

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’” — Mt 13:29-30

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

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July 19, 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.



Immaculate Conception School

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*Immaculate
Conception School in
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is seeking
a part time
school nurse
from 9 to 1
Monday thru Friday.
Must have nursing
degree and complete
required state medical
forms.
If interested, please
call Catherine Fiorino,
principal, at
978-454-5339*



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The weeds are the children of the evil one,
and the enemy who sows them is the devil."

This is not a pretty picture.

Jesus shares a parable in today's Gospel
that reminds us of a truth we would rather forget:
evil is real, and the devil is at work.

The bountiful harvest of our faith is something that
Satan wants to destroy.
And he has a host of diabolical tactics to help him carry
out his wicked plans.

But there is one strategy in particular
that we must be on guard against.

As the French poet Charles Baudelaire put it,
"The devil's finest trick is to persuade you
that he does not exist."

Sneaky as it may be, this approach is effective!
And, unfortunately, the attitude of our modern era is
very conducive to buying the lie.

Too often we dismiss the idea of the invisible
spiritual reality of angels and demons.

It doesn't seem "scientific" enough
for us because it can't be seen or "proven."

But neither can our faith!

We believe in a host of invisible realities
starting with God himself.

We should not be fooled into thinking
that the devil is a make-believe cartoon character
with red horns and a pitchfork on his shoulder.
Alas, no. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church
reminds us, "

Scripture witnesses to the disastrous influence
of the one Jesus calls 'a murderer from the beginning'"
(CCC 394) and, as we read in the Bible, "

Indeed, the Son of God
was revealed to destroy the works of the Devil" (1 Jn
3:8). This is not pretend,
and so it must be taken seriously.

But so too, the reality of Satan must be situated within
the broader context of God's supreme power.
The devil "cannot prevent the building up of
God's reign" (CCC 395).

The influence of evil can never defeat
the power of our faith, unless we let it do so.

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

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,



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
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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!



Saint Mary Magdalene

Today July 22nd our Church celebrates the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene.

She is one of the few women mentioned in the Gospels. The Church interrupts the cycle of Gospel Readings from Matthew and proclaims the Gospel of John and Mary's witnessing the Resurrection..

We do know that she was among a very small group of women who followed Jesus. It is thought that these women supported Jesus in his ministry as he moved about. The Gospel passage for today from John tells us the most about Mary Magdalene.

She was present at the Crucifixion. She was also present as the Body of Jesus was taken for burial. Mary Magdalene was among the women who went to the tomb on that First Easter Sunday to anoint the body of Jesus. In today's Gospel we have the story of her as a witness to Jesus' Resurrection. And it was she that Jesus sent to the Apostles with the news of his Resurrection. There are a couple of things about Mary Magdalene that I admire. First of all, Mary was a brave woman.

When things got ugly

on that first Good Friday, she stuck around and didn't take off as the others did. Her faith in Jesus was rock-solid. Secondly, she wanted to cling to her Resurrected friend, which I think was a most normal and human response. And lastly, in a culture where women were considered second class citizens and could not even testify in a court of law, it was she who testified to the others about Jesus' Resurrection. And she wasn't afraid to do so.

As we honor Mary Magdalene today, we might look to her as a model for us when life gets difficult and/or ugly; when we are tempted to throw in the towel and follow the crowd. We might pray to her to intercede for us that we might remain faithful to the values of our Christian faith. And lastly, let us remember that Mary Magdalene, a woman, brought to the Apostles the news of Jesus' Resurrection. 'Apostle' means one who is sent. Mary Magdalene has been called the Apostle to the Apostles. May we be blessed in our Apostolic endeavors bestowed on us by our Baptism.

St. Mary Magdalene pray for us.

.... *Brother Gus Parlavechio, C.P.*

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WEEKLY COLLECTIONS
Weekly Collection: \$4,116.00
Building Fund: \$1,280.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT



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.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Immaculate Conception Parish will resume the celebration of Baptism according to the diocesan guidelines.

If you had planned a baptism with Father, you are encouraged to call Father Sannella to reschedule at 978-458-1474.

If not, but you are interested in doing so in the upcoming months, please call the rectory. Leave your name and phone number with the receptionist and Father will return your call at his earliest convenience.

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