

# Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at  
[www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com) and Facebook  
Email: [icworc@live.com](mailto: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.	Jun 20	4:00 PM	Richard Houlihan, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Jun 21	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Diane Daly, 14th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Jun 22	9:00 AM	Donald C. Rocheleau, 3rd Anniversary, from Family, ( <i>St. Paulinus of Nola; Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More</i> )
Tues.	Jun 23	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	Jun 24	9:00 AM	( <i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i> )
Thurs.	Jun 25	8:00 AM	
Sat.	Jun 27	4:00 PM	In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph for Prayers Answered
Sun.	Jun 28	7:30 AM	Anne M. Kelly, from Family
		10:00 AM	

**THIS WEEK** the text for The 12th Sunday in Ordinary may be found at #945 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](http://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 \$80,010 from 87 donors, which is 90% 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

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**WHAT YOU HEAR WHISPERED:** Mt 10:27; "The point is not that Jesus was literally whispering into their ears or speaking in physical darkness. Rather, he was here pressing a strong figure of speech. He was conversing with them quietly and alone in a small corner of Palestine. In contrast with this tone of voice, they would soon be preaching with the boldness of speech that would in due time be conferred upon them. The metaphor of whispering in the ear in a dark place, in this present quietness, is contrasted with what is to come. For they were assumed to be commissioned to speak not to one or two or three cities but to the whole world. They would soon be traversing land and sea, amid inhabited countries and across deserts, addressing both princes and tribes, philosophers and orators, telling it like it is with an open face and with all boldness of speech."

*St. John Chrysostom (344-407)*

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

*Dialogue with other religions:* "Here too I wish to voice the Church's respect for the ancient religions and spiritual traditions of the various continents. These contain values which can greatly advance understanding between individuals and peoples. Frequently we note a consonance with values expressed also in their religious books, such as, in Buddhism, respect for life, contemplation, silence, simplicity; in Hinduism, the sense of the sacred, sacrifice, and fasting; and again, in Confucianism, family and social values. We are also gratified to find in other religious experiences a genuine concern for the transcendence of God, acknowledged as Creator, as well as respect for life, marriage, and the family, and a strong sense of solidarity."

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

**TRIP TO POLAND APRIL 2021**

Our Parish trip to Poland has been rescheduled for next year. The new dates for the trip will be April 12-22, 2021. The cost of the trip is \$3300, and single supplement \$699. We will visit cities and sites such as Warsaw and its historic monuments, Malbork Castle, Gdansk, Torun and the house where Nicolaus Copernicus was born, Czestochowa, a tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Krakow and a visit to the 16<sup>th</sup> century Wawel Royal Castle, as well as the Jewish Quarter, the birthplace of St. John Paul II and the Museum of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, and other cultural experiences of Poland. Consider joining us on this wonderful trip of religion, history, and culture to beautiful Poland. We have 32 seats reserved for this trip with 16 of them presently filled. Sign-up sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at [icworc.com](http://icworc.com) and sent to Fr. Riley at the Church. Any questions please call Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419, or Callie Foster at 508-397-5883. Thank you.

**THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT**

**HATRED, RIDICULE, AND CYNICISM:** *Our era seems divided between ridicule and cynicism;* "The Church is the only voice defending an authentic humanism. The Church is the last rampart, the only sure defense of man and of his dignity. Some U. N. agencies as well as European institutions, which have considerable financial and technological resources, have launched an aggressive campaign against her teaching. The populations no longer have the wherewithal to reflect. They have been anesthetized, hypnotized, and are now incapable of reacting reasonably. Profit is the only god of the globalized elites, who care nothing about man's future."

Cardinal Robert Sarah, from the book *The Day Is Now Far Spent*

**THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY**

**JUSTICE:** "In the Catholic tradition, justice involves one's experience of justification (internal justice), which is expressed in the promotion of good works or works of justice (external justice). The former stresses God's action in the person; the latter involves one's response to the gift of God's grace. The former relates to the first and greatest command; the latter gets translated into action on behalf of the justice which moves beyond on the person to the group, to societal structures, and to the environment itself."

