

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 24 | 4:00 PM | Patrick Herlihy, 5th Anniversary, from Family |
| Sun. | Oct 25 | 7:30 AM | Dorothy McIntire, 3rd Anniversary, from Family |
| | | 10:00 AM | Msrgr. Thomas J. Needham, 18th Anniversary, from Family |
| Mon. | Oct 26 | 9:00 AM | |
| Tues. | Oct 27 | 9:00 AM | Robert McHugh III, Month Mind, from Family |
| Wed. | Oct 28 | 9:00 AM | (<i>Sts. Simon and Jude</i>) |
| Thurs. | Oct 29 | 8:00 AM | Parishioners of Immaculate Conception |
| Sat. | Oct 31 | 4:00 PM | |
| Sun. | Nov 01 | 7:30 AM | Chuck Burns, Jeannette T. Burns and Brian B. Colonies, from Family |
| | | 10:00 AM | John "Jack" Kelley, 4th 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 *families to grow in mutual love reflecting the love God has for us.*

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.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

WHICH IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?: Mt 22:36; "The question itself, however, was this: 'What is the greatest commandment of the law?' - a question of great worth which will allow us to explain something of the differences between these commands. For certain commands are very great, but certain others are secondary. Hence we must look at each right down to the least important of these commands. For if in the baiting of the Pharisees and their asking, 'What is the greater commandment of the law?' Christ had not responded, then we would conclude that one command was no greater than another." *Origen (c.184-c.253)*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, ALL SAINTS

1st Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
 Psalm: 24
 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3
 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 10/18/2020

Sunday Ordinary \$ 2,920.00
 Online Donations 12-18 Oct 2020 \$ 647.50

NOONTIME SCRIPTURE STUDY IN OCTOBER

Fr. Riley and Frank McGuire will be hosting a Scripture Series on Tuesdays, October 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.

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.

SCRIPTURE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Fr. Riley will begin a Scripture Study class on the Gospel of Matthew beginning Wednesday, November 4 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The weekly class will be held in the Church basement. Face masks are required, and social distancing will be implemented. Please bring your own Bible for each class. Please prepare by reading Chapter 1 in advance. Thank you.

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

Mortal and Venial Sin: "...care will have to be taken not to reduce mortal sin to an act of 'fundamental option' - as is commonly said today - against God, intending thereby an explicit and formal contempt for God or neighbor. For mortal sin exists also when a person knowingly and willingly, for whatever reason, chooses something gravely disordered. In fact, such a choice already includes contempt for the divine law, a rejection of God's love for humanity and the whole of creation; the person turns away from God and loses charity. Thus the fundamental orientation can be radically changed by individual acts. Clearly there can occur situations which are very complex and obscure from a psychological viewpoint and which have an influence on the sinner's subjective culpability. But from a consideration of the psychological sphere one cannot proceed to the construction of a theological category, which is what the 'fundamental option' precisely is, understanding it in such a way that it objectively changes or cast doubt upon the traditional concept of mortal sin." From *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, Pope St. John Paul II

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Classes for Religious Education take place on Sunday, October 25th 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 25th at 11:15AM.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

At the age of 60, I figure I have a measly 20-25 years left in this finite life before the angels carry me home to my heavenly Father. That amount of time is a speck of dust in the universe. However, as someone who loves his country like you, knowing the priority for my love for country is a far distant second place to my Catholic faith, I desire to see a good situation for the millions of present children and youth who have years and years ahead of them. A good situation in our country means they have freedom and liberty, and not have to fight against a government body/ideology that forces upon them language and actions of what they can and cannot say or do. As our country – the land of the free – is genuinely threatened by the likes of socialism in this election, which is why I’m not blowing smoke this time around, what history teaches us about this certain “ism” is that it has radically failed to care for the common folk wherever and whenever it existed. Why? Because it inhibits freedom and liberty, violently (if needed) removing from each individual the capacity to use the many gifts and talents God has implanted in all of us. Where freedom is inhibited or removed altogether, it is a human government or group performing the ritual. Socialism (and communism) cheapen the human person and life itself. God created us to be free, and freedom can only exist where God is the center of our lives as individuals and a nation.

One problem here, however, (again, these are my personal thoughts through years of observation) is the silence and complicity of Catholics who stand by watching their garden of freedom being sacked and robbed, allowing the thief to just go on his merry way as he carries away your best tomatoes and peppers. In more pointed language, the threat of our freedom to grow a liberty garden is at stake in the 2020 Presidential election. Incredibly sadly, the self-proclaimed “good Catholic” candidate, the one who attacks his own faith by way of dismissing fundamental Church teaching on the issues of life, marriage (he presided over a “same-sex marriage” at the White House in 2016), and a campaign promise to attack the Little Sisters of the Poor, just to name a few, is allowing himself to be complicit in the watering down and eventual removal of yours and my freedom. I exaggerate not! His victory will ensure continued, numerous attacks on religion, which is the great irony. Professing to be a “good Catholic,” common sense tells me that defending your faith to the hilt, as well as the faith of all other God-fearing folks, would be top priority. At least the 1st Amendment to the Constitution says so, where is found the freedom of religion *without government interference*. Instead, the great defender of religious freedom today is the non-Catholic candidate, the incumbent as they call him, who has openly spoken words that defend our right to practice our faith without disturbance from bad-intentioned politicians. What’s disturbing is that many Catholics stand by and watch our freedom being eroded, watching their garden robbed, and say and do nothing to stop the robbing of *our most* basic national freedom, religion.

“Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.” The good news is that repressive human ideologies can only go so far before they are defeated. Granted, they can travel a far distance that will destroy millions of human lives first, such as World War II’s Fascism and Nazism. Such wrath from evil ideologies cause unspeakable amounts of human carnage before they are stopped. But eventually, they are defeated. One future day the good Chinese people will not have to live under the evil of their government’s Communism. The wrath they presently know will one day be lifted. The sooner the better for them and our world.

And with Socialism a first cousin to Communism, and our nation deserves it not.

The coming wrath and Jesus’ delivery, however, refers to his return in glory, a time that will usher in the fullness of heaven (yea), but also final judgment and the accusations against us coming from Satan’s mouth. Jesus delivers us who are faithful from Pitchfork Man’s lies, and brings us to the great truth of heaven. Although 2020 has been a year of “wrath” by way of pandemic, riots, looting and killings, Christ our Lord has defeated this wrath also in the wrath of his own death and subsequent resurrection. In the meantime, do your country a favor and reject the false, oppressive promises and ideas of Socialism (it has a proven track record of failure). Dismiss the wrath of it, and allow the freedom which God created in us to rest upon us for years ahead as we freely choose to love our brothers and sisters in Christ, caring especially for needs of the most vulnerable among us. In Baptism – the good *ism* – is found the freedom to be Christ to others. This is a far cry from the horror of Socialism.

Peace, Fr. Riley

MASS ALL SOULS DAY - NOVEMBER 2nd

Our Parish will have Mass on Monday, November 2, All Souls Day at 5:30 P.M. in memory of the faithful departed. We traditionally on this day remember in a special way those who have died in the past year, but this Mass is offered for any family members who wish to commemorate the loss of a loved one over the years. Each family will have the opportunity to light a votive candle in their loved one's memory during the Mass and place it in front of the altar.

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.

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.

WATCH VIRTUAL CELEBRATE PRIESTHOOD ONLINE

On **Monday, October 26 from 6 to 6:45 pm**, we will host the *VIRTUAL Celebrate Priesthood* on worcesterdiocese.org. Watch live from a computer, tablet or smartphone, or check it out later to watch the recorded event.

FROM THE PASTOR

In the closing words of St. Paul this week in his 1st Letter to the Thessalonians; “Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.”

Of course, St. Paul was not referring to the coming Presidential election and what may flow from its results. But maybe those words fit the situation? It seems like a wrath has been prepared if the present President happens to be reelected. Either that or I’m blind and deaf to all that is presently being said and done, especially in some cities throughout this great country of ours. It sure seems like a wrath has been threatened, prepared, and ready to be unleashed with even more ferocity than we’ve seen over the past number of months, coming from people who claim the high moral – or immoral - ground on behavior and reaction. So, get ready for the wrath to spew forth its ugly hatred. Hold on to the nearest oak tree for the extension of violence that appears to be around the corner.

Now, this doesn’t sound much like a spiritual message of hope thus far. Which would be a true thought. However, it is a message of earthly reality, which I’m sure we all can agree is important. Since we live our lives *in the world*, and not at heavenly St. Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer where seclusion and quiet lead the way each day, we care about what happens around us and within the large territory of our country. We know events on our soil affect us closely. I’ve listened to a handful of older folks over the past few weeks ask and show grave concern for both our nation and our Church. “Why are the Bishops not speaking out against a presidential candidate who calls himself a “good Catholic” but radically and openly promotes abortion – the intentional taking of a human life that is supposed to be protected in the U.S. Constitution and God’s Constitution in heaven that came down to Moses from the very finger of God (You shall not kill)? Why are those red hats not collectively speaking up (although a few of them have; God bless Cardinal O’Malley and Bishop McManus) and defending the moral wrongness of what is the worst crime of all, coming from a national candidate who dares the U.S. Bishops to challenge him?” Such questions I must listen to.

I wish I had the definite answer for sure. But I suspect it has something to do with the combination of courage and money. Many of our Shepherds seem lack one (courage) in their deafening silence, and have become dependent upon the government for the other (money). My personal belief is that our Church, in today’s climate and thinking toward religious organizations receiving tax dollars, is placed in a better situation of ministry and spirituality by *not receiving tax dollars*. By receiving them, it opens the door for certain politicians from a certain party to use such funds against us by way of trying to dictate what we as a faith can and cannot say or do. This is already happening *without* financial gifts from our government. What would happen if we accepted loads of taxpayer money (which is yours, not theirs), even for the holiest of Christian ministries? Have you ever heard of the Little Sisters of the Poor? Google them and see how a certain political party and certain segments of that party have treated this cherished group of American Sisters who care for the dying elderly. It’s one of the hardest stories for me to swallow in my lifetime, being alive to witness a Presidential administration attack a group of Religious Sisters who perform acts of love and compassion that care for American citizens. This must be a segment of the coming wrath.

Every four years over the past 20 years we’ve heard how each Presidential election is the most important election of our lifetime. I’ve blown a large puff of my personal smoke at that thought for 20 years and said, “Yea sure, give me a break.” This year, 2020, the weirdest of all years, I blow no smoke at this thought.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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|--------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Sat. | Oct 24 | 2:45 PM 4:00 PM | Confession Mass |
| Sun. | Oct 25 | 7:30 AM 10:00 AM | Mass Mass |
| Mon. | Oct 26 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Tues. | Oct 27 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Wed. | Oct 28 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Thurs. | Oct 29 | 7:30 AM 8:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Sat. | Oct 31 | 2:45 PM 4:00 PM | Confession Mass |
| Sun. | Nov 01 | 7:30 AM 10:00 AM | Mass Mass |

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 \$350.00.

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. Preregistration is required. Visit 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.

**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!**