

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.	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	Michael J. Greaney, 1st Anniversary, from Parish Family
Mon.	Feb 11	9:00 AM	Raymond and Coralie Lajoie, 1st Anniversary, from Parish Family, (<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>)
Tues.	Feb 12	9:00 AM	
Wed.	Feb 13	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Thurs.	Feb 14	8:00 AM	(<i>Sts. Cyril and Methodius</i>)
Sat.	Feb 16	4:00 PM	Charles Clarke, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Feb 17	7:30 AM	Mary Karpowicz, Memorial Mass, from Family
		10:00 AM	Mark Buczek, 20th Anniversary, from Friends

THIS WEEK the text for The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #959 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THIS BOAT IS THE CHURCH THAT GIVES LIFE: Lk 5:11; “Ordinarily people are not given life on a boat but transported. Nor are they comforted on a vessel but anxious about its journey. Notice also that this boat is not a boat that is given to Peter to be piloted – rather, it is the church, which is committed to the apostle to be governed. For this is the vessel that does not kill but gives life to those borne along by the storms of this world as if by waves. Just as a little boat holds the dying fish that have been brought up from the deep, so also the vessel of the church gives life to human beings who have been freed from turmoil. Within itself, I say, the church gives life to those who are half-dead, as it were.”

St. Maximus of Turin (380-c423)

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.

ANNUAL VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The annual Vocation Discernment Retreat for men high school age and older will be directed by Bishop McManus on Friday and Saturday, April 12 & 13, 6 pm to 6 pm at the Immaculate Conception Retreat Center in Putnam, CT. There is no cost for this retreat, and transportation is provided from Worcester. Go to www.worcestervocations.com for more information. Sign up by contacting Fr. Jim Mazzone at jmazzone@charter.net or 508-340-5788.

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 vocations to our Diocese in the Priesthood and Religious Life*.

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

The annual Partners in Charity campaign has been ongoing for 4 weeks now, with just over 2 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 \$25,550.00 dollars from 68 donors representing 29% of our Parish goal. 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

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 13. We will read, study, and comment on the Gospel of Luke for the duration of the Bible Study. Please bring your Bible, reading Chapter 10 of Luke’s Gospel as preparation for the next class. All are invited to attend.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, February 10th 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 Samantha Diggins and Molly Sullivan! Samantha is a Pre-K student in our Religious Education Program. She was nominated by her teacher, Miss Marissa. She is a joy to have in class and fully participates in the Bible Stories and projects. Although very quiet, she is able to tell others all about the stories of our faith that she learns each week. Samantha attends Mass weekly with her family and participates in the Children's Liturgy and Vacation Bible Camp. She is very thoughtful and caring towards others. Congratulations Samantha!

Molly is an 8th grade student in our Religious Education Program. She was nominated by her teacher, Ms. Haggan. Molly is a wonderful student who is engaged and eager to learn about our faith each week. She is a kind and generous person. Molly attends Mass weekly with her family and helps with the Children's Liturgy. She volunteers at Vacation Bible Camp and has donated blankets and toys to the local animal shelter. Molly works on the Theological Virtues by practicing them in her daily life. Faith, Hope, and Charity are gained by asking God for them and by practicing them in daily life. Congratulations Molly!

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE

Our Parish will hold its monthly Holy Hour for Life this Tuesday, February 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Church. All are invited to spend an hour with the Lord in support of life for the unborn, the ill, and the elderly.

TRIP TO FATIMA AND LOURDES

See how the Lord loves us through his Blessed Mother! Join Fr. Jim Boland, parishioners and friends of St Patrick Parish on a pilgrimage visiting two of the most famous Marian Shrines in the world – Fatima and Lourdes, November 3rd through 12th, 2019. In addition to honoring our Blessed Mother and walking in the footsteps of the children of Fatima; St Francisco, St Jacinta and Sister Lucia; and St Bernadette of Lourdes we will also visit sites where St Teresa of Avila and St. Ignatius of Loyola lived. Prayerfully consider a journey with us. For more detailed information and sign-up form please visit our parish website for the trip here: <https://www.gate1travel.com/customgroups/PT1655066> or pick up a pilgrimage brochure at the entrance to the Church.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish will hold its next 6-part series of "A New Day Ministry" beginning Monday, March 4, 1-2:30 pm in the Parish Hall, 111 Worcester St., West Boylston. For more information or to register (required prior to the start of the sessions) call Renate Isbell (508) 835-3286.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 2/3/2019

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,694.00
Winter Fuel	\$ 205.00
Catholic Missions Appeal	\$ 386.00
Catholic Free Press total to date	\$ 313.00

From the Pastor continued from the following page

The abortion industry and their high and low political supporters are rightfully nervous about their unprecious cargo, and they should be. Such nervousness explains the attempt to expand abortion even beyond birth; a sicker and more evil practice could not be thought of. The Devil is in the details, and his reign is all over the abortion industry and in the hearts of those who support such God-insulting practices. We pray for their full conversion to Christ, who is the Way, the truth, and *THE LIFE*.

