

# 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.	Nov 21	4:00 PM	Fr. Antonio Antonucci OSB, 1st Anniversary, from Friends and Family
Sun.	Nov 22	7:30 AM	Doris Herrmann, Month Mind, from Parish Family
		10:00 AM	
Mon.	Nov 23	9:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to God, <i>(St. Clement)</i>
Tues.	Nov 24	9:00 AM	Rita L. Letendre, <i>(St. Andrew Dung-Lac)</i>
Wed.	Nov 25	9:00 AM	Richard and Therese Cronican, from Daughters, <i>(St. Catherine of Alexandria)</i>
Thurs.	Nov 26	8:00 AM	<i>(Thanksgiving Day)</i>
Sat.	Nov 28	4:00 PM	Barbara Gillis Maher, 11th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Nov 29	7:30 AM	Rose Sands, 1st Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	

**THANKSGIVING DAY MASS**

Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, will be held at 9:00 a.m. We celebrate this great American family holiday this year under the difficult circumstances of many families not being able to congregate as one, at least not in the numbers we may normally do so each year. Our Mass, however, remains the opportunity for us as Catholics to come together and give thanks to God for countless blessings in our lives. We unite as one in the holy name of Jesus and offer heartfelt thanks to our heavenly Father for abundant blessings bestowed. We hope you can join us.

**FALL FUEL COLLECTION THANK YOU**

With the heat on in the Church now (except for the one summer week we just had in November), we thank all our parishioners who contribute to the first of three annual collections that help to pay heating costs for the Church. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. For anyone with or without a Fall Fuel envelope, it would also be appreciated if you considered making a donation to this collection that benefits everyone who enters the Church for Sunday Mass. Thank you for your kindness.

**TURKEY LURKEY 2020 REPLACED BY PARISH RAFFLE**

With the pandemic still hanging around here like a rotten fruit tree, we've decided it would be best to bypass our Parish Turkey Lurkey for 2020. Safety first for all involved. In its stead, we will hold a Parish Raffle through November into early December to help raise money for the many good works of our Parish Activities Committee. The makeup of the raffle is as follows: 200 tickets will be sold for \$50.00 each, totaling \$10,000 dollars. There will be one grand prize winner of \$3,000 dollars, one winner of \$1,000 dollars, 2 winners of \$750.00, and one winner of \$500, totaling \$6,000 in winnings. The remaining profit will be forwarded to the Parish Activities Committee. We will start selling tickets after all Masses beginning November 7. Tickets may also be purchased during the week at the rectory during business hours only (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:30-2:30). The winners will be drawn (by religious ed students) on Sunday, December 14, in time for Christmas. Winners will be announced by phone and in the bulletin the following week. Thank you for your support of our Parish Activities Committee with the hopeful prayer we return next year to a genuine Turkey-Lurkey.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7  
 Psalm: 80  
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 11/15/2020**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,199.00
Online Donations 09-15 Nov 2020	\$ 692.00
Fall Fuel Collection	\$ 590.00
All Saints	\$ 50.00
All Souls	\$ 145.00

**CHRISTMAS MASSES FOR 2020 AND TICKETS REQUIRED**

This year our Parish will have four (4) Masses for Christmas instead of the normal two Masses. The reason, of course, is the limited number of seats available for each Mass resulting from the social distance requirements caused by the pandemic. Our Mass schedule will be Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m., and Christmas Day at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Our Parish will create a signup & ticket system for each of the four Masses. All who attend will need to present a ticket at the door to ushers who will collect them, who will check off names from the signup sheet as you enter. Ushers will also assist in seating congregants to ensure there are no issues with space availability in the Church for each Mass. *There can be no standing in the back of the Church for any Mass. Every attendee has to be seated per request of our Diocese.* The signup & ticket system will be placed onto our Parish website by Friday, November 27, allowing our parishioners ample time to sign up prior to others from outside the Parish. Any elderly folks who do not have a computer *must speak to Fr. Riley or call the rectory ASAP to ensure your name is placed on the list of attendees for the Mass you would like to attend.* As of now, we are maximizing our congregation number to 135 people for each Christmas Mass. With 4 Masses, this will allow for all our parishioners, their family members, and others from outside to be able to attend Christmas Mass under present circumstances. Please be open to the possibility of adjusting to the Mass you wish to attend because of limited seating. For those who normally attend on Christmas Eve, you may have to attend on Christmas Day because of limited space. This system is only for Christmas Masses. All other Sunday and Holy Day Masses will not need this system in place since our Church has the capacity to handle social distance requirements based on the number of people who normally attend. Any questions, please speak with Fr. Riley. Thank you for your patience and gentleness in this matter.

