

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.	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	Irene Pupelis, 3rd Anniv., from Family
Mon.	Jun 29	9:00 AM	Erin A. Davis, 4th Anniv., from Family (<i>Sts. Peter & Paul</i>)
Tues.	Jun 30	9:00 AM	Charles Moran, from Family (<i>The first Martyrs</i>)
Wed.	Jul 01	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Junipero Serra</i>)
Thurs.	Jul 02	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Sat.	Jul 04	4:00 PM	Leon and Susan Collette, from Family
Sun.	Jul 05	7:30 AM	John Powers, from Family
		10:00 AM	Virginia Tamalavitch, 1st Anniv., Al Tamalavitch, 37th Anniv., Tom Tamalavitch, 2nd Anniv., from Family



THIS WEEK the text for The 13th Sunday in Ordinary may be found at #951 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

THE POOR: “In the Bible ‘the poor’ are the oppressed, the humiliated, the deprived, the degraded, or the indigent. The Hebrew language contains several words that describe the poor in this way ... but none of them is translated exactly as ‘the poor.’ In the OT the understanding of the term varies. The poor person is the sinner, and the rich person is blessed by God. However, as OT literature develops, the prophets and the postexilic writers see that the increase of wealth and the spread of poverty indicate a hardening of hearts. Amos blushes over the crimes of Israel, and Isaiah proclaims that it will be the task of the Messiah to defend the poor. In the psalms the poor appear as the beloved of Yahweh. Yahweh hears their cry and delivers them. Jesus’ inaugural discourse, The Sermon on the Mount, concerns the poor. The beatitudes are foundational for understanding the poor as heirs of the kingdom. In her Magnificat, Mary, the poor handmaid of the Lord, proclaims that the hungry will be filled and the rich will be sent away empty. Jesus himself is the poor man of Bethlehem and Nazareth. He warns his disciples about the dangers of riches, and he identifies his mission as directed primarily to the poor. Finally, on the cross he becomes a poor man, deprived even of his own government.”

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 16th 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. Signup sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at 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.

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 *true religious freedom in our nation and throughout the world.*

PRAYING FOR ALL

I ask all parishioners to join me in your daily prayers for all our good people, young, middle-aged, and elder, who are not able to be with us on Sundays for one reason or another. May the presence of the Spirit of God be with them at this time, protecting them, guiding them, and leading them to the day when they joyfully return for Word and Eucharist. It’s a very hard time for some very good people who love their faith and God’s Church. May the Lord of all ease their burden of mind and heart during this time of Pandemic. As the virus continues to slow precipitously in our state, we pray that each person’s personal fear will lessen also. – Fr. Riley

13th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

“...whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:38) Pope Benedict XVI said, “The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness.” “Comfort” puts me first. “Picking up your cross and following Jesus” puts God and others first. Why settle for comfort when you can achieve greatness! Pick up your cross, ask Jesus for guidance on using your gifts and live the life God intended for you!

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

APPROPRIATE LOVE: Matthew 10:39; “See how great is the impairment to those who have exaggerated love for their own life. And how great is the blessing to those who are ready to give up their lives for a well-ordered love! So he bids his disciples to be willing to give up parents, children, natural relationships, kinships, the world and even their own lives. How onerous are these injunctions! But then he immediately sets forth the greater blessings of rightly ordered love. Thus these instructions, Jesus says, are so far from harming that they in fact are of greatest benefit. It is their opposites that injure. He then counsels them, as he so often does, in accord with the very desires that they already possess. Why should you be willing to give up your life? Only because you love it inordinately. So for the very reason of loving it ordinally, you will scorn loving it inordinately, and so it will be to your advantage to the highest degree. You will then in the truest sense love your life. Jesus does not reason in this way only in the case of the love of parents or children. He teaches the same with regard to your very life, which is nearest to you of all.”

