

Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at
www.icworc.com and Facebook

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 2:45 - 3:45 PM

(or by appointment)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents and godparents of infants to be baptized are expected to participate in a preparation session. Call the Rectory to register for this process and set a date for the actual Baptism. For Baptism of adults please contact the Rectory.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact the rectory one year prior to your desired wedding date

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Father Walter can be called whenever someone can benefit from this sacrament of healing.

PROTECTING OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a priest, religious or lay person working for the Church, and you want to share feelings of hurt or betrayal, call Cathaleen Peloquin, Victim Services Coordinator, Office of Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363 (direct, confidential line).

RECTORY ADDRESS

353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605

Phone: 508-754-8419

Fax: 508-306-9718

Religious Education Phone: 508-868-8119

Rectory Hours: M: 9:30am-1:30pm, T: 9:30am-1:30pm

W: 9:30am-1:30pm, F: 9:30am-1:30pm

MOST REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS, **Bishop of Worcester**

REV. WALTER RILEY, **PASTOR**

REV. ENOCH KYEREMATENG, **IN RESIDENCE**

KEVIN DEIGNAN, **PERMANENT DEACON**

FRANK MYSKA, **PERMANENT DEACON**

MARY SYCKS, **ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTER**

C. HENRY MASON, **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

BRIDGET KLOFFT, **CANTOR**

ROBERT NOBERINI, **PARISH OFFICE MANAGER**

MATTHEW FOSTER, **PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

LYNDA MONAHAN, **SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	Jan 20	4:00 PM	Diane Schoen, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Jan 21	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	Edward F. Kennedy, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Jan 22	9:00 AM	(Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children)
Tues.	Jan 23	9:00 AM	(St. Marianne Cope; St. Vincent)
Wed.	Jan 24	9:00 AM	(St. Francis de Sales)
Thurs.	Jan 25	8:00 AM	Patricia McManus, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Sat.	Jan 27	4:00 PM	John W. Davis, Jr., 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Jan 28	7:30 AM	Irvin "Buddy" Gorinson, 11th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Henry Ciborowski, 2nd Anniversary, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #955 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

WINTER FUEL COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Envelopes for our annual Winter Fuel Collection may be placed into the first collection basket at all Masses this week. With this being such a cold winter resulting in higher fuel costs to keep the Church warm, we ask that all parishioners consider making a donation toward this important annual collection to help offset the cost of heating the Church. For those who do not receive envelopes but benefit from the warm Church, please consider making a donation and marking it "Winter Fuel Collection." Thank you for your generosity to this collection that stays in our Parish.

RCIA CLASSES FOR 2017-2018 AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Classes for this year's RCIA Program have begun. They are held on Monday evenings from 6:30 -7:45 p.m. in the rectory. The next class will be January 22. These classes are for any adult (16 years or older) who has yet to receive what we call the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist), meaning full initiation into the Church. This can be someone who has yet to be baptized, or baptized in a faith tradition not recognized by the Catholic Church, or an individual who has been baptized in the Catholic Church or validly baptized in another faith tradition, but has yet to receive Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation. For anyone who is uncertain about any of the possible situations that exist in their own spiritual life, or that of someone they know where there is an absence of any of the 3 above Sacraments, please speak with Fr. Riley at Mass or call the rectory at 508-754-8419. Each year the RCIA program leads adults to full initiation into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass, which will be March 31, when the reception of the Sacraments will take place.

OPEN HOUSE FOR ST. MARY SCHOOL, SHREWSBURY

Saint Mary School Open House Events for the 2018 - 2019 School Year will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28 from 1 – 3 pm and on Thursday, Feb. 1 from 8:30 am – 10:30 am. Saint Mary School is located at the corner of Main and Summer Street at 16 Summer Street in Shrewsbury. For more information, please contact our Admissions Director, Cheryl Dolan at Cheryl.Dolan@stmarysparish.org or 508 842-1601. Visit www.stmarysparish.org/school/ to learn more.

OPEN HOUSE AT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, WEBSTER

On Sunday, Jan. 28 the St. Joseph School community will gather to kick-off Catholic Schools Week with Mass at 9:30 a.m. celebrating National Migration Week, followed by an Open House from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. showcasing our students' work. This year's theme is, "The Winter Olympics." There will also be food & entertainment. A second Open House will also take place on Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 5 - 7 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE AT VENERINI ACADEMY, WORCESTER

Venerini Academy Winter Open House will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28 from 12:15-2 pm and on Monday, Jan. 29 thru Friday, February 2 from 9-11 am. Call 508-753-3210 X 7310 to arrange to visit our campus. Meet our parents, teachers and students.

