

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.	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
Mon.	June 21	9:00 AM	Richard Riley, Birthday Mass, from Family
Tues.	June 22	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	June 23	9:00 AM	
Thurs.	June 24	8:00 AM	<i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i>
Sat.	June 26	4:00 PM	William C. Herrmann, Arthur S. Lindsay, and Curtiss R. Herrmann, from Family
Sun.	June 27	7:30 AM	Anne M. Kelly, 17th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Helen Murdock (35th Anniversary), John Murdock (5th Anniversary), and Linda O'Malley (1st Anniversary), from Family

FR. RILEY BEING TRANSFERRED - GOING AWAY BBQ PARTY DATE CHANGE

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. The Parish will be hosting a Going Away BBQ Party at the Father Connor's Center on the hill. **The date has been changed to Saturday June 26th after the 4:00pm Mass.** 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.

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 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.worcesterdiocese.org/

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. As we move forward, please let Fr. Riley 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.

JUNE IS ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month and the Alzheimer's Association is here to help and share information about their free support services, educational programs, advocacy efforts and research advancements. The more people know about Alzheimer's, the more action we inspire. We are offering a virtual community educational program "Know the 10 Signs" on **Wednesday, June 23 from Noon - 1 pm.** Registration is required: visit act.alz.org/worcester to register. We also offer an Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900. Also, you can make a difference by supporting the Worcester County Alzheimer's Walk on Sunday, October 3. Visit alz.org for more information.

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.

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.

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 \$76,034 dollars from 136 donors representing 86% 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.

REGISTER NOW WORCESTER CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

All women are invited to this exciting Conference, to be held at St. Joseph School in Webster, MA on Saturday, September 11th. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders, **Sr. Deirdre Byrne, Jesse Romero, Fr. David Gunter, and Mary Rice Hasson L.H.S.** Diocesan and religious priests will hear confessions and there will be many interesting exhibitors. Bishop McManus will celebrate Mass. For more information and to register, visit our website at www.wcwconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register today!

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 *our continued growth in the awesomeness and splendor of God.*

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

tees. Except, of course, our faith seeking the mercy of God on a daily basis, or somehow securing God's mercy moments before we take our last breath, which is tricky business. I do not as a priest recommend you wait until the end before trying to secure some Divine Mercy that will lead to the joy of heaven.

The opposite of dying is living. St. Paul, or any of the Apostles who wrote letters and Gospels, never wrote about our prospect of dying absent the topic of living. Living always followed dying in their writings. Nor should we speak about our dying without the great truth of our living after death. Why would we leave out the most important part of our lives, which is eternal life? Would any Red Sox fan talk about winning the World Series while leaving out the final game that won it all? That would be rather weird. We would want to know how the joyful and awesome story ended, would we not? Was the World Series won by a home run in the final at-bat? Were they losing by a seemingly insurmountable number, like 8 runs in the 7th inning, and came back to win it all in Game 7, mimicking Jesus walking out of the grave after being dead? We must speak such things in order to complete the great story of our lives.

Jesus came to us in the flesh, becoming one of us with real skin and bones, with a real beard to be yanked by Roman soldiers, with a real head to be crowned with hurtful, painful thorns, with a real body to be nailed to the Cross, so that the rest of us, the rest of the world, can speak words of life after death. His death was a death for all humanity accomplished through the power of God that only God could complete and secure. Otherwise, as the Scripture says, we would be forever dead in our sins. What an ugly thought this is! What a dead end prospect (no pun intended)!

When we believe that Jesus' death was a death for all, we do not believe that his death has automatically secured heaven for

every soul and eventually every human body in the resurrection. Our Lord's death on Golgotha has *opened the door of possibility* that every person can be saved, a door that was closed and locked before his death and resurrection. What God never removes or alters is the free will we possess as human beings. It is our free will to choose the Lord as our Savior and Messiah. (This is not the place or column for how people from other religions can be saved). It is our free will that allows us to freely love God, to reciprocate his love for us, for only in our free choice can we do so.

Universalism says that God controls us, even if it means automatic heaven. This approach flatly denies how God created us in freedom and love, for true love knows no control. Jesus dying for all, with us having great say in our salvation, respects our full capacity to cooperate in our forever existence, where heaven is not viewed as automatic, allowing people to do whatever they wish to do in word and deed. This is a lie and a false predominant thought today in religious and societal circles. This has never been a Catholic belief.

As we continue on this journey of faith in Christ, we do so understanding we possess the grave responsibility that our salvation is not automatic, it is not a guarantee in the sense that we have secured it already, because we have not. Yes, Jesus has already won the victory over death, but are we willing to accept his victory into the daily grind of our lives? Our cooperation is a defining factor alongside our seeking each day the gift of God's mercy as sinners before Him. Yes, Jesus died for all people in his "Godness," if you will. But it seems not all people want his salvation. And anyone who does not, it would be proper to say that God will respectfully give them what they want. My prayer is that all of us will want his mercy and gift of everlasting life.

Peace, Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

TESTING THE DISCIPLES: Mark 4:36; "Even while he was asleep on the pillow, the Lord was testing his disciples, when a miracle was wrought that was calculated especially to put even the wicked to contrition. For when he arose, and rebuked the sea, and silenced the storm, he plainly disclosed two things: that the storm of the sea was not simply from winds, but from the fear of the Lord who walked upon it, and that the Lord who rebuked it was not a creature, but rather its creator."

