

# 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 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
Mon.	Aug 31	9:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to God
Tues.	Sep 01	9:00 AM	Joan M. Kennedy, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Wed.	Sep 02	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Thurs.	Sep 03	8:00 AM	Catherine Riley, Month Mind, from family, ( <i>St. Gregory the Great</i> )
Sat.	Sep 05	4:00 PM	Jeannette Lindsay, Birthday Anniversary, from the Ciccolini and Herrmann Family
Sun.	Sep 06	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Marie Riley, 12th Anniversary, from Family



**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**THIS SHALL NEVER HAPPEN TO YOU:** Mt 16:21-22; “Peter was examining the issue by human and earthly reasoning. He thought it disgraceful to Jesus as something unworthy of him. Jesus responded sharply, in effect saying, ‘My suffering is not an unseemly matter. You are making this judgment with a carnal mind. If you had listened to my teachings in a godly way, tearing yourself away from carnal understanding, you would know that this of all things most becomes me. You seem to suppose that to suffer is unworthy of me. But I say to you that for me not to suffer is of the devil’s mind.’ So he repressed Peter’s alarm by contrary arguments. Remember that John, accounting it unworthy of Christ to be baptized by him, was persuaded by Christ to baptize him, saying, ‘Let it be so now.’ So we find Peter as well, forbidding Christ to wash his feet. He is met by the words, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part in me.’ Here too Jesus restrains him by the mention of the opposite, and by the severity of the reproof he repressed his fear of suffering.”

*St. John Chrysostom (347-407)*

**RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE**

**Mortal and Venial Sin:** “In another passage of the New Testament, namely in St. Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus himself speaks of a ‘blasphemy against the Holy Spirit’ that ‘will not be forgiven’ by reason of the fact that in its manifestations it is an obstinate refusal to be converted to the love of the Father of mercies. Here of course it is a question of extreme and radical manifestations: rejection of God, rejection of his grace and therefore opposition to the very source of salvation - these are manifestations whereby a person seems to exclude himself voluntarily from the path of forgiveness. It is to be hoped that very few persist to the end in this attitude of rebellion or even defiance of God. Moreover, God and his merciful love is greater than our hearts, as St. John further teaches us, and can overcome all our psychological and spiritual resistance. So that, as St. Thomas writes, ‘considering the omnipotence and mercy of God, no one should despair of the salvation of anyone in this life.’

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 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.

**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 \$50.00.

**CATHOLIC MEN’S GROUP IN WORCESTER**

Christ the King Parish will host a new (relatively) men’s group meeting for prayer and spiritual development on **First Fridays (Sept. 4), 7:30-8:30 p.m.**, in the Church, 1052 Pleasant St., Worcester The format will vary, but will incorporate prayer, the rosary, spiritual reading and discussion (and maybe get a bite to eat off campus). All Catholic men are invited and welcome.

**THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT**

**THE ERRORS OF THE WEST:** “In Africa, suicide is almost nonexistent. In traditional societies, it does not exist. A human being is fully integrated in a small community. He respects the laws of nature and of his people’s customs. God remains the foundation of his life. He aspires to the hereafter following his brief stay on earth. If death comes, he accepts it as a path that leads us from this earth to the fatherland where our ancestors await us... In the West, the new ‘rights’ are actively supported by the powerful media and financial interests. The latter influence the populations and make them feel guilty. In order to popularize euthanasia, they incessantly cook up messages to overturn so called ‘public opinion.’ When the communications media have done their work, the polling institutes come to explain in learned terms that the majority has changed... The time is therefore ripe. A world of lies, conditioning, and manipulation is shamelessly set up. A world of slaves. The techniques of mental manipulation are of a rear subtlety. Evil becomes good through a grand magic trick. If the Church does not denounce the illusion that these new ‘rights’ bring, chaos will ensue. And it will lead the world into darkness. Paul VI showed this prophetic courage with his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* on marriage and the regulation of births. John Paul II constantly spoke about the ravages of the culture of death. Benedict XVI called Europe to re-discover its Christian roots. And, today, Francis rejects the economic exploitation of man by man. The recent popes have not been followed by the governments of the West. The evil has worsened. But we must not throw up our hands.”

