

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-2:30pm, T: 9:30am-2:30pm

W: 9:30am-2:30pm, F: 9:30am-2:30pm

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**

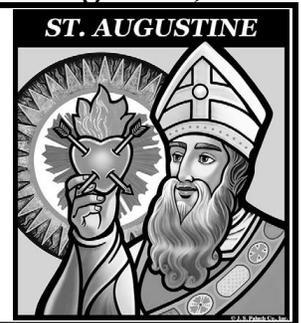
MATTHEW FOSTER, **PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

LYNDA MONAHAN, **SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR**

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 25, 2019

<u>MASS INTENTIONS</u>			
Sat.	Aug 24	4:00 PM	Patrick Gorman, 8th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	Aug 25	7:30 AM	Mary Riordan, 5th Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Jay Herlihy, 7th Anniversary, from Family
Mon.	Aug 26	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	Aug 27	9:00 AM	(St. Monica)
Wed.	Aug 28	9:00 AM	(St. Augustine)
Thurs.	Aug 29	8:00 AM	Nancy Gaudette, 7th Anniversary, from Friend
Sat.	Aug 31	4:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Shugrue and Donahue Families
Sun.	Sep 01	7:30 AM	Fr. Joseph McKiernan, Month Mind, from Parish Family
		10:00 AM	Marie A. Saucier, 4th Anniversary, from Family



THIS WEEK the text for The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #1010 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH IN WORCESTER

The 8th Annual Novena to St. Joseph will take place at Christ the King Parish on Monday evenings this fall. There will be prayer for the seriously ill, for improvements in palliative care, and prayer to raise awareness about all attempts to end human life unnaturally as in the case of physician assisted suicide or euthanasia. The Novena will be celebrated for **nine consecutive Mondays beginning Sept. 9 from 7:15 pm to 8 pm**. This year's homilists/speakers are Bishop Robert J. McManus, Msgr. James Moroney, Msgr. F. Stephen Pedone, Mrs. Kris Correira, Rev. Walter Riley, Rev. John Gavin, SJ, Joanne Massarelli, Dr. Lynda Young and Msgr. Thomas Sullivan. As always, all are welcome to participate in this annual Novena especially as the proponents of physician assisted suicide are attempting to make PAS legal in Massachusetts as just happened in the State of Maine.

2019 FRANCIS X. MAHONEY SCHOLARSHIP

Parish Activities Committee will be issuing two \$500.00 Scholarship in 2019 in Honor of Francis X. Mahoney, because of the success of the Spaghetti Dinner, Turkey Lurkey, and the Irish Dinner.

Any Student within Immaculate Conception Parish are eligible. Please write a letter to the Activities Committee and answer the following questions:

- 1) How have you displayed support of the Parish Family Life within Immaculate Conception Parish?
- 2) What are your Academic Grades and what College program do you plan to attend?
- 3) Name any and all high school, college leadership programs you are involved in?

Note: Scholarship is not limited to college students, high school students attending parochial or private schools may apply.

The letter deadline will be Sept. 29, 2019 and it can be given to any committee member or Fr. Riley

Please contact Jim Hester if you have any questions about the Scholarship 508-852-3473 e-mail bevhester13@gmail.com

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The word of God and commitment to justice in society.

"God's word inspires men and women to build relationships based on rectitude and justice, and testifies to the great value in God's eyes of every effort to create a more just and more livable world. The word of God itself unambiguously denounces injustices and promotes solidarity and equality. In the light of the Lord's words, let us discern the 'signs of the times' present in history, and not flee from a commitment to those who suffer and the victims of forms of selfishness. The Synod recalled that a commitment to justice and to changing our world is an essential element of evangelization. In the words of Pope Paul VI, we must 'reach and as it were overturn with the force of the Gospel the standards of judgment, the interests, the thought patterns, the sources of inspiration, and lifestyles of humanity that are in contrast with the word of God and with his plan for salvation.'"

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

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THOSE WHO IGNORE THE LAW: Luke 22-29; "Wide is the door, and broad the way that brings down many to destruction.' What are we to understand by its broadness? It means an unrestrained tendency toward carnal lust and a shameful and pleasure-loving life. It is luxurious feasts, parties, banquets, and unrestricted inclinations to everything that is condemned by the law and displeasing to God. A stubborn mind will not bow to the yoke of the law. This life is cursed and relaxed in all carelessness. Thrusting from it the divine law and completely unmindful of the sacred commandments, wealth, vices, scorn, pride and the empty imagination of earthly pride spring from it. Those who enter in by the narrow door must withdraw from all these things, be with Christ and keep the festival with him."

