

Immaculate Conception Parish



Please visit our website at
www.icworc.com and Facebook
Email: icworc@live.com

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
JENNEFER NOBERINI, PARISH SECRETARY
MATTHEW FOSTER, PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
LYNDA MONAHAN, SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

WEEKDAY MASSES

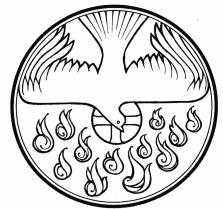
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM
THURSDAY 8:00 AM

NEW PARISHIONERS

Anyone is welcome to join the Parish Community.
Please contact the Rectory and introduce yourself.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	May 22	4:00 PM	John F. Dowd, Sr., 7th Anniversary, from Family; Marie Riley, Birthday Memorial, from Family
Sun.	May 23	7:30 AM	Patricia Holloway, 5th Anniversary, from Family; Paul St. Martin, 3rd Anniversary, from Family
		10:00 AM	Todd Dickie, from Jean Danton
Mon.	May 24	9:00 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception
Tues.	May 25	9:00 AM	(<i>Sts. Bede the Venerable, Gregory VII, and Mary Magdalene de Pazzi</i>)
Wed.	May 26	9:00 AM	(<i>St. Philip Neri</i>)
Thurs.	May 27	8:00 AM	(<i>St. Augustine of Canterbury</i>)
Sat.	May 29	4:00 PM	Jonathan Stukowski and Genevieve Burke, 7th Anniversary, from Family
Sun.	May 30	7:30 AM	
		10:00 AM	Paul Surrette, Month Mind, from Family

**SCRIPTURE STUDY IN MAY AT IC**

Fr. Riley and Frank McGuire will be hosting a Scripture Series on Tuesday, May 25th from noon to 1:00 pm in the Church Basement. The topic is *St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians*. You are all invited to deepen your understanding of this most important letter of St. Paul. Because of the theme of unity among all Christians, Jews and Gentiles alike, most experts would agree that *Ephesians* is Paul's most ecumenical letter. Please feel free to bring your lunch. Beverages and dessert will be available. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

OUTDOOR ROSARY ON THURSDAYS

Parishioner Mike Mitchell invites all to a weekly outdoor Rosary on Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in Our Lady's Garden on the Church grounds on the rectory side. Weather permitting.

VIRTUAL WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

In a blink of an eye, anything and everything can change. Please participate in the 36th Annual *Virtual* Walk for the Homeless, May 16-May 23. The WALK will benefit Catholic Charities Family Shelter, Homeless Prevention programs of Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a program of Friendly House, and St. John's Food for the Poor. For more information go to www.walkforthehomeless.org or call Ann Gibbons Smith at 774-243-3809.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS FOR OUR LADY'S GARDEN

Anyone in the Parish who has a family stone in Our Lady's Garden is invited to place a small U.S. flag next to the stone over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend (May 29-31). Flags have been ordered and will made available at the Church on that weekend. For any family stones where a parishioner is not present to set a flag next to it, we as a Parish will do so. Thus, all the stones (about 170) will have an American flag next to it.

DIOCESAN SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office will be offering several exciting opportunities this summer for middle and high school youth! Events include a trip to an aerial adventure course, whitewater rafting, summer worship nights, the Diocesan volleyball league, and the Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team. To get more information or to register a group for any of these opportunities go to the Diocesan Youth Ministry website at www.newworchester.org or contact Tim Messenger at tmessenger@worchesterdiocese.org or 508-929-4360.

DIOCESAN SUMMER YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

All young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to join us for our Diocesan Young Adult Ministry events this summer! Events include weekly pick-up volleyball, hiking trips to Mt. Wachusett and Mt. Monadnock, an aerial adventure course, and whitewater rafting. Some events require registration in advance. To sign up or to get more information go to www.newworchester.org/summer-young-adult-events or contact Tim Messenger at tmessenger@worchesterdiocese.org or 508-929-4360.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 5/16/2021

Sunday Ordinary (includes Online)	\$ 5,576.50
Ascension Holy Day	\$ 660.00

SEMINARIAN ASSIGNED TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THIS SUMMER

