

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 29	4:00 PM	Jonathan Stukowski and Genevieve Burke, 7th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 30	7:30 AM	Gertrude McDermott, 20th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Paul Surette, Month Mind, from Family
Mon.	May 31	9:00 AM	All Deceased Loved Ones, from Parish Family, <i>(The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)</i>
Tues.	June 1	9:00 AM	Robert A. Santomenno, Month Mind, from Parish Family, <i>(St. Justin)</i>
Wed.	June 2	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, <i>(Sts. Marcellinus and Peter)</i>
Thurs.	June 3	8:00 AM	<i>(St. Charles Lwanga and Companions)</i>
Sat.	June 5	4:00 PM	Jesus Lapid, from the Lapid Family, <i>(St. Boniface)</i>
Sun.	June 6	7:30 AM	<i>The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)</i>
		10:00 AM	Todd Dickie, from Jean Danton

MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCE, ETC

This weekend begins the updated policy regarding masks and social distancing. There are three possible scenarios for where we now stand regarding the pandemic, its slowdown, and coming to Church. First, masks are not required for anyone who has received a vaccination for the Coronavirus. Thus, anyone who does not wear a mask to Church, the rest of us will assume (correctly I hope) that you have received one of the vaccinations. Again, everyone without a mask must have already been vaccinated. This, of course, is on the honor system. Second, some people who have been vaccinated may still choose to wear their mask to Church for reasons of their choosing. It would be unwise on the part of anyone to assume that a parishioner still wearing a mask has not been vaccinated. They likely have been, but out of caution choose to wear a mask for personal reasons. Third, anyone who has not been vaccinated must continue to wear a mask to Church and keep it on the entire time while in Church. Regarding social distancing; it is no longer required to practice in Church for those who have been vaccinated. This, we know, becomes tricky and possibly uncomfortable for some. I would suggest if you are one of the uncomfortable people who wish to keep social distance practices in effect for yourself or family, you will want to wear your mask to Church so others can keep the social distance you wish to maintain. Please be kind, gentle, and respectful with one another in this matter. Lastly, the ropes at every other pew will remain in the Church for the foreseeable future. At some point we could possibly leave one or two sections of the Church, or one side of the Church, with pews roped off for those who wish to keep their distance from their Church-attending neighbor. As things continue to unfold regarding the loosening of requirements, and as the Diocese continues to send out suggestions, we will make adjustments with safety in mind. Any suggestions on the part of any parishioners, please speak to me or email your ideas at icworc@live.com. Thank you, Fr. Riley.

ST. PETER'S OPEN HOUSE

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, 865 Main Street Worcester will host an Open House on Tuesday, June 1 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. *It will be held by appointment only.* Please contact marybeth.soucy@stpetercc.com or by phone at 508-791-6496. Please respect Covid protocol. St. Peter's has openings in grades Pre-K-8. More information can be found on the school's website at www.stpetercentralcatholic.com.

OUTDOOR ROSARY ON THURSDAYS

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

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 this Memorial Day weekend (May 29-31). Flags have been ordered and will 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.

POLAND TRIP LAST CHANCE FOR SIGNUP

Our Parish trip to Poland that has been rescheduled for this September has a closing signup date of June 1. The new dates are September 20-30. The cost of this wonderful trip is \$3389, with a single supplement of \$700. Cities to be visited are Warsaw and its historic monuments and neighborhoods, Malbork Castle, Gdansk, Torun and the home where Nicolaus Copernicus was born, Czestochowa, a tour of Auschwitz- Birkenau, Krakow, and a visit to the 16th century Wawel Royal Castle, the Jewish Quarter, the birthplace of St. John Paul II and the museum of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, and other cultural experiences of Poland. At this point we have 16 people signed up with 32 seats available. Signup sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at icworc.com and sent to Fr. Riley at the Church. any questions, please contact Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419, or Callie Foster at 508-397-5883.

