

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.	May 19	4:00 PM	Thomas J. Coty, 4th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 20	7:30 AM	Gertrude McDermott, from Family
		10:00 AM	Patricia Holloway, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	May 21	9:00 AM	James Dunn, Month Mind, from Family (<i>Mary, Mother of the Church</i>)
Tues.	May 22	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Rita of Cascia</i>)
Wed.	May 23	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Thurs.	May 24	8:00 AM	
Sat.	May 26	4:00 PM	John Dowd, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 27	7:30 AM	Robert J. McHugh, Sr., 2nd Anniversary, from Parish Family
		10:00 AM	Donald Letendre, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for Pentecost Sunday, may be found at #941 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

PEACE REITERATED TO COMFORT TROUBLED MINDS: John 20:21; “What does this repetition in bestowing peace mean, except that he wants the tranquility that he had announced to their minds individually also to be kept collectively among them by granting peace repeatedly? He knew, at any rate, that they were going to have far from insignificant struggles in the future stemming from his delay, with one boasting that he had persevered in faith, and another in grief because he had doubted. . . . Peter denies, John flees, Thomas doubts, all forsake him; unless Christ had granted forgiveness for these transgressions by his peace, even Peter, who was the first in rank of all of them, would have been considered inferior and undeserving of his subsequent elevation to the primacy.” *St. Peter Chrysologus (380-450)*

NEW MARIAN FEAST DAY THIS MONDAY, MAY 21st

This Monday, May 21, the Church will celebrate for the first time a new Marian Feast day called Mary, Mother of the Church. This feast was instituted by Pope Francis earlier this year, added to the Church's calendar, and will be celebrated each year the Monday after Pentecost Sunday. We give thanks to God as the Spirit continues to be present to the Church and her leaders, bringing forth this holy and blessed feast in honor of Our Lady.

I TOLD YOU SO: HUMANAE VITAE 50 YEARS LATER

Join us on Monday, June 11th at 6:30PM in our Church basement as Immaculate Conception's own Dr. Christopher Klofft celebrates the 50th anniversary of Blessed Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (On Human Life), which has been the most controversial Catholic document of the last century. Come hear how the Pope's letter to the world came about, learn what it actually says (and a few things it doesn't), and see how it proved to be astonishingly prophetic.

ON THE EUCHARIST

AT THE SCHOOL OF MARY, “WOMAN OF THE EUCHARIST:” “Experiencing the memorial of Christ's death in the Eucharist also means continually receiving this gift. It means accepting – like John – the one who is given to us anew as our Mother. It also means taking on a commitment to be conformed to Christ, putting ourselves at the school of his Mother and allowing her to accompany us. Mary is present, with the Church and as the Mother of the Church, at each of our celebrations of the Eucharist. If the Church and the Eucharist are inseparably united, the same ought to be said of Mary and the Eucharist. This is one reason why, since ancient times, the commemoration of Mary has always been part of the Eucharistic celebrations of the Churches of the East and West.”

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

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Our Parish Activities Committee will be holding its monthly meeting this Sunday, May 20 at 8:30 a.m. in the Church Basement, as well as serving food and refreshments. All are invited to attend both the meeting and to enjoy some delicious breakfast.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY WITNESS

I have been active with the Diocese of Worcester TV Ministry for the past 10+ years.

On the diocesan website, "the mission of TV Ministry is to provide Catholic TV, radio, and internet programming to the local Catholic community, particularly the homebound and elderly or those who have become estranged from parish life."

Once a month, I appear on the weekday, cable TV mass which is broadcast live on channel 193 (formerly channel 3) in the chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral. I assist the priest as a lector and altar server.

Through cable television, this very worthwhile ministry is available to over 330,000 homes in the Worcester diocese. Much of it's funding is provided by the annual Partners In Charity campaign.

To date, we have raised \$87,295 dollars from 153 donors. We have reached 99% of our goal. We still need \$1,205 dollars to reach 100% of our parish goal.

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

PARKING LOT SIGNS

Two new parking lot signs can be found on the Chadwick Street side of the Church where the parking lot meets the road directly behind the Church. These one-way signs have been put up to prevent traffic during the week from driving behind on the road behind the Church from the Chadwick Street direction. Especially in the afternoon, too many vehicles have been cutting through the property on the road behind the Church, driving against the intended flow of traffic, a few times almost causing an accident because of speed and careless driving because they don't have the patience to wait at the stop sign at the bottom of Chadwick Street. There's never been an issue with our parishioners on weekends, but with strangers who fly through the property. This is simply a message to let our people know why the signs have been put into place.

