

Immaculate Conception Parish



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)

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

RECTORY ADDRESS

353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605

Phone: 508-754-8419

Fax: 508-306-9718

Religious Education Phone: 508-868-8119

Rectory Hours: M: 9:30am-1:30pm, T: 9:30am-1:30pm

W: 9:30am-1:30pm, F: 9:30am-1:30pm

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

BRIDGET KLOFFT, CANTOR

ROBERT NOBERINI, PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

MATTHEW FOSTER, PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

LYNDA MONAHAN, SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	May 13	4:00 PM	John Dowd, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 14	7:30 AM	Marie Riley, Birthday Memorial, from Family
		10:00 AM	John Daly (20th Anniv.), Robert Senior (17th Anniv.), Norena Remillard (9th Anniv.), Frederick Remillard (7th Ann.), from Family
Mon.	May 15	9:00 AM	Paul F. Barys, 1st Anniversary, from Parish Family, (<i>St. Isidore</i>)
Tues.	May 16	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	May 17	9:00 AM	Brian Long
Thurs.	May 18	8:00 AM	Lauren Riley, (<i>St. John I, Pope and Martyr</i>)
Sat.	May 20	4:00 PM	Francis J. Elliott, 12th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 21	7:30 AM	Donald Letendre, from Family
		10:00 AM	Patricia Holloway, 1st Anniversary, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for the 5th Sunday of Easter, may be found at #930 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

OUTDOOR ROSARY ON THURSDAYS

Parishioner Mike Mitchell invites all to a weekly outdoor Rosary at Our Lady’s Garden on the Church grounds on the rectory side on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY

On behalf of our staff here at Immaculate Conception, we wish all our mother, grandmothers, and all women who have a motherly influence in the lives of others, a happy Mother’s Day this Sunday. May God bless you for the untold amounts of love you have shared with so many over the years, and the countless sacrifices you have made for your children and others. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is always and forever the model for Motherhood. May she pray for all mothers this day, leading them in the ways of pure love and total dedication to family.

PARTNERS IN CHARITY FOR 2017

As our Partners in Charity Campaign proceeds forward, I wish to thank all our Parishioners who have made a donation on behalf of Immaculate Conception. At this stage, we are at approximately 50% of the number of donors we’ve had from the past few years. For those who have yet to make a donation, I ask that you please consider doing so. Even the smallest donations will make a difference toward our Parish goal in the end. The importance of Partners in Charity cannot be overstated. It is the financial lifeblood of our Diocese by way of providing care and service to thousands of people throughout the year, including programs that serve the poor in our midst, especially through Catholic Charities, caring for retired priests who have served our Diocese for many decades, the preparation of seminarians studying for priesthood, among numerous other needs. Envelopes may be placed into our Sunday collection basket any given week, or mailed into the rectory. Donations can also be made online by going to the Diocese of Worcester website, and clicking on “Helpful Links,” then “Partners in Charity.” Just follow the directions to make a donation. Our Parish goal remains the same as last year: \$88,500. Each week our bulletin will be updated with the number of donors and amount raised thus far. *As of this week’s bulletin, we’ve had 116 donors and \$67,150 raised, representing 76% of our Parish goal.* Thank you to our early donors for getting our Parish off to a strong start toward reaching this year’s goal. – Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We understand the ‘way’ to be the road to perfection, advancing in order step by step through the words of righteousness and the illumination of knowledge, always yearning for that which lies ahead and straining toward the last mile, until we reach that blessed end, the knowledge of God, with which the Lord blesses those who believe in him. For truly our Lord is a good way, a straight road with no confusing forks or turns, leading us directly to the Father. For ‘no one comes to the Father,’ he says, ‘except through me.’ Such is our way up to God through the Son.”
St. Basil the Great (330-379)

MASSSES FOR ASCENSION THURSDAY, A HOLY DAY

Ascension Thursday, a holy day of obligation, falls on Thursday, May 25. Our Mass schedule will consist of a Vigil Mass on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m.

ST. THOMAS MORE LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the St. Thomas More Society of our Diocese awards a scholarship of not less than \$3000 to a law student attending an accredited law school in the fall. Applicants or parents must be registered and active members of a parish in the Diocese of Worcester. Applicants may be in any year of law school studies. Applications may be obtained by visiting the diocesan website, www.worcesterdiocese.org/st-thomas-more-society, by mailing requests to: St. Thomas More Society, Chancery Office, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609, or by calling Julie Schroeder at 508-929-4345. Applications are due on or before June 30, 2017. Should anyone wish to contribute to the scholarship fund, donations will be greatly appreciated and you can make contact at the above address or phone number.

THE EUCHARIST

“Incorporation into Christ, which is brought about by Baptism, is constantly renewed and consolidated by sharing in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, especially by that full sharing which takes place in sacramental communion. We can say not only that *each of us receives Christ*, but also that *Christ receives each of us*. He enters into friendship with us: ‘You are my friends’ (J 15:14). Indeed, it is because of him that we have life: ‘He who eats me will live because of me’ (Jn 6:57). Eucharistic communion brings about in a sublime way the mutual ‘abiding’ of Christ and each of his followers: ‘Abide in me, and I in you’ (Jn 15:4).”

