

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

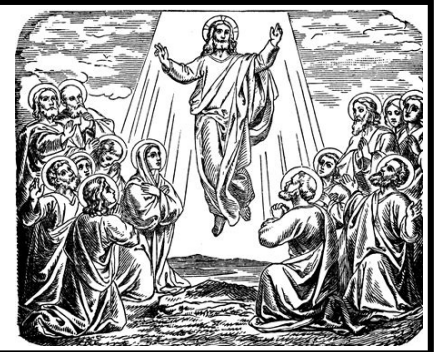
NEW PARISHIONERS
Anyone is welcome to join the Parish Community.
Please contact the Rectory and introduce yourself.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

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
Mon.	May 10	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	May 11	9:00 AM	Terry Shannon, from Rich Riley
Wed.	May 12	9:00 AM	(<i>Sts. Nereus and Achilles, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr</i>)
		5:30 PM	Paul St. Martin, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Thurs.	May 13	8:00 AM	Edward M. Eressy, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sat.	May 15	4:00 PM	Margaret and Daniel O'Brien, from their Daughters
Sun.	May 16	7:30 AM	7th Sunday of Easter
		10:00 AM	Dennis Finnegan, from John Jennette



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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Congratulations to our First Communion Class of 2021 who received the Lord for the first time last Saturday, May 1. As a Parish, we continue to 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 11th-graders received from Bishop McManus the Sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday at St. Paul's Cathedral. Having prepared for reception of the Sacrament since last September, they were ready to receive the Spirit. Those confirmed from our Parish were *Bridget Deignan, Ciaran Douglas, Adam Foster, and Sierra Paquette.* May God's blessings be upon each of them in holy and solemn ways, and may their discipleship for the Lord be one of consistent growth throughout their entire lives.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to each of our Religious Education teachers for their sustained effort and dedication to our students since last September. This most unusual year of teaching and learning was as good as we could have expected under the circumstances of dealing with a worldwide pandemic. We had little idea how our Religious Education program would work out since we began last September. However, between our dedicated leadership from Mrs. Sycks and all our teachers, we can honestly say that this past year's program of teaching our students their Catholic faith on Sunday mornings was well approached and as successful as could be, again, under the circumstances. We look forward to a more normal approach with in-class attendance for all our students this coming September, praying that God's grace and favor will continue to bring healing and strength, not only to our own nation, but throughout the world, especially in places that presently suffer greatly. To all our teachers, thank you for your dedication and service to the children and youth of Immaculate Conception.

SCRIPTURE STUDY IN MAY AT IC

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

OUTDOOR ROSARY ON THURSDAYS

Parishioner Mike Mitchell invites all to a weekly outdoor Rosary on Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. beginning on May 20th in Our Lady's Garden on the Church grounds on the rectory side. Weather permitting.

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS

On **Friday, May 14, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm** a holy hour to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove St., Worcester. This holy hour will consist of time for silent adoration, as well as a short reflection, the rosary, and benediction. Please join us to pray for our priests. Repeats every second Friday of the month.

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 \$64,965 dollars from 109 donors representing 73.4% 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 are pleased to welcome to Immaculate Conception this Sunday Julio Cesar Bonilla Jimenez. Julio presently attends my alma mater at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore studying for the Worcester Diocese and will be entering 3rd Theology in his preparation for the priesthood. 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 begins this weekend. A main purpose for Julio's assignment here at Immaculate Conception is for him to concentrate on his English through 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 continued preparation for priesthood. - Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Registration is ongoing for the 2021-2022 Religious Education year. Classes for children in Pre-K through 6th grade take place at 8:45am-9:45am. Classes for students in 7th-10th grade take place at 11:15am-12:15pm. All Children in second grade will begin preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in September. All Students in 11th grade will begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation in September. All children are welcome to attend Religious Education Classes and will not be denied participation due to financial hardship. If you are new to the parish, and have a child entering Pre K-11th grade, and would like to know more about our Religious Education Program please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119.

