

# 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.	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
Mon.	Oct 19	9:00 AM	Joseph Rogers, Birthday, from Young Shin, <i>(Sts. John deBrebeuf and Isaac Jogues)</i>
Tues.	Oct 20	9:00 AM	Walter Janylenicz, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Wed.	Oct 21	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Thurs.	Oct 22	8:00 AM	Rita L. Letendre, from Family, <i>(St. John Paul II)</i>
Sat.	Oct 24	4:00 PM	Patrick Herlihy, 5th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Oct 25	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Msgr. Thomas J. Needham, 18th 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 *our total trust and dependence upon God in our relationship with Him.*

**ALL SOULS DAY ENVELOPES**

Envelopes for All Souls Day, November 2, delivered in the new packet of envelopes for November/December, may be placed into our collection box at any time. These envelopes with names listed on them will be placed on our altar throughout the month of November and remembered in the Prayers of the Faithful. For those who do not receive envelopes in the mail, feel free to create your own with names of the deceased on it and place it in the collection box. Thank you.

**PARISH ST. VINCENT de PAUL FOOD DRIVE**

We're grateful to our Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society for conducting a food drive at this time with our pantry being low on goods. It is well timed. The past few weeks have seen twice the number of people coming to our door for food than what we normally experience; thus, many of our supplies have dried up rather quickly. Brown bags have been left at each entrance to the Church for our people to consider taking one and filling it with canned and perishable goods. Bags may be left at any entrance to the Church and we will bring them to the rectory after Mass. Thank you for your generosity as we continue to feed the hungry.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH VIRTUAL TRIVIA AND THEOLOGY**

All high school youth are invited to join in for the next *Trivia & Theology* night! Join us on the **Sunday, Nov. 1 from 7-8pm via Zoom**. We will start with some miscellaneous trivia (top score gets a \$20 Dunkin gift card!). We'll then continue with the next part of our apologetics series which will be a discussion on the topic "Why be a Christian?" We will explore the differences between Christianity and other world religions and discuss who Jesus really is and why it makes sense to follow Him. Our guest speaker will be Derek Mobilio, one of our seminarians. To sign up to receive the Zoom link or for more information, go to <https://neworchester.org/trivia-and-theology>.

**TV MASSES WILL END ON SPECTRUM CH.193**

The Daily and Sunday TV Masses, Family Rosary and other programs produced by the Diocese will no longer be available on Charter/Spectrum Ch.193 after October 23. If you watch on a non-Spectrum cable company like Clinton or Shrewsbury or on the internet, nothing has changed. TV Ministry is working to get on more local access stations over the next few weeks. It could mean a simple change to Ch.194 in towns with Spectrum cable. Before October 23, an updated list will be available at [worcesterdiocese.org](http://worcesterdiocese.org) and mailed to all our Daily Mass supporters.

**NOONTIME SCRIPTURE STUDY IN OCTOBER**

Fr. Riley and Frank McGuire will be hosting a Scripture Series on Tuesdays, October 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. JOHN'S ADMISSION EXAMS**

St. John's High School Admission Exams for grades 7 & 9 will be held on Saturday, November 21 and December 12, 2020. Pre-registration is required. Visit [www.stjohnshigh.org/admissions](http://www.stjohnshigh.org/admissions) for more information. With any questions, contact the Admissions Office at 508-842-8934, ext. 266 or email [admissions@stjohnshigh.org](mailto:admissions@stjohnshigh.org).

**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. Sign-up sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at [icworc.com](http://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.

**PRAYER SHAWLS**

We have a few prayer shawls in our possession that we would like to give out to anyone who feels the need of having one. Or, if you know of someone who may be dealing with cancer or any other disease and would benefit from the comfort and peace of a prayer shawl, please speak with Fr. Riley. We thank the Prayer Shawl Group at Our Lady of Good Counsel in West Boylston for making and donating the beautiful work of their shawls to us.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th, THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26  
 Psalm: 18  
 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10  
 Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 10/11/2020**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,295.00
Online Donations 05-11 Oct 2020	\$ 450.00
Propagation of the Faith	\$ 50.00

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** - Classes for Religious Education take place on Sunday, October 18th at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in K through 6th grade and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10. Confirmation Class takes place on Sunday, October 18th at 11:15AM.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

any of the other channels of communication that present the great potential to go off the deep end. I'd rather read the Scriptures and understand in deeper ways why God has loved me to the point of sending his Son to die for me and bring my sorry, sinful self to the joys of heaven I know I don't deserve. Now that's something to be thankful for!

