

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

353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605
Phone: 508-754-8419
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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
BOB NOBERINI, PARISH OFFICE MANAGER
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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 PM
(or by appointment)

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.

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 Frances Nugent, Victim Services Coordinator, Office of Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363 (direct, confidential line).

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	Aug 08	4:00 PM	Francis X. Mahoney, Jr. by Walsh family
Sun.	Aug 09	7:30 AM	Elizabeth Woods, 50th Anniversary, by family
		10:00 AM	Grace Greer, Memorial Mass, by family
Mon.	Aug 10	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, (<i>St. Laurence, Deacon and Martyr</i>)
Tues.	Aug 11	9:00 AM	Elizabeth Fiore by family
Wed.	Aug 12	9:00 AM	Geraldine O'Connor by friend
Thurs.	Aug 13	8:00 AM	Peter and Phyllis Simone by family
Sat.	Aug 15	4:00 PM	Edna Ciccolini from Herrmann family, (<i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>)
Sun.	Aug 16	7:30 AM	Deceased members of the Dowd family, by family
		10:00 AM	James Norton by family

THIS WEEK the text for The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #1003 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

This past week our parish reached our goal for Partners in Charity. Thank you again to all donors who have made a contribution in 2015 to this campaign that serves countless needs within our Diocese, as well as those who this year could not make a donation but would like to have done so. If anyone would still like to donate to Partners in Charity, the campaign continues until the end of August, being the close of the fiscal year for the Diocese and our parish. May God bless our parish for our generosity and kindness in reaching the ambitious goal set for Immaculate Conception, and may Our Lady pray for our concerns and needs in the upcoming year. The following numbers will be placed in the bulletin each week until the end of August and the close of the campaign. - Fr. Riley

Goal: \$93,200.00 Donations thus far: 93,523.00
 Percentage of Goal: 100% Number of Donors: 201

THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH

“The words of the Ten Commandments, “Thou shall not commit adultery” (Exod.20:14), are reaffirmed in the New Testament (Rom. 13:9). Drawing on the Scriptures, Christian teaching about human sexuality seeks to respect the sanctity of marriage and to guard its potential for a deep and lasting union. We cannot reclaim marriage unless we reclaim the clear Christian witness that our sexual desires must be ordered to their proper end: male-female union in the context of marriage.”

From the statement by *Evangelicals and Catholic Together*

FRIDAY FASTING AND INTENTION

Our faith lost one of its beautiful traditions not long after the Second Vatican Council when the Church eased the practice of not eating meat on Fridays which commemorated the day of our Lord’s death. We pray that this minor tradition that can make a major spiritual impact in our lives will one day return for the benefit of all Catholics who devoutly embrace their faith. Our Parish extends an offer each week to our parishioners who have an interest in participating in our Friday fasting. The purpose, first and foremost, is to maintain an awareness in our lives that Friday is the day our Lord died on the Cross and was laid in the tomb for our salvation. Our fasting each week, however, will also be for a specific intention that appears weekly in this column. Thus, our fasting is twofold; sacrificing one meal, and abstaining from eating meat. The intention for this coming Friday is *for those at this time who are dealing with the death of a family member or friend, that they will know God’s consolation and peace.*

SPECIAL SATURDAY MASS AUGUST 15TH

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

August 15 this year falls on a Saturday, thus the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, while remaining a Holy Day, is not a day of obligation. To celebrate this glorious feast day, we will be having Mass on Saturday morning at 8:00 for those who wish to celebrate Mary’s arrival in heaven in both body and soul. May the prayers of Our Lady benefit our parish and bring peace to our world.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“God’s work of love is stronger than the work of death. It is of that love, it is precisely of that love, that we must make ourselves hard-working ‘accomplices,’ with our faith! And let us remember Jesus’ deed: ‘And Jesus gave him back to his mother,’ so he will do with all our loved ones and with us when we meet again, when death will be definitely conquered in us. It was conquered by Jesus’ Cross. Jesus will give us all back to the family!”

Pope Francis

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 \$505.00 of cards. *Thank you* to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

“Historically, the United States has championed freedom, democracy and human rights in the international community. Our recent track record has been less good in defending those whose human rights have been trampled around the Globe. Our obligation at home is to defend religious liberty fervently, but we cannot overlook the challenges that religious believers, most of them Christian, face around the world. The age of martyrdom has not passed. If religious liberty is eroded here at home, American defense of religious liberty abroad is less credible.”