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 \$75.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

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 our deceased loved ones, that they may rest in the eternal peace of Christ.*

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.

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE FRANCIS X. MAHONEY ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Our Parish Activities Committee will be issuing two \$500.00 Scholarship in 2018 in Honor of Francis X. Mahoney, because of the success of the Spaghetti Dinner, Turkey Lurkey, and the Irish Dinner. Any Student within Immaculate Conception Parish are eligible. Please write a letter to the Activities Committee and answer the following questions:

- 1) How have you displayed support of the Parish Family Life within Immaculate Conception Parish?
- 2) What are your Academic Grades and what College program do you plan to attend?
- 3) Name any and all high school, college leadership programs you are involved in?

Note: Scholarship is not limited to college students, high school students attending parochial or private schools may apply.

The letter deadline will be August 26, 2018 and it can be given to any committee member or Fr. Riley.

Please contact Jim Hester if you have any questions about the Scholarship 508-852-3473 e-mail bevhester13@gmail.com.

SPRING SCRIPTURE PROGRAM

Everyone is invited to participate in a program on St. Paul's *Second Letter to the Corinthians* to be held on the four Tuesdays during May from Noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Church basement. The remaining date is May 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.

MONASTIC STUDIES INSTITUTE

The Monks of St. Benedict Abbey will hold their First Annual Saint Benedict Institute, a week long intensive study program for men pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies. The program will study the thought of Catholic Spiritual Writers of the Monastic Tradition in a contemplative atmosphere of a living monastic community. It will take place August 19-25, 2018 at St. Benedict Abbey, Still River, MA and is totally free of charge. The first Institute will focus on the thought and writings of St. Augustine. Located on seventy five acres of open land overlooking the serene Nashoba Valley in central Massachusetts, the Abbey provides an ideal locus for study and spiritual renewal while also giving participants an inside perspective of monastic life. For more information and to view the brochure, please visit www.abbey.org.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

So, as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday for another year, fear not calling on the Holy Spirit in areas of your life where you feel like you need God the most. The Spirit offers us all things of God that will bring at least a token of understanding and light to our lives in ways where trusting and loving God will be less difficult in a sometimes very difficult world. The Father will not feel cheated, nor will Jesus our Lord and Savior. If anything, the First and Second Persons of the Trinity will be cheering on our attention given to the Third Person (Spirit) because of their infinite and everlasting love for one another. A blessed Pentecost to all our parishioners at Immaculate Conception.

Peace, Fr. Riley

PARTNERS IN CHARITY FOR 2018

Well into the Partners In Charity Campaign for 2018, our Parish is close to drawing towards the goal set for us by the Diocese. I thank every parishioner who has donated to this annual collection that sustains the many good works of our Diocese, from serving the needs of the poor in our midst, to retired priests, to seminarians studying for the priesthood, Catholic Charities, and many other services that serve the people in our city and throughout Worcester County. Last year in our Parish, we had 192 donors, a drop of 17 donors from the year before when we had 209 parishioners/families donate to Partners In Charity. For our Parish size, this is a significant drop-off. Now that our monetary goal has been reached, I'm hoping and praying that we do not have a falloff for the number of donors from last year. Thus, I ask that those who have yet to make a donation to please consider doing so at some point in the near future, even though our Parish goal has been secured. I understand that not all families/individuals in our Parish are able to do so, but ask that all families/individuals consider doing so. It is important that we as a Parish maintain the number of donors contributing to this Diocesan Campaign. Thank you for your consideration and generosity, as always. The totals for this week are: 163 donors totaling \$90,145 dollars representing 102% of our Parish goal. - Fr. Riley

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM *The Joy of Love*

A SPIRITUALITY OF EXCLUSIVE AND FREE LOVE:
 "Every morning, on rising, we reaffirm before God our decision to be faithful, come what may in the course of the day. And all of us, before going to sleep, hope to wake up and continue this adventure, trusting in the Lord's help. In this way, each spouse is for the other a sign and instrument of the closeness of the Lord, who never abandons us: 'Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.'" Par. 319

OPEN HOUSE

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, 865 Main Street in Worcester will host an Open House on Wednesday, May 23, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's has openings in grades Pre-K-7. Please visit them on May 23 or call 508-791-6496 for information, or visit the website www.stpetercentralcatholic.com.

