

# Immaculate Conception Parish



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 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.	Oct 14	4:00 PM	Mary E. Shugrue, Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Oct 15	7:30 AM	Donald Letendre, from Family
		10:00 AM	Robert Remilard, 8th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Oct 09	9:00 AM	Gayle Haley, <i>(St. Hedwig; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque)</i>
Tues.	Oct 10	9:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to God, <i>(St. Ignatius of Antioch)</i>
Wed.	Oct 11	9:00 AM	Pam Potenti, <i>(St. Luke)</i>
Thurs.	Oct 12	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, <i>(Sts. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues)</i>
Sat.	Oct 14	4:00 PM	Catherine Phyllis Halloran, 25th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Oct 15	7:30 AM	Jane Brothers, 3rd Anniversary, from the Dowds
		10:00 AM	Msgr. Thomas Needham, 15th Anniversary

**THIS WEEK** the text for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #1029 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DEACON?**

Find out everything you wanted to know about the Diaconate program for the Diocese of Worcester. If you are a male, college graduate (or have an equivalent to a degree) and are between the ages of 31 and 60 and have an interest, now is your opportunity to get some answers. Spouses are welcome and urged to attend with you. Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 77 Mendon St., Uxbridge, and Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. at St. Stephen Church, 357 Grafton St., Worcester. Call 508-929-4335 or visit worcesterdiocese.org/diaconate.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Dr. Frank McGuire and Fr. Riley will lead a discussion and reflection on St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians for 4 Tuesdays in October. The program will take place on the Tuesdays of October 17, 24, and 31 in the Church Basement from Noon to 1:00 p.m. This major New Testament letter contains rich doctrinal and inspirational teachings of our faith, including the beautiful passage on Love (Ch. 13), that many couples choose as a reading at their wedding ceremony, as well as the most detailed, visual explanation of resurrection (Ch.15) found in the Bible. Feel free to bring your lunch; beverages and dessert will be available. Everyone is most welcome.

**CELEBRATE PRIESTHOOD GATHERING**

Join us for a gala featuring different cuisines from local restaurants as well as ethnic cuisines from parishes around the diocese, along with a variety of wines, local handcrafted beers and soft drinks for this year's Celebrate Priesthood gathering. The event will take place on Thursday, October 19 from 5:30 – 7:30 P.M. in the Atrium at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester. Visit worcesterdiocese.org/celebratepriesthood for more information. Names of restaurants will be featured as they are confirmed, as well as a convenient online order form for tickets. Advertising and Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Donation is \$100 per person.

**VISITATION HOUSE BABY BOTTLES**

Next Sunday, October 22, at all Masses we will be passing out baby bottles on behalf of Visitation House in Worcester. This annual financial support we collect in our Parish helps to assist the many needs of Visitation House in their ministry to pregnant women who, in most cases, have nowhere else to turn. The love and support – physically, emotionally, and spiritually - these women receive from Visitation House goes to the heart and soul of our Christian faith of caring for others in desperate need. Please consider taking a baby bottle and filling it with either change, bills, or a check, if that is easiest for us. Visitation House does not receive any assistance from the government, and is fully dependent upon the donations of its generous supporters in the wider faith community in order to carry out its mission. Baby bottles can be returned through the end of October/early November, and placed in boxes found at each entrance to the Church. Thank you for supporting this most important Christian ministry here in Worcester.

**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 to us on a local, national, or world level, always effecting our faith. Next Friday's intention is *for those who struggle with the gift of faith, may they be enlightened by the Spirit to receive peace and understanding.*

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

As individuals, as families, and as a Parish we have many opportunities to join with others to make a difference in saving the lives of the unborn here in our midst, and assisting their mothers during the 40 Days For Life campaign beginning on September 27. Throughout the 40 Days For Life campaign there will be aides to prayer for the unborn, information about the life-saving work of Problem Pregnancy, located opposite Planned Parenthood on Pleasant St., and reminders that every life is sacred to God, located at each entrance to the Church. Please keep in prayer all mothers and fathers who struggle with the issue of potential abortion, praying that they make the choice for life for their child as our parents did for us. Thank you for participating in this annual program of peace and mercy as connected to the tragedy of abortion.

**PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

Our Parish Activities Committee will be hosting our annual Spaghetti Supper on Saturday evening, October 21, beginning at 5:30. The cost of tickets for the supper are \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children 12 and under, and \$30.00 for families with over 3 people. There will be a 50/50 raffle with door prizes to be held. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses on 14, and must be purchased in advance, for no tickets will be sold at the door. This is a Bring Your Own Wine event.

