

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 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	Tony Simone, Month Mind, from Sister
Mon.	Jul 13	9:00 AM	John "Jack" McGirk, 2nd Anniversary, from Family, <i>(St. Henry)</i>
Tues.	Jul 14	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, <i>(St. Kateri Tekakwitha)</i>
Wed.	Jul 15	9:00 AM	Daniel O'Leary, Month Mind, from Parish Family, <i>(St. Bonaventure)</i>
Thurs.	Jul 16	8:00 AM	Francis X. Fullen, Month Mind, from Family, <i>(Our Lady of Mt. Carmel)</i>
Sat.	Jul 18	4:00 PM	Ellen Geheran, from Husband
Sun.	Jul 19	7:30 AM	Rita L. Letendre, from Family
		10:00 AM	Donald C. Rocheleau, 3rd Anniversary, from Family

THE WORD OF THE LORD

New evangelization and a new hearing: "Our own time, then, must be increasingly marked by a new hearing of God's word and a new evangelization. Recovering the centrality of the divine word in the Christian life leads us to appreciate anew the deepest meaning of the forceful appeal of Pope John Paul II: to pursue the *missio ad gentes* and vigorously to embark upon the new evangelization, especially in those nations where the Gospel has been forgotten or meets with indifference as a result of widespread secularism. May the Holy Spirit awaken a hunger and thirst for the word of God, and raise up zealous heralds and witnesses of the Gospel. Following example of the great Apostle of the Nations, who changed the course of his life after hearing the voice of the Lord, let us too hear God's word as it speaks to us, ever personally, here and now. The Holy Spirit, we are told in the Acts of the Apostles, set Paul and Barnabas apart to proclaim and spread the Good News. In our day too, the Holy Spirit constantly calls convinced and persuasive hearers and preachers of the word of the Lord."

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

15th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." (Matthew 13:22) Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

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 \$0.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.



RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

NO ONE KNOWS THE FATHER EXCEPT THE SON: Mt 11:27; "So that it might not be supposed anything in him is less than what is in God, Jesus said that everything was entrusted to him by his Father, that he alone was known to his Father and that his Father was known to him alone or to one to whom he himself had wished to reveal his Father. By this revelation Jesus showed that the same essence of both Father and Son existed in their knowledge of each other. One who could know the Son would also know the Father in his Son, because everything was handed down to him from the Father. Moreover, nothing else was handed down than what was known to the Father in the Son alone, but the things that belonged to the Father were known to be revealed in the Son alone. Thus in this mystery of mutual knowledge it is understood that nothing else existed in the Son than what was known to be in the Father. *St. Hilary (c310-c367)*

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 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.

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 \$84,010 from 111 donors, which is 95% 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 EDUCATION -

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

EUROPE'S CRISIS: "True freedom lies in the battle to agree with the Father's will and to correspond to it. Alexander Solzhenitsyn and all the prisoners in the Soviet gulags knew the cost of this path. They knew that God would always have the last word. However much one may deny it, God will always be God; he dwells in the midst of us, because he is the one who fully realizes us. All the believers in my country who suffered under the Marxist dictatorship of Sekou Toure can talk about freedom. And, always, they will affirm that freedom is absolutely connected to truth. In Africa they say that freedom and truth are like oil: you may try your best to drown them or to destroy them, but like oil they will always stay at the surface."

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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 19th THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Psalm: 86

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 07/05/2020

Sunday Ordinary \$ 3,426.00

Online Donations 29 June -05 July 2020 \$ 220.00

From the Pastor continued from the following page

the lives of both elderly and not-so-elderly people. We pray for a positive quick-changing, a reversal, in the not-so-distant future. Don't be surprised if you hear said one future day, "That mask you wear and carry in your pocket.... Don't wear it anymore. By wearing it, it's hurting you more than helping you. Throw it away." It wouldn't surprise me in the least.

Either way, the message of St. Paul this Sunday is the true message of hope. The theological virtue of hope is taken to its highest possible form in the Christian faith. To believe that the sufferings of the present *are as nothing* when compared to the glory that Christ has prepared for us is a religious truth that looks way ahead. Without avoiding or dismissing the seriousness of the widespread present turbulence, or, as some Southern folks used to say about the American Civil War, "That recent unpleasantness," we have no business living and acting like there is no "way ahead" for us. Because there is. And as some of those who heard Paul's epistle read in their Roman community likely perished at the command of Nero, they came to know through steadfast faith that the glory revealed for us in Christ Jesus cannot be compared to the sufferings of the present time.

We look ahead to a better day, meaning in this world. The unsta-bleness of 2020 in unexpected ways that took all of us by surprise will subside at some point as we pray a daily prayer for peace in our nation and world. Without such prayers, I'm convinced our world would have been blown to bits by now. Our prayers for peace may not bring about peace *everywhere*, but they certainly move God to keep us around to enjoy the much beauty created from his word, and draw us back from the louder moments of instability.

Whenever and however we move on, and move on we will with better ideas and more love for our brothers and sisters, we take great comfort in the words of St. Paul that point to what lies "way ahead." Way ahead is the victory Christ has won for all, where sword and battle (the sufferings of the present) are put down, and peace and joy (the glory to be revealed for us) are for good. Way ahead is a "time" to look forward to, while doing our best now to accept God's grace and bring about a world where all people can live in peace.

