

**CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS**

Immaculate Conception  
353 Grove Street  
Worcester, MA 01605-3907

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005046

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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

# Immaculate Conception Parish



## **RECTORY ADDRESS**

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**REV. WALTER RILEY, PASTOR**

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

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COORDINATOR**

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## **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.

			<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>
Sat.	June 28	4:00 PM	Thomas Coty, Months Mind by The Regele Family
Sun.	June 29	7:30 AM	Anne M. Kelly by family
		10:00 AM	Kevin Eressy, Months Mind by family
Mon.	June 30	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	July 1	9:00 AM	
Wed.	July 2	9:00 AM	Souls in Purgatory
Thurs.	July 3	8:00 AM	Michael Sargentelli, 3rd Anniversary by family (St. Thomas)
Sat.	July 5	4:00 PM	William C. Herrmann, Curtiss R. Herrmann & Arthur S. Lindsey by family
Sun.	July 6	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	Peter O. Brothers, Jr., 1st Anniversary by family



**THIS WEEK** the text for Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles may be found at #1057 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 Friday is *for Fr. Jim Boland as he begins his first priestly assignment at St. Luke’s Church in Westboro*

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY**

Thank you to all of our parishioners who have donated to the Partners in Charity campaign thus far this year. Each donation helps to support the financial lifeline of our Diocese in ways of serving the poor and needy, serving retired priests and seminarians, and serving the many cultural ministries that exist in our diocese, among other necessary ministries. It would be good to reach our parish goal soon, hopefully in the month of June, as opposed to the campaign dragging on over the summer months. In order for this to happen, we would need a donation from most every family in the parish. *Every donation makes a difference.* For those who have not yet made one, we ask that you please consider doing so over the next few weeks to help complete this campaign. Our parish goal is \$93,200. Thus far, we have raise \$89,275.00 (96%) from 192 donors. May God bless our parish and its annual generous response to Partners in Charity.

**PRAYERS FOR BISHOP MCMANUS**

Please keep Bishop McManus in your prayers as he will be having surgery in late June for prostate cancer. His recovery is expected to last through July. May the healing touch of our Risen Lord be upon him.

**SECOND ENVELOPE NEXT WEEK**

The annual Peter’s Pence collection will be held this week at all Masses on the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul. This collection helps to support the works of the Holy Father in his ministry as the Vicar of Christ on earth. Thank you for your support.

**REST IN PEACE**

May God grant eternal rest and peace to recently deceased Alice Mitchell, a long time parishioner of Immaculate Conception. May the faith she so devotedly lived each day bring Alice to her eternal reward with the angels and saints.

**LEAVING MASS EARLY**

Because of the amount of people leaving Mass early at each of the Sunday Masses, I feel compelled to write a few words on this subject. 99% of the time when people leave before the final blessing or final song, or after receiving Communion, it is a result of habit. There is the occasional “I have to go home to care for my sick spouse,” which, of course, is understandable. But my guess is that most people leaving the community of faithful a couple minutes early is simply a result of their doing this over the years to the point where it becomes habit. I must confess I take it personally, since it seems the message is, “Fr. Riley, we don’t need or want your blessing.” I know this is not the case, but I can’t help but think such a thought. It’s Scriptural to stay to the end. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass mirrors the Last Supper. At the Last Supper, Mark’s Gospel says “Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” The singing concluded the celebration. The Eleven stayed after receiving the Lord for the first time in the Eucharistic species, and they stayed until the song was over. I humbly ask that those who leave early out of habit to please rethink and break this habit. There are important events that occur quickly—from reception of Communion to the end of our liturgical celebration. If you know me, you know I don’t keep the good people of Immaculate Conception for any length of time at the end of Mass. So I invite anyone who leaves early to stay for my final blessing and, at the 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses, the final song. Thank you, Fr. Riley

**CHURCH STEEPLE AND 9TH DIVISION MEMORIAL LIGHTS**

As a parish we extend thanks to a parishioner who wishes to remain unnamed for donating lights that now light up the steeple of our Church each night. Coming up from Grove Street and looking in the distance, it is a beautiful sight to see the Immaculate Conception steeple glowing from afar.

Also, at the same time, the national 9th Division group of soldiers and families have spent much money on refurbishing the Memorial on our grounds. Each night the 9th Division Memorial is lit up along with the flag pole. Fr. Connors must be smiling from his perch in heaven as he looks down on his “prize of remembrance.” It’s worth the time to take a drive by at night to see the Church steeple and Memorial lit up.

**FOOD PANTRY**...Spaghetti Sauce, canned Bake Beans, canned Fruit, Hearty Soups, Spam, canned Hams, Mac & Cheese and Rice Pilaf, canned Pasta, Bisquick, Instant Mashed Potatoes are all needed. Thank you for your generosity.

Children's Bulletins are available to all children at Immaculate Conception. They can be found at all three entrances in the church. They are a great tool for families to share their faith together.

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

“The disciple has a grave obligation to Christ, his Master, to grow daily in his knowledge of the truth he has received from him, to be faithful in announcing it and vigorous in defending it without having recourse to methods which are contrary to the spirit of the Gospel.”

Vatican II Document, Declaration on Religious Liberty

**HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY**

Our monthly Holy Hour for the dignity of human life and religious liberty in our nation will be held this Tuesday, July 1st, at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. This Holy, Holy is most appropriate for this week as we remember the freedom we enjoy in our nation, along with those that are presently under attack. We pray for life and liberty to be respected and promoted by all

**DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

“Christ’s blood reveals to man that his greatness, and therefore his vocation, consists in the sincere gift of self. Precisely because it is poured out as the gift of life, the blood of Christ is no longer a sign of death, of definitive separation from the brethren, but the instrument of a communion which is richness of life for all. Whoever in the Sacrament of the Eucharist drinks this blood and abides in Jesus is drawn into the dynamism of his love and gift of life, in order to bring to its fullness the original vocation to love which belongs to everyone.”

