

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 19	4:00 PM	Ellen Geheran, from Husband
Sun.	Sep 20	7:30 AM	Jerry Duclos, from Family
		10:00 AM	Wilfred L. Iandoli, 4th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Sep 21	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Matthew</i>)
Tues.	Sep 22	9:00 AM	Rita L. Letendre, from family
Wed.	Sep 23	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Pius of Pietreicina</i>)
Thurs.	Sep 24	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Sat.	Sep 26	4:00 PM	In Thanksgiving to St. Jude for Favor Granted
Sun.	Sep 27	7:30 AM	Madeline Carelli, 4th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Claire A. Hunt, 4th Anniversary, from Family



RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THEY GRUMBLED AT THE HOUSEHOLDER...NOT MURMURING: Mt 20:11; “But we can ask why those who are called, even though late, to the kingdom are said to murmur. No one who murmurs receives the kingdom of heaven, and no one who receives it can murmur. Our ancestors up to the Lord’s coming, however righteous their lives, were not let into the kingdom until he came down, who by his death opened up the paradise that had been closed to the human race. Their murmuring means that they lived in such a way as to obtain the kingdom and yet were kept for a long time from obtaining it ... We who come at the eleventh hour do not murmur after our labor, and we receive a denarius. After our Mediator’s coming into the world, we are led to the kingdom as soon as we leave the body. We obtain with no delay what our ancestors obtained only after waiting a long time.”

St. Gregory the Great (540-604)

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.

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

THE ERRORS OF THE WEST: “Today liberty is an advertising slogan. It is bought and sold at the mercy of stock market fluctuations. I fear Western parliamentary majorities are manufactured simply with money, rhetorical toppings, media theatrics, rigged electoral systems, gerrymandered districts, and a thousand different pressures on subterfuges. Western culture, which ought to bring liberty to the world, no longer knows the meaning of it. The Church must speak about Christ the liberator. He comes to break the chains of evil and sin. God gives liberty. If the Church stops teaching about the liberty intended by God, she seriously fails at her mission. Man is not naturally good. Original sin exists. Liberty is achieved through detachment from that sin. God alone can help us. The Church must repeat this truth incessantly.”

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

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.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

The final Parish numbers for Partners in Charity for 2020 totaled \$99,260 from 138 Donors representing 112% of our Parish goal. As stated at Mass a few weeks ago, to reach our goal this year for Partners in Charity speaks to the overall generous nature and wider concern of the people of Immaculate Conception. The week this campaign was supposed to begin was the same week Churches were closed by the state because of the pandemic (that’s a whole different issue I will address one day). With the “forced” closure of Churches resulting in Partners in Charity being placed on hold for over 2 months, for any Parish to move forward and still succeed at making their goal under these conditions is amazing. I thank all our parishioners who participated so generously in this year’s campaign that truly is the lifeblood of the Worcester Diocese, allowing for vital services to be addressed financially and otherwise. May God’s abundant blessings be upon all our parishioners, especially in this present time.

Fr. Riley

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.

ST. THERESE FEAST DAY MASS

Due to the pandemic, in lieu of the Triduum, St. Mary of the Hills Parish, 630 Cross St., Boylston, will celebrate Mass on the Feast Day of St. Therese, Thursday, Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES ON PARISH WEBSITE

Our Parish Council met last Sunday, September 13. The minutes for the meeting can be found on our Parish Website. Any concerns or questions, please speak with or contact Fr. Riley. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN-BASED MONEY MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

St. Mary Parish will be offering the 9-week Christian based money management program from Ramsey Solutions through Zoom beginning on **Friday, Sept. 24 to Nov. 20 from 6:30 pm -7:45 pm**. If you are having money struggles or simply want to learn a new way of managing your money, this course will help. The course is informative and fun! You will come to understand the basics of money management through a commonsense approach. This program is for all who are 18 and older including singles, married, and engaged couples. Married couples are encouraged to attend together. This course can change your life and the life of your family. The course is \$129.99 per person/couple and includes the course workbook and access to Ramsey + online tools for one year. For more information or to register, please contact Gerry at gerryrc@comcast.net or 508-883-8759 or Diane at dmoriarty@stmaryuxbridge.org or 508-278-2226.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - The first class for Religious Education takes place on Sunday, September 20th, 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in K through 6th grade and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10. Parents, please check your email for the new student drop off procedure. If you have not registered your child for classes it is not too late! Please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119 for more information.

