

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

**SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY**

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

**January 1, 2017**

**[hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org)**

*All Are Welcome*



Madonna and Child in alabaster from St. John Seminary, Brighton, Massachusetts

# OUR COLLABORATIVE

## Holy Redeemer Parish



### St. Ann

Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985  
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985

**Phone: 978-346-8604**

Email: [holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)



### Nativity

Parish offices and church:  
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860  
Office Hours: By appointment

**Phone: 978-346-8604**

Email: [holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

## Immaculate Conception Parish



### Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:  
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950  
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Phone: 978-462-2724**

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: [info@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:info@newburyportcatholic.org)



### St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,  
Newburyport 01950

### Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, Pre K-grade 8,  
Mary Reardon, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,  
Fax: 978-234-7331, [www.icsnewburyport.com](http://www.icsnewburyport.com)



## Collaborative Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
[info@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:info@newburyportcatholic.org),  
[holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

### Parochial Vicar

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978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
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### Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

### Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

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### Immaculate Conception School

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Bob Nevins, HR Building Maintenance  
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Cliff Vandenbulcke, IC School Custodian  
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### St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Redeemer, 978-346-8604 x 8  
[hrrsvdp300@gmail.com](mailto:hrrsvdp300@gmail.com)

St. Vincent de Paul Society at Immaculate Conception, 978-518-0728

### St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266  
[joeviel@comcast.net](mailto:joeviel@comcast.net)

**Website:** [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org)

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (12/31)

4:00pm **IC** *Hugh & Ruth Braley, John K. Herlihy,*  
*For the intentions of Millie Herlihy* (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **St. Ann** *Julie Brousseau, Jack Gorski*  
(Fr. Morin)

### Sunday (1/1)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)

10:15am **St. Ann** *Blanche Pendergast,*  
*Mary McCann* (Fr. Harrison)

11:30am **IC** *Martin & Corinne Walsh*  
(Fr. McLaughlin)

### Monday (1/2)

9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

### Tuesday (1/3)

7:15am **IC** *Peter C. Boschetti* (Fr. Harrison)

### Wednesday (1/4)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

### Thursday (1/5)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

### Friday (1/6)

9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin)

### Saturday (1/7)

4:00pm **IC** *Norma Fagan Tenzel, Ralph Ayers*  
(Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

### Sunday (1/8)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** *For the intentions of Samuel McLachlan*  
*and Family* (Fr. McLaughlin)

10:15am **St. Ann** *Irene Mullen &*  
*Howard T. Shippen* (Fr. Harrison)

11:30am **IC** *Warren Carter* (Fr. Broderick)

In your prayers please remember all the faithful departed.

**The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.**

**IC—Immaculate Conception**

**Nativity—Merrimac**

**St. Ann—West Newbury**

## Collaborative Office Hours

Collaborative offices will be closed on Monday, January 2.

## Bulletin Information

Please supply bulletin information by Monday noon to the collaborative bulletin email: [hricbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:hricbulletin@gmail.com).

## From the Pastor

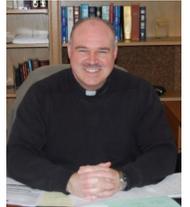
Dear Parishioners,

You might be surprised to know that this weekend's Feast, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, was the subject of quite a controversy in the early Church and even at one point, helped fuel a schism. When we think about it, it seems so benign: Mary was the mother of Jesus Christ, whom we all profess every Sunday as both true God and true man. No big deal, right?

Well, in the hindsight of 15 centuries of Christian thought, it might not seem like much of an issue, but going into the 5<sup>th</sup> century it was a very big deal, and the unity of the Church was at stake over the whole thing. Cyril of Alexandria was the champion of the belief that Mary was what was termed in Greek as "Theotokos," or literally, the God-Bearer. Peak in at his thoughts: *"I am amazed that there are some who are entirely in doubt as to whether the holy Virgin should be called Theotokos or not. For if our Lord Jesus Christ is God, how is the holy Virgin who gave Him birth, not Theotokos?"* (from his first Epistle to the monks of Egypt). Yet others, most notably Nestorius, who was the Patriarch of Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) saw the two natures of Christ as distinct, preferring to view Mary at the "Christotokos" (the bearer of Christ) but not the bearer of God.

The Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.) and the Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.) saw it differently and condemned Nestorius and his teachings. At one point in 5<sup>th</sup> century Mesopotamia, a Theotokos-supporting bishop was executed, making way for a Nestorius-supporter to take his place. This marked an early split in Christianity, with elements of this schism even surviving today in parts of Iraq, Syria and Iran. Serious business, this understanding of Mary, is!

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Winter Weather Mass Cancellations

Due to the hazards of travel and the safety of priests and parishioners alike, this winter, daily Mass within the Collaborative will be cancelled if either Pentucket Regional or Newburyport Public schools are cancelled because of inclement weather. Any Religious Education classes will also be cancelled on such days. WBZ Chanel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at [boston.cbslocal.com](http://boston.cbslocal.com).

In severe situations, it may also be necessary for safety reasons to cancel weekend Masses. Please watch WBZ or consult their website for cancellation information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. In all things, God gave us the gifts of wisdom, reason, and prudence. Let's use them wisely this winter and exercise sound judgment when considering going out in severe weather.

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## This Week in Our Collaborative

See our website calendar for more events and details.

[www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org)

**Monday, January 2, Collaborative offices closed**  
No Religious Ed. classes today

**Tuesday, January 3**

**IC Knitting Ministry** 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209  
**Breaking Bread Meal** 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
**HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting** 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

**Wednesday, January 4**

**Holy Quilters** 3:00pm, Nativity Hall  
**IC Youth Choir Rehearsal** 4:30pm, IC Church  
**Adoration** 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel  
**Centering Prayer** 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room  
**IC Adult Choir Rehearsal**, 7:00pm, IC Church

**Thursday, January 5**

**HR Prayer Shawl** 1:00pm, Nativity Hall  
**Rosary for Life** 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

**Friday, January 6**

**Adoration** 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel  
**Staff Meeting** 8:30am, IC Charity Dining Room  
**Merrimac Cub Scouts Den Meeting** 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall  
**AA** 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205  
**Ultreya** 7:00pm, IC St. James Chapel/Charity Dining Room

**Saturday, January 7**

**Holy Quilters** 8:00am, Nativity Hall  
**1st Reconciliation Service for Families** 11:00am, IC Church  
**Grade 2 Parent/Student Meeting** 3:00pm, St. Ann Hall  
**St. Ann Choir Rehearsal** 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

**Sunday, January 8**

**Nativity Choir Rehearsal** 7:45am, Nativity Church  
**HR Religious Ed., Grades 3–6** 9:00am, Nativity Hall  
**St. Ann Choir Rehearsal** 9:45am, St. Ann Church  
**IC Religious Ed., Grades K–6** 10:05am, IC Parish Center  
**RCIA** 10:15am, IC Youth Ministry Room  
**Collaborative Baptism Class** 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room  
**IC Religious Ed., Grades 7 & 8** 1:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
**Scripture Study** 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205  
**Troop 21 Scout Meeting** 4:30pm, IC School Cafeteria  
**HR Religious Ed., Grade 9** 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

## Preparing for Mass

Visit <http://liturgy.slu.edu> to read this weekend's Scripture, historical and theological commentaries, and prayerful reflections. It is a great way to get ready to hear and respond to God's Word.

