

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

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.	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
Mon.	Sep 24	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Sep 25	9:00 AM	Donald C. Rocheleau, from Family
Wed.	Sep 26	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Cosmas and St. Damian, Martyrs</i>)
Thurs.	Sep 27	8:00 AM	William Rourke, Month Mind, from Parish Family (<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>)
Sat.	Sep 29	4:00 PM	Claire A. Hunt, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Sep 30	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Daniel Shea, Memorial, from Family

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

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.

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE THANK YOU

Thank you to our Parish Activities Committee or their generosity of handing out six \$500.00 scholarships this year to deserving students for the purpose of tuition assistance. The generous nature of this Parish committee has assisted many parishioners and others in ways that reflect the love and concern of Christ. May God continue to bless the work of this committee in the years ahead, as many others will undoubtedly benefit from the good work of our Parish Activities Committee.

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

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.

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.

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.

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*

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The Pursuit of Meekness: Mark 9:36; “If you are in love with precedence and the highest honor, pursue the things in last place, pursue being the last valued of all, pursue being the lowliest of all, pursue being the smallest of all, pursue placing yourselves behind others.” *St. John Chrysostom (349-407)*

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.mechanicshall.org, or call 508-752-5608

TICKETS FOR JANE SHIVICK CONCERT IN NOVEMBER

Our Parish has purchased 10 tickets for parishioner Jane Shivick’s Concert called My Favorite Things. Jane, along with acclaimed pianist Olga Rogach, will be performing on Thursday evening, November 8 at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street in Worcester at 7:30 p.m. The tickets will be given to the first 10 (actually 9, since Fr. Riley has claimed one) who request a single ticket or a pair of tickets. The limit is two tickets per request. Consider coming out for a wonderful night of music and enjoy the professional, gifted talent of Jane and Olga as they perform here in our city.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Religious Education classes take place Sunday, September 23rd at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades Pre-K-6 and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10. The meeting for parents of children receiving First Reconciliation (Grade 2) is on Sunday, September 30th at 9:00AM.

The first Confirmation Class(Grade 11) is on Sunday, September 23rd 11:15AM-12:15PM. The parent and Confirmation Candidate meeting has been moved to Sunday, October 14th at 11:15AM.

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.

Star of The Week

Our Student of the Week is Bella Noberini! Bella is a fifth grade student in our Religious Education Program. She attends Mass every week with her parents and they pray daily as a family. Over the summer, Bella and her father volunteered their artistic talent at Calmer-Con in Gardner. This event is a Sensory Friendly Comics & Pop Culture convention for Autism Spectrum & Sensory Processing Disorder Kids and Families. Bella helped children create artwork and also donated her art work and all proceeds to the event. Bella is a beautiful example of living our faith. Congratulations Bella!

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 virtues of meekness and humility in our lives, reflecting the life of Christ.*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, THE 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

Psalm: 19

2nd Reading: James 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Throughout the process from Kindergarten to the 11th grade, the ideal for religious education is meant to be a partnership between parents and the Parish Religious Education program. Again, we are not meant to take over the role of parents in the direct religious formation of their children, just as the city of Worcester is not to take over teaching the sex education of your children. The kids are not meant to be passed off to us, hoping they are learning some good things at the Fr. Connors Center each Sunday that will help them along in life, which, of course, they are. Instead, parents are the primary religious educators of their children. This is a teaching of our Church that calls parents to the higher responsibility of leading their sons and daughters to Christ our Lord.

What does a good Religious Education Program look like? To answer this question, I repeat the words of St. James in this week's reading from the New Testament that provide some excellent insight toward the good health of such a program: "The wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity." Among many other Christian values and virtues, the above words speak well of a formation program that seeks to touch the hearts and minds of children and youth who are being wonderfully formed and shaped into adults who will make the most positive difference in the communities they will live in, and bring the Good News of Christ to those they encounter along the way.

So, thank you once again to all who commit their Sunday mornings – as well as other times of preparation – for the carrying out of the message of Christ, and sharing it with our all the youngsters in our program. May God bless our Religious Education program here at Immaculate Conception this year and throughout the years as we work in concert with parents and others who care about the religious growth of their children and, at times, grandchildren.