St. Cyril of Alexandria (378-44)

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 \$160.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

THE FACE OF MERCY

"At the foot of the cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy toward those who crucified him show us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception. Let us address her in the words of the Salve Regina, a prayer ever ancient and new, so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes toward us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus."

Pope Francis, from The Face of Mercy

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." (Luke 13:30) Our standards in society are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, "what have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond?

WORKBOOK FOR LECTORS

The 2020 version of *Workbook for Lectors* may now be picked up in the sacristy by any and all Lectors for the upcoming new Church year that begins in late November. Thank you to all of our Lectors who proclaim God's word so faithfully and professionally each week. Our Church very blessed to have you living this holy ministry. And, if anyone in the congregation has an interest in doing the same, feel free to speak to Fr. Riley or Deacon Kevin at any time.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION The first class and Open House for Religious Education classes take place on Sunday, September 8th, 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in Pre-K through 6th grade and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10. Parents, please plan on staying for the opening prayer and to meet your child's teacher. Registrations and the calendar were mailed to all families that were registered in the Religious Education program last year. Please fill out the registration and return to the rectory by August 30th. 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.

Children in second grade will begin preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion on Sunday, September 8th. Students in 11th grade will begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, September 15th.

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 seeking to be united with God's Church, that the Spirit will lead them home.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 08/18/2019

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,964.00
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	\$ 816.00

From the Pastor continued from the following page

Why does the Lord tell people he seems to know that he won't recognize them in the afterlife? People he ate and drank with? In my humble opinion, this parable goes to the heart of works of mercy, and performing them consistently in our lives. Eating and drinking with Jesus for Catholics in this life is most symbolic in our reception of the Eucharist. We eat his Body and drink his Blood every time we come forward and consume him. We not only eat and drink with him, but we *eat and drink him himself!* And if we do this each week, which we are called to as Catholics who celebrate the Resurrection every Sunday for the rest of our lives, then how can the gate possibly be narrow ... ever? Ever?

This is where Luke's Gospel is slightly murkier than Matthew 25 in relation to the necessity of works of mercy for the attainment of salvation, but no less demanding. Jesus doesn't know someone he *should* know because the Lord is speaking for all those people the person ignored, didn't feed, didn't provide drink, didn't cloth, and failed to visit when the opportunity was before them. The Lord denies the person standing outside the narrow gate their entrance into glory because that person utterly failed to see Christ in others in great distress. This basic Christian failure created a narrow gate, matching the narrowness of their Christian vision. Jesus knew the person outside the gate, but they didn't know him in the suffering and sick they encountered along the way.

May God bless those who answer the call each day in ways that open the gates of heaven for their souls. Actions of love and works of mercy open wide the gates of heaven. Receiving the Eucharist each week carries with it the demand to now go out and live what we receive. None of us are perfect, for sure. However, are we striving to expand the personal gate we carry each day on our shoulders? Christ is very demanding when it comes to love. It's through belief, reception of the Eucharist, receiving the Sacraments, and *works of mercy* that bring about the words of Jesus, "I know you. I recognize you. Come through this rather large gate and enjoy the goodness of eternal life."

Peace, Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SIGN UP

Please be aware that sign up for Religious Education is now ongoing. We begin our Religious Education program the week after Labor Day, which is fast approaching. As the children and youth in our Parish who attend public schools prepare to return to school for another year, we welcome all parents with sons and daughters in those schools to ensure that all of our youth are being fed the good presence of God in their lives. We're very blessed in our Parish to have a very strong Religious Education program led by Mrs. Mary Sycks and the many teachers who dedicate their time and efforts to teaching the infinite good of our Catholic faith to our children and youth. We ask God's blessings upon our program this coming year as we help parents prepare their children for lives where God is the center, and where their future vocation may be discerned with prayer and faith.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL/OUR LADY OF LORETO

All are welcome to the Miraculous Medal Novena for nine consecutive nights, beginning **Sept. 3 through Sept. 11**. Our speakers include Bishop Robert McManus, Msgr. Stephen Pedone, Fr. Nick Desimone, Msgr. Francis Scollen, Fr. Dennis O'Brien, Fr. Jim Mazzone, Deacon Paul Audette, and Deacon John Barton. The Church is located at 37 Massasoit Road, Worcester

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE - COFFEE SHOP

The Parish Activities Committee will start serving food, refreshments and camaraderie in the Coffee Shop on September 1st. The Committee would also like to thank all the parishioners that came down to the coffee shop previously this year and we hope we will see a lot more starting in Sept. (The Coffee Shop will be open the first and third Sunday each month).

