

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.	Sep 14	4:00 PM	Thomas F.J. Dillon and Florence E. Dillon, from Family
Sun.	Sep 15	7:30 AM	John and Mary Powers, from Family
		10:00 AM	
Mon.	Sep 16	9:00 AM	Margaret Early, Month Mind, from Family, (<i>Sts. Cornelius, and Cyprian</i>)
Tues.	Sep 17	9:00 AM	Shawn Finnegan, from Family, (<i>St. Robert Bellamine</i>)
Wed.	Sep 18	9:00 AM	Rob Stukowski, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Thurs.	Sep 19	8:00 AM	Delia Trainor, Month Mind, from Parish Family
Sat.	Sep 21	4:00 PM	Jeannette Lindsay, from Denis and Janice Ciccolini and Herrmann Family
Sun.	Sep 22	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	James Holland, 4th Anniversary, from Family

THIS WEEK the text for The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #1019 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

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

BUS TRIP TO WRIGHT'S CHICKEN FARM & LA SALETTE SHRINE IN ATTLEBORO

Help us to celebrate Advent by joining us on a bus trip on Sunday, December 8, to Wright's Chicken Farm in Rhode Island & The National Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette. The bus leaves our Church parking lot at 12 Noon, returning at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy a lunch of chicken, salad, fries, rolls, beverage, and dessert at Wright's. Then the bus leaves for LaSalette Shrine, which has 400,000 lights on display for the Advent Season, Fr. Pat's annual concert, a Nativity Museum, and a wonderful gift shop. The cost for the trip is \$71.00, which includes driver tip, check payable to Fox Tours. Registration forms can be found at each entrance to the Church, and signup ends on November 8. Contact Michelle Deignan at 508-596-4778 or text for more information, or email Michelle at mmdeignan@charter.net. All are welcome to join us.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The proclamation of God's word, reconciliation and peace between peoples:

“Among the many areas where commitment is needed, the Synod earnestly called for the promotion of reconciliation and peace. In the present context it is more necessary than ever to rediscover the word of God as a source of reconciliation and peace, since in that word God is reconciling himself to himself all things. Christ ‘is our peace,’ the one who breaks down the walls of division. A number of interventions of the Synod documented the grave and violent conflicts and tensions present on our planet. At times these hostilities seem to take on the appearance of inter-religious conflict. Here I wish to affirm once more that religion can never justify intolerance or war. We cannot kill in God's name! Each religion must encourage the right use of reason and promote ethical values that consolidate civil coexistence.”

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

RCIA AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Our RCIA Program for 2019-2020 will commence on Tuesday, October 15 from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. in the Parish Rectory. The program will continue on successive Monday evenings until Holy Week, 2020, in early April. Only the first class will be held on a Tuesday. Who is the RCIA Program for? This classroom style gathering is for adults eighteen years of age or older who have not been baptized, or those who have been baptized in another Christian denomination seeking to become Catholic, or Catholic adults who have not received their First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation and wish to receive these Sacraments of Initiation into the Church. Also, we open the class for anyone who seeks to learn in deeper ways the beauty of our Catholic faith and its teachings, most notably adults who have been away from the practice of their faith for a period of time. Please contact Fr. Riley at any time to inform him of your interest or if you have any questions about the process, or call the Church at 508-754-8419.

NOONTIME SCRIPTURE SERIES AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Fr. Riley and Frank McGuire will be hosting a Scripture Study Series on Tuesdays: Oct. 1,8,15 and 22 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Church basement. The topic is St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. According to New Testament scholar Fr. Raymond Brown, this Letter “contains one of the best known and loved NT descriptions of the graciousness of Christ: one who emptied himself and took on the form of a servant, even unto death on a cross.” Feel free to bring your lunch. Refreshments and dessert will be provided. All are invited to attend and deepen your understanding of this most important Letter of St. Paul.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

EACH CONVERSION BRINGS JOY IN HEAVEN: Lk 15:7; “The shepherd is rich. We are his hundredth portion. He has innumerable flocks of angels, of archangels, of dominions, of powers, of thrones, of others whom he left on the mountains. Since these are rational, they fittingly rejoice in the salvation of people. Although this also may be of benefit as an incentive to honesty, if each believes that his conversion would be pleasing to the hosts of angels, whose protection is to be sought and whose displeasure feared. Be a source of joy to the angels. May they rejoice in your return.”
St. Ambrose (337-397)

