

# 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**

## 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.	Apr 06	4:00 PM	Genevive Burke, 5th Anniv., and Jonathan Stukowski, 5th Anniv., from Family
Sun.	Apr 07	7:30 AM	Rev. Henry Donoghue, Month Mind, from Parish Family
		10:00 AM	
Mon.	Apr 08	9:00 AM	Ethel Lavoie, Month Mind from Family
Tues.	Apr 09	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Wed.	Apr 10	9:00 AM	Walter G. Lalone, 6 month mind, from Family
Thurs.	Apr 11	8:00 AM	Richard "Okie" O'Connor, 2nd Anniversary, from Family, ( <i>St. Stanislaus</i> )
Sat.	Apr 13	4:00 PM	Robert Bacon, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Apr 14	7:30 AM	John P. Needham, 10th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Dot Consolmagno, 3rd Anniversary, from Family

**THIS WEEK** the text for The Fifth Sunday of Lent may be found at #915 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**SIGNUP SHEET FOR LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR EASTER**

A signup sheet has been placed in the sacristy for those who would like to assist during the Holy Week Masses and services. Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers are needed for each celebration from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday. Thank you to our Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for your continued ministry for our Parish.

**SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK MASSES AND SERVICES**

The following is our Parish schedule for Holy Week, April 15-21. Mass on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. *There is no 8:00 a.m. Thursday morning Mass on Holy Thursday.* The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 18, will be held at 7:00 p.m. Our Church will be open for Adoration on Holy Thursday until 11:00 p.m. following the Mass of the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday, April 19, we will hold the Stations of the Cross in the Church at Noon. Our Good Friday Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. The Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, April 20 will begin at 7:30 p.m. Easter Sunday Masses will be held at the normal Sunday Mass times, 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. After the 10:00 Mass on Easter there will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Parish grounds for the children who are present.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION**

Envelopes for the annual Catholic Relief Services collection may be placed into the first basket at all Masses this Sunday, April 7.

**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.

**SECOND AND THIRD RECEPTIONS FOR LEGACY OF HOPE THIS MONDAY**

The Diocesan Capital Campaign, *Legacy of Hope*, has begun in our Parish. The Campaign will be carried out over the course of the next 3 months, until the end of June. Our Parish will host Two more upcoming receptions; April 8 at Noon and 7:00 p.m. Invitations were sent to each registered family/individual, and if you have not done so already, we kindly ask that a response be returned this weekend. Each reception will be held in the Church basement presenting the opportunity for all parishioners to learn more regarding why the campaign is conducted at this time, and the chance to ask 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 2 remaining receptions that will provide a wider understanding concerning the campaign. The gathering should last no more than one hour. Thank you.

**CHOIR FOR 10:00 ON EASTER SUNDAY AND PENTECOST**

Our Parish is hoping to form a choir for the upcoming celebrations of Easter on April 21 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass, and the same Mass on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. If interested, please speak with wither Henry Mason our organist of Fr. Riley. Such a choir would add even more joy to the holy liturgies and the present music ministry we are so blessed to have in our Parish.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"If you think I have something to say, servants of Christ, his brethren and coheirs, let us visit Christ whenever we may; let us care for him, feed him, clothe him, welcome him, honor him, not only at a meal, as some have done, or by anointing him, as Mary did, or only by lending him a tomb, like Joseph of Arimathea, or by arranging for his burial, like Nicodemus, who loved Christ half-heartedly, or by giving him gold, frankincense, or myrrh, like the Magi before all these others. The Lord of all asks for mercy, not sacrifice, and mercy is greater than myriads of fattened lambs. Let us then show him mercy in the persons of the poor and those who today are lying on the ground, so that when we come to leave this world they may receive us into everlasting dwelling places, in Christ our Lord himself, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." *St. Gregory of Nazianzen (329-390)*

**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.

**NOONTIME SCRIPTURE SERIES AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Parishioner Dr. Frank McGuire and Fr. Riley will be hosting a one-hour Noontime Scripture Study series for four (4) Tuesdays beginning April 30, and continuing on May 7, 21, and 28. The topic for this series will be the great Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians, arguably Paul's most emotional, heartfelt letter to any of the communities he founded. The series will be held in our Church Basement with refreshments and pastries to be served. Feel free to bring a lunch. All are invited.

