

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.	Feb 02	4:00 PM	Doris, Kathleen, and Michael Piscitelli, from Family
Sun.	Feb 03	7:30 AM	Dr. John W. Davis Jr., 3rd Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Richard F. Riley, Sr., 18th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Feb 04	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Feb 05	9:00 AM	Cy Farnsworth, Month Mind, from Parish Family, <i>(St. Agatha)</i>
Wed.	Feb 06	9:00 AM	<i>(St. Paul Miki and Companions)</i>
Thurs.	Feb 07	8:00 AM	
Sat.	Feb 09	4:00 PM	Ellen Ryan, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Feb 10	7:30 AM	Mr. and Mrs. Hervey Gregoire, from Family
		10:00 AM	

Paul Miki and his companions



THIS WEEK the text for The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #956 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

JESUS SPEAKS OF HIS REJECTION BY HIS PEOPLE: Lk 4:23; “The Savior deliberately explains why he performed no miracles in his own country, to prevent someone from thinking we should value affection for our country very little. He who loved all could not but love his fellow citizens. But those who envy his country deprive themselves of love, for ‘love does not envy, it is not puffed up.’ Yet his country does not lack divine blessings. Isn’t it a greater miracle that Christ was born there? So, you see what measure of evil envy brings. His country is found unworthy because of envy, the country in which he toiled as a citizen, which was worthy that the Son of God be born there.”

St. Ambrose (c340-397)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

“...one must avoid the risk of an individualistic approach, and remember that God’s word is given to us precisely to build communion, to unite us in the truth along our path to God. While it is a word addressed to each of us personally, it is also a word which builds community, which builds the Church. Consequently, the sacred text must always be approached in the communion of the Church. In effect, ‘a communal reading of Scripture is extremely important, because the living subject in the Sacred Scriptures is the People of God, it is the Church ... Scripture does not belong to the past, because its subject, the People of God inspired by God himself, is always the same, and therefore the word is always alive in the living subject. As such, it is important to read and experience Sacred Scripture in communion with the Church, that is, with all the great witnesses to this word, beginning with the earliest Fathers up to the saints of our own day, up to the present-day magisterium.’”

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

LECTURE AT ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

The Ecumenical Institute at Assumption College will present a lecture on religious tensions in Jerusalem featuring nationally renowned author and journalist James Carroll, which will provide a deep analysis of the city of Jerusalem and the conflicts that have arisen in response to the tensions between Christianity, Muslims, and the Jewish people over the centuries. The lecture will take place on February 7 at 4 p.m. in the Jeanne Y. Curtis Performance Hall of the Tsotsis Family Academic Center on Assumption College’s Worcester Campus, 500 Salisbury St.

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 grave sins of all politicians, both Catholic and otherwise, who support the horrendous practice of abortion and the killing of human life in the sacred womb of mothers.*

PARTNERS IN CHARITY HAS BEGUN...WILL END FEBRUARY 28

The annual Partners in Charity campaign has been ongoing for 3 weeks now, with just over 3 weeks remaining. Please note that the campaign will finish on February 28, leaving a window of only six weeks for donations to be made. This time duration for the campaign is much shorter than the traditional 5-6 months. The reason for a shorter Partners in Charity for 2019 results from our Parish being in the first phase of the Diocesan-wide Capital Campaign, *Legacy of Hope*, that will follow on the heels of Partners in Charity from March-June of this year. As a reminder, Partners in Charity is essential for the numerous services provided by our Diocese, services such as the many corporal works of mercy performed by Catholic Charities, for the educational costs of priestly vocations, for the ministries that serve the Hispanic Catholic faith community and Fr. Enoch’s African Ministry, the daily TV Mass, to name just a few of the relevant ministries, as well as the necessary day-to-day operations of our Diocesan network. Envelopes for Partners in Charity will be placed at the end of each pew until the end of February. Please take one home and prayerfully consider donating on behalf of our Parish. For the many Parish families who now donate securely online, you can go to www.worcesterdiocese.org, click the heading “Helpful Links,” and click on Partners in Charity. This campaign will finish on February 28 and *will not carry over into March*, thus, it’s essential for those of us making a donation to do so prior to that date. My sincere thanks to parishioner Bill Stanton for assisting me with this shortened version of Partners in Charity for 2019, praying this year will be just as successful as in past years. Thus far, our Parish has raised \$22,735.00 dollars from 52 donors. Last year our Parish totaled 184 donors, with the hope that we will approach that same number in this shortened period of time. If anyone has questions regarding Partners in Charity or the upcoming Capital Campaign, please feel free to speak with me at any time. Thank you, Fr. Riley

19th ANNUAL DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE AT ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Assumption College on Saturday, April 6. Visit the conference website at www.firstmensconf.org for information and to purchase tickets online and elsewhere. Come and hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: Kevin Dunn, Francesco Cesareo, Trent Horn, Father Warren Savage, Mike Aquilina and Eric Mahl. Bishops and priests will hear confessions. Bishop McManus will offer the Conference Mass. For a Conference brochure, further information or registration, call Sara Smillie at 508-929-4345. Adult tickets are \$45 until March 25, afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30.