In the meantime, there are those who wish this whole topic would cease. Truthfully, so do I. But only under circumstances which recognize and respect every human life. Therefore, I eagerly await the coming day when the *settled law of life for all* returns to our nation's way of living, reflecting a genuine search for God in all things, beginning with the innocent child.

Peace, Fr. Riley

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.

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 \$300.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

THE FACE OF MERCY

“The evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, ‘Be merciful just as your Father is merciful (Lk 6:36). It is a program of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. Jesus’ command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice. In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God’s mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle.”

Pope Francis, from Misericordiae Vultus, The Face of Mercy

FOLLOW ME: MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Being Catholic takes more than simply believing in God or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer—he wants you to be his disciple and friend. To help you answer this call to deeper friendship with Christ, Sacred Heart-St. Catherine of Sweden Parish will begin Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 6 - 7:30pm (runs for 8 weeks but not on March 6th). The cost to cover the workbook is \$20.00. For more information or to register, contact Lynn Lorusso at 508-752-1608, or email Lynn.sacredheart@verizon.net. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study; you will also help us to grow in fellowship as we grow closer to Christ together.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR

The abortion debate has been in the news again, with the passage – and attempted passage – of laws in certain states throughout our country. It's quite obvious the timing was intentional to coincide with the annual March for Life with the clamoring from certain politicians and groups to expand access to this horrendous practice, not only through 9 months of pregnancy, but now even further than 9 months into the post-birth of a child. Plainly said, this is evil and sick. It's also a move of desperation, as the cause for life has made great strides after 45 years of hard work, teaching, and dedication, bearing fruit toward defending the innocent child in the womb, the one whose voice is not heard. It's the most innocent children who pays the ultimate price for the twisted motives of adult political leaders and the abortion industry who are bent on creating an ever-dangerous society that destroys life in it's most sacred and most dependable stage.

There are those in the Church and elsewhere who have tuned out any debate or conversation on the issue of abortion. I'm not one of them, and never will be. I have thoughts on those who don't have the fortitude to address the most pressing human issue of our day, choosing instead to avoid it- similar to avoiding the issue of slavery in the 1850's, or civil rights in the 1950's/60's - but I'll leave those thoughts to myself lest I lose a friend or two, or a parishioner or two. But if that were to happen, standing up vocally and in writing for the gift of God's most prized creation – the human person – would be justified in my own conscience. In the meantime, I refuse to be silent on this issue, expecting it to be part of my priestly ministry for the remainder of my years.

As mentioned, those seeking to protect the unborn child, and bringing such protection legally to the point of recognizing the truth that every child in his/her mother's womb *is a person* with their own right to life by virtue of their creation, are people who have accomplished much in the past 45 years since the Supreme Court of the United States bungled another fundamental case before them. Granted, they've gotten many things correct, especially in the area of equality, women's rights (the good and holy kind), and areas of business that hold employers responsible for the respectful treatment of their employees. Roe vs. Wade was dreadfully wrong not only as a law that refuses to recognize the rights of the unborn child, but it was *legally incorrect*, a decision the Supreme Court had no authority to make, which is the primary reason why this bad law will be overturned in the future.

When this happens, and it's going to, the minimum of 5 justices who vote to overturn this unprecedented law will do so, not because they all of a sudden consider the fetus to be a child with their own individual rights. They will do so because of the legal error made in 1973. Some – if not all of the justices who vote to overturn Roe vs. Wade – will certainly believe in their hearts that the child in utero *is a person*. But that will not be the overriding reason. The reason will be a legal one, recognizing the court in 1973 lacked authority and place to decide what they did. Those who have tried to make Roe vs Wade “settled law” in talk only, which we see and hear every time a certain type of justice or judge is nominated, have done so because even they fear that the law is in reality “unsettled.” Their hope is to try to force the legalization of abortion into the very fluid category of “settled law,” which, at the end of the day, is hopeless. It's a fragile law teetering on the edge about to collapse like the Tower of Babel. They sense this, so one ragged attempt is to make abortion remain legal by calling it “settled law.” It's a weak try at best, because rational, legal, God-fearing people see through such verbal chicanery.

Thus, with the appointment of the most recent Supreme Court justice whose family and he were forced to endure an open set of lies that challenged the likes of Nero and the burning of Rome, with his appointment the realization of the overturning of the “Law of 1973” is hitting home.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Feb 09	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Feb 10	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Feb 11	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Feb 12	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Feb 13	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Feb 14	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Sat.	Feb 16	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Feb 17	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN MAINE

The 8th annual Maine Catholic Women's Conference, which features dynamic speaker/singer and songwriter, music, Mass, adoration, and vendors will be held April 6 at the Portland Marriott Sable Oaks in South Portland. This year's theme is "God will provide!" The keynote speaker/singer/songwriter will be Kitty Cleveland, who will be sharing her testimony on how Divine Mercy played a significant role in her life through the trial of her father's unjust incarceration. She will also share how Divine providence lead her on a journey to becoming the singer/songwriter she is today. She has since written and produced 9 CDs and continues to share her experiences on her website (<https://www.kittycleveland.com/>) via blog. Registration for the Conference will begin on February 1, 2019. For more information about the conference please go to our Diocesan website <https://portlanddiocese.org/mcwc2019>.

**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!**