

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. | Oct 10 | 4:00 PM | Whitney Foster, 1st Anniversary, from Family |
| Sun. | Oct 11 | 7:30 AM | Mike Glavickas, 25th Anniversary, from Family |
| | | 10:00 AM | Walter Lalone, 2nd Anniversary, from Family |
| Mon. | Oct 12 | 9:00 AM | Daniel Lekas, Month Mind, from Parish Family |
| Tues. | Oct 13 | 9:00 AM | Anna M. Duffy, 1st Anniversary |
| Wed. | Oct 14 | 9:00 AM | Jeannette Hastings, 1st Anniversary, (<i>St. Callistus</i>) |
| Thurs. | Oct 15 | 8:00 AM | In Thanksgiving for Graces Received, from the Lapid Family, (<i>St. Teresa of Jesus</i>) |
| Sat. | Oct 17 | 4:00 PM | In Thanksgiving to St. Rita for Favour Granted |
| Sun. | Oct 18 | 7:30 AM | Ellen Geheran, from Husband |
| | | 10:00 AM | Robert Remillard, 11th Anniversary, from Family |

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 lessening of anger in our hearts and the hearts of all during this upcoming election season.*

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

MARRIAGE: Solitude; "Every Christian stands before God and all other persons as a free, differentiated person who possesses a unique personality, distinctive ideas in feelings, and the purpose for being unlike any other created human being. In a discussion of marital spirituality, it is important to begin with the concept of 'being alone,' or the condition of solitude, because marriage, more than any other human relationship, demands intense and ongoing relationality - thus the traditional phrase 'two in one.' Our current understanding of this phrase invites attention to the retention of the 'twoness' in the 'oneness,' giving rise to a creative tension in which neither individual is reduced in personhood into or under the other person. More precise, then, would be the phrase 'two and one,' which implies the preserving of individuality while affirming duality. This is no small point, for marriages that fail to reach their fullest personal and spiritual potential either 'sin' on the side of too much togetherness or on the side of too much individuality. Healthy marital life combines a full measure of personal presence along with a deep, loving relationship with one's spouse. And unless the marriage is healthy for its participants, it will not be holy."

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Mortal and Venial Sin: "During the synod Assembly some fathers proposed the threefold distinction of sins, classifying them as venial, grave and mortal. This threefold distinction might illustrate the fact that there was a scale of seriousness among grave sins. But it still remains true that the essential and decisive distinction is between sin which destroys charity and sin which does not kill the supernatural life: There is no middle way between life and death."

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

NOONTIME SCRIPTURE STUDY IN OCTOBER

Fr. Riley and Frank McGuire will be hosting a Scripture Series on Tuesdays, October 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: "No truly intimate and personal human relationship can be formed through a mechanical intermediary. No machine, no technology, no robot can replace a man and his relation to God. The media are no strangers to our loss of the sense of prayer and contemplation. They are the thieves of the sacred fire. The life of our soul has no importance to them. I would like to repeat here a message that I have already addressed to priests: Do not pray the Divine Office with your mobile phone. You cannot manipulate a machine on which there are all sorts of apps and pray at the same time. In the Eucharistic liturgy, there is a missal for Mass; in the same way, love the sacred book that is your breviary, because the Divine Office is an authentic liturgy. The media are the main opponents of silence. Without silence, reason itself cannot flourish. I think we ought to inaugurate a great media fast during Lent. Christians should set the example of complete abstinence from the screen for forty days. Such a practice would have real consequences for our relations not only with God but also with each other. It is truly a matter of civilization. But are we capable of it? I pose the question to all my Christian readers: Will you dare to break your digital chains for at least forty days per year? That would be a prophetic stance!"

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

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

COME TO THE MARRIAGE FEAST: Mt 22:3-4; "All the faithful know the story of the marriage of the King's son, and his feast. They know that the Lord's table is open to all who are willing correctly to receive it. But it is important that each one examines how he approaches, even when he is not forbidden to approach. The holy Scriptures teach us that there are two feasts of the Lord: one to which the good and evil come, the other to which the evil do not come. So then the feast of which we have just now heard when the gospel was being read has both good and evil guests. All who excused themselves from this feast are evil, but not all those who entered in are good. I now address you, therefore, who are the good guests at this feast. You are taking careful note of the words 'For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.' It is to you I speak. I plead with you not to look vainly for the good apart from the church but to bear with the evil within it."

