

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	May 1	4:00 PM	Harry Dapper, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 2	7:30 AM	Paul Provencher, 1st Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Robert Goulet, 5th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	May 3	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	May 4	9:00 AM	
Wed.	May 5	9:00 AM	
Thurs.	May 6	8:00 AM	John G. Buczek, 5th Anniversary, from Family
Sat.	May 8	4:00 PM	Francis X. Mahoney, Jr., from Family
Sun.	May 9	7:30 AM	Juniva Glavickas, 7th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Mary Madigan, 3rd Anniversary, from Family

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Congratulations to our First Communion Class of 2021 who received the Lord for the first time this Saturday, May 1. We as a Parish pray for them and their parents in the months and years ahead as they see their children grow in their Catholic faith, most particularly through Sunday reception of the Eucharist every week. What a great joy it is for these children to now receive the Savior of the world for real, and feast on “the Bread that comes down from heaven!” Those who received their First Communion were *Flynn Carpenter, Gianna Riley, Gabriella Schnare, and Victoria White.*

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our Confirmation students will be traveling up the road to St. Paul’s Cathedral today, Sunday, May 2 to receive from Bishop McManus the Sacrament of Confirmation at 3:00. Our Confirmands have been preparing for reception of the Sacrament since last September, having been dedicated and attentive to their preparation. Those being confirmed from our Parish are *Bridget Deignan, Ciaran Douglas, Adam Foster, and Sierra Paquette.* May God’s blessings be upon each of them in holy and solemn ways as they receive the Holy Spirit through the hands of our Bishop, and may their discipleship for the Lord be one of consistent growth throughout their entire lives.

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.

SEX ED IN THE WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thank you to all who made calls and appeared virtually at last Monday’s meeting on sex-ed proposals. Unfortunately, the Standing Committee voted 2-1 to recommend to the full School Committee that “Rights, Respect & Responsibility” be implemented this fall as a comprehensive “health” curriculum in the Worcester Public Schools. There was some discussion about sex-ed being for middle school as part of a comprehensive health program for K-12. However, the recommended program is identified by its publisher as a sex-ed curriculum and includes objectionable lessons as early as kindergarten. We are seeking clarification as to whether the recommendation includes those lessons and will inform you by Flocknote. The full School Committee will consider the matter at its meeting this Thursday, May 6 at 6 PM. The Zoom information for that meeting will also follow by Flocknote. Thank you.

MASSES FOR ASCENSION THURSDAY HOLY DAY

We celebrate the Ascension of our Lord into heaven, a Holy Day of Obligation, this year on Thursday, May 13. Our Mass schedule for the holy day will consist of 2 Masses: a Vigil Mass on Wednesday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m., and Mass on Thursday, May 13 at 8:00 a.m.

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 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 \$63,915 dollars from 106 donors representing 72% 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.

SEMINARIAN COMING TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THIS SUMMER

We have been asked by the Vocations Department of our Diocese to accept a seminarian for his annual summer assignment as he makes his way through seminary. Our answer was yes. We are pleased to welcome to Immaculate Conception Julio Cesar Bonilla Jimenez (I’ll be calling him Julio). Julio attends my alma mater at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore and will be entering 3rd Theology. 3rd Theology is generally the year a seminarian prepares to be ordained a transitional Deacon the following spring. His assignment will last 10 weeks. I ask that all our people welcome Julio as he moves into the rectory next week on May 8. One main purpose for his assignment here is for him to concentrate on his English in both his reading at Mass and conversing with parishioners. After speaking with him recently, his English is pretty good, but he still needs work in this area for effective future ministry. Therefore, if anyone in our Parish speaks Spanish, or even pretends to, please make certain you speak to him in English, not Spanish, broken or otherwise. I will be grateful for it, and it will assist Julio in his preparation for priesthood. - Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

PERSECUTION AS PRUNING FOR GROWTH: John 15:2; “It is evident that no one can terrify or subdue us who have believed in Jesus over all the world. For it is plain that, though beheaded, and crucified, and thrown to wild beast, and chains, and fire, and all other kinds of torture, we do not give up our confession. But the more such things happen, the more do others - and in larger numbers - become faithful worshippers of God through the name of Jesus. For just as if one should cut away the fruit-bearing parts of a vine, it grows up again, and yields other branches flourishing and fruitful. Even so the same thing happens us. For the vine planted by God and Christ the Savior is his people.”