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Fr. Riley will hold 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 February 6. We will read, study, and comment on the Gospel of Luke for the duration of the Bible Study. Please bring your Bible, reading Chapter 9 of Luke’s Gospel as preparation for the next class. All are invited to attend.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, February 3rd 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.

Incident weather policy ~ For cancellations of Religious Education classes due to weather conditions please check the Immaculate Conception website or Facebook Page. You can also call the Office of Religious Education at 508-868-8119.

Student of the Week Our Students of the Week are Carolyn Braley and Christian Holmberg! Carolyn is a first grader in our Religious Education Program. She was nominated by her teacher, Ms. O'Brien. Carolyn is an enthusiastic student always willing to share her faith with her classmates. She attends Mass weekly with her family and participates in the Children's Liturgy. Carolyn has collected food for the homeless, participated in a sock drive for veterans and helped her grandmother with household chores. She proudly practices the Theological Virtues in her daily life. Congratulations Carolyn!

Christian is a student in the Confirmation Class. He was nominated by his teacher, Mr. Sycks and the entire Confirmation Class, for presenting to his English Class an oral report on The Confessions of St. Augustine. CJ shared St. Augustine's struggles with conversion and related them to life lessons that he experiences everyday. CJ had the fortitude to evangelize in a public place outside of the church setting. He channeled the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to help him declare his faith and spread the Gospel. Congratulations CJ!

MINISTRIES AT BLESSED SACRAMENT

Blessed Sacrament Bereavement will meet on February 7, 6:30-8 pm at Epiphany House, 551 Pleasant Street, Worcester. Operation Ranger Rosary and Shawl Ministry will meet on February 9, 1-3 pm in the Phelan Center located behind the church at 551 Pleasant Street, Worcester. All are welcome.

IRISH FESTIVAL IN WORCESTER

The Knights of Columbus and St. Joan of Arc Parish are having their first Irish Festival on Saturday February 23, 1 - 9 p.m at the Arc, 570 Lincoln Street, Worcester. Admission is \$5.00 (Children under 12 are free) with NO food included OR \$15.00 including admission and grey corned beef dinner. Tickets for this will be sold after all masses starting February 2 at St. Joan of Arc Church. Also features vendors selling crafts, Irish goods, baked goods etc. and raffles. Food will be served all day along with Live Irish music all day and Irish step dancers from the McNerney school of Irish Dance performing during the day.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalm 138
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 1/27/2019

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,762.00
Winter Fuel	\$ 820.00
Candles	\$ 130.00
Catholic Free Press total to date	\$ 476.00
Total Online Donations for January 2019	\$ 1,012.50

From the Pastor continued from the following page

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.” The words of God speaking to Jeremiah, informing the Prophet that God had an important plan for his life, as He does for each of us. Jeremiah struggled with the lack of faith he encountered in his ministry to the Israelites. There were times I’m sure he wanted to give up. But he didn’t. There were times when a few fans wanted to give up on the Patriots this past season. A few probably did, most of them likely did not.

The arrow of our faith is meant to point onward and upward as we walk toward our ultimate goal of heaven. Through the onward and upward we will experience moments that are less than stellar. Moments that don’t look good on our spiritual resume, nor do they truly reflect how God formed us to be, beginning in the womb. As the Patriots of 2018-19 can teach us, at the end of the season we want to be playing our best Christian football, baseball, hockey (without the beer), or any other sport we can relate to. Stay the course through good times and bad, and allow the Lord to lead us in ways that will end the season of our lives on a high note, as well as the season of each day.

Peace, Fr. Riley

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SUPER BOWL SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Our Parish Activities Committee will be serving food and refreshments in the Coffee Shop after the 7:30 & 10:00 Masses this Sunday. In order of our beloved New England Patriots making it to the Super Bowl (again), all food and drink items are free of charge. Hope to see you there as we all gear up for our local team’s presence in the biggest sporting event of the year. Also, our Parish Activities Committee is always looking for new members to assist at various events throughout the year. Consider joining this wonderful group of parishioners dedicated to serving our Parish in activities that bring us together in the spirit of love and joy, such as our upcoming Irish Dinner in March.

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 \$20.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

TRIP TO GETTYSBURG, EMMITSBURG, & 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 motorcoach bus for 5 days and 4 nights, hotel, and other amenities including meals and tour guides. Flyers and a signup sheet can be found at each entrance to the Church, as well as online at www.icworc.com. The trip limited to 45 travelers. Currently there are 25 people who have signed up for this trip, and this number will be updated each week. Now is the time to sign up with much interest being shown in this trip.

