

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 25	4:00 PM	Charles and Ruth Marzilli, from Family
Sun.	Jul 26	7:30 AM	John R. Kennedy, 1st Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Cheryl L Firmani, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Jul 27	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Jul 28	9:00 AM	Linda O'Malley, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Wed.	Jul 29	9:00 AM	Gracie Bulger, Month Mind, from Parish Family, (<i>St. Martha</i>)
Thurs.	Jul 30	8:00 AM	(<i>St. Peter Chrysologus</i>)
Sat.	Aug 01	4:00 PM	Francis X. Mahoney, Sr., 21st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Aug 02	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	



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. This year our Parish has raised \$85,135 from 117 donors, which is 96% 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

GATHERING FISH GOOD AND BAD: Mt 13:47; "Again the kingdom of heaven is said to be like a fishing net that is let down into the sea, gathering all kinds of fish. Once it is filled, the net is brought to shore. The good fish are gathered into baskets, but the bad ones are thrown away. Our holy church is compared to a net, because it has been entrusted to fishermen, and because all people are drawn up in it from the turbulent waters of the present age to the eternal kingdom, lest we drown in the depths of eternal death. This net gathers all kinds of fish because it calls to forgiveness of sins everyone, wise and foolish, free and slave, rich and poor, brave and weak. Hence, the psalmist says to God: 'Unto you shall all flesh come.' This net will be completely filled when it enfolds the entire number of the human race at the end of time. The fishermen bring it in and sit down on the shore, because just as the sea signifies this present age, so the shore signifies its end." *St. Gregory the Great (c540-604)*

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Mortal and Venial Sin: "...Here we come to a further dimension in the mystery of sin, one on which the human mind has never ceased to ponder: the question of its gravity. It is a question which cannot be overlooked and one which the Christian conscience has never refused to answer. Why and to what degree is sin a serious matter in the offense it commits against God and in its effects on man? The church has a teaching on this matter which she reaffirms in its essential elements, while recognizing that it is not always easy in concrete situations to define clear and exact limits. Already in the Old Testament, individuals guilty of several kinds of sin - sins committed deliberately, the various forms of impurity, idolatry, the worship of false gods - were ordered to be 'taken away from the people,' which could also mean to be condemned to death. Contrast it with these or other sins, especially sins committed through ignorance, that were forgiven by means of a sacrificial offering."

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

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 WORD OF THE LORD

The word and joy: "The synodal assembly enabled us to experience all that Saint John speaks of: the proclamation of the word creates *communion* and brings about *joy*. This is a profound joy which has its origin in the very heart of the trinitarian life and which is communicated to us in the Son. This joy is an ineffable gift which the world cannot give. Celebrations can be organized, but not joy. According to the Scripture, joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit who enables us to enter into the word and enables the divine word to enter into us and to bear fruit for eternal life. By proclaiming God's word in the power of the Holy Spirit, we also wish to share the source of true joy, not a superficial and fleeting joy, but the joy born of the awareness that the Lord Jesus alone has words of everlasting life."

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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd, THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3
 Psalm: 145
 2nd Reading: Romans 8:35, 37-39
 Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 07/19/2020

Sunday Ordinary \$ 3,466.00
 Online Donations 06-12 July 2020 \$ 235.00

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 travelers this summer to arrive safely to and from their destinations.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -**THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY**

THE POOR: “St. Bonaventure develops this notion of a poor man (take the place of the poor man) in his philosophy and theology. All human persons are poor from the very beginning of their existence because, as he writes in his *Commentary on the Sentences*, ‘Every creature depends essentially and totally on the Creator.’ The poor person is every person, but only the poor acknowledge this basic truth about themselves. They are the ones who alone can worship God in truth, because they are freed from the illusion that they do not need to ask for anything God can provide. Prayer gushes forth from the heart of the poor person. There is a genius about the poor. Aelred of Rievaulx writes in his classic text *Spiritual Friendship* that ‘Friendships among the poor are generally more secure than those among the rich, since poverty takes away the hope of gain in such a way as not to decrease the love of friendship but rather to increase it. And so toward the wealthy one acts flatteringly, but towards the poor no one pretends to be other than he is. Whatever is given to a poor man is a true gift, for the friendship of the poor is devoid of envy.’”

