

# Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at  
[www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com) and Facebook  
Email: [icworc@live.com](mailto: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 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                                                   |
| Mon.   | Aug 10 | 9:00 AM  | Rev. Robert Brusio, Month Mind, from Family, <i>(St. Laurence)</i>                     |
| Tues.  | Aug 11 | 9:00 AM  | Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, <i>(St. Claire)</i>                             |
| Wed.   | Aug 12 | 9:00 AM  | Rita Hassett, Month Mind, from Anja Duprat, <i>(St. Jane Frances de Chantal)</i>       |
| Thurs. | Aug 13 | 8:00 AM  | George Provost, from Family, <i>(Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus)</i>                      |
| Sat.   | Aug 15 | 4:00 PM  | Laureen Riley, 4th Anniv., from Family, & Robert J. Stukowski, 1st Anniv., from Family |
| Sun.   | Aug 16 | 7:30 AM  | Kevin Needham, 20th anniversary, from Family                                           |
|        |        | 10:00 AM |                                                                                        |

**MASS SATURDAY MORNING AUGUST 15 SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

Next Saturday, August 15, we will have Mass at 8:00 a.m. in commemoration of the Assumption of Blessed Mary into heaven. Because it falls on a Saturday this year, this great feast is not a day of obligation. We will, however, celebrate it for anyone who wishes to join Fr. Riley and Fr. Enoch for Saturday morning Mass. May the prayerful intercession of Blessed Mary bring all of us to that better place in our lives with her Son, who is the Resurrection and the Life.

**HOLY HOUR FOR LAY PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS**

On Friday, August 14 from 7 - 8 pm, a holy hour for lay people to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove St., Worcester. This holy hour will consist of time for silent adoration, as well as a short reflection, the rosary, and benediction. Please join us for this important act of service and prayer for our priests.

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY 2020**

The annual Partners in Charity campaign will continue in our Parish until the end of August, being the end of the fiscal year. In gratitude to the generosity of the people of Immaculate Conception, we have now surpassed our goal of \$88,500. For anyone still able to make a contribution, we invite you to please consider doing so despite having reached our goal. For those who can to do so, envelopes remain at each entrance to the Church, or please go to the Diocese of Worcester Website at [www.worcesterdiocese.org](http://www.worcesterdiocese.org), go under the heading "HOME," and Partners in Charity will come up. The amount our Parish has raised this year is \$95,135 from 124 donors, which is 107% 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**

**PETER WALKS ON THE WATER:** Mt 14:29; "Why then did Christ permit Peter to come? Suppose he had said, 'No, you cannot come.' With his boldness Peter might have protested again. But when Peter saw the sea and wind, he became dizzy and was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' In relating the same situation, John remarks that 'then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.' This implies that when they were on the point of arriving at the land, he entered the ship. Peter then having come down from the ship went to Jesus, not rejoicing so much in walking on the water as in coming to him."

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th, THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7  
 Psalm: 67  
 2nd Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32  
 Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

**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.

**FOOD PANTRY**

Our Parish Food Pantry is seeking donations of food at this time (and always) of rice, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal and any non-perishable item that can be given to those who come to our door on Mondays. Thank you.

**THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT**

**EUROPE'S CRISIS:** "Finally, I am worried about the consequences of the annihilation of Christian Europe for all other parts of the world. The missionaries from the Old Continent for a long time brought the Gospel message and the teaching of Christian values to Africa or to Asia. They enabled entire populations to leave their old pagan religions so as to find Christ. I am a product of that history. God gave a particular responsibility to Europe. For long centuries, it responded generously to that calling. Its new, fanatical egotism will inevitably have consequences. Yet I want to continue to believe in Europe even though I am aware that the illness seems incurable. The tragic thing about the Old Continent is not that it does not know the meaning of its mission but that it is less and less disturbed by not having one. Human civilization is at stake, and European man does not care. He is dancing on the edge of a volcano. And yet, some countries are waking up, little by little. Their voices carry. I am thinking of Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Italy, and Hungary. So let us hope!"