**THANSKGIVING MASS COLLECTION**

Our annual Thanksgiving Day Mass collection each year is forwarded to our Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society for the works of mercy and charity they perform during the year. From Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets for numerous families in need, to Easter flowers for families who have lost loved ones in the past year, to assisting the needy in other ways when needed, this Parish group appreciates your support to assist them in their work of carrying out the Lord's command "to love neighbor." Boxes will be left at each entrance to the Church on Thanksgiving Day as is done for Sunday Masses. Thank you.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

Fr. Riley is holding a one-hour Scripture study class each Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Church Basement. We will read, study, and discuss the Gospel of Matthew. The next class will be held on Wednesday, December 2. *There will be no class this upcoming Wednesday, November 25, because of the Thanksgiving holiday.* In preparation for the December 2 class please read chapters 4 & 5. Masks are required and social distance will be practiced.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** - Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, November 22 at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades K-6 and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10 and Confirmation Class. All families in the Religious Education program will receive an Advent Project package to take home. The package contains a few fun projects to start the Advent Season which begins on Sunday, November 29th. We look forward to seeing the completed projects when we return to Religious Educations after the Thanksgiving break.

**Coat Drive** - The Religious Education Program along with the St. Vincent DePaul Society will be collecting new and clean gently used winter coats, hats, gloves & scarves on the weekends of November 21, 22, 28 and 29. Please help families in need by donating winter gear that can last them through the winter. Boxes will be placed at each entrance of the church for donations. Thank you!

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

the capacity, at least, of bringing life into our world, making his teaching the only true understanding on marriage, so it is with this Gospel. There is a primacy to Scripture, and Jesus' spoken, quoted words never take second place to other parts of the Bible. We come to understand other essential teachings of our Christian faith through the other books of Scripture, such as, for example, righteousness and justice in the Letters of St. Paul. However, the direct words of Christ the Lord set the salvation table for all other parts of Scripture.

Here, in Matthew 25, Jesus clearly says that being a sheep is a must, while being a goat must be avoided. Both sheep and goats are dependent upon feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison, caring for the ill. All acts of love. One animal offers free wool for comfort and warmth without asking for anything in return; the other destroys your precious lawn and bites you when you stick your hand through the fence to feed it. In this parable at least, the goat is the devil who chews up souls and spits them out. When a human being is a goat (not a Tom Brady GOAT – Greatest Of All Time), they become experts at destroying peoples' lives, taking advantage of the vulnerable, stepping on the necks of those who are weak, and being harshly critical of anyone who disagrees with them. Such people have little chance of being at the right side of Jesus. It would take a full conversion for a full-fledged goat to make it to the joyful side of eternal life when Jesus returns. The warning of our Lord is as serious as a warning can be. I suspect a few politicians and others in the business of being the king or queen of their castle are in for a shock when they see God face to face one day. Again, we pray for anyone who lives their life in this way. As Church, our first responsibility is to pray for the salvation of every soul. But in a special way, any goats who live for themselves and this world.

In the Book of Revelation there is a verse closely connected to Matthew 25; "Let them rest from their labors, for their good deeds accompany them" (Rev 14:13). When John the Apostle wrote those words in the latter part of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, he undoubtedly had in mind the words of Jesus spoken to his disciples in the setting of this week's Gospel. Again, the Lord's words are primary, not to be forgotten or cast aside, and, in this case, repeated by one of his first Apostles in the last book of the Bible. It comes to us as a last warning, if you will, regarding what is required for us to be sheep at the right side of our Savior. Resting from our labors is made possible when we put others first. Putting the other first is the heart and soul of Christian marriage and what gives marriage purpose and meaning. John literally heard the words of Jesus spoken in Matthew's Gospel, reiterating them for the good of his community of believers. The Apostle wanted there to be no doubts, no excuses given, no disguises worn, and no trying to sneak past his good buddy St. Peter.

So, are you on the right or left? I care not the least about your politics in reference to this question. I care totally for your salvation, for this world is passing by. Be ready to meet Jesus, and don't bring any costumes. Only your birthday suit, for we all stand naked before God.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**VIGILANCE IN GUARDING LOVE:** Mt 25:28-29; "And immediately a general thought is added: 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but from everyone who has not even what he seems to have will be taken away from him.' To the one who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. Whoever has love receives other gifts as well. Whoever does not have love loses even the gifts he appeared to have received. Hence it is necessary, my friends, that in everything you do, you be vigilant about guarding love. True love is to love your friend in God and your enemy for the sake of God. Whoever does not have this loses every good that he possesses; he is deprived of the talent he received, and according to the Lord's sentence he is cast into external darkness. External darkness comes as a punishment to one who has fallen voluntarily into an internal darkness through his own sin. The one who freely enjoyed pleasurable darkness in this world will be constrained to suffer punishing darkness in the next."

