

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

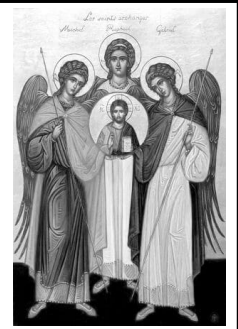
MOST REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS, Bishop of Worcester
REV. WALTER RILEY, PASTOR
REV. ENOCH KYEREMATENG, IN RESIDENCE
KEVIN DEIGNAN, PERMANENT DEACON
FRANK MYSKA, PERMANENT DEACON
**MARY SYCKS, ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTER**
C. HENRY MASON, MUSIC DIRECTOR
BRIDGET KLOFFT, CANTOR
ROBERT 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 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
Mon.	Sep 28	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions</i>)
Tues.	Sep 29	9:00 AM	(<i>Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels</i>)
Wed.	Sep 30	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, (<i>St. Jerome</i>)
Thurs.	Oct 01	8:00 AM	(<i>St. Therese of the Child Jesus</i>)
Sat.	Oct 03	4:00 PM	Rosemary O'Connell, Memorial, from Family and Friends
Sun.	Oct 04	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Anthony Roy, 2nd Anniversary, from Family



NEW SPRINKLER SYSTEM FOR OUR LADY'S GARDEN

A few weeks ago a new sprinkler system was placed into the grounds on the rectory side of the Church. The purpose is to provide a simpler and much easier way of watering Our Lady's Garden and its various flowers throughout the spring, summer and fall. For the past few years this has been done manually by a small group of mostly women parishioners who have cared for the garden by moving hoses up to 100 feet or more to water certain parts of the garden. This will no longer have to happen. We finally figured out they are not firefighters. The cost of the project, done by Irrigation Systems of Princeton, was \$4200.00, of which \$2000.00 was generously donated by our Parish Activities Committee. Putting in this system is very wise spending in that it will help conserve water over the years, now on a timer, as well as keep the garden looking fresh and green during the warmer months.

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 in need of taking that first step that leads to Christ, may they have the courage and grace to take it.*

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 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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th, THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7
 Psalm: 80
 2nd Reading: Philippians 4:6-9
 Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 09/27/2020

Sunday Ordinary \$ 2,480.00
 Online Donations 07-13 Sep 2020 \$ 622.50

HONORING MARRIED COUPLES ON THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Due to the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic, a public celebration of the annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will not be held this year. Congratulatory certificates from Bishop McManus to couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries in 2020 will be issued by postal mail. Couples wishing to receive certificates should complete the registration form at www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass by **October 15** or contact the Office of Marriage and Family at 508-929-4311 to request that a registration form be sent to you.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

YOU DID NOT AFTERWARD REPENT: Mt 21:32; "And with this there is also still another charge. The publicans were attentive and repented, but even after the publicans and harlots had believed, you did not believe. You should have repented long before they did. But you did not do it. How unspeakable was both the praise of the one and the charge against the other: He came to you, and you did not receive him. He did not come to them, and they received him! And you did not even learn from their example. Note in how many ways he shows that some are to be commended and others charged, but in surprising ways, reversing expectations. To you he came first, not to them. You did not believe. They were not offended. They believed. This did not profit you at all. *St. John Chrysostom (c347-407)*

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.

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

THE ERRORS OF THE WEST: "We have forgotten that the common good is the most profound and intimate good of human persons. In an orchestra, the greatest good of each instrumentalist is basically the symphony that is played by them all. In a family, the common happiness is the primary good of each member. Today we prefer to pit society and the individual against each other. Now society must not victimize the individual. Economic policies too often leave men at the side of the road, deprived of everything, badly beaten, and half dead. I am horribly shocked to see the distress in which poor farming families are abandoned. This silent scandal is unspeakable."

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

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Classes for Religious Education take place on Sunday, September 27th, 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. The parent meeting for students in the First Reconciliation Program is on Sunday, October 4th at 9:00AM in the Fr. Connors Center.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

For any Chief (Fire or Police) to take on such responsibility, they best pray for the virtues of both leadership and humility. Being a Fire Chief is not only leading the department, it is also caring for its members. As I know from the large fire department of the Riley home, bright sparks would fly at certain times throughout the year between “members” of the department, if you know what I mean. The Fire Chief, my mother, had her hands full keeping the peace at times, having to take on the role of Judge Judy.