**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 Almandarez, and Cecelia Almandarez. 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.

**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.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, April 7th 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.

**Registration for the 2019-2020 Religious Education Program** Registration for the 2019-2020 Religious Education Program will take place at 8:30am and 11:00am on Sunday, April 7th, April 28th and May 5th in the Fr. Connors Center. Forms can also be found on the Immaculate Conception website [www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com). *All children are welcome to attend Religious Education Classes and will not be denied participation due to financial hardship.* If you are new to the parish, and have a child entering Pre K-10th grade, and would like to know more about our Religious Education Program please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119. *Be a part of our parish community!* Volunteers are essential to our Religious Education Program. Help spread the word of God with the children of Immaculate Conception. We have training and a wonderful support group to help you with this mission. If you are interested in sharing your faith please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119.

**Student of the Week** Our Student of the Week is Matthew Charlton! Matthew is a second grade student in our Religious Education Program. He is an active participant in class who loves to read. Matthew attends Mass weekly with his family, participates in the Children's Liturgy, attends Vacation Bible Camp and can be seen greeting people at the doors and passing out bulletins. Matthew has volunteered at the nursing home passing out donuts during the social hour and woke up early on Saturday to volunteer at the St. John's Food Pantry. Virtues are gifts from God that lead us to live in a close relationship with him. Virtues are like habits. They need to be practiced; they can be lost if they are neglected. Matthew lives the three most important virtues, the theological virtues because they come from God and lead to God. Congratulations Matthew!

**Prayer Cards for Confirmation Candidates** Please visit our display of the Confirmation Candidates located near the entrance of the church. Please take a prayer card from the display and keep all of the candidates in your prayers as they begin at this time a more focused study and deeper meaning of their Catholic faith. As they prepare for their reception of the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, April 28th at St. Paul's Cathedral, may we rejoice in their dedication, devotion, and hard work as they prepare to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**Immaculate Conception Annual Easter Egg Hunt** Please join us on Easter Sunday following the 10:00AM Mass for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The egg hunt will take place on the church grounds. Bring your own basket!

**LENTEN RICE BOWL COLLECTION**

Lenten Rice Bowls on behalf of Catholic Relief Services will be collected over the next two weeks (April 14 and April 21), with proceeds to be forwarded to our Diocese who will forward them to Catholic Relief Services. Thank you to those who have participated in this annual Lenten collection that helps to serve the many needs of the poor through our Church's worldwide outreach.

**HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS**

On Friday, April 12 from 7 to 8 pm a holy hour to pray for priests will take place at Immaculate Conception Church on 353 Grove Street in Worcester. This holy hour will consist of adoration, a short reflection, the rosary, silent prayer and benediction, and will be repeated on the second Friday of each month.

**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 April 10. 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.

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

Disease, pain, and life's many challenges will cause us to lose focus, understandably. We get wrapped up in the day-to-day movements of life that will cause us to casually forget there is a greater story being played out now. It's the story of Lazarus listening to the voice of Jesus' command, "Lazarus, come out!"

If the Gospel this week doesn't give you good chills at some point, check your pulse. At the same time, check your faith, your prayer life, your understanding of Christ, and check your belief system. My friends, "Lazarus come out" speaks most eloquently to what God has prepared for those who love him. And amazingly, this scene that occurred in front of so many, a scene that brought many to tears and so many to a new height of belief, it still doesn't reveal all of God's power over death, which will be known by us in the resurrection, when death will be no more. Lazarus will be laid in a tomb in Bethany again some years later. I just pray he outlived his sisters Martha and Mary so they didn't have to deal with his death twice in one lifetime.

"Lazarus, come out." His dead body heard and listened. Unconditional love at its best. And God has just begun. Amen.

*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.

**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 \$210.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**HOLY HOUR AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross will be held this week on Friday, April 12 in the Church. Holy Hour and Adoration will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to join us in these two holy forms of prayer.

**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 those who struggle for their daily needs, that they are offered our love, hospitality, and generosity.*

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 14th, PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY**

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40  
 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7  
 Psalm 22  
 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11  
 Reading from the Passion: Luke 22:14-23:56

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 03/31/2019**

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,916.00
Spring Fuel	\$ 160.00
Candles	\$ 134.00
Total Online Donations for March 2019	\$ 998.00

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

“Lazarus, come out. I have a new set of golf clubs for you to test. They should improve your game very much.”

