

# 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**  
**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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25, 2021

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	Apr 24	4:00 PM	Joan Sharpe, from Family
Sun.	Apr 25	7:30 AM	Edward Russell, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Dot Consolmagno, from Family
Mon.	Apr 26	9:00 AM	Thomas Holden, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Tues.	Apr 27	9:00 AM	Kathleen Shugrue, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Wed.	Apr 28	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Thurs.	Apr 29	8:00 AM	Blanche Holmberg, 6th Anniversary, from Family
Sat.	May 1	4:00 PM	Harry Dapper, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 2	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Robert Goulet, 5th Anniversary, from Family



### WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOL SEX-ED PROPOSAL

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. As of the bulletin deadline, the Zoom information for this meeting had not been posted. You may obtain the link for the meeting by calling the School Committee Office at (508) 799-3032. Proposals for the curriculum contain very explicit and age inappropriate information beginning in Kindergarten. You can see the curriculum for each grade of the available program at: <http://3rs.org/3rs-curriculum/3rs-curr-ic-search/>. If these matters are of concern to you, please consider watching the meeting and commenting as well as calling Mayor Joseph M. Petty (at 508-799-1153 or [mayor@worcesterma.gov](mailto:mayor@worcesterma.gov)), John L. Foley (at 508-335-2307 or [JFoley@worcesterschools.net](mailto:JFoley@worcesterschools.net)), Molly O. McCullough (at 774-502-8731 or [McCulloughm@worcesterschools.net](mailto:McCulloughm@worcesterschools.net)), and John F. Monfredo (at 508-853-3444 or [Monfredoj@worcesterschools.net](mailto:Monfredoj@worcesterschools.net)). Thank you for your consideration and please keep our public officials in your prayers.

### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

We ask all parishioners to pray for our wonderful First Communion class as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time on the morning of Saturday, May 1. They have been preparing for this exciting day through pandemic and all else by being present at religious education class each week. May God bless them in their continued preparation through the dedication of their teachers leading up to their special day in a few weeks.

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Please keep in your prayers our four Confirmation students who will be heading to St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, May 2 to receive from Bishop McManus the Sacrament of Confirmation. These four students have been preparing for reception of the Sacrament since last September. We look forward to a glorious celebration in a few weeks with our Bishop and other Parishes who will be represented that day, rejoicing with each of these students and their families.

### 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](http://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.

### 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.

### 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 [worcesterdioocese.org](http://worcesterdioocese.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 \$54,395.00 from 88 donors representing 61.5% 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.

### DID YOU KNOW? LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN

This summer, when your children are out of school and on different schedules, meeting new people and going to new places, make sure that you talk to them often about their experiences and the people they've met. Listen carefully to your children. If possible, observe and get to know the other children and adults who are part of your children's summertime fun. Above all, communicate your safety concerns to your children. Make sure they know that they can come to you with any concerns they may have about the people they interact with. And if you hear of or observe behaviors that may be inappropriate, make sure to communicate your feelings to people who are in a position to intervene. Communication is key to creating and maintaining a safe environment all year round. For particular help you may call: Judith Audette, Director of Office for Healing and Prevention at (508) 929-4363.

### **Background checks are important.**

Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 4/18/2021

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online)	\$ 3,752.50
Easter Sunday (includes Online)	\$ 155.00

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** - Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, April 25th 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.

**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](mailto:mks723@msn.com) for registration forms and more information.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

What I didn't know about Tom over the past 11 years was his life in education and how he shared his knowledge in some cases with those behind bars. Tom was blessed with a caring, loving Christian heart, looking out not for himself, but washing the feet of others in imitation of Christ his Lord. Any person willing to go inside a House of Correction and help prisoners earn their GED, that's a guy who knows how to make Jesus smile. Jesus, the One who says in the Gospel he has been anointed to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind. Tom Holden took the "captive" part seriously to the point of offering hope to those treated as some of the most hopeless in society. I will personally miss Tom's affable manner, his gentle way, and his smile that he even brought into the Sacrament of Confession. I have no doubt Tom Holden's faith in Christ has brought him to the real Holy Land, where light is eternal and joy is made complete. And, he can toss all the snowballs he wants.

The third 4:00 Mass person we will miss tremendously is Kathleen Shugrue. This incredible lady lived her entire 92-1/2 years in Immaculate Conception, receiving all her sacraments in this Parish, first on Prescott St. and then here on the Grove St. hill, the house that Fr. Connors (and Bud Madigan) built. There are not enough good words to speak about the life of Kathleen Shugrue, but I'll try to offer a few. In her life, all began and ended with her family and her Catholic faith. It breaks my heart that this present generation of Kathleen Shugrue's are dying while today's younger generation is predominantly heading in the other direction Church-wise. But her impact on her family excludes them from being part of the group that sees practicing one's faith as non-essential, for her children and many of her grandchildren embrace their Catholicism faithfully.

Kathleen's attendance at Mass on Saturday's was a given. As long as she was able to come here, which was pretty close to the end of her life, she was present. First, with her husband Jim for decades, that great Worcester Police detective who accompanied his wife each week, and then her daughter Cathy and granddaughter Jessica, who were so faithful to her. The same day the word "matriarch" entered Webster's dictionary, Kathleen Shugrue's photo was placed aside it. Her life was the perfection of that word, enjoying the loving, deep respect of her entire family. As a soldier said one time about a General he loved, "I would charge hell itself for that man!" so it was with Kathleen's children and grandchildren. Witnessing firsthand the Christian love, devotion, and affection they held for this family matriarch was a blessing on my part. If there was ever a mother/grandmother who deserved such level of devotion and love, it was Kathleen Shugrue.

