

# Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at  
[www.icworc.com](http://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.	Mar 16	4:00 PM	Joseph Al Goodrich and Ricky Goodrich, from Family and Friends
Sun.	Mar 17	7:30 AM	Jeannette T. Burns, Brian B. Colonies, & Chuck E. Burns, from Family
		10:00 AM	Marie Madaio, 4th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Mar 18	9:00 AM	( <i>St. Cyril of Jerusalem</i> )
Tues.	Mar 19	9:00 AM	In Thanksgiving to God, ( <i>St. Joseph</i> )
Wed.	Mar 20	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Thurs.	Mar 21	8:00 AM	Adam Curtis, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Sat.	Mar 23	4:00 PM	
Sun.	Mar 24	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Quyen Nguyen, 1st Anniversary, from Family



**THIS WEEK** the text for The Second Sunday of Lent may be found at #908 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**TUESDAY EVENING CONFESSIONS DURING LENT**

Confessions will be available in the Church during the season of Lent on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**HOLY HOUR AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Our Parish has begun our Friday evening spiritual gathering in the Church for Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross throughout the holy season of Lent leading into Easter. Our Holy Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., being an opportunity for parishioners to spend some quiet time in the Lord's presence during the exposition of the Eucharist. It's a time for silence, prayer, and reflection with Christ our Savior, allowing his presence to touch us with his Spirit as we journey through Lent. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. we will hold the Stations of the Cross, allowing ourselves to walk with the Lord on his journey to the Cross. This beautiful centuries-old Catholic tradition is steeped in the rich grace of being drawn into Jesus' Hour, the time when the King of the Universe felt most abandoned. The Stations finish each Friday at approximately 7:00 p.m. Consider joining us for one or both of these holy devotions throughout the Lenten season.

**PRAYERS FOR CATECHUMENS**

Our Parish is blessed to have 3 Catechumens this year who will be baptized, confirmed, and receive their First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on April 19; Kevin Kamgahatchoua, Xavier Almendarez, and Cecelia Almendarez. Please keep these three catechumens in your prayers as they continue their journey into the Catholic Church, being visible witnesses of the Holy Spirit's presence and power in their lives, as we give thanks and praise to God for the gift of their faith.

**LENTEN VIDEO ON I.C. FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE**

Each week during the season of Lent, a short video featuring parishioner Dr. Christopher Klofft will be posted to our Parish website and Facebook page. Dr. Klofft discusses the Sunday Gospel reading and how it connects to our Lenten journey during this holy season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We invite to view the videos which will, no doubt, enhance your Lenten experience over the length of these 40 days.

**LEGACY OF HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The Diocesan Capital Campaign, Legacy of Hope, will officially begin in our Parish this weekend. The Campaign will be carried out over the course of the next 3-1/2 months, until the end of June. In that time, our Parish will hold three receptions; April 1st at 7:00 p.m., and April 8 at Noon and 7:00 p.m. Each reception will be held in the Church basement, and will present the opportunity for all parishioners to learn more about the purpose and importance of why this campaign is being conducted at this time, and ask any personal and relevant questions. Present for each of these receptions will be Fr. Riley, members of our Parish Legacy of Hope Committee, and representatives from the organization assisting our Diocese in this campaign. It is our hope that parishioners will be present for one of these 3 receptions that will provide better understanding about the upcoming campaign. We ask that you put aside one of the above dates and times for approximately one hour for each reception. Thank you.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Prayer is the light of the spirit, true knowledge of God, mediating between God and man. The spirit, raised up to heaven by prayer, clings to God with the utmost tenderness; like a child crying tearfully for its mother, it craves the milk that God provides. It seeks the satisfaction of its own desires, and receives gifts outweighing the whole world of nature. Prayer stands before God as an honored ambassador. It gives joy to the spirit, peace to the heart, I speak of prayer, not words. It is the longing for God, love too deep for words, a gift not given by man but by God's grace. The apostle Paul says, 'We do not know how we are to pray but the Spirit himself pleads for us with inexpressible longings.'" *St. John Chrysostom (349-407)*

**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.

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY TOTALS**

The annual Partners in Charity campaign has concluded in our Parish for 2019, as we move into the Legacy of Hope Capital Campaign at this time. Anyone wishing to make a donation on behalf of our Parish may still do so by donating directly to the Parish or online at the Diocese of Worcester website. I take this opportunity to thank all parishioners who have donated to this shortened campaign that addresses the many essential needs of our Diocese. The total amount raised for our Parish to date is \$72,235.00 dollars, from 153 donors, which is 82% of our Parish goal of \$88,500. . If our Parish totals change for Partners in Charity in the upcoming weeks, they will be placed in the bulletin for all to see. Thank you, Fr. Riley

**MENS CONFERENCE TICKETS FROM OUR PARISH**

For anyone attending the upcoming annual Men's Conference at Assumption College on Saturday, April 6, our Parish will be purchasing 10 tickets to be freely given to those who plan on being in attendance. Please speak with Fr. Riley if you are interested in obtaining a ticket or two for a day of outstanding Catholic speakers, the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a closing Mass presided by Bishop Robert J. McManus.

