

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 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
Mon.	May 17	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	May 18	9:00 AM	Paul Surette and Jeffrey Cannon, from Family
Wed.	May 19	9:00 AM	
Thurs.	May 20	8:00 AM	Paul St. Martin, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sat.	May 22	4:00 PM	John F. Dowd, Sr., 7th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 23	7:30 AM	Patricia Holloway, 5th Anniversary, from Family; Paul St. Martin, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Todd Dickie, from Jean Danton

SCRIPTURE STUDY IN MAY AT IC

Fr. Riley and Frank McGuire will be hosting a Scripture Series on Tuesdays, May 18th, and 25th 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.

VIRTUAL WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

In a blink of an eye, anything and everything can change. Please participate in the 36th Annual *Virtual Walk for the Homeless*, May 16-May 23. The WALK will benefit Catholic Charities Family Shelter, Homeless Prevention programs of Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a program of Friendly House, and St. John's Food for the Poor. For more information go to www.walkforthehomeless.org or call Ann Gibbons Smith at 774-243-3809.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS FOR OUR LADY'S GARDEN

Anyone in the Parish who has a family stone in Our Lady's Garden is invited to place a small U.S. flag next to the stone over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend (May 29-31). Flags have been ordered and will be made available at the Church on that weekend. For any family stones where a parishioner is not present to set a flag next to it, we as a Parish will do so. Thus, all the stones (about 170) will have an American flag next to it.

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 \$67,535 dollars from 121 donors representing 76% 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 5/09/2021
 Sunday Ordinary (includes Online) \$ 3156.00

SEMINARIAN ASSIGNED TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THIS SUMMER

We are pleased to welcome to Immaculate Conception this Sunday Julio Cesar Bonilla Jimenez who began his summer assignment at our Parish at last Sunday's Masses. Julio presently attends St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore studying for the Worcester Diocese and will be entering 3rd Theology in his preparation for the priesthood. I ask all of our people to continue to welcome Julio as his assignment here moves forward. One main purpose for Julio's assignment at our Parish is for him to concentrate on his English through lecturing at Mass and conversing with parishioners. After speaking with him recently, his English is good, but he can use more practice in this area to assist his future ministry in our Diocese. 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

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.

CHURCH BASEMENT KITCHEN RENOVATION

Over the next month or more the kitchen in our Church basement will be renovated. This project was one of the case items for the Legacy of Hope campaign. The work will be completed in late May/early June in preparation for the hopeful upcoming use in September for the Parish Activities Committee and their Sunday morning breakfast, along with any other future events we as a Parish may use the kitchen to serve food and refreshments. The estimated cost of the project, which will include new appliances, new cabinets, and a slightly new design, will be in the \$20,000 area. When the work is completed, the new kitchen will be blessed by Fr. Riley.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 23, PENTECOST SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11
 Psalm: 104
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
 Gospel: John 20:19-23

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.

DIOCESAN SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office will be offering several exciting opportunities this summer for middle and high school youth! Events include a trip to an aerial adventure course, white-water rafting, summer worship nights, the Diocesan volleyball league, and the Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team. To get more information or to register a group for any of these opportunities go to the Diocesan Youth Ministry website at www.neworchester.org or contact Tim Messenger at tmessenger@worcesterdioecese.org or 508-929-4360.

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 *married couples celebrating their anniversaries, may God's abundant graces and blessings continue deepen their faith, hope, and love.*

From the Pastor continued from the following page

times, yes, but secondary. Such unity would define the close relationship between Matthias and Judas, also called Barsabbas.

I bet when the Apostles proposed two names for the Twelfth Apostle to replace Judas Iscariot, when the names were chosen, I suspect that Matthias and Judas, also called Barsabbas, each spoke similar words about the other. I'm confident Matthias said something along the lines of, "Judas, you have two names, I have only one. We've been together now for more than three years following the Lord Jesus, and you've become my best friend. I want you to be the next Apostle. I humbly step aside." And the response came back, "Matthias, you're the best! I appreciate your incredible thoughtfulness and kindness, reflecting the love of our Lord. But I want you to be the next Apostle because you're a much better speaker than I am. You're holiness exceeds all I could ever become. I'm praying you pick the longer straw." It's a good thing Peter was there to make sure *someone* was picked.

And so it happened. The World Series of Apostleship went to Matthias, whose feast we celebrate on May 14 each year. The first one to stand and clap was Judas, also called Barsabbas. We're pretty certain he stood and clapped because Judas was filled with joy that his good friend Matthias was now part of a select group, a chosen group, who would bring the Good News of salvation to the world. Although Judas called Barsabbas would do the same as a disciple, Matthias would bring the Good News as an Apostle, part of the select group of Twelve. We can be certain Judas' joy was not because he feared becoming a martyr for Christ. I suspect Judas went on to become just that, a martyr for the Church. Any-

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

EXPERIENCE TEACHES US TO LOOK BEYOND: John 17:15; "The Lord speaks to his Father in the Gospel as follows: 'They are not of the world, as I am not of the world.' ... No one can understand the truth and force of this except one who has gone through the trials of what Jesus was talking about - one who has been under the teacher of experience. This is someone the eyes of whose soul the Lord has turned away from all things present, so that he no longer considers them as things that will soon pass away but as things that are already over and done with, and he sees them vanish into nothing, like misty smoke ... And so, if we are anxious to attain true perfection, we ought to ensure that we have outwardly with the body made light of parents, home, the riches and pleasures of the world, so that we may also inwardly with the heart forsake all these things and never be drawn back by any desires of what we have forsaken."