Our present celebration on January 1<sup>st</sup> dates back to 1969, which emphasizes the deep and lasting appreciation of Mary's motherhood from ancient feasts, and moved the Church away from the celebration of the circumcision of Christ (which, by tradition, would have been performed on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after His birth, hence, January 1<sup>st</sup>). Today, we honor Mary with many titles, including: Comfort of the Afflicted, Gate of Heaven, Holy Mary, Morning Star, Mother of Mercy, Mother of Sorrows, Mother of the Church, Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Queen of All Saints, Queen of Apostles, Refuge of Sinners, and Untier of Knots. But Mother of God is perhaps her greatest title and encompasses her greatest gift to the Church: her willingness to say yes to God's plan and to be the mother of our Savior.

As we move into the New Year, may we invite her to pray for us, our families and our community. With the deep love that comes from a mother's heart, we couldn't ask for a better advocate and intercessor before Christ.

May God bless us all richly in 2017!

Fr. Tim Harrison  
Pastor



*Collaborative staff gathered recently for a Christmas celebration.*



## Lenten Events

Mark your calendars for these Collaborative Lenten events.

- **2nd Annual Lenten Series & Fellowship Meals**  
Thursdays, 6:30–8:00 p.m., March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at Nativity

Fridays, noon–1:30 p.m., March, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at IC  
*Presented by the Adult Faith Formation Team*

- **Annual Lenten Mission**

Sunday–Wednesday, April 2, 3, 5, 6, 7:00–8:00 p.m., at IC  
*Presented by former pastors & priests of our Collaborative*

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Celebrating the Sacraments

### Reconciliation

IC: Saturdays: 3:00pm to 3:30pm or by appointment.  
HR: Saturdays before the 4:00pm Mass or by appointment.

### Baptism

Call the Parish Office for information and to register.

### Marriage

Archdiocesan guidelines request that couples planning to marry in the Church contact the church at least six months prior to the wedding date.

### Sacrament of the Sick

This Sacrament should not be seen as only administered when there is danger of death. Please call us if someone is in the hospital, so that we can visit the loved one and have the community pray for them.

## Youth Masses

Our next Youth Mass is **Sunday, January 22 at 5:00pm** at Church of the Nativity, 4 Green Street, Merrimac. The guest speaker will be Kim Keene of the Pelican Intervention Fund. Everyone is invited to attend this Mass.

Youth Masses (5:00pm) for the year are:

March 12	Immaculate Conception
April 2	Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity
May 7	Immaculate Conception

## March for Life



The March for Life will be held in Washington, DC on Friday, January 27, 2017. If you are interested in taking part in the March, there is a local group going. A bus is departing from Burlington Mall late Wednesday evening, January 25. You will stay overnight Thursday night in Washington DC, participate in the March for Life on Friday, and return to Burlington Mall at the completion of the March. If you would like more information, contact Steve Swochak, (978) 270-4924, [swochak@netzero.net](mailto:swochak@netzero.net).

## Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

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## Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on **January 8, 2017**  
**Note January schedule change**

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will **not** meet on its regular first and third Sundays in January but will meet on the second and fourth Sundays, January 8 and January 22, at 2:00 p.m. in the IC Parish Center. This would be an ideal time for interested members of the Collaborative to join the study group as we will begin the New Year by reading and discussing *The Gospel According to Matthew*, Chapters 1 through 4. Matthew wrote from a Jewish perspective for a predominantly Jewish audience that also included some Gentiles, probably in Antioch, Syria around 85 A.D.

Our beloved teacher, Father Broderick, not only explains the meaning of the Scripture passages, but also presents rich description of the period and places cited, as well as the culture and practices of the people involved. He connects the events in the New Testament to Old Testament prophecies and events, as well as to our own time. This is a worthwhile way to spend an hour and fifteen minutes on a Sunday afternoon. All are invited to attend these sessions and grow in knowledge and faith.

## Clergy Health and Retirement Trust Collection

Thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas collection for our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to give but you'd like to make a gift, visit [www.clergytrust.org](http://www.clergytrust.org) or pick up an envelope in the back of the Church. To learn more about the Trust and stay up to date on what's going on with our priests, find the trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust." Thank you for your prayers and support.