YOUNG ADULT THEOLOGY ON TAP

Join us for the next Theology on Tap on Tuesday, February 5 at Compass Tavern in Worcester! Doors open for food and drinks at 6:30. Our speaker will be Derek Mobilio and his topic will be "Making the Act of Faith: The Interplay of the Intellect, Will, and Grace". The speaker will begin around 7pm. Open to all young adults ages 18-39. Compass Tavern in located at 90 Harding St. in Worcester.

FROM THE PASTOR

As the Patriots paly in the Super Bowl (again!) this Sunday evening, it's good for us to take a quick glance back at their season this year and learn from it a spiritual insight that touches most- if not all – of our lives. I love it when a spiritual connection can be made through the image of sports, be it football, baseball, hockey (having beer thrown my way at the Boston Garden), whether the connection is performed in a way that is good or not so good. The Boston Garden incident (2 of them a few years back) certainly reaches the not so good level of connections to the spiritual well-being of others.

This year, however, when we study the pattern of the Patriots season, what we see is a season filled with ups and downs; a season that had some fans saying, “This team is not as good as other Patriot teams in the past 18 or so years. They’re a good team, for sure, but they’re not as dominant, not as consistent, and not as convincing even in the games they win.” All understandable. And true. This New England Patriots football team seemed to struggle to win much more than other Patriots teams in recent years, even though they won their share of games this year. It wasn’t until the past couple weeks of the season that they began to “play like the Patriots we’re used to seeing.”

What happened this year that hasn’t happened in past years (and this is the spiritual point we learn from this team) is that they peaked late in the season, playing their best football at the end, carrying their best football into the playoffs, revealing a team that has saved its best for last, reaching their peak in the latter part of the season. That certainly wasn’t their plan. Coach Belichick prepares his team to go out and win every game by 100 points. Or what seems like 100 points. Not this year! That’s not the way it worked. Other teams are also good, they have their game plans that disrupt your team’s plan, and they sometimes defeat you because their plan is better mapped-out than yours. But not only that, there are teams that take much of a season to gel and come together, saving their best team play for the end. It happens in every sport. This year, the 2018-19 version of the Patriots happens to be one of those teams.

So, how does this connect to real life? How is this a spiritual lesson for most – if not all – of us? Our Life’s journey, for most of us, is a journey that is meant to move forward and upward. Like the Patriots this past season, there are moments of setback, when we are not “playing” our best Christian game for one reason or another. Many times, the reason is connected to human weakness, to sin itself, possibly not giving our best effort in the moment, or just having a bad day for no good reason. We all have them. I can tell you honestly, some days in the priesthood are better than others, although I love every day God gives me in this vocation. It may be connected to the demands of a given day, which comes with the territory and I’m perfectly content with. Even Tom Brady is asked to step up his play and take over a game when the original game plan is not working out. Other days don’t go according to the plan we have in mind, so adjusting to what comes along is not always a smooth adjustment, but necessary. But when one day passes into another, we’re given a new start that calls us back to the upward journey.

The makeup of the Patriots season this past year is a spiritual lesson because there are those who save their best for last. But also, spiritually speaking, as Christians we want to be at our peak of faith when the end of the season arrives for all of us, if you know what I mean. We want all our lesser things living in the past where they belong; the personal weakness, the sinful choices, the lack of faith and trust in God, and be fully focused, and at our best, when the time arrives for our personal Super Bowl to be played in the presence of God. Our “peaking period” is always before us. It’s a way of life that brings joy and happiness because we love God and neighbor in the present.

In the 1st reading from Jeremiah this week we hear these eloquent words of the Prophet;

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Feb 02	2:30 PM 2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Rosary Confession Mass
Sun.	Feb 03	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Feb 04	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Feb 05	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Feb 06	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Feb 07	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Feb 09	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Feb 10	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

TAX STATEMENTS FOR 2018

For those who wish to receive a tax statement for contributions to the Parish for 2018, please call the office during normal business hours, and Robert, our Office Manager, will mail a copy to your address, or have a copy ready for pickup. Thank you.

A BIBLICAL WALK WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER

Beginning Thursday, January 31, St. Peter Parish in Northbridge will show 4 weekly video presentations by Edward Sri based on the biblical life of the Blessed Mother. (there will be discussion to follow each video). Please join us either at 8:30am or at 6:30pm in the classroom of the parish center. This is a free series! It's a beautiful series and we're pretty sure you're going to love it! Any questions or to register, please contact Leeann: stplifeteen@charter.net or 508-234-6355. Located at 39 Church Ave., Northbridge.

**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!**