

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.	Sep 12	4:00 PM	Bill Rourke, from Dory, Emily and Family
Sun.	Sep 13	7:30 AM	John and Mary Powers, from Family
		10:00 AM	James Holland, 5th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Sep 14	9:00 AM	Maria Luisa Echegaray, 10th Anniversary, from Family (<i>Exultation of the Holy Cross</i>)
Tues.	Sep 15	9:00 AM	Donald H. Letendre, from Family (<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>)
Wed.	Sep 16	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, (<i>Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian</i>)
Thurs.	Sep 17	8:00 AM	Shawn Finnegan, 10th Anniversary, from Finnegan Family (<i>St. Robert Bellamine</i>)
Sat.	Sep 19	4:00 PM	Ellen Geheran, from Husband
Sun.	Sep 20	7:30 AM	Jerry Duclos, from Family
		10:00 AM	

NOONTIME SCRIPTURE STUDY IN OCTOBER

Fr. Riley and Frank McGuire will be hosting a Scripture Series on Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, and 27 from noon to 1:00 pm in the church hall. The topic is St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians. According to New Testament scholar, Fr. Raymond Brown, "In its vision of Christ, of His body the Church, and of the mystery of God hidden for ages, Colossians is truly majestic." You are all invited to deepen your understanding of this most important letter of St. Paul. Please feel free to bring your lunch. Beverages and dessert will be available. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

SO MY FATHER WILL DO TO YOU: Mt 18:35; "In anger his Lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt." This means forever, since he will never pay it. For since you did not become better by receiving blessings, it remains for you to be corrected by punishment. For since you have not become better by the kindness shown to you, it remains that you will be corrected only by vengeance. Although it is said that the blessings and gifts of God are irrevocable, our recalcitrance may frustrate even this intention of God. For what, then, can be a more grievous thing than to be vengeful, especially when it appears to overthrow so great a gift of God. The text does not simply say they 'delivered him' but 'in anger delivered him.' For when he had earlier commanded him to be sold, his were not the words of wrath but, rightly understood, a moment of great mercy. He did not in fact show wrath at that point. But in this case it is a sentence of great anger, punishment and vengeance. So what does the parable mean? 'So also my heavenly Father will do to you,' he says, 'if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.' Note that he did not say 'your Father' but 'my Father.' For it is not proper for God to be called the Father of one who is so wicked and malicious." *St. John Chrysostom (347-407)*

EXODUS 90: YOUNG ADULT MEN'S PROGRAM

Attention Young Adult Men! Are you looking to revamp your prayer life, grow in self-discipline, and find community with other men striving to grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ? If so, then we invite you to join us for Exodus 90, a 90 day spiritual program focused on prayer, asceticism, and fraternity. If you are interested, we will have an informational meeting on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:30 pm on Zoom. The program itself will begin on September 26. To get the Zoom link for the meeting and for complete details on the program, go to neworchester.org/exodus-90.

VIRTUAL TRIVIA & THEOLOGY FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

All high school youth are invited to join us for a new monthly virtual youth ministry series called Trivia & Theology! Join us on the first Sunday of the month beginning on October 4 from 7-8 pm as we discuss various difficult questions and issues related to our Catholic faith and how the Church answers those questions. To sign up or for more information, go to neworchester.org/trivia-and-theology.

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

MARRIAGE: "Married Christians are invited to, and capable of, the fullest expression of the Christian life. Their spirituality is not of a lesser order than that of the nonmarried. While married people incorporate into their spiritual life many of the traditional disciplines of spiritual growth, e.g., fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, they also strive to embody *within their conjugal relationship* special emphases that contribute to their particular spirituality. Establishing appropriate parameters for describing these distinctive elements of spirituality is rooted in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Vatican II, where we read, 'Married couples and Christian parents should follow their own proper path to holiness by faithful love, sustaining one another in grace throughout the entire length of their lives.' For descriptive purposes, marital spirituality can be divided into four moments or phases, which can be seen as having both a chronological and a developmental dimension. But like the seasons of the year, these phases can also be appreciated as each coming in its own time without any priority of importance being assumed. Outlining the four, we know first the rootedness of marital spirituality and solitude or self-determination; second, it's being formed or structured through the commitment central to the interpersonal covenant of Christian marriage; third, its fuller expression in the giving of life, or in more general terms, through generativity; and fourth, its fullest expression in gratitude, or to use a more explicitly Christian language, through its Eucharistic meaning."

