

Immaculate Conception Parish



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**

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 06	4:00 PM	Francis X. Mahoney, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 07	7:30 AM	Juniva Glavickas, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Robert Goulet, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	May 08	9:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Assumption Prep School, Staff, & Students
Tues.	May 10	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	May 11	9:00 AM	Gayle Haley, from Friend
Thurs.	May 12	8:00 AM	Richard "Okie" O'Connor, Month Mind, from Family
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

THIS WEEK the text for the 4th Sunday of Easter, may be found at #927 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.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Eternal God, eternal Trinity, you have made the blood of Christ so precious through his sharing in your divine nature. You are a mystery as deep as the sea; the more I search, the more I find, and the more I find the more I search for you. But I can never be satisfied; what I receive will ever leave me desiring more. When you fill my soul I have an even greater hunger, and I grow more famished for your light. I desire above all to see you, the true light, as you really are." *St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)*

PARTNERS IN CHARITY FOR 2017

Our Partners in Charity campaign is under way. Our Diocese has sent out envelopes to many who donated last year. For anyone who has not received an envelope, please consider taking one located in the pews or at each entrance to the Church. 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. Remembering the last 3 years we've had over 200 families and individuals donate, we hope the same amount of participation will be present for 2017. *As of this week's bulletin, we've had 103 donors and \$64,435 raised, representing 73% 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

AFTER DINNER FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT WITH GARY LANDGREN THE "HONKY TONK MAN"

MAY 13, 2017 AT THE CONNORS CENTER
FROM 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

DONATION: ADULTS \$ 5.00
FAMILIES (3 OR MORE) \$10.00

Parish Activities Committee will be selling tickets on May 6-7 before and after all Masses for the "Honky Tonk Man". Tickets will also be sold at the door May 13th. Please join us for a family night of fun, Coffee, Tea, Soda, Desserts, and Hor d' Oeuvre, BYOB, 50/50, door prizes and Basket Raffles!

The Committee is looking for parishioner to bake desserts and to donate Baskets for the raffle. Thank you all for your help.

FIRST COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

By the time you read this, our First Communion Class will have received the Eucharist this Saturday morning, May 6, at a 10:00 a.m. liturgy. As a Parish, we celebrate this joyful day with the families of those who have children receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord for the first of what we pray will be thousands of times over the course of their long lives. We pray also that the parents of each of our recipients will continue to guide and lead these children in the ways of their faith, bringing them to receive the Lord each week in our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. Those who received First Communion are: *Isabella Tassone; Jackson Zenkus; Kate Jalbert; Mark Foster; Ben Dobson; Brody Camuso Generelli; Ryan Hermance; Dominic Klofft; Juliet Rodriguez; Jayden Schnare; and Alexandra Charlton.*

MAY PROCESSION THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, May 7, at the end of the 10:00 Mass, our First Communion Class will lead us in a May procession to the Marian statue on the rectory side of the Church. The 2nd graders will have received their First Communion on Saturday, May 6, then return this Sunday for their second Communion at the 10:00 Mass, leading us to Mary at the end of the liturgy. There will be a short ceremony of prayer and song at the Marian statue as Our Lady is crowned with flowers. All are invited to join us in this blessed Catholic tradition. Pray for good weather.

THE EUCHARIST

"The Second Vatican Council teaches that the celebration of the Eucharist is at the center of the process of the Church's growth. After stating that 'the Church, as the Kingdom of Christ already present in mystery, grows visibly in the world through the power of God,' then, as if in answer to the question: "How does the Church grow?" the Council adds: 'as often as the sacrifice of the Cross by which Christ our Pasch is sacrificed' is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out. At the same time in the sacrament of the Eucharistic bread, the unity of the faithful, who form one body in Christ, is both expressed and brought about.'" *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 those who cooperate with the forces of evil, knowingly or unknowingly, that God's light and grace will overpower their hearts and bring them to a better spiritual place.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 04/30/17

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 4,456.00
Online Donations for April 2017	\$ 1,260.00
Candles and Flowers	\$ 164.00

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thank you! Sincere thanks from the tenth and eleventh grade Religious Education classes, who hosted a pancake breakfast after mass earlier this month. We were thrilled that so many parishioners joined us for a bite to eat and grateful for the many donations we received. We raised \$330.00! Some of our proceeds went to the purchase of supplies for the Guild of Saint Agnes Daycare/Preschool in the Father Connors Center. We donated the remaining \$250.00 to St. John's Food for the Poor Pantry and the Be Like Brit foundation. Thank you so much!