**NINTH DIVISION MASS**

The good people who return to Immaculate Conception every year connected to the 9th Division will be here on Sunday, October 15 for the 10:00 Mass. We welcome as a Parish the folks who come to Worcester from different parts of Massachusetts and other states for this Mass each year, including (we hope) a veteran or two from the 9th Division. After the Mass there will be a short ceremony at the 9th Division Memorial on the grounds of the Church, as well as a changing of the flag by Boy Scout Troop 84. From there, our Parish Activities Committee will host breakfast in the Coffee Shop, where all are invited to attend.

**PARISH APPRECIATION DINNER**

Our Parish will be holding an Appreciation Dinner on Saturday evening, November 11 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Any parishioner who volunteers in any capacity, or is employed by the Parish, is invited to attend, as well as their families as a way of saying "thank you" to the many people who assist in the various ministries of our Parish. Please contact the rectory, or speak to Fr. Riley, to let us you if you can attend so an appropriate amount of food may be ordered. Deadline for signup is Wednesday, November 8. This will be a Bring Your Own Wine event.

**Religious Education** Classes take place on Sunday, October 15th, 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades K-6, 7:00PM-8:00PM grades 7 & 8 and 7:00PM-8:15PM for students in grades 9 & 10 and Confirmation Candidates.

**RCIA CLASSES FOR 2017-2018 AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Classes for this year's RCIA Program will begin on Monday evening, October 16 from 6:30 -7:45 p.m. in the rectory. These classes are for any adult (16 years or older) who has yet to receive what we call the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist), meaning full initiation into the Church. This can be someone who has yet to be baptized, or baptized in a faith tradition not recognized by the Catholic Church, or an individual who has been baptized in the Catholic Church or validly baptized in another faith tradition, but has yet to receive Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation. For anyone who is uncertain about any of the possible situations that exist in their own spiritual life, or that of someone they know where there is an absence of any of the 3 above Sacraments, please speak with Fr. Riley at Mass or call the rectory at 508-754-8419. Each year the RCIA program leads adults to full initiation into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass, which next year will be March 31, when the reception of the Sacraments will take place.

**ALL SOULS ENVELOPES**

Envelopes for All Souls Day, November 2, may be placed into the collection basket at any time. These envelopes, in commemoration of those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, will be placed on our holy altar throughout the month of November as we pray for the souls of all the faithful departed. Please write the names of those you wish to pray for on the back side of the envelope. For those who do not receive envelopes, feel free to use a plain envelope with the names of the deceased you would like to pray for during November. These will also be placed on our altar. Thank you.

**ROSARY MOVED FROM EACH THURSDAY TO FIRST SATURDAY**

The outdoor Rosary led by parishioner Mike Mitchell on Thursdays will be moving indoors to the Church from this time on due to the cooler weather. The timing will now be once a month on the first Saturday of each month. Thus, the first indoor Rosary will be held on Saturday, November 4 at 2:30 P.M. for all who wish to join Mike in prayer.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, THE 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6  
 Psalm: 96  
 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b  
 Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 10/08/2017**

Sunday Ordinary Income \$ 4,076.00

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

.And, the abundance he lived with was the abundance of doing God's work over the life of his priesthood. In this area, there was much abundance, not leaving any stone unturned in his devoted priesthood.

So, we offer a hearty welcome to the good people who enter our doors this week at the 10:00 Mass representing the memory of the 9th Division. They keep alive the memory of their soldier-parents. Welcome especially to any veterans of the 9th Division who are able to be present. We are beyond blessed by such presence. And, we welcome the spirit of the "hero-priest" who prays for us from a better place, where war zones are extinct, and where the peace of Christ reigns forever.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**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 \$325.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**FALL FUEL COLLECTION THIS WEEK**

This week at all Masses will be our Fall Fuel collection, knowing that the cooler weather is not far away. This collection helps to offset the cost of heating our Church during the late Fall, all Winter, and early Spring months. Thank you for contributing to this important collection for our Parish as we prepare financially for the higher costs that come with the colder weather. For those not donating this week, please consider doing so over the next few weeks. As always, thank you for your generosity that helps to support the needs of our Parish.

