

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception
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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
Religious Education Phone: 508-868-8119

REV. WALTER 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.	Nov. 22	4:00 PM	Shirley Montecalvo, Birthday Memorial by family
Sun.	Nov. 23	7:30 AM	Jane Brothers by the Dowd family
		10:00 AM	May Louise Jennette, 1st Anniversary by the O'Malley family
Mon.	Nov. 24	9:00 AM	
Tues.	Nov. 25	9:00 AM	Dianne Dowler by a friend
Wed.	Nov. 26	9:00 AM	
Thurs.	Nov. 27	9:00 AM	Kathleen Midgley, Months Mind by family
Sat.	Nov. 29	4:00 PM	Margaret Agurkis, 9th Anniversary by family
Sun.	Nov. 30	7:30 AM	Donald Letendre by family
		10:00 AM	Norman Lovely, 1st Anniversary by family

THIS WEEK the text for the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #1047 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

FRIDAY FASTING AND INTENTION

Thank you to all of our parishioners who continue to participate in our weekly Friday fasting by sacrificing one meal, abstaining from meat, and praying for the intention offered each week. This early Catholic tradition is an apt way of reminding ourselves of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the Cross for the salvation of the world. If anyone participating in this spiritual exercise has an intention they would like to offer for our parish, community, nation, or the world, or any appropriate intention appropriate consistent with our purpose, please speak with Fr. Riley. The intention for this coming Friday is *for our 2nd grade religion class as they prepare for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in early December.*

RCIA CANDIDATES

Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program continues each Monday, at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. This program is for any adults (18+) who have yet to be baptized, receive Holy Communion, or Confirmed in the Church. The RCIA process leads to the reception of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil next year. If you know of anyone who is in this present state, needing to receive any of the above sacraments, please speak with Fr. Riley.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS AND COLLECTION

Mass for Thanksgiving Day will be held at 9:00 a.m. The normal time for Thursday Mass is 8:00 a.m. but for this one Thursday of the year we move it to 9:00 a.m. The annual collection taken up at Thanksgiving Day Mass supports the St. Vincent de Paul Society here in our parish. This collection greatly assists their outreach efforts to our local community, especially around the holidays.

SCRIPTURE STUDY RESUMES

Scripture Study will take place this Wednesday, November 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory. All are invited. Please bring your own Bible.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, November 30th,

1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17;19b; 64:2-7

Psalm 80

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Matthew 13:33-37

ON COMMITMENT TO ECUMENISM

"...the (Second Vatican) Council states clearly, 'Concern for restoring unity pertains to the whole Church, faithful and clergy alike. It extends to everyone, according to the ability of each, whether it be exercised in daily Christian living or in theological and historical studies.'" St. John Paul II, from *Ut Unum Sint*, On commitment to Ecumenism (1995)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parish Council will meet this Sunday, November 23rd following the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the rectory.

VISITATION HOUSE BABY BOTTLES

Thank you to our many parishioners who have taken and returned a baby bottle to help support the pro-life ministry at Visitation House here in Worcester. Each year our parish supports this life-saving ministry that takes place here in our city, helping pregnant women who most times have no other place to turn for support, and caring for all their needs. Visitation House provides for such women in crisis a place to live, their food, counselling, employment guidance, and all the basic needs in order to ensure for a safe delivery for the child and care for each mother. Please consider being generous to this powerful ministry that witnesses to the sanctity of human life. The bottles that have been taken may be returned over the course of November, when all bottles will be sent to Visitation House after the last Sunday of the month. Thank you for your support.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to the newly baptized in our Parish, Clare Marie Cawley, daughter of Kevin & Shanna Cawley, and Mason Jonathin Wrzosek, son of Jason and Stephanie Wrzosek. May God bless each of these families, their children, and the promised commitment of raising their child in the practice of the faith. And may God's grace help to produce a saint for the Church in these children.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) provides funding for groups that make lasting change and uplift the poor in the United States. CCHD grants improve education, support economic development, and help communities provide housing in low-income neighbourhoods. Help us continue to defend human dignity and aid those living on the margins of society. Please give to the CCHD Collection.