St Athanasius (c296-373)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 6/13/2021
 Sunday Ordinary (includes Online) \$ 2,764.50

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 13th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24
 Psalm: 30
 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
 Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

THE DAY IS NOW FAR SPENT

RUTHLESS ENEMIES: "The West's denial of reality is the product of a terrible pride, voluntary blindness, a death impulse. False values are cherished and propagated. Ugliness has become beauty, immorality is progress. Is the West really aware of the abyss that it is digging under its own feet? It is hard to imagine that such a brilliant civilization could decide to abandon so many riches without understanding anything of this loss. We must denounce this movement that leads to inventing riches that are not riches at all and transforming gold into mud. The West seems happy to see its churches turned into gymnasiums, its Romanesque chapels fall into ruin, its religious patrimony threatened by a total desacralization. Russia, on the contrary, is spending considerable sums to restore the treasures of Orthodoxy. The West does not for an instant imagine the unlimited consequences of its spineless cowardice with regard to its Christian artistic history."

Cardinal Robert Sarah, from the book
The Day Is Now Far Spent

FROM THE PASTOR

There is all the difference in the world between Jesus' death being universal, meaning for every human person who ever lives, and universalism. Universalism is a heresy that basically says that all people are going to heaven automatically. The reasons may vary, such as a promoter of universalism saying that God's mercy is so strong, powerful, and all-encompassing that we will all be touched by it somehow when we die, either shortly before or after. The problem with this belief is that it dismisses the freedom and free will of every person having the responsibility to seek God's mercy. This responsibility lies with each of us in a most personal way.

We can all agree that God's mercy is abundant and profoundly generous. That our Lord's mercy is overflowing and infinite in the sense that we cannot exhaust God's mercy to the point where there is none left for others or ourselves. No, God's mercy is potentially ever and always before us. Going to Confession is not a daytime job. God's mercy is like a bug, a flea, even a bee on a hot, muggy Sunday afternoon flying around our heads, wanting to land on our faces, or even sting us lovingly, disappearing only if we swat it away. Even then, it keeps coming back. Anyone who has taken a walk on a hot day in a wooded area knows exactly what God's mercy is like by way of insects wanting some of our blood. God's approach of extending his mercy is the same as these insects who bother us to no end when all we want is a leisurely walk. May God forgive me, but his call to mercy is a pest.

However, the responsibility to be open to Divine Mercy belongs to us through being open to his grace. Completely and utterly. God does not force himself on us. Yet, he is always searching for an attitude and disposition of openness from our hearts and minds. This is an age-old teaching and belief in our faith. It has been around since Moses led the people out of Egypt. We have the power to reject God's gifts and presence if so we choose. Even still – and this is where God's unconditional love kicks in most especially – he will never turn his back on any one of his creatures made in his image and likeness.

Returning to the issue of universalism, which falsely says that all people will be saved no matter what, what belongs to us Christians is the real effect we have on our own salvation. We are not distant or uninvolved from our final eternal state in the future. No Christian should walk around this world thinking that God will automatically forgive our sins because "how can God send anyone to hell if he is a loving God." This is not the way God's mercy is realized, and don't be fooled by such theological rubbish. All of us have a mammoth input into God's judgment upon us regarding heaven, hell, or purgatory. Universalism dismisses our free will, our capacity to seek God and his mercy, our being a rational animal who can choose the ways of love, forgiveness and mercy. Oddly, universalism *forces* us into heaven. Even those who do not want it.

So how can we say that Christ died for all if not all may not potentially be saved? In this week's second reading from 2 Corinthians, Paul, as usual, is quite clear on this topic by writing, "that one died for all." The one here, of course, is Christ Jesus. His death is a death for all in that he is Savior, Messiah, Lord, the One who is to come. In other words, only God in the flesh can die once for all. All of us will die once also, but for ourselves, or possibly a small number of others. I think of past tragedies in this city alone where Firefighters and a Police Officer died trying to save human life. They died in heroic fashion, dying in an attempt to save one other person or a small amount of people. On a strictly human level, this is the peak of how any created person can leave this world; by offering their life in an attempt to save another. In our city, we have seen this more times than most other small cities. But, there are none of us who can potentially save the lives of every person who ever lived by way of bringing them to the joys of heaven, except for Jesus. Jesus dying for all means that *all of us now have the potential to make it to heaven*. There are no guaran-

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	June 19	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	June 20	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	June 21	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	June 22	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	June 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	June 24	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	June 26	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	June 27	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 \$310.00. Thank you.

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

"It should be repeated that, on the part of the church and her members, dialogue, whatever form it takes (and these forms can be and are very diverse since the very concept of dialogue has an analogical value) can never begin from an attitude of indifference to the truth. On the contrary, it must begin from a presentation of the truth, offered it in a calm way, with respect for the intelligence and consciences of others. The dialogue of reconciliation can never replace or attenuate the proclamation of the truth of the Gospel, the precise goal of which is conversion from sin and communion with Christ and the church. It must be at the service of the transmission and realization of that truth through the means left by Christ to the church for the pastoral activity of reconciliation, namely catechesis and penance."

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

**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!**