Peace, Fr. Riley

WORCESTER CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

All women are invited to this exciting Conference, to be held at Assumption College on Saturday, November 10. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Professor Helen Alvaré, Susie Lloyd, Mother Mary Assumpta Long, O.P., Dr. Janet E. Smith, and Susan Conroy. Bishops and diocesan and religious priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer Mass. For more information or to register, visit our website at www.worcestercatholicwomensconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register today!

PARISH ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON OCTOBER 12

Our Parish will be holding its first Ice Cream Social in the Church Basement on Friday, October 12, beginning at 6:30 p.m. We will have your favorite flavors, toppings, and a root beer float station. We invite those who come to bring in a homemade pie for a contest to win a \$25 gift card. There is no cost to the event, so come and enjoy a sweet treat and a couple of hours of fellowship with other parishioners.

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.

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 \$405.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 09/16/18

Sunday Ordinary

\$ 3,249.00

FROM THE PASTOR

With another Religious Education year under way, beginning last Sunday, I take a moment to give sincere thanks to all adults associated with our program here at Immaculate Conception. We have a most-devoted Administrator in Mary Sycks, who, after raising four children of her own with her husband Steve, now has the joy of “raising” a bunch more children and youth each year in their religious formation, and we are blessed to have Mary in that position.

Also, I give genuine thanks to all the teachers we have for the formation of our Parish youth and children. A number of our teachers have been part of our program for many years now, having seen many families go through the program, bringing into the world, we pray, the faith taught to them during those years of religious formation. We have also a few “newer” teachers in the past couple of years who love and know their faith well, passing it on in the classroom each week.

For the parents who read this bulletin article, I thank you first for entrusting to us the Sunday religious learning and formation of your sons and daughters in our program. Our formation, however, is a second-tier formation of what you, their parents, teach them at home. The home is the place where they put into practice the importance and joy of morning and nightly prayer. Or teaching them to say a short prayer before a school exam. The importance of such teaching at home can never in a million years be overestimated, being seeds that will bear Christian fruit throughout their lives. The home is meant to be the everyday place where respect and love for others is taught, where grace before meals is said, where healthy obedience to parents and adults is learned, and where there is no fear of God being mentioned in daily conversation.

What we do in our Religious Education program is teach many of the basics of our faith, especially for the younger children in the program; love God, love others, forgive others, the Sacraments; Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the Rosary, and so on. We are meant to be a religious extension of the family, and not the sole religious teacher of each child. The same responsibility for parents resides with parental attention given to the school their sons and daughters attend. Parents are to be aware of what their children are learning in school, especially in public school, where some of what may be taught clashes and differs with what Christ teaches us in our faith. Such differences need to be attended to... always in favor of our faith, and not what the culture is teaching them.

For example, the Worcester School Committee is presently considering a sex education program for Worcester Public Schools that in some ways radically differs from what Jesus Christ has taught his pupils. Parents have the most serious responsibility to not place such learning into the hands of strangers who have an obvious agenda that is way more cultural and politically correct than it is healthy and Christian. I pray very hard that parents with Worcester Public School students keep a very, very close eye on this impending possibility that detracts from the living out of our faith.

For the older students in our program here at Immaculate Conception, our teaching extends deeper into our Catholic faith, especially for those being prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Healthy relationships; respect for the opposite sex; heresies in the Church (which continue to pop up each century with a different name); the deeper meaning of each Sacrament, and not just knowing what the 7 Sacraments are. For a 10th-grader, it's not good enough anymore to just reel off the Sacraments. They should know why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is needed in our lives, or why the Eucharist is to be received every Sunday at Mass, and why it's not a matter of simply going through the motions.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Sep 22	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 23	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Sep 24	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 25	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 26	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Sep 27	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Rosary
Sat.	Sep 29	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 30	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO HOPE AND RECOVERY

Come join us for an introduction to the grant awarded to Blessed Sacrament to address ways in which our parish can support families and friends of the opioid epidemic and other addiction issues. We will present how our parish is leading this effort to provide awareness, support and resources. If anyone you love or know is afflicted by addiction, learn how you can help. Our program is faith based. Tuesday, Sept. 18, 7-8:30 pm, at the Phelan Center (directly behind the rectory) at 551 Pleasant Street, Worcester. This approach can be brought to your parish as well. If you would like to send a small team, please contact Romeo Marquis at Rmarquis48@outlook.com or 978-606-7023 (voice/text).

**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!**