



21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” - Mt 16:19

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

AUGUST 23, 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
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applications
for the 2020-2021 school year.
If you are interested in a tour,
please call 978-454-5339.**

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The Feast of Our Lady of Beauraing

The feast of Our Lady of Beaurains, which coincides annually with the Queenship of Mary, will be celebrated on August 22, 2020 at 6:30 PM with an outdoor rosary at 112 Norris Road, Tyngsboro.

Friends of Our Lady are asked to bring a lawn chair,

Wear a mask and practice social distance on the lawn.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statues of Our Lady of Beauraing will be on display and refreshments will be served.

Info: Irene Tremblay 97-649-1813.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."

The name Peter is significant.

It comes from a word that means "rock."

When Jesus gives this new name to Simon, he is identifying this chosen apostle as a foundation upon which his church will stand.

This verse, along with the constant practice of church tradition ever since that moment, explains the office of the papacy.

The pope, even to this day, is a direct successor of Saint Peter.

An unbroken historical line traces right back to Christ himself, when he gave

"the keys to the kingdom of heaven" to Peter.

In establishing Peter as the first pope, Jesus was putting a structure in place that has proved to be a brilliant one

. Because it is built on a firm foundation, the Catholic Church has been able to persevere for millennia through schisms, wars, scandals, and the persistent presence of sin in its all-too-human members.

The church has maintained consistency and unity in her teaching thanks to the headship of the pope.

It really is remarkable that an institution so old can still be so vital in this day and age.

Thus far, the prophetic utterance of Christ remains true,

"the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it."

Jesus must have been thinking of us, of all future Christians, when he established the papacy.

Just as Jesus instructed Peter after the Resurrection to "Feed my lambs...feed my sheep," (Jn 21:15, 17), so too our Holy Father continues the mission to care for us like a good shepherd.

We may be thousands of miles from him, but his prayers and his leadership serve our local Catholic community nonetheless.

The pope's care for us will always be a reminder of the loving concern of Christ for his church.



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

My friend is a Montessori teacher in a local public school.

Her class includes twenty-six three-, four-, and five-year-olds who normally stay with her for the full three years as they age and develop.

Montessori education encourages a process of discovery in which children in multi-age learning communities develop through the use of all five senses using activities that allow them to learn at their own pace.

As a teacher, my friend is always challenging the students to try the different activities that fill her classroom.

Helping children move up the levels and not remain satisfied with simple activities they find easy to accomplish is part of her work each day.

Through the interaction of teacher and fellow students a child can discover even more as he or she is challenged to grow.

A bit like a Montessori classroom,

Jesus and his disciples were a community of learners. He was constantly teaching them as they interacted with the world around them.

Matthew doesn't hesitate in his Gospel to show the varied ways in which Jesus instructed his followers:

discourse, parables, examples, and the experiences of everyday life.

In today's Gospel we encounter one of the classic teaching techniques: questioning.

Every teacher knows that one way to get students to think about a subject is to ask probing questions, encouraging the listener to think of responses even as the questions keep coming.

Jesus did that with his disciples in today's Gospel.

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" he asks.

The replies from the disciples come back, each one falling short of the mark, until Peter hits on an adequate response,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

While we don't have Jesus standing in front of us peppering us with questions, we must still come up with an answer for ourselves in our own life.

Who is Jesus for us today?

And what does that mean for how we live?

 Read the Gospel and Color

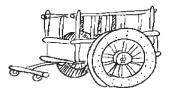
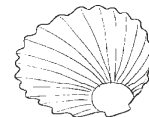


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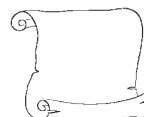
 Puzzle

Which picture name **begins** with this letter? Circle the picture that starts with that sound.

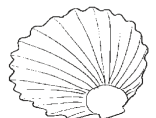
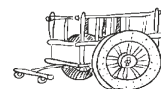
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MASSES

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
 Gunnery Sgt. Michael G. Hill U.S. Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC
 Captain Jeremy LaBranche U.S. ArmyVicenza, Italy
 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

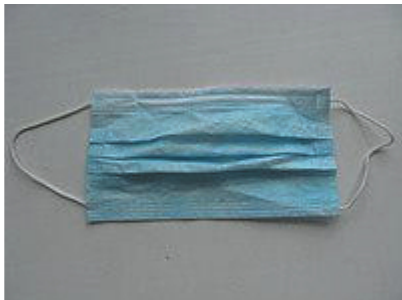
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WEEKLY COLLECTIONS
August 2, 2020
 Weekly Collection: \$5,742.00
 Building Fund: \$1,475.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT

ATTENTION

If you scheduled announced
Masses
from March 15 to September 1st
please feel free to call the
Rectory between 8 and 2 Mon./Fri.
so that we can reschedule
your paid Masses.
Know that we will allow more
than one intention at the Masses
if necessary.

**Immaculate Conception
School**
is preparing
for a possible reopening in the fall.
Please help us.
***WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE
FOLLOWING DONATIONS:***



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(For children and adults)



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C

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Please call the office if you have any
questions, 978-454-5339

icslowell@hotmail.com

All donations can be left at the Rectory
or dropped off at the School.

Please call in advance.

Thank you!

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U. S. CENSUS BUREAU
REPRESENTATIVES
WILL BE AT THE ENTRANCE
OF THE CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020
AFTER THE 10 AM MASS.
IF YOU HAVE NOT FILLED OUT
THE CENSUS FORM, PLEASE TAKE
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

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