

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 15	8:00 AM 4:00 PM	(Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) Laureen Riley, 4th Anniv., from Family, & Robert J. Stukowski, 1st Anniv., from Family
Sun.	Aug 16	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Kevin Needham, 20th anniversary, from Family James Norton, 7th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Aug 17	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Aug 18	9:00 AM	Ellen Geheran, from Husband
Wed.	Aug 19	9:00 AM	Rita L. Letendre, from Family, (St. John Eudes)
Thurs.	Aug 20	8:00 AM	(St. Bernard)
Sat.	Aug 22	4:00 PM	Gordon C. Branche, 5th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Aug 23	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Patrick Gorman, 9th Anniversary, from Family Jay Herlihy, 8th Anniversary, from Family



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, go under the heading "HOME," and Partners in Charity will come up. The amount our Parish has raised this year is \$95,385 from 126 donors, which is 108% 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

THE LOST SHEEP: Mt 15:24; "A question arises here on that point: how is it that we have come from the Gentiles to the sheepfold of Christ if he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel? What is the meaning of this puzzling dispensation? The Lord knew why he came - certainly to have a church among all the Gentiles - and he said that he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel? We accordingly understand that he had to manifest in due sequence to that people first the presence of his body, his birth, the display of miracles and then the power of his resurrection. It had thus been predetermined from the beginning, such and such had been foretold and fulfilled, that Christ Jesus had to come to the Jewish people and to be seen and killed and to win for himself those whom he knew beforehand. The Gentiles were not to be condemned but to be winnowed like grain. A multitude of chaff was there, the hidden dignity of grain was there, and a storehouse to be filled there. In fact, where were the apostles if not there? Where was Peter? Where were the rest?"
St. Augustine (360-430)

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.

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

THE ERRORS OF THE WEST: "When man assigns importance to his own reason alone, to material goods, and God disappears in the great roar of ideologies, is it any surprise that the West is going through an unprecedented crisis? The underlying characteristic of the Enlightenment ideology is to affirm that reason, in order to be reason, must cut itself off from all divine light. The Enlightenment ideology tried to exile God as far as possible from our earth. During the French Revolution, the cult of the Supreme Being perfectly expressed this momentous childishness. Man's pretentiousness and rebellion always end up turning against him. No civilization has ever professed atheism and irreligion to this extent. No civilization ever believed to this extent that reason alone was sufficient in order to get ahead in life. Why should humanism inevitably be irreligious? On the contrary, the desire to care for men ought to lead the West to draw closer to God. I profoundly believe that reason finds its fulfillment only by being open to the light of faith.

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 \$400.00.

20th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29) God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. We are called to be good stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd, THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23
Psalm: 138
2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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. 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

I’m sorry, Bethlehem. Talk about terrible timing! Leave it to the government officials! Anyway, Mary hops on the family donkey with child inside, riding uncomfortably for a few days, sleeping outdoors at night, eating at fast-food joints along the way. Finally arriving, with Mary about to give birth, the hotels and innkeepers tell Joseph and his betrothed to move on like a bad sack of potatoes. “And take your sack with you! There’s no room!”

The first family of Christ consists of mother, stepfather, child, and Dr. Doolittle’s Kingdom. The only one missing from this scene was Noah. Shortly thereafter, our Blessed Lady who now reigns in heaven performing the will of her Savior Son, is told by Joseph to hop back on the family donkey because they need to escape to Egypt away from the murderous intent of Herod. Thank God for good dreams with good endings! As the Israelites came out of the slavery of Egypt centuries and centuries earlier led by the mighty Moses, so this Israelite couple and Son (I suppose the donkey was Israelite too) rewind the scene, without having to part the Red Sea, reverse course and find a haven in the land of pyramids.

Finally, after some time and the death of Herod the Horrible, this good family dealing with countless upheavals and turmoil are thankful to make it back to the home they built in the obscure town of Nazareth, from where something good can and will come. Life now gets quiet for many years, aside of that one incident where Jesus was “lost” in the Temple at 12 years old. The family is now given a reprieve from the virus of upheaval. Mary is most thankful to God for allowing her and Joseph to raise their Son in a place and manner that will allow him to grow in wisdom, “and the favor of God was upon him.” Can anything bring more joy to a mother?

After the long reprieve of quiet up north, as Paul Harvey would say, we “know the rest of the story.” Jesus will go public, like a strong company stock, deliver benefits to humanity that no one has ever seen before; curing the sick, raising the dead, calling out demons, and teaching beatitudes that show God’s way of living in the world. His portfolio will fill out in ways that will challenge other “companies” to reform their ways, love like God does, and don’t take advantage of your brothers and sisters. Mary and Joseph taught their Son some good values. For this, the Mother will be forced to watch her Son carry and die on a Cross, by far the worst upheaval she will experience in her most beautiful life. Why do bad things happen to good people?

