

**Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wishes to come after me
must deny himself, take up his cross,
and follow me.”**

Mt 16:24

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AUGUST 30, 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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Read the Gospel and Color



©LPi



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You are thinking not as God does,
but as human beings do."

Peter had expressed horror at the prophetic words
announcing that Jesus' suffering and death
were imminent.

Peter didn't want his friend and teacher
to undergo this terrible ordeal.
He wanted "no such thing" ever to happen to his Lord.
But Jesus sharply rebuked Peter's response,
comparing it to that of the tempter, Satan.

Just as temptation becomes an obstacle
to our doing what is right,
so Peter was presenting an obstacle to Christ's mission.

Suffering was part of it, like it or not.
To deny this difficult element of Christ's work
would be to deny the bigger plan of God.

And so Jesus rightly told Peter
that he wasn't thinking like God thinks.

Of course, since we are human,
it's only natural that we should think
as human beings do.

We, like Peter, tend to recoil at the idea of facing
unpleasant or painful circumstances.

But clearly God sometimes allows
such situations to take place for a greater good.

Jesus understood this;
even as he prophesied about his death,
he also mentioned his resurrection.
Today's Gospel challenges us to think "as God does"
by holding both of these elements together.

Unlike Peter who only focused
on the sad part of the story,
we are called to recognize the Resurrection
on the other side of the cross,
and to be willing to do whatever is necessary to get there.

In fact, Jesus tells us later in this Gospel
to take up our cross and follow him.
That is not the "human" way of thinking.

It's the Godly way.
Our natural response is to reject and scorn
the trials and tribulations that we face,
but Jesus wants us to embrace them patiently and
"come after"
him on the (sometimes rough) road to eternal life.



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

During the housing boom a couple of years ago, the airwaves were filled with commercials by mortgage lenders telling us that buying a house was the most important investment we could ever make in our lives.

Unfortunately, some people lost everything in trying to buy more than they could afford when their payments increased down the road. Was this an investment, or merely a gamble?

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

This is not as daunting a request as it sounds on the surface.

Jesus is asking us to understand that while we are given many gifts during this earthly life such as wealth and property, we must always remind ourselves that it could all disappear in an instant.

With faith,

we are willing to accept whatever happens to us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that although we may suffer some sacrifices

in our lives,

we need only to remember the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As he took up his cross, we are joined to him in taking up ours (CCC 618).

He accepted his coming sacrifice; are we willing today to accept whatever sacrifices may be asked of us?

Today in prayer, offer first your thanks for all that you have been given, and then offer it all back freely if it is asked of you.

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One particular four year old prayed,
"And forgive us our trash baskets
as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

2021 CORI FORM
to be completed by all volunteers

MA State law mandates that any person 17 years of age and older, who serves as a volunteer in any parish ministry, must complete a CORI form (Criminal Offense Record Info.). This form requires verification of identity with a photo document (e.g. MA Driver's License or passport)

There are no exceptions to this requirement.

The CORI form will be available every Tues. Wed., Thurs., Fri. between 7:30 and 2 PM beginning August 31.

Know that we are truly grateful that you are willing to serve our parish community as a volunteer.

This is our way of showing you that we are committed to protect all our parishioners and all who visit with us...especially the children and the elderly.

GOD BLESS YOU!

Please wear masks when you come to the rectory to fill out your forms. We may not be needing your assistance yet, but the Diocese still wants us to have you complete these during the month of September. Thank you.

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
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 SN Michael Gendron U.S. Coast Guard
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 A1C Emily McPhillips Air Force
 Master Sgt. Nicholas Owens USAF MacDill AFB

NATIONAL GUARD

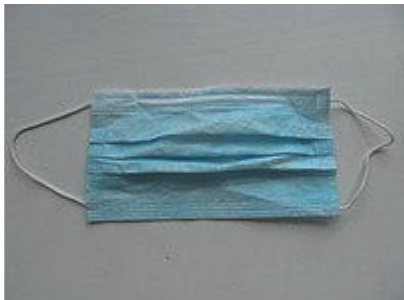
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WEEKLY COLLECTIONS
August 9, 2020
 Weekly Collection: \$4476.00
 Building Fund: \$970.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT

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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BALLS /JUMP ROPES

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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