

**CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS**

Immaculate Conception  
353 Grove Street  
Worcester, MA 01605-3907

**PHONE NUMBER**

508-754-8419

**CONTACT PERSON**

Robert Noberini

**CHURCH NUMBER**

005046

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*Tuesday, 10:00 PM*

**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**

BOB NOBERINI, **PARISH OFFICE MANAGER**

MATTHEW FOSTER, **PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

LYNDA MONAHAN, **SAFE ENVIRONMENT  
COORDINATOR**

Please visit our website at

[www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com) and Facebook

## **SUNDAY MASSES**

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM**

**SUNDAY: 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM**

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:00 - 4:00 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 Frances Nugent, Victim Services Coordinator, Office of Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363 (direct, confidential line).

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sat.	July 11	4:00 PM	William C Herrmann, Curtiss R. Herrmann & Arthur S. Lindsey by family
Sun.	July 12	7:30 AM	Jim Dunn by family
		10:00 AM	Ann Dell'Olio, First Anniversary, by family
Mon.	July 13	9:00 AM	
Tues.	July 14	9:00 AM	( <i>Saint Kateri Tekawitha, Virgin</i> )
Wed.	July 15	9:00 AM	( <i>Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> )
Thurs.	July 16	8:00 AM	Charlie Glavin by friend
Sat.	July 18	4:00 PM	Martha Andersen by family
Sun.	July 19	7:30 AM	James F. Hester, Jr. & Lorraine A Hester by family
		10:00 AM	Dr. Frank Bednarek, Second Anniversary, by family

HE SENT THEM OUT  
TWO BY TWO



**THIS WEEK** the text for The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time may be found at #991 in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**FRIDAY FASTING AND INTENTION**

Our faith lost one of its beautiful traditions not long after the Second Vatican Council when the Church eased the practice of not eating meat on Fridays which commemorated the day of our Lord's death. We pray that this minor tradition that can make a major spiritual impact in our lives will one day return for the benefit of all Catholics who devoutly embrace their faith. Our Parish extends an offer each week to our parishioners who have an interest in participating in our Friday fasting. The purpose, first and foremost, is to maintain an awareness in our lives that Friday is the day our Lord died on the Cross and was laid in the tomb for our salvation. Our fasting each week, however, will also be for a specific intention that appears weekly in this column. Thus, our fasting is twofold; sacrificing one meal, and abstaining from eating meat. The intention for this coming Friday is for *the sick and infirm in our parish, may they know the presence and peace of Christ.*

**UPDATING PARISHIONERS PHONE NUMBERS**

With cell phones in our pockets taking over for many landlines in our homes, it would be of great importance and service to our parish if we could have the home numbers of parishioners who have ceased using their landlines. Please consider sharing your number with your Church, for God only knows when we will need to contact any of our parishioners. Old numbers have been dialled and a busy signal (the ugly one) has been heard on the other end. So, please call our rectory with your number if you no longer use a landline in your home. Thank you.

**RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Death is an experience which touches all families, without exception. It is part of life; yet, where familial love is concerned, death never seems natural. For parents, surviving their own children is particularly heartbreaking; it contradicts the fundamental nature of the very relationships that give meaning to the family."

Pope Francis

**GARDENING MINISTRY ON OUR GROUNDS**

Our Parish is looking for volunteers to help create a memorial garden around the Church. What a wonderful opportunity to bring your talents to the planning and planting of a memorial garden, which will become a place of peace and serenity. If you are interested in bringing your special gifts of creativity and your skills to creating a special place of memory on our grounds, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested, please speak with Fr. Riley or call the office at 508-754-8419.

**\$500.00 SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF FRANCIS X. MAHONEY**

Our Parish Activities Committee will be issuing a 2015 Scholarship in honor of Francis X. Mahoney. Fran was a member of our Parish Activities Committee prior to his recent untimely death. Therefore, as a way of honoring the memory of Fran, any present college student, college-bound student, or parochial school student who is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish is eligible for the Scholarship. The Student must write a letter to the Activities Committee and answer the following questions: 1) How have you displayed support for our Parish Family Life within Immaculate Conception? 2) What are your academic grades, and for those who attend college, what is your primary focus of study? 3) Name any school leadership programs you are/were involved in. The letter deadline will be August 16, 2015 and can be given to any committee member or to Fr. Riley.

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

"My wish is that the dialogue between us should help to build bridges connecting all people, in such a way that everyone can see in the other not an enemy, not a rival, but a brother or sister to be welcomed and embraced."

