

Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at
www.icworc.com and Facebook
Email: icworc@live.com

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-2:30pm, T: 9:30am-2:30pm
W: 9:30am-2:30pm, F: 9:30am-2:30pm

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

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	May 30	4:00 PM	Estelle Rathay, Month Mind, from Family
Sun.	May 31	7:30 AM	Charles McDonald, from Family
		10:00 AM	Esther MacLellan, 5th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Jun 01	9:00 AM	<i>(The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church)</i>
Tues.	Jun 02	9:00 AM	Dr. John W. Davis, Jr., from Family, <i>(Sts. Marcellinus and Peter)</i>
Wed.	Jun 03	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, <i>(St. Charles Lwanga and Companions)</i>
Thurs.	Jun 04	8:00 AM	Mary B. Coffey, 14th Anniversary, from Daughter
Sat.	Jun 06	4:00 PM	
Sun.	Jun 07	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	

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

PARTNERS IN CHARITY 2020

The annual Partners in Charity campaign continues in our Parish and remains in place throughout this time of separation. The goal for this year remains the same as past years, being \$88,500. Our Diocese has mailed envelopes to many parishioners who made contributions in past years. Feel free to use this envelope and send it to the Parish or directly into Partners in Charity. We will also have envelopes placed at the end of each pew and entrances to the Church for those in need of one. A number of parishioners, however, now donate online. For those who wish to do so, go to the Diocese of Worcester Website at www.worcesterdiocese.org go under the heading "HOME," and Partners in Charity will come up. Last year, our Parish finished with 182 donors over the course of the campaign, raising over \$118,000. Thus far this year from early donations, our Parish has raised \$68,685 from 77 donors, which is 78% of our Parish goal. Thank you to all who choose to participate in this essential diocesan campaign that is the lifeblood of the Diocese, addressing numerous social and operating concerns our Church attends to. – Fr. Riley

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Disobedience to God: "Sin, in the proper sense, is always a personal act, since it is an act of freedom on the part of an individual person and not properly of a group or community. This individual may be conditioned, incited and influenced by numerous and powerful external factors. He may also be subjected to tendencies, defects and habits linked with his personal condition. In not a few cases such external and internal factors may attenuate, to a greater or lesser degree, the person's freedom and therefore his responsibility and guilt. But it is a truth of faith, also confirmed by our experience in reason, that a person is free. This truth cannot be disregarded in order to place the blame for individuals' sins on external factors such as structures, systems or other people. Above all, this would be to deny the person's dignity and freedom, which are manifested - even though in a negative and disastrous way - also in this responsibility for sin committed. Hence there is nothing so personal and untransferable in each individual as merit for virtue or responsibility for sin." From *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, Pope St. John Paul II

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. 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 struggle financially because of the Coronavirus or otherwise, may their burden be lightened in the days and months ahead.*

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

HATRED, RIDICULE, AND CYNICISM: "Man, willingly deprived of God, seeks to transform his body. Science and the new technologies are the instruments of this contemporary demiurgic enterprise. Man and nature must bow under the relentless yoke of research. The promise is simple: augmented man will become immortal, his intellectual ability will be unequalled, and his physical forces will be increased tenfold. Genetics is a new god. No one knows in what disaster it will end, and nevertheless we continue on this foolhardy course. Is the catastrophe imminent? The answer of the mad ideologues is invariably simple: it is necessary to carry on with the forced march! We will pay dearly for this senseless process of self-destruction. Augmented man will ultimately be diminished man. This monstrous path will lead to the commercialization of man as a commodity." Cardinal Robert Sarah, from the book *The Day Is Now Far Spent*

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7) To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and invite Him in! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words, and actions every day! Be grateful for all the gifts God has given you! Regardless of our individual circumstances, God has given all of us many blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God! By generously sharing everything we have and everything we are, we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered" and our lives truly reflect God's light, love, and mercy.

SHARING MEMORIAL MASS NEWS

During this pandemic we were all saddened by the inability to pray for the souls of deceased family and friends and comfort their families by attending funeral Masses. As restrictions are being eased, we look forward to gathering in-person for memorial Masses. In order to help families invite people to gather, The Catholic Free Press is offering to provide a listing of those Masses. If families in your parish are interested, please visit www.catholicfreepress.org/memorial to fill in the necessary information. We will publish on the Friday closest to the Mass date. With enough advance notice, the listing may be mailed to The Catholic Free Press, 49 Elm St., Worcester, MA 01609.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 7th, THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

1st Reading: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
 Psalm: Daniel 3
 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
 Gospel: John 3:16-18

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 05/24/2020

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 6,046.00
Ascension of the Lord	\$ 280.00
Spring Fuel	\$ 80.00
Easter	\$ 75.00
Online Donations 18-24 May 2020	\$ 531.55

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First Communion Prayer Cards A number of children in our parish will share in an event of great joy for them and the entire Catholic Community. On Saturday, June 13th, they will receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. They and their families have been preparing for this sacrament for some time now, learning what the gift of Eucharist is about and what it means to share that gift with others. Please visit our display of the First Communion Class located near the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the children in your prayers as they take the final steps in preparing for the sacrament of First Holy Communion.

