Membership

All new families are welcome to the parish and are encouraged to become actively involved. New parishioners should register at the Rectory as soon as possible.

# Mass Intentions



**FIRST SATURDAY** December 2, 2017

4:00 PM Couillard/Legare Families

**SUNDAY** December 3 *First Sunday of Advent*

7:30 AM Names of Deceased on All Souls Envelopes  
9:00 AM John T., Patrick R., Kyle R. Gavin  
11:30 AM Robert and Rose Bordeleau  
5:00 PM William S. Taupier, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann.

**MONDAY** December 4, 2017 *St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

7:30 AM

**TUESDAY** December 5, 2017

7:30 AM Walter Wisniewski, Bday Mem.

**WEDNESDAY** December 6, 2017 *St. Nicholas, Bishop*

7:30 AM

**THURSDAY** December 7, St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:30 AM John Stephan McKenzie, Bday M.  
12:00 NN Joseph Clark, healing  
6:00 PM Eve of HOLYDAY of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**FRIDAY** December 8, 2017 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM

7:30 AM Javian Candolario, MM Mass  
9:00 AM School Mass (all are invited)  
12:00 NN Special Intention

**SATURDAY** December 9, 2017

9:00 AM  
4:00 PM Frederick Gavriel, Healing Mass

**SUNDAY** December 10 *Second Sunday of Advent*

7:30 AM Names of Deceased on All Souls Envelopes  
9:00 AM Pyne and Sullivan Families  
11:30 AM Laurenco M. Valadao, Ann. Juvenalia V. Meneses, Ann.  
5:00 PM William and Monica Liston

November 18-19, 2017  
Weekly Collection: \$5,199.00  
Women Religious: \$3,241.00

Holy Day of Obligation/Feast of Immaculate Conception

\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

"What could happen next? "  
How many times have you asked yourself that question? Unfortunately, we most often use that expression when things don't seem to be going our way. Then sometimes when the stars seem to align just right we might use the same expression to explain our feelings of being overwhelmed by blessings and good things.

Whether it will be a pleasant or dreadful experience, we can say with certainty tomorrow will not go exactly as we envisioned. Our lives are influenced by so many factors and the world is complex . Rather than be surprised by the unexpected, maybe we should expect the unexpected.

Living in this manner causes us to cherish more deeply the gifts we have been given. It helps us to live in the present and become mindful of those around us. Our relationships deepen. Our sense of responsibility builds. Our stewardship way of life finds new meaning and purpose.

This Advent will not be the same experience as last Advent. It remains to be seen what the coming days and weeks have in store for each of us. However, no matter what happens, Jesus Christ is there to welcome us to the unexpected. He will celebrate with us in joy and he will even feel our pain. You can count on the unexpected, but you can also count on him to be there with you. He is, now and forever, Emmanuel, "God with us." He is the expected in all things unexpected.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



School News

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL**

218 E. Merrimack St.  
Lowell, MA 01852  
978-454-5339 (Phone)  
978-454-6293 (Fax)  
\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*



**DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

**December 6, Wednesday**

**Saint Nicholas Day**

**Advent Prayer Service 7:45 AM**

½ day dismissal...Kids Club available

Please bring lunch for Kids Club.

**NO PM BUSSING**

**December 7, Thursday**

12:30 Gr. PK3-2 Christmas Concert in Cafeteria  
Students may wear Christmas Colored Clothing.

**December 8**

**Mass for the Holyday and feast of  
Immaculate Conception at 9 AM**



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 3, 2017 –8 am to 1 pm**

More details to come next weekend.

**TOY DONATIONS**

**We are looking for toy donations for our  
CHRISTMAS FAIR.**

**Anything you can do would be appreciated.**

**All donations should be brought into the**

**School office by Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**or the school cafeteria no later**

**than Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**between 9 am and 1 pm**

**Thank you in advance for your generosity.**



**Immaculate Conception Church  
Religious Education Calendar  
2017-2018**

**Sunday Mornings 10:00-12 Noon at  
Immaculate Conception School**

December 10

Class #7

December 17

Class #8 MERRY CHRISTMAS

\*\*\*\*\*Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:00 pm Upper Church

\*\*\*\*\*December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 4:00 pm

Pageant Mass Upper Church

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE THE  
SCHEDULED DATES FOR THE YEAR.**

The \* indicates classes that will be held two Sundays  
in a row due to vacations and holidays.