St. Justin Martyr (c.100-165)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - The last classes for the 2020-2021 Catechetical Year take place on Sunday, May 2nd at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades K-6 and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10.

THANK YOU! - We would like to thank the following parishioners for volunteering their time to teach Religious Education at Immaculate Conception. Karen O'Brien, Joanna Jalbert, Nicole Hermance, Lee Morin, Will De Horatius, Jack Jalbert, Marissa Phaneuf, Jessica and Paul Johnson, Travis Benoit, Callie Foster & Stephen Sycks. Your generosity with your time and devotion to the children of our Parish is a wonderful demonstration of God's love.

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 4/25/2021

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online) \$ 5,159.00

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 9,
6th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalm: 98

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

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 *all who walk in any sort of darkness to experience and fully know the light of Christ in their lives.*

From the Pastor continued from the following page

the tough guy role he normally plays on TV or in the movies. He was as nice as apple pie. A great guy to talk to, and someone who has gone above and beyond in terms of generosity toward the Worcester Fire Department. God bless Dennis Leary, especially if he stops cursing so much in his acting roles.

Why all this talk of meeting someone famous and the potential of being afraid to meet them? It connects to the first reading this week when the Apostles meet Paul for the first time, without a baseball in their hands. Paul had a reputation that preceded him as Saul, if you recall. The great persecutor; a violent, radical way of defending the Law; a man who was despised and utterly feared by any follower of Christ in the first years of Christianity. He was known as a fearless Pharisee who would take you out in a heartbeat if you pretended – or not pretended – to be a follower of the Crucified One. Jesus was a false Messiah to Saul/Paul, and anyone who attached themselves to his wings and flew with him in this world, Paul was going to shoot them out of the sky with his million or more arrows.

This is the man who arrived in Jerusalem and tried to join the disciples. How would you feel if your number one enemy, a famous person, who had the will, the power, and the backing to destroy you showed up at your front door unexpectedly? Sound familiar nowadays? Would you be afraid to ask him for his autograph? Would you hide behind the sofa or under the covers? Would you search the house for some weapon to defend yourself? This is basically the initial reaction of the Apostles, and who can blame them! The reputation of Saul, now Paul, caused the Twelve to shake in their boots. They didn't want his autograph or his presence anywhere near them. Why? Because they didn't yet know that Jesus knocked Saul on his keester and shook from his body all the violence, anger, arrogance, and destruction that had settled into his Pharisaic mindset. If they thought all Paul would do was look them up and down like Yaz did to yours truly, they

likely would have been less fearful at the prospect of Paul entering through their front door.

Fortunately, Barnabas, a friend and co-worker of Paul's, was there to quickly explain to the Apostles that the famous Paul was now one of them. They were now on the same team, and that Paul was going to win the Triple Crown of faith, hope, and love, the greatest of these being love. Yes, amazingly, through God's grace-filled, compassionate smackdown of an angry Pharisee, meeting the famous Paul turned out to be an experience of joy rather than fear. Yaz from 1967 was on their team. Does it get any better?

We can understand why any of us may fear or have trepidation meeting a famous person. Be they from TV, the big screen, the sports world, politics, or otherwise. When meeting someone who is well-known to thousands or millions of people, it can be a daunting experience where we hope we don't vomit on their best suit resulting from our nervousness. But truth be told, they are human as you and I, and as sinful as you and I. They need God's mercy as much as we do, if not much more. God shows no partiality, and someone better inform a number of politicians of this spiritual fact before they get sent off to the left (read Matthew 25 again). They, like us, will be judged for their deeds, whether good or evil, for God is a Just Judge who fears no little human being who is but a speck of dust before Him. But amazingly, even though we are a speck of dust before his majesty, he sent his Son to die for us.

