

# Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at  
[www.icworc.com](http://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.	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
Mon.	Jun 18	9:00 AM	Mary Madigan
Tues.	Jun 19	9:00 AM	Edward Eressy, Month Mind, from Parish Family, ( <i>St. Romuald</i> )
Wed.	Jun 20	9:00 AM	Paul St. Martin, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Thurs.	Jun 21	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, ( <i>St. Aloysius Gonzaga</i> )
Sat.	Jun 23	4:00 PM	Donald Rocheleau, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Jun 24	7:30 AM	Anne M. Kelly, 14th Anniversary, from Family, Paul St. Martin, from Family
		10:00 AM	J. Paul Deignan, 3rd Anniversary, from Family

**THIS WEEK** the text for The 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #979 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

THE BRUISED SEED: Mark 4:32; “Its seed is indeed very plain, and of little value; but if bruised or crushed it shows forth its power. So faith first seems a simple thing; but if it bruised by its enemies it gives forth proof of its power, so as to fill others who hear or read of it with the odor of its sweetness. Our martyrs Felix, Nabor and Victor, possessed the sweet odor of faith; but they dwelt in obscurity. When the persecution came, they laid down their arms, and bowed their necks, and being stricken by the sword they diffused to all the ends of the earth the grace of their martyrdom. ... The Lord himself is the grain of mustard seed. He was without injury; but the people were unaware of him as a grain of mustard seed of which they took no notice. He chose to be bruised, that we might say, ‘For we are the good odor of Christ unto God.’” *St. Ambrose (337-397)*

**HUMANAE VITAE TALK THANK YOU**

Thank you to Dr. Christopher Klofft of our Parish for his presentation this past Monday in our Church Basement on the prophetic encyclical *Humanae Vitae* written 50 years ago by Blessed Pope Paul VI. Dr. Klofft’s presentation was insightful, and presented to a crowded hall in a way where all present could understand the nature of this short encyclical on the profound beauty of married life. Our thanks to Dr. Klofft for sharing his knowledge and wisdom on this document given to the Church by Blessed Paul VI, soon to be canonized into the Communion of Saints this year.

**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, please see Fr. Riley, Deacon Kevin, or Michelle Deignan after Mass. All profits will be placed toward the Diaconate program in the Diocese of Worcester.

**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](http://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](http://www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life).

**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.

**OUR LADY’S GARDEN HELP**

We need more watering volunteers of all ages. Are you able to assist with watering the Garden during July and August? We are working on a schedule so folks would only water 2 different weeks. During your week, if it rains, you don’t water. If it’s been dry at your house, then the Garden will also need watering at least every other day. It takes about 1 hour to water the upper and lower Gardens. We’ll show you what to do. If interested, call Michelle Deignan’s cell phone (508) 596-4778 or email her at [mmdeignan@charter.net](mailto:mmdeignan@charter.net).

**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 of all students as their summer vacation begins, as well as teachers and administrators.*

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES ONLINE**

The minutes from our Parish Council Meeting held last Sunday can be found on our Parish website. For any comments, concerns, or questions regarding the issues discussed in the meeting, please contact Fr. Riley at your convenience.

**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: 176 donors totaling \$98,530 dollars representing 111% of our Parish goal. Fr. Riley

**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](mailto: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: "It is a profound spiritual experience to contemplate our loved ones with the eyes of God and to see Christ in them. This demands a freedom and openness which enable us to appreciate their dignity. We can be fully present to others only by giving fully of ourselves and forgetting all else. Our loved ones merit our complete attention. Jesus is our model in this, for whenever people approached to speak with him, he would meet their gaze, directly and lovingly. No one felt overlooked in his presence, since his words and gestures conveyed the question, 'What do you want me to do for you?' This is what we experience in the daily life of our family. We are constantly reminded that each of those who live with us merits complete attention, since he or she possesses infinite dignity as an object of the Father's immense love. This gives rise to a tenderness which can 'stir in the other the joy of being loved. Tenderness is expressed in a particular way by exercising loving care in treating the limitations of the other, especially when they are evident.'" Par. 323

**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 \$145.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JUN 24th, THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6  
 Psalm: 139  
 2nd Reading: Acts 13:22-26  
 Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 6/10/18**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 4,050.00
Catholic Communications Campaign	\$ 35.00

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

Our faith teaches us that what we do in the body matters. What we do is inseparable from our faith in Christ. The reason being that our body, like that of Christ, will be raised to newness of life, to a bodily condition that speaks to us of the importance of what we do in this life with our bodies. Living in a time when our culture degrades the body in so many ways, this message of Christ and his promise needs to be heard for all the hope and beauty it offers to us. Paul St. Martin will never be canonized into the Communion of Saints like St. Paul of Tarsus and St. John Paul II. But in my eyes, as well as the eyes of those who knew him, he lived a saintly life because of what he did in the body before going home to the Lord. I won't be shy asking for his intercession in the years to come.