PARISH SPAGHETTI DINNER IN OCTOBER

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner held by our PRISH Activities Committee will be held at the Fr. Connors Center on Saturday, October 12 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. We invite our parishioners and friends to join us for a delicious Saturday evening meal on Columbus Day weekend. Tickets will be on sale beginning the weekend of September 21 at all Masses. The cost for adults is \$10.00, for kids \$6.00 and for families of 3 or more \$30.00. A 50/50 raffle will be held during the dinner, and its BYOW (Bring Your Own Wine). All tickets must be purchased in advance for none will be sold at the door. This dinner is limited to 120 guests, so buy early. This dinner for the last three years being sold out.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Religious Education classes take place Sunday, September 15th at 8:45AM-9:45AM for children in grades Pre-K-6 and 11:15AM-12:15PM for students in grades 7-10. The meeting for parents of children receiving First Reconciliation (Grade 2) is on Sunday, September 29th at 9:00AM.

The first Confirmation Class (Grade 11) is on Sunday, September 15th at 11:15AM-12:15PM. The parent and Confirmation Candidate meeting is on Sunday, October 6th at 11:15AM.

If you have not registered your child for classes it is not too late! Please contact Mary Sycks at 508-868-8119 for more information.

MARIAN TALK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Parishioners Dr. Christopher Klofft and Dr. Ty Monroe, Assumption College theology professors, will present a talk titled *Mary's Assumption, What Does It Mean For Us?* on Monday evening, September 30 at 6:30 p.m. in our Parish's Church Basement Hall. All are invited to this informative talk from the Parish and outside the Parish. Dr. Klofft and Dr. Monroe will present two perspectives of this one magnificent event in early Church history, and how Mary's Assumption into heaven body and soul still resonates for us today. There will be the opportunity to ask questions to each presenter at the close of their presentations. Refreshments and baked goods will be offered for those in attendance. Consider coming by for a more in-depth understanding of why the Church celebrates, rejoices, and raises up this most holy religious, historical event in the life of Blessed Mary.

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY

Our Parish Activities Committee will be serving food and refreshments in the Church Basement this Sunday after the 7:30 & 10:00 Masses. We would love to have you stop by for a donut, coffee, orange juice, breakfast sandwich, and other choices that satisfy the stomach on a Sunday morning.

DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop Robert J. McManus will celebrate the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, Oct. 20 at 3 pm** at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Worcester. This liturgy of thanksgiving to God for many years of faithful witness to the sacredness of Christian marriage honors couples who are marking significant anniversaries (25th, 40th, 50th, etc.) this year. A light reception will follow downstairs in the Cenacle. Family and friends are welcome! Couples wishing to attend should **pre-register no later than October 11** so that commemorative certificates may be issued. To register, complete the registration form at www.worcesterdiocese.org/wedding-anniversary-mass, or contact the Office of Marriage and Family at 508-929-4311 to request that a copy of the registration form be sent to you.

From the Pastor continued from the following page

The same worldly uncertainties that affected the parable life of "The Prodigal Son" remain for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. The world is no different for either. The temptations, persecutions, loss or absence of basic needs, separation from family all remain.

With that said, we take note of the many good reasons why a teenager or young adult in their 20's would want to leave the security of their home and family, and enter much more deeply into a world filled with some pretty rotten stuff. The Prodigal Son left for all the wrong reasons: squander, temptation, loose living, arrogance. These good Sisters whose Order we welcome to our Parish this Sunday, they leave home and family for the good reasons of God: works of mercy, compassion, equality, correct injustice, love, respect for human life, presence and guidance, just to name a few. May God bless their ministry in the places where they bring the message of Jesus Christ and all that his holy name means. And may the Lord watch over all teenagers who leave home, seeking to take on the world in new ways, using their hearts and minds, we pray, not for themselves, but for the glory of God.

Peace, Fr. Riley

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH SPEAKER AT ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND

This weekend at all Masses our Parish will host a speaker for the annual Propagation of the Faith that every Parish in our Diocese participates in each year. A second collection will be taken up at all Masses. This year's speaker will be from the Religious Order The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, an international congregation of more than 1300 women religious with an apostolic commitment to education since their formation in 1804. Their local mission office is presently established in Ipswich, MA. The funds that are raised through the collection will support the life and ministries of the Sisters carrying out their daily Christian ministry in Africa, Latin America, and Haiti. This Order focuses their attention on the needs of women and children, with their ministry of education aiming to eliminate unjust structures that keep people living in poverty. Please welcome the Religious Sister who will speak on behalf of her Order, as we ask for your generosity to assist this Order in combating poverty and injustice in the nation's where they minister. Thank you.