We know Paul's story and how it ended. He was martyred in Rome for the name of Jesus Christ and him crucified. Paul remains famous, but for other reasons than being a Pharisee. And, the Apostle had the perfect disposition for meeting Jesus face to face one day: "Life is Christ, death is gain." In other words, he looked forward to seeing his Lord and Savior more than words could speak. With fear and trepidation? Likely. But being with the famous Jesus forever was now the goal. May we follow in his footsteps.

Peace, Fr. Riley

FROM THE PASTOR

Ever been afraid of meeting someone? And I don't mean in a dark alley. More along the lines of meeting someone famous, popular, for good or not so good. How do you think you will react when you meet Jesus face to face one day? In one sense, it does not matter whether we believe this will happen or not. Our belief has zero capacity to stop the inevitable, in this case seeing the Lord face to face. Some folks actually believe that if they don't believe in God, or the Son of God, and that at the moment of our death there is nothing, they actually believe this belief will somehow cause no meeting with God. Well, they couldn't be more wrong. If we believe we will not see God face to face at the moment of our death, such belief does not prevent the religious truth that *we will see God face to face at the moment of our death*. I pray this will be an experience in the positive for each of us when it happens, all of us being placed on the right side of Jesus (read Matthew 25).

I remember meeting a few famous people along the way over the past 60 years of living. For those who are old time Red Sox fans, I remember "meeting" Carl Yastrzemski after he retired from baseball in 1983, which seems more like 1883 now. Yaz was at spring training in Fort Myers in the early 1990's. He was there to work with some Red Sox minor leaguers as a hitting instructor. Listening to a Hall of Fame player would have been an easy option for young players seeking to make it to the Major League, or, as they elsewhere call it, "The Big Show." While on vacation from UPS, I sauntered over to the Red Sox spring training site one morning and immediately met a couple older gentlemen from Boston. They had a baseball in their hands, and I asked where they got it from. They said they were hoping to get Yaz's autograph but were too timid (afraid) to ask him. I said, "Give me the baseball and I'll see what I can do." A short time later, I saw my brother Ed walking up from the fields for lunch. He was in the Red Sox Minor League system at the time as a pitcher. After exchanging pleasantries, he asked, "What's up with the baseball?" I said, "I'm going to ask Yaz for his autograph for those two older guys over there who don't want to ask him." My brother said, "Don't waste your time. Yaz doesn't sign for anyone." I said, "Ok."

Anyway, I saw the familiar face of Carl Yastrzemski sauntering up the path a short time later from the fields, walking to the clubhouse for his lunch. There he was, in all his Red Sox glory. The real Carl Yastrzemski. Unbelievable! The 1967 Triple Crown winner. The guy who carried his team to the World Series on his back. The immortal player who they wrote a song about that any Red Sox fan worth his salt knows by heart. Do you think I listened to my brother's advice? Of course not! About as much as Jesus listened to Pilate. With only the slightest trepidation in my heart, I walked over to where Yaz was walking up for lunch and said, "Yaz, do you mind signing this baseball for me?" He looked at me like I was from Mars. Or even Pluto, the non-planet. I wanted to tell Yaz that I played high school baseball with Rich Gedman, his former Red Sox teammate, but he would have cared less. I'm glad I kept my mouth shut. Anyway, after dressing me up and down with his eyes with no good thoughts in his mind (it was easy to tell), he took the baseball, signed it, and walked away without saying a word. First, God bless Carl Yastrzemski. Second, I loved proving my brother wrong. And third, two older gentlemen from Boston got their baseball signed. It was a good day.

Famous person number two was the actor Dennis Leary. I met Dennis at the dedication of a Fire Vehicle he helped to purchase for the Worcester Fire Department. It was a larger gathering at headquarters on Grove St. The short of this story is that meeting and speaking with Dennis Leary was like meeting and speaking with someone from Worcester. Probably because Dennis is from the Main South section of Worcester. That day he wasn't playing

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 1	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 2	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 3	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 4	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 5	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	May 6	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	May 8	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 9	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

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 \$590.00. Thank you.

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 ic-worc.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.

**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!**