

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. | 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 |
| Mon. | Oct 29 | 9:00 AM | Catherine Clark, Month Mind, from Parish Family |
| Tues. | Oct 30 | 9:00 AM | Lucille Lavin, Month Mind, from Parish Family |
| Wed. | Oct 31 | 9:00 AM | Richard and Therese Cronican, from Daughter |
| | | 4:00 PM | Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish |
| Thurs. | Nov 01 | 8:00 AM | John "Jack" Kelley, from Family, (<i>All Saints Day</i>) |
| Fri. | Nov 02 | 5:30 PM | (<i>All Souls Day</i>) |
| 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 |

THIS WEEK the text for The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be found at #1037 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

RCIA CLASSES HAVE BEGUN

Classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) have begun. The next class is Monday, October 29, 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.

VISITATION HOUSE BABY BOTTLES

For our parishioners who have taken a baby bottle, we ask that you return it by the end of this month. 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.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

ADORATION OF THE LIGHT: Mark 10:52a; "The commandment of the Lord shines clearly, enlightening the eyes. Receive Christ, receive power to see, receive your light, that you may plainly recognize both God and man. More delightful than gold and precious stones, more desirable than honey and the honeycomb is the Word that has enlightened us. How could he not be desirable, who illumined minds buried in darkness, and endowed with clear vision 'the light-bearing eyes of the soul?' ... Sing his praises, then, Lord, and make known to me your Father, who is God. Your Word will save me, your song instruct me. I have gone astray in my search for God; but now that you light my path, Lord, I find God through you, and receive the Father from you, I become co-heir with you, since you were not ashamed to own me as your brother." *St. Clement of Alexandria (150-215)*

ALL SAINTS DAY MASSES NOVEMBER 1

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.

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 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.

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!

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes take place Sunday, October 28th 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.

STAR STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Our Student of the Week is Andrew DeHoratius! Andrew is a fifth grade student in our Religious Education Program. He was nominated by his teacher, Ms. Kaitlyn Anderson. Andrew attends Mass weekly with his family and is very active in parish activities. While driving to his brother's soccer game Andrew noticed a few homeless people on the street. Andrew told his Mom that he felt that they should do something for these people. His Mom asked him what he would like to do for them. They decided to pick up a hot meal and deliver it to the people they saw on the street. Andrew showed us all a beautiful example of practicing the Theological Virtues, faith hope and charity. They are gifts from God that lead us to live in a close relationship with him. Congratulations Andrew!

ALL SOULS DAY MASS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Fr. Riley will be saying Mass this Friday, November 2, in commemoration of All Departed Souls at 5:30 p.m. All Souls Day, unlike All Saints Day, is not a Holy Day of Obligation in the Church. But because of the holiness and solemnness of the day – remembering all those who have died – Mass will be prayed for the repose of their souls. After the homily, those in attendance will be invited to light a candle in memory of those we have loved and lost to death, and placing the candle in front of the altar. If possible, please consider attending this holy Mass to commemorate the loss of our loved ones.

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 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 10/21/18

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| Sunday Ordinary | \$ 3,094.00 |
| Propagation of the Faith, Mission Sunday | \$ 410.00 |

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, THE 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6
 Psalm: 18
 2nd Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28
 Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34

From the Pastor continued from the following page

but what comes down the road is forever and filled with God's joy.

Therefore, as the Church over the centuries, guided by the Spirit, has brought All Martyrs Day to the beauty and favor of All Saints Day, so we can take slight poetic spiritual license and recognize the truly saintly people we have known who will not be canonized by Pope Francis or any other Pope, but in our heart of hearts we believe to be part of the Saintry group in heaven. We still pray for the repose of their souls, asking God to extend his Divine Mercy toward them, for unlike those in the Communion of Saints, we are not 100% certain they are in fact in heaven with Peter and the rest of the gang.

The importance of this day in the Church cannot be overstated. It reaches that of a Solemnity (a day of obligatory attendance) because of the much blood that has been shed in Christ's name, as well as the much-committed faith shared with countless millions and millions of souls over the centuries. We pray, I hope, that we will one day join them in their eternal, blessed happiness.

Peace, Fr. Riley

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 elderly who struggle with their vision and loss of independence because of it.*

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.

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 \$150.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

"Throughout the history of the Church, numerous saints have spoken of the need for knowledge of Scripture in order to grow in love for Christ. This is evident particularly in the Fathers of the Church. Saint Jerome, in his great love for the word of God, often wondered: 'How could one live without the knowledge of Scripture, by which we come to know Christ himself, who is the life of believers?' He knew well that the Bible is the means 'by which God speaks daily to believers.' His advice to the matron Leta about raising her daughter was this: 'Be sure that she studies a passage of Scripture each day... Prayer should follow reading, and reading follow prayer... so that in the place of jewelry and silk, she may love the divine books.'"

