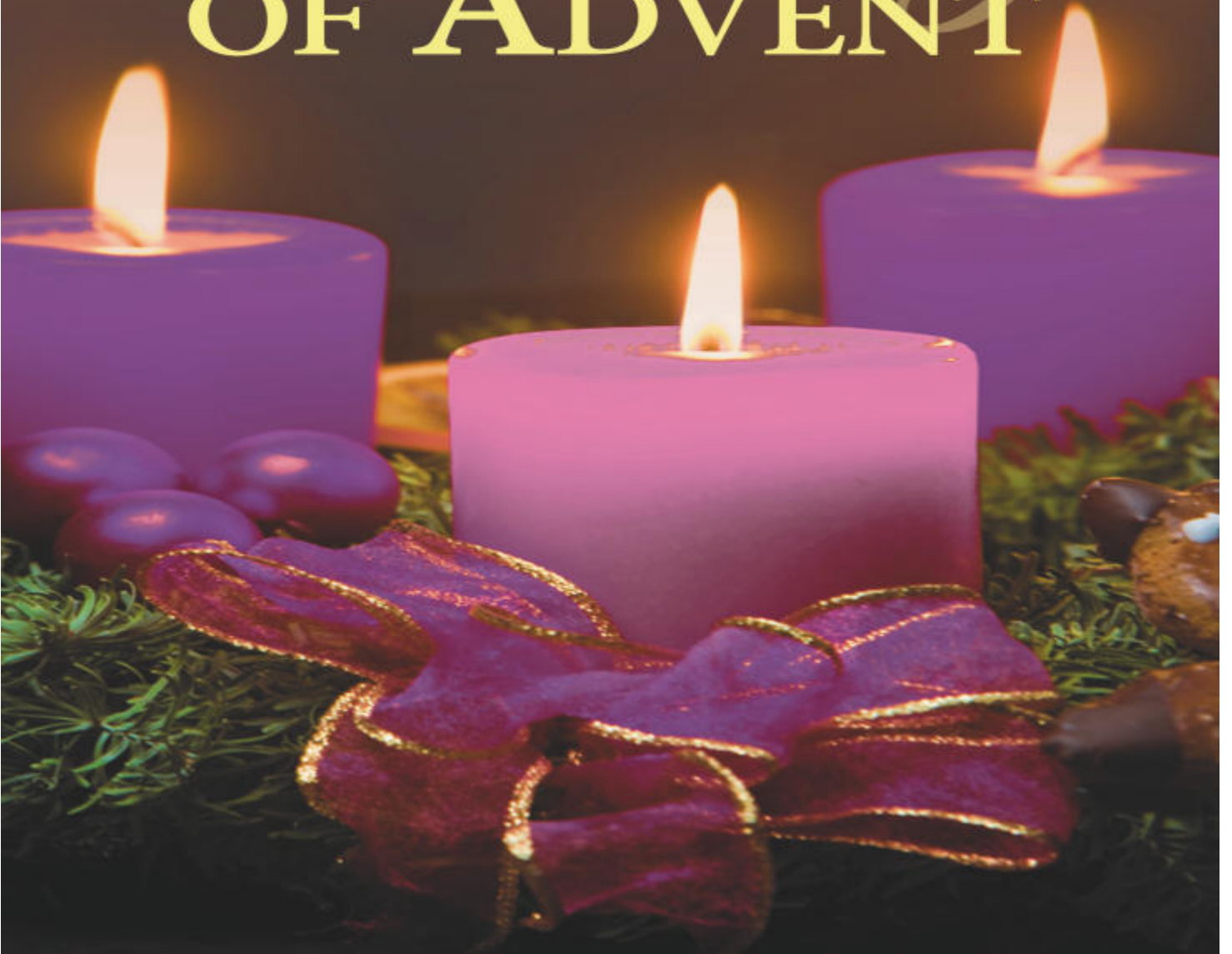


3rd Sunday OF ADVENT



*DECEMBER 12, 2021
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
LOWELL, MA*

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 AM to 3 PM Monday through Friday

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



Mass Schedule

Weekends:

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

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

Children's Choir: 2:00 p.m. Friday in church

Religious Education: Sundays, bi-monthly from 9:00 to 11 AM

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

MISSION SCHOOL STATEMENT

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.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

in the area are seeking teachers, long term subs or daily substitute teachers. If interested, please call Cathy Fiorino at 978-454-5339 or email resumes at icslowell@hotmail.com



ADVENT GIVING TREE FOR BIRTHRIGHT

Every year our parish sponsors an Advent Giving Tree for Birthright. It is heartwarming to see the generosity of our parishioners who contribute to this worthy cause.