St. John Chrysostom (344-407)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Dialogue with other religions: "All the same, dialogue would not prove fruitful unless it included authentic respect for each person and the ability of all freely to practice their religion. Hence the Synod, while encouraging cooperation between the followers of the different religions, also pointed out 'the need for the freedom to profess one's religion, privately and publicly, and freedom of conscience to be affectively guaranteed to all believers': indeed, 'respect and dialogue require reciprocity in all spheres, especially in that which concerns basic freedoms, more particularly religious freedom. Such respect and dialogue foster peace and understanding between peoples.'"

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 06/21/2020	
Sunday Ordinary	\$ 4,684.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 61.00
Donation	\$ 500.00
Online Donations 15-21 June 2020	\$ 199.00

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 05th THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalm: 145

2nd Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

From the Pastor continued from the following page

aside and replacing Him with us mere mortals rubs you the wrong way as much as it does me. This is from someone who loves science and appreciates all it does for the good of humanity, recognizing that the good workings of science, which are many, have their source in the mind of God. Sorry, but we're just not that good on our own.

Science, however, has limitations, like any human endeavor. Can science explain Lazarus, after 4 days, walking out of a tomb at the command of Jesus' words? Can it explain the paralytic picking up his mat and walking home? Or demons being called out of the possessed? Of course it cannot! And it doesn't want to. Scientific answers to such happenings beyond the natural, explainable ways of the world say that if some event, such as Lazarus, cannot be explained presently by science, it will be explained one day. Or, that what was witnessed was a bad trick. It was faulty to the eyes. Lazarus really wasn't dead; the paralytic didn't have paralysis; the maniacs were not possessed.

At the end of this story – and the above commercial referred to – lies a truth that science has no capacity to explain in real terms. The truth that God is the Source of any and all good that touches our lives. If and when a vaccine is discovered for Coronavirus, we believe with all human muster that God in his generosity and love has led even a possible atheist to find a scientific cure for a virus that will allow the social part of our lives to regain some percentage of what we call normal. And not only Coronavirus, but cancer too. It would not be surprising if God leads an atheist or agnostic to be the one who finds a cure to the C-word, cancer, a disease that effects a much greater number of people than that of the new C-word, Coronavirus. If and when the cure is before us, certain folks within the scientific community will likely try to steal credit from the Divine, which it is presently trying to do with the Coronavirus. Don't fall for it! God, and God alone, is the Source of all good findings that benefit our well-being. Humans created this present virus. But God is the One who will lead us to the other side, even if it appears that human beings are the saviors.

Peace, Fr. Riley

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 \$80,630 from 92 donors, which is 91% 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

Personal Sin and Social Sin: "The third meaning of social sin refers to the relationships between the various human communities. These relationships are not always in accordance with the plan of God, who intends that there be justice in the world and freedom and peace between individuals, groups and peoples. Thus the class struggle, whether the person who leads it or on occasion seeks to give it a theoretical justification, is a social evil. Likewise obstinate confrontation between blocs of nations, between one nation and another, between different groups within the same nation - all this too is a social evil. In both cases one may ask whether a moral responsibility for these evils, and therefore sin, can be attributed to any person in particular. Now it has to be admitted that realities in situations such as those described, when they become generalized and reach vast proportions as social phenomena, almost always become anonymous, just as their causes are complex and not always identifiable. Hence if one speaks of social sin here, the expression obviously has an analogical meaning. However, to speak even analogically of social sins must not cause us to underestimate the responsibility of the individuals involved. It is meant to be an appeal to the consciences of all, so that each may shoulder his or her responsibility seriously and courageously in order to change those disastrous conditions and intolerable situations."

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

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

EUROPE'S CRISIS: "In Africa and in Asia, nothing is profane. Everything is sacred. Everything is connected to God and depends on him. Everything reaches its fullness in God. The smallest reality is connected to God. It is inseparable from its origin. A profane culture is an unexplored, contemptible country, 'a waterless spring.' African man cannot understand the world without God. The river would no longer have sources, and the houses would be without foundations. A world without God and without morality is like a stillborn infant. The Sea of Galilee cannot exist without its source in the Jordan River. A world without God and without moral and religious values is a deadly illusion. Technological advances try to anesthetize man in an ever deeper sleep. The Egyptian and Roman civilizations disappeared in spite of their prowess and impressive accomplishments. Man without God rocks himself to sleep with the illusion of being immortal."