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

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

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

FROM THE PASTOR

This coming Wednesday we celebrate in the Church All Saints Day. This high feast day, known as a Solemnity, was first believed to be celebrated in the 4th century, then known as All Martyrs Day. It makes perfect sense that the great feast of the Saints in the early Church was originally known by the name of Martyrs. Up until the year 313, when Christianity was legalized by the Emperor Constantine, the usual practice of the day, if you will, was to persecute and murder Christians. The highpoint of such persecution took place from the time of our Lord's resurrection (the first Martyr after John the Baptist) through the early 4th century, with the greater number of martyrs dying in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. It became sport for Roman Emperors from Nero (1st century) through Diocletian (late 3rd- early 4th century) to persecute those who worshipped Christ as Savior of the world, and not the Roman Emperor as lord. Thus, thousands who stood steadfast in their faith under threat of death ended up paying the ultimate price for not denying him who is true Lord and Savior.

It's not difficult to see why the Church at this time would set aside a day specifically to remember the devotion and sacrifice of the martyrs, remembering the words of Christ who commanded them to "Deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mt 16:24), as well as "If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first" (Jn 15:18), and "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:10). The martyrs were fully aware of these words of Christ, applying them most steadfastly to their faith.

All Martyrs Day has become over the centuries – and most appropriately - All Saints Day. Not that martyrs in the Church are no longer. One of the recent Saints canonized by Pope Francis was Bishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who was murdered at the altar in his country in 1980 for speaking out against government forces who abused the poor people of their Latin American country. 1980 is not all that long ago. Thus, when Mass is said in the future on St. Oscar Romero's feast day, the priest will wear red vestments signifying the memorial of a martyr.

For All Martyrs Day to spiritually evolve into All Saints Day is as natural as the human body's need for water. All Saints Day incorporates, of course, more than the martyrs who have died in the name of Christ. This day recollects all those who have followed Christ in the greatest of ways through their faith in him, and not in the world, while living, praying, and working in the world. They have overturned the world's values in their lives, and given us a most excellent example in their particular way of what it means to practice and live out the tenets of Jesus' words and commands. They took his words to the nth degree of seriousness, while never losing their capacity for joy and happiness, knowing they were serving him who promised them life eternal. Eternal life was all the incentive needed for being open to God's grace to operate in their lives, as us older folks witnessed in the lives of St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II.

However, I like to say often that not all the saints are known to us in the Communion of Saints. There are those we have known and loved, men, women, and even children who have followed the way of Jesus to perfection by way of humility, or kindness, or mercy, or prayer, or knowledge, or perfection in marriage as a couple, or any combination of these Christian virtues along with many others. They are the ones who were close to us at times, someone we knew from Church or in the workforce, a neighbor or friend, someone who we just knew to be Christlike in their mannerisms and what they stood for in their lives. They chose Christ, and him crucified, rejecting the promises of a world that cannot satisfy the deep recesses of the human heart. Not because they enjoyed persecution in some weird sort of way, but because they understood and believed in the promises of Him who is Lord, possessing the wisdom that this life is short and quick,

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

| | | | |
|--------|--------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sat. | Oct 27 | 2:45 PM 4:00 PM | Confession Mass |
| Sun. | Oct 28 | 7:30 AM 10:00 AM | Mass Mass |
| Mon. | Oct 29 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Tues. | Oct 30 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Wed. | Oct 31 | 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM | Rosary Mass Vigil Mass |
| Thurs. | Nov 01 | 7:30 AM 8:00 AM | Rosary Mass |
| Fri. | Nov 02 | 5:30 PM | Mass |
| Sat. | Nov 03 | 2:45 PM 4:00 PM | Confession Mass |
| Sun. | Nov 04 | 7:30 AM 10:00 AM | Mass Mass |

THE FACE OF MERCY

“Before his passion, Jesus prayed with this psalm of mercy (*for his mercy endures forever*). Matthew attests to this in his Gospel when he says that, ‘when they had sung a hymn’ (26:30), Jesus and his disciples went out to the Mount of Olives. While he was instituting the Eucharist as an everlasting memorial of himself and his paschal sacrifice, he symbolically placed this supreme act of revelation in the light of his mercy. Within the very same context of mercy, Jesus entered upon his passion and death, conscious of the great mystery of love that he would consummate on the cross. Knowing that Jesus himself prayed this psalm makes it even more important for us as Christians, challenging us to take up the refrain in our daily lives by praying these words of praise: ‘*for his mercy endures forever.*’

Pope Francis, from Misericordiae Vultus, The Face of Mercy

**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!**