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

SPIRITUAL ECUMENISM: The foundation of the modern ecumenical commitment, distinct from the network of joint biblical and historical studies and from theological dialogues, is the re-discovery of shared Christian experiences as well as common prayer for the Spirit's gift of unity to the Church. The 20th century liturgical and biblical renewal precipitated among ecumenists a search for spiritual ecumenism as a grounds of truth that transcends historic divisions among the Churches. The Second Vatican Council signaled the Roman Catholic Church's entry into this ongoing ecumenical movement, which had been inaugurated with the World Missionary Conference of 1910, by declaring in its Decree on Ecumenism "...change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement, and can rightly be called 'spiritual ecumenism.'"

From the Pastor continued from the following page

to keep the virus out of the building, having apparently succeeded at doing so. But the time has arrived to mimic the actions of Governor Baker and the State of Massachusetts. As the state opens slowly, methodically, and hopefully wisely, it's time for our parishioners to be able to make the wise choices they are very capable of making after their chains and bonds are loosened by ownership and management at The Willows.

It breaks my heart at this point to know they remain in forced isolation after 2-1/2 months, being told if they leave the grounds they cannot return to their apartments. Really, ownership? Really? Do such good people deserve such threats? There are more ways than the Coronavirus to kill a person, and I'm deeply concerned the elderly at the main house at The Willows are feeling the effects and "punishment" of forced isolation for, first, living in a structure designed to house many folks in close quarters, and second, for not having committed any crime except to be an elderly person. This is America? It's not the one I know and love! Where's the balance in this situation? Balancing freedom of movement while protecting against the virus?

After contacting the Mayor's office to make him aware of this situation, I was contacted in turn by the Mayor himself, then his Chief of Staff, who left me a message and his number to call him back so I could speak with him about this most serious situation taking place up the road. This was a couple weeks before May 18. I patiently waited to see what our Governor was going to do first. Since his decision to begin opening the state cautiously, nothing has changed at The Willows. It was time to call the Chief of Staff, which I did this past Tuesday, offering my concerned advice (with not just Immaculate Conception people, in mind, but all of them living up there) on beginning to balance the situation at The Willows Big House. I will report back any actions or non-actions from the conversation I had. My hope is to speak with the owner of The Willows and ask him what the plan is for loosening the chains of the elderly living in his building. At this stage, the elderly at The Willows need some freedom to move, and do so wisely, before they die in their well-groomed apartments. More to come.

Peace, Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

INCORRUPTIBLE BUT TOUCHABLE: John 20:19; "The Lord's body that made its entrance to the disciples through closed doors was the same as that which issued before the eyes of people from the Virgin's closed womb at his birth. Is it surprising if he who was now going to live forever made his entrance through closed doors after his resurrection, who on his coming in order to die made his appearance from the unopened womb of a virgin? But because the faith of those who beheld it wavered concerning the body they could see, he showed them at once his hands and his side, offering them the body that he brought in through the closed doors to touch. By this action he revealed two wonderful, and according to human reason quite contradictory, things. He showed them that after his resurrection his body was both incorruptible and yet could be touched ... By showing us that it is incorruptible, he would urge us on toward our reward, and by offering it as touchable he would dispose us toward faith. He manifested himself as both incorruptible and touchable to show us that his body after his resurrection was of the same nature as ours but of a different sort of glory."

St. Gregory the Great (c540-604)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Sacred scripture in the variety of artistic expressions: "The relationship between the word of God and culture has found expression in many areas, especially in *the arts*. For this reason the great tradition of East and West has always esteemed works of art inspired by Sacred Scripture. There is for example the figurative arts and architecture, literature, and music. I think too of the ancient language expressed by *icons*, which from the Eastern tradition is gradually spreading throughout the world. With the Synod Fathers, the whole Church expresses her appreciation, esteem, an admiration of those artists 'enamored of beauty' who have drawn inspiration from the sacred texts. They have contributed to the decoration of our churches, to the celebration of our faith, to the enrichment of our liturgy, and many of them have helped to make somehow perceptible, in time and space, realities that are unseen and eternal. I encourage the competent offices in groups to promote in the Church a solid formation of artists with regard to Sacred Scripture in the light of Church's living Tradition and her magisterium."

