

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.	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 Anniversary, Al Tamalavitch, 37th Anniversary, and Tom Tamalavitch, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Jul 06	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Maria Goretti</i>)
Tues.	Jul 07	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	Jul 08	9:00 AM	
Thurs.	Jul 09	8:00 AM	(<i>St. Augustine Zhao Rong</i>)
Sat.	Jul 11	4:00 PM	William C. Herrmann, Arthur S. Lindsay, and Curtiss R. Herrmann, from Family
Sun.	Jul 12	7:30 AM	Jimmy and Sophie Groccia, and Tony Covello, from Family
		10:00 AM	

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

THE POOR: “All genuine disciples are destined to be poor and to share the cross. They are to be free from illusions of self-sufficiency and power. They are not to ‘take gold or silver.’ The gospel is to be preached without recompense, and the model of the early Church remains a constant inspiration: ‘the community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.’ However, the fundamental NT insight and to understanding a poor person is found in the very identity of the poor man of Nazareth, ‘who, though he was in the form of God ... emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.’ Christian spirituality, based on the Scriptures, has always developed a conscious relationship to the poor in some way. The Judeo-Christian message is a message of hope for the poor. The rich are called to share their goods. The example and teaching of Jesus show both an attitude of heart and the way of life in which he is numbered among the poor. The Christian experience cannot be conceived apart from the poor.”

THE WORD OF THE LORD

God’s definitive word: “At the conclusion of these reflections with which I have sought to gather up and examine more fully the rich fruits of the Twelfth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the word of God in the life and mission of the Church, I wish once more to encourage all the People of God, pastors, consecrated persons, and the laity, to become increasingly familiar with the Sacred Scriptures. We must never forget that all authentic and living Christian spirituality is based on *the word of God proclaimed, accepted, celebrated, and meditated upon in the Church*. This deepening relationship with the divine word will take place with even greater enthusiasm if we are conscious that, in Scripture and the Church’s living Tradition, we stand before God’s definitive word on the cosmos and on history. The prologue of John’s Gospel leads us to ponder the fact that everything that exists is under the sign of the Word. The Word goes forth from the Father, comes to dwell in our midst, and then returns to the Father in order to bring with him the whole of creation which was made in him and for him. The Church now carries out her mission and eager expectation of the eschatological manifestation of the Bridegroom: ‘the Spirit and the bride say: ‘Come!’ This expectation is never passive; rather it is a missionary drive to proclaim the word of God which heals and redeems every man. Today too the Risen Jesus says to us: ‘go to all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation.’”

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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 12th THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11
 Psalm: 65
 2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23
 Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

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

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

REVEALED TO BABES: Mt 11:25; “And he revealed these things to children. To which children? Not those who are children in age but to those who are children in respect to sin and wickedness. To them Jesus revealed how to seek the blessings of paradise and the things to come in the kingdom of heaven, because thus it was well pleasing before God that ‘they should come from the east and the west and that they should lie down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but that the sons of this worldly kingdom should be cast into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Epiphanius the Latin (c310-403)

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. Sign-up sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at ic-worc.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 *the dignity and respect for all human life in this nation and throughout the world, from conception to natural death.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -

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 \$100.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

...God-fearing people to spend *their own money* to defend what is supposed to be freely guaranteed by the first amendment. The number one example today are the Little Sisters of the Poor being forced to defend themselves (again and again) against a very twisted side of our government that continues to attempt to force these Catholic Sisters into placing the option of birth control pills (a mortal sin in Catholicism, and always will be) into the health care plan for their employees. Never mind that these Sisters love, care for, and show infinite amounts of Christian compassion to the elderly in our nation, No, instead let's attack them and try to put them out of business for not putting birth control pills into their health care plans. I exaggerate not.

After these above observations on fireworks, anonymous tip lines, and blatant, open attacks on religious freedom that fully contradict the American experiment, I need to come to Jesus. Thank you, Lord, for this week's Gospel. It takes a lot of energy to defend what is right and proper before God, and not allow political leanings to be my guide in life. It takes much zeal and gusto to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That's not a pat on my back like I've seen politicians do regularly. But instead it's a common theme for living out our faith in today's world, likely not much different from past centuries. Religion – and Christianity – has been under assault since Nero.

However, what cannot be missing from any zeal and energy we put forth for our Savior is *coming to him*. Yes, we are to come to Christ in all matters of life and death. Bring it to him and allow him to carry the heavy crosses. He will not disappoint. But coming to Jesus in the context of Matthew's Gospel is grounded in our search for rest. Summertime in New England and beyond is a good time each year to rest in Christ by way of enjoying the much beauty of his creation. Oceans, mountains, lakeshores, reservoirs, and yes, Civil War Battlefields (there's nothing like the sunset on Gettysburg's Little Round Top) are places, not to get away from or forget the Lord, but *rest in Him*. God does not take a vacation from us; nor should we do so from Him.

While the illegal fireworks are heard throughout Worcester and beyond; while the not-so-goodhearted side of elected officials with no fear of God in their hearts continue to water down the meaning of the first amendment, *the first reason this country was founded*; while The Willows continues to keep maximum-security like conditions imposed upon good elderly people (a few of them being parishioners) treating them like the little children they are not; Jesus calls us out of the world at certain times to rest in him, to take on his easy yoke, and embrace the necessity of his light burden. As the world tries to drag us down in ways too numerous to count, do yourself a great favor and find some rest in the Lord, wherever that good spot happens to be in the beauty of God's creation. And to all our folks, a Happy 4th of July. We are blessed to temporarily live in this country before our permanent home is reached.

