

# 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**

## WEEKDAY MASSES

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

**THURSDAY 8:00 AM**

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 2:45 - 3:45 PM

(or by appointment)

## 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 31	7:15 PM	Robert F. Kelleher, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Apr 01	7:30 AM	Mary E. Early, Anniversary Mass, from Tom Kelly
		10:00 AM	
Mon.	Apr 02	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Apr 03	9:00 AM	The Deceased Members of the Riley, Filipkowski and Fiore Families
Wed.	Apr 04	9:00 AM	Maureen Janulewicz and Gayle Haley
Thurs.	Apr 05	8:00 AM	
Sat.	Apr 07	4:00 PM	Jonathan Stukowski, 4th Anniv., Genevieve A. Burke, 4th Anniv., from Family
Sun.	Apr 08	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	Donald Letendre from Family

**THIS WEEK** the text for Easter Sunday, may be found at #922 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**ON THE EUCHARIST**

“Priests who faithfully celebrate Mass according to the liturgical norms, and communities which conform to those norms, quietly but eloquently demonstrate their love for the Church... If we wish to rediscover in all its richness the profound relationship between the Church and the Eucharist, we cannot neglect Mary, Mother and model of the Church. In my Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, I pointed to the Blessed Virgin Mary as our teacher in contemplating Christ’s face, and among the mysteries of light I included the institution of the Eucharist. Mary can guide us toward this most holy sacrament, because she herself has a profound relationship with it.”

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

**EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP McMANUS**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
As the grieving women walked to the tomb in the pre-dawn darkness of Easter Sunday, their companion was not only grief but worry. How would they remove the stone that blocked the tomb so they could anoint Jesus’ body?  
When they arrived at the tomb the women found the stone removed. To their amazement, they also found much more—an angel and the announcement that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Overjoyed, the women ran to announce the good news to the disciples.

That evening, two of the disciples were leaving Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus. Grief and disappointment hung over them as they discussed the events of the last three days. Just as worry about the stone distracted the women from recalling Jesus’ promise, the events of Good Friday, shattering their hopes, prevented the disciples from believing the women’s report.

Many times worries and disappointment over the immediate events of life cause us distraction. When that happens, do not forget Christ’s promises. Do not forget history’s greatest event, Christ’s resurrection.

The women’s worry about the stone proved to be a trifle. God would move the stone. The expectations of the disciples on the road to Emmaus were inconsequential when compared to God’s plan fulfilled in Jesus. When the angel told the women that Christ’s promise was fulfilled, they were overjoyed. When Jesus enlightened the disciples about the prophecies of Scripture, their hearts burned. The women’s worry and the disciples’ disappointments were utterly dispelled by the joy of the Resurrection.

May we live in the light of Easter—full of hope and anticipation. May we never let our worries or disappointments distract us from the realization that God’s love provides us with the means to overcome every fear and to live in the confidence that God’s promises will exceed our most fervent hopes.

With every prayerful best wish for a joyous Easter, I remain  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Robert J. McManus*

Bishop of Worcester

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**PROOF NO THEFT OCCURRED:** John 20:5-7: “The cloths lying within seem to me at once to furnish also a proof that the body had not been taken away by people, as Mary supposed. For no one taking away the body would leave the linens, nor would the thief ever have stayed until he had undone the linens and so be caught. And at the same time they establish the resurrection of the body from the dead. For God, who transforms the bodies of our humiliation so as to be conformed to the body of Christ’s glory, changed the body as an organ of the power that dwelt in it, changing it into something more divine. But he left the linen cloths as superfluous and foreign to the nature of the body.”

*Eusebius of Caesarea (263-339)*

**BUS TRIP TO HART'S TURKEY FARM & "EVITA" MUSICAL**

Bus Trip to Hart’s Turkey Farm & “Evita” Musical in Meredith, NH. Thursday, July 12, Depart Immaculate Conception Church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. (be there at 8:15). Trip includes lunch and musical. Select lunch: Roast Turkey, Sirloin of Beef, or Baked Haddock. We’ll see the Lakes Region Theatre’s production of “Evita” and visit the Kellerhause Ice Cream Shop. Cost is \$89 per person. Registration deadline is June 1. Send check payable to FOX TOURS, with your name, phone number, parish name AND lunch choice to Michelle Deignan, 227 St. Nicholas Ave., Worcester, MA 01606. Questions? Call Michelle at 508-853-0820 or [mmdeignan@charter.net](mailto:mmdeignan@charter.net).

**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 family members dealing with the loss of a loved one*.

**OPERATION RICE BOWL**

A box has been left at the side entrance to the Church on the rectory side for those participating in Operation Rice Bowl on behalf of Catholic Relief Services. Funds will be forwarded to our Diocese after Easter, who in turn will forward them to CRS. Thank you to our parishioners who choose to participate in this annual Lenten collection that helps to address the needs of the world’s poor, those dealing with natural disasters, and numerous other needs that our Church addresses throughout the world.

**CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES**

Congratulations to our Catechumens and Candidates receiving the Sacraments of Initiation this Saturday at the Easter Vigil. We have in our Parish a few adults, teens, and children receiving the Sacraments at this holy Mass. May God bless each of them as they move forward in faith, knowing that the Spirit of Christ guides them each day, and sharing their faith with others in their lives.

**Religious Education** There are no Religious Education Classes on Sunday, April 1st. Classes resume on Sunday, April 8th.

**Immaculate Conception Annual Easter Egg Hunt** Please join us on Easter Sunday following the 10:00AM Mass for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The egg hunt will take place on the church grounds. Bring your own basket!

**Star Student of the Week** Our Student of the Week is Avery Gendron! Avery is a second grade student in our Religious Education Program. She was nominated by her Religious Education teachers, Mrs. Hermance and Mrs. Jalbert for her exemplary participation in class. Avery is an excellent reader and loves to add to the classroom discussion on our faith. She attends Mass weekly and helps her Mom with her new baby sister. Congratulations Avery!

**Prayer Cards for Confirmation Candidates** Please visit our display of the Confirmation Candidates located near the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the candidates in your prayers as they begin at this time a more focused study and deeper meaning of their Catholic faith. As they prepare for their reception of the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, April 8th at St. Paul's Cathedral, may we rejoice in their dedication, devotion, and hard work as they prepare to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**BRINGING COMMUNION TO OTHERS**

Anyone in our congregation bringing Holy Communion to another person outside of Mass must bring their pix to the sacristy prior to the start of Mass so a host can be placed into the pix at the altar. If this timing is missed for some reason, then please bring your pix to the priest or deacon after Mass is finished. This is to avoid placing Communion in a pix at Communion, which is not the proper time for doing so. Anyone with any questions about this procedure, please feel free to speak with me. Thank you, Fr. Riley

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IN CHARLTON**

On Sunday, April 8, Celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy at St. Joseph Church, Charlton. Mass (Sun. 8am, 10am, 5pm, Sat. 4:30 pm) Confession (Sat. 3-4 pm and Sun. 11:30 - 12:30 pm, 2-4 pm) Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image (all day) Adoration (6:30 am - 4 pm) Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet (6:30 am, 9 am, 3 pm) Stations of the Cross (St. Faustina's Way of the Cross at Noon) Reflections from St. Faustina's diary, and music Spend an hour with Jesus. Receive His gift of infinite Mercy!

**MASS FOR LIFE AT ST. PAUL'S ON MONDAY, APRIL 9**

The annual Mass for Life in our Diocese will be held on the Feast of the Annunciation on Monday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral in Worcester. This celebration is normally held on March 25, the usual Feast of the Annunciation, but because of Holy Week this year, the feast has been moved to the first Monday after the Octave of Easter. All are invited from our Parish, as Fr. Riley will be receiving the Gospel of Life award at this Mass.

**THANK YOU TO OUR HOLY WEEK MINISTERS**

Thank you to all our ministers who assisted during this past week's services for Holy Week. For those who served as Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, extra readers for Palm Sunday Masses, and all of our dedicated Altar Servers, as well as our music ministry, thank you for making Holy Week a time of spiritual growth and walking with the Lord the final days of his life.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 8th, SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts 4:32-35  
 Psalm: 118  
 2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1-6  
 Gospel: John 20:19-31

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

Even though I never got to know Al Agurkis personally in this world, I know he prays for his family and Parish family in the place we call "better." Better than here, for sure. But also better in the sense that Christ is raised up, and so are we with him. May God bless all our parishioners on this most holy day. May you sense the truth that God has a whole flock of others waiting for us on the other side of death, a reunion that is impossible to comprehend presently, but nonetheless most real. Happy Easter.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**WALK FOR THE HOMELESS -SAVE THE DATE**

The Annual Walk for the Homeless is a treasured and family-friendly community event that benefits programs of Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Friendly House, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and St. John's Food for the Poor program. For more information visit [www.cmhaonline.org](http://www.cmhaonline.org) or if you'd like to sign up for the WALK go to, [www.walkforthehomeless.org](http://www.walkforthehomeless.org). WALK date is May 20, 2:00 pm at Elm Park in Worcester.

