

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.	Jan 26	4:00 PM	Claire Burke, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Jan 27	7:30 AM	Irvin (Buddy) Goranson, 12th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	T. Francis Killeen, 22nd Anniversary, from Family and Edward F. Kennedy, 2nd Anniversary, From Wife
Mon.	Jan 28	9:00 AM	Fr. Edward T. Connors, 33rd Anniversary, from Parish Family, <i>(St. Thomas Aquinas)</i>
Tues.	Jan 29	9:00 AM	Helen Queenan, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Wed.	Jan 30	9:00 AM	The Intentions of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thurs.	Jan 31	8:00 AM	The Souls in Purgatory, <i>(St. John Basco)</i>
Sat.	Feb 02	4:00 PM	Doris, Kathleen, and Michael Piscicelli, 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

THIS WEEK the text for The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #953 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

LET EVERY CONGREGATION FIX ITS EYES ON JESUS, THE WORD OF GOD: Luke 4; “When Jesus had read this passage, he rolled up ‘the scroll, gave it to the servant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.’ Now too, if you want it, your eyes can be fixed on the Savior in this synagogue, here in this assembly. When you direct the principle power of seeing in your heart to wisdom and truth and to contemplating God’s Only-Begotten, your eyes gaze on Jesus. Blessed is that congregation of which Scripture testifies that ‘the eyes of all were fixed on him!’ How much would I wish that this assembly gave such testimony. I wish that the eyes of all (of catechumens and faithful, of women, men, and children) – not the eyes of the body, but the eyes of the soul – would gaze upon Jesus. When you look to him, your face will be shining from the light of his gaze. You will be able to say, ‘The light of your face, Lord, has made its mark upon us.’” *Origen (184-253)*

WINTER FUEL COLLECTION

Thank you to all our parishioners who donate to the annual fuel collections in November, January, and March. These collections greatly assist our Parish to help offset the cost of heating the Church throughout the winter. The second phase of the fuel collections took place last week at all Masses (despite the snow-storm). For those who do not receive envelopes, please consider “creating” an envelope for this collection, and placing it in our collection basket. As we head into the heart of winter with higher fuel invoices for the Church, this January collection will help to cover the cost of heating the Church for 1-2 months. Thank you again.

OPEN HOUSES

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary, 865 Main St., Worcester has openings in Grades Pre-K-7 on Sunday, January 27, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Visit them, or call 508-791-6496, or at www.stpetercentralcatholic.com.

St. Peter Marian, 781 Grove St., Worcester has openings in Grades 7-12. Thursday, January 31, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Call 508-852-5555 x 114, or at www.spmguardians.org.

St. Mary’s Schools of Worcester, openings Pre K-Grade 12. Wednesday, January 30, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Call 508-753-1170 or stmaryworcester.org.

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 struggle in their relationship with Christ, that his divine power will bring about eyes of faith and belief.*

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 January 30. 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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

“Here I would like to highlight the recommendations of the Synod concerning the *role of women in relation to the word of God*. Today, more than in the past, the ‘feminine genius,’ to use the words of John Paul II, has contributed greatly to the understanding of Scripture and to the whole life of the Church, and this is now also the case with biblical studies. The Synod paid special attention to the indispensable role played by women in the family, education, catechesis, and the communication of values. ‘They have an ability to lead people to hear God’s word, to enjoy a personal relationship with God, and to show the meaning of forgiveness and of evangelical sharing.’ They are likewise messengers of love, models of mercy, and peacemakers; they communicate warmth and humanity in a world which all too often judges people according to the ruthless criteria of exploitation and profit.” *The Word of the Lord, Verbum Domini, Pope Benedict XVI, 2010*

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 \$40.00 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 sign-up 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, January 27th 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 Student of the Week is Jack Jalbert! Jack is a student in the Confirmation Class. He was nominated by his teacher, Mr. Sycks for his studious approach in reading and understanding The Confessions of St. Augustine. He is a wonderful participant in the Confirmation Class who joyfully embraces his faith. Jack is an altar server, attends Mass weekly with his family and participates in many Parish Activities. Jack attends St. John's High School and is very involved in the Campus Ministry. Jack leads a virtuous life through practice and observation. Living the virtues helps us be more in tune with God. Congratulations Jack!

THE FACE OF MERCY

“The Church’s first truth is the love of Christ. The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people; a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of one’s self. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations, and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.”

Pope Francis, from Misericordiae Vultus, The Face of Mercy

VISITATION HOUSE BABY BOTTLE TOTAL

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to our annual baby bottle collection last October to help support Visitation House. A total for our Parish was recently sent along, with the figure of \$1996.00, a very generous sum to help assist this Gospel of Life ministry here in Worcester. May God’s holy blessings be upon our Parish as we thank Him for the gift of our own lives, knowing we make a real difference with pregnant women experiencing daily hardships who turn to Visitation House for their many needs.

DIOCESAN MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY

All Middle School youth in grades 6-8 are invited to join us for the Diocesan Middle School Rally on Sunday, April 7 at St. Peter-Marian! Cost is \$15. The event will run from 1-5pm and will include games, activities, snacks, speakers, and Mass. For more information or to register your group contact Tim Messenger at 508-929-4360 or at tmessenger@worcesterdiocese.org or go to www.neworchester.org/diocesan-middle-school-youth-rally.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Psalm 71

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 1/20/2019

Sunday Ordinary \$ 2,559.00

Winter Fuel \$ 1,072.00

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Our faith does not end with suffering, and neither does Paul’s teaching insight end in the negative. We are called to assist each other when one member is suffering, alleviating the pain to the extent we are capable of. Some Corinthians were in need of learning this basic Christian way of being, rejecting their former pagan ways of selfishness. The Good News, of course, is that we all as a Church rejoice in one or more members being honored, such as the raising of a holy person to the Communion of Saints. Or, in everyday life, a Christian brother/sister’s healing from disease, or finding suitable labor.

