

**CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS**

Immaculate Conception  
353 Grove Street  
Worcester, MA 01605-3907

**PHONE NUMBER**

508-754-8419

**CONTACT PERSON**

Robert Noberini

**CHURCH NUMBER**

005046

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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**CHANGE TO FAX # ON PAGE 1**

**CHANGE TO THIS WEEK ON PAGE 6**

# Immaculate Conception Parish



## RECTORY ADDRESS

353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605  
Phone: 508-754-8419  
Fax: 508-756-2192  
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](http://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 15	8:00AM	Chris Consolmagno, 14th Anniversary from Family <i>(The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)</i>
		4:00 PM	Edna Ciccolini from Herrmann Family
Sun.	Aug 16	7:30 AM	Deceased members of the Dowd family, from Family
		10:00 AM	James Norton, 2nd Anniversary from Family
Mon.	Aug 17	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
Tues.	Aug 18	9:00 AM	
Wed.	Aug 19	9:00 AM	<i>(St. John Eudes, Priest)</i>
Thurs.	Aug 20	8:00 AM	<i>(St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church)</i>
Sat.	Aug 22	4:00 PM	Michael Vassallo from Friend
Sun.	Aug 23	7:30 AM	George and Kathleen Lavoie, 42nd and 16th Anniversary from Family
		10:00 AM	Emilia Menard, 6th Month Mass, from Family

**THIS WEEK** the text for The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #1006 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY GOAL HAS BEEN REACHED**

Our parish has 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: 93,923.00  
Percentage of Goal: 100%      Number of Donors: 202

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“(Jesus) wants us to understand that beyond physical hunger, man has a different kind of hunger – all of us have this hunger – a hunger that is more important and that cannot be satisfied with normal food. This is a hunger for life, a hunger for eternity that only He can satisfy as He is the ‘bread of life.’”

*Pope Francis*

**THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH**

“The crisis of marriage culture in our times now poses a direct and fundamental challenge to the very nature of marriage. By redefining marriage to allow a union between two persons of the same sex – Spouse 1 and Spouse 2- a kind of alchemy is performed, not merely on the institution, but on human nature itself. In such a world, the distinction between men and women is denied social recognition and marriage is no longer a unique bond uniting male and female. It becomes an instrument created by the state to give official status to the relationship between two generic human beings.”

From the statement by *Evangelicals and Catholic Together*

**PROJECT RACHAEL**

Project Rachel is the Catholic Church’s ministry of healing and reconciliation to those who have been wounded by abortion. If you are hurting from a past abortion, call Project Rachel in strictest confidence at 508-791-HOPE(4673), or visit [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com) to learn more.

**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 all the hungry people throughout the world, especially children who go to bed hungry each night, as we fast and pray for their hunger to be relieved.*

**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 \$195.00 of cards. *Thank you* to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**PEACEFUL PROTEST IN WORCESTER**

All are invited to participate in a peaceful public protest at Planned Parenthood, 470 Pleasant St., Worcester on **Saturday, August 22 from 9:00-11:00pm**. The purpose of the protest is publicly express opposition to Planned Parenthood selling of baby body parts for profit, in addition to the killing of babies by abortion. Here is a chance to publicly express your disgust at the recent videos that have been revealed.

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

“The most fundamental human freedom is that of practicing one’s faith openly, which for human beings is their reason for living.” *Pope St. John Paul II*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, 08/09/15**

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 3,750.00
Light Shines in the Darkness	\$ 1,126.00
Online Donations for July	\$ 1,070.00

**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](mailto:mks723@msn.com) for a registration form. All forms can be found on our parish website [www.icworc.com](http://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!

### **W.I.N.G.S. AT CHRIST THE KING**

W.I.N.G.S. is now on Facebook! Join our group at WINGS AT CTC to make contacts with other Women in God's Spirit who are sharing some really great stuff! Our fall season begins Tuesday, Sep. 8th. Our speaker line-up is as follows:

**9/8: Liz Cotrupi**, Director of NEW (New Evangelization Worcester for Youth and Young Adults) Liz will discuss the ways in which the Holy Spirit has guided her in her Catholic faith journey.

**9/15: Cindy Dorsey**, General Manager of Emmanuel Radio, returns for a third season to share her message of perseverance through faith.

**9/22: Kim Harmon**, Inspirational speaker and author. Visit her website: [www.finalforgiveness.com](http://www.finalforgiveness.com).

**9/29 Cathy Stenquist**, former DRE at St. Mary's Church in Holliston. Topic: "There Will Be Joy! Hope and Miracles." Her first story "A note from Heaven", was recently published in the newest Chicken Soup for the Soul—Hope and Miracles.

**10/6 Heather Nunes**: Born and raised in an evangelical protestant home, Heather heard the call to convert to the Catholic Church in 2012. Topic: "My Journey to the Catholic Faith."