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY FOR 2018**

Our Parish has now begun the Partners in Charity campaign for 2018. For 2018, our Parish goal remains at \$88,500, the same as last year. Ways to donate 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](http://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, our Partners in Charity Chairman, or Fr. Riley. Thus far, our Parish has had 98 donors totaling \$59,475 dollars, reaching 67% of our Parish goal. Thank you, and we hope to have another successful Partners in Charity campaign this year, as we have in each of the past years. - Fr. Riley

**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 \$40.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**EMMANUEL COLLEGE DOROTHY DAY LECTURE FEATURING RAZIA JAN**

On Sunday, April 22 at 1 pm, Emmanuel College Dorothy Day Lecture featuring Razia Jan will be held at 400 the Fenway, Boston. Razia Jan, a fearless advocate for girls and women in her native Afghanistan, will speak on her Razia's journey from immigrant to Massachusetts businesswoman to humanitarian and philanthropist. Through her Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation, Razia established a girls' secondary school and the first private women's community college in Afghanistan.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 3/25/18**

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 4,162.00
Spring Fuel	\$ 190.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 10.00

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

We had a Funeral Mass at our Parish a couple of weeks back for a 95-year old gentleman named Al Agurkis. Al grew up on the hill across the way, on one of the small streets that make up the quaint neighborhood that touches on the railroad tracks before entering to the other side, the Lincoln Street side, where yours truly was born and raised. Al was a lifelong parishioner at Immaculate Conception, being present for years at the old Church on Prescott Street, years before Fr. Connors arrived at that address, eventually moving the Church's home to its present address.

In approaching 8 years of being Pastor of this Parish, I can't remember meeting Al. I know he attended Mass each week, but I suspect he left through the other entrance at the end of Mass, the entrance where you don't have to say hello or goodbye to the priest. Al was faithful to his Catholic faith, he and his wife Peggy raising their family in the Church, having a Mass said annually for his grandson Nicholas who was tragically killed a handful of years ago before I arrived. He comes from what is familiarly known as The Greatest Generation, where love for God, family, and country pretty much defined their lives. It's a definition that is hard to top. His service in the Second World War in the U.S. Navy took him to places around the globe, especially to Alaska, keeping a close eye on the Russians. Al would go on to tell stories to his family about his exploits in Alaska during this time, the same stories over and over again, which his family came to make light of in the best of ways, having a deep love for their father and grandfather.

When I think about someone like Al Agurkis, or any one of the many good people who have died from this life to enter eternal life since my time here began, I think of how filled with joy they must be, experiencing the "new condition" that God created for us in the raising of his Son from the dead. Granted, they are still only part-way there. Their souls have come before the Lord, souls that are waiting for the return of Christ a Second Time, and for Him to raise their bodies from the grave or wherever else, and reunite the body and soul to form the eternal perfection of the human person. Even though we believe and hope their souls are in God's merciful presence forever, there remains a "shadow" to their present eternal existence in that the fullness of their condition is not yet realized. The "shadow," if you will, will become clear as a bell when our bodies are reunited when the Lord returns "from the clouds."

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of this new life. He has gone before us to open the one and only way of eternal happiness, and as the Son of God, fully human and fully divine, only he could accomplish what is impossible for every other person. Only he, the one born in a Bethlehem stable, and raised in Nazareth by a loving Mother and Step-Father, can offer us a gift that is so far beyond our present understanding. Even the most faithful believer in the world, whoever they happen to be, cannot behold what God has won for us through his beloved Son. We trust in what we believe; we trust there's something incredible waiting; we trust that 95 years of living is not the end of the story, or any other age; and we trust that God is faithful and will deliver this eternal package to us as well as the best UPS driver in the world.

On Easter Sunday, I think about all the holy souls, all the good, faithful people who have died since arriving at Immaculate Conception in July, 2010, and how they now enjoy the vision of their Creator in a way that still awaits the rest of us. I've been very blessed to preside at many of their Funeral Masses, trusting that through the power of the Liturgy, which we rightfully place so much emphasis on *for every Catholic*, they have arrived safely with angelic assistance into the presence of Jesus, who lives forever.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Mar 31	7:15 PM	Easter Vigil
Sun.	Apr 01	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Apr 02	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Apr 03	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Apr 04	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Apr 05	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Apr 07	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Apr 08	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**ST. BERNARD'S KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS FREE HOT DOG AND BEANS DINNER**

The St. Bernard Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a FREE Hot Dog and Beans Dinner, Saturday, April 14th at 5pm in the Gym (Harlow Street). Parishioners, friends, relatives, and neighbors are invited to join together for a friendly community dinner, raffles and fun!

**RETREAT OPPORTUNITY IN CHARLTON**

Saint Joseph Retreat Ministry is having a day of reflection on May 19 from 8:30 am to 2 pm. There will be Mass, several talks, lunch, and discussion time. To register visit <https://stjosephscharlton.com/retreat-ministry>

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

A SPIRITUALITY OF SUPERNATURAL COMMUNION:  
“We have always spoken of how God dwells in the hearts of those living in his grace. Today we can add that the Trinity is present in the temple of marital communion. Just as God dwells in the praises of his people, so he dwells deep within the marital love that gives him glory.” Par. 314

**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!**