

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.	Aug 01	4:00 PM	Francis X. Mahoney, Sr., 21st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Aug 02	7:30 AM	Delia Trainor, 1st Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Robert M. Roddy, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Aug 03	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Aug 04	9:00 AM	Danny Butler, from Uncle Martin, (<i>St. John Vianney</i>)
Wed.	Aug 05	9:00 AM	Cecelia Provost, from Family (<i>Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major</i>)
Thurs.	Aug 06	8:00 AM	Joanne Morrissey, Month Mind, from Family (<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>)
Sat.	Aug 08	4:00 PM	Harry Parker and Jane Cobill, from Family
Sun.	Aug 09	7:30 AM	James Powers, from Family
		10:00 AM	Rev. Henry A. Donoghue, in Gratitude

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 \$86,835 from 120 donors, which is 98% 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

THOUGHTS ON RECEIVING COMMUNION WITH MASKS

With Cononavirus, masks, reception of the Eucharist at the side aisle instead of the middle, the challenge to receive Communion easily and with full reverence has been altered to some degree. It has not been easy to change the way we receive the Eucharist with masks and side aisles. With that uneasy change, however, comes a certain challenge. While understanding it's much easier for me to hand out Communion than it is to receive, I still feel somewhat compelled to put forth a couple thoughts to maintain as much reverence as possible when receiving the Lord. The first best practice for those who receive the Eucharist in the hand is for the receiver of Communion to lay out one's hand as flat as possible. This allows the Priest/Deacon/Eucharistic Minister to *not touch any part of the hand of the person receiving*. At this time, under these circumstances, to not touch anyone's hand while offering Communion is most important, for obvious reasons. Tilted fingers and crooked hands make the practice of not touching much, much more difficult. 2nd-graders preparing for First Communion are taught to lay their hands flat in the shape of a crown as the proper way of receiving the Lord. May all of us return to this practice, especially at this time. And second, for those receiving Communion in the hand, which is most everyone, *it is essential that the receiver place the host in their mouth as soon as possible after reception. I ask that no one carry the host back to their seat and then place it in their mouth*. Walking with the Eucharist in one's hand from the time of reception all the way back to one's seat loses a great deal of reverence for the Eucharist. The Lord is to be consumed ASAP after reception. The most challenging are people with canes in one hand and the Eucharist in the other. But I ask that everyone who comes forward to receive Communion place the host in their mouth immediately after reception. If anyone is more comfortable receiving Communion after Mass to avoid carrying the host back to their seat, then that can easily be arranged, and most preferable to the alternative. If anyone has any questions on this subject, please, please, speak with me personally. Thank you, 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."

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

THE POOR: *Modern and Contemporary Attitudes*; "St. Vincent de Paul captures this tradition (friendship for the poor) in a consistent but unique approach. The poor are the members of Jesus, and this vision prompts great attention and charity in the service of the poor. In the poor one finds God. In his *Talks to the Daughters of Charity*, he encourages them to interrupt their schedule of prayer when the poor call upon them: 'If you hear the poor calling you, modify yourselves and leave God for God. It is not leaving God to leave God for God, that is one work of God for another, or one of greater obligation in merit.' No facet of personal privacy or spiritual exercise can be an excuse for separation from the poor. In early 20th century America, Dorothy Day stands tall in developing a spirituality that participates in socioeconomic action for the deprived and the oppressed. Her life of advocacy for the poor was articulated in her newspaper, *The Catholic Worker*. She established houses of hospitality for the poor and lived a spirituality of the poor that demanded conscious involvement in radical social politics on their behalf, especially workers exploited as cheap labor. She took the Catholic social justice teaching of papal encyclicals seriously."