St. John Paul II, from Ecclesia de Eucharistia (Encyclical)

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 all who have received Sacraments during the Easter season, that God’s many graces will continue to flow into their lives.*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES WORCESTER

Volunteers are needed at the Catholic Charities Emergency Stabilization Services Program, 10 Hammond St., Worcester to help with the following: Distribute food, once a week, in the food pantry; Assist with monthly food pick-ups at the Worcester County Food Bank in Shrewsbury; Assist in the Clothing Closet, once a week, with sorting donations; or Assist with the Diapers and Wipes Program to maintain inventory and client records. For more information, please contact Rose Gage, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, at rgage@ccworc.org or at 508-860-2211. Thank you for your interest!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Vacation Bible Camp We are very excited to offer Vacation Bible Camp at Immaculate Conception! VBC will be the week of June 26th-30th 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. Spots are filling quickly!

PARISHIONER JANE SHIVICK IN CONCERT

Immaculate Conception Parishioner Jane Shivick will be singing the second movement of Gorecki's Symphony #3 in Polish at Symphony Hall in Boston on Wednesday, May 17 and Thursday, May 18 at 8:00 P.M. It is a beautiful piece composed in the 1970's about a child searching for his mother while in a Gestapo Prison. The child calls upon our Blessed Lady to help him in this particular movement. Tickets for the performance can be obtained at www.bso.org under "Ben Folds" concert. All the best to Jane as she carries out this performance with her professional gifted, beautiful singing voice.

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 \$150.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM The Joy of Love

"Single-parent families often result from 'the unwillingness of biological mothers or fathers to be part of a family's situation of violence, where one parent is forced to flee with the children, the death of one of the parents, the abandonment of the family by one parent, and other situations. Whatever the cause, single parents must receive encouragement and support from other families in the Christian community, and from the parish's pastoral outreach. Often these families endure other hardships, such as economic difficulties, uncertain employment prospects, problems with child support and lack of housing.'"

PROJECT RACHAEL

Mothers' Day can be a hard time for women who have suffered pregnancy loss, including past abortions.

Project Rachel is ready to care for those who are hurting. Call in strictest confidence 508-791-HOPE(4673). To learn more, visit: www.hopeafterabortion.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 05/07/17

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 5,037.00
Our Lady's Statue	\$ 20.00

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 21st, THE 6th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Psalm 66

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

From the Pastor continued from the following page

But whether they do or not, know that Jesus' teaching to his disciples tells us that our Lord will never lose his groove for us. His death was a death to sin, and his life is life for God. Keep that truth in the back of your minds and the front of your hearts as we proceed forward with the blessings and struggles of this world. Jesus has taken care of the bigger picture, something only he could do. For this, we love him. We may not love the Red Sox some nights, but may we always love the Lord for cleaning the slate of Adam and Eve's bad choice.

Peace, Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

"We are Catholics. We are Americans. We are proud to be both, grateful for the faith which is ours as Christian disciples, and grateful for the gift of liberty which is ours as American citizens. To be Catholic and American should mean not having to choose one over the other. Our allegiances are distinct, but they need not be contradictory and should instead be complementary. That is the teaching of our Catholic faith, which obliges us to work together with fellow citizens for the common good of all who live in this land. That is the vision of our founding and our Constitution, which guarantees citizens of all religious faiths the right to contribute to our common life together." *USCCB Website*

TAKE A WALK FOR THE HOMELESS!

Please join us on Sunday, May 21 for the 32nd Annual WALK for the Homeless at Elm Park in Worcester. The 5k walk will kick off at 2 pm and will benefit Homeless Prevention Programs of Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Friendly House, Interfaith Hospitality Network and St. Johns Food for the Poor program. Lace up your sneakers and join our co-Chairs Fr. John Madden and Kevin O'Sullivan as we come together to make sure everyone has a place called home. For more information go to www.walkforthehomeless.org or call Amelia at 774-243-3823.

BUS TRIP TO NEW HAMPSHIRE TO SEE "SOUTH PACIFIC"

Bus Trip on Thursday, July 20, to New Hampshire's Hart's Turkey Farm and to the Lakes Region Summer Music Theatre's "South Pacific," the musical by Rodgers & Hammerstein set on a South Pacific island during WWII. 8:45 a.m., meet at Worcester's Immaculate Conception Church parking lot, 353 Grove St.. 9:00 Fox Bus leaves the parking lot. 6:30 approximate return. Lunch at Hart's Turkey Farm. Food choices must be made prior to the trip: Roast Turkey, Sirloin of Beef, or Baked Haddock. Also included: juice, salad, rolls & butter, fresh whipped potatoes & butternut squash, & beverage. Next stop: The Lakes Region Theatre. Lastly, a visit to the Kellerhaus Ice Cream Shop (cost of ice cream NOT included in fee). Deadline to register is JUNE 30. Cost is \$84 per person. Questions? Call Michelle at 508-853-0820. This trip is open to everyone!

