

# Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at  
[www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com) and Facebook

## 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**

## 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)

## WEEKDAY MASSES

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM**

**THURSDAY 8:00 AM**

## NEW PARISHIONERS

Anyone is welcome to join the Parish Community.

Please contact the Rectory and introduce yourself.

## 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).

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sat.	Jan 27	4:00 PM	John W. Davis, Jr., 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Jan 28	7:30 AM	Irvin "Buddy" Goranson, 11th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Henry Ciborowski, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Jan 29	9:00 AM	Rev. Edward T. Connors, 32nd Anniversary, from Parish Family
Tues.	Jan 30	9:00 AM	Lynn Finn, Month mind, from Family
Wed.	Jan 31	9:00 AM	Rita Elie, Month Mind from Family
Thurs.	Feb 01	8:00 AM	Mary O'Brien, Month Mind from Family
Sat.	Feb 03	4:00 PM	Doris Piscitelli, Kathleen Piscitelli and Michael Piscitelli, Anniversary Mass, from Family
Sun.	Feb 04	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	T. Francis Killeen, 2nd Anniversary, from Family

**THIS WEEK** the text for The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #958 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**TAX STATEMENTS FOR 2018**

Any parishioner who wishes to receive a statement of contributions for 2017 for tax purposes can do so by calling the rectory at 508-754-8419 during business hours found on the front of the bulletin, by emailing the rectory at icworc@live.com, or stopping by the rectory during business hours.

**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 29. 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.

**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 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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**ON THE EUCHARIST**

"The safeguarding and promotion of ecclesial communion is a task of each member of the faithful, who finds in the Eucharist, as the sacrament of the Church's unity, an area of special concern. More specifically, this task is the particular responsibility of the Church's pastors, each according to his rank and ecclesiastical office. For this reason the Church has drawn up norms aimed at fostering the frequent and fruitful access of the faithful to the Eucharistic table and at determining the objective conditions under which communion may not be given. The care shown in promoting the faithful observance of these norms becomes a practical means of showing love for the Eucharist and for the Church.

*St. John Paul II, from Ecclesia de Eucharistia (Encyclical)*

**WINTER FUEL COLLECTION THANK YOU**

Thank you to all our parishioners who contributed to the annual winter collection for fuel. This collection helps to offset the cost of fuel for our Church. With this year being an exceptionally cold winter thus far, the cost for heating the Church has been higher than in past years. For anyone who has not made a contribution to this important collection for our Parish, please consider doing so over the next few weeks. As always, thank you for your generosity.

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE COMING UP**

Ash Wednesday this year, which begins the Season of Lent, is next week on February 14, the day that married couples go out to dinner for Valentine's Day with ashes on their foreheads. Masses for Ash Wednesday, February 14 will be held at 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

**WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM The Joy of Love**

**FAMILY LIFE AS AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING:** "Nor is it good for parents to be domineering. When children are made to feel that only their parents can be trusted, this hinders an adequate process of socialization and growth in affective maturity. To help expand the parental relationship to broader realities, 'Christian communities are called to offer support to the educational mission of families,' particularly through the catechesis associated with Christian initiation. To foster an integral education, we need to 'renew the covenant between the family and the Christian community.' The Synod wanted to emphasize the importance of Catholic schools which 'play a vital role in assisting parents in their duty to raise their children... Catholic schools should be encouraged in their mission to help pupils grow into mature adults who can view the world with the love of Jesus and who can understand life as a call to serve God.' For this reason, 'the Church strongly affirms her freedom to set forth her teaching and the right of conscientious objection on the part of educators.'" Par. 279

**Religious Education** Religious Education classes take place Sunday, January 28th 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 Braedy McGuire and Thomas White!

Braedy is a sixth grade student in our Religious Education Program. She is a pleasure to have in class and contributes to the classroom discussions on our faith and how we can live our faith on a daily basis. Braedy enjoys being an altar server and has helped train new altar servers. She is a great big sister and helps out at home. She continues to develop a strong catholic belief.

Thomas is a seventh grade student in our Religious Education Program. He was nominated by his teacher, Mrs. Haggan. He is described as kind in the community and always has a smile on his face. He shares his thoughts on our faith with his classmates. Thomas attends Mass weekly with his family and has helped his neighbors shovel snow for no fee. Thomas is a strong representation of our Catholic Faith. Congratulations Braedy and Thomas!

**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 \$160.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**RETREAT FOR POTENTIAL PRIESTLY CANDIDATES**

Have you thought of 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 at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. It is for men high school, 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. Contact Fr. Jim Mazzone at [jmazzone@charter.net](mailto:jmazzone@charter.net), or by phone at 508-340-5788 to sign up.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP IN WEST BOYLSTON**

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish will hold a six-session bereavement support group beginning, Monday, Feb. 19, 1 – 2:30 pm. in the Parish hall, 111 Worcester St., West Boylston. For more information or to register (required prior to the start of the sessions) call Renate Isbell (508) 835-3286.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“The measure of a man’s love for God depends how deeply aware he is of God’s love for him. When this awareness is keen it makes whoever possesses it long to be enlightened by the divine light, and this longing is so intense that it seems to penetrate his very bones. He loses all consciousness of himself and is entirely transformed by the love of God. such a man lives in this life and at the same time does not live in it, for although he still inhabits his body, he is constantly leaving it in spirit because of the love that draws him toward God.”

*Diadochus of Photice, Bishop (400-486)*

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

He is the One we are to look to for uniting parties that are fractured and broken. It is Him who has united the world through his sacrificial blood.

