

Immaculate Conception Parish



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)

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

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**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	Sep 08	4:00 PM	Bill Carmody, 7th Anniversary, and Betty Carmody, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Sep 09	7:30 AM	James F. Hester, Jr., and Lorraine A Hester, from Family
		10:00 AM	Marie Riley, 10th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Sep 10	9:00 AM	Deceased Students and Staff of Marlborough High School
Tues.	Sep 11	9:00 AM	Ann Sabulis, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Wed.	Sep 12	9:00 AM	M. Christine Riccio, from Delia Trainor, (<i>The Most Holy Name of Mary</i>)
Thurs.	Sep 13	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception, (<i>St. John Chrysostom</i>)
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

THIS WEEK the text for The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #1015 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

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.

ST. FRANCIS & THERESE CATHOLIC WORKERS BAKE SALE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEP 15th & 16th

Members of Saints Francis & Therese Catholic Worker will be here on the weekend of September 15 and 16, 2018 with homemade baked goods. The sale of wholesome bread and muffins, made with organic ingredients, is their main source of income which supports their ministries of sheltering homeless men and women, and we working for justice and peace. There is no set price for the bread as they prefer to depend on the generosity of parishioners to carry on the works of mercy.

“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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

“The Church is built upon the word of God; she is born from and lives by that word. Throughout its history, the People of God has always found strength in the word of God, and today too the ecclesial community grows by hearing, celebrating, and studying that word. It must be acknowledged that in recent decades ecclesial life has grown more sensitive to this theme, particularly with reference to Christian revelation, the living Tradition and Sacred Scripture. Beginning with the Pontificate of Pope Leo XIII, we can say that there has been a crescendo of interventions aimed at an increased awareness of the importance of the word of God and the study of the Bible in the life of the Church, culminating in the Second Vatican Council and specifically in the promulgation of the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*.

From The Word of the Lord, Verbum Domini, Pope Benedict XVI, 2010

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“In his ministry of loosing tongues and opening ears, the Lord was pointing to the time when all nations would hear and speak of God’s own coming in person. In preaching the Word today, the minister is symbolically touching human ears that they may be opened to the living Word by the mystery of grace. The power that may not be handled came down and clothed itself in flesh that could be touched, that all humanity might behold his divinity, which transcends the touch of flesh.”

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.

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.

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

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 students and teachers as they begin in earnest a new school year, that good values and good learning will come forth from the classroom into our homes and communities.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes will begin September 16th at 8:45am - 9:45am for students in Pre-K through 6th Grade. Classes will begin at 11:15am - 12:15pm for students in 7th - 10th Grade. Children in second grade will begin preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion on Sunday, September 16th. Students in 11th grade will begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, September 23rd. **It is not too late to register your children for religious education classes! Please contact Mary Sycks 508-868-8119 for more information.**

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 next 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.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 08/26/18

Sunday Ordinary \$ 4,477.00

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, THE 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4c-9a
 Psalm: 116
 2nd Reading: James 2:14-18
 Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

From the Pastor continued from the following page

As Isaiah tells us in the first reading this week, God is the vindicator, and He will continue to cleanse His Church to the great length it needs to be cleansed. God is the one who comes to save us, Isaiah writes, and the only leaders in the Church who can help to "save" the institution in union with God are the ones who work in perfect sync with the infinite goodness of God's Spirit. Meaning the holy ones, thanking God we have many. Any Pope or Bishop who goes political, or takes on a politician's role when addressing this present crisis or any other challenging situation in need of attention, will fail in their ministry. Honesty, I have serious issues with any Pope, Cardinal, Bishop, or even Pastor who speaks politically rather than religiously to the good People of God. Politically meaning they fail to be upfront and hide part of their message. Jesus was forever clear and honest.

Again, I refuse to live in fear, for I fully trust that God is in control, and He knows what He's doing. He is the God of love and mercy, but also the God of vindication and correction. Whichever Divine mode is more apparent at the time, be it mercy or correction, I trust that He is bringing about some better good that we humans messed up badly. When fear is an option for a given situation in the world or the Church, I draw back into the truth of Jesus Christ ever more deeply, knowing that he has won the victory over the Devil, while cleansing whatever needs to be cleansed at this time.