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Parish Activities Committee will be serving food, refreshments and camaraderie in the Coffee Shop after the 7:30 am & 10:00 am Masses Sunday Jan. 21, Feb 4, and Feb 18. Consider coming down to join us for a cup of hot coffee in the cold weather, along with some delicious choices of food, be it a sandwich, donuts, muffins, and other selections from the food table.

There will be a Parish Activities Committee meeting on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018 at 8:30 am in the coffee shop to decide if we will host an Irish Dinner in 2018. All parishioners interested in giving their opinion on having a dinner are welcome to attend. The Committee is also interested in who we can help the community.

NOTRE DAME BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Greif is a normal response to a loss and is unique to each person. when a loved one dies, our lives are forever changed. There is neither a right or wrong way to express grief, be it depression, anger, or guilt. Notre Dame Healthcare, 555 Planation Street, holds a Bereavement Support Group the first Tuesday of every month in their Educational Center from 6:00-7:30 p.m. For more information call Peggy Arcouette, Bereavement Coordinator, at 508-852-5505, extension 1142.

PAPAL STATEMENTS ON MERCY

THE CIVILIZATION OF LOVE: "His (Paul VI) was certainly a social teaching of great importance: he underlined the indispensable importance of the Gospel for building a society according to freedom and justice in the ideal and historical perspective of a civilization animated by love. Paul VI clearly understood that the social question had become worldwide and he grasped the interconnection between the impetus towards the unification of humanity and the Christian ideal of a single family of peoples in solidarity and fraternity. In the notion of development, understood in human and Christian terms, he identified the heart of the Christian social message, and he proposed Christian charity as the principle force at the service of the development. Motivated by the wish to make Christ's love fully visible to contemporary men and women, Paul VI addressed important ethical questions robustly, without yielding to the cultural weaknesses of his time."

Pope Benedict XVI

OPEN HOUSE AT ST. PETER CENTRAL CATHOLIC

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, 865 Main St, Worcester, will host an Open House on Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. St. Peter's has openings in Grades Pre-K-7. For more information call 508-791-6496, or visit their website at www.stpetercentralcatholic.com.

UR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA TRIP TO POLAND

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Worcester is sponsoring a pilgrimage to Poland and Prague from July 16-31, 2018 with Fr. Richard Polek, in the footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Faustina Kowalska, and St. John Paul II. The all-inclusive cost, with three meals a day, is \$3,290.00. detailed itinerary can be requested in the parish office at 34 Ward St, Worcester, MA, or by calling 508-577-5959, or online at www.olcworchester.com. For more information or to register please call Christine at 508-865-9390.

Religious Education Religious Education classes take place Sunday, January 21st at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades K-6, 7:00PM-8:00PM for children in grades 7-8 and 7:00PM-8:15PM for students in grades 9, 10 and Confirmation Class.

Inclement weather policy ~ For cancellations of Religious Education classes due to weather conditions please check the Immaculate Conception website or Facebook Page. You can also call the Office of Religious Education at 508-868-8119.

Star Students of the Week Our Students of the Week are Rocco Gagliastro and Mitchell White!

Rocco is a fifth grade student in our Religious Education Program. He was nominated by his teacher, Mrs. Tardie. Rocco always has homework completed and participates in class with thoughtful questions and answers. He attends Mass and participates in the Children's Christmas Pageant. Rocco works on how to live our Catholic faith every day.

Mitchell is a Confirmation Candidate in our Religious Education Program. He was nominated by his teacher, Mr. Sycks. Mitchell attends Mass weekly and volunteers to help lead our children at the Children's Liturgy. He is a good kid that participates in class and is helpful to everyone. Mitchell is a great example of living our faith.

Congratulations Rocco and Mitchell!