Chief Budd, because he was a Worcester guy, was a humble leader. There are not many arrogant people in these parts who think they’re better than others. Although not totally, Worcester is pretty much an even keel city, even though we have seven hills. One thing we don’t like around here is when someone thinks they are somehow “better” than another person or family, acting like arrogant fools. This is why a leader like Chief Budd, who was to be the leader of the Worcester Fire Department during its darkest hour, could be so deeply affected by the events of December 3, 1999. He was one of us, and the six firefighters who died that night belonged to his extended family. They *were his family*. And being a man of true humility and compassion, he had to retire from his position within one year because his heart was so broken and hurt from the tragedy.

The virtue of humility will force any person to carry within their hearts a load of pain for years on end. Those who lack humility simply brush aside tragedy and its consequences. They tend to be like cold robots. Jesus, thankfully, was not like this. Our Lord emptied himself, like Honest Abe and Chief Budd emptied their hearts, taking on the form of a slave, coming to us from heaven in human likeness. Remember, God is spirit. God is invisible to the human eye. He is known, felt, and experienced in the human heart. For Jesus to become a “slave” was a total debasing of his Godhead. It is the single greatest choice and action of humility in the long span of space and time. God becoming one of us so that we can become like God (or, as one Saint put it, *we become God*) is salvation through his humility personified.

Our second reading this week from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians offers us this Christian hymn filled with the most incredible early theology of Jesus our Lord taking on human flesh that would die. That God, who is beyond death, would take on a body that could die, is the pinnacle of humility. But, he had to do so if he really loved us. Because our early actions in the Garden would have kept us away from our Creator forever, we pinned God down into making a choice for us or against us. There was no other sensible choice if God wanted to save us, which He did. If Jesus decided to not *empty himself, taking on the form of a slave*, God’s love for his people would somehow be less than unconditional. In a sense, we can say that God made the only choice that could work in our favor. And humility was at the heart of his choice. Jesus was and always will be the right leader at the right time because we are his family. He was “deeply affected” by the tragic sin of Adam to the point of carrying a Cross and dying for us.

God places certain people in certain places at certain times for leadership roles. Chief Dennis Budd was one of the many over the centuries God has chosen for that role. And for being so deeply affected by the events of December 3, 1999 in and through his sincere humility, may he now rest in peace.

Peace, Fr. Riley

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

At this time because of the pandemic, our Parish Activities Committee and its activities have been placed on hold for obvious reasons. Our bi-weekly Sunday morning breakfast after the 7:30 & 10:00 Masses will resume as soon as indoor gathering can exceed 25 people. We normally would not have to be concerned about this number on Sunday mornings, but it’s much better safe than sorry at the present. Also, at this time of the year, the Committee would normally be preparing plans for our annual Parish Spaghetti Supper in October. This event will not happen this year. In November the Parish Activities Committee would be gathering gifts for the annual Turkey-Lurkey. At this time we’re trying to figure out if there is a way to hold this event while remaining true to the safety concerns and numbers of our state. The attempt is to possibly find a way to have this event remotely to help raise money for our Parish. Time will tell. In the meantime, our Activities Committee remains in neutral because of the pandemic.

NEW PARKING LOT LIGHTS

New LED lights have been placed into the light towers that brighten our parking lot during the late autumn/winter months. The two stands on the far end of the church property toward Chadwick St. are the only ones that did not receive these lights. We continue to check on the possibility of changing those lights also since our Parish pays for them. Those 2 stands are controlled by National Grid. The other four stands, however, now have energy efficient lights that will brighten our parking lot much better and save our Parish much finances in the years ahead. The invoice for the LED lights was \$7300.00, which included the lights, the lift, and manual labor. This was half the cost of the first estimate we received. It’s always good to get a second opinion and save a boatload of money. The project was paid by the recent Legacy of Hope check our Parish received in June, which totaled just over \$7000.00.

