

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

MOST REV. ROBERT J. MCMANUS, Bishop of Worcester

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. | Sep 15 | 4:00 PM | Robert Bacon, from his Children and Grand Children |
| Sun. | Sep 16 | 7:30 AM | John and Mary Powers, from Family |
| | | 10:00 AM | Franklin J. Scola Jr., 2nd Anniversary, from Family |
| Mon. | Sep 17 | 9:00 AM | Shawn Finnegan, 8th Anniversary, from Finnegan Family, <i>(St. Robert Bellamine)</i> |
| Tues. | Sep 18 | 9:00 AM | Helen F. Trainor, from Delia Trainor |
| Wed. | Sep 19 | 9:00 AM | James Shugrue, Month Mind, Parish Family, <i>(St. Januarius)</i> |
| Thurs. | Sep 20 | 8:00 AM | Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, <i>(St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon)</i> |
| Sat. | Sep 22 | 4:00 PM | Hon. James F. Queenan, from Delia Trainor |
| Sun. | Sep 23 | 7:30 AM | Marie Dunn and Jim Dunn Jr., from Family |
| | | 10:00 AM | Donald H. Letendre, from Family |

THIS WEEK the text for The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #1018 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

CELEBRATE PRIESTHOOD 2018

Join us on Thursday, October 18 at the Atrium at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester for the annual Celebrate Priesthood event from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30p.m. This event will feature 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. Advertising and sponsorship opportunities are also available. Donation is \$100.00 per person. For more information, contact Michael Gillespie at 508-929-4368 or email mgillespie@worcesterdiocese.org

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 all victims of priestly sexual abuse, may God bring peace and healing to the victims who are still with us, and eternal rest for those who have died.*

THE FACE OF MERCY

“It is proper to God to exercise mercy, and he manifests his omnipotence particularly in this way.’ Saint Thomas Aquinas’s words show that God’s mercy, rather than a sign of weakness, is the mark of his omnipotence. For this reason the liturgy, in one of its most ancient collects, has us pray, ‘O God, who reveal your power above all in your mercy and forgiveness...’ Throughout the history of humanity, God will always be the One who is present, close, provident, holy, and merciful.”

Pope Francis, from Misericordiae Vultus, The Face of Mercy

PARISHIONER JANE SHIVICK IN CONCERT

Parishioner Jane Shivick will be performing a concert at Mechanics Hall at 321 Main St. in Worcester on Thursday evening, **November 8 at 7:30 p.m.** Jane will work in concert with pianist Olga Rogach, performing a program called My Favorite Things. Consider attending a wonderful evening at historic Mechanics Hall for a string of joyful and powerful music. Tickets are \$30.00 and \$25.00, and can be purchased at www.mechancishall.org, or call 508-752-5608

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 \$70.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

“In considering the Church as ‘the home of the word,’ attention must first be given to the sacred liturgy, for the liturgy is the privileged setting in which God speaks to us in the midst of our lives; he speaks today to his people, who hear and respond. Every liturgical action is by its very nature steeped in Sacred Scripture. In the words of the Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium, ‘Sacred Scripture is of the greatest importance in the celebration of the liturgy. From it are taken the readings, which are explained in the homily and the psalms that are sung. From Scripture the petitions, prayers, and liturgical hymns receive their inspiration and substance. From Scripture the liturgical actions and signs draw their meaning.’ Even more, it must be said that Christ himself ‘is present in his word, since it is he who speaks when Scripture is read in Church. *From The Word of the Lord, Verbum Domini, Pope Benedict XVI, 2010*

CARDS FOR THE PARISH SICK

Anyone parishioner wishing to send a thoughtful, friendship card to a fellow parishioner who is in a nursing home or homebound, it would be a nice way of making the type of connection that tells the person they are not forgotten by their Church community. Visits from Fr. Riley are continuous and ongoing, but cards from other parishioners brings a sense of joy and peace to those who are struggling in some way, be it physically, emotionally, or spiritually. The following is a list of parishioners presently in a nursing facility or at home, a list that will be added to or changing in the upcoming weeks and months:

- ◆ *Mr. John Barna, Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 300 Barber Ave, Worcester, MA 01606*
- ◆ *Mr. Brad Newell, also at Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center*
- ◆ *Mr. Mike Lavin, St. Mary Healthcare Center, 39 Queen St. Worcester, MA 01610*
- ◆ *Miss Rose Sands, Holden Rehabilitation and Nursing, 32 Mayo Dr, Holden, MA 01520*
- ◆ *Also, Rev. Martin Donahue at Oasis at Dodge Park, 102 Randolph Rd. Worcester, MA 01606*

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

We invite any parents with children and youth from Grade 3 and beyond to consider having their children serve as altar servers for the given Mass they attend. Our Parish is in need of servers for all Masses at this time. We understand that not all children and youth are called to this sacred ministry, but our hope is that more parents will lead their children to assist at Mass in the altar serving capacity. Please speak with Deacon Kevin or Fr. Riley for those who may be interested. Most servers will serve only once, or at the most, twice a month, which is very doable for most families. Thank you for considering helping in this wonderful ministry offered to the young members of our flock.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION The first class and Open House for Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, September 16th, 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in Pre-K through 6th grade and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10. Parents, please plan on staying for the opening prayer and to meet your child's teacher. **If you have not registered your child for classes it is not too late!** Please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119 for more information.