Peace, Fr. Riley

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

THE POOR: "Early Christianity experienced an increase in indigents in the great cities in the East and in the rural areas in the West. Disease was rampant among the poor. Churches and monasteries, which made the important contribution of providing hospitals in cities and along major roads, developed their vision of Christian life and practice in the care of the sick and in alms-giving for the poor. The first centuries of Christian education took into account the reality and the needs of the poor. According to Gregory of Nyssa, to feed and to clothe the poor is to feed and to clothe Christ. St. Basil taught that the Christian can be only an administrator of goods for the needs of others. It was St. Jerome who formulated the famous phrase 'Follow naked the naked Christ.' In the nakedness of the poor, one finds the way to follow and to recognize Christ. St. Gregory the Great's *Pastoral Care* says that it is the duty of all Christians to reach out to the poor. Earthly goods are for all and not for the few. St. Gregory encouraged all bishops to be fathers of the poor. In fact, Church property was considered to be the patrimony of the poor. The great model of the early Christian centuries is St. Martin, the Roman equestrian who cut his cape in two with a sword and gave half to a beggar. The Carolingian renaissance fostered a notion that the good King was a protector of the poor. Developments in hagiography idealized care of the poor as God's deliberate plan of salvation: 'God could have made all men rich, but he wanted poor men in this world so that the rich might have opportunity to redeem their sins.' Monastic hospitality, as it developed through the customaries applying the rule, was directed primarily to the poor. The monk became a pauper of Christ, and this voluntary asceticism was to open the heart of the monk to the involuntary paupers."

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Personal Sin and Social Sin: "Whenever the church speaks of situations of sin or when she condemns as social sins certain situations or the collective behavior of certain social groups, big or small, or even of whole nations and blocs of nations, she knows and she proclaims that such cases of social sin are the result of the accumulation and concentration of many personal sins. It is a case of the very personal sins of those who cause or support evil or who exploit it; of those who are in a position to avoid, eliminate or at least limit certain social evils but who fail to do so out of laziness, fear or the conspiracy of silence, through secret complicity or indifference; of those who take refuge in the supposed impossibility of changing the world and also of those who sidestep the effort and sacrifice required, producing specious reasons of higher order. The real responsibility, then, lies with individuals."

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

DAILY MASS, SUNDAY MASS, FAMILY ROSARY

All continue to stream on worcesterdiocese.org, can be uploaded for automatic updating on eCatholic websites, and are available for viewing on Spectrum/Charter Ch 193. *Come Follow Me* is playing next week.

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 struggling with fear, may the Lord grant them peace and reassurance.*

FROM THE PASTOR

Looking ahead. It's a good thing to do in times like these. Looking ahead to more peaceful times. Looking ahead to a vaccine. Looking ahead to returning to a more normal way of living each day. Looking ahead to the Red Sox maybe winning one more World Series before I call it a life. Hopefully, that will be at least 25 more years. If they don't win another World Series in the next 25 years, then we can officially consider ourselves to be living in a time that can rightfully be called, "Curse of the Bambino, Act II."

But in the context of our Christian faith, we don't just look ahead, but we look *way* ahead. Way ahead when peace is forever; when no more bills come in the mail; when no more phone calls come in at 3:00 in the morning, scaring the living daylights out of us; when the company we keep is enjoying, along with us, a spirit of laughter and joy never ends; when the doors of death are shattered and we realize that our faith in Jesus was worth every prayer, good thought, and struggle. A time when Jesus may even say to a few of us, "Why were you so nervous? I told you I have conquered the world. I instructed you to 'Be not afraid.' I invited you to trust me in all matters. See what I've prepared for you? No more cares, worries, anxieties, and battles. Welcome home."

In the meantime, we're in need of considering the words of St. Paul in this week's 2nd reading. Especially where he writes to the Christian community at Rome: "I consider the that sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared to the glory to be revealed for us."

So, as we made it through the turmoil and turbulence of spring 2020, remembering those we have loved and lost, and move forward in these weeks and months of summer 2020, it's rather important to place some understanding and context into the holy words of St. Paul and why he would write such words to some of the earliest Christians. First, he's reminding them of *who they are* because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. What the Lord won for them has more than momentary, fleeting effects. His victory is here to stay, he says, and don't act like the story is somewhere in the past. His victory is always in the now. Paul's words remind us also of *who we are* because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. That we move ahead in these days and weeks of summer 2020, and in a short time, to autumn 2020, remembering that while we enjoy the many fruits of this life, we are not destined to remain here. That the sufferings of this time, this world of many joys and laughter, but also pain, suffering, violence and sorrow, is a temporary state. Paul presents to us in his teaching an eternal set of eyes. To look on this world only is to see much beauty for sure. But also untold amounts of sadness and suffering. And when it happens on a scale of spring and summer of 2020, with virus, rioting, looting, and killings, an overwhelming amount of bad language and loud talk, it's too easy for our personal world to be shaken.

I'm sure I speak for many folks when I say part of my reaction to the present state of upheaval has been the constant thought of "Will life return to some semblance of peace and normalcy in the not-so-distant future? Are we going to have to make a paradigm shift in how we as humans live our daily lives? Are these masks going to last for years to come?" There's something not so good about the thought that wearing a mask is permanent, even if it's only in public places. And the symbolism found in the partial covering of our face is, well, consistent with robbing a bank. Bonnie & Clyde we are not. We're not hoping for a role in any of their movies.

As we know though, expectations can change quickly, even for the better. We saw the negative side to quick-changing back in mid-March when socked with the threat of a deadly (for some) virus. We've seen untold amounts of fear and panic settle into

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Jul 11	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jul 12	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jul 13	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jul 14	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jul 15	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jul 16	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Jul 18	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jul 19	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!**