SUMMER YOUTH WORSHIP NIGHTS

All high school youth are invited to attend our Diocesan summer worship nights! The first worship night will take place on Friday June 18 from 7-9pm at Holy Family of Nazareth in Leominster. The second will take place on Friday July 9 from 7-9 pm at St. Luke's in Westborough. These events are open to any incoming freshmen to outgoing seniors. Worship nights include icebreakers, witnesses, praise and worship music, and Eucharistic Adoration! There is NO COST to attend! To sign up a group from your parish go to www.neworchester.org/summer-worship-nights

YOUNG ADULT WEEKLY PICK-UP VOLLEYBALL & HANGOUT

All young adults (ages 18+) are invited to join us for weekly pick-up volleyball at St. Christopher in Worcester! Join us every Friday at 6 pm beginning on June 11 through the end of August. These gatherings are very laid back and open to any young adult (regardless of skill level!). If you are looking for a fun way to meet up with other young adults in the area, then this is perfect for you! There is no commitment or formal sign-ups but if you would like to receive text or email updates during the summer, feel free to sign up at the following link: www.neworchester.org/young-adult-summer-volleyball.

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 Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to bless our Parish with his many graces and mercy for our steadfast faith in his many promises that bring life.*

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 \$475.00. Thank you.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

WORCESTER, MA

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.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Alongside this, there were also many soldiers who gave their life to be rid of slavery. We tend to forget this truth nowadays as we listen to politicians either lie about this basic fact, misrepresenting the truth of history, or simply are too ignorant to know the facts in this matter. Many, many Civil War soldiers, white and black, died to defend freedom for all people, most notably African-Americans. They understood they were fighting, not only to preserve the Union, but to free slaves from their long-held bondage, wanting for blacks the same opportunities as whites in America. I've visited the graves of some of these soldiers right here in this city, a few of them up the road in Rural cemetery. And when before their graves, I've spoken a quiet, quick thank you for their service to true freedom for all people.

Memorial Day was begun by Civil War veterans in the later 1800's, wanting to remember those who died for their country in defense of freedom and liberty for all, as well as those who died since the Civil War ended. The patriotism of these veterans was off the charts. This remains true today for veterans. I have photos of post-war parades in American towns and cities where more American flags can be seen in the photo than one can count. They were carried by both veterans and parade-goers. These events in the late-1800's - early 1900's were flag-fests. They loved their country to no end, understanding firsthand the great cost of freedom and liberty. This same cost is demanded of every American generation. Why? Because there are groups, political and otherwise, who seek to squash freedom by way of control and silence. We've seen this played out so brazenly and openly since the pandemic entered our country last year, where certain Governors of states, as well as a national political party, have assaulted the basic rights of freedom guaranteed by the Constitution. Look to California and Michigan as two of the most extreme attacks on freedom originating from radical Governors. Veterans did not fight and die for politicians to pull these anti-American political stunts at a time when assistance is needed for many people in the midst of a worldwide virus.

Throughout the messiness of the 20th century, with 2 World Wars, Korea and Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and wherever else soldiers have faithfully served our nation, they have done so by always making the ultimate sacrifice within their ranks. Black soldiers, Hispanic soldiers, and white soldiers have fought and died for freedom and liberty in the wars above. "We will never forget." How can we forget? Some people want to forget history because of its messiness and death tolls. They say it's too ugly to remember. If that's the case, then all Catholics may as well forget the Church because of the messiness of some of its twisted leaders and people (Theodore McCarrick!!!) since Jesus ascended into heaven. It is anything but pretty.

But how can any nation's history be pretty when the God of love is pushed aside or thrown out altogether from one's culture as we see in a dominant way in present-day America? The School Committee in this city alone just passed a sex-ed curriculum for children beginning in kindergarten! Are you serious? And of all organizations who produced the program, it's the godless Planned Parenthood responsible for killing millions of children who will

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 \$70,884 dollars from 132 donors representing 80% 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.

CHURCH BASEMENT KITCHEN RENOVATION

Over the next few weeks, 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 5/23/2021

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online) \$ 5,107.71

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 30, THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

1st Reading: Exodus 24:3-8

Psalm: 116

2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

Gospel: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

From the Pastor continued

never have a chance to learn their progressive trash. Did U.S. Veterans die for this kind of manure? A resounding "NO," they did not! They died for freedom and liberty grounded in good values and respect, at which this city's School Committee has miserably failed, led by its Mayor.

"We will never forget." God bless all present veterans on Memorial Day, 2021, and those who have come and gone. God bless all our loved ones who have passed into eternal life as we remember them with love and affection. And God bless those who fight for true freedom in this great nation with all her faults, be they veterans or non-veterans.

