

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
JENNEFER NOBERINI, PARISH SECRETARY
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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	Apr 17	4:00 PM	Joseph "Jo Jo" Jackson, from his mother Valerie Jackson and John Pultorak
Sun.	Apr 18	7:30 AM	Estelle M. Rathay, 1st Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Kelly Herlihy, from Family
Mon.	Apr 19	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Apr 20	9:00 AM	Stephen M. Rafferty, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Wed.	Apr 21	9:00 AM	Gary Walsh, Month Mind, from Family
Thurs.	Apr 22	8:00 AM	
Sat.	Apr 24	4:00 PM	Joan Sharpe, from Family
Sun.	Apr 25	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Dot Consolmagno, from Family

ORGAN RECITAL IN WORCESTER (IN-PERSON AND ONLINE)

On **Friday, April 23 at 7:00 pm** an Organ Recital will take place at Blessed Sacrament Church, 551 Pleasant St., Worcester. Grant Wareham will perform on the newly restored Skinner organ at Blessed Sacrament Church. Grant is director of music at Derry Presbyterian Church in Hershey, Pennsylvania and a graduate of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. This free, one hour event is available in-person (with masks and social distancing) and a live-stream link can be found at blessedsacrament.us.

OUR LADY'S GARDEN FLOWER DONATIONS

Our Lady's Garden will be accepting donations of annual flower flats (4-6 plants in a flat) before all Masses on the weekend of April 24/25. Samples of annual flowers are petunia, pansy, snapdragon, marigold, zinnia. Any color! Any annual! All will be planted on Mon/Tues after 9 a.m. Masses. Questions? Call or text Michelle Deignan at 508-596-4778. Thank you!

PARENTS OF WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

STUDENTS: The Worcester School Committee's Standing Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Supports will hold its next meeting on a proposed Sex Education curriculum for the Worcester Public Schools on Monday, April 26 at 5:30 pm. At its meeting last month, the School Administration proposed a pilot course that would be a 9th grade elective. A member of the committee suggested that sex ed should be a required course beginning in 6th grade as part of a comprehensive K-12 health program. Two programs have been proposed, *Get Real*, a program developed by Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts, and *Rights, Respect & Responsibility*. You can see the curriculum for each grade of the latter program on line at: <http://3rs.org/3rs-curriculum/3rs-curric-search/>. The Planned Parenthood Curriculum is not available on line and although a public records request has been made of the City for this curriculum, it has not yet been made available for review. The April 26 meeting will be by Zoom (link not yet available).

SCRIPTURE STUDY IN MAY AT IC

Fr. Riley and Frank McGuire will be hosting a Scripture Series on Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, and 25 from noon to 1:00 pm in the Church Basement. The topic is *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians*. You are all invited to deepen your understanding of this most important letter of St. Paul. Because of the theme of unity among all Christians, Jews and Gentiles alike, most experts would agree that *Ephesians* is Paul's most ecumenical letter. Please feel free to bring your lunch. Beverages and dessert will be available. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

HOPE FOR HOUSING FOOD CARDS

Please consider supporting through our Parish the purchase of food cards for Hope for Housing, whose primary mission is to assist families from becoming homeless in our community. Available are cards for Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Big Y, CVS, Panera Bread, and Dunkin Donuts. This past week card sales amounted to \$400.00. Thank you.

REST IN PEACE

Over the past few months our Parish has lost to death some devoted and faithful parishioners. We pray for the repose of their souls, that our merciful and unconditionally loving God will grant them eternal rest with all the angels and Saints as they come to receive the reward of their faith in Christ. The names include Nancy Davis, James Stukowski, Ralph Brosnahan, Dr. Robert Maher, Dennis Finnegan, Thomas Holden, and Kathleen Shugrue. May the Spirit's consolation be with all family members and dear friends of these people whose lives reflected the Good News of God's kingdom.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

The Partners in Charity Campaign continues in our Parish. The many works of this campaign include treating and serving the basic needs of the poor in our communities; seminarians studying for priesthood; retired priests who have dedicated their life's work to our Diocese, and many more ministries. Envelopes and information for the 2021 campaign have been placed at each entrance to the Church for anyone who has not received this information through a Diocesan mailing. With many parishioners now donating online, for those who do so, you can go to worcesterdiocese.org and scroll to the bottom of the page where can be found the Partners in Charity emblem. Click on the emblem and follow the directions for donating. Our Parish goal remains the same as in past years; \$88,500. *Thus far our Parish has raised \$53,595.00 from 86 donors representing 61% of our Parish goal.* With last year's campaign affected by the pandemic and our numbers being way down, I pray that each parishioner/family will consider donating to the Partners in Charity this year on behalf of our Parish. Thank you, and a blessed Easter season to all our people. Fr. Riley.