## Offertory Envelopes

Attend Mass at any worship site in our Collaborative and your usual offertory envelope can be used. Drop it in the collection and we make sure it is delivered to your home Parish.

## Let Us Hear From You



**Disciples in Mission**  
Archdiocese of Boston

- How can we foster a welcoming community?
- How do we form disciples eager to share their love of Christ?
- How can we assist in the growth of vocations?
- How can we better serve our communities and our Collaborative?

Please join the Conversation. Contact our Pastoral Plan Writing Team. We welcome your ideas and participation.

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### Mardi Gras Celebration

A Mardi Gras celebration is coming soon on Monday, **February 27** in the IC Parish Hall. There will be two seatings—4:00 and 6:00 p.m.



Tickets will be on sale soon. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. Ages 5 and under are free. Ticket sales will benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. All are welcome. Watch the bulletin for more details.

### Collaborative Online

Visit our **Collaborative Website**, [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org) for up-to-date information on groups, meetings, religious ed., Mass times, and current events. See our new, expanded calendar; view our current and archived bulletins; link to other Catholic websites; or check out the updated photos section. We have so much happening.

### Questions of the Week

**Adult:** Pray together that your family will continue to protect and care for one another as Mary and Joseph protected and cared for Jesus.

**Child:** Like you, Jesus was raised in a family. Mary and Joseph did whatever was necessary to protect and care for Jesus. Remember that their care for one another is a model for all families, including our own.

### RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for those considering becoming Catholic as adults or youth that have not received the sacraments in the traditional years. Have you been considering it? Please contact Marin Fortune, 978-462-2724 or [fortune@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:fortune@newburyportcatholic.org) if you would like to learn more about this program.

### Community Food Pantry

First Parish Church of Newbury Community Food Pantry, 20 High Road, Newbury, is open every Friday from 3:00pm–5:00pm for anyone in need in the Collaborative's towns as well as Georgetown, Rowley, Salisbury, and Byfield. The volunteers are very welcoming and no one is made to feel uncomfortable when visiting. No registration or proof of residency required. Fresh fruit and vegetables, many types of frozen meats, pasta, and desserts, as well as an array of canned goods, toiletries, etc. are available.

If you would like to donate, nonperishable goods, personal hygiene products and/or pet food may be dropped off on Sunday mornings from 9:30–11:30am. Grocery store gift cards as well as cash/checks (made out to "First Parish" and write "food pantry" in the memo section) are always welcome.

### Collaborative Book Discussion

**Save the dates: February 1, 8, 15, & 22**

The Collaborative of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception will host a book discussion on Wednesday evenings during February from 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. in the IC Charity Dining Room. The book discussion will be Christopher Pramuck's *Hope Sings So Beautiful: Graced Encounters across the Color Line*. Christopher Pramuck offers a mosaic of images and sketches for thinking and praying through difficult questions about race. The reader will encounter the perspectives of artists, poets, and theologians from many different ethnic and racial communities. All are welcome. Contacts: Dr. Art Ledoux, [ledoux@merimack.edu](mailto:ledoux@merimack.edu), Nancy Ledoux 978-270-5488, [nancyledoux@comcast.net](mailto:nancyledoux@comcast.net), Dr. Mag McKinnon, [mmckinnon@newburyprotcatholic.org](mailto:mmckinnon@newburyprotcatholic.org).



### Cursillo & Ultreya

A **Cursillo** retreat is a three-day weekend of intensive spiritual reflection and exploration at St. Basils, Methuen, that offers us the opportunity to deepen our relationship with Christ. Cursillo is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love and joy into your daily life.

