

# Immaculate Conception Parish



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## 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.	Jun 02	4:00 PM	Esther T. Maclelland, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Jun 03	7:30 AM	Bernadette Hickey, Month Mind, from Parish Family
		10:00 AM	Jeannine Y. Gemme, from Family
Mon.	Jun 04	9:00 AM	Mary Coffey, 12th Anniversary, from Daughter
Tues.	Jun 05	9:00 AM	Jeannine Gemme, ( <i>St. Boniface</i> )
Wed.	Jun 06	9:00 AM	Richard & Therese Cronican, from Daughter, ( <i>St. Norbert</i> )
Thurs.	Jun 07	8:00 AM	<b>No Morning Mass</b>
Sat.	Jun 09	4:00 PM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
Sun.	Jun 10	7:30 AM	Brian B. Colonies, Chuck Burns, and Jeannette T. Burns, from Family
		10:00 AM	Jeannine Y. Gemme, from Family

**THIS WEEK** the text for The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, may be found at #946 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**NO MASS THIS COMING THURSDAY, JUNE 7**

There will be no Thursday morning Mass this coming Thursday, June 7, due to Fr. Riley and Fr. Enoch attending the annual Worcester Priest Presbyteral Assembly on Cape Cod from June 6 -8. The normal Mass schedule of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. will be held. For those who attend daily Mass on Thursdays, Christ the King Church on Pleasant Street will be having Mass at 7:00 a.m. on that day. If you have any questions, please speak with Fr. Riley.

**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.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 10**

Our Parish Council will be meeting on Sunday, June 10 in the Rectory at 8:45 a.m.

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY FOR 2018**

Thank you to every parishioner/family who has donated to Partners in Charity for 2018 as we surpassed our goal two weeks ago. 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, is the lifeblood of the day-to-day operations of our Church. My concern about Partners in Charity at this point is the number of donors in our Parish when compared to 2017 (192 donors) and in 2016 (209 donors). We remain approximately 25 donors shy of last year, and 46 donors less than the year before last. Thus, I ask that those in our Parish who have yet to donate please consider doing so, even though our goal has been reached. Maintaining our number of donors is as important as reaching our Parish goal. Thus, I'm hoping and praying that we do not have a falloff for the number of donors from last year. Thank you for your consideration and generosity, as always. The totals for this week are: 168 donors totaling \$96,240 dollars representing 109% of our Parish goal. 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 \$275.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 1st HAM AND BEAN DINNER**

Our Parish Activities Committee will be hosting the Parish's first Ham and Bean Dinner on Saturday, June 23 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Fr. Connors Center. Come and join us for a delicious meal as well as a 50/50 raffle and door prizes to be handed out during the evening. Individual tickets for adults and children will be \$5.00, with families of 5 or more \$20.00. Refreshments will be served, except for BYOW (Bring Your Own Wine). Tickets will be on sale beginning this Sunday after all Masses.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**THE BREAD CONSECRATED:** Mark 14:22; "Do you wish to know how it is consecrated with heavenly words? Accept what the word are. the priest speaks. He says, 'Perform for us this oblation written, reasonable, acceptable, which is a figure of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the day before he suffered he took bread in his holy hands, looked toward heaven, toward, you, holy Father omnipotent, eternal God, giving thanks, blessed, broke, and having broken it gave it to the apostles and his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat of this, all of you; for this is my body, which shall be broken for many.' Take note. Before it is consecrated, it is bread; but when Christ's words have been added, it is the body of Christ." *St. Ambrose (340-397)*

**ON THE EUCHARIST**

"At the same time Mary recalls the wonders worked by God in salvation history in fulfillment of the promise once made to the fathers and proclaims the wonder that surpasses them all, the redemptive incarnation. Lastly, the *Magnificat* reflects the eschatological tension of the Eucharist. Every time the Son of God comes again to us in the 'poverty' of the sacramental signs of bread and wine, the seeds of that new history wherein the mighty are 'put down from their thrones' and 'those of low degree are exalted,' take root in the world. Mary sings of the 'new heavens' and 'new earth' which find in the Eucharist their anticipation and in some sense their program and plan. The *Magnificat* expresses Mary's spirituality, and there is nothing greater than this spirituality for helping us to experience the mystery of the Eucharist. The Eucharist has been given to us so that our life, like that of Mary, may become completely a *Magnificat*."

