

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.

THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

June 6, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	June 5	4:00 PM	Jesus Lapid, from the Lapid Family, (St. Boniface)
Sun.	June 6	7:30 AM	Jeanine Gemme, 4th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Todd Dickie, from Jean Danton
Mon.	June 7	9:00 AM	Dr. Peter Sampo, 1st Anniversary
Tues.	June 8	9:00 AM	Alfredo Simonelli, 1st Anniversary
Wed.	June 9	9:00 AM	Ann Jordan, from Betty Regele and Eileen Sheehan
Thurs.	June 10	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Sat.	June 12	4:00 PM	Robert Bacon, Birthday Mass, from Family
Sun.	June 13	7:30 AM	Brian B. Colonies, Chuck Burns, and Jeanette T. Burns, from Family
		10:00 AM	Paul Carmody, 6th Month Anniversary, from Grace Carmody



MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCE, RECEPTION OF COMMUNION, ETC...

Last Sunday began the updated policy regarding masks, social distancing singing, procession, ropes etc. Masks are not required for anyone who has been vaccinated. *Masks are still encouraged for anyone who has not been vaccinated.* Anyone who has received a vaccination for the Coronavirus and feels the need to keep your mask on, feel free to do so. Social distancing does not need to be applied to anyone who has been vaccinated. For anyone who has not been vaccinated, you should maintain a 6-foot distance between yourself and others when in the Church. It would be wise for all of us to assume that anyone who is wearing a mask in Church, vaccinated or not, social distancing should be applied and respected. Reception of Communion has returned to the center aisle. Please return to your pew down the side aisle. In this matter, it would be wise to maintain distance between yourself and the person in front of you when coming forward to receive the Lord Jesus. Regarding singing, all may now sing where it applies. Some hymnals have been placed back into the pews. Processions at the 4:00 and 10:00 Masses will begin from the rear of the Church once again. For the foreseeable future, ropes will continue to be used to separate pews for Sunday Masses. Anyone with suggestions or thoughts, please call me at the rectory, email our Parish website, or speak to me after Mass. Thank you, Fr. Riley.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

With pandemic rules recently eased, we are hoping that Eucharistic Ministers can restart their ministry once again beginning the months of July & August. Fr. Riley will be sending out a letter soon to all parishioners who served in this capacity in the past. As we move forward, please let him know whether you are still interested assisting in this holy ministry so an accurate schedule for all Sunday Masses can be made. Thank you to all our ministers for your understanding over the past 15-plus months regarding this ministry, and we look forward to having you back in the sanctuary.

BRINGING UP GIFTS AT OFFERTORY

This Sunday we will resume the bringing forward of the gifts (bread, wine, and water) at the 4:00 & 10:00 Masses from the middle of the Church to the priest and deacon. This was another form of participation by the laity during the liturgy that was lost during the heightened times of the pandemic, but now thankfully returns. What better Sunday for its return than the feast of Corpus Christi.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS FOR OUR LADY'S GARDEN

Flags were placed at each stone in Our Lady's Garden last Sunday in commemoration of Memorial Day. Thank you to all parishioners who placed an American flag next to the stone of a family member or friend. For those who had no one to do so, we at the parish placed one aside of each stone in need of a flag. We believe it to be a good idea to keep the flags in place from this point on until Sunday, July 4 in commemoration of our nation's birth in 1776.

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.

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS

On Friday, June 11 at 7:00 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.

CAMP AND RETREAT FOR CATHOLIC HS AGE YOUNG MEN

Quo Vadis Days is a four-day overnight retreat and camp June 24 - 27 for young Catholic men of high school age, those entering high school through recent graduates of high school sponsored by the Diocese of Worcester and the Archdiocese of Boston. It serves to connect them to other young men striving to live lives of virtue, to deepen their faith, learn more about what it means to be a Catholic man in our world today (whether single, parent, or priest), and better discern God's call in their lives. This event will be both prayerful and a lot of fun, with everything from epic capture the flag games to daily Mass. For more information, <https://www.quovadisboston.com> Financial aid is available for those who need assistance. For more information contact Fr. Donato Infante, Diocesan Vocations Director, at donato.infante@gmail.com.

CHURCH BASEMENT KITCHEN RENOVATION

Over the next 2-3 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.

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 *deeper belief in the truth of the Eucharist*.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalm: 92

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

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

whom Jesus called out of a few too many good folks.