**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](http://www.worcestervocations.com) for more information. Sign up by contacting Fr. Jim Mazzone at [jmazzone@charter.net](mailto:jmazzone@charter.net) or 508-340-5788.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, March 17th 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.

**Student of the Week** Our Student of the Week is Emily O'Connor! Emily is a third grade student in our Religious Education Program. She is a joy to have in class. Emily loves to read and talk about her faith with her classmates. She attends Mass weekly with her family and participates in the Children's Liturgy. Emily is a kind and caring girl who displays her faith with acts of kindness and love to everyone she meets. Congratulations Emily!!

**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. 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 a successful Lent of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.*

**PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE BREAKFAST**

Our Parish Activities Committee will be serving food and refreshments in our Coffee Shop after the 7:30 & 10:00 Masses this Sunday, March 17. Enjoy some delicious food and a hot or cold refreshment after Mass and spend some time in fellowship with others parishioners. Our parish Activities Committee is always looking for new members to assist in their ministry events during the course of the year. Speak to Jim Hester at any time, or consider coming to one of the breakfast's to volunteer on behalf of our Parish. Thank you.

**FREE WORCESTER RAILERS HOCKEY TICKETS**

Free tickets are available through the courtesy of March of Dimes for the Worcester Railers hockey game on Saturday evening, March 30 at 7:05 p.m. at the DCU Center in Worcester. If you would like tickets (limit of 4), please speak with Fr. Riley before or after Mass. It makes for a wonderful night out at no cost.

**LENTEN RICE BOWL COLLECTION**

Lenten Rice Bowls have been left at each entrance to the Church for the season of Lent. These bowls will be collected at the end of Lent and the proceeds forwarded to Catholic Relief Services for their ministry throughout the world.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

St. Paul was one with Christ, as was St. Patrick, and by imitating them, we are led to the everlasting dignity that Jesus has won for us on the Cross.

Ireland is a country as scenic as ever. Her coastal and inland beauty can match that of any nation and place in her own unique way, alongside Scotland and England. Her physical appearance is that of pleasure and comeliness. There is much to admire about God's continuous physical formation and shaping of her as a nation to this day, forming and shaping that began millions of years ago, forming and shaping drawn by the finger of God, the Great Original Artist.

The concern today and always for any nation, especially one that has been known to be a steadfast, faithful Catholic nation, is her spiritual well-being. Ireland's spiritual well-being appears to be on a trend leading them away from imitating St. Patrick and the holy goods he taught. Legalizing abortion is a sure sign of such backwardness in Christian faith. In fact, there is no surer sign. When we have something good, and represent to the world what is good before God, why would any of us want to throw it away and join hands with what used to be the ways of ungodliness? As a full American with an Irish Catholic ancestry, I'm perplexed by it all. In the meantime, we pray that St. Patrick's influence and prayers above will lead all people – not only the Irish – to a path where imitating their saintly lives and rejecting the world is the road we choose. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all, but especially to my dear friend Diahann.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**TUESDAY EVENING CONFESSIONS DURING LENT**

Confessions will be available in the Church during the season of Lent on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**INVITATION TO MASS DURING LENT**

We invite all whose situation allows to consider attending weekday Mass during the Season of Lent. We invite you to experience the many graces that flow from the liturgy, making it part of your drawing closer to the Lord at this time. Our Mass weekday schedule is Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., and Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

**ANNUNCIATION MASS AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MARCH 25**

Bishop Robert J. McManus will be celebrating a Mass for Life on the Solemnity of the Annunciation on Monday, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral, 19 Chatham St. Worcester. The Diocesan Pro-Life awards, honoring individuals who have shown extraordinary witness to the sacredness of human life, will be presented at the Mass. All are invited to attend.

**INVITATIONS TO PARISH RECEPTIONS FOR LEGACY OF HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

As our Parish officially begins the Legacy of Hope Capital Campaign, our first attention is given to Parish receptions that will take place on the Mondays of April 1 and April 8 in our Church Basement. Invitations will be sent to each family or individual member who is registered in our Parish for one of 3 gatherings: Monday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m., and Monday, April 8 at Noon and 7:00 p.m. We ask that each family place aside one of these above dates and times for a presentation that will assist us in learning about the purpose of this campaign and how each of us can be part of its success. Each gathering will last approximately one hour. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

**SPRING FUEL COLLECTION ENVELOPES**

Envelopes for our annual Spring Fuel collection may be placed into the first collection basket at each Mass. A sincere thank you to all parishioners and others who assist in offsetting the price of heating our Church throughout the course of late autumn, winter, and early spring. Thankfully we are coming toward the end of the heating season and the higher heating bills that come in during these months. We're also thankful for a winter where no serious heating issues arose for the Church, especially on Sunday mornings. Thank you again for your generosity to this much needed collection that directly serves the needs of our parish in a way where all who enter the Church are benefited.