Peace, Fr. Riley

THE FACE OF MERCY

“Blessed Paul spoke ... at the closing of the Council:

‘We prefer to point out how charity has been the principle religious feature of this Council ... The old story of the Good Samaritan has been the model of the spirituality of the Council ... A wave of affection and admiration flowed from the Council over the modern world of humanity. Errors were condemned, indeed, because charity demanded this no less than did truth, but for individuals themselves there was only admonition, respect, and love. Instead of depressing diagnoses, encouraging remedies; instead of dire predictions, messages of trust issued from the Council to the present-day world. The modern world's values were not only respected but honored, its efforts approved, its aspirations purified and blessed ... Another point we must stress is this: all this rich teaching is channeled in one direction, the service of mankind, or every condition, in every weakness and need.’

With these sentiments of gratitude for everything the Church has received, and with a sense of responsibility for the task that lies ahead, we shall cross the threshold of the Holy Door fully confident that the strength of the Risen Lord, who constantly supports us on our pilgrim way, will sustain us. may the Holy Spirit, who guides the steps of believers in cooperating with the work of salvation wrought by Christ, lead the way and support the People of God so that they may contemplate the face of mercy.”

Pope Francis, from Misericordiae Vultus, The Face of Mercy

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Our Parish Activities Committee will be holding our annual Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, October 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 IC

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 \$25.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

FROM THE PASTOR

I've heard a number of people say over the past few weeks that the world is going to Hades (or another word) in a hand basket, including the Church for present obvious reasons. There seems to be a great deal of fear, of uncertainty, of not knowing what tomorrow will bring. We all like knowing what tomorrow will bring, or at least have an idea of what awaits for tomorrow between the hours of the sun rising and setting.

Quite honestly, I refuse to participate in this sort of thinking, of living in constant fear. The reason? It contradicts my trust in God being in ultimate control, which He is, as well as Jesus winning the victory in his death and resurrection, which he has. I refuse to walk around with a defeatist attitude and voice, even in such times of understandable horror and sickness on the actions of many priests in past years in their abuse of children. This is not to say I walk around with a permanent smile, filled with total joy all the time, not having a care in the world. On the contrary. My heart is heavy, first, for all the good people who presently live with the clerical abuse of years ago perpetrated against them, being a pain for them that will never go away until Jesus calls them home. The pains most of us deal with each day pale in comparison to what abuse victims confront. And second, my heart is heavy for the priesthood in this hour of the Church.

These are present times where the priests I know well carry within their hearts the breathtaking abuse of children caused by those who wore the same type of suit that we wear today. It's one thing to look like someone from past years, such as the Red Sox of 2018 wearing uniforms from 1918 for one game. They may look like the players from a century ago in the rags that they wear, but they are not the same people. They may perform some of the same rituals, such as taking infield practice prior to the game, which I'm sure they did in 1918, but they are not the same players.

When I compare the abusing priests of past years to the priests I know well today, both groups wearing the same clerics and looking the same on the outside, there's no comparison at all. The priests I know here in the Worcester Diocese, as well as some I knew from my seminary days, are good, holy priests whose hearts are in a place where Christ is the center. He truly reigns in their hearts, guiding their words and actions each day, doing their best to bring the Good News of our Lord to the Parishes they serve, being humble in the meantime, and loving in the purest of ways the many children and youth they are responsible for, be it in religious education or some other aspect of Parish life. They don't try to weasel their way into the lives of the beautiful innocence of the young, using their position to gain access in ways where they live out twisted, perverted, sick fantasies, with a deeply disordered, gravely sinful sexuality. The priests I know today - which needs to be said in the midst of all the present craziness - we may look like the past perpetrators on the outside in the clothes we wear, but we have zero resemblance to the them internally. Today, the priests I know look like Christ, the One whose first concern for His most prized creation was/is their internal goodness, love of neighbor, respect for others.

I can understand well why some folks think the world is falling apart, a thought that is caused by much more than the clerical abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. I remember well my parents expressing fear in the 1960's about the possibility of a nuclear holocaust, where the world was going to be wiped out by nuclear bombs that light up the sky. The reality was certainly present for such a thing to happen; all it takes is one crazy leader of a government or terrorist group to start the end game. But my better sense tells me that good people with good hearts and good sense who care about the goodness of the human race will prevail, returning a sense of calm and peace to those living in fear.

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Sep 08	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 09	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Sep 10	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 11	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 12	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Sep 13	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Rosary
Sat.	Sep 15	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 16	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, 6th, and 7th grades are encouraged to attend. More info, call 508-757-6200, Ext. 229, or email admissions@nda-worc.org.

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!

**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!**