\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*

**MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED**

**AT 7:30 AM**

**on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of the month  
of December**

**for all those whose names were written  
on the All Souls envelopes on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*.\_\*



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



**Adult Choir Practices**  
 Tuesday evening 7:45 PM  
 Duration of practice: 45 minutes  
 For the Saturday 4 PM and/or Sunday 9 AM  
 All are invited and welcomed.  
 \*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*



**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**  
 We invite you to attend on the  
First Saturday of each month  
 a Marian Devotion which will consist of  
 15 decades of the Rosary  
 and other prayers to honor Our Lady.  
 It will be held at Holy Trinity Church  
 340 High Street, Lowell, MA  
 at 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM  
 We hope you will consider joining us.  
 For further information please call  
 978-454-4395 (Anna or Ted)  
 \*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL  
OUR ARMED FORCES**

- |                                      |                  |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Lance CPL James Bakanosky            | U.S. Marines     | AFGHANISTAN            |
| Sgt. James R. Boudreau               | U.S. Army        | Newport, RI            |
| Lance CPL Michael P Crowley          | U.S. Marines     | AFGHANISTAN            |
| Corp. James Farley                   | U.S. Marines     | Special Forces Mideast |
| Gunnery Sgt. Michael G. Hill         | U.S. Marines     | Fuji, Japan            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeremy LaBranche | U.S. Army        | Fort Carson, CO        |
| SPC Pieter Lobscher                  | U.S. Army        | AFGHANISTAN            |
| AST 3 Michael Linehan                | U.S. Coast Guard |                        |
| A/C Emily McPhillips                 | Air Force        |                        |
| Captain Ryan McKinley                | Air Force        | MIDDLE EAST            |
| Master Sgt. Nicholas Owens           | USAF             | MacDill AFB FL         |
| Staff Sgt. John J. Rogers            | U.S. Army        | Fort Bliss, TX*-       |

\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*



**ADVENT GIVING TREE FOR BIRTHRIGHT**

Every year our parish sponsors an  
Advent Giving Tree for Birthright

It is heartwarming to see the generosity of our parishioners who contribute to this worthy cause.

Your participation again this year will help  
The most vulnerable in our society.

New Baby Items are what we are looking for  
To donate. Thank you in advance for your unselfishness.

\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*



Thanks to the Women's Guild our annual  
January Calendar Raffle 2018 will be offered to you  
after each Mass this month.

So, if you did not receive any in the mail  
please continue to support us by buying some then.  
We sent out a mailing, but I was informed  
that some envelopes contained only 6  
when they should have had 12 for the parishioners,  
you can purchase them at the rectory from  
Monday through Thursday 7 to 3 PM  
Friday 7 to 12 Noon.

Thank you again for your continued support,  
you will be happy to watch the elevator rise soon.



### **A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

MERRIMACK COLLEGE  
Rogers Center for the Arts  
315 Turnpike Street  
North Andover 01845

**Monday, December 4 at 7:30 PM**

A centuriesold tradition. Lessons and Carols is a hearatwarming journey that leads you through centuries of prophecy, culminating in the birth of Christ. This traditional program blends the lyricism of spoken sacred texts with the joy of live choral music from time-honored hymns and carols of the season for all to reflect upon and enjoy. As we journey through the quiet of Advent towards the Feast of Christmas. Lessons and Carols is a poignant way to pause and mark this important time of the year.

**Free and open to the public.**

**\*\_.\*\_.\*\_.\*\_.\*\_.\*\_.\***

### **SAN DAMIANO COMMUNITY**

**Come and Share in Contemplative Eucharist  
At San Damiano House of Prayer, Lowell,  
during the Advent season:**

**Be Still and Know that I am God.**

You are invited to join us as we pray the liturgy contemplatively with fewer words, leaving more space for silence and stillness. Together we will celebrate our waiting for God to be born in our midst as we open our hearts to the deep truth that God is already in our midst.

WHEN: Wed. Dec. 6, 13, and 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM

PLACE: 333 Pawtucket St. Lowell

PRESIDER: Fr. Noman Comtois, OMI

OFFERING: Free will offering

CONTACT: Sr. Linda Greenwodd, OSF

978-441-0988

[lgosf@netzero.net](mailto:lgosf@netzero.net)



# **150<sup>th</sup>**

## **Celebration**

### **Immaculate Conception Parish**

# **HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF CHURCH BUILDING AND SPECIAL BLESSING CEREMONIES**

- 1868, May** Father Candidus Lagier assumes charge of St. John's Hospital Chapel to start the Immaculate Conception Parish.
- 1869** Oblates add two ells to chapel to increase seating capacity from 400 to 800; and they buy land close to St. John's Hospital.
- 1871** Oblates buy land from MA Cotton Mills and decide to erect a larger church. Plans are drawn up by Keeley of Boston.
- 1871, April** Excavation starts, and the men of the Parish clear 300 ft. x 120 feet lot.
- 1871, October** Blessing ceremony conducted for Cornerstone of basement church on Oct. 3, by Bishop John William of Boston.
- 1872, July** The crypt was completed and blessed on July 7. It has a seating capacity of 1900. It cost \$45,000, and was debt free at this blessing.
- 1877, June** The upper church was completed and dedicated in a solemn ceremony on 6/10, attended by 2,500, with Archbishop Williams officiating, and the homily given by Bishop O'Reilly of Springfield, Mass. Rev. James McGrath was pastor at the time, and had overseen the work of building the church at a final cost \$100,000

**To be continued next week.**

### **TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.**