

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 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
Mon.	Jun 25	9:00 AM	In Thanks Giving to God, from Young Shin
Tues.	Jun 26	9:00 AM	Mary Madigan
Wed.	Jun 27	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, (<i>St. Cyril of Alexandria</i>)
Thurs.	Jun 28	8:00 AM	Erin Davis, 2nd Anniversary, from Family, (<i>St. Irenaeus</i>)
Sat.	Jun 30	4:00 PM	Quyen Nguyen, from Family
Sun.	Jul 01	7:30 AM	John F. Powers, from Family
		10:00 AM	Irene Pupelis, 1st Anniversary, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, may be found at #1055 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES ONLINE

The minutes from our Parish Council Meeting held Sunday, June 10 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.

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM *The Joy of Love*

A SPIRITUALITY OF CARE, CONSOLATION, AND INCENTIVE: "Led by the Spirit, the family circle is not only open to life by generating it within itself, but also by going forth and spreading life by caring for others and seeking their happiness. This openness finds particular expression in hospitality, which the word of God eloquently encourages: 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.' When a family is welcoming and reaches out to others, especially the poor and the neglected, it is 'a symbol, witness and participant in the Church's motherhood.' Social love, as a reflection of the Trinity, is what truly unifies the spiritual meaning of the family and its mission to others, for it makes present the kerygma in all its communal imperatives. The family lives its spirituality precisely by being at one and the same time a domestic church and a vital cell for transforming the world."

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.

COME CELEBRATE GRANDPARENT'S DAY

Feast of St. Joachim & St. Anne, Grandparents of Jesus. Thursday, July 26 from 10 am - 3:30 pm, Saint Anne's Shrine, 16 Church St., Fiskdale, (Sturbridge), 508-347-7338. Speakers: John and Therese Boucher, authors of *Praying for Our Adult Sons and Daughters* and *Spiritual Grandparenting*, will present "Spiritual Grandparenting" and "Sharing Our Faith with Young People." Lunch, Healing Mass/Anointing Service, & Rosary Procession. For more information contact Alicia Belanger at email lishbelanger@comcast.net. (Sponsored by the Catholic Grandparent's Association.) "The old and the young are the twin towers of the great suspension bridge which morally upholds our civilization: the old represent Christianity's memory and the young represent our future." (Pope Francis)

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 persecuted for their faith, in word and/or action, may God sustain them in their mission of bringing the God News to the world.*

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

This 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.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY FOR 2018

Thank you to all in our Parish who have donated to Partners in Charity for 2018, helping us to reach our goal early in May, whereas in past years it has not been reached until July or August. Thank you also to parishioner Bill Stanton who was our Parish representative for Partners in Charity, from his opening talk at Mass back in March to help kick off the campaign, to staying on top of the gift giving and number of donors over the past 3 months, constantly asking how we can improve and expand contributions within our Parish family. I thank Bill personally for his much-needed assistance and look forward to his return next year. At this stage of the campaign, as it begins to wind down toward the end of the fiscal year, which is August 31, we will place in the bulletin each week the total amount of what has been raised, the number of donors, and the percentage of our goal reached. At this time of the year, the numbers may not change from one week to the next, but will still be placed in the bulletin until the end of August. For anyone who would like to make a donation to Partners in Charity on behalf of our Parish, envelopes will be left at each entrance to the Church from this point on. Thank you once again to all who have made this year's campaign a success for our Parish. The totals for this week are: 178 donors totaling \$98,830 dollars representing 112% 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 for registration forms and more information. Spots are filling quickly.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

BORN FOR PROPHECY, MURDERED FOR TRUTH: Luke 1:5; "I do not know what is the most important thing that we should preach – that he (John the Baptist) was wonderfully born or more wonderfully slain – for he was born as a prophecy and murdered for truth. By his birth he announced the coming of the Savior, and by his death he condemned the incest of Herod. This holy and righteous man, who was born in an uncommon way as the result of a promise, merited from God that he should depart this world by an uncommon death – that he should by confessing the Lord lay aside his body, which he received as a gift from the Lord. Therefore John did everything by the will of God, since he was born and died for the sake of God's work."

St. Maximus of Turin (380-465)

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 or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register today!

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, JULY 1st, THE 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24

Psalm: 30

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Gospel: Luke 5:21-43

From the Pastor continued from the following page

We're well aware that most all of us will never die for Christ in the same manner John did, unless we decide to become missionaries in a country where Christianity is not welcome. Then the odds of a death sacrifice will increase exponentially. Our sacrifice for Christ, and what allows us to look like our Savior, is found in the daily living of our faith for others. Our lives are meant to be testaments of the presence of God, a holy presence that carries forth into the Kingdom of Heaven: "Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Matt 5:16). In the shining of our lights, in the shining of our works of mercy, we connect ourselves to the many sacrifices of Christ, who fed the crowd of thousands more than once.

So, as we celebrate this wonderful Solemnity today, the birth of John the Baptist, may we continue to embrace the holy truth that we belong to the family of Christ in our Baptism, not being distant second cousins. And, that Christian sacrifice by way of actions of love incorporate us into our Lord's family. We may not look like Jesus or John physically. But we certainly have the capacity to be a twin brother or sister to Christ spiritually.