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

**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 \$20.00.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 08/02/2020**

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Sunday Ordinary                  | \$ 3,003.00 |
| Assumption of Mary               | \$ 30.00    |
| Online Donations 20-26 July 2020 | \$ 122.50   |

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** - We hope that you and your family are healthy and have enjoyed your time together. We as a parish community continue to pray for the health and wellness of all of our parishioners, families and friends. Registration forms for the 2020-2021 Catechetical Year were mailed to all Religious Education families. Please fill out the registration and return it to the Rectory by August 23rd. Registration forms are also available on our website – [www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com). All children are welcome to attend Religious Education classes and will not be denied participation due to financial hardship. We want to thank our dedicated parents & catechists who teach Jesus’ Gospel and help the children grow in their faith & love of God and his Church. God gives us amazing grace when we answer God’s call to carry on the joyful mission to teach as Jesus did. Our volunteers are one of our greatest assets and we are very grateful for the gift of themselves, their time and talent. We welcome more of our parents and guardians to be catechists or assistants in our Religious Education program. If you want to help, please call Mary Sycks 508-868-8119. More help is always needed to ensure a continuity of programs that emphasize solid Catholic teaching, spiritual enrichment, liturgy and service. Please consider sharing your time, talent and treasure in this important ministry.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

All surprises were off the table for Paul. Instead of learning the things of God from the Pharisaic element of Israel, Paul would learn from God himself in the Person of Christ. The Apostle’s numerous revelations were the classrooms where he would learn how to preach the entire truth regarding the Savior of the world. We move ahead to the Letter to the Romans with no surprises. “I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie.” Paul does not take some side approach to teaching the Christian community in Rome. The Apostle has no time for small talk, for he knows the time is short. “Here’s the deal, believers. There is no salvation under any other name. Jesus is the one who suffered and died for our sins. He is the one who was raised from the dead. He is the one who ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us. Christ is the one who offers abundant grace and mercy to bring us back to him. He is the one who extends and teaches peace without violence. He’s the one who showed us how to carry our crosses. And Christ will never abandon you.”

Paul is believable because his message is one of love and sacrifice, unlike others who speak and teach from selfish motives. The proof is found in what the Apostle writes to the Romans after telling them he speaks the truth in Christ. And how many of us can do what he does? He amazingly writes that he, Paul, would rather be cut off from Christ for the sake of his own people (Israelites) coming to believe in the Son of God as Israel’s Messiah whom God has sent. Paul would rather lose his own soul if it resulted in the rest of Israel knowing and living the truth of what he now knows without any doubt; that Christ is Lord and Savior. While not pulling any punches or sidestepping the issue of salvation and through Whom it comes, it may have surprised some Romans in the community when Paul wrote he would be willing to lose his own soul so that others may gain theirs. That, my friends, is the essence of *selflessness*.

To the Israelites belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the Law, the worship (true worship), and the promises. And from their lineage come the Patriarchs (Abraham, Moses, David), and, according to the flesh, Christ who is over all. No surprises from the Apostle. Just a whole lot of truth. The truth that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation for a human race that had gone wickedly astray.

I guess one of the surprises that remains to this day is that some folks choose to reject and refuse the great gifts of God. I suspect one reason for this rejection is the false belief that God cannot possibly be this good and love us this much. Wrong on both counts! As we grow older, and hopefully wiser, may the last surprise we encounter be the one that allows us an early vision of seeing what God has prepared for us in eternal life. If you think you have an advanced idea or degree on this subject, I humbly state your vision or idea is likely not in the ballpark of what the eternal experience will be really like. Don’t get me wrong, it’s good to reflect on the good things God has ready for us. Please don’t stop doing so. Such thoughts build up spiritual character and faith in the present in a world that advances in less faith and character. Instead, allow yourself to be fully surprised

at the moment we leave this world and behold the vision of God. *Leave some empty space for that moment!* This vision touching our souls is so powerful that it will last for eternity. The only surprise, which Paul knew beforehand better than the rest of us, will be the “surprise” of how much we have been loved by the Divine. And that’s a good surprise.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**THOUGHTS ON RECEIVING COMMUNION WITH MASKS**

With Conronavirus, 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. 2<sup>nd</sup>-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.