Sean Cardinal O’Malley

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, 08/02/15

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$5207.94
Miscellaneous Envelopes	\$ 46.00

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION It's time again to register your child or children in our Religious Education Program for the 2015-2016 year. Registrations have been mailed home to all families that were in the program last year. All new families wishing to register your children in our program please call Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119 or email mks723@msn.com for a registration form. All forms can be found on our parish website www.icworc.com. The fee for classes are \$40.00 one child, \$60.00 two children, \$75.00 three or more children, Confirmation Candidates (Grade 11) \$50.00, Reconciliation/First Communion Class(Grade 2) \$50.00. Please make Mary Sycks aware of any financial hardship. All children are welcome and will not be denied participation due to financial hardship.

Our growing program is entirely dependent on the wonderful volunteer CCD teachers we have to pass on our faith to our children. Please consider giving of your time and talent in this very important ministry. We welcome those members of our parish who do not have children in our program but would like to volunteer. We have training and a wonderful support group to help you with this mission. For more information or to sign-up please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119. Thank you in advance!

WOMEN OF FAITH -Summertime Morning of Prayer- Re-imagining and Re-membling Mary Magdalene.

Saturday, August 29 2015, 9:30am-1:00pm, St. Anne's Convent, 720 Boston Post Road East, Marlboro, MA. This half day retreat is a restful and prayerful way to spend a summer day with God and other women. By slowing down and **Re-imagining and re-membling Mary Magdalene.** Our presenter will be Joanne Fantini, CSJA, and Associate of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Boston, spiritual director, retreat leader, and the Director of Easter Point Retreat House in Gloucester, MA. Come, be nourished and renewed. "Coffee and" will be offered. Registration fee is \$5.00 at the door. **Pre registration is required by 8/25/15.** Please email or call Lori Pandiscio 508-498-3778, lamp.lighter9@verizon.net or Sr. Yvette Bellerose, SSA, at 774-239-3372, srybellerose@yahoo.com to pre-register.

\$500.00 SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF FRANCIS X. MAHONEY

Our Parish Activities Committee will be issuing a 2015 Scholarship in honor of Francis X. Mahoney. Fran was a member of our Parish Activities Committee prior to his recent untimely death. Therefore, as a way of honoring the memory of Fran, any present college student, college-bound student, or parochial school student who is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish is eligible for the Scholarship. The Student must write a letter to the Activities Committee and answer the following questions: 1) How have you displayed support for our Parish Family Life within Immaculate Conception? 2) What are your academic grades, and for those who attend college, what is your primary focus of study? 3) Name any school leadership programs you are/were involved in. The letter deadline will be August 16, 2015 and can be given to any committee member or to Fr. Riley.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

The grace of angelic presence, sent forth by command of God, is meant for those whom Jesus served with love and perfection; the sick and suffering; those who seek his presence; those who trust in his ways; and those who long to be with him in eternity.

There are many graces to priesthood, some happening at the most difficult moments in life. But God is overwhelmingly generous with messengers at such moments. After meeting the angel, Elijah was told to get up and continue on in this world. He wasn't sick enough or tired enough to go home "to the Holy Land." But many of us will know when our departure time is the right time. And when it arrives, may God send his angel to protect and lead us to what he has prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

Peace, Fr. Riley

DAY TRIP TO LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE IN SEPTEMBER

Our Parish will be holding a day trip to Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire on Friday, September 18. The bus will leave our Church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$74.00, with check payable to FOX TOURS. The tour includes cruising on the decks of the 230 foot M/S Mount Washington with views of the White Mountains as the boat travels from port to port. There will be a luncheon buffet served on board, and a visit to the Mountain Farm Market for fresh vegetables, cakes, pies and more for purchase. This trip is open to all people. Payment must be received by August 22. Payment and phone number can be sent to Michelle Deignan, 227 St. Nicholas Ave. Worcester, MA 01606. Michelle can be contacted at 508-853-0820, or mmdeignan@charter.net.

NEWLY BAPTISED

Congratulations to *Evan Joseph Flanders* who was baptized last Sunday here at Immaculate Conception. May God bless this wonderful child, his mother Heather Labossier, and Evan's entire family as they teach him the ways of Jesus our Lord in the years ahead.

