

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

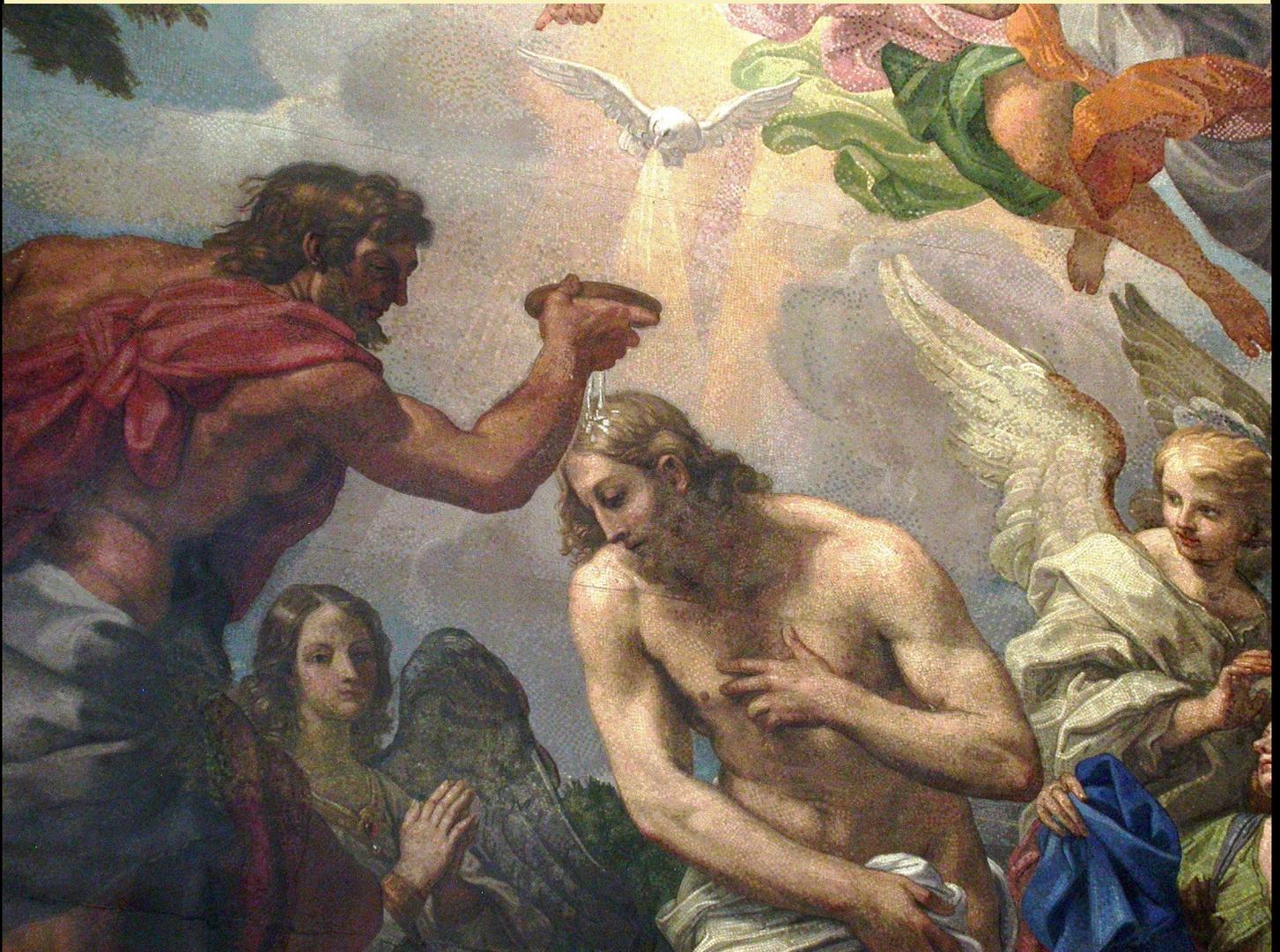
SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 15, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