*St. Gregory the Great (540-604)*

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE FOR 2020 DIFFERENT FORMAT**

A new format will be in place this year for the annual Christmas Giving Tree so we as a Parish can continue to assist the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope and the thousands of children who benefit from their giving program. Because of the pandemic, Christmas tags on a tree in our Church will not be used this year. For those who wish to purchase a gift on behalf of this wonderful ministry there are two options that may be used, both through use of your computer. Option 1: You can obtain a "virtual tag" for the gift that a mother has asked for one of her children by going to [www.urbanmissionaries.com](http://www.urbanmissionaries.com) and clicking on the tab "To join our virtual Christmas Giving Tree." You will receive your tag via email. If you purchase the gift and bring it home, please print off the email tag, attach it firmly to the gift and return it to our Parish by Sunday, December 13. If you purchase the gift online, you may opt to ship the gift directly to Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope, 242 Canterbury St. Worcester, MA 01603. All that is needed is to *put the tag ID number in the comment section of your order* so they will know who the gift belongs to. Option 2: Urban Missionaries can purchase the gift for you. Go to the "Go Fund Me" tab on their website, [www.urbanmissionaries.com](http://www.urbanmissionaries.com) and make a cash donation. They will use your donation to purchase a gift. Any parishioner who has questions about the process of purchasing a gift, please speak to Fr. Riley. Thank you for participating in this most worthy program under the present difficult circumstances.

**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.

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

Are you on the right or the left? No, I'm not asking about your politics. I care much less about your politics, but very much about your Catholic faith. I understand well that the political views of people are all over the place, including in this Parish. What matters most is that all of us hold fast to our Catholic faith, and not sell parts of it down the river like some Catholic politicians have done for personal gain.

The right and left question points to the Gospel this Sunday. Are you planning on being forever on the right or left of Jesus upon his return and subsequent judgment? Are you a goat or a sheep? Goats can be cute sometimes, when they're not eating up your perfect lawn. But Jesus uses this odd animal for the oddity of not being with him forever. Yes, it's odd if any of us are not with our God forever in the life to come. It's odd if our Creator and us, his most prized creation, do not reunite in eternity. It's as odd as Pablo Picasso or Rembrandt throwing paint on their most prized work. Or Michelangelo taking a sledgehammer to The Pieta.

Sadly, many folks have the great potential of being a sheep, a calm animal that gives up its wool once or twice a year, allowing the owner to skin them for the benefit of others staying warm in the coldness of winter. Sheep are selfless animals. They ask for nothing in return when skinned of their wool, except maybe a little pasture to graze. They would not chew up your entire lawn like a devilish goat. Their wool makes for comfortable sweaters, socks, shirts, and blankets. It's no wonder Jesus calls the sheep to the right of him where they will be with him forever. We pray for those who sacrifice their "sheepness" for "goatness." These are the folks who search for a false sense of happiness in this life, be it through power or money, many times running over and biting others for the sake of satisfying their ego as they imitate a goat. If you want my opinion, God should ban all goats from every farm in the world. The only good they offer is some milk, which can easily be replaced by a cow.

Either way, the serious topic of what animal we look like in this life, and where we end up in eternal life, is the question that proceeds from the Gospel on this last Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Feast of Jesus Christ the King. It is interesting how Jesus chooses one animal over another that expresses best how we make it to the goal line and through the doors guarded by none other than St. Peter the Apostle.

Word around town is that St. Peter takes his job seriously. No one gets through, no goats are allowed to enter into everlasting glory when Jesus returns. St. Peter knows all the tricks. He's seen every disguise and Halloween costume. Every goat dressed like a sheep who tries to sneak to the right side of Jesus is exposed for the truth of who they are, the life they lived, and the faith they failed to embrace. Which makes me very concerned about the salvation of any Catholics who distort the Gospel for the sake of power, money, or intellectual ego. It's best that all of us remember that God knows every corner of the human heart, and that no dissertation, presentation, essay, reasoning, or speech is going to change the mind of the One who knows you better than you know yourself. I have a sneaky suspicion this has been tried by a few politicians over the centuries, but always without success. If they made it to the sheep side of the Lord, it was only because they were humble enough to seek God's mercy, which, when sought in sincerity and truth, is assured.

The Gospel popularly referred to as Matthew 25 has at the heart of it works of mercy. This Gospel is the first reason why we, as Catholics, emphasize good works expressed through our faith in Jesus. The words of the parable are spoken directly by the Lord, which makes them primary in our living out of the Gospel. In the same way that Jesus directly touches on marriage in chapter 19 of Matthew, teaching that marriage is a relationship between one man and one woman, where the two become one flesh with

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Nov 21	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Nov 22	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Nov 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Nov 24	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Nov 25	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Nov 26	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Nov 28	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Nov 29	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**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 spiritually bankrupt to heed the voice of God in their lives to love Him and neighbor.*

**TRAVELING HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

Join us for the traveling holy hour for vocations on **Monday, Nov. 30 at 7 pm** at Saint Mary Parish in Shrewsbury. All are welcome to attend and pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life in our diocese. Facemasks required.

**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!**