

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.	May 05	4:00 PM	Alfred L. Couture, 6th Anniversary
Sun.	May 06	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	Robert F. Lynch, 7th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	May 07	9:00 AM	<i>Easter Weekday</i>
Tues.	May 08	9:00 AM	John G. Buczek, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Wed.	May 09	9:00 AM	Richard and Therese Cronican, from Daughter
		5:30 PM	<i>Vigil Mass, Ascension of the Lord</i>
Thurs.	May 10	8:00 AM	<i>Ascension of the Lord; (St. Damien de Veuster)</i>
Sat.	May 12	4:00 PM	Francis X. Mahoney Jr., 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 13	7:30 AM	Juniva Glavickas, 4th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Norena Remillard 10th Anniv., Frederick Remillard 8th Anniv., John Daly, 21st Anniv., Robert Senior 18th Anniv., John Earley 2nd Anniv., from Family

THIS WEEK the text for 6th Sunday of Easter, may be found at #934 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 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.

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 all those who lack Christian joy, may God enlighten them to the many blessings bestowed upon us in this life.*

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 \$200.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

FIRST COMMUNION PRAYERS

As a Parish, please keep in your prayers our First Communion Class who will be receiving the Sacrament 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 bless all our 2nd-graders as they receive the Lord for the first of many times over the course of their lives.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT IN WORCESTER

Blessed Sacrament Bereavement Support group will meet Thursday, May 10 from 6:30- 8 pm, Epiphany House, 551 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA. For further information please contact Blessed Sacrament Rectory at 508 755-9152 or Cecelia M Mason at ceceliason@yahoo.com, Tel: 508 335-0898.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THE POWER OF CHRISTIAN JOY: John 15:11; "Here it is as though when Jesus says, 'All this I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you,' he's saying that those things which encourage me may give you encouragement as well. You can face danger bravely, fortifying yourselves with the hope of those who will be saved. And, if suffering comes upon you in this work, don't be brought down into the feebleness of apathy, but rejoice more abundantly when you fulfill the will of him that wills that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of truth. For I too rejoiced at this, (Jesus says), and thought my sufferings very sweet."

St. Cyril of Alexandria (376-444)

ON THE EUCHARIST

"Mary, throughout her life at Christ's side and not only on Cavalry, made her own the sacrificial dimension of the Eucharist. When she brought the child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem 'to present him to the Lord,' she heard the aged Simeon announce that the child would be a 'sign of contradiction' and that a sword would also pierce her own heart. The tragedy of her Son's crucifixion was thus foretold, and in some sense Mary's Stabat Mater at the foot of the cross was foreshadowed. In her daily preparation for Cavalry, Mary experienced a kind of 'anticipated Eucharist' - one might say a 'spiritual communion' - of desire and of oblation, which would culminate in her union with her Son in his passion, and then find expression after Easter by her partaking in the Eucharist which the apostles celebrated as the memorial of that passion."

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

PARTNERS IN CHARITY WITNESS

Another one of my community service experiences with Catholic Charities involved delivering meals on Christmas day to people who would have otherwise gone without one. The meals included turkey with all the fixings that were prepared by a local restaurant but were paid for by Catholic Charities. Every Christmas and Thanksgiving, as well, Catholic Charities coordinates delivery of approximately 2000 meals to low income Worcester area residents for each holiday.

Most years I would deliver the meals to some of the toughest neighborhoods in Worcester where the need was obvious.

One year I decided to take my entire family along with me in the hope of teaching my sons a valuable lesson about poverty in America and how many people are forced to live. I was almost disappointed when we were assigned to the solid middle class neighborhood of greater Burncoat Street. However, it turned out to be an eye-opening experience for all of us when we saw how much need existed even in the Burncoat section of the city.

Once again, this is a great example of the huge difference Catholic Charities makes in the lives of thousands of people when we support Partners in Charity.

So far we have raised \$82,595 dollars from 140 donors. We have achieved 93% of our goal but are still short \$7,235 dollars to reach 100% of our goal at Immaculate Conception.

