

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.	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
Mon.	Apr 23	9:00 AM	Quyen Nguyen, Month Mind, From Family, <i>(St. George, & St. Adalbert)</i>
Tues.	Apr 24	9:00 AM	<i>(St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen)</i>
Wed.	Apr 25	9:00 AM	<i>(St. Mark, Evangelist)</i>
Thurs.	Apr 26	8:00 AM	Rich, "Okie" O'Connor, 1st Anniversary
Sat.	Apr 28	4:00 PM	Alfred Porcaro, 1st Anniversary, & Joan Porcaro, 4th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Apr 29	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	Margaret and Daniel O'Brien, Requested by Daughters

THIS WEEK the text for 4th Sunday of Easter, may be found at #928 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

"In a certain sense Mary lived her Eucharistic faith even before the institution of the Eucharist, by the very fact that she offered her virginal womb for the Incarnation of God's Word. The Eucharist, while commemorating the passion and resurrection, is also in continuity with the incarnation. At the Annunciation Mary conceived the Son of God in the physical reality of his body and blood, thus anticipating within herself what to some degree happens sacramentally in every believer who receives, under the signs of bread and wine, the Lord's body and blood. As a result, there is a profound analogy between the Fiat which Mary said in reply to the angel, and the Amen which every believer says when receiving the body of the Lord. Mary was asked to believe that the One whom she conceived 'through the Holy Spirit' was 'the Son of God.' In continuity with the Virgin's faith, in the Eucharistic mystery we are asked to believe that the same Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, becomes present in his full humanity and divinity under the signs of bread and wine." *St. John Paul II, from Ecclesia de Eucharistia (Encyclical)*

FIRST COMMUNION PRAYERS

As a Parish, please keep in your prayers our First Communion Class who will be receiving the Sacrament in a short two weeks on Saturday morning, May 5. A heartfelt thank you to their teachers Joanna Jalbert and Nicole Hermance for sharing their time and wisdom with the children since this past September. May God all our 2nd-graders as they continue to prepare for their big Sacramental day of receiving the Lord for the first of many times over the course of their lives.

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 Kellerhouse 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

SALVATION IS NOT IN ANY OTHER: Acts 4:12; "If the salvation of the world is in no other but in Christ alone, then the fathers of the Old Testament were saved by the incarnation and passion of the same Redeemer, by which we also believe and hope to be saved. For although the sacramental signs differed by reason of the times, nevertheless there was agreement in one and the same faith, because through the prophets they learned as something to come the same dispensation of Christ which we learned through the apostles as something which had been done. For there is no redemption of human captivity (to sinfulness) except in the blood of him who gave himself as a redemption for all." *Venerable Bede (673-735)*

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 123 donors totaling \$79,490 dollars, reaching 90% 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 Religious Education classes take place Sunday, April 22nd 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 Rory Carpenter! Rory is a first grade student in our Religious Education Program. He was nominated by his teacher, Ms. O'Brien. Rory always volunteers to read in class. He cultivates a positive classroom environment by always being friendly and outgoing to all the students in class. He attends Mass every week with his family and lives his faith every day. Congratulations Rory!

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM *The Joy of Love*

GATHERED IN PRAYER IN THE LIGHT OF EASTER: "If a family is centered on Christ, he will unify and illumine its entire life. Moments of pain and difficulty will be experienced in union with the Lord's cross, and his closeness will make it possible to surmount them. In the darkest hours of a family's life, union with Jesus in his abandonment can help avoid a breakup. Gradually, 'with the grace of the Holy Spirit, (the spouses) grow in holiness through married life, also by sharing in the mystery of Christ's cross, which transforms difficulties and sufferings into an offering of love.' Moreover, moments of joy, relaxation, celebration, and even sexuality can be experienced as a sharing in the full life of the resurrection. Married couples shape with different daily gestures a 'God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the risen Lord.'" Par 317

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 and protection of all police officers and firefighters in our city and all local communities.*

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Jesus is the good shepherd and laid down his life for us that we may have new life. Give your marriage new life by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are May 19-20, 2018 in Warner, NH and Jun 9-10, 2018 in Medway, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

YOUNG ADULT THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next Young Adult Theology on Tap will take place on Tuesday, May 1 at Compass Tavern located at 49 Harding St. in Worcester. The event is open to all young adults ages 18-39. Join us for food and drinks, community, and a discussion on a topic of our faith. Doors open at 6:30 for food and drinks. The speaker will begin around 7:15. For more information go to www.neworchester.org/young-adult-events.

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>

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Police are more like football players who tackle the criminal. Or better yet, they send the dog in, which scares the daylight out of any lawbreaker.

May God grant eternal rest to both Paul Campbell and Ed Russell, one a dedicated police officer who rose through the ranks, succeeding in his profession, the other a dedicated firefighter who had a heart for saving life. In their own way they brought the resurrection of Christ to those they served in our city. To perform any act of self-sacrifice is to mimic that of our Lord and Savior. And for this, we give thanks to Him who is our Creator and biggest Supporter.