COLLECTION FOR CHURCH IN EASTERN EUROPE

Envelopes for the collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe may be placed into the first collection basket at all Masses this weekend. This collection initiated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops serves the needs of the universal Church in a part of Europe that has known war and strife over the past 20-plus years. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

EMMANUEL RADIO SUMMER FRUIT BASKET CAMPAIGN

Emmanuel Radio 1230 AM is presently conducting a Summer Fruit Basket Campaign. Your generous gift to this campaign extends a loving hand, and helps minister to those in spiritual need in our diocese. Your support will keep your radio station on the air serving all local parishes/Catholic schools and organizations/charities in our diocese. You may donate online at www.1230radio.com, or mail donation to Emmanuel Radio, P.O. Box 20027, Worcester, MA 01602.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th, 20th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm 34

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:15:20

Gospel: John 6:51-58

FROM THE PASTOR

The blessings of being a priest are most deeply encountered and experienced in some of the most difficult moments in life, especially as a person's life moves closer to death. There are a few parishioners at the moment whose lives are drawing to a close on earth that will lead them to the throne of God in heaven and the face of Jesus. The grace of anointing a person close to death, or praying with an individual or family in a setting that is meant to help prepare a soul for entrance through Heaven's Gate, are some of the most sacred moments for a priest.

My experience over the past nine years is one of people knowing when it is time to go home, or, as a friend of mine would say, "To the Holy Land." And my friend doesn't mean Israel or anywhere else in the Middle East. People just know when it's time to give up the fight, when the fight has been exhausted, when all human effort has been put forth, and the time has arrived to hug Jesus, Mary, and the Saints in Light. I've witnessed some incredibly valiant fights against disease during my priesthood, where individuals have, in the words of St. Paul, "fought the good fight, competed well, and kept the faith." I pray I remember these many faith-filled persons when my own time winds down before the eternal hug of Jesus, Mary, and the Saints.

In this week's first reading from the Old Testament 1st Book of Kings, Elijah has had enough. He tells the Lord to take his life. He's tired of running away from people who cannot handle the truth and wish to destroy him. Such are the life and times of an Old Testament Prophet. Elijah finds a broom tree, lies down underneath, and basically says to God, "Come and get me! Get me away from these crazy people and this crazy world filled with false worship and violence!"

Instead of calling Elijah home "to the Holy Land," however, God does something that I am convinced happens to every believer who searches for peace and comfort at the end of life; he sends an angel. If you would like some proof that this happens to so many at the end of life as I claim, I have none to offer you by way of science. But we're not dealing with science here. We're dealing with the things of heaven, which are far above and beyond the field of science.

Whereas God sends an angel to Elijah to tell the Prophet to get up and move on because his time was not up yet, providing the Prophet with cake and a jug of water, many angelic appearances, I believe, occur when a person's time to leave is close at hand. Elijah's wish to die as a result of his being fed up with the wayward and unbelieving people of Israel was not a good enough reason for the Lord to grant his request. He needed a much better reason, such as old age, or cancer, or Alzheimer's, or heart disease. Being tired of dealing with the false ways of the world, even when threatened with death like Elijah was, was not good enough to "finish the race."

But when the race is coming to a close, as I've witnessed with so many people over the past nine years, I'm convinced from experience that God is so generous and kind to send a messenger – with cake and jug of water in hand - who will lead the soul of the faithful person to the joys of eternal bliss, even if by way of Purgatory. Angelic benefits are not meant only for those destined for the Communion of Saints and Old Testament Prophets.

Continued on the previous page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	August 08	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	August 09	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	August 10	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	August 11	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	August 12	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	August 13	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	August 14		
Sat.	August 15	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	August 16	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

CATHOLIC ITALY PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. RILEY

Fr. Riley will be leading a Pilgrimage to Italy in April of 2016. The dates are April 15-24. We will be visiting holy sites in Rome, Assisi, Orvieto, Loreto, and San Giovanni Rotondo among other places, with professional guides at each stop. For information and reservations, please contact Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419, or Mary Dowd at 774-633-0155 email mdowd01@yahoo.com Flyers for the trip have been placed at each entrance to the Church for anyone who would like to view the itinerary and cost. Also, this trip is not restricted to members of Immaculate Conception, but open to anyone who wishes to experience the beauty and many holy sites of Catholic Italy.

**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