

# 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 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
Mon.	June 28	9:00 AM	James M. Burke, Month Mind, from Family ( <i>St. Ireneaus</i> )
Tues.	June 29	9:00 AM	Erin Davis, 5th Anniversary, from Family ( <i>Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles</i> )
Wed.	June 30	9:00 AM	Geraldine Angelos, Month Mind, from Parish Family ( <i>The First Martyrs of the Church</i> )
Thurs.	July 1	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception ( <i>St. Junipero Serra</i> )
Sat.	July 3	4:00 PM	( <i>St. Thomas, Apostle</i> )
Sun.	July 4	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	

**GOING AWAY PARTY**

Please join us for a BBQ Party to say goodbye to Fr. Riley and Fr. Enoch after the 4pm Mass on Saturday June 26th at the Father Connor's Center on the hill. All are invited!

**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.

**UPDATE ON CHURCH BASEMENT KITCHEN**

As of this writing, our new Church basement kitchen is almost complete. The last thing we await is for the new countertops to arrive and put into place. Our hope remains the kitchen will be put to good use by the Parish Activities Committee in the future, as well as other gatherings throughout the year.

**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.

**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.worcesterdiocese.org/religiousfreedomweek](http://www.worcesterdiocese.org/religiousfreedomweek).

**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 \$200.00. Thank you.

**13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*"...as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality." (2 CORINTHIANS 8:14)* One of the tenants of living a grateful and generous lifestyle is giving without expecting anything in return. It is important that we not only grow, nurture and share our gifts; but that we also teach our children and encourage others to do the same. This is the communal aspect of our Catholic faith. We are the "Body of Christ". We are called to be dependent on each other and not live in isolation.

**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 [worcesterdioocese.org](http://worcesterdioocese.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 \$77,684 dollars from 140 donors representing 88% 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.

**THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY**

**MARRIAGE:** Commitment: "The marriage vows - promises made by the partners before God and the community to be faithful to each other in good times and bad - are foundational to the spiritual lifestyle of married Christians. One is sensitized to the comprehensive nature of the vows, or as some characterize them, unconditional promises. Cost is not calculated. They are open-ended. The vows also distinguish marriage as a covenant. Contracts deal with an exchange of things or monies; covenants deal with personhood. Because of the element of respect and rationality implicit in healthy marriage, there are limits to what can be included in unconditionality. For instance, anything requested that will harm either partner or the relationship cannot be subsumed into Christian marital life. God never wills the destruction of the person. That there will be sacrifice, hard and difficult challenges, and even suffering for the other is not ruled out when these result in the building up of the couple and each individual. Like life in general the paradox of the gospel mystery of death yielding life is not to be overlooked. There is room for the cross in marriage, not as a masochistic or sadistic part of marriage (and this is not unheard of in marriage), but as an expression of generous love that may exceed the ordinary boundaries of expectation or justice."

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2021-2022**

Registration is ongoing for the 2021-2022 Religious Education year. Classes for children in 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.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

My time here at Immaculate Conception has been a time of great joy and challenge. This is a combination expected for any priest who cares about what he does and how he serves. When I arrived at Immaculate Conception in July, 2010, this assignment at the age of 50 was my first one as a Pastor. I look back and see some destiny in being assigned here. My grandfather, Walter J. Riley, was a parishioner here during the Fr. Connors years. He and my grandmother, Mary Riley (who was Protestant) lived in the house next to Strand's Ski Shop up the road at 145 West Boylston St. This was a house my siblings and I would visit many Sunday afternoons as we hung out the windows of my father's car as he drove down Millbrook St. on the way to Grandma's house. Anyway, Fr. Connors, a priest ahead of his time who served the spiritual needs during World War II of any soldier from any or no denomination, presided at the Funeral Masses of both my Catholic grandfather in 1976, and Protestant grandmother in 1974. He was a priest who did what needed to be done in times of grief and sorrow. The spirit of Fr. Connors I've been most blessed to know and experience in my 11 years at Immaculate Conception.

With all the above and much, much more, one more thought I leave with the good people of Immaculate Conception comes from this week's second reading in St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians. As St. Paul was a true Pastor to his flock on a level that I could only dream of reaching, he wrote to the people of Corinth during their spiritual struggles the following words; "For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich."

These words, of course, have zero, nada, nothing to do with money or the prosperity gospel tossed around out there today. Jesus was poor, plain and simple. Trying to make him materially rich insults the central purpose of his ministry, which was initiating the Kingdom of God. The only riches he sought was the richness of bringing all people to his Father. He didn't even have a

place to rest his head. Think about that! The God who created the universe and called everything into existence had no place in his creation to relax and chill out. Jesus' life was a life of worldly abandonment. When he left Nazareth, he took with him only the clothes on his sacred body. Not even some peanut butter cookies to enjoy. He had no knapsack. He was materially poor. Period. And he fully embraced it.

Yet, in his poverty of worldliness, he has made all of us rich in the virtues and graces that flow down from heaven. The riches and graces of God shoot to all corners of the expanding universe he created, but find a special, particular home in the hearts and souls of human beings on Earth. By leaving our hearts and souls open to the Lord's presence in word and sacrament, in deed and action, we are made rich in the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord. Stay faithful to him always. Allow his "poverty" to make you rich. His poverty of sacrifice, generosity, compassion, mercy, and closeness is the path to the only lasting richness we will ever know.