Your participation again this year will help the most vulnerable in our society.

New Baby Items are what we are looking for you to donate.

Thank you in advance for your unselfishness



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us.

In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist.

"Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people."

Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching.

If you have two cloaks, give one away.

Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie.

And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Merry Christmas?

Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah!

To understand today's Gospel,

it's important to understand the Jewish people.

For most of their history,

God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel.

They were slaves in Egypt.

Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians.

Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire.

Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people.

While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer.

The truth is,

no one is exempt from John's call to repentance.

We all have further to go in the Christian life.

We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously.

The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts.

Did any of John's warnings resonate with you?

That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

MASSES

Saturdays – 4 PM

Sundays - 8 AM and 10 AM

Saturday – December 18, 2021

4 PM Claire T. Ouimette

Sunday – December 19, 2021

8 AM FOR THE PARISHIONERS

10 AM Raymond Boyle

John J. MacLaughlan, 30th Anniversary
Kenneth Desmarais, 33rd Anniversary
*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

November 28, 2021

Weekly Collection: \$5,096.00

Building Fund: \$3,332.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT TO YOUR
PARISH**

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖



**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
 - Master 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 AF
- NATIONAL GUARD**



Synod on Synodality

Over the coming months, Catholics from around the world will be participating in the Synod on Synodality.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Here in Boston it means that we will be gathering, as parishes and as a diocese to pray to together and to invite the Holy Spirit to help us to listen deeply to one another, and we will talk together about how best to do that.

So, for instance, a parish council may get together and ask “How can we as a parish do a better job of letting the voices of all our parishioners be heard, even those who are not a part of an inner circle or who might be marginalized for whatever reason?”

The archdiocese and the church around the world will be engaging in the same sort of conversation. We pray that the Lord will open our hearts to Him and to all of our people.

The GOAL of the synod is to discuss how the Church listens to, and can listen better to, all her people and draw the voices of all into her prayer, her mission, and her decision-making process on every level.

Immaculate Conception
Religious Education Calendar
2021-2022

Sundays listed below from
9:00 am to 11:00 am
Immaculate Conception School



DECEMBER: 12



JANUARY 2022 09 and 23



FEBRUARY: 06 and 13



MARCH: 06 and 20



APRIL: 03
*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*

The WOMEN'S GUILD sews Baptismal robes for the newly baptized babies. They are in need of a few people to help. All materials will be provided with an easy lesson.

Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Margaret McAnespie at 978-273-5658.

Volunteers,

God Bless Them

*Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgement nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there's no committee chairmen,
No group leaders or car pools.
No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale,
There will be nothing to staple.
Not one thing to fold or mail.
Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners.
And treats fit for a king.
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on Earth.*





Saturday – December 11, 2021

4 PM John Stephan McKenzie

Marie/Mitchell Guziejka
Helen/ Stanley Socha

Mary Ann Garabedian, 2nd Anniversary

Sunday – December 12, 2021

8 AM James B. Reilly

10 AM Karen (Garneau) LeFebvre, 1st Ann.

Donald J. Pearsall, 28th Anniversary

Raymond J. St. Hilaire, Sr., 18th Ann.
Dorothy L. St. Hilaire, 3rd Anniversary



CHRISTMAS MASSES

December 24

2 PM – 4 PM – 6 PM

December 25

8 AM – 10 – 12 NOON

December 26

8 AM – 10 AM – 12 NOON



Our ANNUAL Calendar Raffle for January 2022 was mailed out to you in mid-November.

So far the response has been very encouraging. Thank you! However, if you have not received your twelve calendars and would like to support us, please let us know and we will be happy to mail them out to you.

Please return the tickets you can't sell in the collection basket.



St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul is an organization that provides person to person services to the needy in our parish.

We are currently seeking new members. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please call the rectory at 978-458-1474

and leave a message for SVDP President

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