As Paul challenges his community from a distance to give heed to another’s suffering, thus all suffer because they are one body, he brings us to the better place of One being honored (Christ), therefore we are all honored by his unselfish death. In the meantime, may we share our concern, love, and ministry with those who do suffer much so that we may all be honored on the Great Day.

Peace, Fr. Riley

FATAL FLAWS SHOWING IN MILLBURY

Fatal Flaws, a movie about the dangers of legalizing assisted suicide, will be shown along with discussion at St. Brigid Parish 59 Main Street, Millbury on Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Free and open to the public. Reserve seats at witnessforlife.com or call the parish at 508-865-6624.

AMPLIFY NIGHT IN FEBRUARY

All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to the next Diocesan Amplify night at the St. Joseph Parish Center in Auburn on Sunday, Feb. 10 from 5:30-8pm. Join us for an evening of food, games, community, prayer and worship for high school youth! This Amplify will feature a Trivia Night and there will be prizes! Cost is FREE! To register a group or to get more information contact Tim Messenger at 508-929-4360 or at tmessenger@worcesterdiocese.org or you can go to www.neworchester.org/amplify-nights. Deadline to register is a group is Monday, February 3.

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.

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

The annual Partners in Charity campaign began for our Parish last Sunday. 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 \$10,350.00 dollars from 15 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

FROM THE PASTOR

“If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.”

Such words from St. Paul in today’s 2nd reading from First Corinthians leaves no doubt that the Spirit of God was one with the Apostle when writing his letters to the Christian communities he founded. It would be so nice if we had today all the letters Paul wrote during the span of his ministry as he moved around the Roman Empire, his time spent in prison, and his countless visits to synagogues in whichever town or city he entered. Scripture scholars know for certain that Paul wrote at least four letters to the Corinthian community alone, yet we have only half that amount as part of Holy Scripture. What we do have, however, is what God has provided for us, and sufficient for our spiritual needs and full understanding of how to walk the road of salvation with certainty and confidence.

The words above at the beginning of this piece call us to examine of our faith with regard to other people we encounter in our lives. No question Paul is writing to a specific Christian community with specific issues that need addressing. The beauty of St. Paul in his writings is that he doesn’t hold back the truth that needs to be heard. He expects the faith of the people at Corinth to be spiritually mature in accepting the words he writes to them. Paul has brought them to a certain point – away from pagan practices and toward the personal love of God found in Christ Jesus their Lord – so that they will now embrace, practice, and live holy teachings that are new to them. Ways of love that are sealed to the love of Christ in his crucifixion.

Thus, when “one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it.” St. Paul uses the analogy of the body, for when the foot suffers, or when the nose suffers from a cold, in essence, the whole body knows it and feels it. Obviously, St. Paul uses this analogy because there are people suffering in the Christian community at Corinth, most likely the poorer members, while at the same time there are others capable of alleviating such suffering of a fellow member of the Church, but choosing not to. Such members allow the suffering of their Christian brother/sister to continue when they have the wherewithal and means to care for the suffering member. But they don’t yet have the Christian heart to “bear fruit” in the eyes of God. In other words, they revert to their pagan lifestyle.

Word has come to Paul - wherever he is at this time in the Empire - from one of his assistants about the concerns being lived out in Corinth. There are good reasons why the Christian community at Corinth is known as Paul’s “troubled child.” If Paul isn’t bald at this point in his life, he’s probably pulling out his hair because of behavior that misses the entire point of why Christ suffered and died. The point being sacrifice. Where is their sacrifice, he’s wondering? Where are the life choices that reflect what he taught them so beautifully about Christ the Lord? Was it all a waste of time on Paul’s part? The Apostle is asking himself these concerning questions wherever he now finds himself in the Roman Empire.

Notice, however, that St. Paul doesn’t leave their un-Christian behavior of not addressing the needs of the suffering in their ungodly melting pot. What he says next is the truest reflection of what Christ has accomplished for us in his eternal, marvelous deed of love: “If one part is honored, all the parts share in its joy.” Which begs the question, “What or who has been honored?” Well, Christ of course! Christ has been honored by his Father for carrying out the deed of sacrifice that led to life eternal. St. Paul is not simply writing to the Corinthians about someone in the community being joyful because they got a big raise at work, thus all rejoice. Or, to all Patriots fans because their team is going to the Super Bowl again. After all, there may be fans from other teams too. The Apostle addresses the most pressing need of relationships, and what it truly means to be Christian in such form.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Jan 26	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Jan 27	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Jan 28	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Jan 29	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Jan 30	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Jan 31	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Feb 02	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Feb 03	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

SIGN OF PEACE

Its that time of year again when some of us are feeling a bit under the weather because of the weather. So, if you are not feeling up to par and you're in the pews, or, if you go to shake someone's hand at the Sign of Peace during Mass and they refuse to shake your hand, instead of feeling insulted, you may want to thank them since the chances are good they don't want to give you their cold. Thank you for not sharing any germs or minor illnesses this winter season. God bless you.

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!**