

“Jesus promised his disciples
three things—that they would
be completely fearless,
absurdly happy, and in
constant trouble.”

- G.K. Chesterton

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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 10:00 a.m.

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.

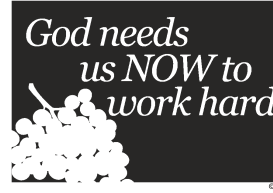
**Rosary 6:00 p.m. followed by Benediction and
Mass**

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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**Immaculate Conception School
 is STILL accepting
 applications
 for the 2020-2021 school year.
 If you are interested in a tour,
 please call 978-454-5339.**

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SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

Friday – September 25, 2020

PICTURE DAY

8:00 AM

Dress up

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WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

August 29-30, 2020

Weekly Collection: \$3,925.00

Building Fund: \$1,260.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
 CONTINUED SUPPORT**

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Every day, in hospitals and churches of all denominations across the country, meetings are held to provide a means of support to those fighting the terrifying grip of addiction.

At those meetings, there is never an issue as to the age of the attendees.

Perhaps a person late in life has finally decided to do something about a lifelong problem; or perhaps a young person attends, hoping to avoid a lifelong problem.

Either way, both are welcomed unconditionally; their goal and their reward are the same.

Today's Gospel reading gives us the parable of the landowner

who hired laborers to work in his vineyard.

As the day went on, he continued to bring laborers to his fields

even up to the last hour of the day, yet all were paid the same wage.

Those who had readily agreed to work all day for a certain wage- their reward-

were not thrilled that those who had only worked an hour were given the same wage, the same reward.

If our reward for believing in God is eternal life, what is the point of bringing others into the light if they shouldn't expect the same reward?

Of all of the characteristics of the human soul, one stands above the rest-hope.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that we as faithful followers of God are given the hope of glory in heaven

if we love him and do as he directs through his word, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit (CCC 1821).

In the parable of the landowner and the vineyard workers, we are given witness to hope; those laborers who were still waiting at the end of the day for a job

were hopeful that they might work even for a short time in hopes that they could provide for their families.

We stand at the altar with hope and faith that God will provide eternal life.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY– SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

4 pm Mass for Robert Duffy, 2nd Ann.

SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

10 am Martha Elizabeth Foley Lucey,
24th Anniversary

Marian E. MacLaughlan, 14th Ann.

Margo McAnespie, 1st Anniversary

Richard J. Townsend, 30th Ann.

Betty Townsend, 15th Anniversary

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[OUR LADY OF SORROW ICON](#)
[WORKSHOP](#)

[with Deacon Steven de Martino](#)
[October 4th to October 9th 2020](#)

In this participatory Icon workshop, the central subject will be Our Lady of Sorrows, influenced by Marcus Zapata from the Cuzco school.

The Icon will be painted in classical traditional, egg tempera medium. Byzantine, Romanesque, and contemporary methods will be applied in this week-long, intensive workshop.

Learn more at
www.enders.is/ourladyicon
(860) 536-0565

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1 Enders Island, PO Box 399
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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!

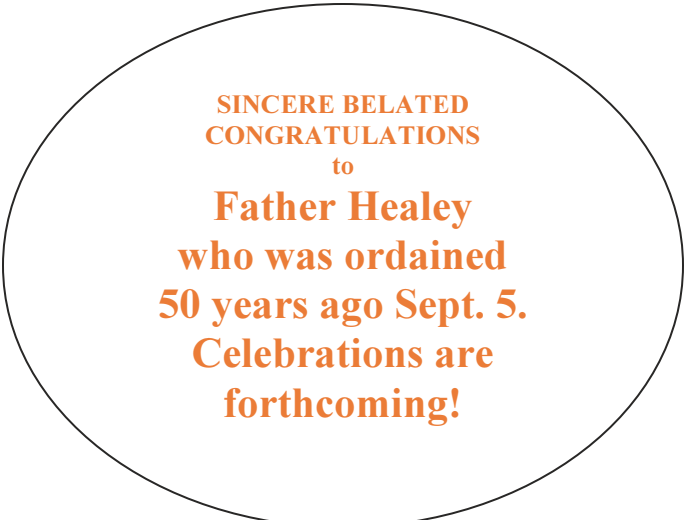
Please wear masks when you come to the rectory to fill out your forms. We may not be needing your assistance yet, but the Diocese still wants us to have you complete these during the month of September. Thank you.

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
- 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
**_*_*_*_*_*_*_

ATTENTION

If you scheduled announced Masses
from March 15 to October 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.

 Read the Gospel and Color



©LPI

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**PLEASE BRING WHATEVER
RELIGIOUS ITEMS,
NO CARDS/PRAYER CARDS
YOU MIGHT WANT TO GIVE.**

**The Mission from St. Mary's in
Lancaster, PA**

**will come to pick up whatever
was brought. Someone has died and you
need to part with their devotions, share them
with others.**

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**It sounds lovely when the Lord says in Isaiah,
“As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high
are my ways above your ways, and my thoughts
above your thoughts.”**

**When Jesus gives us an image of God's generosity
and forgiveness, even though we may resist.
As Christians, our calling is to be stewards for this
God of excessive, even reckless, jerky.**

**The modern rise of under-employments—our own
city center in the middle of the day—shows us the
futility of human thoughts.**

“No one has hired us.”

**God, the vineyard owner, has a higher thought:
for God, into my vineyard,”**

**where there is an abundant harvest enough for all to
find meaningful work.**

**At the end of the day, we see the futility of human
ways. Human pride demands a greater reward
merely i=to distinguish us from those for whom we
feel contempt.**

**We not only feel self-satisfied, we ask God for a false
vindication. Our ways can become like God's ways
if we feel ourselves to be the latecomers, grateful to
have our share of the kingdom's work and table,
and grateful therefor for God's goodness to our
companions, too.**

**It takes conversion to feel, as Paul does, that
“life in Christ, and death is gain,”**

**That the sweetness of existence comes from working
in the kingdom, that our experience of mercy comes
from extending mercy outward to others.**

**Let our prayer today ask God to raise our thoughts
to his thoughts, that we too may be slow to anger,
compassionate and good to all.**

**If we rest in God's thoughts, our ways, too will
honor the inestimable purpose of each of God's
creatures.**

Kimberly Hope Belcher, professor at the U. of Notre Dame

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