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Mortal and Venial Sin: “...Man knows well by experience that along the road of faith and justice which leads to the knowledge and love of God in this life and toward perfect union with him in eternity, he can cease to go forward or can go astray without abandoning the way of God; and in this case there occurs venial sin. This however must never be underestimated, as though it were automatically something that can be ignored or regarded as ‘a sin of little importance.’ For man also knows, through painful experience, that by a conscious and free act of his will you can change course and go in a direction opposed to God’s will, separating himself from God, rejecting loving communion with him, detaching himself from the life principle which God is and consequently choosing death. With the whole tradition of the church, we call mortal sin the act by which men freely and consciously rejects God, his law, the covenant of love that God offers, preferring to turn in on himself or to some created and finite reality, something contrary to the divine will. This can occur in a direct informal way in the sins of idolatry, apostasy and atheism; or in an equivalent way as in every act of disobedience to God’s commandments in a grave matter. Man perceives that this disobedience to God destroys the bond that unites him with his life principle: It is a mortal sin, that is, an act which gravely offends God an ends in turning against man himself with a dark and powerful force of destruction.”

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

FROM THE PASTOR

I never did get to know him or speak with him over the past dozen years or so. He was present at one or two gatherings where I was asked to give an invocation. I know he was there last year on December 3 for the 20th anniversary of the Worcester Cold Storage fire that decimated the hearts of a proud city like Worcester. I remember seeing him but not having the opportunity to speak with him. There were many hundreds there on that solemn night. He's been spoken of in the highest terms by others who knew him well. And after being present for his funeral service a couple weeks ago, it wasn't hard to see why he was loved by his peers. He grew up in Worcester – a Worcester guy – in the Main South area of the city, I believe. That tells me much about the person. A lot of good things. He rose through the ranks of the Worcester Fire Department very quickly, having been named their Chief in his early 40's. That's like naming the next Bishop of Worcester or some other Diocese at the same age. Yikes!

Chief Dennis Budd, who died on August 20 at the age of 72, lived quite a life. At his funeral service which I was asked to lead, I compared Chief Budd to none other than Abraham Lincoln. Yes, our 16th President. The guy everyone loves. Or those who live north of the Mason-Dixon Line. There's a little less love for Abe south of the line. Why compare Chief Budd to Abraham Lincoln? Because, in God's magnificent way of planning around the tragedy of human events, they were both meant to be leaders in the midst of tragedies that enveloped large groups of people. For Lincoln it was a nation during the crisis of a Civil War. For Chief Budd it was the city where he was born and raised and the tragedy of losing 6 firefighters in one night.

For Lincoln it was deeply personal because he loved his country and sought to save it from the tyranny of slaveholders and wanton separation that would destroy the trial of democracy. Democracy would be an eternal failure if the South had successfully seceded from the Union, breaking up the states by willfully walking away because they didn't like the results of the 1860 election. Opinions differ on this, of course. But one part that cannot be debated is the fact that the Union would have ceased to be. It would have been no longer. The United States would be a conglomeration of states where the state, when some result happened that any state opposed, could pack up their bags and create their own little country, leaving the U.S. of A. high and dry. The debate on such a possibility and its legality continues today. Either way, Lincoln would lose his life because of his stance on both democracy and slavery, and how these two powerful entities should both exist and non-exist.

For Chief Dennis Budd, the tragedy was deeply personal because of the tragic loss of six brother firefighters who were raised in the same or similar communities as he was. How could he not feel like he lost six members of his own family in one fateful evening? Can any of us imagine such a blow? My understanding is that he never left the scene until a number of days later when the remains of the last firefighter was found. He probably slept – when he could - in a truck, on the ground, maybe in the diner next door. Leaving the site was no option. Like a father searching for his lost children, being present for the search was the only answer. And like many Worcester folks, he wept countless times in the days immediately after the tragedy, in like manner of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, God's holy city.

One thing I learned at the funeral service was how much Chief Budd was truly a family man. A devoted husband, father, grandfather and now great-grandfather. His family was on the top of his life's list. His family, however, extended beyond the boundaries of his home. His extended family was the Worcester Fire Department and the many personalities he was responsible for.

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Sep 26	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 27	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Sep 28	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 29	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 30	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Oct 01	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Oct 03	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Oct 04	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.

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.

**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!**