*The Baptism of Jesus in mosaic by Cristofori from the Baptistry Chapel
in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, ca. 1722*

John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him...the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'" (Jn. 1: 32-33)

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



Nativity

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

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: 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



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



Collaborative Staff

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Rev. William McLaughlin

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St. Vincent de Paul

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St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266
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Website: www.hriccatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (1/14)

4:00pm **IC** *Richard & Mary Shachok, Midge Duggan, Bunney Connors* (Fr. Broderick)
4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (1/15)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
9:00am **IC** *Jane Welch Connor* (Fr. McLaughlin)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
11:30am **IC** *Francesco Maiello, Paul Michael Doyle, David Brooks* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Monday (1/16)

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

Tuesday (1/17)

7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. Broderick)

Wednesday (1/18)

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

Thursday (1/19)

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

Friday (1/20)

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

Saturday (1/21)

4:00pm **IC** *Anthony Raven, Al Paciulan* (Fr. McLaughlin)
4:00pm **St. Ann** *Madeline Brodie* (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (1/22)

7:15am **IC** *Chip Haley* (Fr. Harrison)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
9:00am **IC** *Henry Reslewic* (Fr. Harrison)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)
11:30am **IC** *Anne Neville* (Fr. Broderick)
5:00pm **Nativity Youth Mass** (Fr. Morin)

In your prayers, please remember Edith Ryan and 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 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

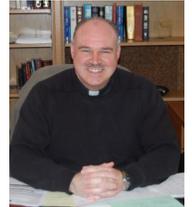
Bulletin Information

Please supply bulletin information by Monday noon to the collaborative bulletin email: hricbulletin@gmail.com.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Recently, a photo was released by NASA that depicted the Earth and our Moon as seen from Mars. It showed them both in the same frame, with the proper ratio of distance between them. It was a very long and wide photo, with a small blue "marble" on one side, and an even tinier light-grey orb on the other. From all of my recollections of the Apollo Moon missions (and multiple viewings of *Apollo 13* fresh in my mind) it was amazing to see, in true scale, what the 238,900 mile trek was like. With talk of future missions to Mars and beyond, our scientific developments and technological progress bring new meanings to Isaiah's words, "I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." (Is 49:6) Perhaps someday the Church will be setting up missionary outposts on other worlds?!



It does give us pause, however, to consider what lengths we might go in sharing the Gospel message ourselves. Unless things advance far quicker than anyone might imagine, most of us will never have the chance to travel into space and walk on other worlds. But we are called to share the gift of salvation in the here and now, and to take it to the ends of our own "worlds," however they might be defined. For St. Paul, he was impassioned to reach the center of the Roman Empire that he might be missioned by the Roman Church to bring the Gospel to the outskirts of the empire—to Spain and the Iberian Peninsula—the edge of the empire and the known world at the time. God would use this zeal for sharing the Word in a different way, of course, but that is part of surrendering ourselves to God's Will and being docile to the movements of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes God will have us earnestly go one direction with all of our effort, only to cause us to ricochet off into another. It may make no sense to us, but in God's mind, it is a perfectly straight line towards a clear goal that only God can see.

Baptism, a reception of the Holy Spirit and our willingness to embrace a disciple's heart mean a radical openness to what God has in store for us. And this may be in sharp contrast to what "our" plans are at any given moment. While God certainly works through our dreams and longings, God's ways are not limited to our human understanding of them. It may appear to us to be the worst sort of spiritual zig-zagging at times, but a careful attention to prayer and a regular discernment of how God is present and working in our lives will reveal something more meaningful and filled with mystery.