The Eucharist is the Lord's greatest gift to us precisely because he gives us his very self. "I will be with you until the end of the age," accompanied by "This is my body, take and eat; this is my blood, take and drink," allows us the opportunity every Sunday to be one with our Savior in a way that cannot be known until we see him face to face. Which many of our loved ones have now done. If they could come back and speak to us, they would say, "What's the matter with you, child? Are you drinking too much wine that hasn't been blessed? Are you eating too much unblessed bread causing your carbohydrates to fly off the charts? What's the matter with you, child? Why don't you believe what Jesus has given to you in love and truth? Are you having a hard time believing that God can do the impossible? Are you so consumed with the normal way of things that you cannot believe God is not restricted to such small ways in your world? What's the matter with you, child? Believe what it is! Accept the gift given! Don't go changing it into something it isn't! Put aside your weak way of thinking religiously and allow the greatness of God to shine forth in your belief! I'm sitting up here with angels and saints in perfect peace and joy, and you cannot believe that Jesus can turn bread and wine into his body and blood to sustain your journey? Hold on...I just asked him again, child. He told me you're being stubborn, as usual. He told me to tell you to believe his words in reality he spoke at the Last Supper." "Thank you, mom. You're right, again."

I was blessed to have a Eucharistic miracle occur back in 2010 when presiding at Mass at the Audrey Santo home here in lovely Worcester. I witnessed the blood on the host, after consecration.

The blood was not on the host prior to Mass. But there it was, a small spot of redness that continued to expand over the course of a year or more, until much of the host was touched by the blood of Jesus. Science cannot explain such things, nor should we expect it to. Science is God's playground. God created a wonderful way of discovering information about the world and about us when He invented science. I think he did so to keep a lot of smart people busy. Which is why I'm a priest, not a scientist. The host with blood on the center was the most beautiful sight I've seen in my almost 61 years of living, and 15 years of priesthood. It was stunning. Almost incomprehensible. Until we stop for a moment and think, "Why not? Why shouldn't God reveal His Son to us in such an explicit way? For God can do whatever he wants, and will do whatever he wants." And so goes the wonderful unpredictability of God Most High.

I carry the image and reminder of the bleeding host, as well as photos of it in my prayer book, as well as every day in my mind and heart, knowing how true and real is the Eucharist. (Let me know if you want to see them). The photos remind me of how real God is. So real he has given us Jesus in the Eucharist. Don't be unbelieving, but believe. Don't be a St. Thomas here! Flip the percentage of symbolic believers to real believers if you're presently on the side of false symbolic belief in Christ's presence. You have no business being there. It's like hanging out in a neighborhood you don't belong. Where demons lurk and try to stymie you from believing in the food that endures to eternal life. Don't be unbelieving, but believe in the great truth of what Jesus gives to us in the Eucharist. Until we see him face to face.

Peace, Fr. Riley

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, 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 \$610.00. Thank you.

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

"The church ... uses the method of dialogue in order the better to lead people - both those who through baptism and the profession of faith acknowledge their membership of the Christian community and also those who are outside - to conversion and repentance, along the path of a profound renewal of their own consciences and lives in the light of the mystery of the redemption and salvation accomplished by Christ and entrusted to the ministry of his church. Authentic dialogue, therefore, is aimed above all at the rebirth of individuals through interior conversion and repentance, but always with profound respect for consciences and with patience and at the step-by-step pace indispensable for modern conditions.

From the document *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*
Pope St. John Paul II

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 5/30/2021

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online) \$ 3,711.50

FROM THE PASTOR

From the blood of goats and calves to the Blood of God.

Let's see, we have a man walking out of a grave three days after his death. We have thousands upon thousands fed by a few loaves of bread and fish, with 12 wicker baskets left over. We have countless crippled, lame, and infirmed being healed on the spot by word and/or touch alone. No medicine, except that which comes down from above. We have a blind man - born this way according to his parents - receiving sight upon his command, and, another blind man receiving his sight after some spittle mixed with mud was thrown onto his eyes. We have a 12-year old "asleep," a word used by Jesus about her death, ridiculed by those present for saying "asleep" rather than dead, and raising her up by the touch of his hand and a few words spoken in Aramaic that translate into "I tell you, arise." We have countless having their sins forgiven by his word, a great miracle if there ever was one. We have the Virgin birth. Yes, Mary, without relations and without sin, giving birth to a child. When's the last time you saw that happen? And then we have today; "This is my body, take and eat. This is my blood, take and drink."