Peace, Fr. Riley

FROM THE PASTOR

A loving salute to our veterans this Memorial Day, 2021.

One of the statements I've heard over the years connected to the Worcester Fire Department and the tragic loss of one or more of their fellow workers are the words, "We will never forget." Meaning, they on the department will never forget the loss of one of their brothers who died in the line of duty. They will never forget the ultimate sacrifice that was made on behalf of a grateful city while trying to save the life of someone in distress. They will never forget the heroism displayed when push came to shove, when danger was staring them in the face, when duty called. I've been blessed to come to know many Worcester Firefighters over the past 14 years, active and retired, and I can tell anyone for certain who reads this column that you are in good, caring hands if you are ever in distress and live in this city. They champion the cause of emergency assistance as good as any group of people found anywhere.

We take the all too familiar statement of the WFD and this weekend apply it to our nation's veterans over the past 245 years, since this great nation's founding and before. From the Patriots of the Revolutionary War in the late 18th century, and some years into the 19th century, who helped to found this great nation through the sacrifice of their blood and mostly raggy uniforms. The Patriots of the Revolutionary War were not half as well-dressed as the British oppressors they faced, but they proved that freedom and liberty, when fought and died for, will win the day. And with freedom and liberty under assault this very day, most notably religious liberty, by, in my opinion, the most anti-American administration we've had in our nation's history, I greatly fear the revolutionary spirit of oppressed Americans will be called on in the not-so-distant future. I pray not. Violence is never the answer for Christians. But not all in this great country profess Christianity.

The veterans of the Revolution are the ones who secured freedom and liberty at great cost. The problem, of course, and this was not due to the sacrifice of the veterans themselves, is that freedom and liberty were not secured for all. We all know to some degree our nation's history regarding the subject of slavery. It's an ugly, awful history. It's a violent history. I have now read enough books on the American Civil War and antebellum eras to know that slavery is a grave stain on this great nation's history. Some parts of the books I have read and some of the comments made by politicians and military leaders (President Andrew Johnson & Gen William T. Sherman, just to name two) over the 19th century alone would make anyone's skin crawl from the bottom of the toe to the top of the head, not missing anything in between. This column is not the place to put such words, and if it was, I still wouldn't.

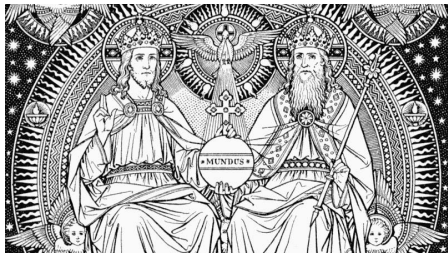
In the history of this great country, every American who loves their country should carry within us some deep level of shame over the sorrowful, violent, unequal treatment of African-Americans, specifically throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century. The one stain, in my opinion, that surpasses that of slavery is abortion, and the killing of over 60 million children in our country since the infamous date of January, 1973. As abortion is "legal" today, so was slavery back then. The similarities between these two issues are astonishingly many. These are the two great stains that, aside of the time of the Confederacy (1861-1865), soldiers did not fight to defend. The goal of American veterans has always been to defend and die if needed for the freedom given us God by virtue of being His prized creation, yet now being assaulted by governments, national, state, and local, and wayward, dangerous socialist ideologies playing out so aggressively today.

During the American Civil War, it is true that many Union soldiers did not fight to "free the slaves." They fought for the North to keep the Union as one. Many soldiers fought – and thousands died – to keep the Union together as it was being torn apart at the seams. If you believe things are bad today in terms of divisiveness in America, you may wish to read some history on the years 1861- 1865. You may change your tune slightly.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 29	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	May 30	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 31	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	June 1	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	June 2	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	June 3	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	June 5	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	June 6	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass



RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

GO, MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS: Mt 28:16-17; "What does he finally say to them when he sees them? 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.' He is still speaking to them according to his humanity, for they had not yet received the Spirit which was able to raise them to higher things. 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.' He gives them one charge with a view to a teaching and another charge concerning his commandments. He makes no mention of the future of the Jews. He does not scold Peter for his denial or any one of the others for their flight. Having put into their hands a summary of Christian teaching, which is expressed in the form of baptism, he commands them to go out into the whole world."

St. John Chrysostom (c347-407)

**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!**