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 on that day. 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 living in fear due to worldly circumstances, may they be touched by the peace of Christ who abides in our midst.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 4/11/2021

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online)	\$ 4,715.00
Easter Sunday (includes Online)	\$ 650.00
Spring Fuel (includes Online)	\$ 105.00

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12
Psalm: 118
2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2
Gospel: John 10:11-18

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - There are no Religious Education classes on Sunday, April 18th. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 25th.

PRAYER CARDS FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES - Please visit our display of the Confirmation Candidates located near the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the candidates in your prayers as they begin at this time a more focused study and deeper meaning of their Catholic faith. As they prepare for their reception of the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 2nd at St. Paul's Cathedral, may we rejoice in their dedication, devotion, and hard work as they prepare to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

FIRST COMMUNION PRAYER CARDS - A number of children in our parish will share in an event of great joy for them and the entire Catholic Community. On Saturday, May 1st, they will receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. They and their families have been preparing for this sacrament for some time now, learning what the gift of Eucharist is about and what it means to share that gift with others. Please visit our display of the First Communion Class located near the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the children in your prayers as they take the final steps in preparing for the sacrament of First Holy Communion.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP - We are very excited to offer Vacation Bible Camp at Immaculate Conception! VBC will be the week of June 21st-25th from 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and is FREE! Children 5-10 years old are welcome to join us for a fun week of many activities including Bible Stories, Games, Music, Crafts, Snacks and more! Contact Mary Sycks at mks723@msn.com for registration forms and more information.

DID YOU KNOW? INTERNET SAFETY FOR KIDS

The Internet has become the new schoolyard for child molesters seeking girls or boys to victimize. Internet "chat rooms" provide a teenager with an opportunity to engage in a "live" conversation with friends from school or church, or with other teenagers from around the world. A chat room is similar to an old-style telephone party line, except that the teens are typing. Law enforcement has found that child molesters use chat rooms to gain easy and safe access to teens. Because of the seemingly caring and seductive talent of child molesters, teenagers should be warned that when they are in a chat room, they should never provide anyone with private information, personal information, and especially their specific physical location. (Source: Bob Farley, "Exposing the Dangers of Chat Rooms," featured March 14, 2005, at www.virtusonline.org/virtus) For particular help you may call: Judith Audette, Director of Office for Healing and Prevention, Diocese of Worcester at (508) 929-4363.

2021 TRIP TO POLAND SIGNUP NOW

Our Parish trip to Poland has been rescheduled for September. The new dates for the trip will be September 20-30, 2021. The cost of the trip is \$3389, and single supplement \$700. 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 for this trip with only 10 seats available. Signup sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at icworc.com and sent to Fr. Riley at the Church. The last day for signup is June 1. Any questions please call Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419, or Callie Foster at 508-397-5883. Thank you.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

the resurrected Jesus, which you will one day, and touching his hands and feet, brings forth joy that, again, far supersedes that of your team winning the big game. I choose the latter, praying you do too.

Our Lord's interruption in the upper Room in this week's Gospel is only one of many that will happen in the years ahead for this group of excited, fearful disciples. Fortunately, the fearful side will subside, cease, and be done away with. All fear will be taken away by two events that will lead these Apostles to do great things; seeing the resurrected Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them. It's fun to watch the Apostles grow to maturity in their adult years of discipleship. I refer not to their manhood, but instead being filled with the Spirit who will provide for the success of their mission. From babes who could not handle the lightest milk Jesus fed them during his ministry, to the adulthood of enjoying a 5-course meal of Christian teaching and preaching that will establish God's Church on earth, inviting the world to enter. It's like a grandparent watching their grandchild grow over the years, from a toddler who babbles to an adult who reaches spiritual maturity in word and deed, being proud of the level of Good News being lived in their life.

And God will "be proud" of his Apostles too. They will come around after this interruption, making good of it. They will adjust from the frozenness and uselessness of fear to the warmth and profound obligation of building up the Church in Jesus' name. Which is the same responsibility we presently have; to build up God's Church and not try to tear it down. Like all of us, the Apostles will stumble along the way, even after all fear has been cast aside. We remember they are only human. They

still had to "go to confession" even after Jesus ascended into heaven. Like St. Paul wrote so openly to the Romans about his own struggle, "What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate" (Romans 7:15).