From the blood of goats and calves to the Blood of God. Our faith, if lived to the full, requires we believe some events and happenings that fly way past the norm. In fact, there is no normal to them. Calling the dead back to life and giving sight to a man born blind without performing any type of eye surgery is abnormal. But abnormal in the best way of goodness. Our faith requires us to believe some results that are not easy to believe. Unless God is front and center in the events. This certainly makes it easier to say, "Okay, maybe that blind man stuff can happen. But I'm still not 100% in on the dead coming back to life. I've seen too many caskets and dead bodies never return to allow my heart to embrace that possibility."

Well, what about today? Do you believe that the bread and wine, when placed on a Catholic altar, accompanied by certain prayers, becomes a Person? "It still looks like bread and wine to me. It still smells like bread and wine to me. It still tastes like bread and wine to me. But you're telling me it's a Person?" Yup, that's correct. Our faith requires that we believe some pretty amazing things. From the time Jesus sat down with them at the Last Supper table, shared the bread and cup, and told them to "Do this in remembrance of me," from that time onward we have believed we receive just what the Lord said, "This is my body; this is my blood."

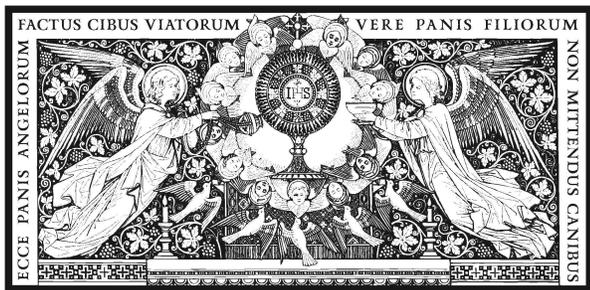
Honestly, I'm sort of tired and sick over the apparent fact that so many Catholics believe the Eucharist is symbolic. I keep hearing this over and over again. I'm not sure who is performing the surveys, but the same high-percentage answer seems to come back each time. The number of false believers concerning the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is flabbergasting. It's head-shaking and head-scratching too. Have you ever tried scratching your head while shaking it? Talk about abnormal! The results are abnormally high; in this case, abnormal in the most awful meaning of the word.

Symbolic in and of itself is not a bad word for many parts of our faith. We use symbols in many ways, such as blessing ourselves when entering Church. But in reference to the Eucharist, symbolic is a four-letter word, if you know what I mean. It's a bad, ugly word that presents a falsehood regarding the "Source and summit of our faith." Symbolic when referencing the Eucharist is a lie, brought about by the Pitchfork Man and his cohorts, trying to get us to believe, apparently with some success, that what we consume at the Holy Liturgy at Communion time is, uh, just a piece of bread. It was hard for me to just write that piece of lying trash. Because everything that comes from the Devil, everything that compromises and attempts to change the everlasting truth of what Jesus has truly given to us - HIMSELF!! - is trash. This symbolic belief of the Eucharist belongs in the dustbin of history. It was made up by someone who worked closely with Satan. Because any Catholic religious belief that is changed from its original meaning and truth cannot derive from the Spirit of God, but from the spirit of the demoniacs

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	June 5	2:45 PM	Confession
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	June 6	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	Mass
Mon.	June 7	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Tues.	June 8	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Wed.	June 9	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Thurs.	June 10	7:30 AM	Rosary
		8:00 AM	Mass
Sat.	June 12	2:45 PM	Confession
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	June 13	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	Mass



RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The simplicity of the just man is laughed to scorn. It is the wisdom of this world to conceal the heart with stratagems, to veil one's thoughts with words, to make what is false appear true and what is true appear false. On the other hand it is the wisdom of the just never to pretend anything for show, always to use words to express one's thoughts, to love the truth as it is and to avoid what is false, to do what is right without reward and to be more willing to put up with evil than to perpetrate it, not to seek revenge for wrong, and to consider as gain any insult for truth's sake. But this guilelessness is laughed to scorn, for the virtue of innocence is held as foolishness by the wise of this world. Anything that is done out of innocence, they doubtless consider to be stupidity, and whatever truth approves of, in practice is called folly by their worldly wisdom."

St. Gregory the Great (d.604)

**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!**