Pope Francis

**THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH**

"Everyone suffers from the current crisis in marriage, but some suffer more than others. A growing class divide is becoming alarmingly clear. College-educated men and women marry and are unlikely to get divorced. The less educated are less likely to marry, and those who do so are three times more likely to get divorced. Rates of illegitimacy are even more striking. A very small percentage of college-educated women have children out of wedlock (6 percent). Nearly half of women without a college education now have children out of wedlock."

From the statement by *Evangelicals and Catholic Together*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**06/28/15**

Sunday Ordinary Income	\$ 3,978.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 202.00

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 19th, 16th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

- 1st Reading: Jeremiah 23: 1-6
- Psalm 23
- 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2: 13-18
- Gospel: Mark 6: 30-34

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** We hope you have been enjoying the beautiful summer weather. We are planning the 2015-2016 Religious Education curriculum and are excited about all the new additions! We are currently looking for a 4th grade teacher to 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 at 508-868-8119.*

*From the Pastor continued from the following page*

For any Catholic who believes that justice has now been served by the Supreme Court on the marriage issue, or equality has finally been secured, or that happiness can now be had by any type of couple, I would like your reaction when the state attempts to force *any* religion on how to practice their beliefs because of this ruling. It is already happening, and your Catholic Church is not exempt from the aggressive actions of same-sex supporters. Many doors have been opened because of this ruling, and none of them support the free expression of religion without government interference explicitly guaranteed in the Constitution. This ruling turns any institution who disagrees with the “legitimacy” of same-sex marriage into an institution of discrimination, rather than an institution that can freely practice their beliefs in peace. Can a democratic society be any more misrepresented?

Another price to pay is the continued downward spiral of the separation of Church and state in our country. The “Supreme” ruling blatantly attacks the Church side of this separation to the point where Caesar has become God, attempting to replace the Son of God. What is meant to be a healthy separation for the good of freedom that was put in place to protect religious freedom is fast becoming, I believe, an unhealthy battle with Churches forced to defend their right to practice their beliefs and the state attempting to force Churches into beliefs foreign to their religion. The Founding Fathers would have recognized this as being consistent with dictatorship.

And if Churches do not comply, and do not recognize this “legal” relationship to the point of marriage, what’s the price? One price, without the pun, could be the state removing Churches as tax-exempt organizations for the reason of discrimination. There are many who support same-sex marriage who would love to see this come about. If Immaculate Conception was forced to pay taxes, I can tell you the doors of this Church would not be open very long because of such a financial burden. Unknowingly, this is what some Catholics are potentially supporting in the Supreme Court’s ruling on marriage; the potential closing of their own Church.

The point for my fellow Catholics who support this recent ruling on marriage: your noble concerns are understood and documented. But the court’s ruling has not closed any doors, yet. It has opened other doors that will affect our faith’s ability to practice our doctrines without interference or penalty from Uncle Sam. The Court’s interpretation of marriage has crossed the boundaries God set for marriage. Their claim of discrimination against anyone who disagrees with this ruling is purely subjective and opinionated, whereas the protection of religious freedom is objective and found explicitly in the Constitution.

So, for my brother and sister Catholics who now rejoice as a result of 5 members of the Supreme Court who made a ruling on the institution of marriage without any advice from God...please ponder the potential ramifications of this result. In the upcoming years it’s going to affect your Church and your faith in some very, very serious ways.

*Peace, Fr. Riley*

**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 \$445.00 of cards. Thank you to those who continue to participate in this very worthy program.

**BACK TO BASICS BASKETBALL CAMP**

Tom Gibbons, head basketball coach at Wachusett Regional High School, is holding a Back To Basics Basketball School at Wachusett Regional High School. There are two sessions: July 13-16 for boys entering grades 3-9; and July 20-23 for BOYS AND GIRLS entering grades 3-9. All skill levels are welcome, from beginner to advanced. The time of the camp each day is 9:00-4:00. Form more information, call 508-479-8219, or email [b2bbasketball@hotmail.com](mailto:b2bbasketball@hotmail.com).

