

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM

THURSDAY 8:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 2:45 - 3:45 PM

(or by appointment)

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.	Oct 07	4:00 PM	William Plummer, Memorial, from the Walsh Family
Sun.	Oct 08	7:30 AM	Mike Glavickas, 22nd Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Melissa Harutunian, 5th Anniversary, from Her Son and Daughter
Mon.	Oct 09	9:00 AM	Bernadette Salois, Memorial Mass, from John and Marcia Kennedy
Tues.	Oct 10	9:00 AM	Maureen Janulewicz
Wed.	Oct 11	9:00 AM	Walter Evanowski, Sr., 4th Anniversary, from Family, <i>(St. John XXIII, Pope)</i>
Thurs.	Oct 12	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Sat.	Oct 14	4:00 PM	Mary E. Shugrue, Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Oct 15	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Robert Remilard, 8th Anniversary, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #1026 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. 7 at 10 a.m. at St. Anne Church, 130 Boston Tpke (Rt. 9), Shrewsbury. 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 10, 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 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 *the defeat of any attempts at bringing Physician-Assisted Suicide to Massachusetts.*

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 October 7 and 14, and must be purchased in advance, for no tickets will be sold at the door. For those of legal age, you may BYOW (Bring Your Own Wine).

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Christ the Great Stone” (Matt. 21:42): Christ is called a stone for two reasons. First, because his foundation is solid and no one who stands upon him will fall victim to deceitful charms or be moved by the storms of persecution. Second, Christ is called a stone because in him is the ultimate destruction of the wicked, for just as everything which collides with a stone is shattered while the stone itself remains intact, so also everyone who opposes the Christian faith will himself be ruined, but Christianity will remain untouched. This is the sense in which Christ is the great stone. ‘Whoever falls on it will be broken to pieces, but it will crush those upon whom it falls.’”

From and Incomplete Work on Matthew

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15th, THE 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a
 Psalm: 23
 2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
 Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Religious Education There are no classes on Sunday, Oct. 8th due to the holiday weekend. Classes resume on Sunday, Oct. 15th.
Star Student of The Week Our students of the week are Sophia Tardie and Joe Borowy! Sophia is a 2nd grade student in our Religious Education program. She loves coming to class each week and is eager to participate in the projects and classroom work. Sophia enjoys the Children's Liturgy and Vacation Bible Camp. She leads the younger children walking to the after school program and reads to her younger brother to help out at home. Joe is a Confirmation Candidate in our Religious Education Program. He was nominated by his teacher Mr. Sycks. Joe is an altar server and a leader of Boy Scout Troop 84 at Immaculate Conception. He is an active participant in class and is one of the first ones to raise his hand when a volunteer is needed to help. He lives his faith by tutoring to students with special needs at Worcester Technical High School. Congratulations Sophia and Joe!

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.

HURRICANE IRMA COLLECTION THANK YOU!

Thank you to our parishioners for your generous response once again to our Bishop's call for a 2nd collection to assist those gravely affected by a hurricane this season. All proceeds have been forwarded to our Diocese, who will forward all the collections taken up last weekend. May God's blessings be upon our people for our Christian response to Hurricane Irma.

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.

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.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

As well as May, October is the month of Mary. If you've already met her in the Rosary, through your prayers, or any other form of holy dedication and reverence, then continue on. Seek to deepen such a holy relationship until the day you join her with the angels and saints in the everlasting Kingdom.

If you presently do not have a relationship for one reason or another with God's Mother, seek to presently meet her in your life. If your hesitation is for theological reasons that you may have, I'm always more than happy to share some understanding as to why we confidently venerate the Blessed Mother as Catholics, a veneration fully consistent with worshipping Christ her Son. Establish in the present what is coming forever in the future. For those who do, we will not be disappointed. We will be drawn into God's life ever deeper through his Mother and the many graces given to her for answering "Yes" to the angel Gabriel.

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 \$480.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

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.