**A JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND, APRIL, 2018**

Our Parish will be hosting a trip to Israel from April 11-19, 2018 called "A Journey for the Believer." We will tour such holy sites as Caesarea and Galilee in the north of Israel, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Masada in the south, visiting numerous locations forever connected to our Christian faith and ancient Israel. Come join us on this unforgettable, very affordable trip for an experience that all who attend will be touched deeply by the very places where Jesus carried out his mission of salvation. The cost for the trip is \$2459.00, including 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners. **THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS TRIP IS January 1, 2018**, which can be done through flyers left at each entrance to the Church. Please speak with Fr. Riley if you have any questions.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

Come to the Marriage Feast. "Everything is ready" (Matt. 22:3-4): "All the faithful know the story of the marriage of the King's son, and his feast. They know that the Lord's table is open to all who are willing correctly to receive it. But it is important that each one examines how he approaches, even when he is not forbidden to approach. The holy Scriptures teach us that there are two feasts of the Lord: one to which the good and evil come, the other to which the evil do not come. So then the feast of which we have just now heard when the gospel was being read has both good and evil guests. All who excused themselves from the feast are evil, but not all those who entered in are good. I now address you, therefore, who are the good guests at this feast. You are taking careful note of the words 'For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.' It is to you I speak. I plead with you not to look vainly for the good apart from the church but to bear with the evil within it." *St. Augustine (354-430)*

**MEETING FOR SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

There will be a meeting for the members of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul on Sunday, October 15, after the 10:00am Mass in the Rectory. Plans will be made for the Annual Thanksgiving Baskets to be distributed by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION NEXT WEEK**

The collection for World Mission Sunday, Being the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, will be taken up at all Masses next Sunday, October 22.

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

It's that time of year when we welcome to our Church the folks connected with the Ninth Division Association. Those who come from different areas of our country, both local and afar, do so to keep alive the memory of their fathers who served in the 9th Division in World War II, as well as one or two veterans still up and about in their nineties we are so blessed to have in our presence. To think these few veterans have been coming here to Immaculate Conception since the 1950's is pretty amazing. They remain the link in the chain that connected Fr. Connors to the thousands of soldiers he ministered to in the 9th Infantry Division during the Second World War. May God bless these few remaining veterans who are still able to bless us with their presence and voices.

I heard a story recently about Fr. Connors, one that was new to me. I'm sure there are many such stories that remain in the hearts and minds of people today who knew Fr. Connors while attending this Parish in its hey-day, as well as those who still do. The story told had to do with the 1953 tornado that blasted through northern Worcester, doing untold damage to the Greendale section of the city. Cars were flipped, houses torn down, numerous people injured, dying and dead. A war scene for sure. So who do you think felt like they belonged in an area of what looked like a war zone? The story goes that Fr. Connors was nowhere to be found on Prescott Street, which is where Immaculate Conception was located in 1953. He was nowhere to be found at the Church. Eventually, he was found in the Greendale section of Worcester, assisting in the aftermath of the deadly tornado. Fr. Connors knew where he was needed, and where his experience and skills could make a difference in the attempt to save the lives of those injured and dying.

If I had to venture a guess without knowing the answer, I would say that the Chaplain of the 9th Division spent a long period of time in northern Worcester after the tornado passed through. I bet at least a couple days passed before he returned to the comfort of his Prescott Street abode, which is why he was nowhere to be found. Fr. Connors had the mentality of a soldier in wartime, meaning, you stay where you are needed for as long as you are needed. I'm sure in 1953 northern Worcester he felt like he was assisting some of his own wounded soldiers in desperate straits, reminding him of the some of the scenes he witnessed 10 years earlier.

If I had to venture another guess, I would say that if someone told him he was a "hero-priest," he would have scoffed at such a statement. He did what he had to do in moments of crisis, being present to assist those who were down and out. He knew and understood his role. Even though he was a "hero-priest" in many respects, what gave credence and assurance to that title was his willingness and courage to enter areas where many others dare not go. Who wants to walk into a war zone, like the many police, firefighters, and EMT's did recently in Las Vegas? If at all possible, most people would avoid a war zone. Whereas others would later read in the newspaper of the devastating results of the tornado that passed through Worcester, and wish they could somehow help, Fr. Connors had the instinct to head toward the messiness of the tornado's wake without hesitation. He was nowhere to be found on Prescott Street because he knew his priesthood was needed much more elsewhere.

In Paul's Letter to the Philippians this week, the Apostle writes, "I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance." Fr. Connors was certainly a humble priest in his life. The many people who gave him a gift that he passed on to someone else would know this about him firsthand. Even though he was a "hero-priest," he kept his head on straight, not being carried away by the adoration and numerous compliments that undoubtedly came his way.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

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

**PRAYER SHAWLS**

We have a few prayer shawls in our possession that we would like to give out to anyone who feels the need of having one. Or, if you know of someone who may be dealing with cancer or any other disease and would benefit from the comfort and peace of a prayer shawl, please speak with Fr. Riley. We thank the Prayer Shawl Group at Our Lady of Good Counsel in West Boylston for making and donating the beautiful work of their shawls to us.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Our food pantry that serves a number of families each week is in need of the following: all types of peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, tuna fish, and crackers. Thank you to our parishioners who continue to support our Parish food pantry over the weeks, months, and years, for feeding the hungry is a corporal work of mercy.

**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!**