So, where are the outer limits of our world these days? The old joke about a Bostonian's view of the world is that the old Route 128 was the frontier, with only wilderness, California and the Pacific Ocean that lay beyond. Maybe in a slightly less hyperbolic way, we view our place in this realm with a similar distortion? Recently I was invited to a

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COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

mixed gathering of priests in a parish not too far away in New Hampshire. Because it is a different diocese, I rarely have a chance to meet or get to know any of the priests in the Manchester Diocese. As it turns out, many of them were serving only 10 or 15 miles away from our Collaborative. Who knew? Their stories of ministry as well as the joys and challenges they face were amazingly similar to my own. There were a number of Boston priests present, so it was nice to see a few familiar faces. And then there was one guy from Providence. I have to admit, out of all of the New England states, I never even think of Rhode Island. I live and serve here in Massachusetts. I frequently travel to New Hampshire. Maine and Vermont are occasional destinations. And my home state of Connecticut is where I often go to visit family and friends. But Rhode Island? That is out there, beyond 128, beyond 495 on the frontier....

Do we do this spiritually? Are there those whom we regularly, comfortably, encounter? And then, are there those we just never speak to, never engage, never even think of? There was a bit of a ruckus caused at one point during the presidential campaign this fall when in an interview one of the candidates didn't know where Aleppo was or why it was a cause for concern. Our world is so big and the news reports can seem like a blizzard of information, even on a slow day. How can anyone know it all? How can any one of us really see a personal connection to such distant and foreign places? How do we care? And how might we even begin to live out a baptismal call to share the Good News in these far away places?

Here are a couple of suggestions: First, let's be conscious of the edges of our worlds—where we usually live our lives and the extent of our relationships. For many of us, this certainly encompasses multiple dozens, if not, hundreds of people: family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, parishioners and occasional acquaintances. It can be breathtaking how many people we know and bump into on a regular basis. Starting here, resolve to reverence these people; in other words, to treat them as if they were Christ. This opens us to the gift of God's loving presence that is right in front of us, that surrounds us all the time. In many ways, this is full-time work! We can draw tremendous strength and encouragement from this precious gift. It is why the Lord calls us to come together in community for worship and to be sent out in mission and ministry. Then, secondly, find a way to go to the frontier—go out of our comfort zones, even just a little, and expand our world to include people, places, needs, and cultures that are beyond our own.

Several years ago, I travelled to Haiti to see the Fr. Marc Piché School dedicated in Puit ChaCha. What a mind-expanding and eye-opening experience that was! It was also testimony to one way that many parishioners had followed their baptismal call to bring the Gospel to the ends of the Earth, where they built a school and provide a daily meal to its students and so give an excruciatingly poor village the gift of hope. The ends of the Earth got a little further away.

Many parishioners who work closely with our St. Vincent de Paul Societies also know how to push back the boundaries of poverty and need. Confidentially, they work closely with our brothers and sisters who may be geographically close but struggle with "making ends meet" and providing for their families. A whole kaleidoscope of reasons may lie behind their clients' struggles, but the love, mercy and compassion that Society members provide are a universal balm and flow from their own response to their baptismal call to holiness and service.

This past week, the Archdiocesan newspaper, *The Pilot*, featured a brief article highlighting the work of those involved with The Pelican Intervention Fund, which was started by several Newburyport parishioners to help support those in long-term addiction recovery programs. Again, pushing beyond the limits of our frustrations in dealing with what can seem like an impossible disease and giving hope for recovery and new life.

Last weekend, in the midst of the snowstorm, I received an email from a parishioner who was looking for a way to connect a group of school parents and families with Holy Redeemer's sandwich program that helps feed the hungry at a Lawrence shelter. And here again, the boundaries get pushed back, our world gets a little smaller (or larger as the case may be) and the Gospel gets spread a little further.

In our common baptism, God has been working through the hearts of believers for millennia. How will God work through us today? How will we respond when God calls?

Winter Blessings,

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor



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 Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at 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.

Questions of the Week

Adult: If you were asked to do so, how would you explain Jesus to someone who had never heard of Him?

Child: If you were going to tell someone the most important thing that you know about Jesus, what would you say?

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on January 22, 2017

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will **not** meet on its regular third Sunday in January but will meet on the fourth Sunday, January 22 at 2:00pm 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 1–4. 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.



