

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception
353 Grove Street
Worcester, MA 01605-3907

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Immaculate Conception Parish



RECTORY ADDRESS

353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605
Phone: 508-754-8419 Fax: 508-754-8508
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Rev. Walter J. Riley, **PASTOR**

KEVIN DEIGNAN, **PERMANENT DEACON**

FRANK MYSKA, **PERMANENT DEACON**

MARY SYCKS **ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTER**

C. Henry Mason, **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Sharon Rainville, **PARISH SECRETARY**

Matthew Foster, **PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

LYNDA MONAHAN, **SAFE ENVIRONMENT
COORDINATOR**

Please visit our website at

www.icworc.com and Facebook

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM

THURSDAY 8:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 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.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Anyone is welcome to join the Parish Community.

Please contact the Rectory and introduce yourself.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	May 4	4:00 AM	Donald Leffingwell by family
Sun.	May 5	7:30 AM	Gertrude McDermott, 12th Anniversary by family
		10:00 AM	Norena Remillard, 5th Anniversary, Frederick Remillard, 3rd Anniversary Robert Senior, 13th Anniversary and John Daly, 16th Anniversary by family
Mon.	May 6	9:00 AM	Extended Riley Family
Tues.	May 7	9:00 AM	Michele Manzello
Wed.	May 8	9:00 AM	Maria Daigneau
Thurs.	May 9	8:00 AM	Geraldine O'Connor
Sat.	May 11	4:00 PM	Agnes Lonergan, 22nd Anniversary by family
Sun.	May 12	7:30 AM	William O'Neil by family
		10:00 AM	Pat Greaney by family

THIS WEEK the text for the Sixth Sunday of Easter may be found at #935 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

FRIDAY FASTING AND INTENTION

Thank you to all in our parish who participate in our weekly Friday fast of abstaining from meat and fasting for one meal. This early Catholic tradition is a wonderful way of reminding ourselves of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for all of us on Good Friday. The intention for the upcoming is *for all those who suffered injuries at the recent events at the Boston Marathon, that God will grant them healing and strength in the months and years to come.*

PROJECT LIFE AND LIBERTY

Located at each entrance to the Church are postcards for the Project Life and Liberty campaign presently going on in many dioceses throughout the country. There exists a real threat to religious liberty in our nation, where Catholics and others are being pressured by our own government to act against our conscience and faith beliefs for the purpose of furthering a political agenda. These beliefs, such as not being forced to provide pills that will kill a child in the womb, we hold to be sacred and above any human interference. Government is trying to play God, which is an old, familiar story. We ask that our parishioners consider filling out the postcards and send them off to our two Senators and local Congressman so they will know we disagree in the strongest terms against unwanted and unnecessary interference. Thank you for your participation.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FACEBOOK PAGE

Facebook can now be accessed from our Immaculate Conception parish website. Our hope is to have photos of the activities that take place in our parish throughout the year, as well as the Scouts who use our facilities.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION THIS WEEK

This coming Thursday, May 9th, we celebrate the solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule for this Solemnity will consist of two Masses: a vigil Mass on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. and a Mass on Thursday Morning at 8:00 a.m. Please note there is no Mass on *Thursday evening*. The evening Mass will be the *Vigil Mass only on Wednesday*.

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY

Our parish will begin holding a Holy Hour on the first Tuesday of each month. The Holy Hour will be in support of Religious Liberty and Respect for Human Life. The first one will be held in the Church on May 7 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

ALTAR SERVERS...Anyone who has received their First Communion and would like to become an altar server, please speak with either Fr. Riley or deacons Kevin and Frank. With some servers graduating this year and moving on to college, we are in need of servers for the different Masses, especially the 4:00 p.m. vigil Mass on Saturdays. Thank you.

DOCUMENTARY ON ABORTION

On Sunday, May 5th at 9:00 p.m. EST, FOX News will air nationally a documentary about the abortion doctor Kermit Gosnell who has been on trial for the murder of babies who were born alive and of a woman who came to his abortion clinic. This is a very important trial that raises many key issues in our national debate over abortion.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY 2013

Thus far, our parish has raised \$71,191 (76%) toward our goal of \$93,200 for the Partners in Charity Appeal. Thank you to those who have made early donations for the Appeal. Envelopes will remain in the pews and at each entrance to the Church for anyone else willing to make a donation on behalf of Immaculate Conception.

Every donation helps toward reaching our goal. To make payments easier, please consider spreading your donation over the course of 10 months. For those who wish to donate online, you can do so through the Diocese of Worcester website at worcesterdiocese.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

THANK YOU...to the following parishioners for volunteering their time to teach religious education at Immaculate Conception: Anita Callahan, Sr. Rosetta Serra, Nicole Monfredo, Lee Morin, Hannah Sycks, Eric Monahan, Fran Mahoney, Ken Borowy, Kathy Dupree, Stephen Sycks and Kevin Deignan. Your generosity with your time and devotion to the children of our Parish is a wonderful demonstration of God's love.

FIRST COMMUNION THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, May 5th, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass, our parish will celebrate First Communion. Please keep our 2nd graders in your prayers as they prepare for the reception of Jesus' Body and Blood. It's been a long year of hard work and preparation for them. May God bless each of our First communicants along with their proud families.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

What has the Church said about religious liberty since Vatican II, for example, through Pope Benedict XVI? In the words of Benedict, "The distinction between Church and State, between God and Caesar, remains fundamental to Christianity. The Church has a proper independence and is structured on the basis of her faith as a community which that State must recognize."