**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 *the safety of all children and youth during the upcoming summer months.*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -**

**LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD**

Last week the Physician Assisted Suicide bills were reported “favorably” by the Joint Committee on Public Health. This is the first time the bills have received a favorable recommendation from a committee. The two bills were also amended slightly and merged into one bill. It has now been assigned to the Health Care Finance Committee for its review. We must do what we can to prevent it from going any further than the committee level. Efforts by the Mass. Catholic Conference and other like-minded groups and individuals to defeat these bills are ongoing. You can also help by letting your senator and representative know where you stand on this issue. Learn more and find out legislative contact info at [www.macatholic.org](http://www.macatholic.org).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 06/14/2020**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,196.00
Catholic Communication Campaign	\$ 70.00
Donation	\$ 100.00
Online Donations 08-14 June 2020	\$ 1,002.00

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 28th THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a  
 Psalm: 89  
 2nd Reading: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11  
 Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

**12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.” (Matthew 10:32) Would others know that you are Catholic by the way you act and speak? Do you share your Catholic faith with others? Do you defend your Catholic faith when the situation arises or do you remain silent? Do you pray in public before meals? Pray for the strength and courage to be a joyful witness of our Catholic faith when the opportunity presents itself. Let us become the radiant light and bold witness that we are called to be!

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

All people of good will would agree that George Floyd should be alive today. No Police Officer should ever conduct themselves in such a way as what happened to that man. Being told you can't breathe is pretty clear. At that moment, change your tactic before the person ceases to breathe anymore. The tactic wasn't changed for whatever reason. May he rest in peace. But to react like all police are of the same ilk is irrational and wrong. As the sad incident of George Floyd is flamed by the many fans of today's ugly and violent national media, they offer us the illogical reason that all police are the same. This made me reflect on abusive priests and having to ask myself years ago while going through seminary in 2001, “Are all the priests the same as these abusers?” I thought about the many priests I knew in my younger years and later years. I came to the logical conclusion that most priests are true and holy to their calling, while a small percentage of them were not. It's the same with police or any walk of life. I'm blessed to know many good, faithful Police Officers. They are good men and women. I played baseball with a few of them in high school, college, and summer leagues, and I refuse to see them as something they are not. I see them for the good people they are. It may not be politically correct to say so in today's climate, but ask me how much I care about living and acting according to the dictates of political correctness. So, I end this “Just Some Thoughts” column with one final thought...I have two words for the American Media, and I can't write them here.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL**

The prayer to St. Michael that calls on the great archangel to defend us in battle, a prayer that was recited after Communion at each Sunday Mass, will begin to be re-recited this week at each Mass. With all the confusion and whatever else that resulted from the Coronavirus, especially the separation of people from their Church, we will return and settle into place this much needed and beautiful prayer. Copies of the St. Michael Prayer will be available at each entrance to the Church for anyone who does not have it memorized and needs one to join in recitation. Thank you.



Pictured above: Saint Michael the Archangel and the Orders of Angels

**RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE**

**Personal Sin and Social Sin:** “Also social is every sin against the common good and its exigencies in relation to the whole broad spectrum of the rights and duties of citizens. The term social can be applied to sins of commission or omission - on the part of political, economic or trade union leaders, who though in a position to do so, do not work diligently and wisely for the improvement and transformation of society according to the requirements and potential of the given historic moment; is also on the part of workers who through absenteeism or non-cooperation fail to ensure that their industries can continue to advance the well-being of the workers themselves, of their families and of the whole society.”

