

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.	Oct 20	4:00 PM	Robert W. Duffy, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Oct 21	7:30 AM	Msgr. Thomas J. Needham, 16th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Patrick Hurlihy, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Oct 22	9:00 AM	(<i>St. John Paul II</i>)
Tues.	Oct 23	9:00 AM	(<i>St. John of Capistrano</i>)
Wed.	Oct 24	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Anthony Mary Claret</i>)
Thurs.	Oct 25	8:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Sat.	Oct 27	4:00 PM	Bertha Zenkus, 5th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Oct 28	7:30 AM	John McDavitt, from Family
		10:00 AM	Donald H. Letendre

THIS WEEK the text for The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #1033 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

RCIA CLASSES HAVE BEGUN

Classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) began on Monday, October 15. The time of each class is 6:30-7:45 p.m., and will culminate with reception of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil in April, 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. 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.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting that took place last Sunday, October 14, can be found on our Parish website at worc@live.com.

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.

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.

THE FACE OF MERCY

“For his mercy endures forever. This is the refrain repeated after each verse in Psalm 136 as it narrates the history of God’s revelation. By virtue of mercy, all the events of the Old Testament are replete with profound salvific import. Mercy renders God’s history with Israel a history of salvation. To repeat continually ‘for his mercy endures forever,’ as the psalm does, seems to break through the dimensions of space and time, inserting everything into the eternal mystery of love. It is as if to say that not only in history, but for all eternity man will always be under the merciful gaze of the Father. It is no accident that the people of Israel wanted to include this psalm – the Great *Hallel*,’ as it is called, in its most important liturgical feast days.”

Pope Francis, from Misericordiae Vultus, The Face of Mercy

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 3. 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 bevhester13@gmail.com.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

This week is the annual collection for World Mission Sunday in the Church throughout the United States. This collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith helps to support evangelizing efforts throughout the world, bringing the Good News of Christ to areas that hear it, and areas where the seed of the Church has been planted and growing. Thank you for your generosity.

VISITATION HOUSE BABY BOTTLES

Our annual passing out of baby bottles to help support the Gospel of Life ministry of Visitation House in Worcester were passed out last Sunday after all Masses. For the parishioners who have taken a bottle, we ask you to place change, dollar bills, or a check made out to Visitation House into the bottle and return it by the end of this month. 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.

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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, THE 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9
 Psalm: 126
 2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6
 Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place Sunday, October 21st 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. 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.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

AN UNTIMELY REQUEST: Mark 10:38a; “Do you see? They did not understand what they were asking for when they were talking to him about crowns and rewards and the privilege of the first seats and honors even before the contest had begun. Christ was communicating with them on two levels when he said, ‘You do not know what you are asking for.’ One was that they were talking about an earthly kingdom and he had said nothing about this. There had been no announcement or promise about a visible kingdom on earth. The other was that, when they sought at the time the privilege of the first seats and honors of heaven, when they wished to be seen as more illustrious and splendid than the others, they were not asking for these things at the right time. The timing was precisely wrong. For this was not the right time for crowns or prizes. It was the time for struggles, contests, toils, sweat, wrestling rings and battles.” *St. John Chrysostom*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

“If it is true that the liturgy is the privileged place for the proclamation, hearing, and celebration of the word of God, it is likewise the case that this encounter must be prepared in the hearts of the faithful and then deepened and assimilated, above all by them. The Christian life is essentially marked by an encounter with Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow him. For this reason, the Synod of Bishops frequently spoke of the importance of pastoral care in the Christian communities as the proper setting where a personal and communal journey based on the word of God can occur and truly serve as the basis for our spiritual life. With the Synod Fathers I express my heartfelt hope for the flowering of ‘a new season of greater love for Sacred Scripture on the part of every member of the People of God, so that their prayerful and faith-filled reading of the Bible will, with time, deepen their personal relationship with Jesus.’”

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 10/14/18

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,804.00
Fall Fuel	\$ 200.00
Catholic Schools	\$ 142.00

From the Pastor continued from the following page

People who probably wouldn't have asked Jesus for such a favor as the two brothers did, but humbly followed him in body, mind, heart, and soul, loving him year after year, amidst the struggles and joys of life, looking forward to the reward of their faith one day.

Consider who these people are. Reflect on how much they have influenced your Catholic faith through the deep presence of God in their lives. To look at them, you just knew you were looking at a true disciple of Christ. It's not always a physically shiny look. But it is for sure always a shiny look emanating from the core of their beautiful souls. For myself, these are the ones who deserve to be at the “right and left of Jesus,” for their faith was indomitable, and their devotion to our Lord was unbreakable.