IRISH TENOR EMMETT CAHIL LIVE IN CONCERT

The Emerald Club will be hosting a live benefit concert featuring Emmett Cahill, Ireland's most exciting young tenor. Emmet, the lead singer with the popular Irish music group *Celtic Thunder*, is on a nationwide tour of the United States and this is his only scheduled appearance in New England in 2018. This unforgettable evening of songs and stories will take place on Tuesday, May 22nd at 7:30-9:00 PM at St. John's Church located at 44 Temple Street, Worcester. Ticket price is \$30 and can be purchased at www.Emmetcahill.com.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Bob Spellane at (508) 259-7946, or by email at bobspellane@gmail.com.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 27th, THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
 Psalm: 33
 2nd Reading: Romans 8:14-17
 Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 5/13/18

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 4,206.00
Ascension Offerin	\$ 773.00
Our Lady's Garden	\$ 25.00

FROM THE PASTOR

I wonder at times if any Person of the Holy Trinity ever feels cheated. Just a very human thought on my part.

Does the Father ever say to Jesus the Son, "Son, you're getting a little too much attention over me. Those humans need to pay more attention to me." Or the Spirit to the Father; "Father, why don't those Catholics ever pay attention to yours truly, the 3rd Person on the Holy Trinity? I feel neglected almost all the time." Or, Jesus to both the Father and the Spirit, "My beloved Father and most Holy Spirit, sorry for all the attention I receive that seems to cast aside your presence. I'll see what I can do with this fickle people."

Once again, these are just some very, very human thoughts being applied to the Persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, treating them and speaking about them as if God is human. It shows, if nothing else, how limited our thinking can be concerning the being and presence of God in our lives. Treating God as if he were strictly human can and does lead to all sorts of spiritual catastrophe, from anger at Him, to avoiding Him, to cursing Him, and last but not least, not believing in Him anymore.

I know of a person at this time who is pretty angry at God. They have what I would call some "apparent good reasons" for their anger. On the surface, it appears that God has abandoned them, inflicting them with challenges that were unwanted and unforeseen. We know we want life to move along as smoothly as possible, but we also know that illness, job loss, conflicts, and unexpected twists and turns set in. Anytime is an unexpected time for adversity. Our world is broken, and we have no capacity in the end to remove ourselves from the brokenness before us. Even the monks in Spencer – if anyone ever could – cannot escape the fractured world we live in. They may come as close as possible to it, but even they're not immune to all that we address in the real world.

Regarding our Catholic worship, if any Person on the Trinity has the right to feel cheated a bit in terms of giving our attention to Him, it would certainly be the Spirit hands down. The Holy Spirit could, if He were a good lawyer, lay claim to the fact that not much assistance of His is sought by those in the Holy Roman Catholic Church presently presided over by Pope Francis. Much of our attention is given to Jesus first, which makes sense since we can relate to Christ before we can relate to the Father and the Spirit since "The Word became flesh." We can relate to Christ in a deeply personal way, as we experienced recently in the Holy Land where we knew that our Lord "walked, taught, preached, and stood in this area." We cannot say the same about the Father and the Spirit. Thus, it is perfectly natural for us to be attracted first to the Person of God who looked just like us in human form.

However, I call your attention to the one Person we seem to leave out much of the time; the Spirit of God. Without getting into much Trinitarian theology, which would drive most of us insane because Three Persons in one God baffles the human mind which is unable to grasp the concept, I direct your holy attention to the power and incredible work of the Holy Spirit. I make no separation within the Godhead here, for God is one, and where the Spirit is, there is the Father and the Son. But the Spirit's unique role in our daily living is anything but our visual of the Spirit; that being invisible. Although the Holy Spirit is unseen by human eyes, it's the Spirit who gives life to the world every moment in time, the sustaining Breath of the universe, and the Spirit who guides our personal actions when we remain close to God in prayer and worship. I can't tell you how many times I've called on the Spirit for comfort and holy guidance, never to be let down. Something as simple as feeling lost in your car, not being sure where to turn next, by calling on the Spirit, you will be led to a familiar spot.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 19	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 20	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 21	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 22	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	May 24	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	May 26	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 27	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

A HOLY HOUR FOR OUR LADY

Please join us on Sunday, May 20 at 3 pm at St. John, Guardian of Our Lady Church, 80 Union St. in Clinton for the next program in our Sacred Music Series, as the Sisters from Immaculate Heart of Mary in Still River presents a beautiful array of hymns, chants, antiphons and choral music to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This musical offering will be about an hour long. Admission is free and families are welcome. Donations accepted at the door. Please do not miss this opportunity to honor our Blessed Mother during Her month of May.

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!**