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

**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.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** - 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. We understand the concerns that parents have of their children safely returning to class. We will be following all CDC guidelines that we are following at Mass for our Religious Education Program. Currently we have a plan for in person classes as well as online classes. It is important to our Church to equip our parents and families with spiritual skills they can use at home to not only sustain faith, but make it thrive. If you have concerns of sending your children to participate class in person please contact Mary Sycks.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th,  
THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9  
 Psalm: 95  
 2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10  
 Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

One of the many fundamental meanings of our Christian faith is the difficult words of Jesus pertaining to denying ourselves, picking up any cross aimed at us, and following after him. This great Christian truth, first, recalls that we are not meant to stay here. We do not have a lasting home on Mother Earth, especially when Mother Mary awaits, because the cross will eventually be put to use. And second, the words of Jesus are a stark reminder that cross-carrying is part of the deal, if you will. It would be more than nice if we could escape this life without much trouble along the way. As mentioned in this column a few weeks back, even the Holy Family had close calls with the violence of this world, as well as some pretty bad people along the way, the last ones for Jesus being the revolutionary Barabbas and the power-hungry Pilate. So, if the Holy Family had troubles, then where does that leave us? But realists we are, if nothing else. Most people I'm blessed to know have carried their crosses well when thrust upon them. I'm not saying they are accepted with joy. But carry them with grace they do.

Jesus' reaction to Peter in the Gospel seems harsh ("Get behind me, Satan!"), and it is, because what's at stake are all the marbles of eternal life. How can we not love the Lord's approach of allowing *absolutely nothing and no one* to get in the way of his hour, his mission, and his victory? Not even the words and apparent concern from his lead Apostle Peter could alter what God had prepared through his Son! That's the kind of God I want to worship! One that calls out the evil in his presence, not assuming a politically correct manner of having to be nice to everyone because he's more concerned about hurting someone's feelings rather than bringing them home to eternal joy. That sort of foolishness accomplishes no lasting good. I'm not saying we should subscribe to the school of hurting others. By no means! Love your neighbor! But the greater truth of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection far outweighs any minor debacles we experience here. The late, great Pope St. John Paul II is the best example in my lifetime. He spoke and taught the truth with a combination of force and gentleness. Compromise the Christian truth he never did!

As we come to the end of August and near the time of year when the weather cools and schools, we pray, teach our youth effectively through a lasting pandemic, whichever model is used, may the Lord Jesus lead each of us in the ways of his lasting goodness and love. St. Peter lost his mind for a moment thinking he was defending and speaking good to Jesus. His heart was in the right place, but his understanding was not far along the path of God's plan for salvation. A quick turnaround was in order to shake Peter up. And get shaken he did. We may have to experience the same as Peter once in a great while. If it happens, listen to what God is saying for your life. His goal for us in our free will is to land us in his presence forever. Which, by the way, we have much say about.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY 2020**

The annual Partners in Charity campaign ends this week on August 31, the end of the fiscal year for our Diocese. With gratitude to the generosity of the people of Immaculate Conception, we have surpassed our goal of \$88,500. For anyone still able to make a last minute 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 \$95,580 from 128 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

**22nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

*"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26)* St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent, and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

**DIGITAL VOCATION DISCERNMENT GROUPS**

Because the Office for Vocations is unsure when we can resume our monthly vocation dinners, we are contemplating creating a digital discernment groups for those from the Diocese, whether currently here or away at College, to read through and discuss "To Save a Thousand Souls." After gauging interest, we would form groups based on age. If you would be interested in participating in such a group, please contact the vocation office at [director@worcestervocations.com](mailto:director@worcestervocations.com).