**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 March 20. We will read, study, and comment on the Gospel of Luke for the duration of the Bible Study. Please bring your Bible, reading Chapters 11 & 12 of Luke's Gospel as preparation for the next class. All are invited to attend.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 24th, THE**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7  
Psalm 103  
2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2. 5-8  
Gospel: John 4:5-42

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 03/10/2019**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,306.00
Church in Latin America	\$ 118.00
Spring Fuel	\$ 385.00

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

**H**appy St. Patrick's Day to one and all. As the Irish like to say, everyone is Irish on March 17.

If you haven't noticed in the Church once in a while, I have a dear friend from my last assignment at Christ the King Parish whose first name is Diahann. Diahann wears the green wardrobe in her closet from March 1 through March 31. And quite a large and fascinating wardrobe it is. If Diahann comes to Church here at Immaculate Conception on a given Saturday during the month of March, you'll know who she is right away.

Anyway, Diahann – to make a great understatement – is proud of her Irish heritage, as many of us who carry some Irish blood in us happen to be. She displays it proudly, will speak to most anyone about it, and shows it off with a deep sense of appreciation for God having created her as such. And why not? As long as we keep St. Patrick at the center of our Irishness and what he accomplished through God's grace in that country way back when. As someone who is part Irish and all American, I can't help but think that anyone today who is American with an Irish Catholic ancestry who fails to embrace St. Patrick is like trying to run a marathon (26.2 miles) backwards without seeing where you go. Remove St. Patrick, his evangelizing, and the message of Christ he brought to a then pagan nation, and what's left is, well, a host of pagan ways, which we reject. Irish belief and culture is centered in Christ Jesus, and has been for 17 centuries.

In this Sunday's second reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, the reading begins with imitation: "Join with others in being imitators of me," Paul writes to them. My point above is that the Irish have a blessed, holy, and most faithful example of how to live the most fulfilling and joyful life in the person of St. Patrick. This is another example of why it's important for us to read and embrace the lives of the saints. Something, I pray, we are doing this Lent in our spiritual reading. St. Patrick must have said at various points in his ministry of evangelizing the Irish, "Join with others in being imitators of me. Join your brothers and sisters from County Kerry, County Cork, and County Mayo who have accepted the faith of Christ." And by humbly preaching such words, St. Patrick would have been saying, "Follow me and I will lead you to Christ," the very same thought Paul was instructing the Philippians.

The Irish following St. Patrick is not about inflating the ego of the Green Saint, but being led to Christ the Lord, where hope and joy combine to lead all souls to the everlasting bliss of heaven. St. Patrick was so in tune with the love of Christ, and one with his Savior, that he could preach with all confidence to the Irish that if they follow him, the one chosen by God to bring Good News to the land of 40 shades of green, they would discover a personal and communal level of dignity and meaning that would lead them to true worship.

The grave concern today is that Ireland as a nation is pulling away from her Christian roots, the roots of St. Patrick and his words "Imitate me," and walking a dangerous road that leads to abandonment of soul and the absence of holy and true faith. By all appearances, they are "going back to Egypt." Remove St. Patrick and what he preached and taught through the Spirit of God, and what's left is Babel, where human beings share "pleasures" that are an affront to God, such as legalizing abortion recently, grounded in the vice of selfishness, and walking a path of spiritual destruction while thinking they like what they have.

Instead, studying, reading, learning, and remaining faithful to St. Patrick who was faithful to Christ will keep the Irish and all others in a spiritual place where God is welcome, the devil is rejected, and possessing the wisdom to know who is who in their midst. I've always been fascinated by St. Paul's confidence by writing such words; "Join with others in being imitators of me."

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Mar 16	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Mar 17	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Mar 18	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Mar 19	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Mar 20	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Mar 21	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	Mar 22	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Holy Hour Stations
Sat.	Mar 23	2:30 PM 2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Rosary Confession Mass
Sun.	Mar 24	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**LENTEN EVENING OF RECOLLECTION AT CHRIST THE KING**

Christ the King Women's Guild is holding their annual Lenten Evening of Recollection on Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 p.m. The evening will begin with Mass, followed by a light dinner, and a presentation by Fr. Jonathan Slavinkas titled Walking With the Eyes of Christ. Donation for the evening is \$15.00. Please call Donna Byrnes at 508-753-3024 to make a reservation by Monday, March 18.

**BEREAVEMENT SERIES IN HOLDEN**

Miles Funeral Home in Holden is offering and sponsoring a Bereavement series titled Sharing Hope. The next gathering will take place at the Holden Senior Center on Saturday, April 27 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. The focus of this meeting is called This Journey of Grief, Finding Your Way and Healing Your Spirit. All are invited to attend.

**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!**