

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception
353 Grove Street
Worcester, MA 01605-3907

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508-754-8419

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CHURCH NUMBER

005046

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Immaculate Conception Parish



RECTORY ADDRESS

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Phone: 508-754-8419
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REV. WALTER RILEY, PASTOR
REV. ENOCH KYEREMATENG, IN RESIDENCE
KEVIN DEIGNAN, PERMANENT DEACON
FRANK MYSKA, PERMANENT DEACON
MARY SYCKS, ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTER
C. HENRY MASON, MUSIC DIRECTOR
ROBERT 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 2:45 - 3:45 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.	May 14	4:00 PM	Milagros Lapid, from Herrmann Family
Sun.	May 15	7:30 AM	Patricia McHugh, Month Mind, from Parish Family
		10:00 AM	Marie Dorothy Consolmagno, Month Mind, from Family
Mon.	May 16	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	May 17	9:00 AM	Souls in Purgatory
Wed.	May 18	9:00 AM	Paul Cronican from Sister, <i>(St. John I)</i>
Thurs.	May 19	8:00 AM	Intentions of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sat.	May 21	4:00 PM	John Buczek, from Friend
Sun.	May 22	7:30 AM	Mary Dolan O'Connor, 25th Anniversary from Son
		10:00 AM	Donald Letendre from Family



THIS WEEK the text for the Pentecost Sunday may be found at #941 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

FRIDAY FASTING AND INTENTION

We thank all our parishioners who continue to fast for one meal and abstain from meat each Friday as we commemorate our Lord's saving act on that day. This wonderful Catholic tradition is reemerging, calling us to be mindful of our Lord's crucifixion every Friday of the year. Such a particular awareness in our lives can only deepen our faith and love in Christ. As we fast and abstain, we do so each week for an intention that is important to us on a local, national, or world level, always effecting our faith. Next Friday's intention is *for peace in our families*.

THANK YOU TO OUR RELIGIOUS ED TEACHERS

As our religious education classes finish for another year, we take this opportunity to thank all of our devoted and talented Religious Education Teachers who have offered their services to the students of our Parish. The time and effort they have put in each week since last September has enriched the faith lives of the students they have taught. Our program here at Immaculate Conception would be much poorer without our teachers sharing the love of their Catholic faith with each respective class. May God bless our teachers for their hours of sharing and learning, and we pray they will come back for another year of helping to grow the hearts and minds of our children and youth in September.

PARISH BUS TRIP ON JULY 27 TO HART'S TURKEY FARM AND SHOW

Our Parish will be holding a bus trip on **Wednesday, July 27, 2016** to Hart's Turkey Farm for a luncheon and My Fair Lady musical in Meredith, N.H. The bus departs from Immaculate Conception Church at 9 a.m., and returns at 7:30 p.m. The cost for the day is \$84.00. Checks must be made payable to FOX TOURS. Registration deadline is July 1! Plenty of seats are available! Any questions, call Michelle Deignan at 508-853-0820 and leave a message if necessary. For those sending a check, please include the following information: *Guest Name; Telephone Number; Parish Name; Select one luncheon choice, either Roast Turkey, Sirloin of Beef, or Baked Haddock*; and mail to Michelle Deignan, 227 St. Nicholas Ave., Worcester, MA 01606.

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 \$670.00 of cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Congratulations to our 2nd graders who received their First Holy Communion last Saturday, May 7, and their second Holy Communion on Sunday, May 8 at the 10:00 Mass. It was a beautiful First Communion liturgy on May 7 that lifted up all in the Church. To those who received Communion, we thank their families for supporting their children through the yearlong religious education process, as well as their devoted and dedicated teacher, Nicole Monfredo, along with her Assistant Teacher Cathy Tardie for their many hours of teaching and preparation since last September. We are blessed to have both of them teaching our young students. May God bless this wonderful class of 2nd graders in their lives of faith. They have much to offer all of us in their innocence and joy in their reception of the Sacrament that is the source and summit of our faith.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

Thank you to our many parishioners who have donated to Partners in Charity for the 2016 campaign. As we close in on our goal, which is now over 80 %, I ask that any parishioners who have yet to make a donation to please consider doing so in the near future. This annual campaign helps to support the many needs of our Diocese, from assisting the poor through Catholics Charities, helping in the area of vocations, or assisting retired priests who have served our Diocese for many decades, among many other services. With this year's slogan, "Called to be Merciful" in the Year of Mercy, we're all provided the opportunity to count our own blessings and reach out in ways that will benefit the essential works of mercy that all Catholic Dioceses in the United States will perform. Donations may be made online at www.partners-charity.net/donate, or through envelopes presently in our pews and placed into the weekly collection basket. Thus far, we have collected \$85,920 dollars, from 165 donors, representing 97% of our goal of \$88,500. Thank you, Fr. Riley