**Ultreya**, the Spanish word for "onward" or "to persevere," is a gathering that unites us in prayer and fellowship. It is a reunion of those who have experienced a Cursillo retreat, but all are welcome to attend Ultreya meetings on the Friday of each Cursillo weekend. Questions about Cursillo or Ultreya? Contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

#### 2017 Ultreya / Cursillo Calendar

Ultreya Dates	Cursillo Weekends
January 6	January 5-8 (Women)
February 3	February 9-12 (Men)
February 24	March 4-6 (Women)
March 3	April 6-9 (Men)
April 28	May 4-6 (Women)
June 2	June 1-4 (Women)

### Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer, resting silently in God, facilitates the process of inner transformation. Our prayer without words is one of intention to surrender to God's presence and action in our lives and desire for a closer relationship with God. Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00pm–7:00pm, in the IC Charity Dining Room. Please consider joining us as we pray in this ancient Christian tradition and together deepen our understanding of this prayer in our own spiritual journey. For information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483 or visit our website at [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org).

# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Offertory December 17–18

\$3,920.00

Today's second collection is the monthly. Next week's second collection is Catholic Charities.

## HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



The HR SVdP recently deposited \$2,230 into our account. Thank you for your generosity and allowing us to assist our clients during the Christmas season. Our members could not do it without your support.

Without your help, we would be unable to assist our many clients. Please be aware that the Society is always interested in learning about used automobiles that you are getting rid of and might wish to donate; several of our clients are looking for used automobiles, as their autos have reached the end of their useful lives. Thank you for your consideration.

If you are writing a check for us, please write the check to HR Saint Vincent de Paul to help expedite our banking.

## HR Prayer Shawl

Do you know of any woman, man, or child who needs comfort and could use a Blessed Prayer Shawl or Lap Blanket? Please call Helen Kelley 978-771-4673, Connie Cormier 978-363-2020, or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099 for a shawl or more information.



We would love for you to join us. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00 p.m. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. **Our next meeting is this Thursday, January 5 at 1:00 p.m.**

## EWTN: Catholic News

Want the latest Catholic News? EWTN News has got you covered. Check this link daily for news about the Catholic Church, and the latest issues in Catholicism. EWTN News: Your Online Catholic Resource.

<http://www.ewtnnews.com/>

## Holy Redeemer Events

**Raffle Night** is held in the Spring at the Nativity Parish Hall. Those attending the evening buy raffle tickets to win a variety of items. Homemade dinners are available. Planning starts in January. The 2017 Raffle night is tentatively planned for Saturday, April 29 from 5:00–9:00 p.m.

**The Holiday Fair** is a long-running tradition at Holy Redeemer. It is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving at the Nativity Hall. Gift baskets, homemade soups, silent auction items, and nearly new items are available. The 2017 Fair will be November 18 from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

## HR Religious Education

*Blessed Christmas season to all!*

*Saturday, January 7:*

**Grade 2 Parent & Student meeting**, St. Ann, West Newbury, 3:00 p.m. Students will receive their new books. We will attend the 4:00 p.m. Mass together.

*Sunday, January 8:*

**Grades 3–6 classes**, Nativity, Merrimac, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass (9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.)

**Grade 9 class**, Nativity, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, January 10:*

**Grade 7 class**, Nativity, Merrimac. 6:00–7:30 p.m.

### Youth Mass

Mark your calendars now: Our next Collaborative Youth Mass is Sunday, January 22 at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac at 5:00 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Kim Keene of the Pelican Intervention Fund. All ages welcome.

### New Email Address

The Office of Religious Education at Holy Redeemer has a new email address. Please change it in your contacts: [reledhrp@gmail.com](mailto:reledhrp@gmail.com).



*The two worship sites of Holy Redeemer Parish in their finery for Christmas*

## Boy Scouts

Scouting builds more than just campfires. Scouting builds character, values, community, and family. Holy Redeemer charts Boy Scout Troop 41. The troop meets Monday evenings in Nativity Hall, Merrimac from 7:00–8:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in learning more about the troop or joining, contact the scoutmaster, Mark Friend at [msf4087@gmail.com](mailto:msf4087@gmail.com). All faiths welcome. Please see the Parish website calendar for meeting dates, [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org).



