



***EASTER SUNDAY
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
APRIL 12, 2020***

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. Cristiano G. Barbosa, 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



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 10:00-12 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



The Heartbeat of the Risen Lord

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. We can picture them as they went on their way. They walked like people going to a cemetery, with uncertain and weary steps, like those who find it hard to believe that this is how it all ended. We can picture their faces, pale and tearful.

And their question: can Love have truly died? Unlike the disciples, the women are present—just as they had been present as the Master breathed his last on the cross, and then, with Joseph Of Arimathea, as he was laid in the tomb. Two women who did not run away, who remained steadfast...*And suddenly there was a great earthquake.* Unexpectedly, those women felt a powerful tremor, as something or someone made the earth shake beneath their feet. Once again, someone came to tell them. Do not be afraid, but now adding:

He has been raised as he said!...

The heartbeat of the Risen Lord is granted us as a gift, a present, a new horizon. The beating heart of the Risen Lord is given to us, and we are asked to give it in turn as a transforming force, as the leaven of a new humanity.

In the resurrection, Christ rolled back the stone of the tomb, but he wants also to break down all the walls that keep us locked in our sterile pessimism...That is what Easter calls us to proclaim: the heartbeat of the Risen Lord. Christ is alive! That is what quickened the pace of

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. That is what made them return in haste to tell the news. That is what made them lay aside their mournful gait and sad looks.

They returned to the city to meet up with the others. Now that, like the two women, we have visited the tomb,

I ask you to go back with them to the city. Let us all retrace our steps and change the look on our faces. Let us go back with them to tell the news...In all those places where the grave seems to have the final word, where death seems the only way out. Let us go back to proclaim, to share, to reveal that it is true:

The Lord is alive!

He wants to rise again in all our faces that have buried hope, buried dreams....dignity!
May we allow his tenderness/his love to guide our steps!

-----Pope Francis

All Masses
are
cancelled
until further
notice.

Please check your TV

CATHOLIC TV

has Masses at 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM
every day Monday through Saturday
in our area it is on channel 268.

Sundays

Masses are at 10 from U. of ND in Indiana
and 7 pm from Boston.

EWTN

has Masses at 8 & 11 AM daily and more
that is channel 56.

Check your TV guide and listen
as the Masses are announced.



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 in Lowell
is now accepting registrations for the
2020-2021 school year!

SAINT CORONA
is the patron saint against
plagues and epidemics.

Her feast day is celebrated on May 14.



Almighty God, who forgive the sins of your people and heal all their faults, you who call the Lord our healer and your beloved Son to bear our sickness, look upon us who stand humbly before You.

We pray to You in this time of plague and need, remember Your love and kindness that You have always shown to Your people in times of tribulation. Just as you graciously looked upon Aaron's atonement and stopped the plague that broke out, just as you accepted David's sacrifice and commanded the destroying angel to withdraw his hand, accept also today our prayer and sacrifice and show us mercy. Keep this disease away from us, allow those affected to be healed, protect those who have been preserved from it so far by Your goodness and do not let the plague spread any further.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us!

Saint Corona, pray for us!

Saint Sebastien, pray for us!

AMEN



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Religious Education Calendar 2019-2020

Classes meet at the Immaculate Conception School
on the Sunday mornings scheduled below
and are subject to change for inclement weather days...
The * indicates Sundays that are two in a row.
Due to this year's scheduling with school events
there are a few months with two in a row.

Classes begin at 10am and end at 12 NOON.

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

May 3rd IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION

Please contact Claire Couillard at 978-458-1474 X21
for any questions.

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PARENTS AND CHILDREN

**If you have grandparents who would
appreciate the bulletin
make them a copy of this bulletin
if they usually attend Mass
and read it.**

**There will be no hard copy
it will be on line only.**

Thank you



**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
Captain Jeremy LaBranche	U.S. Army	Fort Huachuca, AZ
SPC Pieter Lobscher	U.S. Army	AFGHANISTAN
AST 3 Michael Linehan	U.S. Coast Guard	
SN Nicholas Ludwig	U.S. Navy	
A1C Emily McPhillips	Air Force	
Master Sgt. Nicholas Owens	USAF	MacDill AFB
Staff Sgt. John J. Rogers	U.S. Army	Fort Bliss, Texas

NATIONAL GUARD

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MASS INTENTIONS AND SCHEDULE

We encourage you to schedule your Masses early.
The 2020 Mass Calendar opens on the first of July.

Please note that the weekend Masses stipend is \$25.00
and the weekday Mass stipend is \$10.00.

You can place your donation in the weekend
collection baskets or mail it to 3 Fayette St., Lowell

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If We Can Remember That

Resurrection...is entirely unnatural.

When a human being goes into the ground, that is that.
You do not wait around for the person to reappear so
you can pick up where you left off—
not this side of the grave, anyway.

You say good-bye.

You pay respects and you go on with your life as best you
can, knowing that the only place springtime happens in a
cemetery is on the graves, not in them.

That is all Mary was doing that morning—
paying her respects, going to his tomb to convince herself
it was all true. It was still dark,

but even from a distance she knew something was wrong.
She could smell damp earth, cold rock from inside.

Someone had moved the stone!

Afraid he would become a saint, afraid his tomb would
become a shrine, someone had taken him away—
God knew where—to a steep cliff, to the town dump.
His body was all she had left and now it too was gone....

{But Jesus} was on his way to God, and he was taking the
whole world with him. This may be why all the other
gospel accounts of the resurrection tell us not to be afraid
--because new life is frightening. It is unnatural.

To expect a sealed tomb and find one filled with angels,
to hunt the past and discover the future,
to seek a corpse and find the risen Lord
—none of this is natural.

Death is natural. Loss is natural. Grief is natural.
But those stones have been rolled away this happy
morning, to reveal the highly unnatural truth.

By the light of this day, God has planted a seed of life in
us that cannot be killed,

**AND IF WE CAN REMEMBER THAT
then there is nothing we cannot do:**

**MOVE MOUNTAINS,
BANISH FEAR,
LOVE OUR ENEMIES,
CHANGE THE WORLD.**

by Barbara Brown Taylor



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 weekend Masses.

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TAX REPORT

For those of you who use regular weekly offertory envelopes

for your statement of parish contributions, your tax report is ready.

Please call the Office 978-458-1474 between 9 and 3.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FROM NOW UNTIL
ST. MARY'S MISSION IN
LANCASTER, MA

you are encouraged to bring your religious items
NO CARDS/PRAYER CARDS.
The Mission from Lancaster, PA will come to pick up whatever was given as soon as the restrictions have been removed.

Year of the Eucharist

Holy Thursday 2020 to
Feast of Corpus Christi 2021



The following is drawn from the website of the Archdiocese of Boston.”

“And behold I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28:20
Cardinal Sean O’Malley has announced a Year of the Eucharist

to bolster the faith of those who already believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and to encourage those who struggle with this belief.
Over the course of the next year and a half, the Cardinal invites all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Boston to learn more about the Eucharist and to spend more time before the Eucharistic Lord, asking Him to reveal Himself to you.

A recent Pew Study found that many Catholics view the Eucharist as a mere symbol. Some Catholics even believe the Church actually teaches it is only a symbol, not the body and blood of Jesus, Bringing to mind Flannery O’Connor’s famous Rejoinder on the matter. At a literary gathering back in the ‘40s, author Mary McCarthy said she always thgouth of the Eucharist as a symbol and “it was a pretty good one.”

O’Connor replied,
“If it’s only a symbol, to hell with it.”
She made her point.

If the Eucharist isn’t really the body and blood of Christ, then why bother going to Mass?
Why bother being Catholic?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!