OUR LADY'S GARDEN ON PARISH GROUNDS

Our Lady's Garden is sprouting and we welcome Memorial Stone orders. Order forms are at each entrance and at the Parish website, ICworc.com, under the Memorial Garden tab. Completed order forms can be placed in the marked box at the Rectory side entrance or mailed to the Parish - Attn: Our Lady's Garden. The cost per stone is \$55. Please include payment with the form - with checks payable to Immaculate Conception Parish. Thank you!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 22nd, THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

1st Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31
 Psalm: 8
 2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-5
 Gospel: John 16:12-15

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION We would like to thank the following parishioners for volunteering their time to teach Religious Education at Immaculate Conception. Anita Callahan, Karen O'Brien, Nicole Monfredo, Cathy Tardie, Lee Morin, Marissa Phaneuf, Jennefer Noberini, Cindy Deignan, Ken Borowy, Christina Giordano, Kathy Haggan, & Stephen Sycks. Your generosity with your time and devotion to the children of our Parish is a wonderful demonstration of God's love.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP We are very excited to offer Vacation Bible Camp at Immaculate Conception! VBC will be the week of June 20th-24th from 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and is FREE! Children 5-12 years old are welcome to join us for a fun week of many activities including Bible Stories, Games, Music, Crafts, Snacks and more! Contact Mary Sycks at mks723@msn.com for registration forms and more information.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ON SATURDAY

Confessions on Saturdays will be held from 2:45-3:45 p.m. on Saturdays, beginning on Saturday, May 27. This is a change from Confessions beginning at 3:00. "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." John 20:23.

BLESSING OF OUR LADY'S GARDEN ON MAY 22

As everyone who walks into the Church knows, we have in our midst a sacred Memorial Garden outside the doors of our Church. For the past year, a group of parishioners have been caring for the garden through planting and watering, while ordering and filling in the garden with memorial stones purchased by family and friends in remembrance of loved ones who have died, along with one or two angels still with us. We will hold a short ceremony after the 10:00 Mass on Sunday, May 22 to bless this wonderful garden where many folks have come to pray and reflect. We invite all in our Parish to be present for the blessing of Our Lady's Garden. Thank you to all who have made this garden a special place of remembrance and reflection through your hard work and dedication. "Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."

BEREAVEMENT GROUP AND SUPPORT CONTINUES ON MAY 25

Fr. Riley, with the assistance of Mr. Jim Kelly of Kelly Funeral Home in Worcester, will be hosting a bereavement support group for those dealing with the traumatic loss of loved ones. If this is a support group that you feel can be helpful, please speak with Fr. Riley about the possibility of your presence at such a gathering. This support group will meet on four Wednesday evenings (April 27, May 4, 11, and 25) from 6:30-7:45 P.M. here at the Church. We know there are some good, faithful people presently dealing with the loss of a loved one at this time, and we would like to start this group to hopefully begin a process that can lead to some healing and understanding.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

"Jesus Christ is the love of God incarnate, Mercy incarnate... After Jesus has come into the world it is impossible to act as if we do not know God, or as if he were something that is abstract, empty, a pure nominal reference. No, God has a real face, he has a name: God is mercy." *Pope Francis*

From the Pastor continued from the following page

The good Italian- American people, who have been the heart and soul of Mt. Carmel for decades, praying and worshipping God with deep faith and devotion, deserve the Spirit of God to penetrate their hearts and lift them up in the midst of this difficult time. We pray that their transfer to a new location will eventually lead to the joy of a new home where the Lord is present in word and sacrament. And may Msgr. Pedone, a native son of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, continue to bring the peace of Christ to the flock he leads with love and genuine concern.

Peace, Fr. Riley

FRANCIS X. MAHONEY 2nd ANNUAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Our Parish Activities Committee will be issuing the second annual College Scholarship in 2016 in Honor of Francis X. Mahoney. Any student within Immaculate Conception Parish is eligible. Please write a letter to the Activities Committee and answer the following questions:

1. How have you displayed support of the Parish Family Life within Immaculate Conception Parish?
2. What are your Academic Grades and what College program do you plan to attend?
3. Name any and all High School Leadership Programs you are involved in.

The letter deadline will be August 28, 2016 and it can be given to any committee member or to Fr. Riley.

COFFEE SHOP

Coffee Shop will open Sun. May 15 after the 7:30am Mass and 10:00am Mass. A meeting with the Activities Committee will also be held from 8:30am and 9:30am in the Coffee Shop. All parishioners are invited to participate at this meeting.

PHOTOS FROM ITALY TRIP

A number of photos have been posted to the Immaculate Conception Facebook Page from the recent trip to Italy made by Fr. Riley and others.