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th, THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
 Psalm: 85
 2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5
 Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

18th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"Jesus said to them, 'There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves'." (*Matthew 14:16*) This is what Jesus said right before he fed the five thousand men. How often do we really place our trust in Jesus when the situation looks grim? With Jesus, no gift is too small or insignificant when offered with love. But, we have to do our part. We should trust that Jesus will provide all that we need. We need to believe that Jesus has a better plan in store for us.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -

LEGACY OF HOPE

Our Parish recently received our portion from the Diocese for the Legacy of Hope Campaign. We received a check for \$7008.85. This represents the 40% total Parish return at this stage of the campaign from the amount our parishioners donated over the past 3 months. When the amount donated reaches our goal of \$293,000, the 40% return will become 60% for our Parish. Thank you to all who continue to support this capital campaign that allows for our Parish and Diocese to address the many physical and spiritual needs in order to maintain a healthy, vibrant Church.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 07/26/2020	
Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,336.00
Online Donations 20-26 July 2020	\$ 710.00
Food Pantry	\$ 50.00

From the Pastor continued from the following page

or, have you come to depend upon him much more since the mid-March Madness set in? Do you have *any* capacity to succeed on your own in bringing about a solution to such a grave event, or, will you pray – *really pray* – every day asking the Lord to be by your side and enlighten you with his graces and answers that will lead to the other side of our present unpleasantness? We do pray for all our public officials embracing the responsibility of finding answers to very difficult questions, especially the officials who are separated from the love of God pretending to find answers without Him.

The simple point of this article is this: there is nothing in this world of horrors and immense beauty that we should ever allow to separate us from God’s unconditional love for us. Most especially the everlasting love found in Christ Jesus his Son. There exists in this life a prioritized list of events that have greater and lesser potential to bring about a Divine separation that God does not want, nor should we allow to let settle into our daily lives. On the top of the list is death. The virus, looting, and city violence (the bad trinity) can and has led to the death of many because of age, previous medical circumstances, being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or joining a group that has nothing good in their collective minds and hearts. Some die as persons of peace, others as persons of violence. But Christ has won the victory with reference to the separation issue.

May we not allow anything in this world to separate us from God’s love. It’s times like these when his love is to be sought and prayed for all the more. St. Paul understood as well as any person who has lived (except for Jesus) that God’s love is the final, lasting victory for us who remain close to him in prayer and trust. St. Paul was persecuted, stoned, shipwrecked, lost, naked, hungry and thirsty. The entire world rioted upon him. He knew and experienced firsthand all that could separate him from the love of Christ Jesus his Lord. But his belief and trust in the Resurrection sustained his faith in times of trouble, which were many. The Apostle had his virus, looting, violence, and much more attack him in his daily life. They lost the “separation from God game;” the Apostle won.

As the world we live in will cease one day; as the lives we live will continue to approach the black door of death; as we long for peace in our world in ways where we can enjoy summertime and all of its downtime; and as we don’t watch too much TV news that has the great potential to depress you and mislead you, we live always in the hope that God’s love is the one constant that endures into eternal life. Stand firm, keep of good heart, and let Christ be your light, for he truly is the Light of the World who seeks, not our separation from him, but our bonding to him.

Peace, Fr. Riley

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of those who died recently in our Parish and/or relatives of Parishioners: Francis X. Fullen, Daniel A. OLeary, Tony Simone, Linda O’Malley, and Gracie Evelyn-Marie Bulger. May they rest with Blessed Mary and all the Saints, and may their families be touched by the grace, comfort, and power of the Spirit of Consolation.

HOPE FOR HOUSING FOOD CARDS

Because of the situation with the present pandemic, there will be times when no one will be available after Mass to sell food cards for Hope for Housing. In this situation, please speak with Fr. Riley before or after Mass so he can sell what you would like to purchase. This ministry is much too important for our Parish and local community to place aside as it assists families who are struggling to find and maintain proper housing. Purchasing cards makes it easy for us who shop at any of the stores represented, while supporting a most important form of Christian ministry. Thank you for your understanding and continued support for Hope for Housing in and through our Parish. This past week card sales amounted to \$300.00.

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 who have difficulty trusting in God’s presence and promises*.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY RELIES ON YOUR SUPPORT!