*St. John Paul II, from Ecclesia de Eucharistia*

**CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN COLLECTION**

This week's second collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign taken up annually to help spread our Christian faith through the various forms of media. We all know the importance of spreading the Good News in a world of much news that isn't so good. Thank you for your generosity.

**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 go spiritually hungry without the Eucharist, may they return to the food of Christ Himself offered for the benefit of our present and eternal joy.*

**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.

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

A SPIRITUALITY OF CARE, CONSOLATION, AND INCENTIVE: "Christian couples are, for each other, for their children and for their relatives, cooperators of grace and witnesses of the faith.' God calls them to bestow life and care for life. For this reason the family 'has always been the nearest 'hospital.' So let us care for one another, guide and encourage one another, and experience this as a part of our family spiritually. Life as a couple is a daily sharing in God's creative work, and each is for the other a constant challenge from the Holy Spirit. God's love is proclaimed 'through the living and concrete word whereby a man and a woman express their conjugal love.' The two are thus mutual reflections of that divine love which comforts with a word, a look, a helping hand, a caress, an embrace. For this reason 'to want to form a family is to resolve to be a part of God's dream, to choose to dream with him, to want to build with him, to join him in this saga of building a world where no one will feel alone.'" Par. 321

**YOUNG ADULT THEOLOGY ON TAP**

Join us for the next Young Adult Theology on Tap on Tuesday, June 5 at Compass Tavern located at 90 Harding St, Worcester! Our speaker will be Fr. Jose Rodriguez and the topic will be "Genetic Editing: Correcting Mutations and Designing my Child". Open to all young adults (ages 18-39). Doors open at 6:30 for food and drinks. The speaker will begin at 7:15.

**TALK ON GOD'S MERCY**

Michael Pakaluk, author, Professor of Philosophy, contributor to the Boston Pilot, member of the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas, will be speaking at St. Pius V Church, Eaton Street, Providence on Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. His topic will be "The Appalling Strangeness of the Mercy of God." Suggested donation is \$10.00. For more information call 401-489-6757.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

We know, in priestly theology, that we stand in for Christ for every person in the Church, and for those who cannot be with us for various reasons, especially the sick, when we stand at the altar. I remember my first Pastor at Christ the king, Fr. John Foley, saying one day that every priest should be most comfortable when he stands at the altar. I would add to Fr. Foley's wisdom that it should also be most natural. A blessing beyond blessings, which it is for me.

And second, as a priest I get to meet and come to know not only the many good people of God, but in a special way the Religious Sisters who are present in many of our parishes, either for daily Mass or those who perform their holy labor in certain Churches. Here at Immaculate, I think of Sr. Janet Provost, a Sister of St. Joseph, Srs. Laura, Rebecca, and Susie of the Xaverian Missionaries of Mary, Sr. Ann Marie, a sports fanatic who works at St. Richard in Sterling but stops by to "bother" yours truly every now and then, Sr. Barbara of the Sisters of Notre Dame who used to work in our Parish, as well as Sr. Rosetta who has returned to her home in Italy, and others along the way. This is one of the blessings of priesthood; coming to know and be friends with Sisters who have answered the call and given their lives to Christ.

So, as I rejoice in another year of priesthood, I ask you to keep me in your prayers that God will sustain me for whatever time he has left for me. Your prayers are not only desired, but necessary for any priest to "succeed" at what God has called us to do. And for this, I give thanks to God for you.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**WEDDING NEWS**

Congratulations to parishioners Daniel Callahan and Joanne Ciociolo who were married here at Immaculate Conception on Sunday afternoon, May 20. It was a beautiful celebration for them as family and friends gathered in liturgy to rejoice in their coming together as husband and wife. May God's many blessings be upon Dan and Joanne as they move forward on their journey with a deepened Christian faith and love in their hearts. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. (Eph 5:31)."

**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](mailto:bevhester13@gmail.com).

**DIACONATE COOKBOOK**

A Taste of the Diaconate is a new cookbook with 143 recipes from deacons and their families. The book will be available for sale for 10 dollars after all Masses this Sunday at the Church door on the rectory side. All profits will be placed toward the Diaconate program in the Diocese of Worcester.

**VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT DINNER**

Men who are discerning a priestly vocation are cordially invited to the Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies on Thursday, June 7. Mass: 5:45pm; Spaghetti Supper: 6:30 pm; Social: 7:30 pm. You are welcomed to attend whatever events your schedule allows. These events are for men discerning a priestly vocation, and their friends who support them. We are located at 51 Illinois Street in Worcester. For more information contact Fr. Jim Mazzone at [jmazzone@charter.net](mailto:jmazzone@charter.net) or call 508-340-5788.