From the Pastor continued from the following page

for the day that our Lord rose from the dead. Joe’s company provided the sound system for the Funeral Mass of one of the Worcester Firefighter’s who died a couple years ago (Chris Roy), hearing everything that was said throughout the entire Mass, even hearing my breathing at times over the microphone. He was very complimentary when all was said and done on that difficult day for all involved. So, he does have a very good heart, which is nice. What I see though is a guy who has lost some part of his faith along the way for whatever the reasons are. All I can do is try to continue to lead him home.

Joe’s story fits well into this week’s Gospel from Matthew 15. As the Canaanite woman pleads with the Lord to heal her daughter, Jesus speaks quite clearly and forcefully that he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He’s targeting those who have lost their way in the House of David, which for the Lord, is Israel first. He wants them back in good relationship with his Father. He desires for them to enjoy the eternal benefits of worshipping and knowing the one true God. He wants their everlasting happiness, and not just a few antique clocks in this world that won’t fit into their caskets. They are good people at heart, like the Italian guy Joe from *Worcester Sound & Lights*. He yearns for them to see the bigger picture regarding what life is all about. He wants to bring them home and secure their place in the Kingdom. Jesus will succeed to some degree, at least beginning with 12 Apostles. From there, the numbers for eternal joy will grow. But the Lord will also be saddened by the lack of faith he will find in certain sectors. Sectors where he would expect men and women to be praising God his Father.

In the end, Jesus does fully succeed in that he would be successful in carrying his Cross, dying for not only the lost sheep of the house of Israel, but for all his creation. How good is our God? He’s the best! “So Joe, after I hear your Confession one day (for real), forgiving and forgetting all your sins as soon as the Sacrament is completed, maybe you can saunter down the road next door from where my grandparents brought much Sunday joy to this guy and all his siblings hanging out the car window. You, Joe, are an integral part of the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Jesus wants you back, and we pray as a Church community that he is successful with you. You’re a good guy at heart, caring about the ways of the world and all that’s happening. Your opinion is more than an opinion. It’s genuine concern. Just like my genuine concern for the salvation of your good soul.”

Peace, Fr. Riley

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

EUROPE’S CRISIS: (Quoting Cardinal Ratzinger) “In the West, does an invisible, fragile Christian regime that has run out of steam still hold in its ancient hands the nations that it created? Possibly. But a State that would reject all moral norms is doomed sooner or later to destruction. Saint Paul tells us clearly that true authority comes from God. The powerful media use every means to try to break up the remnants of Christianity. The media system, the one genuine thought police, runs from one battle to the next in its campaign to transform man. Unless Europe pays special attention to this warning, it will disappear. Its break with God will lead to an anthropological revolution without precedent in the history of humanity.”

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

133RD ANNUAL NOVENA TO ST. ANNE IN FISKDALE

This year’s Annual Novena to St. Anne will commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Assumptionists. It will be held from **July 18 through July 26:** 5:30 pm Confession (drive up), 6:30 pm Rosary in Outdoor Pavilion (no procession) and 7 pm Mass in Outdoor Pavilion. Celebrants and homilists include: Fr. Alex Castro, AA; Fr. John Franck, AA; Fr. Michel Kalumba, AA; Fr. Vo Tran Gia Dinh, AA; Fr. Peter Omwoyo, AA; Fr. Richard Lamoureux, AA; Fr. Jerome Lively, AA; Fr. Simon Njuguna, AA; and Fr. Dennis Gallagher, AA. More information at stannestpatrickparish.com.

17th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28) Do you really trust God? Do you really believe that God will provide all that you need? Faith is a challenge for everyone at times. Putting our trust in God, in everything we do, in good times and in bad, means that God’s plan for our lives may be quite different than what we planned. When one door closes, another one opens. Trust in God, His plan is always better.

THE EUCHARIST

“What need is there for argumentation? Let us take what happened in the case of Christ himself and construct the truth of this mystery from the mystery of the incarnation. Did the birth of the Lord Jesus from Mary come about in the course of nature? If we look at nature we regularly find that conception results from the union of man and women. It is clear then that the conception by the Virgin was above and beyond the course of nature. And this body that we make present is the body born of the Virgin. Why do you expect to find in this case that nature takes its ordinary course in regard to the body of Christ when the Lord Jesus himself was born of the Virgin in a manner above and beyond the order of nature? This is indeed the true flesh of Christ, which was crucified and buried. This is then in truth the sacrament of his flesh. The Lord Jesus himself declares: *This is my body*. Before the blessing contained in these words a different thing is named; after the consecration a body is indicated. He himself speaks of his blood. Before the consecration something else is spoken of; after the consecration blood is designated. And you say: ‘Amen,’ that is, ‘It is true.’ What the mouth others, let the mind within acknowledge; what the word says, let the heart ratify.”