James and John ask one heck of a question to Jesus in this Gospel, but the Lord doesn't rebuke them for being so pushy toward their place in the afterlife. The spiritual goal for us is to be faithful to Him. I have a strong sense that being at the Lord's right and left, aside of Blessed Mary, is not impossible for us believers who didn't have the privilege of walking with Christ like the Twelve and so many others. There's plenty of close spaces with Jesus in eternal life. And I like to believe I happen to know a few of those people I've met along the way in my own journey of faith.

Peace, Fr. Riley

ALL SAINTS DAY MASSES

All Saints Day, November 1, is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. Our Mass schedule will consist of two Masses: Wednesday, October 31 at 4:00 p.m. and Thursday, November 1 at 8:00 a.m. Thank you.

MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

On October 28th, following the 10:00 am Mass, there will be a Society of St. Vincent de Paul meeting in the Church Rectory regarding the annual Thanksgiving baskets. All are welcome - we are looking for new members.

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 homeless at this of the year, that they find the shelter needed to stay warm and nourished.*

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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.

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 \$240.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

FALL SCRIPTURE STUDY PROGRAM AT I.C.

Everyone is invited to participate in a program on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans on the first four Tuesdays of October at Noon in the Church Basement. The remaining date is October 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.

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 October 31. Questions? Call Michelle Deignan at 508-853-0820 or mmdeignan@charter.net.

FROM THE PASTOR

There's an image of closeness that comes to us in this week's Gospel from Mark. It's the desire of the two brother Apostles, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who make this almost unbelievable request to Jesus; "Teacher... grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left." Quite honestly, if I was the Lord's Apostle walking around with him in the 1st century, I would fear asking him such a brazen question. Not that Christ doesn't want any of us there with him on his right and left, but it's a place that is reserved for others who belong by the side of the Son of God. I'll be content with being in heaven with him.

However, the image of such closeness to the Lord in eternal life is one that we seek, I pray, to begin in the present. It's in the right now, the present, that being at the right and left of Christ is much more possible and accessible than it is in the life to come when it is reserved for others. In the present, we consider the Eucharist first and foremost. Not only are we at his right and left, but we internalize him, which is far better than standing at his right and left. Standing aside of Christ is very good, for sure, but the blessed opportunity to consume him each week is far superior. And to think that many Catholics in our time pass on this opportunity in favor of some other time-consuming event on the Sabbath, or too lukewarm in their faith to comprehend the reality of what receiving Him results in.

When I reflect on standing at the right and/or left of Jesus, the first person I know this will happen to is Mary his Mother. She's already there, body and soul. She has the right and left of Jesus already covered, having carried the cup of his martyrdom in her own life through her presence at the Cross and being his greatest Disciple. Mary is the consummate "right and left" person for her Son.

But when I think of others who didn't live at the time of Christ, others who would possess the possibility of being allowed to stand close to our Savior in the life to come, I think first of the Saints in the Communion, including brothers James and John. But others too we have known over the course of our lives who have lived good, faithful, holy lives. Lives that have embraced their faith from the time of their childhood, allowed it to grow over the decades through being open to God's grace, and passing from this life into the closeness of Christ in his glory.

Granted, we know we are all in need of God's mercy at the end of our lives. Going to Confession, and showing true contrition and sorrow five minutes before we expire would be helpful. But God's mercy is still necessary for all of our souls if we hope to be close to Jesus in the world to come. With that said, there are those who we admire because of their holy, humble lives. People who have been so faithful and close to Jesus and his Mother. Men and women – and at times youth and children – who have set the example for the rest of us to follow. Ordinary, everyday people we may not consider to be on par with James and John and the rest of Jesus' followers in the 1st century. But, in fact, are close. Close to the saints in living the words of Christ, and close to all the holy people who have ever lived.

In my time here at Immaculate Conception, as well as my previous time at Christ the King, and my time spent at my home Parish of St. Bernard's for 4-1/2 decades across the tracks from here, I have been overly blessed to know and admire many people who I know for certain were close to the right and left of Jesus. Beginning with my own mother, and others in my neighborhood and fellow parishioners, as well as those who I've been blessed to be an Associate Pastor and Pastor for; these are the people (as well as the likes of James and John) who have been examples of what it means to be close to the King of the Universe. For myself, and I pray for you too, these are the "first century" disciples of Christ who just happened to be born 20 centuries later than James and John.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Oct 20	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Oct 21	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Oct 22	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Oct 23	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Oct 24	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Oct 25	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Oct 27	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Oct 28	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

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!

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.

**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!**