

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 22	4:00 PM	Gordon C. Branche, 5th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Aug 23	7:30 AM	Patrick Gorman, 9th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Jay Herlihy, 8th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Aug 24	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, (St. Bartholomew)
Tues.	Aug 25	9:00 AM	(St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz)
Wed.	Aug 26	9:00 AM	Donald H. Letendre
Thurs.	Aug 27	8:00 AM	William Rourke, 2nd Anniv., from Dory, Emily, Justin and Family, (St. Monica)
Sat.	Aug 29	4:00 PM	Thomas F. J. and Florence E. Dillon, from Family
Sun.	Aug 30	7:30 AM	Barbara Reidy, 4th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	John Mias, Month Mind, from Chris and Joe Toloczko



THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

THE ERRORS OF THE WEST: “Modern man wants nothing more to do with his Creator. And so he tramples the moral laws little by little, only to replace them with so-called democratic rules of law. The most rudimentary desires become the measure of everything. The majority, often represented by the parliamentary power of the States and manipulated by the powerful media, little by little rewrites the moral norm. In this wayward development, individual freedom is the only criterion, and personal satisfaction - the only objective. Everyone can do what he wants. The moral law is detested. The media high priests burn incense to impulses. If a man wants to put an end to his life, he can. If a man wants to become a woman, he can. If a girl wants to prostitute herself on the Internet, she can. If an adolescent wants to look at pornography on the Internet, he can. If a woman wants to abort her child, she can. It is their right. Everything is possible. This picture may appear to be a caricature. And yet this is the reality. We have entered into a civilization of the chaos of desires. And the deeper we sink into the chaos, the more obvious it becomes that when the primitive pleasures dry up, man prefers to have done with life. He prefers nothingness. There is no hope outside of this world. Man no longer looks to heaven. He struggles in his frustrations. Westerners have become the largest consumers of antidepressants. The offices of psychologists and other practitioners are always packed. Suicide among adolescents has become an ongoing phenomenon.

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

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

THE POOR: Modern and Contemporary Attitudes; “Pope John Paul II, in his addresses to U.S. Catholics during his visits of 1979 and 1987, accented the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. During his first visit to New York, he stated that ‘the parable of the rich man in Lazarus must always be present in our memory; it must form our conscience.’ Eight years later, during his visit to Detroit, he asked Americans: ‘What have you done with that parable?’ prior to demonstrating the global significance of the parable. The interdependence of nations can no longer be ignored: ‘The continuing existence of millions of people who suffer hunger or malnutrition and the growing realization that the natural resources are limited make clear that humanity forms a single whole. Pollution of the air and water threatens more and more the delicate balance of the biosphere on which present in future generations depend it makes us realize that we all share a common ecological environment.’ Spirituality of the poor becomes a global and an ecological spirituality. Lazarus is the world. A spirituality of the poor has been part of the Christian experience from the beginning. In the latter years of the 20th century, spirituality of the poor has become central to a new insight into Christology and ecclesiology. And now forms the basis of global and ecological awareness. Those who would bring this spirituality to bear on their own lives must wrestle with the question raised by Saint Catherine of Siena in her *Dialogue*: ‘How can these wretched evil people share their possessions with the poor well they are already stealing from them?’”

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THE QUESTION ASKED OUTSIDE JUDEA: Mt 16:13; “Caesarea Philippi Is outside Judea in the region of the Gentiles. Why therefore did our Lord not examine his own disciples within the borders of Judea? Why did he go far north into the territory of the Gentiles? But as our insignificance (as Gentiles) works against us, he questioned the disciples in Gentile territory. The result was that by the true and everlasting conviction of the blessed apostle Peter - what flesh and blood had not unveiled, the Father revealed from the heavens. Through faith the Gentiles rather than the Jews would come to acknowledge the Son of God. This indeed occurred in the city of Caesarea - Cornelius who was first among the Gentiles to believe with all his own household, through the holy apostle Peter. The Lord was not inclined to question his own disciples in Judea, when the Jews did not believe that he was the Son of God but regarded him merely as the son of Joseph.” *Epiphanius the Latin (d. 403)*

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Mortal and Venial Sin: “ In the text of his First Letter, St. John speaks of a sin which leads to death, as opposed to a sin which does not lead to death. Obviously, the concept of death here is a spiritual death. It is a question of the loss of the true life or ‘eternal life,’ which for John is knowledge of the Father and the Son, and communion and intimacy with them. In that passage the sin that leads to death seems to be the denial of the Son or the worship of false gods. At any rate, by this distinction of concepts John seems to wish to emphasize the incalculable seriousness of what constitutes the very essence of sin, namely the rejection of God. This is manifested above all in apostasy and idolatry: repudiating faith in revealed truth and making certain created realities equal to God, raising them to the status of idols or false gods. But in this passage the apostle’s intention is also to underline the certainty that comes through the Christian from the fact of having been ‘born of God’ through the coming of the Son: The Christian possesses a power that preserves him from falling into sin; God protects him, and ‘the evil one does not touch him.’ If he should sin through weakness or ignorance, he has confidence in being forgiven, also because he is supported by the joint prayer of the community.”

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

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 \$100.00.

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

The Lord seems to ask this question in a way that says, “I hear many people say many things about who I am. I’ve heard them call me a glutton, a drunkard, even Beelzebul himself. I’ve been called a healer, a Good Teacher, a Raiser from the dead, and one who prays in the earliest part of the morning. There seems to be a combination of confusion and truth, my dear Apostles, about who I am. The way my fellow Israelites see who I am will lead them on a path that will either bring them to me or away from me. It is essential they be guided by the truth of who I am. If they know and trust the truth of who I am, they will find a home in my kingdom, as well as some answers to some tough questions along the way.”