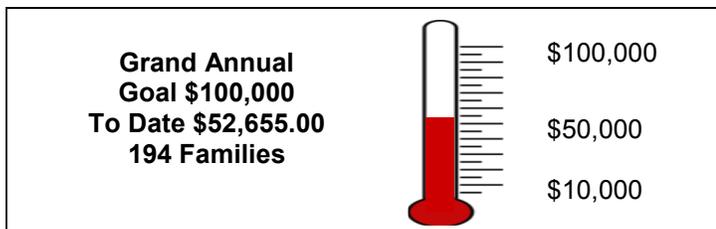
# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Offertory, December 17–18 **\$10,788.00**

IC Haiti **\$ 8,122.00**

The second collection next weekend is the Monthly.



## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 335.00
Collection	\$ 313.50
Total	\$ 648.50

## Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office. Once you register, visit our website, [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org) and click the Online Giving picture at the bottom of our home page to get to the site. If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? Any questions? Contact Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant, 978-462-2724 x7404.

## Consolers Circle Meal

The IC community is pleased to offer a light meal to families who have lost a loved one. The meal is provided by volunteers and is held in St. Louis Hall following the funeral Mass. Our hall holds up to 75 people, and there is no charge for this service. Donations are accepted if you wish to do that. Please let the funeral director know that you request this service when making arrangements.

## Breaking Bread

St. Vincent de Paul's Breaking Bread dinner program at Immaculate Conception is hoping you will share a little of your time and talents as we need a team of two volunteers to prepare and cook for our guests on a Tuesday of your choice. A seasoned volunteer chef will work with you as you gain experience in our kitchen. This is a truly wonderful experience that you will share with a great team of volunteers. Contact Bunny Chiasson, 978-465-5810 or [sandbunnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:sandbunnyc@yahoo.com).

## Parish Membership

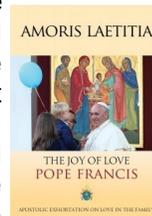
Welcome all newcomers to our Collaborative! Parish Registration forms are available online at [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org).

## IC Religious Education

### Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

Pope Francis released the Exhortation on the Family. In the weeks to come, you will be introduced to various statements from the Holy Father.

The Sacrament of Matrimony—In #72—The sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely the outward sign of a commitment. The sacrament is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses, since “their mutual belonging is a real representation, through the sacramental sign, of the same relationship between Christ and the Church. The married couple are therefore a permanent reminder for the Church of what took place on the cross; they are for one another and for their children witnesses of the salvation in which they share through the sacrament.” Marriage is a vocation, inasmuch as it is a response to a specific call to experience conjugal love as an imperfect sign of the love between Christ and the Church. Consequently, the decision to marry and to have a family ought to be fruit of a process of vocational discernment.



### Religious Education Classes

School Year Program: 1/8 and 1/9.

No Classes: MLK weekend: 1/15 and 1/16.

Grades K–6: Next classes: 1/22 and 1/23.

Grades 7–8: Next class 1/8.

### Baptism

Baptism info: <http://www.hriccatholic.org/Baptism>

Jan. 8 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00 p.m.

Jan. 15 Group Baptism—Church 1:00 p.m.

### Confirmation

The next Confirmation session is Sunday, January 29 from 3:00–5:00 p.m. in the Church for Years 1 and 2. The candidate and his/her sponsor, parent, or another adult are to attend the session together.

### First Reconciliation

Our First Reconciliation Prayer Service and retreat is Saturday, January 7 at 11:00 a.m. Candidates and their families will be celebrating the gift of God's merciful love given to us through Jesus Christ. Please pray for our candidates. (Snow date: January 21 at 11:00 a.m.).

