



15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.” - Mt 13:23

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

July 12, 2020
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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



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

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MISSION STATEMENT

**We at Immaculate Conception Church
are a welcoming community of faith
that strives to carry out the mission of Jesus
by journeying in faith, sharing in joy,
and living in hope. Come join us.**

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.



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***The Immaculate
Conception
School in Lowell***

is now accepting

registrations for

the

2020-2021

SCHOOL YEAR

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Over the years I have wasted a lot:
a lot of money,
a lot of time,
and a lot of talent
. Sometimes I didn't realize I was wasting
these things but, after reflection,
I realized I could have done more and accomplished
much greater things.
Of course, I think that is part
of our imperfect humanity.
It truly is easier for us to waste our gifts
than grow them into something more.

The parable of the sower
speaks about the word of God
that gets planted in our hearts.
If the soil of our heart is rich,
than the word will grow and change us.
If that soil is rocky or full of weeds,
the word will lie there without any impact,
bearing no fruit.

This parable can be applied to living
a stewardship way of life as well.
As sowers, we have been given the seeds
of our time, talent, and treasure.
We have a choice of where to plant these gifts.
As good everyday stewards,
we are called to plant them wisely and prudently.
Oftentimes it is not enough to
simply give away what we have.
We need to discern the best places to sow these gifts so
the maximum harvest can grow.
This takes prayer, reflection, and study.
Without a solid discernment process,
we can find ourselves sowing seeds
endlessly without much to show for it.
But joyful is the person who has used one's gifts wisely,
for the bounty of the harvest is great.

MASSES
Every Saturday at 4 pm
and Sunday at 10 am
until further notice



SOME TINY SEEDS FELL...

As we slowly continue to re-open the church the following steps must be strictly observed.

1. We are offering a 4 PM **MASS on Sat. and a 10:00 AM MASS on Sunday**
2. **Social Distancing** must be observed at all times within the church
3. **Hand Sanitizer** will be available at all doors and must be used. If you prefer to use your own, bring it with you.
4. MASKS ARE MANDATORY AND MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN.
5. The floor is marked with the appropriate distancing.
PLEASE OBSERVE.
6. All Holy Water Fonts and Missalettes have been removed.
7. There will be No Singing, No Processions and No Baskets passed at the Offertory.
8. **Baskets for the Offertory Collection will be placed at the Entrances of our Church.**
9. We appreciate all of your continued cooperation and we will only be able to provide Mass if all of you comply.
10. We are under strict restrictions from the Archdiocese of Boston in this re-opening of churches during this Pandemic
11. This is truly a fluid situation and we will update you before each Mass if necessary,

WE ARE THE PATH.

So dusty and hard and bored with our lot in life.
And the Word—this Word we know so well
and have heard so often—
drifts down to be squashed into soil to be pecked at
by the dull routine of one more day.
Dry. Drought. Caked and unproductive earth.

WE ARE THE ROCKS.

Somebody needs us,
needs our enthusiasm, our smile,
our toleration and our understanding.
And we are so tired. So tired.
Too tired to send down roots, to search for water.

WE ARE A BED OF THORNS.

Don't you feel that way sometimes?
Of only for a little while?
Cranky and sensitive to every noise. Grouchy. Intolerant
Why can't they sing right?
What can't they keep quiet when I have a headache?
Why does the dog bark?

WE ARE THE GOOD SOIL.

Soft and moist and full of sun.
Not because we feel pious,
not because the baking has been uneventful and is now
over. Or because the bananas have come.
Or because we feel a little --- just a little---
more important than yesterday.

But because, by the grace of God
the little seeds in my heart have begun to sprout
into responsibility for myself,
for the world I came to help save,
for the lost and lonely people who wander in darkness,
for the life I have been given with which to save and heal
and comfort.

Because the tiny seeds are poking their way into the sun,
are waving small leaves of joy,
a new and different kind of joy,
at being the minister of God's peace,
at being the companion, the home, the hands and the
heart of Jesus the eternal Lord.

Taken from *Give Us This Day, July 2020*
Written by Sr. Miriam Pollard, OCSO,
is a Sister of Santa Rita Abbey in Sonoita, Arizona



**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

NATIONAL GUARD

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**SAINT MARY'S MISSION
LANCASTER, PA
IF YOU HAVE MORE
RELIGIOUS ITEMS**

**They will be returning in September
and hope there will be even more!**

Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

farmer	rocky	birds
soil	thorns	choked
root	path	seed

frame f a r m e r

sede _____

ptah _____

brisd _____

rkyoc _____

tohrsn _____

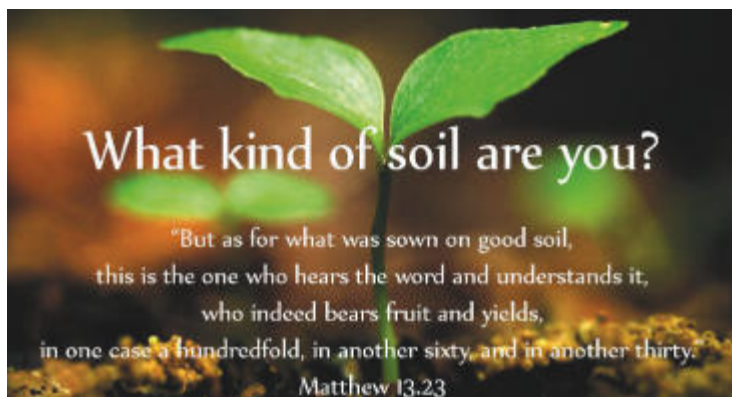
rtoo _____

cohekd _____

silo _____

©LPi

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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 weekend Masses.

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A TIMELY REMINDER

It is no secret that St. Vincent de Paul in our parish has been working over time and, you, generous parishioners have provided some assistance during this unbelievable pandemic situation.

Please try to assist these families who have been hit as much as you have but with much less than you have and open your hearts and your wallets to help the families and St. Vincent de Paul volunteers to assist all who present themselves to this organization. Thank you.

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PLEASE REMAIN CONNECTED TO OUR WEBSITE: iclowell.org AND FACEBOOK FOR FURTHER ACTION DECIDING TIME FOR FUTURE MASSES AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH. Thank you for your continued patience with how we have to proceed to respect all our parishioners' needs. Please feel free to continue watching the Sunday Mass on Facebook or on our website iclowell.org.

If you are 65 and older or are compromised with any health condition, you are advised to remain at home.

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WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

June 20-21, 2020

**Weekly Collection: \$2,456.00
Building Fund: \$750.00**

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YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Thanks be to you, O Lord

Draw near to us, and have mercy on our sins; Lord Jesus, who are holy and kind, have mercy.

May your Body and Blood, which we receive in the Eucharist, be a powerful medicine for our souls and lead us to heaven.

Help us to worship you, Good Shepherd. Protect us by these gifts, and increase our faith in you who are truly present in the Eucharist.

Restore us by your grace into your image and likeness, that the Father may see and love in us what He sees and loves in His Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

AMEN

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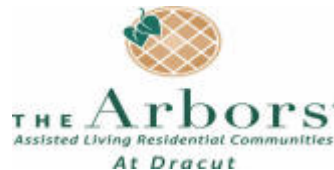
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