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th, THE TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
 Psalm: 96
 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 5b
 Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 10/04/2020

Sunday Ordinary \$ 6,607.00
 Online Donations 27 Sep - 04 Oct 2020 \$ 612.50

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - There are no classes on Sunday, October 11th due to the holiday weekend. Classes will resume on Sunday, October 18th.

ST. PATRICK'S CORNBEEF

When the coronavirus hit hard in this area, it happened to be the very weekend of our annual St. Patrick's Dinner. We had all the corn beef purchased for the dinner. It has been safely frozen (and hidden) in the Fr. Connors Center since that fateful weekend. The time has arrived to give it away since we now know the dinner will not happen this year. Therefore, anyone in the Parish who would like a *free* 2-4 pound package of frozen corned beef, please call the rectory to set up a time for pickup. It's been recommended we give the load of corn beef to St. John's Soup Kitchen, which is a good, Christian idea. However, they have more than enough food to supply their needs for weeks to come. Therefore, we will offer our parishioners the first opportunity to enjoy some corn beef at home at your convenience, maybe even for Thanksgiving.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham in the northern climes of Worcester County; Mt. Monadnock in the southern part of New Hampshire in Jaffrey; Mt. Katahdin way up - and I mean way up - in Maine. Bring your skis for that one. There are a few mountains also in the northern sections of New Hampshire which I visited this past week as I was blessed to be on retreat for a few days. Any of these mountains - your choice - is a special place to be fed the rich foods and choice wines of the God who loves us unconditionally. Being in touch with the Lord on a mountain, or even admiring the real presence of a mountain from a distance, will provide us the rich food of God's awesomeness and power. The image here for the Funeral Mass, of course, is the image of the soul of the deceased sharing in the rich banquet that God has prepared for those who him. While the body/cremains of loved ones is respectfully laid to rest in their proper place under the earth, the soul, we pray, flies up, guided and guarded by angels, to enjoy the rich foods of everlasting life, happiness, and joy on God's holy mountain. My friends, this is not a fairy tale as some may say and believe. Isaiah wrote words centuries and centuries ago that still ring true, and will ring true until the end of time. God has ready for us a mountain that makes the Alps look like a tiny ridge. In one real sense, we're in the process of climbing this mountain now. It doesn't take the most expensive hiking boots to reach its peak. What brings us there is faith in God's Son, which is the best pair of hiking boots we can purchase in this short life.

The mountains we can visit now, however, offer all climbers and lookers an opportunity to admire the amazing handiwork of God. Scientifically, it is true that glaciers formed and shaped the mountains we see and visit. But God not only called into existence the physical matter that formed glaciers eons ago. God's hand was also close and personal in forming the sizes, shapes, and beauty of each hill, large and small. Like the Perfect Artist he is, God's hand stretched forth and made each hill to his liking, continuing to shape and form them, and we get to enjoy them.

If possible this Columbus Day weekend, visit a mountain and take in the edifice where God resides in splendid form. The Lord is to be found there is a particular way. He beckons us to come. See the colors, the shapes, the ruggedness that mirrors life itself, and be comforted by the everlasting truth that we have a God who is up close and personal in his creation. And if the only rich food you can enjoy on his mountain is a hot dog, then enjoy it at its best. Enjoy every bite, because God is watching you eat it.

Peace, Fr. Riley

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.

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.

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.

SNEEZING, COUGHING, FEVER, and SNIFFLING...A REMINDER

If you have any of these symptoms at this time of the year on a given Saturday/Sunday, please stay home for the week. This understanding has been in place since mid-May when Churches reopened, but is more relevant as autumn and winter set in. With the Coronavirus increasing in Massachusetts at this time, and with the cooler weather approaching, we all need to be better safe than sorry. Nothing will clear out our Church quicker than someone sneezing and coughing throughout the Mass. And nothing will faster scare everyone in your vicinity. Allow your cough, fever, sneezing, or sniffing and whatever else to pass safely in the confines of your residence. Thank you.