### Youth Mass—January 22

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, January 22 at Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity, Merrimac. All are welcome. Guest Speaker: Kim Keene of the Pelican Intervention Fund. This weekend we will begin selling Mardi Gras dinner tickets to benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. \$12/adult and \$5/child. Ages 5 and under are free.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Knights of Columbus



The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, January 10** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

We are looking to welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. If you are interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, growing in faith, obtaining exclusive access to top-rated insurance protections for you or your family, or just connecting with other Catholic men then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

Contact us at (978) 572-0231, [membership@kofc231.org](mailto:membership@kofc231.org)

## Christmas Flowers

The Murray & Carrier Families, Anna Murray Crall, Claire Mackey, Virginia R. Mueskes, John H. Thumser, Robert M. Thumser, Thom J. McCarthy, Mary & Thom McCarthy, Gertrude Banfield, Helen McCarthy, R. Theresa Keane, Kathleen McDonough, Phillip Cincotta, Grace Cincotta, Joseph & Gertrude DeCrosta, Mary M. DeCrosta, Alice E. Silveira, Deceased members of the DeCrosta, Galligani & Sullivan Families.

## Communion Calls

If you or a loved one is homebound, in the hospital, or have transitioned to a rehab/nursing facility and wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact Sandy at 978-462-4842 to arrange a home visit.

## IC Knitting Ministry

We meet every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. from September–June at the IC Parish Center, Room 209. We knit prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves and bring prayers and hope to people who are sick and to their caregivers and to celebrate happy occasions. We have also made and distributed hats and scarves to the hundreds of homeless children in our area.

Please come and help us to keep these boys and girls warm this winter and to send joy to our friends who are experiencing illness at this time. We are happy to help you brush up on your knitting or we can teach you to knit or crochet. Our membership is open to all. Please join us for knitting, fellowship, and tea (and goodies).



If you know anyone who needs a prayer shawl or for more information please call Frances Ronan 978-462-4972 or Julia O'Connor at 978-465-3350.

## Archdiocese Web Site

Visit [www.bostoncatholic.org](http://www.bostoncatholic.org) for the latest news and information around the Archdiocese of Boston.

## Immaculate Conception School

Greetings Friends and Happy New Year.

The students at the Immaculate Conception School (IC) have been on vacation and will return to school this Tuesday. I hope they are rested and ready to accomplish great things in 2017.



The New Year marks the 135th anniversary of the IC, and we have great plans to celebrate this milestone. I invite all of you—parishioners, parents, friends, family, alumni, and members of the community—to join the ongoing celebration and to participate in our upcoming events. Please save the dates and support our school.

On **Sunday, January 29**, from 12:30–2 p.m., the IC is hosting its annual “Open House.” It’s the start of Catholic Schools Week, and after a special 11:30 mass, everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments in the gym and tour the classrooms. This is always a fun and rewarding event for students, faculty, parents, and visitors new to the school, who will learn about the IC on tours, escorted by middle school students.

On **Sunday, March 5**, from 1–3 p.m., the IC will host the inaugural “IC Fashion Show,” featuring students, alumni, and teachers modeling fashions from local retailers. Raffles will be held for some of the fashions being modeled, and for some fabulous vacations. The event will raise funds for the school.

On **Friday, May 19**, from 7–10 pm, the IC will host the “135th Anniversary Gala.” Celebrants will socialize over drinks and hors d’oeuvres, tour the classrooms, and view memorabilia. The evening will also include a short, live auction where our famous kindergarten quilts, other fabulous class projects, and many other exciting items will go home with the highest bidder. What a great way to bring everyone together and to do some fundraising for the school.

The IC educates boys and girls who go on to serve as role models, influencing our world through goodness and love in their words and deeds. Let’s all proudly celebrate this legacy. The faith-based education at the IC continues to instill the values that define our graduates, including respect, compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, and love. IC graduates go forward in their lives creating a better world, one person at a time. The Immaculate Conception School is a community treasure, one of which we can all be proud.

For more information about the school events please call our office at (978) 465-7780.

Sincerely,

Mary Reardon, Principal

*Happy New Year*