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, or through an upcoming website which will be in next week's bulletin. Please speak with Fr. Riley if you have any questions.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES ON WEBSITE

Parish Council notes from our meeting last Sunday, October 1, can be found on our Parish Website. Any comments or concerns may be directed to Fr. Riley at the Parish's email. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: 10/01/2017

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 4,062.00
Hurricane Irma Relief	\$ 3,345.00
Catholic Schools Appeal	\$ 57.00
Candles	\$ 25.00

FROM THE PASTOR

Around New England, October is a month for noticing the great foliage we're blessed to see in Mother Nature. October is also a month when the cooler weather sets in, going from short-sleeve shirts on October 1 or so, to sweatshirts and jackets by the end of the month. Once in a great while, we go from short sleeves early in the month to boots and shovels at the end of the month as we did about 5 years back when we received a major snowstorm around Halloween. And, my personal favorite, October is the month of baseball playoffs. They become much more exciting, of course, when the Red Sox are part of the post-season equation, which they happen to be this year.

In our faith, October is the month dedicated to Mary. Most Catholics, if you asked them what month during the year was dedicated to the Blessed Mother, they would answer the month of May. With May processions and such during the springtime, it's easy to see why most Catholics would guess May as the month of Mary. And they would be correct. It is. But October is also the month we dedicate to Mary's honor and life. On average, the Church celebrates some aspect of Mary's life two times a month. Some months may be three celebrations, while other months may be one. But October is a second month during the Church's year that we dedicate to Our Lady.

With that said, I extend an offer to all our people here at Immaculate Conception who presently do not search and ask for the many graces our Lord offers to us through his most Holy Mother. And offer to create space in our lives where we seek the intercession and prayers of the one who gave birth to the Most High Lord. And to open a new relationship with Mary during this month we dedicate to her life.

I'm sure most of us would agree that we are constantly meeting new people in our lives. When in Ireland a couple weeks ago, all of us on the trip met a number of new people with great Irish accents, beginning with our tour leader Fiona, to our bus driver Damien. When stopping in Dublin and Belfast, and a few Churches along the way, we also met local tour guides who shared their wealth of knowledge about certain parts of Irish history. At Our Lady of Knock, Deacon Kevin, Fr. Adam Reid of our Diocese, and myself met a couple Irish priests who were finishing up their Mass just prior to ours. All the people we met had natural Irish accents. It was fun listening to them speak, while hoping they understood my Lincoln St., Worcester/Boston accent in return. We also met many business owners in shops where some nice Irish items were purchased, and restaurants where good food was consumed. My point is that we meet new people all the time.

So, have you introduced yourself yet to the Queen of Heaven in your spiritual life? Have you established a longstanding, lasting relationship with the number one Lady you will be spending eternity with one day? I can't wait for Blessed Mary to tell me one day in person the entire story of how she gave birth to Christ the Lord in a stable in Bethlehem. "What was Joseph like? Was he nervous in the same way many fathers are nervous at the birth of their children? Did he faint - like some fathers do - during those incredible moments of Salvation himself arriving? Or was he composed the entire time? And, was your child-birth without pain as some theologians teach, or was it normal in human terms?"

So many questions I have for Mary. But I don't want my relationship with the Queen of our Faith to begin the day I die, or the day I make it out of Purgatory. I may not have answers to my many questions about Mary's life until the day I look on the face of God for good. But waiting until that time to establish a loving and close relationship with the one closest to Jesus tells me I could have used my time better in this regard during the course of this short life.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Oct 07	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	Oct 08	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Oct 09	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Oct 10	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Oct 11	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Oct 12	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Oct 14	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	Oct 15	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Notre Dame Academy's Open House will be held for students grades 5th-8th on Sunday, October 22 from 2:00-4:00pm. St. Mary's Schools, Worcester for PreK-12th on Sunday, October 29. Contact information: Office of Admissions 508-757-6200, Ext. 229, or email admissions@nda-worc.org.

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!**