



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

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*FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 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.**



Immaculate Conception School

218 East Merrimack Street • Lowell, MA 01852

(978) 454-5339 • Fax (978) 454-6593

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

*The Immaculate Conception School
in Lowell is now accepting registrations
for our Preschool and Kindergarten
Programs for the
2021-2022 school year.*

The Immaculate Conception School administration and teachers believe that every child is unique and that he or she has identifiable characteristics and needs. The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten program is designed to support those needs by discovering each child's special qualities and his or her importance in God's creation.

*Please call or e-mail us to make
arrangements for a tour,
978-454-5339 or
ICSLowell@hotmail.com.*

We offer:

- Full-day Pre-Kindergarten for 3 & 4 yr. olds
- Full-day Kindergarten
- Physical Education
- Music
- Art
- Before and After School Care programs
- Hot lunch program for Kindergarten
- Financial Aid is available for Kindergarten students who qualify

OUR MISSION

Immaculate Conception School fosters students in a Catholic Community with a highly dedicated Staff, centered on outstanding Academic excellence, ongoing commitment to service and a Love for learning.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

1 PM - 3 PM - 5 PM - 7 PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES

8 AM and 10 AM

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SATURDAY– December 19, 2020

4 pm Mass Stephen/Beatrice Carroll
John J. MacLaughlan, 29th Ann.
James B. Reilly

SUNDAY-December 20, 2020

10 am Mass Everett/Florence & David Harris
Marian Sorenson, 1st Anniversary
Donald J. Pearsall, 27th Ann.
Charles, Helen, Frank Sweeney

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WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

November 22, 2020

Weekly Collection: \$4,422.00

Building Fund: \$1,110.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR YOUR
PARISH



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Last year we waited much too long
to buy our Christmas trees.

We usually have one in the living room and
then one by the large window in our room
that sits at the front of the house.

Essentially, there is one for us to see and
then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs
in the December cold.

If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree
you might just not find a tree.

But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from
in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price
was a little higher than I was used to but a tree would be
mine no matter what.

What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about
nine young people sitting around a fire,
laughing and drinking coffee.

I wondered, "All of these people for a tree lot late at
night and this late in the season?"

What I found out was these weren't paid workers.
These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts.

This was their rehab's tree lot and
this was their service and group therapy.

I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the
nicest people around.

They were full of joy for the new life they had found and
thankful for the people who helped bring them through
the trial of their lives.

Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful
and majestic than it had when I first drove up.

This Christmas, may the Lord that slept in a manger
provide for you rest.

May the God that gives many gifts to all of us
bless you abundantly.

And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true
gratitude for the gift of life.

May you and yours feel the joy of the season,
like a group of recovering addicts
around a campfire on a cold December night

2021 CORI FORM
to be completed by all
volunteers

MORE THAN
HALF OF OUR
VOLUNTEERS
HAVE NOT
BEEN TO THE
RECTORY TO
SIGN THEIR
CORI.

PLEASE
COME
BEFORE 12/31.

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,



LETTER FROM JESUS

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking my name out of the season. How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate my birth, just get along and love one another.

Now, having said that, let me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all my followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish, if you have forgotten my explanation on the grape vine, look up
Jn 15:1-8.

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of my birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:
-Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell me all the time.

-Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares.

-Instead of writing to the president complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up....

-Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

-Pick someone who has hurt you and forgive him or her.

-Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference. (continued on next page)

-Instead of nit-picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

-There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the SVDP or some other charity which believes in me and they will make the delivery for you.

-Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine. Don't forget; I am God and can take care of myself. Just love me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most Blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember: I love you, Jesus.

Words we can all take to heart and put into action at this time of the year.

(Catholic News Service from Today's Catholic -Newspaper of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IND.)

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**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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ATTENTION

**If you scheduled announced Masses
from March 15 to January 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.**

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**JOYOUS CHRISTMAS
TO ONE AND ALL!
Blessings of good health
and safe keeping
during this difficult time!**

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

A Christmas word search puzzle with a decorative border of holly leaves and berries. The grid contains various words related to Christmas. At the bottom, there is a list of words to find:

Bells	Cards	Decorations	Gift	Mistletoe	Pie	Reindeer	Tinsel	Wreath
Candles	Celebrate	Eggnog	Holiday	Noel	Peppermint	Ribbon	Tree	
Candy	Cookies	Fruitcake	Holly	Ornament	Presents	Stockings	Wisp	

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