Thank you again to our Parish Activities Committee for what they do for Immaculate Conception "in the body." Their work should be appreciated by all in our Parish, and it certainly is by yours truly. May our good brother Paul pray for the continued success and labor of the committee he was part of, as he sends along an everlasting handshake and laugh from the joys of eternal living.

*Peace, 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.

**PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION**

Next week at all Masses is the annual Peter's Pence Collection, a collection taken up for the works on behalf of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Thank you for your generosity.

**WORCESTER CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

All women are invited to this exciting Conference, to be held at Assumption College on Saturday, November 10. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Professor Helen Alvaré, Susie Lloyd, Mother Mary Assumpta Long, O.P., Dr. Janet E. Smith, and Susan Conroy. Bishops and diocesan and religious priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer Mass. For more information or to register, visit our website at [www.worcestercatholicwomensconference.com](http://www.worcestercatholicwomensconference.com) or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register today!

**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).

**ON THE EUCHARIST**

"At the dawn of this third millennium, we, the children of the Church, are called to undertake with renewed enthusiasm the journey of Christian living. As I wrote in my Apostolic Letter *Milennio Ineunte*, 'it is not a matter of inventing a new program. The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition; it is the same as ever. Ultimately, it has its center in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfillment in the heavenly Jerusalem.' The implementation of this program of a renewed impetus in Christian living passes through the Eucharist."

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

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

"My God is now my strength!" Let God be the strength of your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Sep 15-16, 2018 in Medway, MA and Dec 7-9, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at [www.wmema.org/](http://www.wmema.org/).

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

Thank you to our Parish Activities Committee and all the work they perform for our Church throughout the course of each given year. With this being the last Sunday they will be “open for business” in the Coffee Shop, with the annual summer break on the horizon, it’s an opportunity to thank this wonderful group of dedicated parishioners and all the hard work accomplished from dinner events to the Coffee Shop twice a month, to having a scholarship in the name of one of its former members, Francis X. Mahoney, Turkey-Lurkey, as well as other events, including our first upcoming Ham ‘n Bean Supper on June 23.

Of course, as time goes on, we may temporarily lose a few of our dedicated and committed people for various reasons, be it illness or just simply time for a break. However, we are blessed to have a core group dedicated to keeping alive the much good that allows many in our Parish to come together at the Fr. Connors Center or in our Church basement.

Also, as time goes on, we will lose from the committee, like Francis Mahoney, a faithful member from their passing into eternal life. This recently happened in the death of our Christian brother Paul St. Martin. Paul was a member from the inception of the Parish Activities Committee about 6 years ago, along with his wife Jill, being present at each meeting to discuss matters of upcoming events.

The four parts of Paul’s life that stood out for me were his faith in God, his love of family, his handshake, and his laugh. His sense of humor, accompanied by his catchy laugh and smile, not to mention the hard work he did for the Turkey-Lurkey each year, are already missed. Our loss here is certainly heaven’s gain in this good person, possessing a faith that can be labeled nothing short of steadfast. As many people question why they are dying, and understandably so, Paul’s faith was full of trust, carrying him from his earthly life through the Pearly Gates, undoubtedly having a laugh with St. Peter along the way. I’m certain the words of his Apostle namesake, St. Paul of Tarsus, applied to Paul St. Martin as he marched the same march we will all walk one day, where the Apostle wrote in this week’s reading, “We would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.” This is the same body that Paul St. Martin used to quarterback one of the great, if not greatest, high school football teams the city of Worcester has ever seen, being his team at Boys Trade. It’s the same body Paul used to create with his hands numerous superior pieces of furniture and cabinets, using the trade he learned at Boys Trade for a successful life in carpentry. He must have loved St. Joseph the Carpenter. The same body he left to go home to the Lord was a body that loved to hug people. I bet there were very few days in his life where Paul didn’t hug someone. I was blessed to be the beneficiary of a few of them along the way. It was the same body that Paul loved his wife and children with in like manner of Christ; unconditionally. The body he left to go home to Christ was a body that knew how to extend a firm handshake, as well as the meaning of a handshake. There was nothing drippy, weak, or shoddy about it. It wasn’t just a handshake, it was a manshake. He would wrap his hand into yours, and wouldn’t let go until he was ready to. Paul would stand there for five minutes if he felt like it, with your hand in his, to the point where you may start to ask yourself, “Does Paul know he’s still holding my hand in his?” And, the body in which he left to go home to the Lord was the same body that had one of the top five laughs I’ve been blessed to hear over the course of my life. If I saw Paul coming into the sacristy before Mass, or saw him sitting at the table for a meeting with the Parish Activities Committee, I knew without question his laugh was forthcoming shortly thereafter. And, I enjoyed every second of it, as I’m certain many others did also.

I could go on and on about this wonderful man, and all that he did in the body while he was here with us.

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**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Jun 16	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 17	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jun 18	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jun 19	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jun 20	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jun 21	7:30 AM 8:30 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Rosary
Sat.	Jun 23	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 24	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](http://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!**