In the midst of this pandemic, thousands of people continue to rely on our diocesan ministries and agencies for assistance. Your gift can be a local stimulus check to help those in need. Please reflect on God’s great generosity, and prayerfully respond with a gift or pledge. With your support, *faith in action* is visible every day in the compassionate outreach of our charitable agencies; in the prayerful witness of our retired priests and the joy of new priestly vocations; and to the ministries and programs that teach and inspire those seeking hope. Watch the Video online at www.partners-charity.net and respond with a gift online, by mail or returned to your parish at Mass. Thank you at helping us make our parish goal.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Mother of the Word and Mother of Joy: “The close relationship between God’s word and joy is evident in the Mother of God. Let us recall the words of Saint Elizabeth: “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her about the Lord.’ Mary is blessed because she has faith, because she believed, and in this faith she received the Word of God into her womb in order to give him to the world. The joy born of the Word can now expand to all those who, by faith, let themselves be changed by God’s word. The *Gospel of Luke* presents this mystery of hearing and joy in two texts. Jesus says: ‘My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.’ And in reply to a woman from the crowd who blesses the womb that bore him and the breasts that nursed him, Jesus reveals the secret of true joy: ‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!’ Jesus points out Mary’s true grandeur, making it possible for each of us to attain that blessedness which is born of the word received and put into practice.”

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

FROM THE PASTOR

From Paul's Letter to the Romans: "Brothers and sisters, what will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or the sword, or Coronavirus, or looting, or violence in city streets, or splashing paint on statues?" Well, the latter part of the question is not found in Paul's Letter to the Romans. However, if the Apostle was around today...

I never cease to be amazed how the New Testament Scriptures, written almost 2000 years ago, still speak to us in our present lives and what's happening around us. As does the Old Testament written centuries earlier. Today, not a single person escapes the virus and/or its effects. Most of us will not contract it. But all of us are in full awareness-mode of its potential harm and lasting effects. Alongside of this, one evening of watching the news will make all of us aware of the destruction taking place in certain cities in America this summer, with much looting and violence. It is a year of anarchy. In the midst of such upheaval, the above question asked by St. Paul to a Christian community founded in the Ancient City is an essential question for each of us to ponder.

Is there anything in this passing world that can separate from the love of God found in Christ? The heat is on us to answer this question personally. *We must answer this question!* The greatest threat is not a virus, or not even looters and violent mobs throwing Molotov cocktails. As testing as these present realities can be toward creating a separation between us and the Lord, possibly making our faith feel compromised and far away, they are actually on the secondary scale of actions and world events that could be successful at bringing about a separation between us and our Savior. The very first part of life that can cause a lasting separation between the Lord and ourselves is death; the death of those we love. As I've witnessed such a reality in priesthood, I'm sure most of us who have been faithful for so long, we who take it seriously, have witnessed the same with people we know. Death will do a number on a person's faith that nothing else can approach. This is why Paul calls death our greatest enemy; because it has the greatest potential to separate us from the love of God found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With that said, we don't take a virus, looting, or city violence any less serious with its potential to succeed at creating a separation between the Lord and ourselves. But we do keep such things in perspective. When at a Deanery meeting recently at Christ the King Church, one of the priests' present made a comment concerning our present-day American strife, as well as a worldwide virus. It was a comment that is constantly in the front lobes of my brain, always ready to preach, but still, when hearing him speak the comment, it made an impression that lasted. The comment being, "We have no lasting place here." Just look around. Do you want to stay here forever and deal with all this mess? It's a very good thing we don't have a lasting place here! When blessing a Fire Engine recently, I was present with the Worcester City Manager, the Worcester Mayor, and a City Councilor for the event. The Worcester Mayor looked like he went through a 15-round boxing match with Muhammed Ali in his prime. The poor guy looked like he aged from his 50's into his 80's over the past few months, dealing on a daily basis with the effects of the Coronavirus for our city. I wanted to ask him (but didn't), "Does your wife still recognize you?"

While doing the best he can under circumstances that he never could have predicted when elected Mayor of the second largest city in New England, it was obvious to me that Mr. Mayor has taken a few steps closer to death's door. We pray he has many more steps to take before that event arrives at his front door. My question for him next time I see him, since he is a Catholic, will be, "Has all this coronavirus stuff separated you from the love of God found in Christ Jesus,

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Aug 01	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 02	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Aug 03	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Aug 04	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Aug 05	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Aug 06	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Aug 08	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 09	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

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.

**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!**