

3rd

SUNDAY OF LENT

“He said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down.’” - Lk 13:7a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
MARCH 24, 2019**

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
Deacon Stephen M. Papik
Deacon Carlos Desousa
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
Parish Website: www.iclowell.org

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.



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.



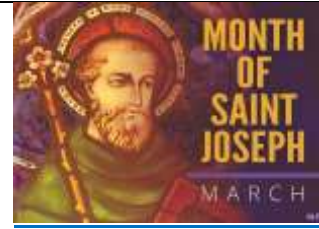
Bulletin Deadline: Friday at Noon

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



Saturday, March 23, 2019

9:00 AM

4:00 PM Robert Duffy

March 24, 2019
3rd Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 24, 2019 *Third Sunday of Lent*

7:30 AM Constance Correa, 24th Ann.

9:00 AM Claire Laferriere, 18th Ann.

11:30 AM The Flynn Family

5:00 PM

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none."

We live in a results-driven society.

It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we're not keeping up with the perceived "good life" of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed.

Some of the Gospel stories about fruitfulness can seem to play out in this fashion.

"For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down."

The message seems to be clear.

Abide in God and bear fruit!

Stand apart from God and be barren.

But what happens when we're trying, but the growth we wanted doesn't seem to be coming our way?

What if it feels like life just isn't bearing fruit?

Monday, March 25, 2019 *The Annunciation of the Lord*

7:30 AM Special Intention

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

7:30 AM Virginia C. Creegan

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

7:30 AM Everett/Florence Harris

Thursday, March 28, 2019

7:30 AM Mary Morrill, Mass of Healing

Friday March 29, 2019

7:30 AM Jonathan Perez

12:00 NN

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. "

[The gardener] said to him in reply,

'Sir, leave it for this year also ?

it may bear fruit in the future.'

How quick we can be to judge!

Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God.

Maybe things haven't gone exactly like you thought.

It can be easy to lose patience

with our failures or slow growth.

We shouldn't be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn't.

Saturday, March 30, 2019

9:00 AM

4:00 PM George Cunha, 30th Anniversary

Sunday, March 31, 2019 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

7:30 AM

9:00 AM

11:30 AM Michelle Callery

5:00 PM

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March 16-17, 2019

Weekly Collection: \$5,622.00

Building Fund: \$3,394.00

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The same ideas apply to those around us. Perhaps we're the planter of the fig tree. We expect a certain amount of growth from someone in our life, and they just aren't measuring up. Let today's Gospel be a gentle nudge for mercy. As Lent continues to unfold, be patient with yourself and those around you. Wait for God to provide the growth.



Immaculate Conception School

218 East Merrimack Street • Lowell, MA 01852

(978) 454-5339 • Fax (978) 454-6593

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

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The Immaculate Conception School is now accepting registrations for PK 3 year old through grade 8 students for the 2019-2020 school year. Please call 978-454-5339 to set up a tour and receive paperwork.

We offer:

- Full-day Pre-kindergarten for 3 and 4 year olds
- Full-day Kindergarten
- Academic program for grades 1-8
- Physical Education
- Spanish
- Music
- Art
- Technology Class
- Before and After Care programs
- Hot Lunch program
- Extra-curricular activities (athletic teams, ski club, homework club, art club and dance)
- Financial Aid is available for K-8 students who qualify

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MARCH SCHEDULE

March 20 – Wednesday

Lenten Prayer Service at 7:45

March 25 Monday

Spring Concert

Gr. 1-6 and

7&8 Electives 6 PM

March 26 Tuesday

Gr. 3 Field Trip to Orthodontist

11:30 to 12:30 PM

March 27 Wednesday

Lenten Prayer Service at 7:45

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We are collecting **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION AND CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS.**

Please start to save them and send them to the Office.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR 2018-2019

Classes meet at the Immaculate Conception School On the Sunday mornings scheduled below and are subject to change for inclement weather days... Classes begin at 10:00 AM and end at 12 Noon.

March 31 Class 15
April 7 Class 16

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

Grade 2

***April 14 (snow make-up day if needed)

*****April 28 @ 11:30 AM

Immaculate Conception School

First Communion Celebration

*****May 5 @ 11:30 AM

Immaculate Conception

Religious Education Program

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St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul is an organization that provides person to person services to the needy in our parish.