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 *the safety and protection of all children, that the angels will watch over them closely.*

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 \$370.00 in cards. **Thank you** to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

2nd Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 09/08/2019

Sunday Ordinary

\$ 4,442.00

FROM THE PASTOR

We have a guy in this week's Gospel, a parable Jesus tells (which likely has happened many times for real) who wants to leave home and go find out what the world is like. Sorry to say, he finds out what the world is like. He finds out that others will take advantage of him; that there are temptations more numerous than the stars in the sky; that the grass is not always greener on the other side of the street, especially when the street is in another country; he finds out that lots of money does not last very long when living a life of dissipation, that it all can be squandered in short notice on things that cause God to turn his back, not wanting to look at the choices of one of his creatures; and, he finds out that the world will place you in a pig's sty, eating what they eat, when you have not even a penny left to your once rich name.

I think of parents all the time who have children who become teenagers. My heart is twofold regarding the teenage years and parenting: first, that parents realize how quickly their children grow to adulthood. And second, I think of those parents who may have to deal with the physical and spiritual realities we find in Luke's Gospel story of The Prodigal Son/Daughter. Realities such as teenagers wanting to own the world at the ripe old age of fifteen; teenagers wanting to go places they should not yet be going, if ever; teenagers who will squander a good family name, along with some cold hard cash that was well-earned by someone else; teenagers who feel they no longer have need of parental guidance. The teenage years can be a conundrum for parents who put forth their best effort at trying to keep a teenage son or daughter on the path of God and goodness. Honestly, if a teenager ever tells me that one parent or both are too strict with them, 99% of the time I'll favor the parent.

Going out into the world can be a scary proposition for parents with teenagers for whom they cared for so long. What parent wants to sit in their living room on a quiet evening wondering where and how their son/daughter is doing a thousand miles away, not knowing what the answer is?

A few weeks ago I mentioned in the bulletin four parishioners who began their college careers, leaving home for real for the first time in their lives. For two sets of those parents, their daughters are close by at Holy Cross. Much less worry involved there, knowing they're just a few moments away. Another one headed up to the North Shore of Massachusetts, a short car drive away if needed. And if you drive like a UPS Driver, the ride is even shorter time-wise. And the fourth teenager beginning her college career headed down to the nation's capital for school at Catholic University. This one is a longer drive that has to go through New York (good luck), but a short flight if needed to reach them in person. I'm filled with joy to say that all four of them left on good terms, not seeking to squander their parents hard-earned money. But still, out into the world they go, the same world experienced by the Prodigal one whose intentions were ill-gotten.

With the badness of The Prodigal Son, and the goodness of our four college students beginning their lives away from home, the image I use this week is that of "going out into the world, and what awaits." Moving this image away from teenage life and all its ups and downs, I instead use it for the Propagation of the Faith and Religious people who are called to carry out the same movement as The Prodigal Son, but for very different reasons. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, who are represented in our Parish this Sunday, are an Order of Sisters who leave home and go out into the world. There are women and men Religious Orders in the Church who do so. This group of Sisters leave home and head out to places such as the continent of Africa, Latin America, and Haiti. We just know that leaving home and going to such places as part of a Religious Order is filled with both uncertainty and incredible potential for doing God's work.

Continued on Previous Page

THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Sep 14	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 15	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Sep 16	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Sep 17	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Sep 18	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	Sep 19	7:30 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Rosary Mass Garden Rosary
Sat.	Sep 21	2:45 PM 4:00 PM	Confession Mass
Sun.	Sep 22	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

GRANDPARENT PRAYER GROUP

The Grandparent Prayer Group begins its 8th year on Friday, Sept. 20 from 11 am to Noon in the Church Hall Conference Room, St. George Church, 40 Brattle St. Worcester. The group meets the third Friday each month from September through May. Grandparents can make a significant difference by praying regularly and deliberately for all grandchildren and their parents and have the opportunity to powerfully touch the lives of another generation. Includes prayers to SS. Ann and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus and the Rosary. More info if needed Ruth Viens, Family Ministry Coordinator, 508-852-5658, ruthviens@charter.net.

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!**