

Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at
www.icworc.com and Facebook

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**

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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
Mon.	May 22	9:00 AM	<i>(St. Rita of Cascia)</i>
Tues.	May 23	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	May 24	9:00 AM	Antonine Cenecale, from Fleury Family
		5:30 PM	<i>Holy Day, Vigil Mass for The Ascension of The Lord</i>
Thurs.	May 25	8:00 AM	<i>Holy Day, The Ascension of The Lord</i>
Sat.	May 27	4:00 PM	John Simone, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 28	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
		10:00 AM	William R. Grogan, 2nd Anniversary, from Parish Family

THIS WEEK the text for the 6th Sunday of Easter, may be found at #933 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.

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 QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"It is good for me to be sad, O Lord, as long as you are with me, rather than to be a king apart from you, to feast without you, to boast without you. It is better for me to embrace you in tribulation, to have you with me in the furnace, than to be without you in heaven. *For what do I have in heaven apart from you? What have I desired on earth? Gold is tested in the furnace, and the just by the trial of tribulation.* There, yes there, you are present with them, Lord. You are there in the midst of those gathered in your name, as you were once with the three young men in the fiery furnace." *St. Bernard, Abbot*

THE EUCHARIST

"By its union with Christ, the People of the New Covenant, far from closing in upon itself, becomes a 'sacrament' for humanity, a sign and instrument of the salvation achieved by Christ, the light of the world and the salt of the earth, for the redemption of all. The Church's mission stands in continuity with the mission of Christ: 'As the Father has sent me, even so I send you' (Jn 20:21). From the perpetuation of the sacrifice of the Cross and her communion with the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist, the Church draws the spiritual power needed to carry out her mission. The Eucharist thus appears as both *the source* and *the summit* of all evangelization, since its goal is the communion of mankind with Christ and in him with the Father and the Holy Spirit."

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 05/14/17

Sunday Ordinary Income \$ 3,443.00

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 28th, THE 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts 1:12-14
 Psalm 27
 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16
 Gospel: John 17:1-11a

MASS 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.

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 world, our nation, and our local communities.*

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 123 donors and \$69,075 raised, representing 78% of our Parish goal.* – Fr. Riley

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!

TALK ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN BY FR. RILEY

Fr. Riley will give a talk on Abraham Lincoln in the Church basement on Monday evening, June 5, at 6:00 p.m. The talk will focus on Lincoln's years at the White House from 1861-1865, and will be titled *Meeting President Lincoln*. It will be an up-close and personal encounter with our 16th President from the perspective of those who encountered his presence during those years, from previous President James Buchanan to those living in slavery, providing insights into the social culture and expectations of 19th century Washington D.C. and America. Refreshments will be provided.

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS FROM *The Joy of Love*

"At times, family life is challenged by the death of a loved one. We cannot fail to offer the light of faith as a support to families going through this experience. To turn our backs on a grieving family would show a lack of mercy, mean the loss of pastoral opportunity, and close the door to other efforts at evangelization." Par. 253.

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.

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 \$660.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

PAPAL STATEMENTS ON MERCY

"No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness that never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!"

Pope Francis

From the Pastor continued from the following page

May God continue to bless this good priest, and may the Lord support him in his mission of Pastoral Counseling in the upcoming years. He will help many, many struggling souls in the years ahead because of his love for the Lord and His people. You never know what sort of assistance you will receive when the Bishop calls, asking if there's room in the rectory for another priest who will be doing studies nearby. I've been very blessed to come to know and appreciate a very good, humble priest who serves God with fervor and deep love. Thus, our Parish has been blessed in turn, and for this we give thanks to the Almighty for the gift of Fr. Enoch.

Peace, Fr. Riley

HELP COMPLETE THE TRINITY DOME IN "AMERICA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH"

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is in the process of completing the mosaic on the interior "Trinity Dome" of the Basilica. You can see an artist's rendering of a portion of the immense dome that is the pinnacle of a church that has taken one hundred years to complete. You can be part of making this inspirational shrine "America's Catholic Church" as previous generations have done. Join with Catholics in the Diocese of Worcester in supporting the completion of the mosaic pictured above on the Trinity Dome. Make a SECURE ONLINE GIFT today or send your check payable to the Diocese of Worcester with "TRINITY DOME" noted on the check to Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA, 01609. Thank you for considering how you can be a part of our Diocesan response to this National Appeal.