Fortunately, the disciples provide answers that are quite complimentary to Jesus. They say, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Interesting, it’s obvious there was some belief at the time of people returning from the dead. Either way, they complimented Jesus in the best of ways by comparing him to the late, great John the Baptist, or the most highly regarded Old Testament prophets Elijah and Jeremiah. As we know, Jesus goes on to straighten out the truth, using Peter to do so. “But who do you say that I am?” Peter raised his hand first and chimed up saying, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” In that answer of truth we find the One who becomes our guide, inspiration, and Way when trouble sets in. It’s not a stretch from the perspective of faith to say that the many intelligent, truly gifted people who are struggling to find answers to the present pandemic as connected to the education of our young folks can find their guidance and strength in “the Son of the living God.”

Concerning Religious Education, we too are forced to think outside the box. While no one format has been set for this year’s approach to teaching religious ed in our Parish, a program that we pray begins in the second half of September, at present we are open to all possibilities that will ensure the youth and children of our Parish and our devoted teachers will be safe, teaching and learning “the truths of God,” be it here on the property, at home, or a combination thereof. Some guidance has come forth from our Diocesan officials, but much of what we eventually decide will be dependent upon each respective Parish; their class sizes, availability of space, teachers who may want to pass on teaching this year, the hesitation of parents to send their children to a classroom setting even with all safety protocols in place, and so forth. I suspect this year that even more responsibility will be placed on many of our parents teaching their children religious education as we, the Parish, provide the teaching tools needed. More information will be forthcoming on this important subject.

In the meantime, maybe, just maybe, one of the goods that God is drawing us into from this pandemic is to seek and trust in His guidance and strength in new ways of learning, and lead us all to answers we search for. No one thinks better “outside the box” than God. His way of saving us and bringing us to salvation through the death of his Son was a “plan of education” no

person could have guessed. We know God knows all things in one, all things in all times, a sure sign of his omnipotence. However, the Jesus story must have surprised even the Creator of all (a very human thought.)

May all of us responsible for teaching the young folks of today, be it in school, Religious Education, or otherwise, place our trust in God, pray for his guidance on where we go and what we should do, and at the end of the day, trust even more that his Spirit will bring us to the better place we so badly want. Amen.

Peace, 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 *those who struggle with their faith, may the Lord lead them to the goodness and joy of his presence.*

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

FOOD PANTRY

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

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 30th, THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9
 Psalm: 63
 2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2
 Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 08/16/2020

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,333.00
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	\$ 322.00
Online Donations 10-16Aug 2020	\$ 467.50
Church in Central and Eastern Europe	\$ 41.00

FROM THE PASTOR

As we all know well, schools are being forced to adapt to new models of teaching and learning. After being struck harshly by the Coronavirus back in March, forcing schools to close and teach students remotely, school leaders are still trying to figure out the best course of action that will maximize a number of important issues concerning both students and teachers: first, how to keep everyone safe and protected from a very contagious virus, which includes students, teachers, and administrators; figure out a present teaching model with which to move forward when the school year begins, with the understanding such models may have to change and adapt (more than once) because of circumstances connected to the virus; how best to care for the high risk children by way of caring, not only for their minds, but also for their basic needs, for numerous students and families count on schools for breakfast, lunch, after-school education, and a well-grounded concern for their entire well-being; and (but not last) the concern of parents who work at jobs that require them to be at their place of employment, those not being able to perform their labor at home. For example, a UPS driver cannot deliver their packages each day by staying at home.

These are a few of the more important issues addressing school systems, administrators, Mayors of cities and towns, and whoever else is connected to making decisions that will hopefully succeed at not losing a gainful year of learning for our children and youth. Thinking outside the box is required at this time like never before, with the hope that such thinking will lead to success at the student -teacher level that better serves everyone involved. Since March, there has been much confusion as to what to do because of the pandemic. Some pretty intelligent people have been baffled. People who are used to figuring out answers to difficult questions. Going ahead with what we know and understand at this time, there remains a great uncertainty as to how new models of learning are going to play out. Will they be effective? How often will they need to adjust and change the model? What about the total person (student) and what happens to them beyond the classroom? It's a very unsettling time for all involved in elementary and secondary education. Colleges are not exempt from the uncertainty, but, because of the age and independence of their students, there is less stress surrounding the entire approach to education.

One part of the answer, and this has been in my daily prayers, has been the hope that those involved in figuring out answers to questions that have no solid answers at this time, turn to God for guidance and strength in their approach to addressing this most important subject. Being befuddled on one's own is one thing, and not a good one. Being befuddled and taking it to prayer, asking the Lord for guidance and enlightenment under totally new circumstances that involve the successful education of our children and youth is what I hope and pray will be sought. This takes great humility. For some pretty smart people to seek the Lord's presence and guidance at this time regarding the return to school takes a dose of humility they likely have never had to seek previously. To say in the quiet of prayer, "Lord, you know all things. You even know the better answer to this pressing question of how best to return our kids to school. In your infinite knowledge and wisdom, I ask you to touch my heart and mind with your knowledge, and lead all of us to a place of success." Again, this takes humility. If there was ever a time for leaders to be humble and seek divine guidance, now is that time. And for the ones who do so, they will not be disappointed. God loves all his creatures, even the ones who don't believe in him. And he will enlighten those who humbly ask.

The above serious concerns connected to schools returning touch on the Gospel this week, this familiar story of Jesus asking his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Aug 22	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 23	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Aug 24	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Aug 25	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Aug 26	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Aug 27	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Aug 29	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 30	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!**