Actually, Jesus says only “Lazarus, come out.” He leaves aside the golf comments for another time when Lazarus actually does heed the voice of the Master Riser and exits the tomb in the small town of Bethany. No need to stay in there when the Lord is calling you out.

Of all the miracles Jesus performed for other people throughout the course of what is believed to be a 3-year public ministry, calling Lazarus out of the tomb in the midst of so many witnesses was unquestionably on the top of the miracle list. Last week we heard the great miracle of the man born blind, who became a beggar early in life, receiving his sight for the first time. Can we even imagine the level of joy the blind beggar experienced when he could see for the first time? The colors, the people, the shapes and sizes of buildings and shops in 1<sup>st</sup> century Israel, the sight of animals and birds flying, the ability to shake another person’s hand without guessing where their hand was, and the joy of seeing what his parents actually looked like, as well as himself. A great miracle for sure!

And there’s the very familiar story in the Gospel of Jesus healing 10 lepers at once. I love this truth about God’s power: that numbers don’t matter to Him. If there were 1,000 lepers instead of ten, granted, there would have been a mad rush to show themselves to the Priests, who would go on to approve their newfound cleanliness, welcoming them back into the community of close associates. The rush to the Priests would have resembled the bulls in Spain running the streets, knocking over all things and people blocking their path. But 1,000 lepers is not a significant number for Someone who is going to call all of us out of the grave on that coming Great Day of Resurrection. I love the truth that numbers of dead or ill are not overwhelming to God’s power. God calling billions and billions of people out of our future graves is like us wiping away a speck of dust. With us, it’s one simple motion of the hand. With God, He speaks the command and it will happen in the blink of an eye.

Blind beggars, lepers, mothers-in-law with fevers, running out of wedding wine, calling out demons, curing the ill, the deaf, and the dumb. All great miracles witnessed by so many throughout the course of our Lord’s public ministry. While being consistent with God’s power centered in Jesus Christ, they all (forgive me for slight exaggeration) somewhat pale in comparison when placed aside Lazarus’ grave after he was entombed for four days. This is the one that speaks to the core of our souls; this is the miracle that should touch us the deepest; this is the historical, true action, witnessed publicly by so many present, that reveals above all the purest example of God’s unconditional power and love.

One part of our lives we do well to consider is that God, through Christ His Son, could have chosen to keep Lazarus and all of us in our graves forever. God granting us this greatest of all graces and favors – revealing his power over death – is unconditional love at its height, breadth, and width. If the Lord had chosen to leave all of us in the grave, it would have been no skin off his holy back. God doesn’t need us in order for Him to somehow improve His capacity to love, which is not possible. Whether we remain in the grave or are raised from the dead, God is God, complete, total, fulfilled, and unconditionally loving in the Trinity.

But fortunately for us, God is a God who “goes outside of himself,” reaching to the furthest corners of the universe he called into existence speaking to us, “You are mine. I love you, and I want your joy to be complete.” If we ever need an everlasting, consistent reason to love God in return, this is it. In the midst of life’s struggles, we can easily lose sight of how God has chosen to love us.

*Continued on Previous Page*

**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Apr 06	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Apr 07	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Apr 08	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Apr 09	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Confession
Wed.	Apr 10	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Apr 11	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	Apr 12	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Holy Hour Stations
Sat.	Apr 13	2:30 PM 2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Rosary Confession Mass
Sun.	Apr 14	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**JUNE 6th BUS TRIP TO NEWPORT PLAYHOUSE**

Bus Trip: June 6, Thursday. Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant to see hilarious performance of "Always a Bridesmaid." \$89 includes Newport's Ocean Drive, Show, Cabaret, Buffet Luncheon, Silver Fox Bus. 8:45AM be at Church, 9AM depart, return 6PM. Send \$89 check payable to FOX TOURS, with name & phone, to Michelle Deignan, 227 Saint Nicholas Ave, Worcester MA 01606. Questions? call or text Michelle (508) 596-4778. DEADLINE to register is May 10.

**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!**