Be a part of our parish community! *Volunteers are essential to our Religious Education Program. Help spread the word of God with the children of Immaculate Conception. We have training and a wonderful support group to help you with this mission. If you are interested in sharing your faith please contact Mary Sycks.*

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.

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 *the preeminent virtue of love working in our lives.*

RECENT CHURCH REPAIRS

Our Church and the Fr. Connors Center had a few recent repairs due to some wind damage in early March as well as aging of the structures. You may have noticed for a few weeks in March an 8-10 foot partition from the roof at the very peak was hanging along the side of the roof due to wind damage. After some professional advice from parishioner Mike Macaruso, we contacted a local roofing company to address the needed work, who in turn brought in a lift to complete the project. While here, they noticed the windows on the Chadwick St. side of the Church had some cracks in the cement above the windows, which they repaired through power-blasting and reconstruction. Also, the front roof at the Fr. Connors Center had a small section of shingles fly off due to the wind, which we had fixed by the same company. The total for all the repairs (as we wait the invoice) will be 8 to 10,000 dollars. The good news is that the roof work on the Church and the Fr. Connors Center is covered by insurance, which, after a deductible, our Parish will be refunded over \$5,000. Thank you to Mike Macaruso for stepping in, offering advice, and seeing the project through.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

LOVE YOUR ENEMY AND MAKE A FRIEND: John 15:13; “The unique, the highest proof of love is this; to love the person who is against us. This is why Truth himself bore the suffering of the cross and yet bestowed his love on his persecutor’s, saying, ‘Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.’ Why should we wonder that his living disciples loved their enemies, when their dying master loved his? He expressed the depth of his love when he said, ‘No one has greater love than this, than that he lay down his life for his friends.’ The Lord had come to die even for his enemies, and yet he said he would lay down his life for his friends to show us that we are able to win over our enemies by loving them, even our persecutors are our friends.”

St. Gregory the Great (540-604)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 5/02/2021

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online)	\$ 5176.50
Ascension	\$ 65.00

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 16, 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
 Psalm: 103
 2nd Reading: 1 John 4:11-16
 Gospel: John 17:11b-19

From the Pastor continued from the following page

love for those who are “less rich and famous.” One of the better examples of such a person that I keep returning to over the years, beside Dr. King, St. Mother Teresa, or the great St. John Paul II, is Abraham Lincoln. Sorry for the repeat which I’ve mentioned more than once in a homily, but one of my favorite lines from the late President from the 1860’s was, “God must love common people. It’s why he made so many of them.” Abe Lincoln was someone who understood himself well. He didn’t marry Miss America (poor Mary Todd); he didn’t have lots of money, and what he did make as a lawyer and President, Mary had a bad habit of spending behind his back; he didn’t have the looks of a Hollywood actor, resulting in his self-condescension; because of his height, he couldn’t ride a horse smoothly like his favorite short General, U.S. Grant; Lincoln’s smile would scare away a pack of Salem witches; he dealt with depression much of his life, yet persevered through it all; and, worst of all, he lost two sons at a young age that he loved dearly, Eddie and Willy.

In fact, when President Lincoln arrived in Richmond in early April, 1865 shortly after the city fell to the Union army, he was greeted by crowds of slaves and former slaves who pronounced him as the messiah coming to them, kneeling before him like Cornelius knelt before Peter, and worshipped Mr. Lincoln as the one who set them free. He softly rebuked their approach and told them to stop kneeling before him, to thank God for their newfound freedom, and that he was only a man. It was a scene very similar to what we hear in today’s first reading. One would be hard-pressed today to find a statesman on this level. Abraham Lincoln remains the model citizen for those who wish to humbly be “one of the people,” while carrying out their responsibilities that affect the lives of millions of people.

St. Peter, in like manner of St. John the Baptist, did not breach the walls of heaven and try to steal something from Jesus that didn’t belong to him, like worship. Both saints were spiritually balanced, true to form, exuded humility, and remained on the path that leads to life eternal when the opportunity stood – or knelt – before them to leave the narrow road. The wide path to destruction was a foreign road to them. The signs that led to the wayward road they could read, such as a human being kneeling before them, they rejected altogether.

