

Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at
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.	Mar 03	4:00 PM	Richard Riley, Sr., 17th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Mar 04	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	Delores H. Lang, Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Mar 05	9:00 AM	Michael Greaney, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Tues.	Mar 06	9:00 AM	Raymond and Coralie Lajoie, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Wed.	Mar 07	9:00 AM	(<i>Sts. Perpetua and Felicity</i>)
Thurs.	Mar 08	8:00 AM	(<i>St. John of God</i>)
Sat.	Mar 10	4:00 PM	
Sun.	Mar 11	7:30 AM	James L. McDonald, Anniversary Mass, from Tom Kelly
		10:00 AM	Deborah Arnoff, Anniversary Mass, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for The 3rd Sunday of Lent, may be found at #910 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

ANNUAL BLACK CATHOLIC GOSPEL MASS

St. Peter’s Church in Worcester proudly hosts the annual Black Catholic Gospel Mass on Sunday, March 4 at 5:15 p.m. The principle celebrant for the Mass will be Bishop Robert McManus, to be joined by Boston’s Black Catholic Gospel Choir. All are invited.

ON THE EUCHARIST

“Like the woman who anointed Jesus in Bethany, the Church has feared no ‘extravagance,’ devoting the best of her resources to expressing her wonder and adoration before the unsurpassable gift of the Eucharist. No less than the first disciples charged with preparing the ‘large upper room,’ she has felt the need, down the centuries and in her encounters with different cultures, to celebrate the Eucharist in a setting worthy of so great a mystery. In the wake of Jesus’ own words and actions, and building upon the ritual heritage of Judaism, the Christian liturgy was born.

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

LENTEN REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Lenten fast and regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows: Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid food between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

MEN’S CONFERENCE TICKETS AVAILABLE

Our Parish Activities Committee has donated 10 tickets to the upcoming Men’s Conference at Assumption College on Saturday, March 17. There are still 6 tickets that remain for this day of coming together with 1200 men and listen to five outstanding speakers from around the country and talk about their Catholicism. The tickets include a lunch that will be served. If you have any interest in attending, please speak with or contact Fr. Riley.

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE IRISH DINNER SAVE THE DATE!

Our Parish’s annual Irish Dinner will be held this year on March 17 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. It’s an opportunity for us this year to hold our dinner on the actual date of the feast of St. Patrick. Live music will be provided that evening by John Riley, a skilled guitarist with a breadth of knowledge of Irish songs and culture. Tickets for adults will be \$10.00, for children \$7.00, and families of five or more \$30.00. ***Tickets will be on sale the next 2 Sundays after each Mass.*** There will be a 50/50 raffle as well as door prizes to be given away. The Activities Committee will be collecting donations of Irish baskets for the raffle from anyone who wishes to donate. This is a BYOW event (Bring Your Own Wine). Also, if anyone can volunteer to help set up the Fr. Connors Center for the dinner on the 17th, please call Jim Hester at 508-852-3473, or email bevhester13@gmail.com. Thank you.

INVITATION TO DAILY MASS DURING LENT

There is a standing invitation to all parishioners to come to any or all of our weekday Masses during the Season of Lent. This longstanding tradition in the Church (daily Mass attendance during Lent) comes to us down through the ages, inviting us to experience God’s word and Eucharist as we prepare for Easter. For anyone who has the capacity and time to share with us your presence at Daily liturgy from Monday-Thursday, we would love to have you, even if only one day during the week. Please think about incorporating this into your schedules if possible. Thank you, Fr. Riley.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

GOD IS SPIRIT: John 4:24a: “God is of an incorporeal nature and cannot be circumscribed into any one place. Rather, he is everywhere, and it is necessary that he be worshipped according to this understanding. The true worshipper is the one who honors him with the right intention and believes with a pure conscience that everywhere he can speak with the one who is incomprehensible.”
Theodore of Mopsuestia (c350-428)

HOLY HOUR AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

Each Friday during the Season of Lent, our Parish will be holding our annual Holy Hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to come and spend some time with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration, and walk the way of the Cross in preparation for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Holy Hour and the Stations will begin this Friday, February 16.