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA**

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish will begin its Miraculous Medal Novena Tuesday, Sept.1 for 9 consecutive Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m., through Oct. 27. A great opportunity for graces and the **tremendous power of intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, patroness of our parish. Mark the dates and plan to come and bring a friend. This year's speakers are Sept. 1, Msgr. Stephen Pedone; Sept. 8, Msgr. Robert K. Johnson; Sept. 15, Rev. John F. Madden; Sept. 22, Rev. Frederick D. Fraini; Sept. 29, Bishop McManus; Oct. 6, Rev. Jonathan J. Slavinskis; Oct. 13, Deacon Paul Audette; Oct. 20, Msgr. Thomas J. Sullivan; Oct. 27, Rev. Juan D. Echavarria.

**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 cities and nation*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 08/23/2020**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,817.00
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	\$ 62.00
Online Donations 17-23 Aug 2020	\$ 587.50

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

There is only three people who ever rebuked St. Peter: Jesus, St. Paul, and Peter's mother. Seriously, we know every mother rebukes their son at some point in their lives. We can be pretty certain that St. Peter was a good son, obeying his parents in every request, performing every chore given to him, reciting his Hebrew prayers when supposed to, not turning his back on his Jewish neighbors and friends, and a fisherman who could compete with the best of them in that walk of life. Peter would have won many fishing derbies.

St. Peter was undoubtedly a strong guy, strong enough to carry forth the teachings of Jesus and lead a Church that is the Bride of Christ and the source of salvation. He had broad shoulders to carry the load Jesus placed on him, a load that included eventually the martyrdom his own life. Of the 12 Apostles, St. Peter gives us more to reflect on about our faith in Christ than the rest of them put together. Judas showed us what not to do. Peter shows us what to do, except for every once in a while, like three denials and this Sunday's Gospel.

After last week's Gospel when Peter spoke the greatest truth of all, inspired by the Spirit of God; "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," it didn't take very long for Peter's holy inspiration to turn into dis-inspiration. One moment he had the Holy Spirit speaking clearly and forcefully through him. The next moment he opened himself to the wiles of Satan, who sought to prevent the Lord from carrying his Cross for the world's salvation. Anything that stopped the most perfect act of unconditional love, the guy with the pitchfork was all for it. And, as he continues to today, he would use any person made in God's image and likeness to assist in bringing about his evil result. Peter went from the Holy Spirit to Satan faster than we can say "Jack Rabbit." Or that lake down in Webster (Lake Chargoggaggoggmanchauggaggaggchaubunagungamaugg). Trying to say this name would have provided St. Peter with lots of time and space in his soulful movement from the Spirit to the Devil.

However, we know that Peter meant good when he told Jesus there was no way they, the Apostles, were going to let their Master carry a cross in Jerusalem and die on it. Peter the tough-guy bodyguard was ready, willing, and able to knock any person on their keister who attempted to force Jesus into such an act. After all, he did cut off the ear of the slave in the Garden of Gethsemane when they came to arrest Jesus much later in this salvation story. This shows he was ready to "protect" his Lord. Peter's well-oiled alarm system of protecting Jesus was like that of a nuclear warning system during the height of the Cold War. He was ever vigilant toward deflecting anything and anyone who sought to hurt his Master. Turns out, however, that Jesus didn't need a bodyguard. In fact, knowing what we know now, we believe in our heart of hearts that Jesus is *The Bodyguard*, protecting our bodies – and souls – to the point of resurrection.

Peter meaning good in saying he would stop the Lord's death, one would think, would count for something. Have you ever tried saying or doing something good for someone with genuine concern in your heart, but instead it led to a less than good result? This happens a lot. We mean well, but our well-meaning can be misplaced because we didn't understand the entire story or potential inherent dangers. Lighting a fireplace fire in a house to provide light and warmth for someone during the winter months is a well-meaning act. Forgetting to put the fire out when you go to bed upstairs can burn the house down. Peter forgot to put out the fire with Jesus. And if the Lord didn't correct him, if the Lord allowed Peter to carry out his well-meaning words of "No such thing shall ever happen to you," if the Lord allowed the light of Peter to shine above and beyond the Light of the World, then the House of Salvation would have burned down. God knows best.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Aug 29	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 230	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Aug 31	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 01	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 02	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Sep 03	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Sep 05	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 06	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass



St. Teresa of Calcutta, Feast day - September 5th

**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!**