

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-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

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

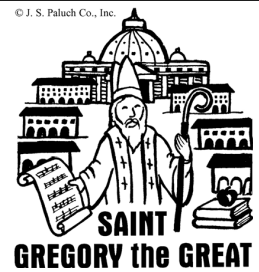
Father Walter can be called whenever someone can benefit from this sacrament of healing.

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.	Aug 31	4:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Shugrue and Donohue 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
Mon.	Sep 02	9:00 AM	Cheryl "Sheri" Firmani, Month Mind, from Family
Tues.	Sep 03	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Gregory the Great</i>)
Wed.	Sep 04	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Thurs.	Sep 05	8:00 AM	(<i>St. Teresa of Calcutta</i>)
Sat.	Sep 07	4:00 PM	Billy and Betty Carmody, from Family
Sun.	Sep 08	7:30 AM	Marie Dunn and Jim Dunn, Jr., from Family
		10:00 AM	Marie Riley, 11th Anniversary, from Family; Mary Carling, 2nd Anniversary, from Family



THIS WEEK the text for The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #1013 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

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 of Deacon Kevin at any time.

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

THE IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN DAILY LIFE

An Ignatian directed prayer experience beginning October 1, 2019 is in the final period for accepting applications. This is a wonderful and enriching program. If you are looking for a way to deepen your relationship with God, this may be just what you've been searching for. Information and an application form are available on the website: IgnatianSpiritualExercisesWorcester.com. You can contact the team by e-mail at worcspex19@gmail.com or call Dick Kirk at 508-885-4462. The 90-minute sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings at St. Peter's Church hall in Worcester adjacent to Clark University. **If interested, please send in your application ASAP.**

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THE HUMBLE AND THR PROUD: Luke 7-14; "There are humble religious, and there are proud religious. The proud ones should not promise themselves the kingdom of God. The place to which dedicated chastity leads is certainly higher, but the one exalts himself will be humbled. Why seek the higher place with an appetite for the heights, when you can make it simply by holding on to lowliness? If you exalt yourself, God throws you down. if you cast yourself down, God lifts you up. One may not add to or subtract from the Lord's pronouncement."

St. Augustine (360-430)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SIGN UP

Please be aware that signup 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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The word of God and commitment to justice in society.

"...the Synod Fathers wished to say a special word to all those who take part in political and social life. Evangelization and the spread of God's word ought to inspire their activity in the world, as they work for the true common good in respecting and promoting the dignity of every person. Certainly it is not the direct task of the Church to create a more just society, although she does have the right and duty to intervene on ethical and moral issues related to the good of individuals and peoples. It is primarily the task of the lay faithful, formed in the school of the Gospel, to be directly involved in political and social activity. For this reason, the Synod recommends that they receive a suitable formation in the principles of the Church's social teachings."

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

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 a greater example of the virtue of humility in our lives.

TRAVELING HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

The Vocations Office is beginning a monthly traveling holy hour for vocations. The next one takes place on Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. All are welcome to attend and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese.

DINNER DANCE IN WORCESTER

Our Lady of Providence Parish at St. Bernard will hold a dinner dance in the gym on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. featuring live music by Joe Luca Sextet. Cocktails, followed by a family style roast pork and turkey dinner with fixings and dessert. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased by Oct. 9 by calling Debbie, 508-688-7551.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Wisdom 9: 13-18b
Psalm 90
2nd Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

From the Pastor continued from the following page

For others, being most of us, humility is a work in progress. What we should remember is that humility is like any other virtue in that we have much control over whether we practice it or not. We cannot say we were born proud. Being a proud adult is a personal choice. Some people get humbled through tragedy, or difficult life experiences, or through playing golf all the time. Playing golf all the time is like inviting a certain type of tragedy into your life. It's just a matter of time before humble pie is swallowed. The point being that humility is a virtue we have control over. We can't say, "This is who I am. I'm not humble and never will be." That's a person who dismisses the presence of God's Spirit within. If we choose to be genuinely humble, we will succeed. If we choose to be like children, and not be a child, then we walk a path that leads to God.

And, for any virtue to succeed where we seem to struggle with it, such as mercy or forgiveness, it needs to be placed into our prayer lives each day. Praying over time for a virtue, any virtue, will result in said virtue being practiced in our daily lives. Shying away from praying for any virtue to become natural for us will defeat the possibility of that virtue defining our lives. So, "Conduct your affairs with humility." By doing so, we will be more loved by God than even the giver of gifts.