Religious Education

Religious Education classes take place Sunday, November 23rd at 8:45 a.m. for children in grades K-6 and Monday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m. for children in grades 7-10. Confirmation Class takes place on Monday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant

We are very excited to announce the return of the children's Christmas Pageant. All children at Immaculate Conception are invited to join us for Christmas Pageant rehearsals on the following dates: November 23rd, December 7th & 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the church. Dress rehearsal is on December 20th at 10:00 a.m. We have many roles for all the children. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119. Any Adults that would like to volunteer as costume coordinators or "herders" to guide our littlest angels and sheep the morning of the performance, please contact Mary Sycks. The Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday, December 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the church.

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE.

Turkey Lurkey will take place on Saturday, November 22nd from 5:30—9:00 + p.m. Donations for this family event can be dropped off at the rectory. Note: New children's toys, Gift cards for food (Shaw's, Big Y, Stop n' Shop), Restaurant gift cards, homemade gifts, Sporting event tickets, or Misc. Baskets. Thank you in advance for collecting any donations for this fun event.

The Coffee Shop will be open this Sunday, November 23rd after the 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Masses. Note: The supplies for the Coffee Shop are very low. We are looking for donations of paper plates, cups, coffee cups, napkins, bowls, plastic forks, knives, spoons, and coffee. Thank you for your help in advance.

Please contact Jim Hester if you're able to volunteer to be on the Activities committee 508-852-3473 or e-mail

BUS TRIP TO NEWPORT ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Our parish will be hosting a bus trip to Newport, R.I. on Tuesday, December 9th, to the Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant for a great buffet, play, and cabaret performance. "Lie, Steal, Genuflect!" is a funny story about a rich uncle, his niece (a nun and heir to his estate), and nephews, who pull out all stops to get their hands on the money. The bus leaves the Church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and returns around 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$79 and includes an Ocean Drive sightseeing tour, Playhouse admission, and buffet. Deadline to register for this trip is November 30. Send check payable to Fox Tours to Michelle Deignan, 227 St. Nicholas Ave. Worcester, MA 01606. Any questions call 508-853-0820.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 3512.00
Misc. Envelopes	\$ 95.00

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Too many use their religion as medicine and not as food. They make of it a remedy for evil and not a means to good. This attitude leads, inevitably, to a sectioning of life, in which only a small part is set aside for Christian practice."

Edward Leen from *Why the Cross?*

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL IN WORCESTER

St. Christopher Parish, 90 West Boylston St., Worcester (near Stop & Shop) will host its Christmas Festival on Saturday, Dec. 6th from 9 am-3 pm. Come enjoy the festivities including a live jazz band to get you in the Christmas spirit.

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 \$445.00 of cards. Thank you to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

WOMEN OF FAITH—Advent Day of Prayer—Dancing Toward the Light

Saturday, December 13, 2014, 9:30 am—1:00 pm, St. Anne's Convent, 720 Boston Post Road East, Marlborough, MA

This Advent day of prayer is a time to be enlightened, rejuvenated and blessed by gathering with women of faith who seek the Light who is Christ. "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." Is 9:1. There will be reflections, group prayer, faith sharing, fellowship, and time for personal prayer. The presenter will be Sr. Nancy Sheridan, SASV, a spiritual director, retreat leader, and consultant in the area of spiritual development.

"Coffee and" & lunch will be provided. Registration fee is \$5.00.

Pre-registration and payment is required by Friday 12/5/14. Please email or call Lori Pandiscio, 508-498-3778, lamp.lighter9@verizon.net or Sr. Yvette Bellerose, 774-239-3372, srybellerose@yahoo.com to pre-register.

Come...Walk with us toward the *Light*.

MARCH FOR LIFE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The 42nd annual March for Life in Washington, DC will take place on Thursday, January 22, 2015. Buses for this event will leave St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday evening following the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 pm., travelling to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington in time for the annual march at noon. Buses will return at approximately 1:00 am on January 23rd to St. Paul's Cathedral. Cost is \$70 per person for registration postmarked by December 31, and \$85 thereafter. For More details go to www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life or contact the Respect Life Office at 508-929-4311. For those wishing to attend and cannot afford the cost, our Parish is willing to assist in this area. Please call the rectory or speak to Fr. Riley.