First Communion Prayer Cards A number of children in our parish will share in an event of great joy for them and the entire Catholic Community. On Saturday, May 6th, they will receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. They and their families have been preparing for this sacrament for some time now, learning what the gift of Eucharist is about and what it means to share that gift with others. Please visit our display of the First Communion Class located near the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the children in your prayers as they take the final steps in preparing for the sacraments of First Holy Communion.

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 \$50.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

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.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

I would raise her to the Communion of Saints tomorrow, inviting the world to her canonization. "Quick, book your last minute flight to Rome," I would say to the world, "we have a pro-life Saint whom God has looked upon with kindness and compassion, looking upon her lowly stature like Mary, and did some unexpected, amazing things through her life."

As Little Audrey beholds the face of God in heaven, may she pray for those here on earth who need better understanding of the dignity of all human life. What we see as less than useful at times, God will use for the purpose of showing us that life is his greatest gift, whatever the condition.

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*

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.

TAKE A WALK FOR THE HOMELESS!

Please join us 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 Had-dock. 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!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 14th, THE 5th SUN-DAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Psalm 33

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel: John 14:1-12

FROM THE PASTOR

The work and mercy of God will certainly come in the most unexpected ways at times. I find God's unpredictability to be awesome. If we accept in our lives that God is love, and that his attention toward us is borne in love, then such attention can be manifested in the most unpredictable ways.

On April 14 a few weeks ago, on Good Friday this year was the 10-year anniversary of the death of Little Audrey Santo of Worcester. The holy day itself came and went regarding her birth into eternal life. The entire focus of the day for Christians was on our Lord's carrying of his Cross, and eventual death about three in the afternoon. The attention of all Christians should have been on this saving event, and no other. And for most all of us it was.

However, if I had a family member who died 10 years to the day of Good Friday this year, I certainly would have been reflecting on their own good Friday, and how the saving death of Christ was at the heart of my family member's death. I'm sure the Santo family had such thoughts back on April 14, when, 10 years ago, Little Audrey's Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Paul's Cathedral by Fr. John Foley, who at that time was Pastor of Christ the King Parish where the Santo family belonged.

What God apparently did with Little Audrey's life after a near drowning at the age of 3 was most unexpected. In my humble opinion, the Lord took the life of this girl in her state of unmov-ing and inability to speak words verbally, and created a pro-life Saint. I truly believe that Little Audrey, from right here in good ol' Worcester, MA, will one day be canonized into the Communion of Saints as a Saint who will be looked upon as God's incredible masterpiece of love. Where the God of the universe was telling us all along that all life is sacred.

The Santo family could have looked upon the accident of Little Audrey in such ways where they could have asked in the negative, "Why did this happen to us?" There was probably some questioning as to why a little girl's life would go from being healthy to the inability to move on her own. If there was questioning, it would be understandable. But, if this thought was there at any point, it never came close to overpowering their faith and love for God.

Many of us who have some knowledge and understanding of Little Audrey's life after her accident believe that God was at work in very powerful ways that resulted in miraculous events throughout the rest of her life, and beyond, working through the person of Audrey in such ways that benefitted the physical health and spiritual well-being of so many others. That Audrey's holiness shone through her physical shortcomings, with the message being from God, "Look what I can do with this young girl whom many in this world look upon with the bad sort of pity, saying her life is less than worthy because of her physical limitations. I will take the world's dismissive view of her apparent unworthiness and turn it into a remarkable story of love and healing for others."

In our 2nd reading this Sunday from the 1st Letter of Peter are the words, "Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps." Little Audrey did so to perfection. She followed in the footsteps of the suffering Christ. Not by way of making a conscious choice, as Christian adults are challenged to do at the point when death is closing in on us, as well as other times of physical suffering. Little Audrey's suffering began with an unfortunate accident at a young age, but at some point thereafter, somehow, someway in the mystery of God, she made a pact with her Savior, agreeing to become his personal handiwork of suffering on behalf of others who sought healing and relief.

If I was Pope Francis and I knew the amazing story of Little Audrey Santo,

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 06	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 07	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	May 08	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	May 09	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	May 10	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	May 11	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Rosary
Sat.	May 13	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	May 14	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

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.

**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!**