Peace, Fr. Riley

THE FACE OF MERCY

"Our prayer also extends to the saints and blessed ones who made divine mercy their mission in life. I am especially thinking of the great apostle of mercy, Saint Faustina Kowalska. May she, who was called to enter the depths of divine mercy, intercede for us and obtain for us the grace of living and walking always according to the mercy of God and with an unwavering trust in his love." *Pope Francis, from The Face of Mercy*

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 \$175.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." (Luke 14:13-14) We have a difficult time with the concept of giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity we often want something in return – a raffle ticket, a dinner, a chance to play golf or our name in print. Yet, as Christian stewards, we need to remember that the true reward for our giving awaits us in heaven.

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 Jacevicus 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!!

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 08/25/2019

Sunday Ordinary	\$ 2,949.00
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	\$ 66.00
Total Online Donations for August 2019	\$ 1,047.50

FROM THE PASTOR

“Let the children come to me. For to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.”

These words of Jesus in the Gospel speak to all adults by way of remembering that we were once young. Believe it or not! Yes, we were once young. And what comes with youth? A bundle of unharnessed energy that seems to last for hours on end with some children. A carefree approach to life, knowing that parents and grandparents will take care of all the big things, such as meals, finding you a job at the proper age, signing you up for sports teams and driving school, but before you get to driving school, they will drive you here, there, and everywhere you need to be, take you to the dentist to have your braces put on which they will pay for out of pocket or well-earned insurance, make sure you're safe and provide a nice comfortable bed for you to sleep in, bring you to Church EVERY SUNDAY *without missing any weeks because it's still a mortal sin to miss Mass*, teaching you your faith and praying with you before meals while making the sign of the Cross. Just to name a few. It sounds like youth comes with lots of dependency. Because it does.

What also comes with youth as connected to the words of our Lord above, about letting the children come to him, is the virtue of humility. True dependence emanates humility. There's the sort of dependence that some youth do not enjoy very much, such as “When are they going to trust me enough to leave me home alone for a few hours. I can take care of myself at this ripe old age of 10! Mom, Dad, why don't you two go out on a date tonight for dinner and a movie, and I'll watch over the house.” “Sure son, maybe in five more years,” which will seem an eternity to a 10-year-old.

And then there's the sort of dependence that appreciates the fact that someone actually cares about you to the point of loving you unconditionally, and dying for you if necessary, like Christ. Somewhere along the way, many of us seem to lose this beautiful insight about our parents, grandparents, and even our Savior. Youth will lose the insight that their parents, for the most part, keep careful watch over them because they *really do love their children*. And, they want them safe and what's good for them. But true dependence that emanates humility in its best form points to the fact that this certain youthful person, this son or daughter, is very, very spiritually mature.

The virtue of humility, which is found at the heart of Jesus being born, for God humbled himself and took on the form of a slave, is back in vogue this week, to be found in the midst of God's word for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. From the Old Testament Book of Sirach: “My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.” Amazing! Humility even overpowers the giver of gifts. It doesn't say that one need to give humbly, although St. Paul writes to the Corinthians that God loves a cheerful giver. True enough. God indeed loves a cheerful giver, and not one who gives with a scowl in their heart. But practicing humility is greater than the one who gives to another. Bring the two together – humility and giving – then we've found a combination that's difficult to beat in the sight of God. But on their own, the virtue of humility is higher than any giver in the sight of God.

For some, be they children or adults, humility seems to come naturally. It seems to be a natural part of a person's makeup, their persona. I think of one priest I know, and this guy, believe it or not, would have run the race of humility with St. Mother Teresa side-by-side with her. He would never admit this, considering such a thought to be ridiculous, which is part of the reason he would run the humble race so well. No false humility, no pretensions about being humble. He naturally eats humble pie every day without much effort.

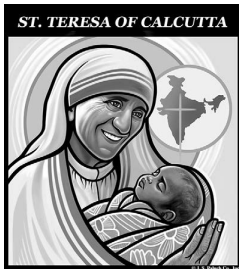
Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Aug 31	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 01	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Sep 02	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 03	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 04	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Sep 05	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Garden Rosary
Sat.	Sep 07	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 08	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.



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.

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!