FROM THE PASTOR

It's such a wonderful time of the year with the cooler weather, the foliage colors, and a long weekend for many workers in the celebration of Columbus Day. Even with a pandemic that continues to be present in our midst, early October remains a special time of the year to take a moment, take in the bright colors of nature, put on a sweatshirt as only a New Englander can do, and breathe the fresh air with healthy (hopefully) lungs.

October is the bookend to April, when our anticipation of winter finished for another year glides into the freshness of spring flowers, rain instead of snow, and warmer weather after a (usually) cold winter in these parts. This end of the bookend has many advantages for our spirituality, offering various opportunities to experience the presence of the God who walks with us within the confines of a spread-out nature and fireplaces that begin to be used. Some folks love the smell on their clothes of the fireplace smoke, a smell that others can smell from a mile away. Others do not like the smell of a person's clothes who hang around a fireplace for what smells like a month straight. Personally, I like the former.

The scent of clothes from a working wood fireplace is very different from the scent of smoke from, say, a structure fire. It seems a controlled fire, such as a fireplace, has the potential, at least, to produce a clothing scent that others can say, "I like your new perfume or deodorant. What's it called, *The Fire Within?*" (We all have a fire within, I pray, called the Holy Spirit). The scent of a structure fire, however, never smells good. Never! I've had this smell on my person and clothes a few times over the years from fires in Worcester, and I couldn't get rid of it fast enough. And I know others would want it gone as quickly as I would if they smelled it. Bad fire produces bad odor. A good fire can at least smell good to certain people, such as woody and outdoorsy people.

Again, this time of the year is such a refreshing time before we move into our extended hibernation mode as the winter freeze arrives not so long down the road. Do yourself a favor and take advantage of what Mother Nature has to offer to New Englanders throughout October. The foliage will hang around for a few weeks as the colors move from vibrant to fading, eventually to a bare tree. And speaking of a bare tree, is there a more symbolic image in nature that addresses the great spiritual topic of conversion? A bare tree with no leaves says, "You know, it's time to let go of my personal leaves this October and November as I prepare for the Word being made flesh on December 25, and let God plant some new ones when the warm weather returns next year." The bare tree is a most useful image for being rid of the internal sights and smells that can weigh us down and turn us into something other than Christian. Just a thought to pass on.

With nature as a topic for this week's column, we turn to the 1st reading this Sunday from the great Old Testament Prophet Isaiah. It's a reading that has been used at many funerals for our loved ones and friends. The nature aspect present in the reading is not a bare tree, or even a tree shining forth its bright leaves, but rather the image of a majestic mountain. Majestic because it's the place where God resides. At least in this section of Isaiah. "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines...The Lord will wipe away the tears from every face...Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us."

Such awesome words from many centuries ago still ring loud today for those of us – which is most of us – who seek some level of comfort during these trying times. God the Provider; God the Comforter; God the Savior. On a mountain. We don't have an abundance of mountain choices in this geographical section of Massachusetts/New England. Wachusett is not far away;

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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|--------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Sat. | Oct 10 | 2:45 PM 4:00 PM | Confession Mass |
| Sun. | Oct 11 | 7:30 AM 10:00 AM | Mass Mass |
| Mon. | Oct 12 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Tues. | Oct 13 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Wed. | Oct 14 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Thurs. | Oct 15 | 7:30 AM 8:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Sat. | Oct 17 | 2:45 PM 4:00 PM | Confession Mass |
| Sun. | Oct 18 | 7:30 AM 10:00 AM | Mass Mass |

DAILY MASS, SUNDAY MASS, FAMILY ROSARY

All continue to stream on worcesterdiocese.org, can be uploaded for automatic updating on eCatholic websites, and are available for viewing on Spectrum/Charter Ch 193 UNTIL OCTOBER 23.

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 \$150.00.

**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!**