Thank you for warmly welcoming to Immaculate Conception last Sunday seminarian Julio Bonilla who has begun his summer assignment at our Parish. Julio presently attends St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore studying for the Worcester Diocese and will be entering 3rd Theology in his preparation for the priesthood. I ask all of our people to continue to welcome Julio as his assignment here moves forward. One main purpose for Julio's assignment at our Parish is for him to concentrate on his English through lecturing at Mass and conversing with parishioners. After speaking with him recently, his English is good, but he can use more practice in this area to assist his future ministry in our Diocese. Therefore, if anyone in our Parish speaks Spanish, or even pretends to, please make certain you speak to him in English, not Spanish, broken or otherwise. I will be grateful for it, and it will assist Julio in his continued preparation for priesthood. - Fr. Riley

PARTNERS IN CHARITY

The Partners in Charity Campaign continues in our Parish. The many works of this campaign include treating and serving the basic needs of the poor in our communities; seminarians studying for priesthood; retired priests who have dedicated their life's work to our Diocese, and many more ministries. Envelopes and information for the 2021 campaign have been placed at each entrance to the Church for anyone who has not received this information through a Diocesan mailing. With many parishioners now donating online, for those who do so, you can go to worchesterdiocese.org and scroll to the bottom of the page where can be found the Partners in Charity emblem. Click on the emblem and follow the directions for donating. Our Parish goal remains the same as in past years; \$88,500. *Thus far our Parish has raised \$63,915 dollars from 106 donors representing 72% of our Parish goal.* With last year's campaign affected by the pandemic and our numbers being way down, I pray that each parishioner/family will consider donating to the Partners in Charity this year on behalf of our Parish. Thank you, and a blessed Easter season to all our people. Fr. Riley.

CHURCH BASEMENT KITCHEN RENOVATION

Over the next month or more the kitchen in our Church basement will be renovated. This project was one of the case items for the Legacy of Hope campaign. The work will be completed in late May/early June in preparation for the hopeful upcoming use in September for the Parish Activities Committee and their Sunday morning breakfast, along with any other future events we as a Parish may use the kitchen to serve food and refreshments. The estimated cost of the project, which will include new appliances, new cabinets, and a slightly new design, will be in the \$20,000 area. When the work is completed, the new kitchen will be blessed by Fr. Riley.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 30, THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Psalm: 33

2nd Reading: Romans 8:14-17

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

WORCESTER, MA

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Registration is ongoing for the 2021-2022 Religious Education year. Classes for children in Pre-K through 6th grade take place at 8:45am-9:45am. Classes for students in 7th-10th grade take place at 11:15am-12:15pm. All Children in second grade will begin preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in September. All Students in 11th grade will begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation in September. 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-11th 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.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP - We are very excited to offer Vacation Bible Camp at Immaculate Conception! VBC will be the week of June 21st-25th from 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and is FREE! Children 5-10 years old are welcome to join us for a fun week of many activities including Bible Stories, Games, Music, Crafts, Snacks and more! Contact Mary Sycks at mks723@msn.com for registration forms and more information.

POLAND TRIP LAST CHANCE FOR SIGNUP

Our Parish trip to Poland that has been rescheduled for this September has a closing signup date of June 1. The new dates are September 20-30. The cost of this wonderful trip is \$3389, with a single supplement of \$700. Cities to be visited are Warsaw and its historic monuments and neighborhoods, Malbork Castle, Gdansk, Torun and the home where Nicolaus Copernicus was born, Czestochowa, a tour of Auschwitz- Birkenau, Krakow, and a visit to the 16th century Wawel Royal Castle, the Jewish Quarter, the birthplace of St. John Paul II and the museum of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, and other cultural experiences of Poland. At this point we have 16 people signed up with 32 seats available. Signup sheets can be printed off from our Parish website at icworc.com and sent to Fr. Riley at the Church. any questions, please contact Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419, or Callie Foster at 508-397-5883.