HOPE FOR HOUSING FOOD CARDS

Please consider purchasing food cards for the purpose of helping to stop homelessness here in Central Massachusetts. 5% of each card purchased will be donated by the participating grocery chain, while the purchase receives the full value of the card that is purchased. The money raised from this ministry has helped to prevent hundreds of families from being homeless, a situation that no one in our country should have to experience. Last week at Immaculate Conception our parishioners purchased \$410.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

NEW DEACON INTERN AT OUR PARISH

There will be a new face in the sanctuary beginning this weekend at many of the Sunday Masses. Michael Cahill, who is studying for the Diaconate for the Diocese of Worcester, will be joining us here at Immaculate Conception for an internship for the approximately 6 months in preparation for his ordination. Mike comes to us from Our Lady of Providence Parish at St. Bernard's Church on Lincoln Street (the other side of the tracks, and Fr. Riley's home Parish), a lifelong parishioner at that Parish. Mike is a very spiritual, genial, and most kind person. Please welcome him to our Parish when the opportunity arises in the coming weeks, and keep Mike in your prayers as he begins the final phase of the Diaconate program that leads to Holy Orders. May God bless Mike and keep him as he learns many of his future responsibilities from both of our Deacons, Kevin Deignan and Frank Myska.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS TO BE LEFT BEHIND (Mk 1:18): "Do you hesitate about your business and professions for the sake of your children and parents? it has been demonstrated to us in Scripture that any too dear relations, crafts and trades are to quite left behind for the Lord's sake. For James and John, called by the Lord, immediately leave behind both father and ship. Matthew is roused from the toll-booth. Even burying a father was too tardy a business for faith! None of those whom the Lord chose to him said, 'I have no means to live.'" *Tertullian (160-220)*

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Every state that adopts such horrific measures of how we deal with the value of life puts a smile on the face of Soros, and a frown on the face of Jesus our Christ.

God bless the many thousands who travel many miles to walk the walk of life in our nation's capital on the anniversary date that our Supreme Court lost its head and moral compass in 1973 by legalizing the practice of abortion. God bless the marchers for showing courage and prudence when addressing God's greatest gift; that of human life, and defending it through voice and peaceful action. And may God strengthen those in Ireland opposing the strong force and big pocketbooks of those who seek to infiltrate the good conscience of the Irish people, attempting to lead them down a path of self-destruction and demeaning the dignity of human life, as we pray for Mr. Soros and those who do his bidding, such as Amnesty International.

Peace, Fr. Riley

JOIN THE NATIONAL NOVENA FOR LIFE SPONSORED BY THE USCCB

9 Days for Life is a focused period of prayer, penance, and pilgrimage set aside to mark the tragic anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion during all nine months of pregnancy. The novena will take place nationwide from January 18 through 26, 2018. During this time, all are invited to participate by joining together with thousands of Catholics across the country in prayer for a new intention each of the nine days. Visit www.9daysforlife.com to learn more and to download a free app for your smartphone or to sign up for daily emails or text messages with each day's prayer intention. Your prayers matter! Your sacrifices make a difference!

CONSIDERED A VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD?

Come and learn more. The Diocese of Worcester's annual discernment retreat, directed by Bishop McManus, will be held on March 23 & 24. This retreat begins 6 pm Friday and ends 6 pm Saturday. It is for men high school age, college age, and older. The retreat center is only 30 minutes from Worcester at the Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT. There is no cost, and transportation is provided if needed. Visit worcester-vocations.com for more information. Contact Fr. Jim Mazzone at jmazzone@charter.net or call 508-340-5788 to sign up.

FRIDAY FASTING AND INTENTION

We thank all our parishioners who continue to fast for one meal and abstain from meat each Friday as we commemorate our Lord's saving act on that day. This wonderful Catholic tradition is reemerging, calling us to be mindful of our Lord's crucifixion every Friday of the year. Such a particular awareness in our lives can only deepen our faith and love in Christ. As we fast and abstain, we do so each week for an intention that is to us on a local, national, or world level, always effecting our faith. Next Friday's intention is *for those who support abortion, that God's grace will touch them to see the dignity of all human life and convert them to the truth of Christ.*

THRIFT SHOP SALE IN WORCESTER

Winter Stock \$5.00 Bag Sale will be held at St. Stephen Thrift Shop, 20 Hamilton St., Worcester. Sale runs from January 16-February 17 (earlier if stock runs out) Fill one of our large shopping bags for \$5.00 (some exclusions apply, see store for details) Store hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9 AM- 2:30 PM and Saturday -8:30 AM - 4 PM. Reminder: If school is cancelled due to weather, the Thrift Store is closed.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th THE 5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm: 95

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 01/14/18

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 4,054.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 186.00
Catholic University	\$ 63.00
Candles	\$ 20.00

FROM THE PASTOR

I read a recent article in a religious newspaper on the topic of the legalization of abortion in Ireland. Thus far, Ireland has remained true to its Catholic roots in that she, as a nation, has not turned toward secular ways in her moral choosing, for the most part. Ireland is still identified as a predominantly Catholic country in its thinking and culture, although, not unlike America, less and less families attend Sunday Mass, which is the heart and soul of our faith.