ST. PETER'S OPEN HOUSE

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, 865 Main St. Worcester will host an Open House on Wednesday, May 31 from 4:00-7:00 P.M. St. Peter's has openings in grades Pre-K-7th grade. Please visit them on May 31, or call 508-791-6496 for information, or visit their website at www.stpetercentralcatholic.com.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

"Today's Executive Order begins the process of alleviating the serious burden of the HHS mandate. We will engage with the Administration to ensure that adequate relief is provided to those with deeply held religious beliefs about some of the drugs, devices, and surgical procedures that HHS has sought to require people of faith to facilitate over the last several years. We welcome a decision to provide a broad religious exemption to the HHS mandate, but will have to review the details of any regulatory proposals." *Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, USCCB, May 4, 2017*

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!

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

Congratulations to Fr. Enoch, who resides at our Parish, for graduating last Sunday from Assumption College. After 2-1/2 years of hard work, dedication, and many Saturday nights of studying and writing, Fr. Enoch has graduated into the world and work of Pastoral Counseling with a Masters Degree. Nice to know I can set up a cost-free session with him if I think I need to take advantage of his newfound educational talent.

Fr. Enoch arrived here at Immaculate Conception in January 2015, after Bishop McManus was asked by Fr. Enoch's Bishop in Ghana, from the Archdiocese of Kumatsu, if he could find a place for this priest whom he wanted to come to Worcester and study for a degree in counseling in order to better serve his home Diocese. Bishop McManus in turn asked yours truly if there was living quarters in our rectory for this unknown priest from Ghana. The Bishop thought this would be a good place for him location-wise, knowing he would be attending Assumption College. I answered there was room, obviously.

The short of it is this; Fr. Enoch has been a great blessing for both our Parish and myself. His friendly demeanor and holy, gentle, affable way is genuine and sincere, as well as having a wonderful laugh. Fr. Enoch is an outstanding priest with a love for God and the Eucharist that is wonderful to watch and experience. He's become a friend over the past 2-1/2 years, someone who I can turn to if I need assistance at Mass or otherwise. He is always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who may come to the door for confession, counseling, or just a listening session that can never be undervalued of its purpose and results, if I am not at home when the doorbell rings. In many respects, Fr. Enoch, from my perspective as a Pastor, is like a second priest for Immaculate Conception without being officially assigned here. And, best of all, he now knows when to stay away from me 😊.

Some of our people have been asking Fr. Enoch if he is returning home now that he has graduated and his studies are finished. The answer to that question will come very shortly. But whatever the answer, we have been blessed at our Parish to have such a good person living on our grounds. He's made the adjustment to snowy Worcester (there is not much snow in Ghana), and he has developed numerous friendships in the African Catholic Community in our Diocese, assisting at the African Mass at St. Joan of Arc each Sunday afternoon.

In our Gospel this Sunday, Jesus tells his Disciples that he will ask his heavenly Father to send an Advocate who will be with them always. An advocate is someone who will assist, be there, never be far away, someone you can rely on in good times and bad, and someone who will push us in ways that will produce good results for the mission at hand. The Advocate our Lord speaks of is, of course, the Holy Spirit. The 3rd Person on the Trinity will provide all the words necessary, and all the actions needed, to bring the message that God's Kingdom has arrived in the One who is crucified and raised. To bring this message to all the nations, as Jesus commands them to do, the Disciples will need lots of help in a pagan world that recognized Caesar as lord, and not the true Lord of all, Jesus Christ. The Advocate is the unique sort of assistance that will remove all fear of death, and allow the Twelve to bring Christ's hope and salvation to all who have ears and want to hear.

Now, I'm not saying Fr. Enoch is the Holy Spirit, but I can say with all honesty that he has, first, been an advocate and friend to Fr. Riley, and second, he is a priest who certainly has the Holy Spirit alive and well within him. If you've been blessed to hear Fr. Enoch preach during a weekday Mass or any of the Sunday Masses he has presided at, you know he has the Spirit. This past Holy Week on Good Friday he gave one of the best homilies on Jesus' Passion I've heard in quite some time.

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 20	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 21	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 22	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 24	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Rosary Mass Vigil Mass
Thurs.	May 25	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Rosary
Sat.	May 27	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 28	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

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..

**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!**