All who struggle with the above antics and actions would do well for themselves by considering the life of St. Paul. Again, a guy who was well-versed in Scripture (Old Testament), a Hebrew among Hebrews, was taught by the best teachers, was given authority and power over others, was zealous for the faith, he would do his best impersonation of The Godfather toward early Christians who proclaimed the Messiah to have come. This Paul resembles the span of time we presently find ourselves in during another Presidential cycle. A time of anger, lashing out, disrespect, no peace instead of know peace, confrontation, tearing down the human person made in God's image and likeness. Honestly, the answer "This is politics" doesn't fly anymore at my age. Those words are no more than an excuse for abhorrent behavior. I'm not a stupid Galatian. I'm not searching for perfection here. But if you, myself, or anyone else can explain to God one day such meandering ways of vile toward another person whom God created, then all I can say is good luck. Because your explanation is going to fall flat. Enjoy the ride to Purgatory for a long while.

Instead, I pray we study, ponder, reflect on, and imitate the "new Paul." The post-Damascus Road Paul. The one who gives thanks to a community of believers he absolutely loves in the midst of a vicious generation of Romans who eventually take his life, securing his martyrdom and place in heaven. This is the Paul we cherish. This is the Paul God created for His personal use. This is the Paul who finds freedom in Christ to be a lifelong project, and not putting it aside every four years when elections are on stage. This is the Apostle who sees himself as no better than the people he writes to and offers thanks to God for them. There's a radical Christian thought! How about giving thanks to God this week for your political enemy, whoever he or she happens to be? Thank God for the candidate you cannot stand to support in the least way. Maybe God is challenging us to be better imitators of his Son who said, "Father, forgive them. Forgive them for not knowing what they do. Forgive them for supporting abortion and the intentional taking of human life. Forgive them for attacking the faith we practice and calling us all sorts of ugly names for being true to your Son. Forgive them Father, for seeking war and not peace. For not being honest about their motives during a time of pandemic. Forgive them, Father, for being more concerned about their place in history rather than being true public servants. (And this is the real test...) Forgive, Father, the media for spewing forth like a hurricane more lies than the Devil himself can count. Please forgive them. Please." The list is of forgiving those we disagree with is very, very long. It would take many books to cover the full story.

St. Paul was an Apostle of thanks. He thanked his communities for their faith in Christ, even the stupid Galatians eventually. Paul sent thanks during a time when the Romans persecuted harshly. When the world was in an uproar. May we imitate the Apostle at this time.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

### **9<sup>th</sup> DIVISION MASS THIS SUNDAY**

This Sunday, October 18, at 10:00 we will celebrate our annual 9<sup>th</sup> Division Mass in recognition of the veterans who served our nation in time of peril. Unfortunately, because of the ongoing pandemic, the usual 9<sup>th</sup> Division folks who attend from different parts of New England will not be present. We will, however, carry on the decades-long tradition begun by 9<sup>th</sup> Division Chaplain and former longtime Pastor of Immaculate Conception Fr. Edward T. Connors. We look forward to the good people of the Ninth Division Association returning next year as we always enjoy and appreciate their presence and stories that accompany their visit. May God bless them in their continued good work to keep alive the memory of the thousands of soldiers who faithfully served our nation during the Second World War and Vietnam.

### **ST. PATRICK'S CORNBEEF FREE GIVEAWAY**

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 (it would go well with turkey for Thanksgiving), please call the rectory on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday from 9:30-1:00 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 months to come. Therefore, we will offer our parishioners the first opportunity to enjoy some corn beef in the warmth of your home.