For this, we thank them and so many others over the centuries who have made the choice of remaining truly humble and truly devout before the majesty of God. And by the way, any person who says they are humble or devout, you can be certain *they are not*. Such language does not belong in the vocabulary of the genuinely humble and devout. Rather, beating one’s breast and openly begging each day for God’s mercy is the leader who can be followed. This is why we are called to imitate Peter, Paul, John the Baptist, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and those outside the Communion of Saints who have been splendid examples for all, such as A. Lincoln and MLK.

Peace, Fr. Riley

FROM THE PASTOR

Y up, worshipping St. Peter was out of the question. Cornelius thought he stood before God almighty. He knelt down at the feet of Peter when before him, doing homage to the great Saint to whom Jesus entrusted the keys of his kingdom. Cornelius likely didn't know this last fact. The fact that Peter could bind and loose on earth what can be bound and loosed in heaven. But worshipping another human being was out of the question. Peter pulled out his best imitation of John the Baptist and told Cornelius, "Get up. I too am a human being just like you. I am not worthy to untie the sandals on the feet of the One whom you will be kneeling before and worshipping. Save it for the Christ, Cornelius."

Isn't it just dandy when the Apostles get it right? Especially in the area of worship and praise. Peter's reaction to Cornelius in this week's first reading from Acts is worth breaking open and expounding on for us here in the 21st century. His reaction of humility and honesty regarding where true worship belongs is one that is does not change over the ages. We certainly admire people who are blessed with all sorts of gifts and talents, be they intellectual, physical, business skills, or that of being a gifted teacher. God has given us gifts that present us the opportunity to marvel at what can be accomplished in the life of one person.

In the 1950's and 60's, how could any sane person not marvel at the message and devotion, the focus and grace of Martin Luther King, Jr. For Peter's sake, the guy was up against all the odds imaginable, yet he still kept his head about him, preaching the message of true peaceful protest in order to change laws, ways, behaviors, and practices that created an unequal setting in our society between African Americans and Caucasians! Unlike the protests we've experienced in this country in the recent year or more, where claims have been falsely made as said protests being peaceful as cities and businesses were clearly burning, Dr. King's message of peaceful protest was carried out, shall we say, to a tee. In fact, I'm certain Dr. King would reject the protests we see occurring today under the guise of trying to change our society for the better. The violence alone speaks loud and clear that such groups, whatever color or nationality they are, do not have in mind or heart a message of positive change for this nation. The violence exposes them as fraudulent peacemakers. They subvert the true message of peace our nation witnessed from Martin Luther King 60-plus years ago. Dr. King was a man to be admired for his persistent work toward making us a better nation through peaceful means. The same cannot be said for the violent-makers today.

However, even though he succeeded to a great degree at the time, Dr. King the Baptist Pastor would never expect any person to bow down in his presence. He was much too humble for such a thought. He would have spoken to Cornelius the same words St. Peter did that day long ago, "Get up. I too am also a human being." Get up and stand with me. Get up and walk with me. Get up and join me on the same level. Get up and let us worship the Christ together as one body, where brothers and sisters are equal before the Lord by virtue of their Baptism. Stand up and let's preach the Good News of the Lord's resurrection together in unison.

St Paul too is so clear in his overall message that no one person is above another. He recognized and taught that in Baptism we are all made equal in God's eyes. St. Paul's brief Letter to Philemon is worth reading in regard to such theology. That God shows no partiality. If anything, God expects more humility from those who hold positions of greater responsibility. Such people, in fact, have a much harder road to arrive past Peter's Gate safely because much more is expected from them by way of virtues. This would include Bishops, Cardinals, and most certainly any Pope. There will always be a few of them, because of politics in the Church, who expect the faithful to bow down before them and kiss their...ring. But the humble servant, the Good Shepherd, like St. Peter before Cornelius, is the model of faithful service to Christ and his Church. For most of us, we admire the "rich and famous" people who have a genuine

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 8	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 9	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 10	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 11	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 12	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Rosary Mass Vigil Mass
Thurs.	May 13	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	May 15	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 16	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 \$665.00. 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!**