

# Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at  
[www.icworc.com](http://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.	Nov 03	4:00 PM	Barbara Maher, 9th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Nov 04	7:30 AM	Chuck Burns, Jeannete T. Burns, and Brian B. Colonies, from Family
		10:00 AM	Irene and John Collins, from Family
Mon.	Nov 05	9:00 AM	
Tues.	Nov 06	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	Nov 07	9:00 AM	Malcolm MacKinnon, 2nd Anniversary, from Family
Thurs.	Nov 08	8:00 AM	Anthony Roy, Month Mind, from Family
Sat.	Nov 10	4:00 PM	Harry Dapper, 6 Month Mass, from Family
Sun.	Nov 11	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Anthony Roy, Month Mind, and Army SPC Kyle Little from Parish Family, and John "Jack" Kelley from Family

**THIS WEEK** the text for The 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #1040 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

**ABOVE BURNT OFFERINGS:** Mark 12:32; "The answer of the scribe seems to accord with the words of the Lord, for he too acknowledges the inmost love of one God, and professes the love of one's neighbor as real as the love of self, and places love of God and of one's neighbor above all the burnt offerings of sacrifices." *St. Hilary of Poitiers (310-367)*

**RCIA CLASSES HAVE BEGUN**

Classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) have begun. The next class is Monday, November 5, from 6:30-7:45 p.m. These classes will culminate with reception of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil in April, 2019. All 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. 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. Any questions regarding 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.

**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](http://www.worcestercatholicwomensconference.com) or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register today!

**FALL FUEL COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY**

The heat is on....in the Church. Next Sunday our Parish holds the first of three collections over the autumn/winter for assistance with fuel costs for our Church. We all heat our homes; we all know the not so low cost of doing so. Your financial assistance is warmly appreciated to help offset the high cost of heating our Church most every day for the next 5-6 months. Thank you.

**ALL SOULS ENVELOPES**

Envelopes for All Souls Day, November 2, may be placed into the collection basket over the next few weeks, and will be placed on our altar throughout the month of November. The names of deceased placed on each envelope will be remembered at Masses throughout November as we pray for the repose of their souls.

**PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE TURKEY-LURKEY AND NEEDED GIFTS**

Our Parish Activities Committee will be holding its annual Turkey-Lurkey event on Saturday evening, November 17 in the Fr. Connors Center. This is a family event that has been fun for all over the years. The committee is looking for another big crowd to be in attendance. Donations for this family event can be dropped off at the rectory no later than November 11. The Activities Committee has lost some members recently and they need much help this year to secure donations from new or longtime parishioners. The donations needed are as follows: new children's toys; gift cards for food (Shaw's, Big Y, Stop & Shop), restaurant gift cards, homemade gifts, sporting event tickets, wine/spirits or miscellaneous baskets. Thank you in advance for any and all donations to this fun event. Please contact Jim Hester if you're able to volunteer for the Turkey-Lurkey and to be a member of the Activities Committee at 508-852-3473, or email [bevhes-ter13@gmail.com](mailto:bevhes-ter13@gmail.com).

**TRIP TO GETTYSBURG, EMMITSBURG, AND HARPERS FERRY**

Consider joining Fr. Riley and others from our Parish on a 2019 spring trip from May 13-17 to southeastern Pennsylvania (Gettysburg), western Maryland (Emmitsburg), and Harper's Ferry, WV where three states (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia) and two rivers (Potomac and Shenandoah) meet in one of the most beautiful areas of our country. The trip is a combination of history and our Catholic faith, exploring and learning the Battle of Gettysburg, where a number of Worcester soldiers were engaged, the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Grotto at Mt. St. Mary's College, and historic Harper's Ferry, well known for Lewis and Clark, and John Brown. It will be a memorable trip for those who wish to join us at the affordable price of \$850.00, which includes motor-coach bus for 5 days and 4 nights, hotel, and other amenities including meals and tour guides. Flyers and a sign-up sheet can be found at each entrance to the Church. The trip limited to 45 travelers.