**PARTNERS IN CHARITY**

Thank you to all our parishioners who have made a donation to our annual Partners in Charity Appeal for 2015. We are advancing much closer to our goal of \$93,300 as we approach 90% of our goal. There are still a number of generous donors who have yet to make a donation for 2015. I’m hoping that those who normally give to partners in charity will do so along with others in our parish who may not have donated in the past but are willing to do so this year. In 2014 our parish had over 200 donors. Thus far for 2015, we are currently at 190 donors, which is still a little more than 20 donors shy from last year. If those who donated last year do so again, we will make our parish goal. Envelopes remain in the pews and at each entrance to the Church to make it easy for anyone who would like to make a donation. Also, if it’s easier to donate online, simply go to [worcesterdiocese.org](http://worcesterdiocese.org) and follow the instructions under the Partners in Charity logo. May God continue to bless our parish along with Mary, the Immaculate Conception, as we move closer to our goal. Thank you, Fr. Riley

Goal: \$93,300.00                      Donations thus far: \$88,532.00  
 Percentage of Goal: 95%      Number of Donors: 190

**A GENTLE FINANCIAL REMINDER**

A gentle reminder for all our parishioners who head off to the ocean, mountains, and wherever else you may go to find some respite from the daily grind over the summer; as you head away, the bills remain. We are in need of your envelopes for each week to keep the doors open and Fr. Riley living in the rectory. May you enjoy your time away, wherever and however long it may be, but please do not forget your home parish financially. Whereas the Churches at the ocean and other vacation spots make a killing over the summer months, we here in Worcester still need your financial support. Enjoy your summer.

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

It's getting awful tough to preach some of the truths of Christianity without being accused of being a bigot these days. Well, the truth will always be preached regardless, but being called hateful and intolerant for believing and practicing the teachings of Christ is a sad truth in these times.

I devote this column to my brother and sister Catholics who support the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court that legalized same-sex marriage. In conversations over the past few years with folks I know and respect, the support for such relationships to the point of marriage seems to be based on the issues of equality, happiness, justice, civil rights, and the freedom to be able to join into a relationship that other adults enter into and enjoy over the years.

I would venture to guess that the Supreme Court majority, in their 5-4 split vote, thought the same issues applied in making their decision. That same-sex couples had the right to marry under some provision of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment...yadda, yadda, yadda. Truth be told, the majority of the Supreme Court who legalized same-sex marriage, if they really wanted to, could have come up with an argument to support such relationships to the point of marriage *in any of the constitutional amendments*. When you want something bad enough as an activist judge, you can twist the thinking of the Founding Fathers to your liking in a thousand different ways. This is the sand their logic is based on, which is why it will eventually fall. Maybe not in our lifetime. But it will certainly fall.

For my Catholic brothers and sisters who support same-sex marriage, I recognize your concern for happiness, equality, justice, and whatever other understanding exists for people who struggle with the disorder of homosexuality. However, please remove this issue as a civil rights issue if that applies to your thinking. Knowing our nation's history in the area of civil rights, it is radically unfair and misguided to compare two adults of the same gender being able to marry to African-Americans who experienced bitter hatred, lynching, and violence, and did so on a scale that people who suffer from same-sex attraction and want to marry could never know. It's not even close. In fact, it's not even the same issue, although many people have accepted this faulty reasoning.

My greater concern is with the ramifications of the Supreme Court decision, and what Catholics who support that decision are in essence supporting. It is very naïve to think that the court's decision is final, and that no other results will proceed from their decision. If it was an equality issue in your mind, then the equality you sought has occurred. But at what price? If it was happiness for others you wanted to come about, then that happiness is now legally recognized. But at what price? If it was marital justice you wanted for people of same-sex attraction, then your justice has been satisfied by a human court. But at what price?

I have a couple thoughts about "what price." One price, I believe, that will play out over the upcoming months and years is the price of the state attempting to force Churches to comply with this seriously flawed law. Obviously, our Church cannot and will not do so. Same-sex marriage is in direct contradiction to the laws of God and Catholic teaching. The price to pay is that those who aggressively support same-sex marriage will try to coerce Churches through the nation's courts to apply the Supreme Court's judgment that some Catholics see as justice, equality, and happiness.

*Continued on the previous page*



**THIS WEEK AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	July 11	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	July 12	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	July 13	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	July 14	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	July 15	8:30 AM 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Thurs.	July 16	7:30 AM 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	July 17		
Sat.	July 18	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	July 19	7:30 AM 10:00 AM	Mass Mass

**CATHOLIC ITALY PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. RILEY**

Fr. Riley will be leading a Pilgrimage to Italy in April of 2016. The dates are April 15-24. We will be visiting holy sites in Rome, Assisi, Orvieto, Loreto, and San Giovanni Rotondo among other places, with professional guides at each stop. For information and reservations, please contact Fr. Riley at 508-754-8419, or Mary Dowd at 774-633-0155 email mdowd01@yahoo.com Flyers for the trip have been placed at each entrance to the Church for anyone who would like to view the itinerary and cost. Also, this trip is not restricted to members of Immaculate Conception, but open to anyone who wishes to experience the beauty and many holy sites of Catholic Italy.

**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**