

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

- Lk 1:43-45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*DECEMBER 19, 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](http://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

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## 4th Sunday of Advent

### MISSION SCHOOL STATEMENT

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!



### 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](mailto: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

The average American will spend more than they can  
afford this year on Christmas gifts.  
Most Americans will also take on some credit debt this  
Christmas in order to get their loved ones  
all the gifts they want.  
Of course, all of this spending is in the name of Jesus,  
the reason for the season, right?

Even good stewards can easily get sucked into excessive  
spending at Christmas time.

We have been programmed by our culture to see the  
season as the time for giving better gifts than at  
any other time of the year.

But the reality is that Christmas should be seen as a time  
where those outward things matter the least,  
and what really matters is the reality of family and the  
experience of Christmas traditions together.

But we have to be mature disciples to see it that way.

As everyday stewards we need to give gifts with greater  
meaning rather than a bigger price tag.

We are accountable to God for each dollar we spend,  
so we need to spend wisely.

Also, I doubt Jesus has any desire to be used as the  
reason why your credit card bill is so high.

God becoming man is a complete example of gift giving.  
God gave to us his only Son so we might have eternal life.

It had nothing to do with money,  
and everything to do with giving completely of one's self.

Christmas gifts are good and important traditions,  
but it is the giving of ourselves to one another that truly  
identifies the real reason for the season.



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**

**MASSES**

**Saturdays – 4 PM**

**Sundays - 8 AM and 10 AM**

**Friday – December 24, 2021**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**2 PM – 4 PM – 6 PM**

**FOR THE PARISHIONERS**

**Saturday – December 25, 2021**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8 AM – 10 AM – 12 NOON**

**FOR THE PARISHIONERS**

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**WEEKLY COLLECTIONS**

**December 5, 2021**

**Weekly Collection: \$4,354.00**

**Flowers: \$2,727.00**

**Immaculate Conception: \$721.00**

**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. Army .....Vicenza, 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
- MacDillAF **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



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 benefis  
And not once volunteered on Earth.*

✧✧✧✧✧✧✧✧✧✧



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



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.



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, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Kenneth Desmarais, 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦

**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 26**

**8 AM – 10 AM – 12 NOON**

**FOR THE PARISHIONERS**

✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦

**NEW COVID DIRECTIVES**

As of December 18/19, 2021

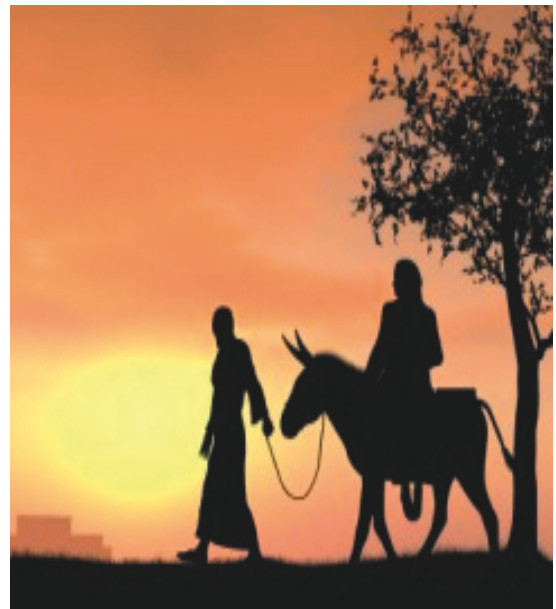
Cardinal Sean is mandating  
all people attending public Masses,  
including weddings and funerals,  
wear masks.

Expires January 17, 2022.

Mass celebrants, deacons, lectors,  
servers, choir members, and should  
wear masks except when they are  
speaking.



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.  
✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦✦



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