We are currently seeking new members.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please call the rectory at 978-458-1474

and leave a message for SVDP or speak to Richard Sweeney at one of the week end Masses.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL
OUR ARMED FORCES**

- Lance CPL James Bakanosky U.S. Marines AFGHANISTAN
Sgt. James R. Boudreau U.S. Army Newport, RI
Capt. Christopher Buck, U.S. Army Clarksville, TN
Lance CPL Michael P Crowley U.S. Marines-AFGHANISTAN
Corp. James Farley U.S. Marines Special Forces Mideast
SN Michael Gendron U.S. Coast Guard
Gunnery Sgt. Michael G. Hill U.S. Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC
1st Lt. Jeremy LaBranche U.S. Army AFGHANISTAN
SPC Pieter Lobscher U.S. Army AFGHANISTAN
AST 3 Michael Linehan U.S. Coast Guard
A/C Emily McPhillips Air Force
Master Sgt. Nicholas Owens USAF MacDill AFB
Platoon Sgt. John J. Rogers U.S. Army Korea

NATIONAL GUARDS

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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

My Song is Love Unknown

With the Merrimack College Schola

DATE: Monday, April 15, 2019, 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Rogers Center for the Arts

Merrimack College – 315 Turnpike Street

North Andover, MA 01845

FREE and ALL ARE WELCOME!

You are cordially invited to attend

My Song Is Love Unknown:

A Festival of Readings and Song for Holy Week,

sponsored by the Grace J. Palmisano Center
for Campus Ministry.

This hour-long program, held on the Monday night of Holy Week and inspired by the ancient service of Tenebrae, will retell the Passion story through Scripture readings and song.

The Merrimack College Schola Liturgical Choir will sing choral music meditating on the Passion of Jesus Christ, while everyone is invited to join in singing familiar songs of Holy Week,

Such as ‘O Sacred Head’ and

‘Were You There.’

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Wash your hands

And say your prayers,

‘cause Jesus and germs are everywhere.

TRIP TO ROME



Father Sannella will be in Rome and will hopefully be celebrating Mass at the Vatican June 25 or 26, 2019. If you are interested in attending this Mass, please contact Father at the rectory 978-458-1474.

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IF YOU ARE A VOLUNTEER in any capacity, in any parish the following workshop is a MUST.

VIRTUS also called PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

will be offered in our parish, Immaculate Conception on

SATURDAY -March 30th, 2019

from 9:30 TO 11:30.

LOCATION: Church Sacristy

Please call the rectory – 978-458-1474

for more details.

This workshop has been given before, you need to do it only ONCE in your life.

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LA SALETTE RETREAT CENTER

947 Park St, Attleboro, MA 02703

Wednesday, March 20th, 2019

Centering Prayer Spirituality

Christian Contemplative Practice

Presenter: Ethel Fraga

The day will consist of an introduction to and use of these following practices:

- Lectio Divina: a prayerful reading of Scripture
 - Centering Prayer: an approach to meditation in the Christian tradition
 - Welcoming Prayer: the practice of welcoming life in good times and in bad, making of all of life an offering
 - Walking Meditation: walking in a centered and prayerful way
 - Eating Gratefully, Intentionally and with Reverence
- NB: People who have meditated in other traditions are welcome
10 AM to 3 PM (Registration begins at 9:30 AM
Lunch included in the program Suggested donation: \$40 per person



TAX REPORT

For those of you who use regular weekly offertory envelopes for your statement of parish contributions, please call the Office 978-458-1474 between 9 and 3.

When you call be ready to give your envelope number, full name and street address. The report will be sent to you ASAP.

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Immaculate Conception Confirmation
Class Service Project
Clothing and Toiletries Collection
for Catie's Closet

Sunday, March 31st

From 9:00 to 12:00 in the school cafeteria

Clothing

--New or gently used clothing

--Clean, free from stains and damage

--Sizes:

Youth girls 4-20 Youth boys 4-20

--Teen girls 3-17 and xs-xxl

Teen boys 29-42 and s-xxl

New Youth & Teen Undergarments

--Socks, underwear

--For hygiene reasons, we only accept new undergarments

New Full Size Youth & Teen Toiletries

--Deodorant, shampoo, body wash,
tooth paste and toothbrushes

--Feminine products, hair products, shaving products

For more information about Catie's Closet
please visit

www.catiescloset.org



WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO:

Shirley, Bud, Walter, Bruce Andrews

Eleanor Belanger

DACON

Peter and Louise Doyle

Ellin Drouin (Vantix Diagnostics, Inc.)

Joseph M. and Patricia A. Grygiel

Andre and Rita Hawaux

Mary E. Howe

Edna King

Brian W. and Susan J. Laverty

James and Karen LeClair

Francis Provencher – Insurance Agency

Diana Shapiro

Julie and Jeffrey Strong

For their generous donations

In Memory Of GEORGE WE. McCARTHY

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Be transformed by Jesus' love in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Apr 13-14, 2019 in Brewster, MA and Jun 8-9, 2019 in Medway, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wmem.org/>.

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us in praying
the Stations of the Cross
3 PM in church

FRIDAYS:

March 22, 29, April 5, 12 and 19