

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.	Apr 14	4:00 PM	Joseph and Gertrude Deignan, from Family
Sun.	Apr 15	7:30 AM	Richard A O'Connor, from Family
		10:00 AM	John and Helen Murdock, from the Murdock Family
Mon.	Apr 16	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Apr 17	9:00 AM	<i>(Easter Weekday)</i>
Wed.	Apr 18	9:00 AM	<i>(Easter Weekday)</i>
Thurs.	Apr 19	8:00 AM	<i>(Easter Weekday)</i>
Sat.	Apr 21	4:00 PM	Alicia and Henry Michalak, from Family
Sun.	Apr 22	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	Dot Consolmagno, 2nd Anniversary, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for 3rd Sunday of Easter, may be found at #925 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

SPRING SCRIPTURE PROGRAM

Everyone is invited to participate in a program on St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians to be held on four Tuesdays during May from Noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Church basement. The dates are May 1, 8, 15, and 22. Fr. Riley and Dr. Frank McGuire will serve as discussion leaders. Second Corinthians is one of St. Paul's major letters in which he proclaims beautifully what it really means to "put on Jesus Christ." Moreover, in this letter, he lets us know just how difficult it can be to live out our commitment to Jesus Christ. His words, backed up by his example, afford a rich source of consolation and strength for anyone who seeks to imitate Christ. Feel free to bring your lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. We look forward to your joining us.

ON THE EUCHARIST

"If the Eucharist is a mystery of faith which so greatly transcends our understanding as to call for sheer abandonment to the word of God, then there can be no one like Mary to act as our support and guide in acquiring this disposition. In repeating what Christ did at the Last Supper in obedience to his command "Do this in memory of me!" we also accept Mary's invitation to obey him without hesitation: 'Do whatever he tells you.' With the same material concern which she showed at the wedding feast of Cana, Mary seems to say to us: 'Do not waver; trust in the words of my Son. If he able to change water into wine, he can also turn bread and wine into his body and blood, and through this mystery bestow on believers the living memorial of his Passover, thus becoming the 'bread of life.'"

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

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM *The Joy of Love*

A SPIRITUALITY OF SUPERNATURAL COMMUNION: "A positive experience of family communion is a true path to daily sanctification and mystical growth, a means for deeper union with God. The fraternal and communal demands of family life are an incentive to growth in openness of heart and thus to an ever fuller encounter with the Lord. The word of God tells us that 'the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, and walks in the darkness;' such a person 'abides in death' and 'does not know God.' My predecessor Benedict XVI pointed out that 'closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God,' and that, in the end, love is the only light which can 'constantly illuminate a world grown dim.'" Par. 316

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.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

TWO EXCUSING CIRCUMSTANCES: Acts 3:17: "As he had been hard on them and had shown that he whom they crucified had risen, he now relaxes, by giving them the power of repentance: 'And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.' This is one ground of excuse. The second is of a different kind. As Joseph says to his brothers, 'God sent me before you.' In the earlier speech Peter had briefly said, 'This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.' He enlarges upon that here: 'But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he thus fulfilled.'"

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, 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 115 donors totaling \$75,515 dollars, reaching 85% 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 \$100.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

BRINGING COMMUNION TO OTHERS

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

Religious Education There are no Religious Education Classes on Sunday, April 15th. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 22nd at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades K-6, 7:00PM-8:00PM for children in grades 7-8. 7:00PM-8:15PM for students in grades 9 & 10 and Confirmation Class.

First Communion Prayer Cards A number of children in our parish will share in an event of great joy for them and the entire Catholic Community. On Saturday, May 5th, they will receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. They and their families have been preparing for this sacrament for some time now, learning what the gift of Eucharist is about and what it means to share that gift with others. Please visit our display of the First Communion Class located near the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the children in your prayers as they take the final steps in preparing for the sacrament of First Holy Communion.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Last Sunday, April 8 at St. Paul’s Cathedral, our Confirmation students received the Sacrament from Bishop McManus alongside many other recipients from other parishes in the Diocese. It was a grand celebration for all involved. We thank our Administrator of Religious Education Mary Sycks for her hard work and preparation over the past 6 months with our class of 11th graders. Thank you also to Stephen Sycks for sharing his much wisdom and knowledge of the Catholic faith in his teaching role for another Confirmation year, as well as appearances for one class by Sr. Janet Provost, a Sister of St. Joseph, Dr. Frank Mcguire and Dr. Christopher Klofft, both of our Parish, sharing their much wisdom and knowledge of the faith with the students. May God’s holy blessings be upon our Confirmands as they continue to “work for the Lord” as they grow in their faith and share in the ministry of the Church. Those confirmed were: Devin Benoit, Megan Dickie, Connor Donoghue, Patrick Hassett, Caitlin Holmberg, Annabelle Huffman, Malik Rouse, Trevor Vigeant, and Mitchell White.

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 have a difficult time forgiving others, may God’s grace be upon them and lead them to a better spiritual place.*

EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES

Envelopes for Easter flowers have been placed at each entrance to the Church. These envelopes will be placed on our altar throughout the Easter Season, remembering loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. Also, the donations help to offset the cost of the many beautiful flowers placed in our sanctuary for Easter Sunday and beyond. Thank you.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Some memories of being in the Holy Land ten years ago remain quite vivid, such as being on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus appeared for the 3rd time to his Apostles who were busy fishing. I could sense that day that we were in the very same area where our Lord said to them, “Come, have breakfast.” It’s the same invitation we all hope to have extended to us in the place where true peace is known, and rest is eternal. My hope is to make such vivid memories even more vivid, memories that can be shared with others to help possibly build up their own faith in the Risen One.