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

FROM THE PASTOR

I've noticed a couple recent commercials on television connected to the universal topic of science. For the little TV that I watch nowadays, with no live sports or present happenings aside of the dreaded news, I'm a bit surprised I've seen this commercial at least three times. Which tells me it's out there.

First, science is a gift from God. It is a great gift to the human family, when approached properly. It must be noted, though, that not all parts of science are good. Some science is used improperly. Such as the type of medicine used to intentionally kill a person. From created medicinal poison used to intentionally hasten the end of lives of people who find themselves on death's door anyway, or, the one condemned to die in prison who receives a dose of some liquid that science has created, that, once it enters the veins of a man, penetrating his flow of blood, it will end his life "quick and easy," supposedly without much pain. Or, the most frightful thing science has created is a bomb that can be used to wipe out an entire city. The recent riots in our nation are small pickings when compared to what a nuclear bomb can do to peoples and cities. If enough of them are used at once, they can wipe out earth itself.

On the other hand, the wonders of science are many. From the beauty and study of astronomy, a section of science that fascinates many of us, to the relief of pain and suffering through the same brand of science – medicine – that allows a person to live without pain, or lesser pain, or to naturally die in greater peace with dignity. Knowledge of the universe (God's playground) allows us to understand the world in which we live. The more we understand and come to know, how can we not be fascinated more and more by the creation that God called into existence? To look at the sky from some dark place of the earth, for those who have been blessed to do so, and witness firsthand the number of stars, galaxies, and colors that brightly shine their splendor into the eyes of us puny earthlings, is a wonder. And then to gain some small level of knowledge of what's going on out there, is a gift of science.

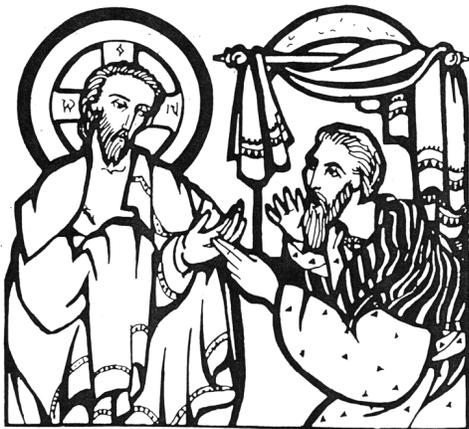
The commercial I mention above, and some of you may have seen it, refers directly to science and the present pandemic we have come to know too well. The message I received from the commercial basically puts forth the idea that science has the power, capacity, and knowledge to return to us the good life we seem to have lost from the all-around presence of this virus. The first time I saw this commercial dressed up in pretty music, and subsequent times since, its intent initially struck me as an anti-God message. My thought has not changed. I saw it as another present-day attempt to repeat the Garden of Eden story, where Adam and Eve performed actions that were proper and natural to God and not to humans. Where God's help and power were not desired or needed or sought because "we can take care of it ourselves." This would be the age-old sin of pride. I couldn't tell you what group or individual paid for the commercial, but it wouldn't be hard to figure out it emanates from a group that either, one, does not believe in God, or two, believes that human power is somehow greater than the Divine. The purpose is for the watchers of the commercial to place all our hope in science and how it will bring us to the other side of Coronavirus without reference to the Divine. That, my friends, is false. It's as false as false can be.

This is not to say the research end of science will not discover a vaccine that allows us to return to a greater sense of normalcy. If and when that happens, I ask, who takes the credit? Is it the two fruit pickers in the Garden of Eden? Is it the serpent who opened the door to their disobedience and demise? Is it God who leads us to all good answers and results? The commercial was a blatant attempt at stealing credit from God, if and when we find a cure for the virus. I pray such attempts at pushing God

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Jun 27	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jun 28	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jun 29	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jun 30	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jul 01	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jul 02	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Jul 04	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jul 05	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass



Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle -Friday July 3rd

**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!**