The Confirmation Candidate and parent meeting is on Sunday, September 27th 11:15AM-12:15PM.

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 unemployed at this time, may they find productive labor to help support their needs and that of their families.*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28
 Psalm: 25
 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11
 Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 09/13/2020

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,009.00
Online Donations 07-13 Sep 2020	\$ 380.00

From the Pastor continued from the following page

worship that each day broke, amazingly, a Divine Heart. It scares me still to think we have the power and capacity to actually do this to God. That God allows Himself to be so vulnerable and affected by our actions and antics. But His unconditional love for us maintains the permanent potential for man and woman to alter God's loving heart. If his love was not unconditional, we would have wiped out long ago.

"Seek the Lord while he may be found" pertains also to our presence in the Church community, as well as our participation, even in a time of pandemic. In our present strongly secular culture, it's just way too easy to *lose* God. This reminds me of the number of folks I've heard over the years say, "Father, I don't know why or how I stopped going to Church. It just gradually happened." Truth be told, once we arrive at a certain point of non-commitment to reception of the Eucharist and listening to God's word, of not directing and bringing our bodies to the Church on Sunday mornings, it becomes sooooo difficult to say, "Lord, I'm coming back and staying until you call me home." Finding the Lord once we've lost him over time due to our personal choices, where a sort of indifference sets in, is really, really hard. It's not impossible by any means. But returning to being a committed Catholic each week is much more the exception than the rule. I base this on the experience of conversations. In light of the topic for this column, our Religious Education program, my concern is that all the children in our Parish "Find the Lord while he may be found" during this upcoming religious academic year. This responsibility lies with parents first, and a solemn responsibility it is. Sign up the children and youth; make certain they participate by way of work and presence, whether at home or 353 Grove Street; and lead them by way of example as faithful Christian parents. On our end, I'm confident we can deliver a very good product of religious learning through the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Sycks and all our devoted teachers. They are excellent at what they do, and have a genuine concern for the spiritual well-being of each student. And for this we give thanks to God, who is ever-present in our midst.

Peace, Fr. Riley

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 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.

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Mortal and Venial Sin: "Considering sin from the point of view of its matter, the ideas of death, of radical rupture with God, the supreme good, of deviation from the path that leads to God or interruption of the journey toward him (which are all ways of defining mortal sin) are linked with the idea of the gravity of sin's objective content. Hence, in the church's doctrine and pastoral action, grave sin is in practice identified with mortal sin. Here we have the core of the church's traditional teaching, which was reiterated frequently and vigorously during the recent synod. The synod in fact not only reaffirmed the teaching of the Council of Trent concerning the existence and nature of mortal and venial sins, but it also recalled that mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent. It must be added - as was likewise done at the synod - that some things are intrinsically grave and mortal by reason of their matter. That is, there exists acts which, *per se* and in themselves, independently of circumstances, are always seriously wrong by reason of the object. These acts, if carried out with sufficient awareness and freedom, are always gravely sinful."

From Reconciliatio et Paenitentia, Pope St. John Paul II

RESPECT LIFE WEDNESDAY WEBINARS

The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Worcester invites you to join our "Wednesday Webinars"! The webinars will be held on **four consecutive Wednesdays beginning Sept. 23 at 2:00 p.m.** Dates and topics include: Sept. 23 – *Respect Life Ministry in the Parish: The Church's Vision*; Sept. 30 – *Parish Respect Life Ministry in a Time of Pandemic*; Oct. 7 – *Celebrating Respect Life Month*; and, Oct. 14 – *Using the Respect Life Program All Year Long*. Whether you have been involved in Respect Life Ministry for many years, are considering starting or joining a ministry in your parish, or would simply like to learn more, there is something for everyone! **Pre-registration is required to receive a login link.** To register, send an email to aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org with your name, parish, email address, and date(s) for which you are registering; include the words "Webinar Registration" in the subject line. To download a flyer with webinar descriptions visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life.