Youth Masses

Our next Youth Mass is **Sunday, January 22 at 5:00pm** at Nativity Church, 4 Green Street, Merrimac. Our offertory collection is canned goods for Our Neighbors' Table, trial size toiletries, or gift cards to Market Basket for Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, and of course your weekly offering to our parishes. All ages welcome. Refreshments will be served in the hall after Mass. Our speaker, Kim Keene from the Pelican Intervention Fund, will be there to answer any questions.

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.

Other Youth Masses (5:00pm) for the Year

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

Invitation Night Open Forum

Lent is just around the corner.

Let's make it your best Lent ever.

What: Join the Adult Faith Formation Team (AFFT) for an Invitation Night open forum.

Why: to help AFFT create a quality Lenten series for our Collaborative

Where: IC Charity Dining Room

When: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 from 7pm–8pm

How: a) critique, expand, or edit the Team's (tentative) 5-night series

b) craft 5 dynamic discussion questions

c) nominate parishioners as guest presenters

d) no sign-up required—just come!

Who: any adult with a desire to deepen his/her Catholic faith.

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our website calendar for more events and details.

www.hricatholic.org

Monday, January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Collaborative offices closed

No Religious Ed., MLK Day

Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, January 17

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209

Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

HR Religious Ed., Grade 8 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

Wednesday, January 18

Holy Quilters 2:30pm, 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 19

Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, January 20

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

Merrimack Cub Scouts Pack Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall

AA 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Saturday, January 21

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, January 22

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

HR Grade 2 Parent / Student Meeting 11:15am, St. Ann Hall

Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

IC Troop 21 Scout Meeting 4:30pm, IC School Cafeteria

Youth Mass 5:00pm, Nativity Church

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 (AFFT)

• 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

Mardi Gras Celebration



A Mardi Gras celebration is coming 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.

Scripture for the Week

- 15 Sun** Is 49:3, 5-6/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
- 16 Mon** Heb 5:1-10/Mk 2:18-22
- 17 Tue** Heb 6:10-20/Mk 2:23-28
- 18 Wed** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Mk 3:1-6
- 19 Thu** Heb 7:25—8:6/Mk 3:7-12
- 20 Fri** Heb 8:6-13/Mk 3:13-19
- 21 Sat** Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Mk 3:20-21

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) are always welcome.

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RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults meets on Sundays at 10:15am in the IC Youth Ministry Room. Contact Marin, 978-462-2724 or fortune@newburyportcatholic.org for info.

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 Pramuk’s *Hope Sings So Beautiful: Graced Encounters across the Color Line*. Christopher Pramuk 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, Nancy Ledoux 978-270-5488, nancyledoux@comcast.net, Dr. Mag McKinnon, mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.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
February 3	February 9-12 (Men)
February 24	March 4-6 (Women)
March 31	April 6-9 (Men)
April 28	May 4-6 (Women)
June 2	June 1-4 (Women)

March for Life



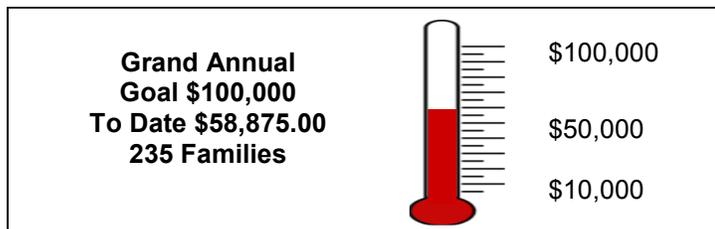
The March for Life will be held in Washington, DC on Friday, January 27, 2017. If you are interested in taking part in the March, there is a local group going. A bus is departing from Burlington Mall late Wednesday evening, January 25. You will stay overnight Thursday night in Washington, DC, participate 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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, January 7–8 \$8,768.00
 Monthly \$1,568.00

Today's second collection is for Assistance to Urban Parishes. Assistance is needed at parishes experiencing financial hardship and who struggle to sustain their mission and meet their financial obligations. Your support is needed to maintain a Catholic presence in areas where the economic realities of the parishioner base cannot fully support the expenses of a parish. This collection will help bridge the funding gap. We all share responsibility to proclaim God's Good News of Jesus Christ with all the people of the Archdiocese of Boston regardless of the parish's ability to pay. Your generous response will help sustain the vital work that occurs each day in these parishes.