PAPAL STATEMENTS ON MERCY

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an opening to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.' The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms."

Pope Francis

TRIP TO ST. PATRICK'S IRELAND

The Catholic Free Press and Worcester's Emmanuel Radio are presenting a trip to Ireland this year from September 16-25. Fr. Riley has been asked to be the Spiritual Guide for the trip. We will visit places such as Dublin, Westport (County Mayo), Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Galway, Belfast (Northern Ireland), Croagh Patrick Mountain, and other places throughout the "Land of forty shades of green." Brochures for the trip with locations and prices can be found at each entrance to the Church. Any questions regarding the trip can be emailed to editor@catholicfreepress.org or speak with Fr. Riley. Consider a trip across the "Atlantic Pond" to enjoy the Emerald Isle land of St. Patrick as well as numerous historic places centuries old.

FROM THE PASTOR

I've been to a couple of Red Sox games this year already. I'm 1-1. Both games their offense could be best described as listless. Underperforming. Non-existent at times. Silent, as in Silent Night for Christmas. Who stole our major-league offense and replaced them with a local high school team?

Anyway, I'm sure their offense will come around as the warm weather arrives sometime in July it seems. Hopefully they're still in the race at that time for a playoff spot and not so far behind the Yankees and Orioles that they would need a slew of Novenas prayed for them in order to catch the leaders.

As we enter the 5th week of the Easter season, Jesus, in this week's Gospel from John, gives us Red Sox fans some comforting words; "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." I'm glad Jesus is saying having faith in him instead of the local major league baseball team. It's easier to place faith in the Lord of all as opposed to a lineup that is more boring than a Sunday morning homily from a priest or deacon who did nothing to prepare for it.

As usual, our Lord puts life into a certain order, a pinpoint perspective, attached to the lasting message that he has done all the work for us, crashing the doors of death, and offering us hope even to the point of our own date that will bring us to God's weight of eternal glory.

As I said to the parents last Saturday morning at our First Communion Mass, all the blessings their children enjoy in this world, as well as ourselves, are genuinely good. The soccer, the dance recitals, time spent at the beach, the other sports they/we play and watch, are blessings meant to be enjoyed in this life that passes by rather quickly. They are more than sideshows. They are ways of putting a smile on our faces and joy in our hearts, even when coming in first place is not realized. I know a married couple in our parish, both in their nineties, who watch the Red Sox every night, even when they are playing on the West Coast. They love cheering them on when they perform well, and yelling at the television when they stink up the house. All part of what I call "Blessings."

Human beings are blessed with an incredible amount of talent, intellectually and physically, and to waste such talent is not good. Our curious and energetic natures are in need of realizing some level of fulfillment. The higher the better. Our hobbies and interests are the things that keep us going, and give us something to look forward to. I'm already looking forward to heading back to Gettysburg soon to see what's changed in the town, as well as learn something new that I haven't digested yet, as well as doing a one-day Civil War tour with one of the many talented authors who continue to research and teach new information 150 years after a 4-year event that shook our country to its core.

However, I also told the parents last Saturday morning at First Communion that the one part that we can never forget is that all our blessings as Catholics are to be grounded in the reception of the Eucharist. God bless all the sports and recitals we enjoy. But if they are not ultimately settled firmly in a love for God and the greatest gift of all, that being the Body and Blood of his Son, then we are missing something essential and most necessary. As parents, my priestly advice is don't let this happen to your children. When Jesus tells us to not let our hearts be troubled, he's obviously not talking about the lackluster performance of the Red Sox offense, or of our children losing a soccer match. The King of the Universe is directly addressing the overall picture and meaning of our lives, seeing the bigger picture of what's going on here. The same picture we are not to lose sight of, being the picture of our eternal nature.

As the Red Sox struggle offensively in the early part of the 2017 season, we hope (except Yankees fans) they will soon find their groove over the course of this long season.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 13	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 14	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 15	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 16	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 17	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	May 18	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Rosary
Sat.	May 20	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 21	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

STRUGGLING FAMILIES NEED DIAPERS TOO!

Many families in need are unable to purchase the appropriate number of diapers for their infant children. When faced with limited resources, they may reuse diapers throughout the day, which can result in a number of health and emotional issues. In an effort to grow the "Worcester County Diapers and Wipes Program," Catholic Charities is seeking parishioners' support by donating through Jet.com (go online at <http://go.jet.com/give-ccworchester>). Disposable diapers and wipes can also be donated to the Leominster (196 Mechanic Street) and Worcester (10 Hammond Street) offices. A direct donation of \$35 can purchase 275 diapers. With Mother's Day around the corner and Father's Day in June, please consider honoring a significant woman or man in your life with a donation to this program. Each diaper purchased will improve a precious life. For more information about Catholic Charities, please go to www.ccworc.org. Thank you.

**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!**