When in Ireland this past September, our two Sunday places of worship for the two Sabbath's we spent in the old country were Churches well attended by numerous families and individuals. One Church was just outside Dublin, the capital of Ireland, and the other was in Belfast in Northern Ireland. I flew across the ocean with the impression that no one in Ireland is going to Church anymore. I've heard this spoken from a few people who go back and forth from the U.S. to the country of green more than once a year. What I saw was better than what I was expecting regarding attendance, but most likely is nowhere near what attendance used to be not so long ago. The abuse crisis in the Irish Church has taken its toll on the Irish Catholic heart, mind, and will.

What this does, be it the sexual abuse crisis or any type of spiritual crisis that affects the entire population of a nation, is that it opens the door much wider for the possibility of secular thought and ways, i.e., abortion, to make headway into the daily life, in this case, of the Irish people. The article I refer to mentioned something quite similar to what has been happening in Massachusetts in reference to Physician Assisted-Suicide, where money and people from outside our state have attempted to influence the people of Massachusetts through lies, false and deceitful definitions of compassion, and furthering a secular ideology that strikes at the heart of faithful Christian teaching and living.

In the case of Ireland, money from outside the land of St. Patrick, in this case from the Soros Foundation, is being poured into Ireland through Amnesty International with the purpose of doing all they can to make abortion legal there. This is what organizations like the Soros Foundation and Amnesty International live for. Quite honestly, I'm reminded of how the devil works through people; that when an individual, group, or even an entire nation is at a weak moment, for whatever the reasons may be, these organizations see such moments as a time to strike hard and kick people when they are down, forcing their sick and twisted beliefs into the laws of a country that has never known such laws that support the killing of an innocent human being. I pray, as I hope you do, that such attempts will be turned back and rejected always. The Irish people have a proud history of defending the truth of the dignity of human life, while those in the likes of Soros and groups who take his money radically support death and violence.

Here in America we have our own issues with the never-going-away topic of abortion. This past Friday in Washington, D.C. was held the annual March for Life, attended each year by hundreds of thousands of men, women, teens, and families who come out, not for the likes of George Soros and his attempts at spreading violence to the unborn and elderly, but for Jesus Christ and his Kingdom of life and hope. There are Catholics who would like nothing better than to stick the issue of abortion under a rug so they can sleep peacefully at night, especially more than a few Catholic politicians. "Leave it alone," they think, "and all will be fine." No it won't! The goodness and worth of a nation is measured first and foremost by how we treat our most vulnerable and needed citizens. As a nation, we do well in many areas regarding our care for the those in greatest need, but we fail miserably with the unborn child, and, as more and more states accept Physician Assisted Suicide, our goodness and worth is traveling a downward spiral.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Jan 20	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jan 21	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jan 22	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jan 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jan 24	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jan 25	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Jan 27	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jan 28	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

CURSILLO WEEKENDS

Cursillo or "short course in Christianity" is an uplifting and educational experience. The weekend is facilitated by a team of laypeople and clergy who deliver organized talks and discussions. Our 2018 dates are: Men's: February 22-25 & June 14-17; Women's - May 3-6 & October 25-28. All weekends will be held at the Immaculate Conception Spiritual Renewal Center in Putnam, CT. For additional information, please contact Sue Leighton at 508-278-3155 or sleighton1958@gmail.com.

SIGN OF PEACE

It's the time of year again when colds and sniffles are all around us. For those who have a cold or not feeling 100% healthy, we recommend you refrain from physically passing on the sign of peace during Mass with a handshake. Your neighbor will thank you. For those who are not physically offered the sign of peace by someone sitting near you, don't take it personally. They are saving you from getting their sickness. Thank you to all for being considerate in this matter.

**YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER
AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!!**

Name _____

Address: _____

**City
& Zip** _____

Phone _____

Envelopes yes ___ No ___

Number of People in Household _____

**PLEASE, TEAR THIS OFF AND PLACE IN THE
COLLECTION BASKET! THANK YOU!**