Alas, there’s light at the end of the tunnel. A dark tunnel that took Jesus 3 days to travel through. Because Mary didn’t give up hope, she was part of the blessed crew who witnessed his great victory of life over death. For her saying “Yes” to Gabriel, who stands before God; for her Motherhood; for her perseverance; for her trust; for her perpetual virginity that is so perfectly beautiful to God; for her faithfulness; and for her holy humility, Mary will show future generations how to hang in there, trusting that all things work out good when trusting that God is in charge. To Our Lady whose body has been raised to heaven by

the glory of God the Father, to you we offer our thanks and praise. You, Dear Lady, are the human model in this time of upheaval. Intercede on this world’s behalf. *Peace, Fr. Riley*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Mother of the Word and Mother of Joy: “I remind all Christians that our personal and communal relationship with God depends on our growing familiarity with the word of God. Finally, I turn to every man and woman, including those who have fallen away from the Church, who have left the faith, or who have never heard the proclamation of salvation. To everyone the Lord says: ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.’ May every day of our lives thus be shaped by a renewed encounter with Christ, the Word of the Father made flesh: he stands at the beginning and the end, and ‘in him all things hold together.’ Let us be silent in order to hear the Lord’s word and to meditate upon it, so that by the working of the Holy Spirit it may remain in our hearts and speak to us all the days of our lives. In this way the Church will always be renewed and rejuvenated, thanks to the word of the Lord which remains forever. Thus we too will enter into the great nuptial dialogue which concludes Sacred Scriptures: ‘The Spirit and the bride say: Come. And let everyone who hears say: Come.’ The one who testifies through these things says: ‘Surely I am coming soon! Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!’”

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

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

THE POOR: Modern and Contemporary Attitudes; “In her autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*,” Dorothy Day says, “To help the organizers, to give what you have for relief, to pledge yourself to voluntary poverty for life so that you can share with your brothers is not enough. One must live with them, she with him is suffering too. Give up one’s privacy, in mental and spiritual comforts as well as physical.’ For years of living in the slums was her way of actualizing the spiritual strength of the Catholic tradition. She asked how Catholics in America code and conscience tolerate the death dealing machine of a ‘filthy rotten system.’

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 *the many hungry in our communities, nation, and world who lack healthy food and clean water.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 08/09/2020

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,332.00
The Church in Central and Eastern Europe	\$ 244.00
Online Donations 27Jul-09Aug 2020	\$ 495.00

FROM THE PASTOR

The Red Sox are having a tough go of it early in this very abbreviated season. Their pitching staff is young, a bit inexperienced on the Major League level, and giving up runs early and often.

With that said, I'm hoping and praying that the 2020 version of Professional Baseball will be able to survive the upheaval of the Coronavirus and finish the short season according to plan. Thus far, it isn't looking so good. The Florida Marlins in the National League had numerous cases of the virus appear after just a couple days, sharing it with some players from the Philadelphia Phillies (a funny name for a team; this would be akin to calling our team the Boston Billies, which, I suppose, is better than the Boston Bullies.) One better result from such an awful situation is any professional player who contracts the virus will most likely not die from the contraction. Granted, even those in superior physical condition will have to deal with its viral effects that will linger for some amount of time. But, unless there is an underlying medical issue the player doesn't know about, all of them will live to tell their grandchildren how they were part of the ugly side of the pandemic of 2020. And for their surviving to tell their grandchildren, we give thanks to God.

We sort of need baseball to survive (and football to begin now that I'm a Buccaneers fan) so that we as a nation and world can say we defeated one side of the virus' attack on us. It may be a small, token victory, but it's a victory nonetheless. The sport of golf, as well as some level of success to restaurants opening and other businesses moving forward, have thankfully played a role in these important victories. As we await the discovery of a vaccine that will protect us against the ravages of this dreaded, evil virus that smothered us quickly back in March, we pray that some elements of our society will continue to win little battles against it, providing us hope as a world, nation, and community.

I use the most excellent feast day of The Assumption of Mary this Saturday, August 15, as an example of overcoming what seems like impossible events and odds. Blessed Mary offers us the strength and hope we seek in times of trouble and adversity when much seems lost, even to the point of feeling lost and alone in this present desert. Only the hardcore monks like the feeling of the desert. And there's only a handful of them. It bothers them not as to whether they have a life of "normalcy" in this world. But the rest of us are bothered.

Starting from the start of the Incarnation, Mary's life was, amazingly, one of potential upheaval and serious uncertainty. The appearance of Gabriel, who stands before God, appearing to her in the countryside of Nazareth, informing her that she has "found favor with God," and will "bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus," is not only a moment of perfect grace for the world, but also a potential moment of uncertainty for Mary. Visiting her cousin Elizabeth shortly thereafter, Mary will hear words spoken to her and about her that no other person who has ears will ever hear; "How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" I'm sure Mary answered this question of Elizabeth the best way she could; "Well Elizabeth, you may want to sit down for a moment. The angel Gabriel appeared...." You know the story. And prior to Mary's visit to Elizabeth, there was the part of this story where Joseph discovered the truth of Mary being with child and him knowing he's not the father. Talk about upheaval! It took the visit of an angel appearing to Joseph in a dream to quell his desire to "divorce her quietly." Instead, it was "happily ever after," with some incidents still to happen.

As the story of potential upheaval continues, wasn't it just her luck that one of those incidents was a census being called right about the time Mary was due to give birth. Now the couple must travel to Joseph's hometown way down south in Dixie,

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Aug 15	8:00 AM 2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Solemnity Mass Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 16	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Aug 17	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Aug 18	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Aug 19	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Aug 20	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Aug 22	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 23	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Mortal and Venial Sin: “ Already in the Old Testament, individuals guilty of several kinds of sins - 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, they were forgiven by means of a sacrificial offering. In reference also to these texts, the church has for centuries spoken of mortal sin and venial sin. But it is above all the New Testament that sheds light on this distinction and these terms. Here there are many passages which enumerate and strongly reprove sins that are particularly deserving of condemnation. There is also a confirmation of the Decalogue by Jesus himself.”

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

**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!**