We invite all Women in God's Spirit to join our growing faith ministry. For more About WINGS go to: [catholicwings.com](http://catholicwings.com)

### **\$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*

I invite you to either enter or leave from the rectory side to initially check out the presence of this garden, and see if this is a spot where you would like to remember your loved ones who have died. May God bless the good work of our volunteers, and may the Lord bring home to His eternal presence the souls of the just.

"Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven columns."

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

### **WOMEN OF FAITH -Summertime Morning of Prayer- Re-imagining and Re-remembering 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-remembering 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](mailto:lamp.lighter9@verizon.net) or Sr. Yvette Bellerose, SSA, at 774-239-3372, [srybellerose@yahoo.com](mailto:srybellerose@yahoo.com) to pre-register.

### **FOUR FIVE EIGHT ONE, A 9<sup>th</sup> DIVISION POEM**

The following poem was written by a young 13 year-old from Immaculate Conception named Bobby Leone on November 8, 1964 to commemorate the veterans of the 9<sup>th</sup> returning to our Parish that year. The poem is Titled *Four Five Eight One*, reflecting the number of soldiers from the 9<sup>th</sup> Division who were killed during World War II.

They came from cities, towns, and farms,  
When their country called, to take up arms.  
They were but the youngsters of a Nation  
And War was now their new occupation.  
They drilled and drilled, and all of them trained  
Across Carolina's dusty hilly terrain.  
Many had never even seen the sea,  
Though many a day on it they'd be.  
They boarded the ships that would take them across  
To fight for Victory and not settle for loss.  
With fear in their hearts and guns in their hands  
They landed to fight on enemy lands.  
They fought in the mud, they fought in the sand,  
They fought on the beaches, they fought on the land.  
They fought very hard with all their might  
To change what was wrong, become what was right  
Medals and honors these soldiers did earn  
Although many brave boys will never return.  
Four Five Eight One.

### **READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd,**

#### **21st SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Psalm 34

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Gospel: John 6:60-69

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

“Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven columns.”

These are the first words we will hear this Sunday when the word of God is proclaimed by our respective Lectors. Bringing these holy words forward to our time, Wisdom (Christ) has built his house (Church) and has set up her seven columns (Sacraments). The house which Christ has built is a house that climbs to heaven through the divine graces of the Sacraments. We hold the Sacraments to be experiences of grace that flow through God’s generosity in and through His Church.

However, God’s nature is so generous that we as believers are given countless opportunities to reveal the presence and grace of God in special places that are set aside for the purpose of deepening our faith. When we think of God building his house, the first thought that comes to mind is the Church building. A physical building, an edifice, where sacred moments happen during the course of our lives. Over the course of my time here, many people have returned to Immaculate Conception to have of a Funeral Mass for a loved one, having a connection to the Parish over the past 6-7 decades. Immaculate Conception is a special place for such people because of Pastors such as Fr. Connors for sure. But even more, this is the “House” where God has touched their lives deeply. This community of faith is where the best and most difficult of times have been ingrained in their souls as connected to our Savior Jesus Christ.

From the building where the community comes together for praise and worship, the outer edges of the building are also places where the presence of God is known and felt. The beauty of the grounds, which we are very blessed to have here, allows us moments of grace and joy, with a tinge of pride. The many flowers and plants, along with a well-groomed lawn (mostly) allow us a proper preparation and mindset for the liturgy as we enter the Church. The hill the Church sits on allows for a wider view of the city. A couple from Colony III (Mary and George) love to sit out some nights and watch the sun set over the trees from their perch at the top of the parking lot. I’ve caught them snuggling once or twice.

And then there’s the Memorial Garden our parishioners have been working hard to develop just outside the rectory side entrance to the Church. Once in a while we come up with a brilliant idea in our Parish Council meetings, all thanks be to the Holy Spirit. And this is certainly one of them. It’s a memorial garden being created in memory of loved ones who have gone home to the Lord, yet we on our end have the need to remember their legacy and life. The purpose for such a garden is so much a part of our Church and what we believe that it cannot be overestimated. This area will be a place where our people can spend a few moments, or many moments, in reflection and prayer devoted to the memory of those we have loved and lost. It’s a place where we can meet the Saints and our Blessed Lady. It’s a place where the Lord will come to those who seek out his presence. And, it’s a place where the strong and everlasting faith lives of our parishioners can be lived out in the most solemn ways. I have a feeling this garden will be in need of expansion as the years go on, being such a good, holy idea.

I will be writing more about our newly developed Memorial Garden as time goes on. But for now, I wish to make all our parishioners aware of its existence. If you enter and leave the Church on the Chadwick Medical side each week, you will miss seeing it.

*Continued on the previous page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	August 15	8:00 AM	Mass
	(The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)	3:00 PM	Confessions
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	August 16	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	Mass
Mon.	August 17	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Tues.	August 18	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Wed.	August 19	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Thurs.	August 20	7:30 AM	Rosary
		8:00 AM	Mass
Fri.	August 21		
Sat.	August 22	3:00 PM	Confessions
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	August 23	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	Mass

**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](mailto:mmdeignan@charter.net).

**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**