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. Thank you for your support. - **Bill Stanton** -

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

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.

HELP FIGHT PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN WORCESTER

Just weeks ago, Planned Parenthood, our nation's largest abortion mill chain, announced plans to expand their operations "in all 50 states." This includes Massachusetts! Want to do your part to stop Planned Parenthood's dangerous new agenda? Then join us at 470 Pleasant St., Worcester on Saturday, April 28 from 10 am - Noon for the Third Annual National Day of Prayer and Protest Against Planned Parenthood. Join thousands of pro-lifers across the country, gathering peacefully at Planned Parenthood facilities to educate our communities about their true agenda, speak out for our unborn brothers and sisters, and call on state and federal governments to defund the abortion giant.

SCOUTING RELIGIOUS AWARDS MASS

The annual scouting awards Mass will take place on Saturday, May 5 at 5 pm at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester. This Mass acknowledges the religious emblem recipients for our various youth scouting programs. Bishop McManus will be the celebrant. All are welcome.

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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 29th, THE 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31
 Psalm: 22
 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24
 Gospel: John 15:1-8

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 4/15/18

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,153.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 20.00

FROM THE PASTOR

With the passing of Paul Campbell, a retired Deputy Chief on the Worcester Police Department, and Ed Russell, a retired Worcester Firefighter, both from Immaculate Conception for many years, I dedicate this column to all the men and women who serve in public safety, especially those on the Police and Fire Departments.

I'm not as overly familiar with the inner workings of how the police conduct their day-to-day operations as I am somewhat with the fire personnel. As Worcester Fire Chaplain, my priestly attention is directed more towards the men and women in the red vehicles, and less so to those in the blue and white vehicles. We know and trust that both departments, however, carry out their mission for the betterment and safety of the communities and neighborhoods we live in.

When I think Paul Campbell, and him being elevated to the position of Deputy Chief in a good-sized city like Worcester, I think of the countless difficult situations he encountered over the course of 3 to 4 decades of service. In that amount of time as a police officer on the streets and in the work place, we on the outside can only imagine through television shows and movies what it must be like to confront these situations day after day in the real world. From murders and robberies, to burglaries and stolen vehicles, to car accidents and assisting someone with serious health issues. The list is long. And none of it is ever easy for a police officer. They need to possess a certain toughness and inner metal that allows them to come home each day to their families without pulling out their hair, even if they're bald. Especially someone like Paul Campbell with his rank, who took on more responsibility as a Deputy Chief.

It's a very good thing if a police officer never loses the capacity to laugh and smile at the ordinary funny ways of life. It's a job that can take away a person's ability to laugh and smile, and lead to much stress, as it does for some of the men and women who serve. But my advice to them, as it is to firefighters who encounter some of the worst scenes the rest of us don't have to look at, is to have a consistent, devoted, healthy, and trusting prayer life. A genuine prayer life, being in touch with Jesus, Mary, the Saints in light, and those who have gone before us, allows all of us a semblance of peace and spiritual balance that is necessary to avoid being overcome with the ravages of, in this case, police and firefighting labor.

When I think of Ed Russell, the first thing I recall is his long retirement. Ed was blessed to enjoy many years of retirement after working hard in the fire department for almost 3 decades. Ed was a guy who was, to say the least, a bit opinionated, but not in a way that turned off those in his presence. I shared both laughs and serious conversation with Ed in my visits to him over the past number of years when he was unable to attend Church because of health issues. In my visits, Ed was ever-ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and always eager to receive the Eucharist. Also with Ed – and this is one reason we are a blessed Parish – he was blessed to have a devoted Eucharistic Minister, friend, and constant visitor in our parishioner Martha Greene, who was preceded by Mary Vargas. Martha visited Ed right up until his last day in this world in the hospital, her presence being a holy blessing, even though Ed was unaware at the end. But God saw it all and smiled.

With Ed's career on the Worcester Fire Department extending a span of many years, we can only imagine, like Paul Campbell, what he witnessed over that time. Some of his memories he probably kept to himself, or spoke to someone in private in order to "get it out of his system." Firefighters are a different breed than the police, even though they have much in common with public safety. Firefighters are more like hockey players who score every time a life is saved in a burning structure or as a first responder.

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Apr 21	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Apr 22	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Apr 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Apr 24	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Apr 25	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Apr 26	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
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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.

TRAUMA, ABUSE AND OPIOIDS: LESSONS FOR CHURCH

Presented as part of Adult Faith Formation at Blessed Sacrament Church in Worcester. Presentation followed by discussion about what parishes can do. FREE. No registration required. Open to all. Tuesday, April 24, 7:00-8:30 pm, at the Phelan Center (building directly behind the rectory) at 551 Main Street, Worcester, MA. More information at <https://blessedsacrament.us/religious-education>. Questions? Email Rmarquis48@outlook.com or call 978-606-7023.

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!