PRAY THE ROSARY at Little Audrey Chapel every Tuesday at 7 pm for our families, the world and our country.

FROM THE PASTOR

We're very blessed here at Immaculate Conception to have many parishioners who remind us of the importance of the great virtue of charity. I single out at this time of year in particular our St. Vincent de Paul Society. This group of men and women each year take the time and energy to organize a number of food baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for families in need. They live out the spirit of St. Vincent in ways that make a Christian difference in our Worcester community.

As we arrive at another celebration of the wonderful holiday of Thanksgiving this coming Thursday, may we do so with hearts and hands open to the plight of others both here in our local community and throughout the world. Thanksgiving is a secular holiday with religious roots that calls our attention to the truth that not all people have it made, or have it easy, or have the company of family or friends. Sadly, there are some who are alone on a day that celebrates a communal feast. If you know of a person in this situation, don't be afraid to invite them to share some delicious food at your dinner table.

I was recently invited by a relative to stop by the St. John's Food for the Poor Program on Temple St. and help serve meals to the many men, women, and children who come there each day, Monday-Friday. They come for a hearty meal they would otherwise have a difficult time finding. Without this program in the heart of Worcester, many of these people who are God's children would be searching elsewhere or begging for food as a result of where they find themselves in life. I'm sure there are those whose situation is a temporary struggle resulting from unfortunate circumstances beyond their control. This can happen to the best and hardest-working people, where they find themselves down and out on their luck. But most of the people who arrive each morning for the St. John's meal are people who seem to be in constant need of the food they come to enjoy. Pope Francis would love the incredible Christian charity on display each weekday at this "Food Heaven on Temple Street."

In the end, our St. Vincent de Paul Society here in our Parish, and the "Food Heaven on Temple Street" are two examples of our Church living in real time the words we hear in this Sunday's Gospel from Matthew 25; "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." Each one of these charitable virtues are acted out in our midst. What they reveal at their core is the truth that Christ is King. For every person who is shown charity in one form or another reveals that the face of Christ is seen in who they are. It's not our job to simply judge their condition. We are called to better their lives, if even for a moment.

We thank God for the countless acts of goodness and mercy our Catholic Church puts forth in the world each day. Without them, so many people would struggle even more than they presently do in their search for basic food and shelter. May God bless our St. Vincent de Paul Society, the St. John's Food Kitchen, and all other religious groups who address the needs of the poor and needy among us. Such loving acts go to the heart of the Gospel message.

May God also bless all our parishioners who may be traveling this Thanksgiving holiday, arriving safely to and from their destinations. May we enjoy the blessing of family and friends. And may our faith be ever present and active for those in need.

**THIS WEEK AT
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Nov. 22	3:00 PM	Confessions
		4:00 PM	Mass
		5:30 PM	<i>Turkey Lurkey</i>
Sun.	Nov. 23	7:30 AM	Mass
		8:45 AM	<i>Family Day— Advent Project</i>
		10:00 AM	Mass
<i>Coffee Shop open after 7:30 & 10 am Masses</i>			
Mon.	Nov. 24	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
		7:00 PM	Religious Ed
Tues.	Nov. 25	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Wed.	Nov. 26	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
		6:30 PM	<i>Scripture Study</i>
Thurs.	Nov. 27	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Fri.	Nov. 28		
Sat.	Nov. 29	3:00 PM	Confessions
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	Nov. 30	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	Mass

TUESDAY EVENINGS CENTERING PRAYER

All are welcome to join a group for “Centering Prayer” and “Lectio Divina” with Sr. Janet Provost, Sister of St. Joseph. It will take place in our rectory on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Centering Prayer is a period of time to be still and deliberately present to God, Who is always present to us. The second part is Lectio Divina, an opportunity to read and reflect on the following Sunday’s scripture readings. So please, come and see. Come and be present to our ever-present God.

**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!**