Blessed John Paul II, from the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*,  
The Gospel of Life

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“This day has been made holy by the passion of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. We are, therefore, not talking about some obscure martyrs. *For their voice has gone forth to all the world, and to the ends of the earth their message.*” These martyrs realized what they taught: They pursued justice, they confessed the truth, they died for it.”

*St. Augustine of Hippo (360-430)*

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 6TH**

**14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalm 145

2nd Reading: Romans 8:9, 11-13

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

**CONGRATULATIONS TO RECENTLY BAPTIZED**

Congratulations to all the families of those who were recently baptized here at Immaculate Conception:

*Abigail Ann Salter*, daughter of Thomas and Kathleen Salter

*Sophie Rita Neely*, daughter of Christopher and Lisa Neely

*Griffin Joseph Christiano*, son of Erin Christiano and Kevin Russell

*Ava Leona Williams*, daughter of James and Danielle Williams

*Samantha Quinn Diggins*, daughter of Garrett Diggins and Thuy Nguyen

*Grace Ann Brunelle*, daughter of Daniel and Megan Brunelle

*Rocco Anthony Young*, son of Sean and Nadine Young

*Ashton Carter Marhefka*, son of Matthew and Randi Marhefka

*Raelyn Marie Lemerise*, daughter of Joshua Lemerise and Jaclyn Letourneau

May God bless each of these children and their parents in their Christian journey of faith.

**HOPE FOR HOUSING FOOD CARDS**

Please consider purchasing food cards for the purpose of helping to stop homelessness here in Central Massachusetts. 5% of each card purchased will be donated by the participating grocery chain, while the purchase receives the full value of the card that is purchased. The money raised from this ministry has helped to prevent hundreds of families from being homeless, a situation that no one in our country should have to experience. Last week at Immaculate Conception our parishioners purchased \$250.00 of cards. Thank you to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**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

**TRIP TO THE SHRINE OF DIVINE MERCY**

Our Parish will be hosting a trip to the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA on Friday, July 18th. The tour includes a full course Cork n’ Hearth luncheon, visit to the national Divine Mercy Shrine in beautiful western Massachusetts, Silver Fox Motor Coach, and a day of good company with others. The cost of the trip is \$59.00 per person. The bus will depart from Immaculate Conception at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 6:00 p.m. Please contact Michelle Deignan at 508-853-0820 or mmdeignan@charter.net for sign up. Flyers for the trip will left at each entrance to the Church.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Sunday Ordinary Income  
\$2790.00

Misc. Envelopes  
\$17.00

Online Envelopes for May  
\$1060.00

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

“But who do you say that I am?”

Coming from Jesus, we may think this to be a loaded question. But it is not. Jesus asks this question to Peter, not to try to trap him like a lawyer trying to trap a witness testifying in a courtroom, but rather that Peter and the entire Church may understand the truth of the Person of Christ.

Jesus doesn't play games with his identity. And he certainly has not played games with our salvation, although we know God does have a wonderful sense of humor at times. But a sense of humor is quite different from not taking serious the most serious of situations, that being our eternal state.

“But who do say that I am?” Peter gives the one, correct answer; “You are the Christ, the son of the living God.” and in these words of Peter we find our Savior.

Paul, on the other hand, needed to be knocked down, blinded, frightened, and led by the hand to a strange house to be baptized before he could speak Peter's answer. Previously, his answer to Jesus' question would have been something like, “You are a false messiah. Another phony who has come along proclaiming certain great things about yourself, but was put to death by the Romans, thus proving you were false and defeated. You are not the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Truth be told, Jesus did Paul the greatest of favors when he knocked Paul for a loop that sent him spiraling like a mudslide down a mountainside. By doing so, Paul was blessed to “loop” back to Peter's words of Divine Validation. By doing so, Paul's “loop” led him to become the most fearless of preachers, bringing the Good News of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection to numerous communities of believers. Some knockdowns are heaven-sent. The same goes for our lives.

As we celebrate the two Apostles this Sunday, the Rock and the Fearless Preacher of the word, may we recognize that, even though the two of them took different roads to Christ, one being called from a boat while the other was knocked down on the road to persecuting Christians, Peter and Paul share the same beliefs and same faith in their mission of bringing the truth of the Person of Jesus to all the nations.

The before and after of Peter and Paul's lives speak to our own. Their “before” life consists of either not knowing Jesus, like Peter, or persecuting Christ, like Paul. The lack of understanding the truth of Jesus is a big problem in today's world. Peter takes care of that for us; “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Is there any form of attacking Jesus in our lives, be it Christ personally, or attacking Jesus in the treatment of our brothers and sisters? If so, Paul's humility is the conversion we need.

What Peter and Paul imitate and model for us is the total giving of their lives to the Lord. They show us how not to hold back on Jesus. This would be the “after” part of their lives. Their example of jumping into the faith, whatever the manner of their being called, whether from a boat or knocked down, is the path that leads to total service and unity. Their “before” lives were vastly different. Their being called by Jesus was vastly different. Their “after” lives were vastly similar. Their faith was bonded in love and truth. Their respect for one another was mutual. They had in common the Lord Jesus Christ. And from their example, we learn how to serve and represent the faith without holding back.

Peace,  
*Fr. Riley*

**THIS WEEK AT**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

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

Fri. July 4



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Sat.	July 5	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	July 6	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

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

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City  
& Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Envelopes** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of People in Household** \_\_\_\_\_

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