### **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.

### **RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**OVERVIEW OF MATTHEW 22:15-22:** "The Pharisees went off and took counsel together on how to trap Jesus in conversation. Whenever someone wishes to close off a stream of running water, force alone bursts through another path from some new direction. So it was with the evil planning of these men. When cut off in one direction, they simply sought another opening. The Caesar's coin is gold; that of God, humanity. Caesar is seen in his currency; God, however, is known through human beings. And so give your wealth to Caesar but reserve for God the innocence of your conscience, where God is met and beheld. For the hand of Caesar has crafted an image by likenesses and lives each year by renewable decree. However, the divine hand of God has shown his image in the virtues. It is with such inscriptions that God imprints his coins. For Caesar required his image on every coin, but God has chosen the human personality, whom he has created in love, to reflect his glory. The passion of hypocrisy is to hide hostility beneath flattery. Paying taxes to Caesar does not prevent one from serving God."

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

The message is pretty basic. It's one that applies to every situation where some good act is performed on behalf of another. Those who place their lives on the line for others – military, police, firefighters, etc. – should hear the message every day they perform their hazardous duties. But the message is by no means limited to those who serve their nation or the communities in which we live. It's a message that should be automatic every time we look at the beauty of a child. Every time we look at the incredible colors of nature, along with nature's shapes, sizes, and formation. It's a message that should be extended, even to the skies at times, with arms upraised and words filled with spirit. The basic message is one of giving thanks. Offering gratitude for the joys of life and the much goodness we experience. Maybe especially in this time with a good amount of upheaval. To give thanks for blessings we should never forget.

The thought of giving thanks flows from the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading this Sunday from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Assuming this is Paul's actual first letter that he writes to this earliest of Christian communities the Apostle founded (he could have written one or two others previous that time has not recorded and kept), he begins the letter by offering grace and peace to them. The grace of Jesus and the peace of our Lord be with them. Much better than another letter elsewhere that says, "O, you stupid Galatians! Who has deluded you?" That's one mad Apostle. Instead, with the Thessalonians, Paul begins with tender words of love.

And then Paul moves into the message above; he gives thanks to God always for them. He thanks them for their steadfast faith, their love for one another in Christ Jesus, their hope in the resurrection, and their genuine, daily care and concern for each other. The Apostle whom Jesus stopped in his tracks on his way to persecuting Christians in Damascus, notice how he sends forth a message of sincere gratitude, setting the table for all that will follow in his letter. That's a far cry from seeking vengeance and violence, which sets the table for bitterness and war. Thanking the Thessalonians for "sticking to the plan" of Christ as Savior, Paul rightfully finds them worthy of personal gratitude and admiration.

This returns us to the age-old question that arises often in our lives; Who or what have we to be grateful for? Who or what deserves our thanks? Who stands out in each of our lives for such gratitude? Applying the principle of thanksgiving in a time of continued pandemic, political mayhem, a present nation of political polar opposites, a media that generally serves their self-interest instead of the interest of a nation, fabrications running amok, and a general feeling of uncertainty for the future... Yes, it's a great time to take note in our lives of the many opportunities and chances to give genuine thanks for protection, for blessings, for being loved, for having others in our lives who really do care about us. One need only take a few moments to reflect on the countless blessings in various forms, and we will come to realize we could actually give thanks all day long. We could open our letter, like Paul, to whomever is deserving of our personal gratitude.

You know, quite honestly, attempting to offset the ugliness of another Presidential election, with its countless ugly commercials and numerous degradations and personal attacks (What a waste of lots of money that could be better used!), trying to remind and re-center good people with the goodness of God and the many joys of life we have is not an easy task. Even for God himself! It seems that every four years good people lose their minds and their values because of their political leanings. Their good hearts become like fingernails scratching a chalkboard. This is why I don't waste my time using Facebook, Twitter, or

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**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Oct 17	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Oct 18	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Oct 19	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Oct 20	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Oct 21	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Oct 22	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Oct 24	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Oct 25	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**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.

**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!**