ST. THOMAS MORE LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the St. Thomas More Society of our Diocese awards a scholarship of varying amounts, usually around \$3000, to a law student attending an accredited law school in the fall. Applicants or parents must be registered and active members of a parish in the Diocese of Worcester. Applicants may be in any year of law school studies. Applications may be obtained by visiting the diocesan website, www.worcesterdiocese.org/st-thomas-more-society, by mailing requests to: St. Thomas More Society, Chancery Office, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609 or by calling Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345. Applications are due on or before June 30, 2021. Should anyone wish to contribute to the scholarship fund, donations will be greatly appreciated and you can contact us at the above address or phone number.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN IN HOMELESS SHELTERS

Children living in more than 90 homeless shelters across Mass. count on Horizons for Homeless Children volunteers. Can they count on you? Volunteer to play with homeless children at our Playspace in one of more than 90 family shelters. We have a high need for volunteers in Worcester. A commitment of 2 hours a week for 6 months and an orientation are required. **Upcoming online volunteer orientation: Tuesday, May 18 or Thursday, June 17 from 6-8 pm.** To find out more, view other orientation dates, or to apply, call 774.260.2612 or visit www.horizonschildren.org/playspace.

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 on that day. 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 *Spirit of Peace and Pentecost to move our hearts to lead lives of Christian peace.*

From the Pastor continued from the following page

The languages the Apostles speak in the Upper Room are spoken in the manner of peace, which Christ would want no other way, for he taught no other way. Those who live by the sword will die by the sword. They will die in their violence and sin, for violence begets violence, with the real possibility of spending eternity away from the Lord Jesus. An existence called hell. It's the Apostles who direct all bodies and souls to heaven through their many languages empowered by the Holy Spirit, and not the numerous wayward souls presently in power down the road empowered by a seriously evil worldly spirit. They can't even keep the peace moving forward in the ever-volatile Middle East when it was handed to them on a platter. Instead, they've treated the silver platter over the past 4 months like it still had the head of John the Baptist on it. Shame on them! Absolute shame on them for putting their ugly politics ahead of spreading peace in our world! It should bother us to no end when once in a lifetime opportunities are wasted because of profound human ignorance and political pride. To easily toss aside the possible expansion of peace in the place where the Lord Jesus lived and shared his life can only result in this so-called present administration adding their names to the list of warmongers.

The Holy Spirit is the One who leads in the way of peace all those who truly desire it. For those who can taste it and salivate over it. For those who want more and more peace under whomever and however. Where the sharpened sword is placed back into the sheath and replaced by a plowshare. And this is one of the notable paradoxes of Christianity; that the Lord Jesus, who says to them in the Upper Room, and to us in our room, "Peace be with you," died in the most brutish way imaginable. His death was anything but a peaceful death. We want a peaceful death for ourselves and all our loved ones. Well, we know that was not the case as his Mother watched in horror her Son being nailed to the tree. Like his Apostles, Jesus' life traveled quickly from a peace deal in the Upper Room, the sharing of himself, to exploding bombs in the presence of the High Priest, Pilate, and on Golgotha surrounded by Roman soldiers. It's not hard to see why he died in a violent way if we consider "the administration."

As I've said in past homilies, we are not Barabbas. Christians are not violent revolutionaries. Not even close. However, each day we have the choice before us to choose to free either Barabbas or Jesus within us. Which spirit is going to show itself in any given situation? Will it be the spirit of the world, which is a spirit of open and hostile violence? Or, the Holy Spirit in whom we've all been baptized?

Although the Middle East has apparently gone from good to bad, from brokering peace to brokering violence, I pray we reject always the ways of violence and those who bring them about, or even allow them to happen. It is the Holy Spirit of God in Whom we are to be centered. Barabbas is in the dustbin of history where he belongs. Christ is on center stage. May we spread our Catholic faith, and be devoted to our faith, not through a policy that leads to exploding bombs, but by policies that broker peace deals.

Peace, Fr. Riley

FROM THE PASTOR

We pray for peace in the Middle East, again. If my memory serves me well, just last year we had peace overflowing between Israel and other Arab nations. The last President, using whatever system his administration used, implemented a successful formula at doing what all other Presidents before him could not; *extend* peace in the Holy Land. Unless those brokered peace deals were somehow false, which I doubt they were, then the last President deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for the next number of years that equals the number of Arab nations who signed on to the expansion of peace in a part of the world that has been under duress and open, expanded violence for so long.