Please go to our Parish Website, then to our Parish Facebook Page to view the many wonderful photos.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

"In insisting that our liberties as Americans be respected, Pope Benedict XVI said that this work belongs to 'an engaged, articulate, and well-informed Catholic laity endowed with a strong critical sense vis-à-vis the dominant culture.' Therefore, catechesis on religious liberty is not the work of priests alone. If religious liberty is not properly understood, all people suffer and are deprived of the essential contribution to the common good, be it in education, health care, feeding the hungry, civil rights, and social services that individuals make every day, both here at home and overseas." *From the USCCB Site*

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Lord had promised through the prophets that in these last days he would pour out his Spirit on his servants and handmaids, and that they would prophesy. So when the Son of God became the Son of Man, the Spirit also descended upon him, becoming accustomed in this way to dwelling with the human race, to living in men and to inhabiting God's creation. The Spirit accomplished the Father's will in men who had grown old in sin, and gave them new life in Christ."

St. Irenaeus, 2nd Century

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 05/08/16

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 5,168.00
Ascension Thursday	\$ 875.00
Online Donations for April 2016	\$ 1,280.00

FROM THE PASTOR

Our hearts go out to the good people of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church after the closing of their Church building a couple weeks ago.

There's no question it's a form of death. Us Catholics are attached to the memories and numerous sacraments we have received in a certain Church edifice. And understandably so. The Churches we occupy on Sunday mornings, where we come to listen to the Word of God and be fed by the Lord's Body and Blood, are places that *should be special*. And *should be held near and dear to our hearts*. The memories such places produce, and the sacred times they have provided for us in our lives, should never be forgotten.

The longer I serve here at Immaculate Conception, the more I come to realize just how special this Church –both its physical structure and spiritual benefits – has been to so many people who have cherished the religious memories of their past. Many times, from my experience, those memories have been grounded in the life and priesthood of Fr. Ed Connors. The same holds true for the priests who served over the years at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, be it Fr. Capuano, Fr. Bafaro, Fr. Piccolimini, or presently Msgr. Stephen Pedone. These priests have been a huge part of why so many faithful people love their parish, its location, its structure, and its place in their lives.

As a priest, my heart goes out to Msgr. Pedone, the present Pastor at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Catholics and many others in Worcester have been aware of the physical problems that Mt. Carmel has been dealing with for the past couple years. Unless they've been completely out of touch, that is. But since Worcester is a city with a small town mentality, and everyone knows everyone else's business, it's accurate to say that most folks are aware of the physical problems that have plagued this Church.

Msgr. Pedone has been the right person in the right place at the right time to deal with the issues that come with a structure that is no longer safe to enter and hold Mass or any other religious celebration. Figuring out what to do with the structure is only part of what he has faced as Pastor. Then there's the cultural aspect of it all. And the attachment aspect of it. And the memories. And so on. A building that is structurally unsafe opens the door to many other difficult aspects that have the potential to cause great harm to a community of faithful men, women, and children. And trying to hold it all together is a not so easy task. Msgr. Pedone has done the work of a Christian Pastor as good as any priest I've ever seen in any difficult situation. I'm proud to call him my brother priest.

Common sense knows that, as Bishop McManus said when deciding to shut down the building, safety is our primary concern. Everyone knows you don't allow a group of people into a building that has the potential to crumble at any time, jeopardizing their lives. I don't care if the building is the Sistine Chapel where they elect Popes. To place people in such peril is selfish, rude, shortsighted, and most un-Christian. Msgr. Pedone has avoided this unsafe trap despite the opposition of a few people who, I assume, have purchased hardhats that can somehow prevent falling granite from injuring them. As they say, there's a few in every crowd.

On this Pentecost Sunday, where the Spirit moves where He wills, may the Spirit of God bless and support the good people of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel as they move to their new location at Our Lady of Loreto.

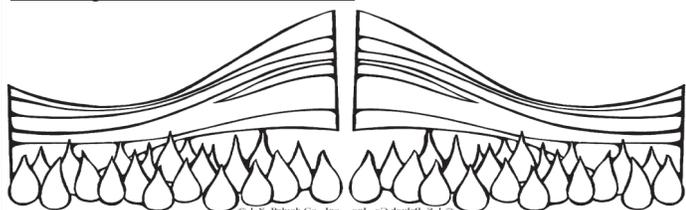
Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 14	3:00 PM 4 :00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 15	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 16	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 17	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 18	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	May 19	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	May 21	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 22	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**ST. PETER CENTRAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL HOSTING OPEN HOUSE ON MAY 19th**

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, 865 Main St. Worcester, will host an Open House on **Thursday, May 19th** from 5:30 - 7:30pm. St. Peter's has openings in Grades Pre-K - 7. Please visit them on May 19th, or call 508-791-6496 for information or visit their website www.stpetercentralcatholic.com.



**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! THANK YOU!**