FROM THE PASTOR

This Sunday we begin another year of Religious Education in our Parish. Needless to say, it will be a whole different experience and process due to the present pandemic. However, our responsibility under these circumstances remains the same; that the children and youth in our Church expand on their religious learning that begins at home and continues in the Parish in specific ways.

We're somewhat fortunate – for lack of a better term - at Immaculate Conception with regard to providing a safe environment for on-site learning in this era of new models of teaching. First, the size of our Religious Education program is not considered large when compared with, say, Fr. Jim Boland's program at St. Patrick's in Rutland. His program has 300-plus children. Our old friend Fr. Jim, in my recent discussion with him, has figured out a system with his staff to teach the students in his Parish their religious education from their homes. All will be taught virtually. It will be a program reaching every house with children of religious education age. It is all new, obviously, but we pray on our end that all goes smoothly and efficiently.

At Immaculate Conception, we don't worry about 300-plus children anymore like the days when the late, great Fr. Connors was roaming the halls of the Fr. Connors Center asking each class, "What is it I want?" and they respond in unison "RESPECT!" "And when do I want it?" "NOW!" Our numbers are such where we can handle effectively, productively, safely, and efficiently each class where social distance will be in place and masks to be worn. Understandably, some parents are opting out of on-site learning for their children at this time. Their children will learn from home through our program.

Our Administrator of Religious Education, Mrs. Sycks, has done a wonderful job setting up all things necessary for the children and youth who presently stay home to learn about the things of God and our Catholic faith. For those who learn from home, even more responsibility is placed on parents to make certain their children are putting in the time, completing their assignments, and turning them in to their teachers at the proper time. We respect, of course, whatever way of learning our parents choose for their children for this upcoming Religious Education year. Life is out of whack at this time for all of us. We don't live in South Dakota, a state that has lots of room and much fewer people. We reside in the crowded Northeast where we have to travel some distance to find a place a hermit would love. Therefore, not one model fits all like in the past.

One concern I have with regard to our Religious Education program is that all our children become part of the program, be it from a distance at home, or here on the Church site. The present pandemic is not an opening for any parents to dismiss the responsibility of religious training for their children. They need to be part of our program and continue learning the things of God at their respective age. Each year they grow in learning and practice, and to miss a year is to fall behind spiritually, intellectually, prayerfully, and being faithful to the practice of our Catholic faith. I pray this concern of mine does not pan out. My prayer is for all our families to find what model suits them best at this time, and be committed to it for the entire year. We here at the Church promise to commit ourselves to the children and religious learning while praying such commitment is reciprocal on the part of all our devoted parents.

In the first reading this Sunday we hear the opening words of Isaiah, "Seek the Lord while he may be found." "While he may be found" appears to mean, "While you're still alive." For the Israelites, it likely meant while God was still with them before the Lord decided to depart from them because of their lack of faith and trust in Him. The time was approaching when the Lord decided to turn away from the false worship of his people,

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Sep 19	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 20	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Sep 21	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 22	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Sep 24	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Sep 26	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 27	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.

NOVENA TO ST. THERESE

St. John Parish, 44 Temple St., will hold its annual novena Sept. 23 - Oct. 1. The novena Mass schedule is as follows: Monday-Friday, 6:15 p.m.; Saturday, 4:15 and 7:15 p.m.; Sunday, 8, 10:15 a.m., 12:15 and 7:15 p.m. Masses will also be live-streamed at [facebook.com/stjohnspage](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnspage), daily at 6:15 p.m., Saturday at 4:15 p.m., and Sunday at 10:15 a.m.

**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!**