From *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, Pope St. John Paul II

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE ROSARY?**

- 1) If, every day of your life, you say the Rosary devoutly, and all that implies, you will never lose your soul.
- 2) If you wish for peace in your heart and in your family and an abundance of heavenly gifts on your household, then assemble your family each night and say the Rosary.
- 3) If you are anxious to convert a soul to the fullness of God's love in life, teach that person to say the Rosary. That person will either stop saying the Rosary, or he will receive the gift of faith.
- 4) If a sufficient army of us said the Rosary every day, the Blessed Mother would now, as in the past, obtain from her Divine Son the stilling of the present Tempests, the defeat of the enemies of human civilization, and the real peace in the hearts of tired and straying men.
- 5) If the cooling of your charity has made you unhappy on the inside and critical of others, then the Rosary, through your meditation on our Lord's great love for you on the Cross and your Mother's affection for you on Calvary, will rekindle your love of God and of neighbor and restore store you to a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Do not think that in honoring Our Lady with the Rosary you are neglecting Our Lord. Did you even know anyone who ignored you by being kind to your mother?

Archbishop Fulton Sheen from *The Cries of Jesus from the Cross*

## FROM THE PASTOR

**J**UST SOME THOUGHTS...Just a few thoughts on all that's going on inside and outside the doors of Immaculate Conception. Since May 18, the day we went to 40% capacity of God's People being reintroduced to the Holy Liturgy in person, we've had a number of folks return, and a number choosing to remain away at this time. Most, if not all, for good reason. I think of some of our people dealing with physical conditions where the only answer at this time is to stay away from crowds and remain comfortable at home. We pray this changes in the future knowing how much they wish to be present to hear God's word and receive Christ in the Eucharist. They've kept holy the Sabbath their entire lives, but now find that this unexpected contagious disease was the only event in their lives that could keep them away from Church attendance short of death. It's a sad state when people who want to attend Church are not able to because of a virus that, if contracted, threatens their life.

However, as a priest, I'm in the early stages (Stage One we can call it) of developing a concern about potential complacency. Complacency in a way that carries a deepening fear in my heart that some people who have attended Church their entire lives may not return at all. I have no scientific proof on this subject, but my sense is that some early, low level amount of this spiritual danger is creeping into the hearts of faithful Catholics. It's one thing to be living in fear of contracting the Coronavirus at Church. It's altogether something different – and more dangerous – to be contracting complacency when it was never part of a person's language toward the practice of their faith. I write this so that those who stay away from Mass because of their genuine concern for not wanting to be in a crowded place (although we're at only 50-60% attendance when compared to early March), that they may reflect on the practice of their faith and answer oneself honestly that complacency is not part of one's reason for staying away. I write these words not in a state of judgment at all. I cannot read anyone's heart. I write these words as a pastoral duty with honest and loving concern that *none of my people* grow complacent in the practice of our faith, which begins with Sunday liturgy. A person's genuine fear at this time is fully understood and totally respected. But my personal fear as a spiritual guide is this: someone who has been a lifelong Catholic now moving into a stage or state of complacency after knowing and serving the Lord their entire lives to this point. I just don't want to see good people lose or lessen their Catholic faith in the latter part of their lives because of a virus. Nor in the earlier stages either. Personally, I'd rather die receiving the Eucharist.

Regarding the outside world, if you will, and all the riots, violence, and protesting that has caused flashbacks for many older folks, returning them to 1960's America... First, where racism exists, it is a grave sin. Living in Worcester, there seems to be little of it, although I'm sure there's some within our city walls. However, unless I'm blind to what's going on around me, it seems that people of all races and creeds respect each other in this little section of our world. With that said, for those who carry racial animosity in their hearts, I say straight out, I strongly doubt such a person will make it to heaven. There's just no way a racist can walk through the Pearly Gates unhindered without seeking Divine Mercy first. It contradicts everything in our faith. Racism is a most serious sin against God. It tells God we don't like the color or race he created because they are different from us. I'm happy to say prejudice was never tolerated in the house in which I grew. May your house look the same for your children and grandchildren. To pass on prejudice is to pass on poison. To express racism is to express pure hatred. Instead, we are called to love of neighbor.

...And then there's the violent rhetoric toward Police as a whole.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Jun 20	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 21	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jun 22	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jun 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jun 24	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jun 25	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Jun 27	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 28	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass



The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

**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!**