

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

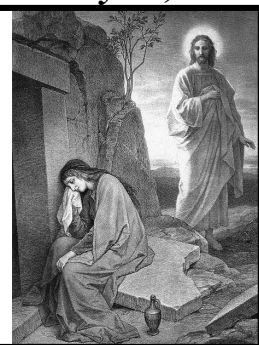
MOST REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS, Bishop of Worcester
REV. WALTER RILEY, PASTOR
REV. ENOCH KYEREMATENG, IN RESIDENCE
KEVIN DEIGNAN, PERMANENT DEACON
FRANK MYSKA, PERMANENT DEACON
MARY SYCKS, ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTER
C. HENRY MASON, MUSIC DIRECTOR
BRIDGET KLOFFT, CANTOR
ROBERT 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 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
Mon.	Jul 20	9:00 AM	Myrtle Hill, from Family, <i>(St. Apollinaris)</i>
Tues.	Jul 21	9:00 AM	<i>(St. Lawrence of Brindisi)</i>
Wed.	Jul 22	9:00 AM	Donald H. Letendre, <i>(St. Mary Magdalene)</i>
Thurs.	Jul 23	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, <i>(St. Bridget)</i>
Sat.	Jul 25	4:00 PM	Charles and Ruth Marzilli, from Family
Sun.	Jul 26	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	



THE WORD OF THE LORD

The word and joy: “The greater our openness to God’s word, the more will we be able to recognize that today too the mystery of Pentecost is taking place in God’s Church. The Spirit of the Lord continues to pour out his gifts upon the Church to guide us into all truth, to show us the meaning of the Scriptures, and to make us credible heralds of the word of salvation before the world. Thus we return to the *First Letter of Saint John*. In God’s word, we too have heard, we too have seen and touched the Word of life. We have welcomed by grace the proclamation that eternal life has been revealed, and thus we have come to acknowledge our fellowship with one another, with those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, and with all those who throughout the world hear the word, celebrate the Eucharist and by their lives be a witness to charity. This proclamation has been shared with us - the Apostle John reminds us - so that ‘our joy may be complete.’”

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

16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.”(Matthew 13:24, 37-38) As children of God, we are all “good seeds.” We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God’s plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others, and share our financial gifts to help build God’s kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow “good seeds” on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 07/12/2020	
Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,249.00
Online Donations 06-12 July 2020	\$ 1,002.00

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 \$84,610 from 113 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 QUOTE OF THE WEEK

LET THEM GROW TOGETHER: Mt 13:30; “But when the servants of the householder, namely, on the part of the apostles, ask the Lord whether they should separate the weeds from the wheat, he allowed them both to grow together until the harvest - that is, until the end of time. He clearly indicated that he would send reapers at that time, namely, angels, so that, once they have separated the wheat from the weeds - that is, once the holy ones have been separated from the wicked - they may gather the righteous in heavenly kingdoms, like wheat in barns. All the wicked and sinners will burn amid the punishment of hell like weeds in the fire, where the Lord declares they will forever weep and grind their teeth, saying, ‘There shall be weeping and grinding of teeth.’ And when the Lord says there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, he is undoubtedly pointing to the future resurrection not only of the soul (as certain heretics would have it) but also of the body. Indeed, weeping and grinding of teeth are properly so-called punishments of the body. Therefore the gravity of the error that has a hold on heretics of this type can be seen from these words of the Lord, but they do not believe in the future resurrection of the body.” *St. Chromatius (d. 406/407)*

THE IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN EVERYDAY LIFE INFORMATION NIGHT

An Information Night will be held at St. Peter Church, 929 Main St., Worcester on **Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30 pm** explaining the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life. A 30 week directed prayer experience in the tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola is being offered by a team of Jesuits and lay people experienced in Ignatian prayer.

Starting on September 29, each weekly session will be approximately ninety minutes and will include reflection, direction and a presentation. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings at St. Peter Church in Worcester. Information and an application form is available on the website: ignatianspiritualexercisesworcesterc.com or contact the team by email at worcspex19@gmail.com or call Dick Kirk at 508-885-4462.

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.