St. John Cassian (c.360-c.435)

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 \$70.00. Thank you.

one who was with Jesus for the entire length of his ministry, remaining even after the Lord ascended, is likely to have given his/her life for the cause of salvation in the ultimate way. How could he not? Being a Christ-follower in the 1st century just about guaranteed any believer a martyr's death under Roman domination and the insane Caesars residing in Rome who demanded they be worshipped.

In the end, or rather, in the new beginning of life after death, both Matthias and Judas called Barsabbas stood before the Master proclaiming their love for him as Apostle and disciple. They were not only true to one another over the three years of our Lord's ministry and proclaiming the Kingdom of God being in their midst, but they were true to the Lord himself. They were devoted to him as they both proclaimed the Good News of salvation. Their proclamation came not through political means, or sports means, or any worldly means. Their proclamation together came through the Holy Spirit who enlightens hearts that are open to his grace. Matthias and Judas stood together for three years in Jesus' company without envy or jealousy of having not been personally chosen by the Lord to be Apostles. Yet one of them would become one of the Twelve. They rejoiced in each other's accomplishments in Jesus' name. And they stood by each other when the Lord had a cross thrust upon him. They were Christian friends, understanding what this term meant before the word "Christian" was attached to any of them. They wanted the best for each other, accepting whatever role God was inviting them into. St. Matthias and Judas called Barsabbas are models for Christian friendship, a reminder that all of us can use in the present age.

Peace, Fr. Riley

FROM THE PASTOR

No one remembers who lost the big game. We remember who won the big game, but almost never the loser. When the Red Sox won the World Series in 2004 for the first time in 8000 years, can anyone remember who it was they beat to win the trophy that was carried through the streets of Boston a few days later? We do remember they beat the Yankees four straight games in order to win the American League Pennant. That was a result for the ages, having never been done before in Major League Baseball. But who did they beat in the World Series? The diehard fans will remember. The casual fan, probably not.

In our first reading this week from the Acts of the Apostles, there is a “contest” taking place between two men. One is named Judas (not the traitor), called Barsabbas. The other guy goes by the name of Matthias. Both, we are told, were disciples of Jesus who had been with the Lord from the start of his ministry. To their good credit, they remained with the Lord over the three year duration of his ministry even though Jesus did not personally call them to be Apostles, as one of the Twelve. They obviously liked what they heard and witnessed during that stretch of time, having left their homes and employment (maybe fishermen too?) to walk the many miles that Christ walked beginning in Galilee. They stood by him when he forgave sins; they remained with him when he healed and fed the thousands; they grew to love Jesus when he challenged all of them to love their enemies. They were not in the Upper Room when the Lord fed those present his Body & Blood, unless they snuck in through a side door with a side view of the event. They were not part of the group that scattered in the Garden of Gethsemane when the authorities came to arrest the Master. They were absent when the Lord was brought before the Sanhedrin, as were all of them except Peter. Judas and Matthias were definitely not part of the crowd that yelled, “Crucify him, crucify him.” They may have been witnesses to Jesus carrying his Cross on the way to Golgotha, possibly even standing together with sorrow and distress in their hearts. And they could have seen him being crucified from a distance, not known as part of the group most closely associated with the Lord. But, they followed him throughout, witnessing all he said and did. What a blessing beyond all blessings!

And here they were that day, sitting amongst the Eleven, minus Judas Iscariot, drawing straws to find who was going to win the World Series of Apostleship in the name of Jesus Christ. These two good friends must have spoken to each other thousands of times and had countless conversations about every imaginable topic regarding the Master as they followed him from the north in Caesarea Philippi to the southern point of the holy city Jerusalem. The city where God once dwelled in the holy Temple. If nothing, Jesus provided them with much fodder for conversation. “Hey Matthias did you see that one yesterday when the Lord called the demons out of that Gerasene man filled with Legion? Those demons flew out of him like a bat out of ---. And they must have heard all those swine filled with demons running down the hill all the way back in Worcester!” Yes, Jesus continues to give the world much fodder to discuss along the way. Most notably the fodder of life eternal, which only he can provide discussion for.

Matthias and Judas, also called Barsabbas, were not like the Red Sox and Yankees. They were not archrivals, one team against another (“I belong to Matthias! I belong to Judas!). No, they were Christians buddies before the word “Christian” ever was attached to any believer. There was no competition between them, just as there should not be competition today between Parishes and priests. Imagine if Parishes got into a competition to see who could raise the most money for some worthy project? What would happen to the poorer Parishes amongst us? Are we meant to embarrass our brothers and sisters in the Lord who cannot raise certain amounts of loot? Of course not! Rather, we work in unison, as one body, for the Lord Jesus. We are commanded to be united in a bond of love for Christ. The rest of the stuff is secondary material. Important at

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 15	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 16	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 17	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 18	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 19	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	May 20	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	May 22	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 23	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

DIOCESAN SUMMER YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

All young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to join us for our Diocesan Young Adult Ministry events this summer! Events include weekly pick-up volleyball, hiking trips to Mt. Wachusett and Mt. Monadnock, an aerial adventure course, and whitewater rafting. Some events require registration in advance. To sign up or to get more information go to www.neworchester.org/summer-young-adult-events or contact Tim Messenger at tmessenger@worcesterdiocese.org or 508-929-4360.

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!**