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

All middle school youth in 6-8th grade are invited to participate in the Diocesan Middle School Bible Study! Join us for an 8-part study as we take a closer look at Scripture, what it means, and why it is important for our lives. If you are interested in learning more about the Bible and how it all fits together, then this is the perfect opportunity for you! Our study will be broken up into 8 sessions that will be roughly 45 minutes each. These sessions will take place on the third Sunday of the month beginning on October 18 at 6 pm . Over the course of the 8 sessions, we will discuss how to read and approach the Bible, the basic story from beginning to end, how to pray with Scripture through "lectio divina", and how the Bible connects to our lives. To sign up or for more information, go to neworchester.org/middle-school-bible-study.

VIRTUAL CELEBRATE PRIESTHOOD EVENT

On October 26 at 6 pm Bishop McManus will host a Virtual Celebrate Priesthood gala to continue to raise needed financial support for Retired Priests' Care. Please see the attached letter for more details and share with parishioners in your bulletins at Mass, on your website and in your emails/Flocknotes to parishioners. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 09/06/2020

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,691.00
Online Donations 31Aug - 6 Sep 2020	\$ 355.00
Candles	\$ 164.00

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. We understand the concerns that parents have of their children safely returning to class. We will be following all CDC guidelines. 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.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

dialogue, but instead allowed the vice of anger to take over our emotions and actions?

The writer of the Book of Sirach was spot on, through Divine inspiration of course, when writing the above words of wrath and anger being hateful things. And living in a present time where so much of it is manifested through the media, brought into our living rooms, with them trying to justify some of the violent anger for political and ideological reasons, it's clear that strong, peaceful people are in great need. We're in need of a great Saint for our times to follow on the heels of St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II.

In our lives, may we be cognizant and vitally aware of how the Lord treats his people as seen through the lens of the Cross of Jesus Christ. The lens I refer to is this week's Psalm 103 and the refrain that says, "The Lord is kind and merciful, *slow to anger*, and rich in compassion." Of course, we wish not to bring God to the point where he passes the threshold of being slow to anger and arrives at anger itself. That's when the tsunamis and hurricanes come along. Us being a person who is slow to anger, and I thankfully know many who are, allows the vice of anger to never overpower and control our lives. I think of a priest friend I know, here in our Diocese, and all the years I've known him I've never seen him in a state of anger. I've witnessed him in conversation be bothered, if you will, by certain others or situations that arise in his priesthood. But anger is a vice that he consciously will not allow to control his words and actions. Interestingly, in his humility, he would probably disagree with this synopsis. But the peace in his life far outweighs any level of anger he has within. He is the slowest person to anger I happen to know.

The slowness of God's anger we read about in the Old Testament books, extending to the Israelites numerous offers to repent from their abominations, is slowed to a crawl in the deeper meaning of Jesus' Cross. The Cross and its meaning emptied out does not fully dispel the potential anger of God at the countless hurtful actions and words we do to each other. However, the Cross allows chance after chance for conversion to a more peaceful life, a more Christian life. If God wishes to still get angry at us, which I would bet happens just based on what we see happening in the world, it is justified. All that God does toward us is justified, eventually working in our favor toward greater conversion. But the Cross that Jesus carried opens the door to a love that the world had not previously known; that God would suffer and die for us in human form so that we may have life forever. The Sacrificial Lamb, the sacrificial love of Christ, has won for us a way to look past wrath and anger as a way of settling issues hatefully, and opens the door to mercy and forgiveness.

Seriously, who of us enjoys living life in ways where anger is the predominant inward enemy we confront each day? Anger is the worst internal experience for the body, mind, and soul. It makes us no better than a lion instinctively seeking their prey in the wiles of Africa. But God has created us to be far superior to such instincts we've witnessed in certain cities in our own country. Thus, we pray not only for peace to reign throughout, but also for ourselves to represent peace in the relationships we are blessed to be a part of. Overcome anger with a deep desire for peace, and let Christ our Lord remain forever the example for us, the One who is the Prince of Peace.

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 *the virtue of forgiveness to be present in our daily lives*.

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 \$675.00.