Peace, Fr. Riley

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Personal Sin and Social Sin: "Having said this in the clearest and most unequivocal way, one must add at once that there is one meaning sometimes given to social sin that is not legitimate or acceptable even though it is very common in certain quarters today. This usage contrasts social sin and personal sin, not without ambiguity, in a way that leads more or less unconsciously to the watering down and almost the abolition of personal sin, with the recognition only of social guilt and responsibilities. According to this usage, which can readily be seen to derive from non-Christian ideologies and systems - which have possibly been discarded today by the very people who formally officially upheld them - practically every sin is a social sin, in the sense the blame for it is to be placed not so much on the moral conscience of an individual, but rather on some vague entity or anonymous collectivity such as the situation, the system, society, structures or institutions."

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

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

EUROPE'S CRISIS: "Indifference toward God is a serious pathology, because it leads to man's celebration of himself. There is a terrible arrogance in this crisis of faith. As we read the Sacred Scriptures, it is striking to note among our contemporaries the fundamental error of judgment whereby people seem to attach a lot of importance to things that have none. They give priority, for example, to the phantoms of money, material wealth, or political power. On the other hand, God, who ought to be the treasure and the source of all human flourishing, finds in the heart of man nothing but indifference and contempt. Man thinks he does not need God in order to take his own destiny in hand, to achieve fulfillment by himself, and to build today's world and tomorrow's. In all things, God takes the initiative, accompanies us, supports us, and achieves our authentic humanity and all happiness. Unfortunately, man does not want to acknowledge his errors. He is content with what he achieves without God. He is content with his decadence. He is content with chaos. He will soon be content with being replaced by robots or by transhumans. I say this trembling with fright."

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

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 \$81,480 from 96 donors, which is 92% 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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 06/21/2020	
Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,172.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 275.00
Online Donations 22-28 June 2020	\$ 460.00

FROM THE PASTOR

On this 4th of July weekend without fireworks from our city, we're left to come up with our own "fireworks."

When out to dinner recently at a place that is now open for business, my phone rang and I saw the call was coming from Worcester City Hall. "Ah, the Mayor wants my advice on some important issue." No such thing. He could care little about my opinion on matters of seriousness. Instead of the Mayor calling for my thoughts on issues such as Coronavirus or the pseudo-prison that has been created at The Willows and continues on, it turned out to be an automated call from a kind feminine voice at City Hall (and you may have received the same call) offering advice on turning in anyone who is lighting off fireworks in the city. The call was accompanied shortly thereafter by a text, just in case, I suspect, the voicemail didn't go through. Either way, a number has been set aside, an "anonymous tip line" that is not so anonymous from the caller's perspective, for the purpose of reporting anyone – with their name if known - who is illegally lighting off fireworks in the city of Worcester.

Granted, fireworks are a dangerous specimen. They can and have, first, done bodily damage to folks who misuse or mishandle them, especially fingers and hands. Second, they have started fires that otherwise would not have happened. And third, after being lit, and being man-made objects, they may not work according to the directions. Meaning, they may explode early. Ouch! Probably like yourself, I've been hearing fireworks in Worcester from my lovely abode in the rectory since the mid-May. They've been consistent most every evening into the late hours of darkness. Someone must have snuck up a large batch of fireworks from a Southern state like West Virginia, Georgia, or Tennessee where they are legal. Where freedom is more prevalent and where political leaders read the Constitution differently than here, allowing for more personal responsibility. Personally, I prefer this approach when placed aside of Big Brother taking over my life like a father, telling me what's good for me and what isn't because I'm not wise enough to know the difference, and then fining me or placing me in jail through an anonymous tip line because I didn't heed their profound advice. Therefore, the anonymous tip line at City Hall will not be called from any phone that happens to be in my close proximity. Or even from a phone that's far away. I'm more concerned about elder lives being detrimentally, radically altered by prison-like conditions at a local complex on Worcester's westside. Where's the anonymous tip line for that at City Hall?

With this momentarily off my chest, I dedicate this July 4th weekend column to two important topics; religious freedom and coming to Jesus. These are firework issues that wholeheartedly deserve an anonymous – or not-so-anonymous – tip line. To put it bluntly, religious freedom is under attack in America, and it has been for a while. It seems to not matter to some folks elected to the responsibility of governing the populace that religious freedom in the United States of America is *the first of all freedoms*. Too many government officials, from small towns throughout this wide land to large cities with millions of people, are abusing at great length and with total disregard the first amendment to the Constitution that guarantees individual protection from government interference concerning the beliefs and practices of God-fearing men, women, and children.

I could literally offer a top-25 list of examples throughout America where some elected government official is chasing after religious-minded people who wish to be left alone in the practice of their faith *in every walk of life*. There is not enough space here to list them. The attacks are numerous. And the crazy part? Those who do the attacking will spend your tax dollars - not their personal funds - to ensure you come around to how they insist you live, while forcing religious-minded, ...

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Jul 04	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jul 05	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jul 06	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jul 07	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jul 08	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jul 09	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Jul 11	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jul 12	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

DRIVE-THRU POLISH DINNER SALE

On Saturday, July 11 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., St. Andrew Bobola Parish, Main St., Dudley will be holding a drive thru sale of Polish Dinners. This will take place in the church parking lot. Food will be packaged for take out, but several tables will be set up outside for people to eat on site, appropriately social distanced, should they choose. Price will be \$15 per “Plate” which will include Kielbasa, Kapusta, a goląbek (stuffed cabbage), and 2 homemade pierogi (one cheese, one cabbage). Please swing by to pick up some fresh Polish food!!

14th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

““For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” (Matthew 11:30) When we think of being good stewards, we may think that God is asking too much of us when He calls us to generously share our time, talent, and treasure. However, we must remember that we are not “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us. All He is asking is that we give back a small portion, in gratitude, of what He has already given to us.

**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!**