

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. EDWIN MONTAÑA, PASTOR
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.	July 3	4:00 PM	Catherine Riley, 1st Anniversary, from Family (<i>St. Thomas, Apostle</i>)
Sun.	July 4	7:30 AM	Mary Riordan, 7th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Mary Zereski, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	July 5	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception (<i>St. Anthony Zaccaria, St. Elizabeth of Portugal</i>)
Tues.	July 6	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Maria Goretti</i>)
Wed.	July 7	9:00 AM	
Thurs.	July 8	8:00 AM	James Queenan, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sat.	July 10	4:00 PM	Sean Hastings, 2nd Anniversary, from Daughter
Sun.	July 11	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Todd Dickie, from Roland B. Malboeuf

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you to the entire parish who came together to throw the Going Away BBQ party for Fr. Riley. It was truly a parish event - everyone came together. Fr. Riley was touched and very thankful. Please check the parish Facebook page for photos of the party.

As of July 1st, Fr. Riley's new address is:
 St. Luke the Evangelist Church
 70 West Main Street
 Westborough, MA 01581

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, 'Son of man, I am sending you...'" (EZEKIEL 2:2-3) God has a plan for each of us. He calls us to do something for Him. But, He doesn't leave us on our own to figure it out. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. Are you listening for God's call? When you hear it, do you get on your feet and do the work He asks of you? Do not be afraid. God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. Answer His call.

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.

HELP 'MISSING' CATHOLICS COME HOME TO JESUS & THE MASS

Discover how God wants to use us to open doors for Catholics to come home to Jesus and Sunday Mass through person-centered outreach and singular welcoming. How can we extend concrete, loving, and joyful invitations to our missing brothers and sisters to return—*especially* with those who have been away for years? Our session includes prayer, reflection, talks, and small group sharing. **Tuesday, July 27, 6:45 to 9 pm via Zoom. Presenter: Allan F. Wright, MA.** Allan is a husband, father, Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall University, Orange, NJ, Catholic academy principal, author of 15 books, TV commentator, and radio host. Find out more about him at <http://www.allanwright.org>. **FREE REGISTRATION by Friday, July 23, (limited spaces!).** To receive the Zoom session link, send your name, email, and phone number to Esperanza Oliveras, prae77group@gmail.com. Hosted by the Parish Renewal and Evangelization Committee [PRAE], Diocese of Worcester.

UPCOMING CURSILLO WEEKENDS

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." It's time to learn more about your Faith. It's time to experience what our religion can do for you. Jesus is waiting for you, personally. Cursillo weekends are a wonderful, fun way to give you a start on this journey. Two weekends are being offered in 2021. A women's weekend running from **October 14-17**; and a men's weekend running from **November 11-14**. Go to www.fourthday.org and download an application today or call Pam Hamilton @ 774-239-8909 for more information. You will be glad you did!

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear parishioners of Immaculate Conception,
 First, a little bit about myself.

I was born Aug. 31, 1984, in Medellin, Colombia, the son of Juan and Judith (Baicue) Montana. I graduated in 2001 from Luis Lopez de Mesa High School. I entered Mayor Seminary of Medellin in 2002 and received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the Pontifical Bolivarian University in Medellin in 2004. Then, I studied Theology in Colombia until I came to the Diocese of Worcester in 2007. I attended Clark University for ESL studies (English as a Second Language) and from 2008 to 2011 went to St. John's Seminary, Brighton, MA to finish my Theology studies.

Bishop McManus ordained me to the priesthood on June 4, 2011, at St. Paul Cathedral. My first assignment was associate pastor at St. Anthony of Padua in Fitchburg from 2011 to 2014. After that, I was assigned pastor of Our Lady Immaculate and St. Francis parishes in Athol and St. Peter Parish in Petersham from 2014 to 2021. Now, I have been named pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Worcester, effective July 1, 2021.

In the Second Reading the Lord tells St. Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness". So, Paul's answer to this powerful assurance is: "I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me".

As I gladly begin my ministry as your Pastor, I can't help but make mine St. Paul's words and trust in the Lord that His grace will always be sufficient when we allow it to work within us. Then, not just in our weaknesses, but most importantly in our strengths and talents the power of Christ in our midst will be manifested.

I sincerely pray that you will come to accept me as your pastor. May you allow me to love you and serve you. I pledge to pray for each of you every day as I come to know you. I have come to learn over the years that we serve God because He wants us to serve Him, not because we are worthy.

May God bless all our undertakings together. We need to help each other to get to heaven. We need to believe that God wants our Parish to continue thriving.

I look forward to working and praying with you. Please know I look forward to getting to meet you and to know the wonderful ways God is working in your life.

I ask your prayers for me each day and I thank God for allowing me to serve among you,

Fr. Edwin Montana

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.

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!

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 \$400.00. Thank you.