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. Sign-up sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at ic-worc.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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9
 Psalm: 145
 2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
 Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

RESPONDING TO RECENT NATURAL DISASTERS

In solidarity with our brothers in sisters who are struggling to recover from natural disasters in Louisiana and California, Bishop McManus along with his brother Bishops are asking Catholics around the country to donate to the Bishops' Emergency Disaster Fund which funds relief efforts led by Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services. If you would like to make a donation to help those impacted by recent disasters including Hurricane Laura and the California wildfires, please visit worcesterdiocese.org for more information on where to send a check or to make an online contribution. Please keep all the families who have lost everything as a result of these disasters in your prayers.

FROM THE PASTOR

“Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.” This is the opening verse in this Sunday’s first reading from the Wisdom Books in the Old Testament Book of Sirach. Obviously God is saying to the writer, “Let’s waste no word. Let’s put it right out their concerning anger and wrath.”

The writer of Sirach refers to the type of anger that does not solve any serious or less serious issues. We’ve all heard of justified anger. Jesus cleansing the Temple, being rid of the numerous abominations being sold on the site of the holiest spot in Israel, was justified anger. He took seriously his Father’s house being turned into a marketplace, a Grafton Flea Market, cleansing the possessions and greed of the world from an earthly spot that was meant to be purely holy and untouched by human profit. Only God’ profit of love, mercy, and prayer were meant to exist in that secured area. There were many places where the marketplace could have peacefully existed, but inside the holiness of the Temple was not one.

The writer of Sirach refers, however, to the more prevalent type of anger that occurs; that which is not righteous but harmful, even to the point of the death of another. We see much of this today in certain areas of our country as well as throughout the world in which we live. Even when I read articles from one of my religious newspapers about some government action, or a crowd causing great harm to innocent people in a land that I will never visit in my life, we’re still reminded of the level of human anger and confrontation before us. For example, I read in the Catholic Free Press last week of an Archbishop from the nation of Belarus who was refused entry back into his country after being abroad, and it had nothing to do with the Coronavirus. Belarus is in Europe, bordered by Poland, Russia, Lithuania, and Latvia, and a place you and I will likely never visit. It was a decision by a troubled government to not allow back into their country one of their own citizens, in this case an Archbishop. He’s obviously seen as a threat to their ulterior motives. Events like this constantly remind me of why the prayer for peace, touching our small communities to the world as a whole, must be a daily prayer of the Church. The day we as Church cease to pray for peace in our world, we best pray instead that Jesus arrive quickly for his Second Coming, because the world will be a much uglier sight than what we see today.

Anger is called one of the seven deadly sins for obvious reasons; it does harm to the human person in ways that, in most cases, goes far beyond any semblance of balance or reaction to a given situation. A reaction of anger almost always outdoes any apparent wrong. Another example; the time had come for our flag to be changed at our 9th Division Memorial on the grounds of the Church because it was torn on the end after a winter of wind, snow, cold, and freezing rain. Before the change was had to change out the flag, a gentleman from the Veteran’s Shelter came into the sacristy in a state of fitful rage when I wasn’t present, taking out the circumstances of the torn flag on another person in the sacristy at the time. Now, I have the utmost love and respect for the American flag and all that it represents, truth be told. My father fought and would have died during the Second World War if needed, for what the American flag represents; mainly liberty and human freedom. And yes, maybe the flag should have been replaced a week or two earlier. However, the reaction of anger by the homeless veteran from up the road—and God bless all veterans – a reaction I could hear as I walked through the Church, did not match the situation in my estimation. This is simply an example of how the deadly sin of anger and its human reaction almost always goes far beyond the issue at hand. A very short time later, the flag was changed, which was the original plan. Have we ever not waited for the flag to be changed in our lives before we got angry at someone over an incident that could have been better understood through peaceful

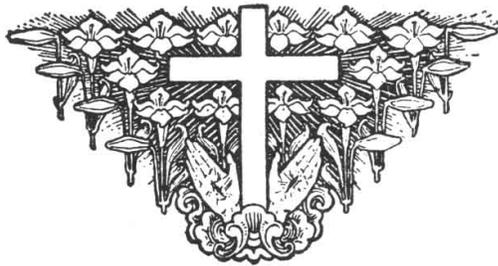
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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Sep 12	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 13	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Sep 14	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 15	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 16	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Sep 17	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Sep 19	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 20	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

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.



**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!**