

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception
353 Grove Street
Worcester, MA 01605-3907

PHONE NUMBER

508-754-8419

CONTACT PERSON

Sharon Rainville

CHURCH NUMBER

005046

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Immaculate Conception Parish



RECTORY ADDRESS

353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605
Phone: 508-754-8419 Fax: 508-754-8508
Religious Education Phone: 508-868-8119

REV. WALTER RILEY, PASTOR

KEVIN DEIGNAN, PERMANENT DEACON

FRANK MYSKA, PERMANENT DEACON

**MARY SYCKS, ADMINISTRATOR OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTER**

C. HENRY MASON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

SHARON RAINVILLE, PARISH SECRETARY

MATTHEW FOSTER, PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

**LYNDA MONAHAN, SAFE ENVIRONMENT
COORDINATOR**

Please visit our website at

www.icworc.com and Facebook

SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM

THURSDAY 8:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 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.

NEW PARISHIONERS

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

			MASS INTENTIONS	
Sat.	Mar. 1	4:00 PM	Eleanor Groden by family	
Sun.	Mar. 2	7:30 AM	Parishioners of Immaculate Conception	
		10:00 AM	Virginia H. Murphy, Months Mind by family <i>(St. Katherine Drexel)</i>	
Mon.	Mar. 3	9:00 AM		
Tues.	Mar. 4	9:00 AM	Robert A. Folino by family <i>(St. Casimir)</i>	
Wed.	Mar. 5	7:00 AM		
		9:00 AM	Rowena Clark & Harold O'Connor	
		5:30 PM		
Thurs.	Mar. 6	8:00 AM		
Sat.	Mar. 8	4:00 PM	Philip Dowd, Months Mind by family	
Sun.	Mar. 9	7:30 AM		
		10:00 AM		

THIS WEEK the text for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #969 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

FRIDAY FASTING AND INTENTION

Thank you to all in our parish who participate in our weekly Friday fast of abstaining from meat and fasting for one meal. This early Catholic tradition is a wonderful way of reminding ourselves of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for all of us on Good Friday. The intention for the upcoming Friday *for all married couples to be holy examples of faith, commitment, respect, and love, knowing that as families they are the bedrock to a healthy and vibrant society.*

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. So that all parishioners may plan accordingly, our Mass schedule for Ash Wednesday is 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. All three celebrations are Masses with distribution of ashes.

GUIDELINES FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of lent.

Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid food between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten practices.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND HOLY HOUR

Beginning Friday, March 7th, and each subsequent Friday during Lent, our parish will have a Holy Hour starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. Please feel free to come and spend a short time with the Lord in adoration prior to the Stations if possible. The Lenten Holy Hour on Fridays will take the place of our normal monthly Holy Hour on the first Tuesday of March and April, and will return to Tuesdays in May.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

There will be no Scripture Study on Wednesday, March 5th, due to Ash Wednesday Masses. Scripture Study will resume on Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory.

VOCATION CORNER

To live out a vocation, we must strive to follow the Lord to the best of our ability. When it comes to following a call to the priesthood or religious life, at some point we must give God our complete trust and take a leap of faith. If it is stirring in your own heart that possibly you could be called to a priestly or religious vocation, talk to someone about it. Ask about the life of a priest or a religious sister. Maybe you are not quite ready to fully jump in and take a chance now, but it is a next step to begin to investigate whether or not you are called to this life. In my own journey, I had a lot of help from a Priest who guided me through the process. We are never alone in our journey towards God. All we need to do is ask for help along the way.

God Bless

Deacon Jim Boland

DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

"In a social and cultural context which makes it more difficult to face and accept suffering, the temptation becomes all the greater to resolve the problem of suffering by eliminating it at the root, by hastening death so that it occurs at the moment considered most suitable."

Blessed John Paul II, from the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*

PRAYERS FOR CATECHUMEN AND CANDIDATE

As a community of faith, please keep in your prayers the one catechumen and one candidate from our parish who have been preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil on April 19th. They will be part of the Rite of Election at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 1st Sunday of Lent, March 9th, as they take their next faithful step toward full initiation into God's Church. Also, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on March 16, 23, and 30, our catechumen and candidate will take part in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Scrutiny's as part of their formation leading up to the Easter Vigil.

COLLECTION FOR CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Next week the annual collection for the Church in Latin America will be held at all Masses. This collection helps to support our Catholic brothers and sisters in some of the poorer nations in our hemisphere. Thank you for your generosity.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Classes take place on Sunday, March 2nd at 8:45 a.m. and Monday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

The CYC will be holding a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 16th following the 7:30 and 10:00 a.m. Masses. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee, tea and juice. Only \$5.00 per person!

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

“The common good of society consists in the sum total of those conditions of social life which enable men to achieve a fuller measure of perfection with greater ease. It consists especially in safeguarding the rights and duties of the human person. For this reason the protection of the right to religious freedom is the common responsibility of individual citizens, social groups, civil authorities, the Church and other religious communities. Each of these has its own special responsibility in the matter according to its particular duty to promote the common good.”

Vatican II Document,, Declaration on Religious Liberty

PARISH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Activities committee is sponsoring the upcoming Irish Dinner (March 15) from 5:00—8:00 p.m. at the Father Connor’s Center. No tickets will be sold at the door March 15th. Tickets will be sold after the 7:30 & 10 a.m. Masses starting Feb. 23, 2014. This year we plan on having live Irish entertainment, so please join us for a family night of fun, food and music.

Coffee Shop will be open on every third Sunday of the month after the 7:30 a.m. Mass and the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

A meeting of the Activities committee will be held on every third Sunday of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Coffee shop. All parishioners are invited to participate at this meeting.