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box \$ 226.00
 Collection \$ 10.00
 Total \$ 236.00

Parish Membership

We welcome all newcomers to our Parish communities and hope you take an active part in parish life. Please introduce yourself and register in the parish. Forms are available online at www.hriccatholic.org or you can call the Parish offices.

IC Boy Scouts



Immaculate Conception charts Boy Scout Troop 21. The troop meets Sunday evenings at the Immaculate Conception School (IC) Cafeteria, Newburyport from 5:30–7:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in learning more about the troop or joining, please check out the Troop 21 website at www.nbptroop21.org. Also check out the Parish website calendar for meeting dates, www.hriccatholic.org. All faiths are welcome.

Consolers Circle Meal

The IC community offers a light meal to families who have lost a loved one. The meal, provided by volunteers, 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. Inform the funeral director that you request this service when making arrangements.

Immaculate Conception School

Greetings Friends,

2017 is the 135th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception School (IC). Although the world we all live in has changed dramatically over the years, the vision of the IC has remained the same...one



that sees our graduates making a positive, faith-based contribution to society. Today, the IC continues this powerful tradition by serving our students' spiritual, academic, and social needs. We accomplish this with an experienced, devoted faculty and a faith-based school culture, which is safe, nurturing, and empowering.

Practicing faith-based living is central to the IC School learning experience. Jesus Christ, in his words and deeds, serves as the model for IC students of a loving, values-driven life. Students participate in school-wide morning meetings featuring devotion and prayer, monthly liturgies, classes in religion, and Christian service to the community.

IC is a high-performing school, where academic excellence is in the school's heritage, built upon the belief that each child is endowed with natural intelligence, curiosity and a yearning to learn and discover. Students score well above the national average on standardized tests. Core subjects offer each child intellectual challenges, mental stimulation, and the preparation needed for secondary school. Our graduates go on to flourish in some of the finest Catholic, private, and public schools in the region, including St. John's Prep, Central Catholic, St. Thomas Aquinas, Bishop Fenwick, The Governor's Academy, Phillips Exeter Academy, and Newburyport High School. Most of our graduates go on to study at and graduate from some of the most highly regarded colleges in the nation.

Students at the IC can choose from an array of after school sports and activities, including cross-country running, basketball, and the ski and snowboard program (let's hope for more snow). "Journey" enrichment programs are a great way for students to learn new skills or just have fun. This past fall students participated in Yoga, Legomania, and Lego Robotics. Many students also enjoy participating in band, choir, and theater.

The IC School educates well-rounded boys and girls who go on to serve as role models, influencing our world through goodness and love in their words and deeds. In 2017, the IC's 135th anniversary, we are proudly celebrating 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. Immaculate Conception School graduates go forward in their lives creating a better world, one person at a time.

Sincerely, Mary Reardon, Principal

Upcoming Events

Open House ~ Sunday, January 29, 12:30–2 pm

Fashion Show ~ Sunday, March 5, 1–3 pm

135th Gala ~ Friday, May 19, 7–10 pm

Tuesday Tours ~ IC school tours, including classroom visits, second Tuesday of each month, 9–11 am.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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 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.

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.

Breaking Bread

St. Vincent de Paul's Breaking Bread dinner program invites you to share a little of your time and talents by volunteering to prepare and cook for our guests. For more information, contact Bunny Chiasson, 978-465-5810 or sandbunnyc@yahoo.com.

The Compassionate Friends



The Compassionate Friends of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild or sibling - any age, any cause. Our monthly support meetings are held in Room 209 of the IC Parish Center at 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month. The next meeting is January 23. Contact Barbara J. Hopkinson, founder and chapter leader, at 617-410-6309 or info@abutterflysjourney.org with questions.