**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, JUN 10th, THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

1st Reading: Genesis 3:9-15  
Psalm: 130  
2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 5/27/18**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,586.00
Total online donations for May 2018	\$ 1,317.50

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

The joys of priesthood are sometimes beyond explanation, but I'll try my best to explain anyway. This Sunday, June 3, yours truly celebrates 12 years as a Priest of Jesus Christ, a short amount of time for a guy as old as me. Over the past 12 years, I've been blessed to experience the many joys and challenges of being a priest. The challenges almost always begin with difficult situations in a person's life, a tragedy, or suffering that eventually leads to death. It's never comfortable being thrust into situations where feelings are strong, emotions are running higher than the Alps, and uncertainty seems to have overtaken a person's life.

Whenever the more serious challenges arise, such as unexpected death, especially a young person, as a priest I call on the Spirit to provide what is most needed for that certain set of circumstances. And, I've said this over the past couple of weeks with the celebrations of Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday, the Spirit never disappoints. The Spirit never abandons, forsakes, or leaves us alone in moments of crisis. From riding in an ambulance with a deceased firefighter, to being with a couple whose child was stillborn, to being present with parents of suicide victims, to trying to help families in a small way who struggle with the loss of someone who held the family together, the Matriarch or the Patriarch, and how life was going to be drastically different for them in the future.

These are a few of the challenges over the past 12 years where God has called on his servant to be part of. The same could be said for most every priest. I don't question why these situations arise, for we know that life is unpredictable in that it can change very quickly. But one thing about priesthood I now know for certain; without the assistance and presence of the Holy Spirit, especially in the more solemn and serious parts of priesthood, my attempts at helping others would be futile and empty. I know this 100% for certain. It's somewhat hard to explain, but without the Holy Spirit being really there, and calling on and being open to the Spirit, my priesthood – as well as any priest - would be filled with major disappointments and failures. Are there situations I wish I could have done better? Of course; most every priest would say so.

But at the end of this priesthood story, the Spirit of God is the real Force behind any good that can flow from the many challenges we face each day. There are some parts of priesthood I can honestly say I didn't sign up for in my limited knowledge of what was to come 12 years ago. However, when a man receives the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we're ordained on that day for whatever God sends our way. It was no different with the Apostles. Do you think they understood all that was to come their way on the night Jesus gave his Church the Eucharist at the Last Supper? Quite honestly, they knew very little. They couldn't even see what was going to happen that very night to the Master. In fact, if they could have seen the future on the night they became his first priests, a few of them would have turned away from him and went home, where life was comfortable, easy, and much more peaceful. The priesthood has its very challenging moments and situations, but this is how God meant it to be. It's not for the faint of heart, nor is it for those who make excuses. As Coach Belichick loves to say, "It is what it is." And what it is a life of challenges accompanied by the greatest joys.

Aside a few of the challenges mentioned above, the Priesthood is filled with immense satisfaction. I offer two of my own examples. First, the altar and what happens there. The Eucharist is what draws most every candidate to the priesthood. The thought that God will work through us to feed his flock Himself ... this is a pretty incredible thought and truth. The Eucharist, and what happens at the altar, is the heart and soul of priesthood. For most of us, it is the number one act of holiness we wish to be part of.

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**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Jun 02	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 03	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jun 04	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jun 05	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jun 06	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jun 07	7:30 AM <i>No Morning Mass</i> 6:00 PM	Rosary Rosary
Sat.	Jun 09	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 10	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND IN JUNE**

If you're serious about God, what does He want you to do next? Listen. Listen and act. Why not try listening and acting in a monastery? Job shadow a monk for a weekend on June 22-24 at St Mary's Monastery in Petersham. For single Catholic men aged 18-40. With the monks and other young adults, live in the monastery, not the guest house, and participate in the prayer, the work and shared and private talks with monks. It is a balanced and rhythmical contemplative Benedictine monastic life with a 1600 year history. Serious liturgy (Gregorian chant); serious work (intellectual and manual); good humored people (monks; well, that's the theory!) Watch our Youtube video at [www.stmarysmonastery.org](http://www.stmarysmonastery.org) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stmarysmonastery](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysmonastery). If you are interested or would like more information please contact Father Gregory at [monks@stmarysmonastery.org](mailto:monks@stmarysmonastery.org) or call 978-724-3350.

**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!**