The first Confirmation Class(Grade 11) is on Sunday, September 23rd 11:15AM-12:15PM. There will be a parent meeting for parents and Confirmation Candidates on Sunday, September 30th at 11:15AM.

WINNERS OF FRANCIS X. MAHONEY SCHOLARSHIP!

Because our Parish received a number of outstanding responses for the Francis X. Mahoney Scholarship Award from some of our students attending college and high school, the Parish Activities Committee has decided that for this year only, each one of them will receive scholarship assistance. Next year the scholarship will return to one student winning and receiving the financial assistance. Thus, the winners of this year's Francis X. Mahoney Scholarship are Chloe Shugrue, Megan Dickie, Michael Egwuatu, Nicole Hassett, Caitlin Holmberg, and Brendan Worthley. They will receive their award this Sunday morning, September 16, after the 7:30 Mass in the Church Basement. All are welcome to attend. Congratulations to each of our winners, and may God bless and sustain them in their school work and in their continued dedication to Christ in our Catholic faith.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Who Do People Say That I Am? Mark 8:28 "We note that the Lord called himself 'Son of man,' while Nathanael proclaimed him 'Son of God.' Similarly is the account in the Gospels where Jesus himself asks the disciples who people say the Son of man is, and Peter answers, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' This was done under the guidance of the economy of righteousness. It shows that the two natures of the one mediator are affirmed: his divinity and his humanity, and attested both by our Lord himself and by human mouths. By this means the God-man declared the weakness of the humanity assumed by him. Those purely human would themselves declare the power of eternal divinity in him." *Venerable Bede (672-735)*

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE HAS WORCESTER RAILERS TICKETS

The Activities Committee will be offering a night out for the family at the Worcester Railers on Sunday Nov. 18, 2018 at 5pm. Your \$20 ticket gets you a Mid-ice seat, free youth hockey jersey for kids 12 and under, one free ride on the Zamboni, Post-game photo, and a free Railers hat! Tickets will go fast so buy early. Those interested should call Jim Hester at 508-852-3473.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

The Devil has been attacking the Church since day one, with much cooperation, both in the priesthood and out, both within the Church and outside the Church, having a blueprint before Christ even rose from the dead, especially for the abusing priests in the 20th/21st century. The Accuser has been quite successful, as we now see. What will prevent an upcoming "civil war" among those who are in line with the Apostles are those leaders (Cardinals and Bishops) who support the sinful act of homosexuality to repent, come to the truth of its sinfulness and unholiness, admit to the truth of how much damage it has done to God's Church and His people in this time, and how much damage it will continue to do in the future if not corrected before God and man. I don't hold my breath for such profound humility and wisdom to happen. I expect stubbornness and pride to be the reaction among such leaders.

In the meantime, as the bigshots do what they do, may we find refuge, a place where God will enter into our lives in ways that lead us to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, his most holy Mother Mary, and all the Saints who are the truest examples of holiness we have today. They are the good Christians who lived life, not for a type of sexual preference that led to untold amounts of child abuse, but those who sought the goodness and holiness of Christ the Lord who reigns over all.

Peace, Fr. Riley

RCIA CLASSES BEGINNING IN OCTOBER

Classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will begin in mid-October, and will culminate with reception of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil in 2019. Classes will be held at the rectory, unless there are numerous candidates. If so, and we will move classes to the Church Basement. The RCIA Program is for adults 17 and older who have not been baptized in the Catholic Church or were baptized in an ecclesial community where the Catholic Church does not recognize it as a valid baptism. The program is also for adults who have been validly baptized in the Catholic Church or another Christian community, but have not received their First Communion or Confirmation in the Catholic Church. Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:45 P.M. A schedule for when classes begin will be forthcoming by the end of September. For youth and children 16 and under who have not been baptized, have not received their 1st Communion (after the 2nd grade), or have not been Confirmed, such students will need to attend Religious Education classes that begin September 16. Any questions the above possibilities can be directed to Fr. Riley before or after Mass, to Mary Sycks (Administrator of Religious Education), or call the rectory at 508-754-8419.

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Our Parish Activities Committee will be holding our annual Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, October 6th beginning at 5:30 p.m. after the 4:00 Mass. The event will be held in the Fr. Connors Center. Tickets for adults will be \$10.00, for children \$6.00, and for families \$30.00. We will hold a 50/50 raffle as well as door prizes to be given out. This is a BYOW (Bring Your Own Wine) event. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and will be sold after all Masses beginning next Sunday, September 16. No tickets will be sold at the door. Consider coming out for a fun evening with fellow parishioners and friends for a delicious dinner where all present receive their money's worth.

FALL SCRIPTURE STUDY PROGRAM AT I.C.