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

EUROPE'S CRISIS: (Quoting Cardinal Ratzinger) "In the name of an ambiguity between pluralism and religious Liberty, they have completely separated the Christian fact from the requirement to shape the public order. The idea of a State that is completely neutral with regard to values, a State that keeps its distance from any religious and moral order is absurd. Bultmann himself said that although a non-Christian State is conceivable, an atheist State is not. I think that it is very important to remind consciences of the political and social dimension of Christianity, its unalterable character as a public fact.' The European crisis is essentially a spiritual crisis rooted in the rejection of God's presence in public life."

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

From the Pastor continued from the following page

He has moved on to the reward of his faith and good works knowing he prays for us, as well as for his lone sibling left, parishioner Mary Lalone. May this good man RIP, joining the angels, saints, and all ex-Red Sox players who made it past the Pearly Gates of St. Peter.

And the third person who had the Spirit of God in a rather large way was a dear friend, Fr. Bob Brusco of our Diocese. Fr. Bob recently died as acting Pastor of St. Cecelia's in Leominster. I first met Fr. Bob as a seminarian assigned to his parish at the time, St. Anthony's in Fitchburg. The assignment lasted 10 weeks during the summer of 2004. It was an assignment I would not trade for the world. Not only did I have the joy of learning firsthand from a devoted priest what the priesthood was all about, a man who had the deepest zeal for Christ and love for the Church, but I also had the joy of meeting so many good people in the Parish itself. It was a summer of eating many good Italian meals in the presence of Italian-Americans whose love for their Catholic faith was undeterred by any worldly challenge.

Fr. Bob was a guy of large stature. His physical appearance matched his spiritual prowess. With an elementary school at St. Anthony's at the time (since closed), I wondered often what a second-grader thought of Fr. Bob (6 feet, two inches and 300-plus pounds) when he stood before them in class or elsewhere. "Did Godzilla join the priesthood? I thought the Incredible Hulk was fictional?" Fortunately, he was a gentle giant who possessed a great love for the children, teachers, and parishioners under his priestly wings. His brilliance in the faith – he was an expert on the Communion of Saints – was near the top of his talent list. I watched the Spirit move him during Funeral Masses where he would preach the hope, mercy, and love of God to families that were hurting from the loss of loved ones. Another diehard Red Sox fan, he had his routine about them; he would never check the standings until after Memorial Day. Where the BoSox were in the standings before that date mattered little. This year, it didn't matter at all.

Fr. Bob's priesthood was filled with energy, a hard-work ethic, and commitment to his people, all grounded in a deep love for his Catholic faith. I'm certain that if he didn't make it to his final home immediately upon death, he will be there shortly. May this good priest RIP for serving God and His people so faithfully and lovingly.

The Spirit move where it wills. The Spirit who comes to the aid of our weakness. In Him we live and move and have our being. Allow your light to shine before others so they may see our heavenly Father in you.

Peace, Fr. Riley

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

THE POOR: "The Crusades and the founding of new cities in the 12th and 13th centuries awakened a new vision of the humanity of Christ. Christ was no longer simply the Judge and the Redeemer urging almsgiving and charity for the poor. Christ was the poor man, despised and rejected. The poor were no longer the means by which the wealthy were saved, or rather the poor or the bearers of salvation. Imitation of Christ meant joining the ranks of the poor. St. Francis of Assisi captured and expressed the spirit of this age. The Poverello of Assisi recognized a Christ who was not only the Son of the living God; he was also 'a poor man and a transient and lived on alms.' Therefore, he says in his Rule of 1221 that his friars 'must rejoice when they live among the people of little worth and who are looked down upon, among the poor and the powerless, the sick and the lepers, and the beggars by the wayside.' His own conversion experience began when, as he himself wrote, 'The Lord led me among them (the lepers).' The poor, in Francis's vision, are no longer the object of alms and works of charity, but they are brothers and sisters to whom Christ brings all who would follow him. The lot and the life of the poor are to be shared by the follower of Christ. Early Franciscan iconography and hagiography present the Francis who, unlike St. Martin, gave his entire cloak rather than only half of it to the poor man. The poor man literally offers the identity of Christ. Upon meeting the poor man, Francis wanted simply to be with him, even to take his place."