Lastly, I thank Deacon Kevin for his many years of faithful, dedicated service to our Parish. Deacon Kevin and Michelle found a new home at Immaculate Conception when he was assigned here after decades of enriching their home Parish, St. Joan of Arc in Worcester. Although I will miss his presence, friendship, and ministerial dedication, I'm glad he's staying here for the sake of the many folks who will see in Deacon Kevin and Michelle a continuum of the past 11 years. His joy and upbeat manner, which offset my approach (obviously), will be welcome at this address for as long as he is able to remain in ministry. I've been extraordinarily blessed to have Deacon Kevin serve in his capacity as my Deacon and yours.

May God's abundant blessings be upon Immaculate Conception in the days and years ahead. Please be assured of my prayers for you as a Parish as I head off to learn a whole new set of names a few miles up the road. And please keep me in your prayers as a priest and friend.

*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 *Catholics to love one another*.

**READINGS FOR NEXT JULY 4, THE 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5

Psalm: 123

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Gospel: Mark 6:1-6a

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**IRONIES OF HER HEALING:** Mk 5:27; "Glory to you, hidden Son of God, because your healing power is proclaimed through the hidden suffering of the afflicted woman. Through this woman whom they could see the witnesses were enabled to behold the divinity cannot be seen. through the Son's own healing power his divinity became known. through the afflicted ones being healed her faith was made manifest. She caused him to be proclaimed, and indeed was honored with him. For truth was being proclaimed together with its heralds. If she was a witness to his divinity, he in turn was a witness to her faith ... He saw through to her hidden faith, and gave her a visible healing."

St. Ephrem the Syrian (c306-373)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 6/20/2021**

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online)

\$ 3,668.50

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

With this being my last column in this bulletin, I take this space to thank all the people of Immaculate Conception I've been overly blessed to come to know over the past 11 years. There have been many enjoyable, fun times, such as Italian Night, St. Patrick's Dinner, and Turkey Lurkey, which always drew an interesting looking crowd (in the best of ways of course). The Sunday liturgy has been a liturgy of holiness, with the opportunity to draw closer to our Lord Jesus in word and sacrament. The music at our liturgies – Sundays, Funerals, Weddings – has been professional and spectacular. We are very blessed to have the organist and cantors we do. They are professional to the core, and they love what they do.

There have been sad times along the way too, as any Parish will have throughout the course of any given year. Personally, the sadness is realized in two types of funerals; first, the unexpected and expected ones involving younger or middle-aged folks. These hurt the soul because we see their deaths as happening much too soon. Life, we know, is God's first gift to us. And when any person's life ends before, say, 50 or 60, or even 80 nowadays, we can gain a sense that they were "cheated" in years, from many years to few. But our faith teaches us they are now secure in the life that is eternal.

And second, the sadness as a priest of coming to know and befriend so many elderly folks whose faith has caused my own to expand and grow. There are too many names to name here at Immaculate Conception of the people who fall into this category of sadness. World War II veterans; their spouses they met at a dance; people who lived through the Great Depression who came to appreciate the little things in life; men and women who had absolutely incredible stories to tell about who they were, where they came from and grew up; what they did to serve God and country, the families they raised, and (one of my favorite) how many years they were able to collect a pension after their decades of labor. One of my favorite stories here was a guy names Jesse Owens (not the famous track star from the 1930's) who was a Worcester Firefighter for 30-some odd years. He lived well into his 90's, dying a few years back, collecting a pension from Worcester for more years than he served as a Firefighter. I love it! It would have been even better if he lived as many years as Moses.

The joys and sadness of being a Parish priest almost always revolve around the lives of the people we serve. When our people get along with one another, we inwardly rejoice. We can levitate when such friendliness and Christian love is open and obvious. When our people battle one another, and do not treat each other with the love and respect Christians are called to, any priest worth his salt will feel like a failure. We take it personal. We are realistic. We understand that not all people in any given Parish will hold hands singing kumbaya 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, pretending to be an eternal folk group. We really are realistic. But when there's a strong odor of dislike and discontent between two or more people in our Parish, it rubs our souls the wrong way. We take it to prayer. We call on the Holy Spirit to straighten out any present relational mess that is above and beyond us. We place any apparent confusion and animosity into God's hands where it belongs. We know our limitations, not pretending to be God, but being God's servants who serve Him in a limited, important capacity. We don't always have all the answers that folks may be searching for. I learned this truth early in seminary when a student asked Fr. Chuck Talor, a priest with 5 – yes, FIVE – doctorates, a question in class one day. Fr. Talor looked upward, thought about it for a moment, then humbly answered in an honest, gentle manner, "I'll get back to you with the answer for the next class." How could I not help but think, "If this guy can be stumped in relation to a question about our faith, then where does that leave me?" Answer: it leaves me as someone who should never pretend to have all the answers, but a priest who falls short in every part of life." All while doing the best we can.

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**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	June 26	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	June 27	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	June 28	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	June 29	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	June 30	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	July 1	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	July 3	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	July 4	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE**

“In the vast area in which the church has the mission of operating through dialogue, the pastoral ministry of penance and reconciliation is directed to the members of the body of the church principally through an adequate catechesis concerning the two distinct and complementary realities to which the synod fathers gave a particular importance and which they emphasized in some of the concluding propositions: These are penance and reconciliation. Catechesis is therefore the first means to be used... From the pastors of the church one expects, first of all, catechesis on reconciliation. This must be founded on the teaching of the Bible, especially the New Testament, on the need to rebuild the covenant with God in Christ the redeemer and reconciler. And in the light of this new communion in friendship, and as an extension of it, It must be founded on the teaching concerning the need to be reconciled with one's brethren, even if this means interrupting the offering of the sacrifice. Jesus strongly insists on this theme of fraternal reconciliation.”

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!**