**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 *peace in our nation and cities*.

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

**W**e all like surprises, for the most part. At least the good ones. I told my family I didn't want a surprised birthday party for my 60<sup>th</sup> a couple weeks ago. Thankfully, they obliged. And thank you also to my parishioners, family, and friends who sent cards and wonderful words my way for that occasion that took me a few steps closer to being stored into God's barn with the rest of you wheat.

As I said, we like the good surprises. The touchy ones however, we could take or leave. Surprise birthday parties are not for everyone. I can't stand the thought of walking into a room full of 100 people or more, as they all wait for you to show up just so everyone of them can look at your face when you enter. Some people love the idea and experience. Count me out.

In terms of our faith and the practice of it, most of us don't like surprises there either. This is why it's essential we continue to thirst for the knowledge of our Catholic faith over the years as we grow – hopefully – in wisdom and grace. To be stagnant in our faith by way of understanding and learning will lead to surprises along the way, mostly not good. “Gee, I thought the Church accepted birth control now that it's so common in our culture.” No, the Church never has and never will because it intentionally disrupts the marital act between a man and a woman, between husband and wife, shutting down any and all possibilities of creating human life in God's image and likeness. Or, “I thought Purgatory was no longer in use!” No, Purgatory is an infallible teaching in our Catholic faith set forth by the Magisterium of the Church, being the Teaching Office of the Holy Father and Bishops. Such a teaching is not considered infallible (Divinely revealed) one week, then done away with the next week. Infallible today is infallible always because infallible means directly from God, who is not wishy-washy like we are. If anything, we should be thanking God for Purgatory since sin cannot enter into his lasting presence. The Man at the door sees the condition of our soul and says, “Go down the road and take a ride through Ernie's Car Wash and clean up that mess you left behind in the world you just arrived from. You may need four or five washes before you enter through this door that leads to spiritual perfection.” The cleansing of Purgatory is like a second-chance God gives us because of our arrogance and lack of total belief. Many more faith examples causing potential surprise can be provided on request.

Thankfully, one person who does not pull any surprises (besides the Lord) is St. Paul of Tarsus. And in this week's second reading in his Letter to the Romans, he's really feeling it. Paul knows who he is. He's fully aware of his Israelite heritage and all that it means. He grew up under the tutelage of the best teachers in all of Israel, which is saying something. They were brilliant beyond lightbulbs. And Paul accepted all that he learned from these best teachers, as any good student will do. Their teaching formed and shaped the young pupil and future Apostle into his own level of brilliance. At first it showed through his dedication to Pharisaic teaching. Paul was a devoted disciple of this group, even to the point of defending his beliefs with violence, if necessary. Then, one day on his way to destroying some Christians, Paul himself got surprised. And a good one it was; “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” “Who are you?” “This is Jesus whom you persecute. Go and be baptized.”

The meeting between Jesus and Saul now Paul was cause for Paul, not to reject all that he learned in the Law, but instead to arrive at the fullness of the truth of who Jesus is. St. Paul would swallow this Truth whole and entire, the truth that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Like Ezekiel in the Old Testament being commanded by God to roll up the scroll and eat it, Paul imitated Ezekiel with the entire message of Christ.

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**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

|        |        |                     |                    |
|--------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Sat.   | Aug 08 | 2:45 PM<br>4:00 PM  | Confession<br>Mass |
| Sun.   | Aug 09 | 7:30 AM<br>10:00 AM | Mass<br>Mass       |
| Mon.   | Aug 10 | 8:30 AM<br>9:00 AM  | Rosary<br>Mass     |
| Tues.  | Aug 11 | 8:30 AM<br>9:00 AM  | Rosary<br>Mass     |
| Wed.   | Aug 12 | 8:30 AM<br>9:00 AM  | Rosary<br>Mass     |
| Thurs. | Aug 13 | 7:30 AM<br>8:00 AM  | Rosary<br>Mass     |
| Sat.   | Aug 15 | 2:45 PM<br>4:00 PM  | Confession<br>Mass |
| Sun.   | Aug 16 | 7:30 AM<br>10:00 AM | Mass<br>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 16<sup>th</sup> 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!**