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Personal Sin and Social Sin: "A situation - or likewise an institution, a structure, society itself - is not in itself the subject of moral acts. Hence the situation cannot in itself be good or bad. At the heart of every situation of sin are always to be found sinful people. So true is this that even when such a situation can be changed and its structural and institutional aspects by the force of law or - as unfortunately more often happens - by the law of force, the change in fact proves to be incomplete, of short duration and ultimately vain and ineffective - not to say counterproductive - if the people directly or indirectly responsible for that situation are not converted."

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 *all the sick in our Parish to know the healing presence of Jesus.*

DAILY MASS, SUNDAY MASS, FAMILY ROSARY

The Daily Mass, Sunday Mass, and Family Rosary all continue to stream on worcesterdioocese.org, can be uploaded for automatic updating on eCatholic websites, and are available for viewing on Spectrum/Charter Ch 193.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 26th THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Psalm: 119

2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

FROM THE PASTOR

The Spirit blows where it wills. We know not from where it comes, and we know not where it goes. Well, we do know the Holy Spirit, of which I speak, comes from the heights of heaven. And, it's easy to believe the same Spirit returns to heaven in like manner of Jesus in his Ascension. The Spirit of God is ever-present. He lingers and loiters in the hearts and souls of believers. It is the Spirit in whom we live and move and have our being. The Spirit manifests Himself always in the ways of love and peace. Not human love and peace that we can define incorrectly, but pure Divine love and peace infusing the hearts of the God-fearing faithful.

The Spirit of God carries believers forth from this world of pain and suffering, landing us on the lap of Jesus where we hope to hear the words of our Lord, "Well done good and faithful servant. Come into the rest prepared especially for you. You carried your cross well. You didn't lose heart when the opportunity presented itself a thousand times over. You stayed the course of faith and good works. Your light shone before others so that they could see my presence in you."

With these above words in mind on Christ and the Holy Spirit, I briefly touch on the lives a few folks who recently passed on to life eternal. People who lived lives of faith, never wavering in their trust in Jesus being present for them, and staying focused on the big prize of heaven. The first person is Linda O'Malley, from the Murdock family who spent years at Immaculate Conception in the time of Fr. Connors and thereafter. Linda's father, John Murdock, a World War II veteran, died a few years back and I had the honor to preside at his funeral here. I can imagine John and Fr. Connors telling "war" stories, wondering how they both made it back to Worcester safely. God alone knows the answer, which both of them have now found out.

Linda, one of eight siblings, in her love for her father, cared for all his needs in the last months of his life when God's calling to John to come home was getting closer and closer. Her presence, her compassionate care, her devotion, and her gentle way was a Christian example of caring for the ill and infirmed. Linda imitated well the Little Sisters of the Poor in their ministry. As I said at her Funeral Mass recently, Linda, who lived in Thompson, CT, would show up here at Immaculate Conception once or twice a year. In the past year, I suspected she did for the purpose of "tagging me" for her funeral. I got "the look" when seeing Linda in the congregation. It was the look of "I want you to do my Funeral Mass like you did my father's." The honor was mine. Anyone who cares for a parent the way Linda cared for her father, well, that puts a big smile on the face of Jesus. May she RIP with her parents and all her loved ones.

A second person who had the Spirit for life was the loveable, faithful Tony Simone. Tony would mostly attend the 4:00 Mass on Saturdays, and when leaving would always receive a comment from yours truly about the Red Sox, either good or ugly (but always with no curses). Tony's smile and laugh were two of his biggest virtues. He had a great sense of humor. Loved to tell jokes (clean ones only), and was a man of upstanding integrity and sheer joy. To say Tony will be missed is a large understatement. He spent many years at Immaculate Conception, calling this Church his home for decades.

The thing that most impressed me about Tony was his faith in God. He joined the U.S. Army during the Second World War, served our country for 25 years, and spent many years in Hawaii during and after his service, eventually making it back to his city of birth where he lived out the rest of his 96 years. Tony was a soldier not only in the U.S. Army, but much more, coming from the Greatest Generation, he was a soldier for Christ. He could have been the poster child for love of God, family, and country that best defines The Greatest Generation.

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

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 \$250.00 in cards. *Thank you* to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**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!**