

# Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at  
[www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com) and Facebook  
Email: [icworc@live.com](mailto: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.	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
Mon.	June 14	9:00 AM	Susan Ripley, 5th Anniversary, from Friend
Tues.	June 15	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	June 16	9:00 AM	Tony Simone, 1st Anniversary, from Mary Lalone
Thurs.	June 17	8:00 AM	
Sat.	June 19	4:00 PM	Richard Houlihan, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	June 20	7:30 AM	Irene A. Pupelis, 4th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Donald Rocheleau, 4th Anniversary, from Family; and Mary Agnes Evanowski, from Family

**FR. RILEY BEING TRANSFERRED**

As announced this past weekend, Father Riley is being transferred to St. Luke's in Westborough. He will be ending his assignment at Immaculate Conception on June 30th. Deacon Kevin Deignan will be staying on at Immaculate. Fr. Enoch and seminarian Julio Bonilla will be transferring with Fr. Riley to St. Luke's. We will be having a Going Away BBQ Party after the 10:00am Mass on Sunday June 27th. Sign-up sheets will be available. All are invited to come wish Fr. Riley well on his new journey. The new pastor for Immaculate Conception will be Fr. Edwin Montana effective July 1st.

**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**

Moving ahead on each 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.

**OUR LADY'S GARDEN AND FLAGS PLACED**

Flags were placed at each stone in Our Lady's Garden two Sundays in commemoration of Memorial Day and those we have loved and lost. Thank you to all parishioners who took the time to place 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 have placed one aside of any stone that needed a flag. We will 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.

**YOUNG ADULT AERIAL ADVENTURE OUTING**

All young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to join for a morning at Boundless Adventures, an aerial adventure park in Berlin MA on **Saturday, July 10**. Discounted tickets are available for those who register in our group at a **cost of \$35/person** (*general park admission is \$50*). To sign up for a spot or to get more information, go to [neworchester.org/young-adult-aerial-adventure](http://neworchester.org/young-adult-aerial-adventure) or contact Tim Messenger at [tmessenger@worcesterdioecese.org](mailto:tmessenger@worcesterdioecese.org). **Deadline to sign up is Monday, June 28.**

**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 [worcesterdioecese.org](http://worcesterdioecese.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 \$72,084 dollars from 136 donors representing 81% 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.

**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

**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK**

**Religious Freedom Week will be celebrated in dioceses nationwide from June 22 to June 29.** Throughout the week we will focus on the importance of preserving the essential right of religious freedom, both now and in the future, for Catholics and all people of faith. This year's theme is "Solidarity in Freedom". The significant feast days during the week (Saints Thomas More and John Fisher - June 22, Saint John the Baptist - June 24, and Saints Peter and Paul - June 29) inspire us to follow the example of these great saints who loved God above all and remained faithful in the face of adversity. Please visit [www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek](http://www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek) to download the "Pray-Reflect-Act" pages for each day on various religious liberty topics. These excellent resources are intended to inspire us to learn more about religious liberty from a Catholic perspective, help us to pray about particular issues, and provide us with tools to act on what we learn. Additional information and resources for parish and personal use can be found at [www.worcesterdioecese.org/religiousfreedomweek](http://www.worcesterdioecese.org/religiousfreedomweek).

## 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](mailto:mks723@msn.com) for registration forms and more information.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

And not only here at Immaculate Conception Parish, but I also thank God for allowing yours truly the opportunity to serve the Worcester Fire Department since December, 2007. As I move on from this ministry and position too, I look back and thank God for providing the Spirit to be present abundantly in a few circumstances when tragedy struck hard. It's in those moments that we realize we are not capable, on our own, to comfort anyone to any large degree without the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Even then, any sustained level of comfort, reassurance, and peace is beyond any words we can say or any action we can perform. Everyone found this out along the way, including Fire Chiefs, politicians, Chaplains, Firefighters, and now Police. At the end of the day, we realize that some tragedies and events in life we need to leave to God alone, and Him being in charge of handling them. We will find out our answers in the life to come.

One of the other parts of life I give thanks to God for as I get older are the crosses that Jesus wants me to carry. Nowadays it could be health-related. It used to be the Red Sox, but no more. I love walking most every day, allowing myself the opportunity to pray a Rosary while hopefully not getting run over by a bus...or UPS truck. And the couple times over the past year when walking 3-4 miles was not possible for weeks at a time, it was time to "offer it up" and work toward getting back to where it stood before the bones and muscles went haywire.

Carrying crosses, if you haven't noticed, is tricky spiritual business. There's a certain mindset that needs to accompany the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual challenges that arise as we grow closer – at least in my case – to the age of collecting-Social Security (if it's still around). Most people of faith believe

that crosses are sent by God for whatever the reason may be. But whatever the reason may be, I do know one truth about God and us; that crosses sent our way are for the express purpose of drawing deeper into the life, death, and resurrection of Christ our Lord. Crosses are meant to "glue us to God our creator." We may not admire this Divine method of closeness. This may or may not make anyone feel better. But it does allow a person of faith the ability to make some sense of what's going on when disease, or some other ailment, hits home, either for ourselves or a loved one.