As Fr. Enoch cares for the good souls of Immaculate Conception for just over one week, please keep us travelers in your prayers that we have a safe and spiritual trip. May God’s holy blessing be upon our Parish and its people, always living the truth that, Yes, HE IS TRULY RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

Peace, Fr. Riley

PARTNERS IN CHARITY WITNESS

When I spoke at all the masses back on the Partners kickoff weekend in late February, I mentioned I had a personal connection with some of the agencies that Partners supports. One such agency is Catholic Charities which oversees the Mercy Centre in Worcester.

Back in the mid 1980’s I used to coach many of the Mercy Centre clients in softball games against teams from other organizations. The games were great for developing self confidence and socialization skills for the clients. The clients and their families had so much fun at these games and appreciated the experience very much.

This is an example of the great work that Catholic Charities accomplishes each and every day when we support Partners in Charity. Please consider making a donation if you haven’t done so already.

If you have any questions about the campaign feel free to speak with Bill Stanton, the Partners in Charity chairman, or Fr. Riley.

Thus far our parish has raised a total of \$75,515 dollars from 115 donors. We have reached 85% of our goal.

Thank you for your support. - *Bill Stanton*

WALK FOR THE HOMELESS MAY 20TH, AT ELM PARK

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 or if you’d like to sign up for the WALK go to, www.walkforthehomeless.org. WALK date is May 20, 2:00 pm at Elm Park in Worcester.

“MISGIVING” IS COMING TO WORCESTER

Our Lady of Providence Parish will host “Misgiving” on Saturday, May 12 in the Gym at St. Bernard Church, 228 Lincoln St., Worcester. The one-man show is a “divine” comedy of bellylaughs, blessings, blarney and bingo! Begins with a Social hour at 5 pm, Dinner is at 6 pm and Showtime is 7 pm. Tickets are \$25 and there will be a 50/50 raffle. For reservations or information contact Renee Jalbert at the Parish Office at 508-755-3820.

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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd, THE 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Psalm: 118

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 4/8/18

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 4,013.00
Easter	\$ 380.00
Good Friday/Shrines of the Holy Land	\$ 115.00
Spring Fuel	\$ 35.00

FROM THE PASTOR

I thank Fr. Enoch for covering Masses this Sunday at our Parish. No, I'm not away in mourning because this is the date of Abraham Lincoln's death. I got over that a few years ago when I was blessed to be able to say a Mass for him on the 150th anniversary of his death back in 2015. This is the nice thing about time with the Lord; there is none. God knew on April 15, 1865, when President Lincoln's life came to an end at 7:22 a.m. on that day, Holy Saturday in 1865, that Fr. Riley was going to say a Mass for him in the year 2015. And that the benefits of such liturgy assisted in the better judgment of Abraham Lincoln's soul, and eventual resurrection. I have no doubt Mr. Lincoln will thank me personally one day in the joy and glory of God's presence.

Instead of mourning Lincoln, a group of us are blessed to be in the Holy Land for a quick week of walking in the footsteps of our Lord. From places like Nazareth, where Jesus grew up in the presence of Mary and Joseph, and many relatives also, to Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus told Simon his name was now Peter, which means "Rock," and upon Peter's rock the Church of Jesus Christ would be built so that the gates of hell will never prevail against it. Many attacks have been thrust upon the Church since the first Pentecost, both from outside and within, and such attacks continue in our day, and will continue until the end of time. Just make sure you are never, ever a participant in such attacks. Their source is the Devil, and he won't stop using people's wayward hearts until the damage is complete. What the Devil will never accept is the truth that God's Church can never be destroyed, being led by the Spirit Himself, protected by the prayers of the likes of Mary and all the Saints who love the Church Jesus established.

From the north of Israel, the bus ride will come south halfway into the trip, to the city of Jerusalem, a city, like Worcester, of seven hills. Has Jesus ever wept over Worcester like he wept over Jerusalem when he realized what they were going to do to him? We pray that Worcester is a city where Christ is welcomed into our institutions and homes. Political correctness has done a number on our Lord's presence within certain areas of life. Don't be a participant in such misguided secular principles that reject the presence of God anywhere. It's His world; He created it; we use it for a short time; He still owns it after we're gone.

In Jerusalem, and just outside the city, our group will be blessed with the opportunity to visit some holy sites, such as the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus sweat blood due to his great anxiety over his impending Passion and death. Taking on all the sins ever committed in the history of the world, and all the sins that will be committed, one can understand why such a weight would result in the Lord sweating his precious blood prior to spilling it during his scourging, his crown of thorns, and crucifixion.

Also, we will visit the site of the well-known Visitation between Mary and Elizabeth, pregnant cousins carrying one holy man who will be named John, the other carrying the Son of God. At this holy site will be the grace of presiding at Mass for our group at the Church of the Visitation. And of course, in Jerusalem, we will be blessed to visit and perform the Sacred Liturgy at the Church of the Sepulcher, the site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Other names that are familiar to Gospel readers are places like the Mount of Olives, Solomon's Portico, the Pool of Bethesda, the town of Jericho, (hopefully the walls don't come tumbling down), the Western Wall of the original Temple that was destroyed in the year 70 A.D., Masada and the area of the Dead Sea, where our group will float on the salt waters of the Dead Sea, unable to sink. Also, back up north will be a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and please pray a storm does not come up like it did on the Apostles, as well as the hill where Jesus spoke his famous Beatitudes.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Apr 14	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Apr 15	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Apr 16	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Apr 17	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Apr 18	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Apr 19	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
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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>

**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.

**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!**