There will a meeting of the Activities Committee on Sept. 1, 2019. If anyone can volunteer for the Activities Committee please call or email Jim Hester at 508-852-3473, or email at bevhester13@gmail.com. Thank you.

PARISH BARBECUE IN WORCESTER

Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Knights of Columbus Pope John XXIII Annual Barbecue will be held on Sunday, Sept. 8 with Outdoor Mass at 10:30 AM and BBQ at Noon. Hamburgers, Hot dogs and Chicken prepared by Paula Jacevicius and her special secret sauce. There will be 50/50 Raffle, Raffle Baskets, OLOL cookbooks, tote bags and Christmas ornaments for sale. Pinatas, face painting, whiffle ball and corn hole/bean bag toss for entertainment. Come join the fun!!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
 Psalm 68
 2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
 Gospel: 14:1, 7-14

OUTDOOR ROSARY ON THURSDAYS

Parishioner Mike Mitchell invites all to a weekly outdoor Rosary at Our Lady's Garden on the Church grounds on the rectory side on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

FROM THE PASTOR

One of the more explicit Gospel stories connecting our Christian faith to works of mercy is found in Matthew, chapter 25. This chapter in the former tax collector's Gospel is the familiar story where the Lord gives us words that are to the point, stark, poignant, and clearly necessary for the living out of the fullness of our faith in this life. "I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothed me, ill and you visited me, in prison and you didn't forget me," to paraphrase. And then the Lord's teaching with real consequences continues, "Whatever you did for the least of my brothers (and sisters), you did for me.....Come enter into your rest, on the right side of my heavenly Father," to paraphrase.

Matthew 25 is clear, concise, non-debatable and non-negotiable, a part of our spiritual contract that Christ the Lord teaches is a must in the life of any Christian seeking the final, lasting gift of salvation. If a person has no regard for salvation, or does not believe in the possibility of life after death, then the above teachings of Christ are a non-necessity. We would certainly hope and pray that someone who is a non-believer, or who lacks concern for salvific action in their life after dying, would still be the type of person with a natural regard for the well-being of both strangers and friends. But for the Christian, visiting, feeding, giving drink, and clothing are non-negotiables in our lives, where no amount of excuses can do away with the loving and caring expectations the Lord has placed on our laps.

With that said, not all Gospels that teach about regard for the poor and those who genuinely struggle are as clear as Matthew 25. The waters of Christian teaching may seem a little murkier with other Gospel stories that actually demand and command us to attend to consistent works of mercy in our daily living. This week's Gospel would be one of them. "Will only a few people be saved?" someone asked Jesus as the Lord made his way through towns and villages on his approach to Jerusalem. The answer? It certainly seems so, according to the answer the Son of God provides. Whatever happened to total dependence upon God's mercy for salvation?

Jesus goes into an image, a well-known one for us who hear the Gospel stories each week, an image of a gate that is narrow. This image is a frightening one for anyone who thinks heaven's entrance is easy for their soul. Jesus shuts down the possibility of easy salvation with the narrow gate story. Many will attempt to enter through this gate, thinking it is owed them, in like manner of any person who thinks the world owes them everything. The world owes us nothing. The question to be addressed is, "What have I done for others, what actions of love have I performed for others in the name of my Lord to even be considered for entrance through the narrow gate where angels sing and Saints worship?"

The slightly murkier part of good works as necessary for salvation is seen in the next part of the parable Jesus tells the crowd. The parable scene moves into the part where the person stuck outside the narrow gate is now asking Jesus himself to open the gate for them. And what does the King of the Universe respond? Well, in no uncertain terms, "Get lost! I don't know you!" "But Lord, we ate and drank with you. I thought we became friends when you stopped by my village in Jericho and heard you teaching about the Kingdom? I thought we were best buddies, like two guys on the same team?" "I do not know where you are from" the voice will shoot back through the narrow gate. "Depart from me all you evildoers!" So much for easy access into heaven's glory.

Do we even wish to consider this possibility; Jesus telling us that he doesn't even know us after a lifetime of worship and belief? As I said, it's frightening to think this is a possibility. But you know what? If the Lord says it, which he does here in Luke 13, then it's a definite possibility. We should take him at his word.

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Aug 24	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Aug 25	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Aug 26	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Aug 27	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Aug 28	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Aug 29	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Garden Rosary
Sat.	Aug 31	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 01	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass



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!**