LENTEN TUESDAY CLASS ON POPE FRANCIS’ EXHORTATION

Fr. Riley will lead a Lenten class on the recent Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis called The Joy of the Gospel. The class will be held on Tuesday evenings for five successive Tuesdays beginning March 11th, which follows the make-up of the Holy Father’s exhortation which consists of five chapters. The class will take place in the Church basement, beginning at 6:00 p.m. each Tuesday, and will end at approximately 7:15 a.m. All are invited to come and learn the many profound thoughts and teachings of Pope Francis in regard to the New Evangelization.

14TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE

All men are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Worcester’s DCU Center, on Saturday, April 5. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: New England Patriots’ vet Kevin Reilly, Catholic biblical writer Steve Ray, popular theologian Christopher West, Sirius radio host Gus Lloyd, and Relevant Radio’s Father Frank “Rocky” Hoffman. Bishop McManus will offer Mass. Priests will hear confessions. For a Conference brochure, further information, or registration, call 508-929-4345. Visit our website-www.firstmensconf.org-for information and ticket purchases.

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 \$270.00 of cards. Thank you to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

SACRAMENTALIZING MARRIAGES

I extend an offer to any and all Catholic couples, or anyone who knows or is related to a couple, who were married by either a Justice of the Peace, or by a Minister without the presence of a Catholic priest, to consider having your marriage become a Sacramental relationship blessed in the Catholic Church. I’m not sure where to begin on this topic; either the Church has done a poor job catechizing and teaching sacramental marriage as the fullness of the marital relationship, or a whole generation is simply missing the message on how a baptized Catholic is meant to be married in the church. This issue is much too important to ignore. I invite any couple to contact me at the church if either spouse, or both spouses, are baptized Catholic and your marriage is presently not a sacramental relationship. The process for making your marriage a sacrament is, and trust me when I say this, very easy. The purpose here is to bring marriages for Catholics to the point where they are meant to be in the eyes of God, that being the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Fr. Riley

RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Blessed Peter is told, “To you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” The authority vested in this power passed also to the other Apostles, and the institution established by this decree has been continued in all the leaders of the Church.”

St. Leo the Great (c.400-461)

LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING SPRING 2014

The Diocese is holding three sessions of Liturgical Ministry Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors. Each session will take place at St. Roch’s Church in Oxford on three successive Wednesdays; March 19th, 26th and April 2nd from 6:30—8:00 p.m. The cost is \$25.00, which our parish will cover for anyone who wishes to attend these classes. Please speak with Fr. Riley if interested.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT...Sunday Ordinary Income was \$5341 and other various envelopes were \$446.00.

FROM THE PASTOR

This coming Wednesday in the Church we begin the holy season of Lent. I offer some recent words of Pope Francis titled Catechesis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

“Jesus...willed that the Church continue his works of salvation for her members, in particular through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which flows from the Paschal Mystery. The forgiveness we receive is not from the result of our own efforts, but it is the gift of the Holy Spirit reconciling us to God and to each other. While the celebration of the Sacrament is personal, it is rooted in the community of the Church, in which the Holy Spirit is present, uniting us all in Jesus Christ. When confessing our sins then, we confess to the priest who represents not only God but also the community of the Church that accompanies us on the path of conversion. Though this Sacrament is a great treasure, we may be tempted to dismiss it, perhaps due to laziness or embarrassment, or because of a diminishing sense of sin and its effects. Too often, we see ourselves as the center and measure of all things, and our lives can go adrift. The Sacrament of Reconciliation calls us back to God, and embraces us with his infinite mercy and joy. May we allow his love to renew us as his children and to reconcile us with him, with ourselves, and with one another.”

These words by our Holy Father invite every one of us back to the joy of a new beginning in Christ this Lenten season. As many of us are well aware, this Sacrament of Reconciliation is the most underused Sacrament today in the Church, but should unquestionably be in the top two Sacraments of those we receive, the other being reception of the Lord’s Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist.

There are various reasons why we Catholics have turned Reconciliation into an underused Sacrament, from, as Pope Francis states, a loss of a sense of sin, to spiritual laziness, to believing about ourselves that we actually maybe perfect (please read my homily from last week on the Parish website—icworc.com—regarding this topic). While all of us are challenged by Jesus to “be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect,” all of us are united in the one part of our faith called conversion until the day we die.

I pray that as a Parish community all of us will avail ourselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. Do away with all the poison that sits in the heart meant for Christ. Do away with anything that disrupts our relationship with Jesus, and turn it over to the Lord, whose shoulders are strong enough to carry all the waywardness we can bring forth. I have no doubt most of all of us are loving, caring, peaceful, generous, thoughtful, and kind individuals. However, in all those virtues we try to put into practice each day, we encounter stumbling blocks in our culture that challenge our virtues.

As the detective said while interviewing the criminal; “Come clean!” Lent is a more focused time for us to come clean, without being criminals. But God wants to interview us so that he may show us his mercy and forgiveness.

May our Holy Father’s words challenge us to take up the mantle of Confession, making this powerful Sacrament a continuous part of our lives once again.

Peace
Fr. Riley

THIS WEEK AT
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sat.	Mar. 1	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	Mar. 2	7:30 AM 8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Religious Ed Mass
Mon.	Mar. 3	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Rosary Mass Religious Ed
Tues.	Mar. 4	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Ash			
Wed.	Mar. 5	7:00 AM 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Mass Rosary Mass Mass NO Scripture Study
Thurs.	Mar. 6	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	Mar. 7		
Sat.	Mar. 8	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	Mar. 9	7:30 AM 8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Religious Ed Mass

**YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER
AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION!!**

Name _____

Address: _____

**City
& Zip** _____

Phone _____

Envelopes _____

Number of People in Household _____

**PLEASE, TEAR THIS OFF AND PLACE IN THE
COLLECTION BASKET!**