Everyone is invite to participate in a program on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans on the first four Tuesdays of October. The dates are October 2,9,16, and 23. Fr. Walter Riley and Dr. Frank McGuire will serve as discussion leaders. The Letter to the Romans is considered to be St. Paul's masterpiece: a marvelous gift for true followers of Jesus Christ. Please feel free to bring your lunch. Also, beverages and dessert will be served. We look forward to you joining us for this opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Scriptures, in particular this incredible letter from the hand of St. Paul.

PARISH ACTIVITIES COFFEE SHOP

The Coffee Shop will be open to all on Saturday, September 15 after the 4:00PM Mass and Sunday, September 16 after the 7:30AM and 10:00AM Masses. All are welcome.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, THE 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Psalm: 116

2nd Reading: James 3:16-4:3

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 09/0918

Sunday Ordinary \$ 5,456.00

Total Online Donations for August 2018 \$ 1,290.00

FROM THE PASTOR

We all have our place of peace. A place where God can be close. A place where the Spirit is welcomed and embraced. A place where others may be in near proximity, or not. It could be a place of seclusion within one's home, or a place where you may say hello to others whose path you cross during your peaceful walking encounter with the Lord. But I would think that most of us like that place to be totally quiet where we are alone, away from the world and the daily grind, where silence is both golden and Divine.

On my own end, I certainly like those places of solitude and calm, where prayer can be entered into in deeper and richer ways, and where the Lord can be encountered closely. But I also enjoy, as experienced once again on my recent vacation, walking a Civil War battlefield where, ironically and sadly, at one time there was so much violence, death, and destruction. I find such a place to be peaceful now, where all the old violence has now become a new place of peace. It tells me that God has the power to overcome places where human carnage happened on an immense scale, and now touch that same place years later with his presence of peace, where you just know He's there. It's essential for our spiritual well-being that all of us have such a place, be it a place of seclusion, a place that is very public, or both at different times. After all, human beings are adaptable.

And speaking of civil war, we apparently live in a time where there exists a certain type of "civil war," if you will, in the Church. One not need be a brain surgeon to figure out why such division and confusion is happening today, with the Pennsylvania Report on the clergy sexual abuse crisis bringing to light once again the countless horrors of those who defiled their promised holy priesthood through acts of pedophilia and homosexuality (ephebophilia) aggressively imposed on children and youth. It's believed that 80% of the cases in past years were acts of ephebophilia perpetrated by homosexually active priests who blatantly broke their vows of chastity. Where do we think this will lead the Church in a culture that has come to accept homosexual acts as "normal," which they are not? They are gravely sinful and exceedingly disordered, doubly so when directed at the most innocent human beings, our youth.

The harder question that U.S. Bishops will have to address this November in their annual gathering in Baltimore is, "How do we as a Church address such grave sinfulness to the point where we become what Christ calls us to, that being holiness, purity, chastity, and respect for the body that will be raised by Jesus?" A civil war may be brewing between Bishops over this issue of active homosexual priests, past and present, some being in positions of authority as we recently saw with the former Cardinal McCarrick of Washington, who had the unholy and perverse habit of using his authority to sleep with seminarians at his beach house in New Jersey, as well as other Cardinals and Bishops who lack the fortitude to speak out against such practices. If a Cardinal or Bishop ever tried to force me to do such a thing as I was going through seminary, I have to believe the Lincoln Street in me would have come out, I would have punched him in the you know what, and never made it to the priesthood. All I would know in that moment is that they work for the Devil, not for Christ, which McCarrick did in his homosexual endeavors. This is one example of how good candidates to the priesthood are scared away today and in past years by active homosexual priests with titles that will adversely affect a holy seminarian's journey to the priesthood.

If a "civil war" is to happen among leaders in the Church regarding this unholy issue of abuse, and there's a part of me hoping this does happen as part of the continuing cleansing, it would be far from the first time. Not to worry. It's been happening since Christ ascended, or close to that time.

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

| | | | |
|--------|--------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sat. | Sep 15 | 2:45 PM 4:00 PM | Confession Mass |
| Sun. | Sep 16 | 7:30 AM 10:00 AM | Mass Mass |
| Mon. | Sep 17 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Tues. | Sep 18 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Wed. | Sep 19 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Thurs. | Sep 20 | 7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM | Rosary Mass Rosary |
| Sat. | Sep 22 | 2:45 PM 4:00 PM | Confession Mass |
| Sun. | Sep 23 | 7:30 AM 10:00 AM | Mass Mass |

OPEN HOUSE

Notre Dame Academy, 425 Salisbury Street, Worcester, on Sunday, October 21 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Students currently in 5th through 7th grades are encouraged to attend. More info, call 508-757-6200, Ext. 229, or email admissions@nda-worc.org.

“FATAL FLAWS” AT CHRIST THE KING PARISH

All are welcome to come and watch this new documentary movie on the dangers of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia worldwide. The film will be shown in the parish hall of Christ the King Church, 1052 Pleasant St., Worcester on Tuesday evening, September 18, at 7:00 p.m. It will be followed by a discussion. The evening will conclude by 9:00. There is no cost. You can register for the evening at witnessforlife.com or by calling 508-754-5361. Also, you can watch the film’s 3 minute YouTube trailer at the same website.

**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!**