Now, just a few short months later, we've gone from a mindset of peace back to the usual decades-long violence. From peace deals realized to bombs exploding. How did that happen so quickly? To be honest, I'm not sure how supportive this so-called present administration in locked-down Washington D.C., the city that is supposed to represent to the world freedom and liberty – the way God created us - is toward the present administration in Israel. If they're anything like the administration in this country from 2008-2016, then Israel as a nation is in for a long spell of non-support and violence, a bad combination for those who like peace in our world. There will be at least 4 upcoming years of it. How did this change from peace deals to exploding bombs so quickly?

As we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost in the Church, we hear proclaimed this first reading each Pentecost Sunday from the Acts of the Apostles. It's the reading of our Lord's chosen ones in the Upper Room. The Upper Room was a place for the Apostles where they experienced firsthand peace deals and exploding bombs. And they happened so quickly. In a short span of time. From the "peace deal" of the institution of the Eucharist, where Jesus literally gave them his body and blood accompanied by the words, "Do this in memory of me." In other words, "Keep it moving forward guys, and feed my sheep on your journey to heaven."

From that everlasting peace deal in the Upper Room, in a short space of time, it seemed like "the administration" changed through means of trying to steal the election of some Apostolic hearts, to causing them to live in fear of the worldly, godless forces pressing in on them. The people in Washington – oops, I mean Rome – had/have a way of trying to force hearts and minds into their way of living, being, thinking, and acting. There's the old saying, "It's my way or the highway. You will either accept this transgender and abortion stuff as perfectly normal, loving choices, or we will punish you for rejecting our godless ways."

Well, that's about where we stand presently, and it's about the same place the Apostles stood from the time of the arrest of Jesus until he appeared to them after his resurrection, when fear returned to incredulous joy with the words, "Peace be with you." Have you noticed there is no incredulous joy in the nation's capital nowadays? Or any joy at all? We have lock downs and scowls on faces, similar to the Apostles living in fear of the authorities after the arrest of Jesus. We have all kinds of force and threats from certain Governors for not complying. But no joy, unless it's the false joy of sensing your corrupt, stolen power is somehow controlling the masses.

In the Upper Room at this point of Pentecost, the "revolutionaries for Jesus" have moved on from their fearful ways and have entered the waters of baptism. This is what the Holy Spirit gives them; the temerity and courage to bring to an unsaved, violent world the message that the Savior, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, has come to us and shared with us all things of heaven. The many languages the Apostles speak in this familiar Upper Room scene symbolize the message going out to all the world, and that the Church of Christ - the Catholic Church – is the institution through which the heavenly message will be shared. This was their fundamental duty of discipleship, and it remains ours today.

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THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	May 22	2:45 PM	Confession
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	May 23	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	Mass
Mon.	May 24	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Tues.	May 25	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Wed.	May 26	8:30 AM	Rosary
		9:00 AM	Mass
Thurs.	May 27	7:30 AM	Rosary
		8:00 AM	Mass
Sat.	May 29	2:45 PM	Confession
		4:00 PM	Mass
Sun.	May 30	7:30 AM	Mass
		10:00 AM	Mass

HOPE FOR HOUSING FOOD CARDS

Please consider supporting through our Parish the purchase of food cards for Hope for Housing, whose primary mission is to assist families from becoming homeless in our community. Available are cards for Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Big Y, CVS, Panera Bread, and Dunkin Donuts. This past week card sales amounted to \$400.00. Thank you.

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE BREATH OF GOD: John 20:22; "The Son, sharing the same nature as God the Father, has the Spirit in the same manner that the Father would be understood to have the Spirit. In other words, the Spirit is not something added or which comes from without, for it would be naïve - even insane - to hold such an opinion. But God the Father has the Spirit, just as each one of us has our own breath within us that pours forth from the innermost parts of the body. This is why Christ physically breathed on his disciples, showing that as the breath proceeds physically from the human mouth, so too does Christ, in a manner befitting God, pour forth the Spirit from the divine essence."

St. Cyril of Alexandria (c376-444)

**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!**