In fact, as the years roll by, I find myself giving thanks to God more and more for the gift of life itself. This is where St. Paul enters with his words "Life is Christ, death is gain." Lessening the fear of death (in a good way, not a false bravado), and knowing in the core of our being that there is something awesome and great that awaits, it makes the journey toward God's eternal gift something to embrace. The goodness of life would be absent and meaningless without the continuation of life on the other side of the grave. This holy truth makes all the battles between good and evil in this world worth the fight; the exhaustion, the emotional stamina, the hard stance for Divine truth over and above a very sinful culture. Actions of love, be they for the poor or others, are the easier part of our faith. But having the stamina nowadays to stand up for God's teachings given to us in Christ Jesus is a much harder battle that requires steadfastness and focus. I thank God for sustaining me thus far with the will and desire to do so.

"Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." Yes, it is. Don't stop doing so until you reach "Death is gain." And even then....

*Peace, 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 *the sick in our Parish to know God's healing love and peace.*

### **READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11

Psalm: 107

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

### **HOMEMAKERS WANTED!**

**Walk-in Interviews Every Tuesday from 10 am-12 pm.** Catholic Charities, located at 10 Hammond St. in Worcester, is hiring homemakers and hosting walk-in interviews every Tuesday from 10 am-12 pm. Homemakers and Home Health Aides are trained by our Homecare team to provide a variety of support services, which are essential in maintaining a disabled or dependent person's safety and wellbeing. To keep this program alive, we need to grow our Homecare team to meet the increasing demands of the areas that we serve, which consists of Amherst, Athol, Leominster, Milford, Southbridge, Greenfield, Shelburne Falls, and Worcester. Walk-ins welcome, or contact Paula, Homecare Supervisor: **508-414-9084**. Those interested may also apply online at [ccworc.org](http://ccworc.org).

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 6/06/2021**

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online)

\$ 3,494.00

## FROM THE PASTOR

“Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.”

These words are the refrain/response for this Sunday’s Psalm 92. Not only should we give thanks to God for countless blessings, but *it is good* to give thanks to God, period. When we offer thanks to another person, many times it concerns what such and such a person has done for us. They have performed an act or spoken kind words in our favor. Thus, we react by saying “Thanks. That was very nice of you. I didn’t expect such nice things to happen or be said about me. May God bless your day and your life.”

It is good to give thanks, not only to God who deserves our thanks first, but also to give thanks for the many people who surround us, hopefully, with the love and respect we deserve. Living in a time when there is an abundance of “independence,” a word that computes to me, myself, and I more than anything, taking a good look at the blessings of those who surround us and giving thanks and praise to God for their companionship and friendship is a what the Psalmist says; good. We depend upon doctors and nurses for good medical care; we depend upon good financial advice from a trained, professional money manager; we depend upon family and friends to hear us out when something rotten is up; we depend upon others showing up for Mass so we don’t have to be the only person responding to the prayers; we depend upon good, faithful teachers in any respective subject to teach your children and grandchildren healthy learning without a personal agenda; we depend upon Funeral Directors to be caring, compassionate people when someone we love dies. And so on.

For my part, as I get ready to move on from Immaculate Conception after 11 years of living in the house next door to the Church, I give thanks for the countless people I’ve met whose faith has inspired my own. I’m not sure how many people realize this to be the truth with any priest who puts aside his ego and allows his people to touch his heart with the living out of their Catholic faith. The priesthood is not the end all, be all in the Catholic Church. Yes, it’s an essential part of what Christ has given to his Church. Without the priesthood there would be no Eucharist, no Confessions, no Mass. At least not valid ones. That’s a lot of important no’s. I do not downgrade the priesthood by writing that it is the people of God who help to form and shape any priest willing to allow himself to be affected for the spiritual betterment of the people he serves. Any priest who does not give thanks to God, at least for a good portion of his people, is a priest who has detached his priesthood from the flock capable of feeding him through their own steadfast faith. I absolutely love and deeply admire a person whose faith is filled and brimming over with conviction. But, it has to be faith that is true, and not a misguided faith that challenges our teachings. The latter sort saddens me greatly.

The list of people would be long here at Immaculate Conception if I were to create one of thanks. If I tried to, I would undoubtedly leave out some names that belong there, so I won’t try. I will say, however, that a good place to begin would be, believe it or not, the Parish death register. There must be 50-100 names over the past 11 years written in the “Book of Life” of men, women, and children in a couple instances, who have taken my personal faith from one level to a higher one. I think about those who belonged to the Greatest Generation alone, and the many Funerals of these men and women I’ve been blessed to preside at over the past 11 years at this Church. It’s been rather easy to put together a Funeral homily for good people with great faith. I could write chapters in a book on some of the folks I’ve been blessed to send off to heaven. And to think the Lord has allowed this former UPS guy from Lincoln Street to savor the honor of sending their souls to the peace, love, and joy of God’s home.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	June 12	2:45 PM	Confession
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	June 13	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	Mass
Mon.	June 14	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Tues.	June 15	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Wed.	June 16	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Thurs.	June 17	7:30 AM	Rosary
		8:00 AM	Mass
Sat.	June 19	2:45 PM	Confession
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	June 20	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	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 \$180.00. Thank you.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"In the sphere of action, a right thought is one ruled by the will of God, and intentions are holy when directed singlemindedly toward him. In a word, we could see clearly through any action of ours, or into our entire lives, if we had a simple eye. A simple eye is an eye, and it is simple. This means that we see by right thinking what is to be done, and by our good intentions we carry it out with simple honesty, because deceitful action is wrong. Right thinking does not permit mistakes; a good intention rules out pretense. This then is true discernment, a combination of right thinking and good intention. Therefore, we must do all our actions in the light of discernment as if in God and in his presence."

*Baldwin of Canterbury, Bishop (d.1190)*

**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!**