

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM

THURSDAY 8:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 2:45 - 3:45 PM

(or by appointment)

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.	Jun 09	4:00 PM	Geraldine J. Westerlind, from Family
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
Mon.	Jun 11	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, (<i>St. Barnabas</i>)
Tues.	Jun 12	9:00 AM	<i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>
Wed.	Jun 13	9:00 AM	Mary Madigan, (<i>St. Anthony of Padua</i>)
Thurs.	Jun 14	8:00 AM	<i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>
Sat.	Jun 16	4:00 PM	Dr. Charles Vassallo, 27th Anniv., & Michael Vassallo, 3rd Anniv., from Family
Sun.	Jun 17	7:30 AM	Steven Germain, Month Mind, from Family
		10:00 AM	Donald Letendre, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for The 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #976 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THE SPIRIT IS GOD: Mark 3:28; “He is the subject, not the object, of hallowing, apportioning, participating, filling, sustaining. We share in him; he shares in nothing. He is our inheritance, he is glorified, counted together with Father and Son. He is a dire warning to us, the ‘finger of God.’ the Spirit is, like God, a ‘fire.’ This means that the Holy Spirit is of the same essential nature as the Father. The Spirit is the very One who created us anew through baptism and resurrection. The Spirit knows all things, teaches all things, moves where and when and as strongly as he wills. He leads, ‘speaks,’ sends, and separates those who are vexed and tempted. He reveals, ‘illuminates,’ gives life, or better said, he is himself light and life. he makes us his temple, he sanctifies, he makes us complete. He both goes before baptism and follows after it. All that the Godhead actively performs, the Spirit performs.” *St. Gregory Nazianzen (329-390)*

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: 170 donors totaling \$96,890 dollars representing 109% of our Parish goal. 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.

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.

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.

MONTHLY VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT DINNER POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 14

Men who are discerning a priestly vocation are cordially invited to the Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies on **Thursday, June 14**. 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 or call 508-340-5788

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 without faith in God, may our fasting and prayers bring them to the light that Christ extends to all people.*

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 10

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

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY WEEK

Religious Liberty Week will be celebrated in dioceses nationwide from June 22 to June 29. Throughout the week we will focus on the importance of preserving the essential right of religious freedom, both now and in the future, for Catholics and all people of faith. This year’s theme is “Serving Others in God’s Love” reminding us that religious liberty allows people of faith to serve God and others freely in ministries like healthcare, adoption, foster care, education and migration and refugee services to name a few. The significant feast days during the week (Saints Thomas More and John Fisher on June 22, Saint John the Baptist on June 24, and Saints Peter and Paul on June 29) inspire us to follow the example of these great saints who loved God above all and remained faithful in the face of adversity. Please visit www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek to download the “Pray-Reflect-Act” one pagers for each day on various religious liberty topics. These excellent resources are intended to inspire us to learn more about religious liberty from a Catholic perspective, help us to pray about particular issues, and provide us with tools to act on what we learn. Additional information can be found at www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

WORCESTER, MA

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.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to the families who recently had their children baptized here at Immaculate Conception: Dylan Luke Latham, son of Luke and Maureen Latham; David John Grummell III, son of David and Amanda Grummell, Elise Marguerite Courtney, daughter of James and Kathryn Courtney, Michael Edward Burke, Jr. son of Michael and Ashleigh Burke, and Vincent Anthony Roy, son of Anthony Roy and Angelina Consolmagno. May God's abundant blessings be upon each family and their children as they grow deeper in their love for God in the months and years ahead. "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." John 3:5

ON THE EUCHARIST

"Several years ago I celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of my priesthood. Today I have the grace of offering the Church this Encyclical on the Eucharist on the Holy Thursday which falls during the *twenty-fifth year of my Petrine ministry*. As I do so, my heart is filled with gratitude. For over a half century, every day, beginning on November 2, 1946, when I celebrated my first Mass in the Crypt of St. Leonard in Wawel Cathedral in Krakow, my eyes have gazed in recollection upon the host and the chalice, where time and space in some way 'merge' and the drama of Golgotha is represented in a living way, thus revealing its mysterious 'contemporaneity.' Each day my faith has been able to recognize in the consecrated bread and wine the divine Wayfarer who joined the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and opened their eyes to the light and their hearts to new hope."

St. John Paul II, from Ecclesia de Eucharistia

REST IN PEACE

Please keep in your prayers the families of parishioners Paul St. Martin, Mary Madigan, Robert Bacon, Edward Russell, Janice Dolan, Marion Dyberg, Bernadette Hickey, Carol Ann Sheehan, and Edward Eressy. Also, please pray for the family of Steven Germain, a high school classmate of Fr. Riley's who died recently. There is much loss in the above names for those who continue on in this world. Please keep them in prayer as their loved ones have come into the presence of God in eternal life. May they rest in peace.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

We are his friends. And, following on the heels of the greatest sacrifice from the number one heart in the universe and all of heaven is the perfect devotion of Mary's heart to Christ her Son. No wonder why St. John Paul II would always say during his Pontificate, "To Christ through Mary!" For it is through Mary that our own hearts will be lead to the Heart of God.

Floating Church holidays may be somewhat hard to follow, depending on the date of Easter according to nature's calendar. We all like the easy one's; Christmas, All Saints, All Souls (November 2), Mary, the Mother of God (January 1), the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and so on. Catholics hopefully have these dates etched in our souls. But the floating ones can pass by quickly without being noticed. How many of us knew this past Friday and Saturday were celebrations of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and The Immaculate Heart of Mary? Either way, the importance of these holy celebrations cannot be underestimated during this present journey to seeing the face of God. May we take a few moments to reflect on Mary's holy and Immaculate Heart in the next day or two. Her precious and glorious heart is the one that leads the rest of us to her Son. It is a heart of genuine and perfect holiness in a world of confusion, and a heart that beckons us to follow.