**VISITATION HOUSE BABY BOTTLES**

For our parishioners who have taken a baby bottle, we ask that you return it by the end of next week (November 11). Boxes will be placed at each entrance to the Church for the placement of the bottles. Visitation House assists in the many needs of women with child in the womb who have no where else to turn for assistance. Alongside St. John's Soup Kitchen who feed many of the city's poor, Visitation House is a most excellent example of supporting the Gospel of Life. Thank you for taking a baby bottle and donating to a most worthy charity.

**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.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Religious Education classes take place Sunday, November 4th at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades Pre-K-6 and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10 and Confirmation Class. The Confirmation Class Retreat and Hike on Mount Monadnock is on Monday, November 12th. We will be leaving for the retreat following the 9:00am Mass..

**STAR STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Our Student of the Week is Megan Doucet! Megan is a second grade student in our Religious Education Program. She attends Mass weekly with her family and can be seen helping at many parish activities. Megan has been a Mass Greeter and is an active participant in the Children's Liturgy. She noticed baby bottles near the church entrances to help support the Gospel of Life ministry of Visitation House in Worcester. Megan has asked her family, friends and neighbors for donations for this very worthy ministry. Jesus taught us that the Kingdom of God is found in balancing our love for God, our love for ourselves, and our love for our neighbors. Megan and her family continue to live as Jesus taught us to live. Congratulations Megan!

**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 are not loved, and those who struggle to love others.*

**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.

**BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

Fr. Riley will be holding a weekly evening Bible Study to be held in the Rectory from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The next Wednesday we will meet will be November 7. We will read, study, and comment on the Gospel of Luke for the duration of the Bible Study. Please bring your Bible, reading Chapter 2 of Luke's Gospel in preparation for the next class. All are invited to attend.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

"(St.) Jerome's counsel to the priest Nepotian can also be applied to us: 'Read the divine Scriptures frequently; indeed, the sacred book should never be out of your hands. Learn there what you must teach.' Let us follow the example of this great saint who devoted his life to the study of the Bible and who gave the Church its Latin translation, the Vulgate, as well as the example of all those saints who made an encounter with Christ the center of their spiritual lives. Let us renew our efforts to understand deeply the word which God has given to his Church: thus we can aim for that 'high standard of ordinary Christian living' proposed by Pope John Paul II at the beginning of the third Christian millennium, which finds constant nourishment in attentively hearing the word of God."

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

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

Listen heartily to the words of the first reading at Mass this Sunday, and hear the words that speak to the closeness of God to His chosen people of old. Hear how close the Lord desires to be to the people he has chosen to be His own, from whom the Christ child has come. The Shema is a prayer, however, for all of us. For all God-fearing people of goodwill, and especially a prayer for Christians. It's a prayer that gives all to God, where the entirety of our lives belongs. It's a prayer that places the whole of our lives on God's lap, a comfortable place where he is our heart, soul, and strength. And, it's a prayer to which Jesus adds a second commandment at the end of this week's Gospel. You know, that one about neighbor.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**TRIP TO WRIGHT'S CHICKEN FARM AND LASALETTE**

Advent Bus Trip to Wright's Chicken Farm & LaSalette Lights. Thursday, December 13, depart Immaculate Conception Church parking lot at 11:00 for delicious family-style luncheon of chicken, pasta, salad, beverage and rolls. Next, we'll arrive at 4 p.m. at LaSalette Shrine in Attleboro, attend Father Pat's Christmas Choral Concert. At 5 p.m., over 400,000 lights will brighten. Visit the Creche Museum with hundreds of creches from around the world. Cost is \$59 per person. Deadline to register is November 15. Questions? Call Michelle Deignan at 508-853-0820 or [mmdeignan@charter.net](mailto:mmdeignan@charter.net).

**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 \$50.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**THE FACE OF MERCY**

"With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father was that of revealing the mystery of divine love in its fullness. 'God is love,' John affirms for the first and only time in all of Holy Scripture. This love has now been made visible and tangible in Jesus' entire life. His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The signs he works, especially in the face of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion."