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

Vacation Bible Camp We are very excited to offer Vacation Bible Camp at Immaculate Conception! VBC will be the week of June 25th-29th from 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and is FREE! Children 5-12 years old are welcome to join us for a fun week of many activities including Bible Stories, Games, Music, Crafts, Snacks and more! Contact Mary Sycks at mks723@msn.com for registration forms and more information. Spots are filling quickly.

MAY PROCESSION CROWNING OF MARY

This Sunday, May 6, after the 10:00 Mass, our 2nd graders will lead us in a procession to the Mary statue on our grounds where we will crown Our Lady with flowers for the month of May. For our 2nd graders, this will be their Second Holy Communion, having received their First Communion on Saturday. It is most appropriate the children lead us in this traditional procession of our Catholic faith, as we ask Mary for her many graces that come to us through her Son Jesus. All are invited to join us for the Crowning and the singing of Immaculate Mary.

ASCENSION THURSDAY HOLY DAY AND MASS SCHEDULE

The Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven will be celebrated this year on Thursday, May 10. This day is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. Our schedule will consist of 2 Masses: a Vigil Mass on Wednesday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, May 10 at 8:00 a.m.

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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 13th, THE 7th SUN- DAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
Psalm: 103
2nd Reading: 1 John 4:11-16
Gospel: John 17:11b-19

From the Pastor continued from the following page

who so rightfully spoke the words, "Truly this man was the Son of God (Mk 15:39)?" That was beyond special. It was very holy and humbling. And after the reflection concludes on Golgotha, walk back down the opposite stairs, walk a few feet, kneel down, and reverence the slab of cement that is believed to be the spot where Jesus' body was wrapped in a linen shroud. Talk about goosebumps!

And, would it be special for you to stand in line for a few moments, a line that wraps around the tomb of Jesus Christ (or should I say borrowed for a short time), owned by Joseph of Arimathea, eventually enter the holy tomb where death was destroyed forever, kneel down with hands on the slab where his body was laid, see firsthand that he's not there, and say a quick prayer, knowing they give four pilgrims at a time about 20 seconds to stay in there?

As you can see, it's hard to answer the question, "What was your favorite part of the trip?" Personally, it's hard to beat the tomb part. Without the event that happened there, where the entire life of Christ was justified by God the Father through resurrection, we would still be in a heap of trouble both physically and spiritually. But, if it was Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, Bethlehem, of some other part of the pilgrimage for others, then that's awesome.

Peace, Fr. Riley

PARTNERS IN CHARITY FOR 2018

Our Parish is now in the midst of 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 140 donors totaling \$82,595 dollars, reaching 93% 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

FIRST COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all our 2nd graders who received their First Holy Communion this Saturday, May 5. May God's blessing be upon each of these children as they come to the table of the Lord each week to receive the Lord in the most loving and cherished way in which God feeds us Himself in this life. Our First Communicants are Hannah Lamboi, Chloe Latham, Mitchell Weyler, Leo Weyler, Elizabeth Spillane, Joseph Spillane, James Turner, Sophia Tardie, Avery Gendron, Matthew McManus, Emily O'Connor, and Elizabeth Brunelle. Congratulations to all the parents of these children. May they be the best of examples in bringing their children to the reception of Holy Communion in the weeks and years ahead.

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM *The Joy of Love*

GATHERED IN PRAYER IN THE LIGHT OF EASTER: "The Eucharist is the sacrament of the new covenant, where Christ's redemptive work is carried out. The close bond between married life and the Eucharist thus becomes all the more clear. For the food of the Eucharist offers the spouses the strength and incentive needed to live the marriage covenant each day as a 'domestic church.'" Par. 318

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE COFFEE SHOP

Our Parish Activities will be serving delicious food and refreshments after the 7:30 & 10:00 Masses this Sunday, May 6. Consider coming down to the Church basement to enjoy some good food and conversation.

