

*The Most Holy Body  
and Blood of Christ*



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*(CORPUS CHRISTI) SUNDAY  
MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST SUNDAY  
JUNE 14, 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. 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](http://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.

MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST SUNDAY



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The Immaculate Conception School in Lowell  
is now accepting registrations for the  
2020-2021

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
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Results of May 31, 2020 Collections

Deposited June 4<sup>th</sup>

Weekly Collection: \$6,585.00

Building Fund: \$1,510.00



Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Sunday

"The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,  
'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'"  
From the beginning, the Eucharist has been  
a source of controversy.

Some people have always found the teaching  
difficult to accept.

But as Catholics, the Blessed Sacrament is at the heart of  
our worship and our spirituality;

we go to Mass to share

in the holy sacrifice of Jesus' body and blood,  
and we receive spiritual nourishment from  
partaking of this heavenly food.

As Jesus himself tells us in today's Gospel,

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
remains in me and I in him."

From this passage it is clear that Jesus intended the

Eucharist to be a tremendous gift for us,

for "whoever eats this bread will live forever."

This of course is because the bread is Christ's  
"flesh for the life of the world."

In other words, just as he gave his body on the cross to  
save us from our sins, so too this same flesh is given for  
us at every Mass to strengthen our weakness and unite us  
more deeply to our Savior.

Receiving Communion isn't like taking a magic pill.

We must beware of reducing this sacrament to an empty  
ritual or a foolproof guarantee of heaven.

No, it is quite possible to receive Communion unworthily  
and reject its spiritual efficacy.

Just like the benefits of a healthy meal can be undone by  
a habit of bingeing on junk food,

so too we can prevent Holy Communion from having its  
full benefits when we crowd our souls with vices and sins.

If, on the other hand, we wish to let this sacrament of  
divine grace flourish,

we should receive it with a sincere

spirit of gratitude and reverence,

praying that we may be made worthy  
to receive such a gift.

**MASS**  
**Sunday, June 14th**

**All went smoothly last week, let's try again.**

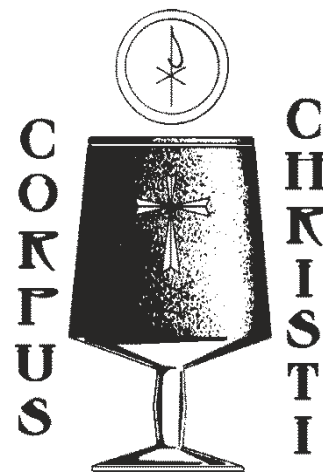
As we slowly continue to re-open the church the following steps must be strictly observed.

1. There will only be **ONE MASS AT 10:00 AM.**
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 will be 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. Sheets with further information will be available to you at the doors.
10. We appreciate all of your continued cooperation and we will only be able to provide Mass if all of you comply.
11. We are under strict restrictions from the Archdiocese of Boston in this re-opening of churches during this Pandemic
12. This is truly a fluid situation and we will update you before each Mass.

**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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**BODY OF CHRIST**



**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  
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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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**THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST**

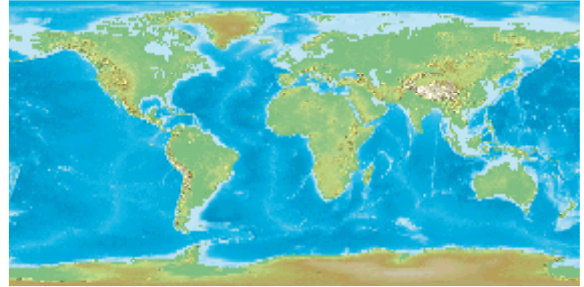
begins today with the feast of the  
Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
Since we are unable to receive Jesus  
in the Sacrament of the Eucharist,  
as we watch the Mass on TV  
here is a prayer you could say:

My Jesus,

I believe that you  
are present in the most Holy Sacrament  
I love you above all things  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive  
You sacramentally, come at least  
spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and  
unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN



**A PRAYER FOR WORLD HEALTH**

**Almighty and Ever Loving God,  
Creator of all things.**

**In You we place our trust for guidance  
during this Coronavirus pandemic.  
Hear the prayers we offer for our elderly  
and those with chronic health conditions,  
who are most vulnerable.**

**Let their faith and trust in You never  
Weaken.**

**Allow your heavenly knowledge to direct our  
medical professionals and researchers  
to find a solution for this sickness.**

**Bless, with your divine protection,  
doctors, nurses and first responders  
and surround us all with Your love.**

**Guide those in authority, O Lord.**

**By the wisdom of our leaders and public  
health officials, along with the integrity of  
our citizens, may harmony be restored!**

**Look also with favor on the families and  
friends who mourn those who have died  
from this illness and comfort them in their  
loss. Console them in the hope that all who  
trust in You will find peace and rest in  
Your Eternal Kingdom.**

**Calm this terror that threatens us.  
Protect our families, neighbors and friends  
and restrain our fears and anxiety.  
Grant that health, the fruit of life,  
may reign throughout the world.**



**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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***THANK YOU***



"BODY OF CHRIST"

**Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

We sometimes go to extraordinary lengths to preserve life.

Consider all the interventions that exist in a modern hospital's emergency room: from defibrillators to ventilators, from medicines that instantly negate the effects of an opiate overdose, to drugs that can break up a clot even as a stroke is underway.

All of these intricate responses have been devised over and above the more ordinary actions of orange juice to revive a diabetic or caesarian section to deliver a baby in a compromised pregnancy.

Because modern medicine can do so much, many of us in the developed world live with the expectation that our lives will just keep going on. The progress of medicine has made it inevitable that many families now confront the decision of when to let someone go-ending treatment, stopping medication, removing machines.

**In this weekend's Gospel,**

Jesus promises that whoever eats his flesh and drinks his blood has eternal life.

He tells the crowds that whoever eats the bread that comes down from heaven will live forever.

The body and blood of Christ is real food and real drink.

It is medicine for our body and soul.

It is nourishment for our lives.

When Jesus makes the promise of life forever to those who eat his flesh and drink his blood,

he is not talking about the kind of life support that we associate with hospital care.

He is instead indicating that those who eat his body and drink his blood will live eternally

because of the life that he gives.

The medicine of the Eucharist heals us from sin and division,

and makes us whole in Christ uniting us in one communion of love.

So when we think about the extraordinary lengths we undertake to preserve life in the natural world,

we may want to reconsider

what we are willing to do in the spiritual world.

**Is the Eucharist part of our spiritual health care regularly?**

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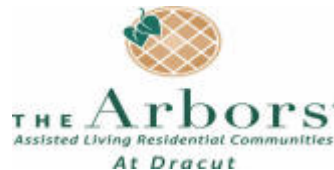
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