*Pope Francis, from Misericordiae Vultus, The Face of Mercy*

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Do we put our trust in God and allow him to be Lord in every area of our life like the widow did? Trust that God wants great things for your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Dec 7-9, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11th, THE 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16  
 Psalm: 146  
 2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28  
 Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 10/29/18**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,910.00
Propagation of the Faith, Mission Sunday	\$ 125.00
Fall Fuel	\$ 75.00
Total Online Donations for October 2018	\$ 1,210.00

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

The Shema. Certainly, one of the more beautiful Jewish prayers passed down to us Christians through Israelite history from the Book of Deuteronomy. What is the Shema, you may ask? It is the prayer; “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today.”

“Yes, Lord, we will take them to heart, and bring them forth to a world in desperate need of such potent, life-changing words. We will bring forth the message that you, Lord, are the only the God we worship and adore. The only true God there is, the One Who sets us free from corruption and sin. The One Who challenges us to accept, not the ways of a world in the midst of its eventual demise, but directs our gaze to the things that last forever. We know, Lord, what those things are, since your Son taught them to us so well. We know those things are the joy of heaven, the company of the Saints, the promise of peace that can never be taken away or lapse, the “thing” of singing alongside the choirs of angels, even if we have a really bad voice right now. We know, Lord, you will change our awful singing voice to sound like Frank Sinatra singing New York, New York, (sorry Red Sox fans), or like Judy Garland singing Somewhere Over the Rainbow. These are a few of the “things” that you have waiting for those who love you with all their heart, soul, and strength. I can already hear, Lord, Aretha Franklin singing R-E-S-P-E-C-T from above. All of this we take to heart, and so much more, Lord, because of your undying love and commitment to the good of our eternal destiny, for you are God and there is no other.”

The Shema. My priestly advice is that all Catholics should know by heart this Jewish Prayer as well as we know the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. It’s not difficult to memorize; just a handful of words. But words that lead us to the understanding that God is God, we are not, He’s in control, and we depend on him for everything. And, in His great love for us, He wants us to depend on Him for everything.

In my priesthood, I can honestly say that I lean on God for all things. From his presence in the Confessional, where his mercy and forgiveness abound, to putting together a homily for Sunday and daily Mass, to guiding me in his words – or silence – when dealing with tragedy or any difficult situation that may arise, to allowing the Lord to be my Partner in prayer each day. The Holy Spirit is more generous than words could ever explain. I like to think that the Spirit and I are one when performing the priestly ministry God has called me to, knowing time and time again that I absolutely could not accomplish any good if I tried walking this route on my own. The priesthood is not a UPS truck, where I used to work my daily route alone, away from the supervisors and bosses back at the plant on Route 20 in Shrewsbury. I thoroughly enjoyed the fact that I was alone when out there on the streets of Worcester County, but the priesthood is radically different.

The Shema. To this day, and forever, the Jewish people recite this holy prayer the same way any Catholic who is committed to praying the Rosary will recite the Our Father and Hail Mary. Such prayers are second nature to us. They’re automatic. We can do them in our sleep. We can say them walking backwards, forwards, while doing summersaults, jumping on a trampoline, hitting a golf ball (I usually say it just before), or spending a few moments alone with the Lord. The Jewish people and The Shema go together like thirst and water, oil and an engine, a book and human eyes, a pen and ink. If you happen to know a Jewish person, ask them to recite The Shema on the spot, and they will rattle it off easily. If you can find a Jewish person who doesn’t know The Shema, I’ll buy you dinner.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Nov 03	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Nov 04	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Nov 05	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Nov 06	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Nov 07	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Nov 08	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Nov 10	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Nov 11	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**TAIZE IN WORCESTER**

The Taize group that has been singing at Assumption College for six years has moved to Blessed Sacrament, 551 Pleasant St., Worcester. The next service is Nov. 11 at 7 pm. The Taize tradition is a style of sacred music and prayer developed in France after World War II by Catholic and Protestants to come together in song and prayer for peace in the world and unity in the Christian faith. Folks who come are given songbooks to sing along if they wish to. For those who wish to sing with the choir, please contact Will Raymond at 508-775-3847 or [will@rbusinessservices.com](mailto:will@rbusinessservices.com)

**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!**