Don’t get so caught up in the brokenness of our world to the point where we ever forget what Christ invites us to. His hand is always the better hand, one that never deceives. There is no sleight-of-hand with the Savior of the world. Thus, we continue to pray for Christian unity. Not only for the Church to come together in Christ, but also for the Church’s moral influence and voice to be heard so that others may experience the same unity that comes from God, even an entire government made up of two fractious sides.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**VISITATION HOUSE TOTAL**

Although a little late in its arrival, we received from Visitation House our Parish’s total from baby bottles that were passed out back in October, and collected into November. The total collected amounted to \$3351.00, which was up from \$2181.00 the year before. Thank you to all who participated in this collection in 2017, helping to support this most-needed ministry of life right here in our city. May God bless our Parish with his countless blessings for assisting so generously in this program that serves the Gospel of Life.

**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 our Religious Education Program in our Parish, for teachers and students to share and embrace our Catholic faith in unity and joy.*

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NIGHT AT THE RAILERS**

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 3 for the Diocese of Worcester Night at the Railers. We will be celebrating Trax’s Birthday and our Catholic Schools. Come hear students from Our Lady of the Angels School sing the National Anthem, students from Our Lady of the Valley School sing God Bless America and students from St. Anna School sing America the Beautiful! Tickets are \$15. Proceeds will go to our participating Catholic Schools. Also, don’t forget to visit us on the concourse and get your Chuck-A-Puck! All seats are in Section 106, normally \$25. To purchase tickets for \$15, visit [railers.isportstix.com/order/seats/119/](http://railers.isportstix.com/order/seats/119/), and enter the Group Code: DioceseWorcester, if prompted.

**OUR 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 3 meals a day, is \$3,290. 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.olcworcester.com](http://www.olcworcester.com). For more information or to register please call Christine at 508-865-9390.

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

1st Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7  
 Psalm: 147  
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23  
 Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 01/21/18**

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 3,248.00
Winter Fuel	\$ 1,811.00
Catholic Free Press	\$ 39.00
Catholic University	\$ 25.00

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

This past week we celebrated the Week of Christian Unity. Each year at this time our Church recognizes, before all, the common Baptism of Christians who profess God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And to be baptized into those exact words.

Unity is a goal for most of us, I'm sure, since very few people I know desire separation and strife. The people I know and love, whether Catholic or otherwise, are people who seek peace in this world, which, of course, is perfect preparation for what's to come, where perfect peace will be known forever. For those we may know or hear about those who seek to separate others through violence and consistently harsh words (sounds like the world of politics), we do our best to avoid falling into the traps they set for ourselves. Listening to negative people too much of the time will easily turn us away from the goal of Christian unity, as well as a sense of peace for ourselves. I'm certain this is why news programs no longer appeal to me personally. Between slanted ideologies and lack of decency and honesty, hiding behind a smile and a fancy suit, it's enough to want to reach your hand through the television and.... Well, you know what I mean. Fr. Connors and the humble holes in his shoes is very appealing at such times.

The goal of Christian unity is to bring people together for the sake of Christ's message of love of neighbor. Our present world is constantly fighting this message of unity, as have all generations. But the goal of our Church, as well as most other Christian denominations, is to bring a level of peace and sanity to the craziness that can easily surround us. This is why prayer is so essential for our lives. Prayer allows us some quiet time with the Lord, offering him heartfelt thoughts and emotions through petition and at times a deep groan. One of my favorite Scriptural verses is Romans 8:26, where St. Paul instructs the Romans of how the Spirit aids us in our weakness, interceding for us through "inexpressible groanings." There are times when I consider the groan the most heartfelt prayer I pray during the course of an entire day. No need to say the words; God knows what's already in the heart.

As I write this column, our government has decided to shut down, a far cry from Christian unity, understanding that not all politicians are Christian. Even if they were, it would probably make no difference. I don't know about you, but when the government shuts down for a time, as it seems to every so often, there's a part of me that says I wish they would keep their doors closed for a while. The country will run just fine without all the red tape, bureaucratic messes, and the ridiculous, childish blame-game. But then my better part kicks in and says that government is needed by many people who depend upon the good services provided through tax dollars, as well as companies dependent upon the continuous flow of finances through contracts and such that effect their employees.

The point here being that disunity, even in politics, affects the lives of people in adverse ways. But how can the Christian Church preach unity to a group of mad politicians if we ourselves are not united in the Savior of the world? Which tells me that the gift of unity in this life must begin, not with government entities represented by men and women more concerned about their personal success, but in the Church of Christ best seen in the light of Jesus' words, "So that they may be one" (John 17:21).

In the first reading this week from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses speaks the following words to the Israelites; "A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin." This Prophet has been raised up, and in more ways than one. God raised up this Prophet through the Virgin's womb, then raised him again after being in a tomb for three days, and raised him a third time to the heights of heaven where he now intercedes on our behalf. This Jesus we worship and consume in the Eucharist is the Source of all unity and peace.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Jan 27	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jan 28	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jan 29	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jan 30	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jan 31	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Feb 01	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Feb 03	2:30 PM 2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Rosary Confession Mass
Sun.	Feb 04	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**18th ANNUAL DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE AT ASSUMPTION COLLEGE**

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Assumption College on Saturday, March 17. Visit the conference website at [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org) for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Father David Cavanagh, Robert Rogers, Ryan Tremblay, and Elvis Grbac. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Sara Smillie at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until February 28, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

**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!**