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 the safety of all children, youth, and teens to study in an environment that is safe and productive for their learning.*

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Cartons for Operation Rice Bowl can be found at each entrance to the Church. For those who participate in this Lenten program, we invite to place coins in the carton and we will collect them at the end of Lent, and forward the total to Catholic Relief Services. The money collected is used to serve the needs of the poor in America and throughout the world, and those who struggle through natural disasters.

TRIP TO ITALY IN SEPTEMBER

Fr. Donato Infante, Associate Pastor at St. Joseph in Charlton, is leading a pilgrimage to Fatima and Rome from September 21-30 with Deacon Steve Kohut of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Worcester. The trip coincides with the annual diaconate ordination in Rome, at which a Worcester Seminarian, Alfredo Porras, is on track to be ordained. If you are interested in joining or seeing the itinerary, go to the website <http://www.johnpaultours.com/sjcc>.

Religious Education Religious Education classes take place Sunday, March 4th 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.

Star Student of The Week Our Student of the Week is Mathew DeHoratius! Mathew is a sixth grade student in our Religious Education program. He was nominated by his teacher, Mr. Borowy. Mathew is an enjoyable classmate who contributes to the discussions in the classroom. He is an altar server and has participated in the Children's Christmas Pageant. Mathew and his family attend Mass weekly and are devoted members of our parish. Congratulations Mathew!

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 \$375.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

PRAYER SHAWLS

We have a few prayer shawls in our possession that we would like to give out to anyone who feels the need of having one. Or, if you know of someone who may be dealing with cancer or any other disease and would benefit from the comfort and peace of a prayer shawl, please speak with Fr. Riley. We thank the Prayer Shawl Group at Our Lady of Good Counsel in West Boylston for making and donating the beautiful work of their shawls to us.

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, or by phone at 508-340-5788 to sign up.

CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

As a community of faith, please keep in your prayers those who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation to be received at the Easter Vigil this year on March 31. We have two adults and four children and youth preparing to receive their respective sacraments on that night. Our responsibility as a community is to pray for the Spirit to continue to touch their hearts as they move closer to the joy of full communion into the Church.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 02/11/18

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 4,006.00
Winter Fuel	\$ 35.00
Church in Latin America	\$ 25.00

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 11th, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading: Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
 Psalm: 23
 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
 Gospel: John 9:1-41

From the Pastor continued from the following page

U.S. Grant need not be our model in this regard. Jesus is our model for all virtues, as well as his Holy Mother. But becoming familiar with certain historical figures and what made them "great" in their lives, we learn how to address adversity by way of moving forward, eventually bypassing bitterness and hatred, moving into the better world of love and forgiveness. Less grumbling on our part, for those of us who need such awareness, is a positive step in the right direction toward the good things of heaven, and sharing them here in this world.

Peace, Fr. Riley

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION ON TUESDAY EVENINGS

For the remainder of the Lenten season, Fr. Riley will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation each of the next 4 Tuesdays (March 6, 13, 20, and 27) in the Church from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

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 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.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY FOR 2018

Our Parish has now begun the Partners in Charity campaign for 2018. Thank you to parishioner and Chairman Bill Stanton for kicking off Partners in Charity with last week's talk on the importance of this Diocesan campaign, with the 29 agencies our Diocese serves throughout the year from this annual drive. As our Chairman stated last Sunday, the Diocesan goal is 5 million dollars, while our Parish goal remains at \$88,500. Ways to make a donation on behalf of Immaculate Conception are: 1) filling out an envelope that can be found in each pew, and either placing it into the collection basket any given Sunday, mailing it to the Parish, or mailing it directly to the Diocese of Worcester at 49 Elm St, Worcester, MA 01609 in care of Partners in Charity. Donations can be made either by check or credit card; 2) going online at www.partners-charity.net, and follow the easy instructions thereafter, which more parishioners are opting to do for their donation. Donations can be spread out over the course of 10 months to make it easier for all families and individuals in our Parish to give. Please consider doing so. If you have any questions about this year's campaign, please speak with either Bill Stanton or Fr. Riley. Number of donors and the total amount donated to date will be placed in our bulletin in the upcoming weeks. Thank you, and we hope to have another successful Partners in Charity campaign this year, as we have in each of the past years.