SUPPORT THE LETTER CARRIER FOOD DRIVE

The letter carrier food drive is Saturday, May 12. Food will be collected in Worcester and most of the surrounding cities and towns. Leave non-perishable and non-expired food items in bags wherever you receive your mail. The food will be distributed to food pantries in Worcester and towns which hold the collection. Last year there was over 302,000 pounds of food collected in Central Massachusetts.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 4/29/18

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,526.00
Our Lady's Statue	\$ 20.00
Rice Bowl	\$ 265.83
Total Online Donations: Feb, Mar, Apr'18	\$ 4,301.00

FROM THE PASTOR

Well before we even stepped on the plane from Tel Aviv to London, then on to Boston, the question was already being bantered about our group, “What was the favorite part of your trip? What did you like the most?”

Well, when a trip overseas can be labeled a total success, it’s hard to choose one moment and say, “I liked that part the most.” It’s hard to select one favorite experience out of a week of awesome, moving, spiritual, and powerful experiences and say, “Yea, God touched me there the most. That was the moment I realized it was worth flying 5000 miles over two legs of a journey to a place that many people consider to be unsafe and dangerous, when in truth, not a whiff of danger was in our midst the whole time. danger certainly could have been known during our recent trip to the Holy Land of Israel, but that wasn’t the case for all of us who traveled the long distance. And to think, traveling to the Holy Land is about half the distance if one traveled to Australia or New Zealand. Thinking that thought, the only time I’ll ever view the other side of the world is from the Kingdom of Heaven.

Favorite parts of a holy trip that encountered where Jesus was born, grew into adulthood, preached the Kingdom of God, and challenged the religious authorities and all people to radical love and compassion – a message needed in every generation – such favorite parts are not easy to prioritize. Would it be special for you to stand on the spot where the Angel Gabriel appeared to a young Jewish girl named Mary in a tiny village called Nazareth, with a message directly from God asking her to allow the Holy Spirit to come upon her and she be with child who will be called Son of the Most High? Well, we did. We stood there and reflected for moment or two. And this was after we had Mass in a chapel close by, most likely in a spot where Jesus played games as a young boy. He would have jumped on the pews of the Church where Mass was held in Nazareth, that’s how close we were to his house.

Would it be special for you to stand on the Mount of Beatitudes, looking down at the Sea of Galilee, and reflect on the words Jesus spoke the day he gave the crowds some his most loving and popular words, beginning with, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven?” Standing in the very area where our Lord stood on that holy mountain was special for all of us, especially being present for the holy outdoor Mass we had on the mountain. This was certainly a favorite for some in our group.

Would it be special for you to stand in the enclosed area called Caesarea Philippi where Peter answered the question, “But who do you say that I am” with “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God?” This question was asked by Jesus to his disciples in the presence of a pagan site of worship, where Jesus contrasted the worship of false gods that cannot breath, speak, hear, or smell, to him being the one, true, living God. The stones of the pagan worship site on that day must have cried out when Peter answered the most basic truth of Christianity, replacing those very stones with him now being the Rock of God’s Church. Certainly, this was one of my personal favorite spots, understanding how Jesus opens their eyes and hearts to the greater importance of spiritual Rock as opposed to plain rock that has no life.

Would it be special for you to walk the Via Delarosa, reflecting on the struggle Jesus had carrying his Cross, with the blood of a scourging, beating, and crown of thorns dripping off his holy body every step of the way? And, fulfilling this mission so that we may have life, and in abundance?

Would it be special for you to enter through the doors of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, take an immediate right up a flight of steep stairs, walk a few more feet, and stand before the very site of where Christ was crucified, offering pilgrims the opportunity to look up from the spot of the Roman centurion

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 05	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 06	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 07	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 08	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 09	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Rosary Mass Vigil Mass
Thurs.	May 10	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 4:00 PM	Rosary Mass Outdoor Rosary
Sat.	May 12	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 13	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND ROME

There is still space to register for the September pilgrimage with Father Donato Infante and Deacon Steve Kohut to Fatima and Rome, where Worcester seminarian Alfredo Porras is scheduled to be ordained. Registry deadline is May 25th. Please visit: <http://www.johnpaultours.com/sjcc>.

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.

**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!**