From the treatise On the Mysteries by Saint Ambrose

PIETA-WORCESTER

Pieta is an ongoing support group for bereaved parents. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is welcome to attend. Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at St. George Church, 40 Brattle St. The next meeting will be held **Aug. 10 at 7 p.m.** in the church hall. For more information, please call Terry Gentile at 508-284-0796 or Sue Stevens at 508-852-4887, or email pieta3@gmail.com.

FROM THE PASTOR

My friend Joe up the road who owns *Worcester Sound & Lights* is a little bummed out at this time. Joe is big collector of clocks and all sorts of antiques. But he loves clocks above all. The reason for his being bummed out? Let's see, the Brimfield Flea Market has been cancelled for its spring and summer shows. We'll see what happens in the fall. The flea markets in the area, at least the good ones that present the possibility of finding that buried treasure, remain closed. The auctions Joe would follow in his weekly auction newspaper are not happening. In fact, he told me the newspaper has stopped printing, until life returns to some level of "normal." So, good ol' Joe has nowhere to go to add to his large collection of clocks and other antiques at this time. Talk about misery!

Joe is a good guy with a great sense of humor. I love seeing him when I'm out for my walk around Indian Lake. Many days during the summer he opens a couple of his large white doors, sits outside in his low chair, seemingly waiting for people to walk by and talk to. If I'm not in a hurry – like not being close to dinner time – and Joe is sitting outside, I always stop for a few moments and speak with the old man. He grew up in Our Lady of Mount Carmel, has all sorts of complaints about how things were handled there, complains about the money part of the Church, so by the time I leave Joe's smiling presence I'm happy to be back on the sidewalk, returning to my walk. A person can only take so much complaining. Other than that, I love the guy. He's a good man with a good heart, presently bummed out about his inability to add clocks and other antiques to his wide, enormous collection of things he cannot take with him into life eternal. I keep telling him, "Joe, with all this stuff you have, don't forget the Church!" Which, of course, drives him crazy.

Either way, he's worked very hard over his life, building up a very successful business. He is most true and loving to his wife who is ill and been in a local nursing home for years, visiting her every day. He knows all things about Worcester and its people, knew my father years back and continues to speak highly of him. He has a business aside of where my grandparents used to live on West Boylston Street next to Strand's Ski Shop, a place myself and siblings used to visit every Sunday as we piled into my father's car, no seat belts, hanging out the window along the way, especially the downhill part of Millbrook Street, off to grandma's house we went. Just Joe's proximity to my grandparents' home where I spent my Sundays as a kid qualifies him for automatic friendship in the Riley clan. Even though Joe is Italian-American (as was my mother), we know that all people are Irish at heart. "Welcome to the green, white, and orange flag Joe." Almost the same colors as the Italian flag.

One of the things Joe loves to tease me about when I walk by as he's sitting outside in his low-back chair, is Confession. I can't tell you how many times he has said to me, "Hey, you want to hear my Confession?" "Sorry Joe, dinner is waiting and I don't have that much time." We both laugh a little, with a grain of seriousness involved. From what I gather, Joe has a level of frustration with the Church that has kept him away from the practice of his faith for quite some time. Like many years now. His heart seems to yearn for the good ol' days of growing up in Mt. Carmel, in the wonderful Shrewsbury St. neighborhood loaded with families on every street. He has said many times how life is so different today than what it used to be. Wait till he looks on the face of God. "You think life is different now, Joe, after living a lifetime in the same city? Wait till you see what's coming. You're going to see different in a way you could have never imagined!"

Anyway, I've invited him back to Church, telling him to look for Jesus and not old clocks on a Sunday morning. He's been here a couple times for funerals of people he knew. But not yet

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Jul 25	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jul 26	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jul 27	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jul 28	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jul 29	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jul 30	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Aug 01	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 02	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.



Thursday, July 30th St. Peter
Chrysologus



Friday, July 31st: St. Ignatius
of Loyola

**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!**