The Word of the Lord, Verbum Domini, Pope Benedict XVI, 2010

TRIP TO POLAND RESCHEDULED TO 2021

Our Parish trip to Poland has been rescheduled for next year. The new dates for the trip will be April 12-22, 2021. Having to make a decision on the trip at this time, we decided to move this wonderful trip to a much safer timeframe for all involved. More information will be forthcoming soon in the bulletin and on our Parish website. Thank you.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR

It's good to see so many elderly people taking the precautions needed at this time against the Coronavirus. Being a disease that has ugly eyes for the elderly, God's most beautiful people, it makes the illness that more abhorrent thinking it can go after those who have given so much of their lives to family, friends, neighbors, country, and most of all, to God. It's good to know many elderly are taking advantage of early opening hours at the supermarket, Wal-Mart, CVS, or wherever businesses are opening early so they can come and go before the younger folks arrive with loud talk and blaring music. Also, it's good to know they wear masks for self-protection and that of others, as well as keeping the all-to-familiar term now, social distance. It is good to know the elderly can be out and about if they so choose, not forcefully stuck in their homes for weeks and now months at a time, especially with the warmer weather having arrived. Freedom of movement cannot be overestimated. The body that can still move *wants to move*. It doesn't like being stuck in confined quarters for long periods of time, which is why prisons are the worst (but many times necessary) places on earth. Restriction of movement goes against our will and enjoyment to move about from one place to another, and do so freely. Many of our elderly parishioners are thankfully able to do so.

However, not all of them are in a similar situation. We have at least a few parishioners who have been living their own version of "prison" at The Willows on Barry Road here in lovely Worcester. It's an interesting design up there at The Willows on the West Side of town. There are a few parishioners who live in separate townhomes who come and go in like manner of parishioners who live at Colony III at 485 Grove St. At The Willows they've been not-so-gently instructed to not to come and go as they please by ownership, management, and staff who run the housing complex a short drive from here in the western direction. To their credit, after 1-2 months of being locked in their own homes, many of them decided to do what they know they can do in these times of "attempted forceful bodily stillness," shall we call it; they decided enough was enough and further decided to come and go, but to do so wisely. With mask on; with social distance in mind and practice; and don't cough or sneeze in another person's direction. They have not placed their moon within the orbit of another person's planet. This is for those at The Willows who live in individual townhomes.

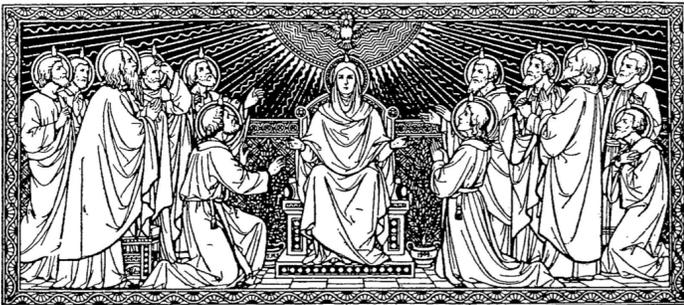
However, this has not been the setting for the many good elderly who live in the "Big House," the main building that houses many residents who cross paths when they walk the halls, would normally eat side by side in one dining room, and who typically come and go as they please, knowing the basic freedoms guaranteed by the great piece of paper written by Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and other great minds of late 18th century America were not being infringed upon. We have at least three parishioners I know of who have been literally living in a prison-like environment since mid-March. As the state of Massachusetts opens her doors slowly, the powers-to-be at The Willows located on the lovely westside of Worcester have determined to keep the clamps on the elderly who reside in the Big House section of their complex.

Now, if these same folks lived, say, at 485 Grove Street, where separate apartments are the setup, or even at Colony III behind the Church on Chadwick St., which has a very similar setup to The Willows Main House, they would be trusted enough to do what is right in these horrid times of potential virus infection, and minimize all odds at bringing the virus back to the homestead. I've been keeping an eye on the situation at The Willows for well over a month now, being in contact with a couple of our people who live at the Willows version of the Big House, and have held back because I commend all attempts by ownership...

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 30	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 31	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jun 01	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jun 02	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jun 03	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jun 04	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Jun 06	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 07	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass



**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!**