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 \$160.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

SUMMER ENVELOPE REMINDER

A gentle reminder to our parishioners who travel north, south, east, or west for the summer months or summer weekends that we would deeply appreciate it if collection envelopes during this time would be sent to our Parish. It's a blessing that we here in Central Massachusetts are so near to so many locations that provide us respite and peace in the beauty of God's creation, and that we don't live in the middle of Oklahoma or Nebraska. But please remember that the invoices for our Parish don't stop over the summer, and that you still remain parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester, thus supporting your home Church. Thank you.

ON THE EUCHARIST

"Every commitment to holiness, every activity aimed at carrying out the Church's mission, every work of pastoral planning, must draw the strength it needs from the Eucharistic mystery and in turn be directed to that mystery as its culmination. In the Eucharist we have Jesus, we have his redemptive sacrifice, we have his resurrection, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have adoration, obedience and love of the Father. Were we to disregard the Eucharist, how could we overcome our own deficiency?"

St. John Paul II, from Ecclesia de Eucharistia

SALE AT ST. STEPHEN THRIFT STORE

St. Stephen Thrift Store, 20 Hamilton St., Worcester is holding a GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE: Everything must go. Store hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 am-2:30 pm and Saturday: 8:30 am-4 pm. The store will close on July 31.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 6/17/18

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,309.00
Candles	\$ 155.00

FROM THE PASTOR

This Sunday, instead of celebrating the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the date (June 24) falls on the Solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist. Whenever a Solemnity falls on a Sunday, such as this one, the Church celebrates the actual purpose of the date. The same would hold true for other Solemnities during Ordinary Time such as The Assumption of Mary (August 15) and All Saints Day (November 1). If they happen to fall on a Sunday, they would be celebrated over the Ordinary Sunday, whatever number it happened to be. The Church's calendar is not always easy to follow, is it?

Either way, this celebration of the birth of John the Baptist is the only other birth, besides that of Jesus, that the Church raises to the level of a Solemnity, which is the highest form of a Church celebration. Even Blessed Mary's birth (September 8) is considered one step below a Solemnity, being a Feast Day. It's still a high form of celebration, but not the highest form. For Mary, we save the highest form of celebration for her being Mother of the Church (January 1), her Assumption into Heaven (August 15), and her Immaculate Conception (December 8). For whatever the reasons may be, Mary's birthday, September 8, which is 9 months to the day after her Immaculate Conception on December 8, has not been raised to the level of a Solemnity. If I meet the Pope next time I fly to Italy, it will be my first question.

Understandably, the birth of John the Baptist is in fact a Solemnity. Therefore, I touch on a couple of thoughts regarding John's relationship with Jesus and how they may connect to our own relationship with the Lord. First, since John's mother Elizabeth was a cousin of Mary, Jesus' mother, John and Jesus would therefore be second cousins. I know only a small handful of my second cousins, who would be the children of my first cousins. And the ones I know feel no less like a family relative than their parents. My second cousins I view pretty much the same as cousins, even though technically they are not. Some genes are still present that unite us as family, as they were with Jesus and John the Baptist. And, one can still see if you look close enough, a resemblance to either yourself or another family member in looks with second cousins. It makes me wonder if Jesus and John had similar looks; if they were here today could we see similarities in their makeup.

We know, however, that belonging to the family of Jesus the Christ, and looking like him in appearance, is not the same as John belonging to Jesus' family and looking like him. We, of course, belong to the family of Jesus by virtue of our Baptism. "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit," Jesus spoke to Nicodemus in John 3:5. For most of us, it was our faithful parents who brought us to the Church to incorporate us into the family of Jesus Christ. None of us has the same genetic makeup that Jesus had, so we don't look like him in physical terms. But through Baptism we look like him in how we conduct our Christian lives. To look like Christ is not to grow a long Middle Eastern beard that Jesus probably had in his latter years. If that's what it took, women would have the hardest time looking like their Lord and Savior. Fortunately, I know many women who look exactly like Jesus because of their Christian love.

A second part of John's relationship with Jesus is connected to the great Christian word, sacrifice. Even though we celebrate John's birth today, it was his death that sealed him to Christ forever. It's not often that one family member will die for another family member. But John the Baptist did so. He was martyred for his second cousin, thus John was baptized in the sacrifice of his blood. But John didn't die for Christ because Jesus was his second cousin. He died for a cause; the cause being the salvation of the human race found in the Person of John's second cousin, Christ the Lord. He preceded Jesus in birth, and preceded his Lord in death.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Jun 23	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 24	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jun 25	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jun 26	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jun 27	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jun 28	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Rosary
Sat.	Jun 30	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jul 01	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

HIGHLIGHTS OF ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Highlights of Ordinations to the Priesthood on June 23 will air as follows:

Saturday, June 30 at 6:00pm. Rebroadcast on Sunday at 6:00pm and Wednesday at 9:30am.

Charter Communications on WCTR TV3 on Channel 193:

WCCA TV13 (Worcester Ch. 194): Tuesday, July 3 at 8:00pm

ALL LOCATIONS – via the internet: Watch online anytime at worcesterdiocese.org

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 <https://wwmema.org/>.

**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!**