Peace, Fr. Riley

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.

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 \$115.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

DIACONATE COOKBOOK

A Taste of the Diaconate is a new cookbook with 143 recipes from deacons and their families. The book was available for sale for 10 dollars after all Masses last Sunday. If anyone would like to purchase a book that was unable to last week, please see Fr. Riley, Deacon Kevin, or Michelle Deignan after Mass. All profits will go toward the Diaconate program in the Diocese of Worcester.

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM *The Joy of Love*

A SPIRITUALITY OF CARE, CONSOLATION, AND INCENTIVE: "All family life is a 'shepherding' in mercy. Each of us, by our love and care, leaves a mark on the lives of others; with Paul, we can say: 'You are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts...not with ink, but the Spirit of the living God.' Each of us is a 'fisher of men' who in Jesus' name 'casts the nets' to others, or a farmer who tills the fresh soil of those whom he or she loves, seeking to bring out the best in them. Marital fruitfulness involves helping others, for 'to love anybody is to expect from him something which can neither be defined nor foreseen; it is at the same time in some way to make it possible for him to fulfill this expectation.' This is itself a way to worship God, who has sown so much good in others in the hope that we will help make it grow." Par 322

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JUN 17th, THE 11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm: 92

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 6/3/18

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,678.00
Catholic Communications Campaign	\$ 454.00

FROM THE PASTOR

You know how we have “floating” holidays, such as Memorial Day, Labor Day, President’s Day, never falling on the exact date each year? Veteran’s Day in November used to be a floating holiday until a few years back when the powers to be decided that each year November 11 would be the day to celebrate, whatever day of the week the date fell on. Well, regarding floating liturgical celebrations, the same can be said for the Church.

Whereas Christmas and All Saints Day fall on the same date each year (December 25 and November 1 respectively), we know that Easter falls on a different date from the year previous, depending on the formula used as connected to the first full moon after the first day of spring, or something along those lines. (Honestly, I don’t care if I ever learn why Easter falls on the date it does. I think it should be the 3rd Sunday in April every year; this way we have a chance of nice weather for Easter in New England). Thus, as Easter falls on a different date each year, so to follow does the Ascension of our Lord as well as Pentecost Sunday. Ascension Thursday will always be 40 days after Easter, and Pentecost 50 days after Easter, falling on different dates each year. This can all be confusing for a person who is not good with numbers and/or dates.

Anyway, this past Saturday, June 9, we celebrated a floating liturgical Feast Day in the Church; the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Now get this: the Feast Day of the Immaculate Heart of Mary falls each year on the Saturday after the second Sunday after Pentecost, one day after the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which falls on the Friday after the second Sunday after Pentecost. You need a religious calculator to figure this one out! The Friday and Saturday after the second Sunday after Pentecost; that’s almost too much for the brain. The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary could in fact be the numbers one and two floating Church holidays during the Church Year. There are no others that use such a formula for pinning down the date of when it is celebrated. If all floating Church celebrations were this complicated, some of us would be coming to Church on Easter, expecting it to be Ash Wednesday. Okay, I exaggerate a little.

Either way, the Feast Day that falls on June 9 this year, and most likely much later in June next year with Easter being later, is a celebration the Church gives to us, reminding us of the heart that said “Yes” to the angel Gabriel when asked to become the Mother of the Most High. Our pilgrimage group was so blessed recently on our trip to Israel to see, reflect, and stand on the spot in Nazareth where Gabriel appeared to a young teenage girl named Mary, allowing us to capture a small sense of where Mary’s heart happened to be on that momentous day long ago.

Mary’s heart, as it was on that day in Nazareth, is second only to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, yet, Mary’s heart beats in perfect unison with that of her Son. Her Son’s heart is a heart of love that exists from all eternity. There is no beginning and no ending to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mary’s heart is like ours; a heart created to love God above all else. Thus, if we seek to model the created human heart to be one with the Sacred Heart of Jesus from all eternity, then Mary is the most excellent example of such a heart. Even the Apostles themselves fell short of such heartfelt perfection in the early years of walking with Christ. But they reached this perfection on the day of their martyrdom.

As stated above, The Immaculate Heart of Mary each year follows the day after the celebration of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The running imagery of these two days is both awesome and beautiful. We celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the same day of the week his Sacred Heart was shut down for three days, as well as the day his Sacred Heart lived out the greatest sacrifice ever known to man. (“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends,” John 15:13).

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Jun 10	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 11	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jun 12	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jun 13	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jun 14	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jun 15	7:30 AM 8:30 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Rosary
Sat.	Jun 17	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 18	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

DIOCESE GROUP NIGHT AT WORCESTER BRAVE-HEARTS

Come join with members of the Diocese of Worcester for an evening of fun and baseball on June 19! Your school, parish or agency will all be seated together (section-Diocese of Worcester) to watch the Worcester Bravehearts as they pursue a third league championship! Cost: \$8 per person includes entrance and a Bravehearts baseball hat. Please visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/events and click on the June 19 event and scrolls down to the link to purchase and print out your tickets! Use Password: Diocese. Contact Ryan Adams at the Worcester Bravehearts at 508-438-3773 if you have any issues.

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!