YEAR OF FAITH

Throughout the entire story of salvation, as passed down in the Scriptures, worship and faith have been intrinsically linked. Faith typically leads to an expression of worship in which people do not only profess their belief, but offer a sacrifice of what is their very best, a symbol of part of their own lives. The narratives come in the context of new experiences of faith in the one God. Abram first heard God speak, and then he offered sacrifice; Jacob heard the renewal of the promise of land and descendants and set up the stone at Bethel with an anointing. Later, Moses met God, learned his name and purpose for Israel, which would be worship at Mount Sinai. Then the worship took place, with sacrifices, after the people professed faith in the words of the Lord.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you. What joy could surpass this, O Virgin Mother? What grace can excel that which God has granted to you alone? What could be imagined more dazzling or more delightful? Before the miracle we witness in you, all else pales; all else is inferior with the grace you have been given. All else, even what is most desirable, must take second place and enjoy a lesser importance." *St. Sophronius (560-638)*

THE POPE APP

For those who wish to follow the new Holy Father, Pope Francis, look into downloading "The Pope App." It allows us Catholics the opportunity to follow Francis on a daily basis, and read some of the reflections and homilies he presents each day. The download is free.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Sunday Ordinary Income was \$4055.00
Fuel Collection was \$25.00

HOPE FOR HOUSING FOOD CARDS

Thank you to those in our parish who continue to support this vital ministry toward those on the verge of homelessness. Your weekly/monthly purchases help to stem the tide of those struggling to remain in their homes. The purpose of Hope for Housing is to prevent homelessness. Each year this organization does so on behalf of numerous families through our common purchase of food cards, in union with many other parishes in Worcester County. For our parishioners who have not done so yet, please consider assisting in this ministry that costs us nothing, yet builds up our community. A \$50 food card is worth \$50. Last week's total purchases for our parish was \$505.00. Thank you for your support.

SACRAMENTALIZING MARRIAGES

I extend an offer to any and all Catholic couples, or anyone who knows or is related to a couple, who were married by either a Justice of the Peace, or by a Minister without the presence of a Catholic priest, to consider having your marriage become a Sacramental relationship blessed in the Catholic Church. I'm not sure where to begin on this topic; either the Church has done a poor job catechizing and teaching sacramental marriage as the fullness of the marital relationship, or a whole generation is simply missing the message on how a baptized Catholic is meant to be married in the church. This issue is much too important to ignore. I invite any couple to contact me at the church if either spouse, or both spouses, are baptized Catholic and your marriage is presently not a sacramental relationship. The process for making your marriage a sacrament is, and trust me when I say this, very easy. The purpose here is to bring marriages for Catholics to the point where they are meant to be in the eyes of God, that being the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS READING

A reminder that there are a number of books in a small bookcase located in the candle and prayer room in the back of the Church. These books are from Fr. Riley's personal library. Anyone is invited to take one or two, or more, for spiritual reading, with the expectation of returning them when finished. There are many excellent topics on the shelves connected to our faith. Some new titles have been recently placed into the bookcase.

FROM THE PASTOR

As we celebrate the joy of First Communion this Sunday at the 10:00 Mass, the children receiving Jesus for the first time will humbly remind us adults of the innocence needed for proper reception of the Sacrament. We give thanks to God for their preparation at both home and Church, along with their youthful innocence that shines forth on such a day.

It's a long road they travel before they arrive at this day. The 2nd graders have put in lots of hard work and class time leading up to the 10:00 Mass on May 5th. May God reward them for their child-like commitment, along with such dedicated parents who have made sure their presence and learning has been complete to this point.

The Sacraments are a gift from God in a very particular way of Divine presence. And we should never take them for granted. I was just reading of the young boy who was killed at the Boston Marathon, 8-year old Martin Richard, and that he received his First Communion last year. We can only sympathize with the intense grief his parents, all his family, and school friends must be experiencing at this time. To go from the great joy of celebrating reception of the Holy Eucharist to a funeral Mass a year later due to terrorism is incomprehensible.

We embrace and cherish our children each day precisely because of the fragility of life and its many unpredictable ways. What all our 2nd graders receiving First Communion this year in all parishes arrive at in their lives is the joy of being one with Christ in the most profound manner. "I will be with you until the end of the age." Jesus did not speak these words in parable form, like the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Or the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Their meaning was, is, and forever remains literal. God is with us. Not from a distance. Not in a purely symbolic way. But from without and within literally.

So to the children we go, look, and learn. The children who don't complicate our world. We see them receive our Lord with purity of heart and mind. They receive Jesus with eagerness and yearning. They come to Christ with no issues or attitudes. This is their day of showing the rest of us that "one must become like a little child to enter the kingdom of God." One must become childlike, and remain childlike, to gain Christ in heart and soul. May God bless each recipient of First Communion this Sunday, along with their parents and families. It's an appropriate day to learn what really matters. And what matters is the presence of Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Peace
Fr. Riley

THIS WEEK AT
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 4	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 5	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 6	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Rosary Mass Religious Ed
Tues.	May 7	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Rosary Mass Boy Scouts
Wed.	May 8	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Girl Scouts
Thurs.	May 9	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	May 10		
Sat.	May 11	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 12	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER
AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!!**

Name _____

Address: _____

**City
& Zip** _____

Phone _____

Number of People in Household _____

**PLEASE, TEAR THIS OFF AND PLACE IN THE
COLLECTION BASKET!**