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM *The Joy of Love*

PASSING ON THE FAITH: "Raising children calls for an orderly process of handing on the faith. This is made difficult by current lifestyles, work schedules and the complexity of today's world, where many people keep up a frenetic pace just to survive. Even so, the home must continue to be the place where we learn to appreciate the meaning and beauty of the faith, to pray and to serve our neighbor. This begins with baptism, in which, as St. Augustine said, mothers who bring their children 'cooperate in the sacred birthing.' Thus begins the journey of growth in that new life." Par. 287

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Our food pantry is on the lesser side of goods at this time, so we ask any parishioners who wish to help out to consider purchasing items such as Spaghetti sauce, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, rice, canned tuna and all vegetables, and canned dry fruit. Thank you to all who assist our small but important food pantry that helps to serve the needs of those who come to our door each Monday.

FROM THE PASTOR

I recently finished reading a mammoth book (almost 1000 pages) on Gen. U.S. Grant titled Grant. I doubt if anyone will ever write book titled Riley. If they do, it won't reach 100 pages, never mind a thousand.

I've always admired much of what General Grant has stood for in reference to the American Civil War, while understanding all the whispers of historians and others that his 8-year run as President from 1869-1877 was filled with corruption, not on his part, but of those in his administration. After reading Grant, most people, I believe, would admire him, discovering that Grant himself was as honest as the sunshine. He just didn't know how to vet out many who would go on to serve in his administration, having a trusting side to him where he expected all others to be as honest as himself. There existed in his personality a strong level of naivete, where he would defend a friend to such a degree that went far beyond the norm.

During the course of his life, as the book explains so well, U.S. Grant was a man who was taken advantage of, amazingly, time after time. He was taken advantage of verbally by a number of army officers, and later, Civil War Generals, prior to his becoming their "boss." Generals who wanted to destroy his reputation as a fighter and a winner, many times harping on his drinking habits in attempts to destroy him. Jealousy played a huge role in their backbiting.

He was also taken advantage of financially, just one example being Grant losing his life savings a few years after his Presidency, being used by a family friend in a way that today we would call a Ponzi scheme. The only upside to his financial ruin late in life resulted in the good of Grant writing his memoirs to leave some financial stability behind for his family, which it did go on to do, as well as much fodder for historians since. (His 2-volume memoir sold over 250,000 copies, an amount unheard of at the time, published by a company whose ownership included Mark Twain. Twain literally kept a close eye on Grant as he wrote his memoirs, as Grant raced to finish his writing and beat the painful cancer that ravaged his mouth before taking his life. Smoking 20 cigars a day over the years led to the oral cancer. He finished his memoirs less than two weeks before his death.)

The part of Grant's life that stood out for me as I read this massive book was his capacity (or personality) to move on without bitterness in his heart, after so many trials and attacks. When being told of negative news, whether personal news or that of battles, Grant remained stoic. He could have been the perfect Irishman. Instead of grumbling and complaining about the way life dealt him blow after blow, Grant would move forward with the part of his personality he became famous for; a bulldog mentality. In U.S. Grant, there was no time for complaints and negative conjecture. He had a big problem with Generals who complained, rather than finding a solution that served the given situation. In this, he was the perfect General for President Lincoln.

Which begs the question, "Are we the perfect Christian for Christ?" "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect," says Jesus in the Gospel. As we move into the 3rd week of Lent, approaching the halfway point of our desert time, one possible focus of our ongoing conversion could be letting go of any grumbling that we feel the need to do. Granted, some complaining is fruitful, bringing about satisfactory results, but most of it isn't. My spiritual instincts tell me that being a grumbler goes against our faith much more than it serves Christ the Lord. We see this in the 1st reading this week from Exodus. The Israelites are grumbling against Moses, having brought them out to the desert to die, so they think. No matter how many miracles God performs in their midst, they still find a way to grumble about something. It's an anti-God magnet they keep returning to.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Mar 03	2:30 PM 2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Rosary Confession Mass
Sun.	Mar 04	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Mar 05	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Mar 06	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Rosary Mass Confession
Wed.	Mar 07	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Mar 08	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	Mar 09	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Holy Hour Stations of the Cross
Sat.	Mar 10	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Mar 11	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

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.

**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!**