These imperfect creatures, however, find a great level of perfection when working in union with the Spirit for the purpose of leading others to salvation. They cast aside their own weak ideas and instincts, and take on the ideas and instincts of the Spirit who will grace them with the words needed at the proper time. Their mature growth consists of being humble, obedient servants to Christ, and not loudmouths who speak and act like they know it all, which only God does. They will treat all people they meet like potential customers for the Lord, and do so with the dignity deserved as God's special possession. For those who refuse the message of salvation, they will remember to not become aggressive, violent preachers, forcing the faith on potential believers, but shake the dust off their feet and move on to the next town. They will not lord it over one another, nor those they potentially could (read Paul's Letter to Philemon on this matter). They have a long memory of how Jesus washed their feet, and how they should do so for others. And, they will grow in holiness as they draw closer to seeing Jesus face to face once again.

The interruption was not a good one, but a great one. From fear caused by the world and those in authority, to fearlessness in preaching and building up God's Church. Allow God to "interrupt" your upper room, casting aside any fear that limits our potential in the Lord. Not only is it a good thing to watch in others, but it's a great thing to experience in our own lives, for he is risen. Amen.

Peace, Fr. Riley

FROM THE PASTOR

It's an interruption like no other. They were discussing what happened "on the way," meaning, on the Road to Emmaus, and how Jesus joined them for the 7-mile jaunt, teaching them the Scriptures, revealing himself in the breaking of the bread, and disappearing in an instant. The discussion in the Upper Room was heated, in the best of ways. Their joy was overflowing, akin to watching your sports team win the big game in its respective sport. But what happened in the Upper Room and the discussion being had makes a Super Bowl victory seem like you just won a touch football game in the back yard against one of your siblings. Big Deal!

But then, out of nowhere, in the midst of their heated, glorious discussion, appears the Lord Jesus entering the room through the walls with the familiar refrain, "Peace be with you." Which begs the question, how many times has he saved us from "out of nowhere?" Too many times to count on my end. Speaking for myself, and hopefully for you too, he's always been a close partner. One who guides us down a path that will lead to a deeper faith in him. After all, that's all he wants. Have faith in him and his abiding presence and paths will become known, questions will be answered, and words will be given (or appropriate silence). In like manner of the Woman at the Well, the Samaritan woman, all he wants is our faith in him. Complicated it is not. The same goes for those in the Upper Room. He yearns for their belief in him, but now to the point of knowing that he is alive forever and ever. To be his witnesses to all things that have taken place.

Most interruptions are bothersome. They tend to come at a bad time. They are cause for us to alter what we thought was going to be an easy day. The doorbell or the phone rings; the dog starts barking at a passerby; the kids begin to tease and argue with each other; the light turns red when we thought we were going to make it. Is there anything worse than being interrupted by a red light, especially when we see it's green from a distance? Maybe one or two things, but not many. I think we ought to be rid of all red lights and allow drivers to drive like they are passing through the old Kelly Square. Well, on second thought...

The interruption in this week's Gospel, however, is not a good one, but a great one. Maybe the greatest of all time (GOAT). Or, greatest interruption of all time (GIOAT). Again, they were already in the proper mindset for Jesus to come through the walls without realizing he was coming along soon. The chosen group was in a state of elation as they listened to Cleopas and the other one recall what took place on the Road to Emmaus. Because of their elation, I believe they actually levitated the 7-miles back from Emmaus to Jerusalem, flying like an angel in a hurry to pass on some Good News. Luke forgot to put that small levitation fact into the story. In their heightened voices of excitement, they were so loud in their proclamation of what took place "on the way," that Jesus had to come through the walls and say, "Peace be with you. The neighbors are complaining about your loudness."

Although the neighbors may be, this Divine interruption does not complain about their excited loudness. Even though they draw themselves back into fear believing they are seeing a ghost, just like the time Jesus walked on the water, the fear will change quickly when he sits to eat with them, inviting them to touch his hands and feet. The unreality of possibly seeing a ghost quickly becomes the reality of seeing Jesus Christ raised from the dead, a much better option. If we had the option of seeing a ghost or seeing a resurrected Jesus, which would we choose? Many folks today choose seeing a ghost because of their curiosity of the spiritual world. Allow me to assist here: the ghost option is accompanied with fear and disbelief. One would be so afraid to even enjoy a Coney Island hot dog for all its worth. Fear would cause such a person to choke on the delicious sauce, if not the little slice of meat they hide in the bun. On the other hand, the option of seeing

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THE DISCIPLES ARE TROUBLED: Luke 24-36; “Persuaded by so many examples of virtue, we believe that Peter could not have doubted. It is also clear that John believed when he saw the Savior. He had already believed when he saw the tomb empty of its body. Why then does Luke say that they were troubled? First, the saying of a majority includes the opinion of the few. Second, although Peter had believed the resurrection, he could be troubled when he saw that the Lord appeared unexpectedly in his body in a room where the doors were bolted and the walls solid. Luke pursued details historically. One contemplated the end, and the other the course of events. By saying, ‘Then he opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures,’ he also declares that the disciples believed.”

St. Ambrose (c340-397)

**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!**