

**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**

Please make sure that the cover of our bulletin is as it should be with the times of the weekday masses showing and "New Parishioners" with the following 2 lines below (Anyone is welcome to join the Parish Community) and the last line (Please contact the rectory and introduce yourself). Last week neither showed. Please let us know if something is wrong. Also, on the cover, Christopher Dougherty, Pastoral Council Chairman and Lynda Monahan, Safe Environment Coordinator did not show, as well as, Please visit our website at [www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com)  
On my computer, all of this is showing. Thank you for your assistance on this.

# *Immaculate Conception Parish*



## **RECTORY ADDRESS**

353 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605  
Phone: 508-754-8419 Fax: 508-754-8508  
Religious Education Phone: 508-791-5887

Rev. Walter J. Riley, **PASTOR**

KEVIN DEIGNAN, **PERMANENT DEACON**

Susan Maedler, **ADM. OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

C. Henry Mason, **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Sharon Rainville, **PARISH SECRETARY**

Christopher Dougherty, **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN**

LYNDA MONAHAN, **SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

**COORDINATOR**

Please visit our website at

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

## **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. Dec. 24	4:00 PM	Basil Mitchell by family
Sun. Dec. 25	7:30 AM	The Dunn & Dowd families by family
	10:00 AM	Catherine Queenan, Months Mind by the Queenan family
Mon. Dec. 26	9:00 AM	(St. Stephen)
Tues. Dec. 27	9:00 AM	(St. John)
Wed. Dec. 28	9:00 AM	Timothy J. Dowd and Nora Dowd by family (The Holy Innocents)
Thurs. Dec. 29	8:00 AM	(St. Thomas Becket)
Sat. Dec. 31	4:00 PM	Sr. Shirley Bigwood, 15th Anniversary and Catherine Somers, 21st Anniversary by family
Sun. Jan. 1	7:30 AM	For Our Parishioners
	10:00 AM	Michael Connelly, 6th Anniversary by family

**THIS WEEK IN JOURNEYSONGS**

The text for the Liturgy for the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) may be found at #890/Christmas Vigil and #893/Christmas Day in the *Journeysongs* hymnal.

**PARISH BIBLE STUDY**

There will be no Bible study this coming Wednesday, December 28th. We will resume on Wednesday, January 4th.

**HOMILY**

Fr. Riley's homily will now be posted each week on the parish website.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES**

Envelopes for Christmas Flowers will be left at the end of each pew over this Christmas weekend. We invite parishioners to take one and consider a donation that remembers a loved one on our altar during the upcoming Christmas season, along with offsetting the cost of flowers to the parish. Thank you for your generosity and consideration



**HOPE FOR HOUSING FOOD CARDS**

Hope for Housing Good Cards are on sale after each weekend Mass on the rectory side entrance to the Church. More than a few people have called our Church over the past few months telling us of their predicament of being on the verge of losing their house or apartment. These are real situations. Each time they've been led to the Hope for Housing organization whose ministry is to prevent such loss from happening. This ministry was started in our Parish, as well as many parishes in our Diocese, so that we can make a difference in such dire situations. This program offers us an opportunity to perform a communal and collective work of mercy on behalf of the homeless. Please consider the routine of purchasing these cards to local grocery stores most of us use each week. The full value of the card is gained, costing the purchaser nothing, and in the process 5% of the proceeds are directed toward helping those about to lose their place of residence. 100% of the proceeds are directed toward preventing homelessness, with no administrative costs involved. Thus, the full 5% of each card is put toward fighting homelessness. Thank you for your consideration.

**RIDE TO CHURCH**

We have an elder parishioner in need of a ride to Church for Saturday or Sunday Mass. If anyone is interested and has the time to do so, please speak to Fr. Riley at any point. Thank you.

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

**WORCESTER, MA**

### REST IN PEACE

We commend to God the souls of those who are recently deceased; Rosemary Bergstrom, Vivian Healy, Susan Simonti, and Firefighter Jon Davies. May they rest in the peace of God, and may the meaning of Christmas unite them with their loved ones who have gone before them, until we go forth to meet them ourselves.

### PRAVERS FOR SOON-TO-BE-ORDAINED

Each week we pray for vocations to the Church in our Prayers of the Faithful. This coming Saturday, December 31st, Deacon Juan Hernandez, a native of Columbia, will be ordained by Bishop McManus to the priesthood of Jesus Christ in an ordination Mass at St. Patrick's Parish in Whitinsville. We give thanks and praise to God for Juan's vocation and commitment to serving God's Church in our Diocese. Please keep Juan in your prayers as he begins a new journey that will bless both him and those he serves in the upcoming years.