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 \$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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 6/27/2021

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online)	\$ 4,792.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 273.00
Candles	\$ 141.00

READINGS FOR NEXT JULY 11, THE 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Amos 7:12-15
 Psalm: 85
 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14
 Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

From a Treatise by Saint Gaudentius of Brescia, Bishop

One man has died for all, and now in every church in the mystery of bread and wine he heals those for whom he is offered in sacrifice, giving life to those who believe and holiness to those who consecrate the offering. This is the flesh of the Lamb; this is his blood. The bread that came from heaven declared: *The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.* It is significant, too, that his blood should be given to us in the form of wine, for his own words in the gospel, *I am the true vine*, imply clearly enough that whenever wine is offered as a representation of Christ's passion, it is his blood. This means that it was of Christ that the blessed patriarch Jacob prophesied when he said: *He will wash his tunic in wine and his cloak in the blood of the grape.* The tunic was our flesh, which Christ was to put on like a garment and which he was to wash in his own blood.

Creator and Lord of all things, whatever their nature, he brought forth bread from the earth and changed it into his own body. Not only had he the power to do this, but he had promised it; and, as he had changed water into wine, he also changed wine into his own blood. *It is the Lord's Passover*, Scripture tells us, that is, the Lord's passing. We are no longer to look upon the bread and wine as earthly substances. They have become heavenly, because Christ has passed into them and changed them into his body and blood. What you receive is the body of him who is the heavenly bread, and the blood of him who is the sacred vine; for when he offered his disciples the consecrated bread and wine, he said: *This is my body, this is my blood.* We have put our trust in him. I urge you to have faith in him; truth can never deceive.

When Christ told the crowds that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood, they were horrified and began to murmur among themselves: *This teaching is too hard; who can be expected to listen to it?* As I have already told you, thoughts such as these must be banished. The Lord himself used heavenly fire to drive them away by going on to declare: *It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.*

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Let us never assume that if we live good lives we will be without sin; our lives should be praised only when we continue to beg for pardon. But men are hopeless creatures, and the less they concentrate on their won sins, the more interested they become in the sins of others. they seek to criticize, not to correct. Unable to excuse themselves, they are ready to accuse others. This is not the way that David showed us how to pray and make amends to God, when he said: *I acknowledge my transgression, and my sin is ever before me.* He did not concentrate on others' sins; he turned his thoughts upon himself. he did not merely stroke the surface, but he plunged inside and went deep down within himself. He did not spare himself, and therefore was not impudent in asking to be spared."

St. Augustine (360-430)

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 safety and well-being of all students on summer vacation and all teachers and administrators.*

From a Letter to Diognetus

Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life. Their teaching is not based upon reveries inspired by the curiosity of men. Unlike some people, they champion no purely human doctrine. With regard to dress, food and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to be living in, whether it is Greek or foreign.

And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They live in their own countries as though they were only passing through. They play their full role as citizens, but labor under all the disabilities of aliens. Any country can be their homeland, but for them their homeland, wherever it may be, is a foreign country. Like others, they marry and have children, but they do not expose them. They share their meals, but not their wives. They live in the flesh, but they are not governed by the desires of the flesh. They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. Obedient to the laws, they yet live on a level that transcends the law.

Christians love all men, but all men persecute them. Condemned because they are not understood, they are put to death, but raised to life again. They live in poverty, but enrich many; they are totally destitute, but possess an abundance of everything. They suffer dishonor, but that is their glory. They are defamed, but vindicated. A blessing is their answer to abuse, deference their response to insult. For the good they do they receive the punishment of malefactors, but even then they rejoice, as though receiving the gift of life. They are attacked by the Jews as aliens, they are persecuted by the Greeks, yet no one can explain the reason for this hatred.

To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body. As the soul is present in every part of the body, while remaining distinct from it, so Christians are found in all the cities of the world, but cannot be identified with the world. As the visible body contains the visible soul, so Christians are seen living in the world, but their religious life remains unseen. The body hates the soul and wars against it, not because of any injury the soul has done it, but because of the restriction the soul places on its pleasures. Similarly, the world hates Christians, not because they have done it any wrong, but because they are opposed to its enjoyments.

Christians love those who hate them just as the soul loves the body and all its members despite the body's hatred. It is by the soul, enclosed within the body, that the body is held together, and similarly, it is by the Christians, detained in the world as in a prison, that the world is held together. The soul, though immortal, has a mortal dwelling place; and the Christians also live for a time amidst perishable things, while awaiting the freedom from change and decay that will be theirs in heaven. As the soul benefits from the deprivation of food and drink, so Christians flourish under persecution. Such is the Christian's lofty and divinely appointed function, from which he is not permitted to excuse himself.

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	July 3	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	July 4	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	July 5	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	July 6	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	July 7	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	July 8	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	July 10	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	July 11	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

RECONCILIATION AND PENANCE

“It is good to renew and reaffirm this faith at a moment when it might be weakening, losing something of its completeness or entering into an area of shadow and silence, threatened as it is by the negative elements of the above-mentioned crisis. For the sacrament of confession is indeed being undermined, on the one hand by the obscuring of the moral and religious conscience, the lessening of a sense of sin, the distortion of the concept of repentance and the lack of effort to live an authentically Christian life. And on the other hand, it is behind by the sometimes widespread idea that one can obtain forgiveness directly from God, even in a habitual way, without approaching the sacrament of reconciliation. A further negative influence is routine sacramental practice sometimes lacking in fervor and real spontaneity, deriving perhaps from a mistaken and distorted idea of the effects of the sacrament.”

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!**