

INDEPENDENCE DAY



*Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
JULY 5, 2020*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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**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. Cristiano G. Barbosa, 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

218 East Merrimack Street • Lowell, MA 01852

(978) 454-5339 • Fax (978) 454-6593

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

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The Immaculate
Conception
School in Lowell

is now accepting

registrations for

the

2020-2021

SCHOOL YEAR



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest."

Is there anyone to whom this doesn't apply?

Don't we all have to labor at something,
whether it be work, school, relationships, household
affairs, or personal, emotional, or mental battles?
Aren't we all burdened in some way at some time?

Jesus offers us powerful words of consolation in
today's Gospel. He promises us rest.

He calls all of us to himself,
along with the baggage and burdens that we carry,
and assures us that we will find relief. Thank God!

What a gift for our tired, weary souls.

The strange part about the passage, however,
is when Jesus suggests that in order to find this
wonderful rest,

we have to take a "yoke" upon our shoulders.

This of course is a reference to the animal harness of
old that would join two oxen together to share the
weight of the load they carried.

He tells us, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from
me... For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Somehow, joining Jesus in his work is supposed
to bring us rest!

Contrary to the standard belief that not working is
the source of relief,

Jesus urges us to join him in his mission in order to
find peace.

But what is this mission?

To be "meek and humble of heart."

Jesus' work is to do whatever God the Father wants
him to do. As he says elsewhere, "My food is to do
the will of the one who sent me and to finish his
work" (Jn 4:34). So, it seems that if we also humbly
submit to doing God's work-with Jesus right
alongside us as our partner in the task-
we will "find rest" for ourselves.

So as we labor through the trials of the day,
may we bear this in mind,
and pray that we may handle them
according to the will of God.

MASSES
Saturday , July 4th @ 4 PM
Sunday, July 5th @ 10 AM



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,

Blessing for Independence Day

There is a saying,
"To those whom much is given, much is expected."
That saying is from
"Uncommon Wisdom of John F. Kennedy:
A Portrait in His Own Words."
That saying should sum up our thoughts
as we celebrate the founding of our country
. As we look at our history,
we may easily see that much
has been given to this country,
and many have sacrificed to make sure
we have kept those gifts.
However, our faith informs us that
a gift reaches its ultimate good
only when it is given away freely.

We have many gifts,
and our country has a long tradition
of giving many gifts to other nations.
Moreover,
sometimes it seems as if those gifts
are not appreciated.
Nevertheless, we continue to give.
Let us pray for this great country
of the United States of America:

God our Father,
from whom all good gifts come,
we are thankful for rest and food.
Grant that, in all we do or say,
we keep your goodness
always in our thankful hearts.
We entreat you to bless all those
who work to keep us safe,
and ask your blessings on all those who work
to share our blessings
with others around the world.
We ask all this in the name of
our brother and Savior, Jesus.
Amen