### SALVATION ARMY LOOKING FOR CLOTHES

The Salvation Army is in need of clothing for families and individuals for the upcoming winter season. They are presently in short supply. If you are cleaning out any closets or trunks, feel free to bring your articles of clothing to their main branch on Cambridge street, or bring them into the church and we will forward the clothing to them.

### RCIA CANDIDATES

If you happen to be an adult, or know of any adult who has yet to be baptized, has not received their First Communion, nor has been Confirmed, classes are now ongoing for potential candidates on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

### FOOD PANTRY

Please help us to restock the shelves of our Food Pantry. Needed are: **peanut butter, spaghetti sauce**, canned pasta, substantial soups and stews, canned fruit and vegetables, canned baked beans, spam, canned hams, crackers, rice. Thank you for your generosity.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The will be no Religious Education Classes:

- Sunday, December 25th
- Monday, December 26th
- Sunday, January 1st
- Monday, January 2nd

Classes resume Sunday, January 8th and Monday, January 9th.



**CHRISTMAS VACATION**

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### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

December 10/11

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • Sunday Ordinary Income   | \$3857.00 |
| • Holy Day/Imm. Conception | \$575.00  |
| • Retirement for Religious | \$1535.00 |
| • Christmas                | \$35.00   |
| • Christmas Flowers        | \$5.00    |

December 17/18

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| • Sunday Ordinary Income   | \$5397.00 |
| • Holy Day/Imm. Conception | \$8.00    |
| • Retirement for Religious | \$138.00  |
| • Christmas                | \$150.00  |
| • Christmas Flowers        | \$673.00  |
| • CHDevelopment            | \$13.00   |
| • Donation                 | \$130.00  |

Thank you for your continued support!

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FERTILITY

MINISTRY providing Fertility Care Services featuring the Creighton Model system which can be used to avoid or achieve pregnancy. Please contact Callie Foster at 508-397-5883.

### RELIGIOUS QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The Conqueror's victory would have profited us nothing if the battle had been fought outside our human condition.”

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



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## FROM THE PASTOR

**O**n the birth of our Lord, God becomes man so that men and women may become God. This is the teaching of a centuries-old saint who reminded his flock at the time that their worth was invaluable, priceless. This worth, despite our violent and in many ways repressive world, has not changed. It never will.

This is not to say that God approves of our actions in the present. Events such as war and genocide, abortion and physician assisted suicide, to name a few, attack the purpose of why Jesus comes to us. They are assaults on the reason of his birth. There are countless situations we create and adhere to that push the birth of Christ away from our daily living as individuals and so-called compassionate society. Despite such grave and mortal sins, God sends His Son to us. In fact, such indiscretions are the very reason why God sends His Son to us. So that we may turn away from the source of all that is evil to the Source of all that is good.

Christmas is a time to celebrate peace. And to celebrate peace in our lives, one must know what it takes to gain a semblance of it in this world. We remain restless until we rest in God completely. But in the meantime we have the possibility to gain some understanding of true peace in our acceptance and welcoming of the Christ child into our lives ever more deeply. A verse from Psalm 118 is apropos; "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men." Taking refuge in Jesus Christ is not to trust in a man, but to trust in the Living God who became flesh. This is where any level of true peace, and not the earthly kind, can be had in the present.

I invite any Churchgoers this Christmas who come to our community of faith on this day only to consider joining us each week. It's not about money! It's about salvation, and what it takes on our part to come to it. The joy of celebrating the reason for Jesus' birth will affect our souls (and bodies) for the better when accomplished in communion with the rest of God's people. Please challenge yourself spiritually if this is where you are in the practice of your faith. We love you and care about you.

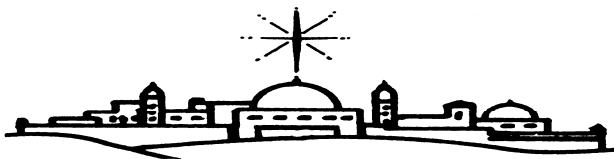
I wish all of our parishioners here at Immaculate Conception a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year of 2012. God Bless You.

Peace

Fr. Walter Riley

**THIS WEEK AT**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Sat.	Dec. 24	<b>3:00 PM</b> 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	Dec. 25	<b>7:30 AM</b> 10:00 AM	Mass Mass
Mon.	Dec. 26	<b>8:30 AM</b> 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Tues.	Dec. 27	<b>8:30 AM</b> 9:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Wed.	Dec. 28	<b>8:30 AM</b> 9:00 AM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Rosary Mass Girl Scouts Rosary
Thurs.	Dec. 29	<b>7:30 AM</b> 8:00 AM	Rosary Mass
Fri.	Dec. 30		
Sat.	Dec. 31	<b>3:00 PM</b> 4:00 PM	Confessions Mass
Sun.	Jan. 1	<b>7:30 AM</b> 10:00 AM	Mass Mass



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

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City  
& Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of People in Household** \_\_\_\_\_

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