

Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at
www.icworc.com and Facebook

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)

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).

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**

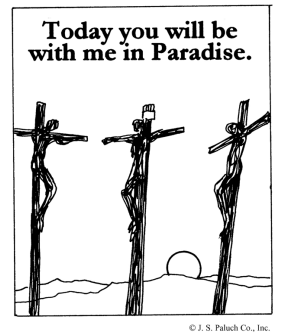
ROBERT NOBERINI, **PARISH OFFICE MANAGER**

MATTHEW FOSTER, **PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

LYNDA MONAHAN, **SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR**

MASS INTENTIONS

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
Mon.	Apr 15	9:00 AM	Mary Madigan, 1st Anniversary, from Family
Tues.	Apr 16	9:00 AM	Paul O'Brien, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
Wed.	Apr 17	9:00 AM	Ruth Pappas, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Thurs.	Apr 18	7:00 PM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Fri.	Apr 19	3:00 PM	(Good Friday)
Sat.	Apr 20	7:30 PM	
Sun.	Apr 21	7:30 AM	Mary E. Early, Memorial, from Family
		10:00 AM	



THIS WEEK the text for The Palm Sunday may be found at #918 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.

Holy Thursday, April 18: The Mass of the Lord's Supper 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.

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.

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.

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, has begun and now moves ahead in our Parish until the end of June. Three receptions have been held in our Parish Coffee Shop over the past two Monday's, each of which has been well attended with questions asked and answered. Those in attendance also received packets of information for Legacy of Hope, including more information on the purpose of the campaign, as well as a pledge card we pray will be used on behalf of Immaculate Conception. The parish goal assigned to us by the Diocese is \$294,277, which is 115% of our annual Ordinary Collection from Sunday Masses. Thus far toward this goal, our Parish has raised \$59,000 from 4 donors. This early amount helps to set the stage for other parishioners to begin donating over the course of the next month or two as we seek to reach our goal before the end of June when the campaign closes in our parish. Thank you, and may God continue to bless Immaculate Conception and the many generous families who make our Church a place of God's many graces.

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

JESUS COMES TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES: Lk 19: 29-36; "He acme to the Mount of Olivet so that he could plant new olive trees on the heights of virtue, the mother of which is the Jerusalem that is above. The heavenly Gardener is on this mountain so that all those who are planted in the house of the Lord may say, 'But I am as a fruitful olive in the house of the Lord.' Perhaps that mountain is Christ himself. Who else could produce such fruits, not in many round berries but in the fullness of spirit in the fruitful Gentiles? We ascend by him, and we ascend to him. He is the Door and the Way that is opened and which opens. Those entering knock on it, and those leaving worship it."

St. Ambrose (c.340-397)

LENTEN RICE BOWL COLLECTION

Lenten Rice Bowls on behalf of Catholic Relief Services will be collected this weekend and next (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.

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 There are no Religious Education classes on Sunday, April 14th and Sunday, April 21st. Classes will resume on Sunday, April 28th.

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. *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.

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!**

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.

TUESDAY EVENING CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

Confessions will be available in the Church this coming Tuesday evening of Holy Week, April 16 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

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 with their faith, may they rediscover Christ in their lives.*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 21st, EASTER SUNDAY

1st Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43
 Psalm 118
 2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4
 Gospel: John 20:1-9

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Our Good Friday service at 3:00, the only day of the year the Church does not celebrate the Mass, is an invitation to be symbolically present for Jesus' death. The Good Friday service to me personally is the most moving, emotionally-charged celebration that allows all of us to embrace the Lord's sacrifice. It's quite personal knowing that God has died for me so that I may live forever beyond this short life.

And for those who would like to experience the power of the Easter Vigil, with 3 Baptisms and a number of Confirmations and First Communions this year in our Parish, please come by and spend a couple hours in a Spirit-filled Church on the hill. The Easter Vigil, like Holy Thursday and Good Friday, is a unique Mass that begins with lights out in the Church, candles in hand, and ending with lights on and pure joy.

For anyone in our Parish who has not attended any of the above liturgies for Holy Week, I invite you to consider doing so, rather than sitting at home watching the Red Sox lose another game. Come and spend time with the Lord and know that your salvation is at hand.

Peace, Fr. Riley

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.

MEDICINE, BIOETHICS, AND SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

Where? Holy Cross College. When? May 7 & 8, 2019. Registration from 7-7:30 a.m. each day. Objectives of this annual conference are identifying specific medical situations and assess them in light of bioethical principles; be able to convey to patients and families bioethical guidelines surrounding end of life issues such as when to withdraw medical care, food nutrition and hydration, artificial ventilation; and deepen the understanding of the role that spirituality plays in the well-being of the medical professional as well as its healing effect on the patient. Bishop McManus of our Diocese and Dr. Christopher Klofft of our Parish will be two of the speakers at this conference.

EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPES

Easter Flower envelopes have been placed at each entrance to the Church. These envelopes will be placed on our altar throughout the Easter season, remembering loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. Also, contributions from these envelopes help to offset the cost of Easter flowers that will adorn our altar during the Easter celebrations and after. Thank you

PARTNERS IN CHARITY UPDATED TOTAL

The updated total for Partners in Charity for our Parish is \$103,860. Thank you for such a generous response to the shortened 2019 campaign from our many parishioners who have donated. May God's graces and blessings continue to be ours as a Parish now and in the years ahead.

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Fr. Riley will hold the last weekly evening Bible Study this Wednesday, April 17 until the fall. It will 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 the Passion Narrative of Jesus in Luke's Gospel, Chapters 22 & 23, as preparation for discussion. All are invited to attend.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 04/072019

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 3,475.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 486.00
Flowers	\$ 30.00

FROM THE PASTOR

As we arrive near the end of another Religious Education Year for our parish, I take this opportunity to extend sincere thanks to all our teachers who volunteer their time each Sunday as they “enter Jerusalem” in their classrooms to pass on the faith. Passing on the faith truthfully and rightly, and leaving out our personal whims and challenges, may be one of the most fundamental gifts we can extend to our youth and children. Planting seeds is meant to begin at home with parents. But Sunday mornings at Immaculate Conception is also fruit-bearing time in ways that set up our youth and children for relationships in life that bear more fruit, beginning with Jesus.

Our religious education teachers enter Jerusalem in the classroom in ways that mirror our Lord’s entrance into the holy city this day. They volunteer their time out of the deeper desire to share the Good News, which Jesus carried and shared each day of his human life. Our teachers come here each Sunday humbly and faithfully passing on the faith to their students. Therefore, a heartfelt thank-you to each of our teachers and Mrs. Sycks who so devotedly runs our program.

As we begin Holy Week today, I also take this opportunity to invite our parishioners to participate as much as time allows this week in the unique, annual festivities that make up Holy Week. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper, celebrated on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m., commemorates the Lord’s last night on earth before his death, and the two premier events that took place in the evening hours of Jerusalem. First, our Lord commanding his Apostles with the words, “This is my body, take and eat. This is my blood, take and drink.” The Words Jesus spoke in the Upper Room that evening, a room that has been historically lost to time through numerous conquerings of Jerusalem over the centuries, have resonated down through the same centuries into our present generation in our hunger and thirst for oneness with our saving God. The form of oneness that cannot be experienced in any other way in this life, unless Jesus graces us with a most holy, powerful “nudge” that we will never forget. Even then, the Eucharist is the surest intimacy with Christ that I pray we never take for granted as we receive the Lord on a weekly basis.

And second, the Lord washing the feet of his disciples, which we will imitate during our Holy Thursday Mass, is the premiere example of humble service for one another throughout the days of our lives. Each year we invite from our congregation a dozen folks to approach the sanctuary and have their feet washed. I’m deeply thankful and grateful that there have been no vacant chairs over my time here at Immaculate Conception, a sign of our people’s willingness to share in such a humble and loving act that imitates Christ’s masterful service at his best. There are no miracles in this act of Jesus, at least not in how we understand the word miracle. Yet, this action of humility is placed above even the great miracle events from our Lord’s public ministry because of the example it sets for all Christians in ways of loving and humble service. Really, to care for one another each day.

Stations of the Cross at Noon on Good Friday invites us to walk the way of the Cross with our Savior, and the holy folks that enter this scene along the way. Two of them are Simon of Cyrene, a symbol for all of us; to pick up our Lord’s cross daily and follow after him. As Christians, our suffering is not wasted suffering, but redemptive. All suffering is melted into Jesus’ cross-carrying that brings about redemption for the world. And St. Veronica, who wipes the face of Jesus with her cloth as he walks the road to crucifixion, is a powerful symbol for Christian compassion and loving concern. We can rest assured that St. Veronica had a cloth for everyone in her life, those she knew and those she didn’t.

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Apr 13	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Apr 14	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Apr 15	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Apr 16	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Confession
Wed.	Apr 17	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Apr 18	7:00 PM 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Mass Adoration
Fri.	Apr 19	12:00 PM 3:00 PM	Stations Good Friday Service
Sat.	Apr 20	7:30 PM	Easter Vigil
Sun.	Apr 21	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Easter Mass Easter Mass

THE WORD OF THE LORD

“As we call to mind the Word of God who became flesh in the womb of Mary of Nazareth, our heart now turns to the land where the mystery of our salvation was accomplished, and from which the word of God spread to the ends of the earth. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word became flesh in a specific place and time, in a strip of land on the edges of the Roman Empire. The more we appreciate the universality and uniqueness of Christ’s person, the more we look with gratitude to that land where Jesus was born, where he lived, and where he gave his life for us. The stones on which our Redeemer walked are still charged with his memory and continue to ‘cry out’ the Good News. For this reason, the Synod Fathers recalled the felicitous phrase which speaks of the Holy Land as ‘the Fifth Gospel.’”

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

**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!**