This finest of women left this world with the biggest smile in her heart. I was blessed to anoint Kathleen about one week before her soul landed in the arms of Jesus. She was in much pain, but her smile of seeing a priest while watching a religious movie on TV overpowered the physical ailments. I will remember Kathleen Shugrue above all for her total, unfettered dedication to her Catholic faith. It was never, ever a source of embarrassment in her life, as a few too many make it out to be, but rather a prize to be lifted high with the greatest joy in her heart. And for such devotion to Christ her Lord, she undoubtedly has entered into the joy set aside for God's chosen ones. May she rest in peace with the good detective from Worcester whom she was married to for 60-plus years, as well as the priest she loved, Fr. Edward T Connors.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

### **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 \$250.00. Thank you.

### **READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 2, 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Psalm: 22

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8

### **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 who struggle with addiction, that Jesus, the Good Shepherd will grant them peace and strength to endure.*

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

As mentioned in last week's short bulletin column titled "Rest In Peace," we've lost through death in our Parish a handful of devoted, faithful parishioners who had been part of Immaculate Conception for decades. As we stand in the midst of the Easter season, and resurrection is the reason for the season as well as the reason for our entire life, I take the opportunity to express some words and thoughts in reference to three of the above people from "Rest In Peace." Interestingly, all three of them attended the 4:00 Mass on Saturday afternoons for many years.

The first one is Dr. Robert Maher, who died back in early February at the age of 98. Dr. Maher was a noted OB-GYN Doctor for many decades in the Worcester area. He was born and raised in western Massachusetts. As I like to say about those from western Mass., God sent all the good people in this state out that way, and left all the crazy people east of Springfield. I cannot recall ever meeting a bad person from the western part of this state. Not that they don't have jails out there, because they do. But they're probably filled with mostly eastern and central Mass. criminals. Dr. Maher was one of the nicest people one could ever hope to meet. Not only that, he actually lived and practiced his Catholic faith in a field of medicine where present cultural expectations by ideological politicians and their friends have become extremely burdensome to those who bring their faith into the important medical work they perform each day.

Dr. Maher was the type of Doctor who would go way out of his way to care for his patients. If you lived on the top of Mt. Wachusett, or even Mt. McKinley, he would have found a path to your home. If not, he would have created one. His dedication to his profession was total, as was his Catholic faith in his profession. He brought Christ, the Divine Physician, and his teachings to his approach to care, healing, and comfort. I mentioned at Dr. Maher's Funeral Mass that he as a Doctor would not prescribe birth control pills because doing so would contradict the teachings of his faith. My understanding is that Dr. Maher received some level of scorn for his personal stance and conviction, in the meantime losing some of his patients. I know this outcome well. When one stands behind what our faith teaches, and actually has the courage to back it up instead of giving in to the sinful side of our culture, the berating and side remarks will be ugly. Thus, Dr. Robert Maher was an apostle of the Lord for holding fast to God's truth on a subject that many Catholics have come to accept as no big deal when it's very a huge deal.

Also, Dr. Maher, when leaving Mass each Saturday, always had a funny remark to make when walking out the door. His sense of humor was apparent; a sour-puss he was not. The one thing that bothered him more than all was the loss of his wife and how much he missed her. He was a product of the Greatest Generation; someone the rest of his generation would raise up as a model. May this Good Doctor rest in peace with his beloved wife.

The second person from the 4:00 Mass we've lost in our Parish was Tom Holden. Tom lived in the big red house on the crest of Chadwick St. In his younger years, he lived close enough to the Church to throw a snowball or two and hit the steeple, or at least the back windows. But Tom was the type of guy who would never treat God's house in such ways. He loved this Church and the people he knew along the way. My favorite story about Tom, which I didn't get to tell at his Funeral Mass, was him securing the collection boxes at each of the four Ash Wednesday Masses this past February. He understood that I needed someone to do so, with it not being a Sunday and the usual folks who perform this ministry. Without asking after the first Mass at 7:00 that morning, he came into the sacristy and said, "I'll get the collection boxes at all the Masses today." And there he was, at the 9:00 a.m., 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. masses. Sometimes it pays to have an extra nice person living within a snowball's throw of the Church.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Apr 24	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Apr 25	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Apr 26	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Apr 27	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Apr 28	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Apr 29	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	May 1	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 2	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

THE PROMISES OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: John 10:14; "You may learn, if you will, the profound wisdom of the most holy Shepherd and instructor, the Lord of the universe and the Word of the Father. He presents himself to us by way of allegory as the shepherd of the sheep, and so in this way serves also as the teacher of children. Speaking through Ezekiel to the Jewish elders, he gives them a salutary example of true care. 'I will bind up the injured and will heal the sick; I will bring back the strays and pasture them on my holy mountain.' These are the promises of the good Shepherd. Pasture us children like sheep, O Lord. Fill us with your own food, the food of righteousness. As our instructor feed us on your holy mountain, the church above the clouds that touches the heavens."

*St. Clement of Alexandria (150-c.215)*

**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!**