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 #73—“Mutual self-giving is grounded in the grace of baptism, which establishes the foundational covenant of every person with Christ in the Church. In accepting each other, and with Christ's grace, the engaged couple promise each other total self-giving, faithfulness and openness to new life. The couple recognizes these elements as constitutive of marriage, gifts offered to them by God, and take seriously their mutual commitment, in God's name and in the presence of the Church. Faith thus makes it possible for them to assume the goods of marriage as a commitment that can be better kept through the help of the grace of the sacrament... Consequently, the Church looks to married couples as the heart of the entire family, which, in turn, looks to Jesus.” The sacrament is not a ‘thing’ or a ‘power,’ for in it Christ himself “now encounters Christian spouses.... He dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and go follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another's burdens. Christian marriage is a sign of how much Christ loved his Church in the covenant sealed on the cross, yet it also makes that love present in the communion of the spouses. By becoming one flesh, they embody the espousal of our human nature by the Son of God. That is why “in the joys of their love and family life, he gives them here on earth a foretaste of the wedding feast of the Lamb.” Even though the analogy between the human couple of husband and wife, and that of Christ and his Church, is “imperfect,” it inspires us to beg the Lord to bestow on every married couple an outpouring of his divine love.

Religious Education Classes

School Year Program: No Classes: MLK weekend: 1/15 and 1/16.

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

Grades 7-8: Next class 2/5.

Baptism

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

Feb. 5 Parent Class-Charity Dining Room 1:00pm

Jan. 15 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

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 Eucharist

Our next First Eucharist session will be Sunday, April 2 at 1:00–3:00pm in the Church. We will have a tour of the church with an opportunity to go behind the scenes and see what happens within the many spaces. Candidates and parents are to attend the session.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, 12-31, 1-1	\$3,991.00
Monthly	\$1,532.00
Offertory, 1-8	\$2,335.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 727.00

Today's second collection is for Assistance to Urban Parishes. Assistance is needed at parishes experiencing financial hardship and who struggle to sustain their mission and meet their financial obligations. Your support is needed to maintain a Catholic presence in areas where the economic realities of the parishioner base cannot fully support the expenses of a parish. This collection will help bridge the funding gap. We all share responsibility to proclaim God's Good News of Jesus Christ with all the people of the Archdiocese of Boston regardless of the parish's ability to pay. Your generous response will help sustain the vital work that occurs each day in these parishes.

Ceiling Lights Thank You

A parishioner from Nativity donated and installed two much-needed ceiling lights with bulbs in the church.

Thank you Chris.



HR Prayer Shawl

Would you like to help those in need this winter without it costing you anything?

Come join us at 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, February 2**, at Nativity Hall in Merrimac. We will knit/crochet hats, scarves, & mittens for Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, the group supported by our Parish youth. We will provide yarn, knitting needles & crochet hooks, and patterns. We can even teach you to knit/crochet. Can't make it on February 2? Gather your own group at a time convenient for you, give us a call, and we'll provide you with everything you'll need.

If you need information or a blessed prayer shawl, they are free, please call: Helen Kelley 978-771-4673 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099.



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

Tuesday, January 17

Grade 8 class, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 22

Grades 3–6 class, Merrimac, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Rescheduled Grade 2 class, West Newbury, 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Youth Mass, Merrimac, 5:00 p.m. Our offertory collection will be canned goods for Our Neighbors' Table, trial size toiletries, or gift cards to Market Basket for Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, and of course your weekly offering to our parishes. All ages welcome. Refreshments will be served in the hall after this Mass. Our speaker, Kim Keene from the Pelican Intervention Fund, will be there to answer any questions.

Tuesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 26

Making sandwiches for the Merrimack Valley Hope Mission at the hall in Merrimac 6–7:00 p.m. If any youth would like to help with this **Service Project**, contact Mrs. O'Leary at reledhrp@gmail.com, or Mrs. Tierney at dedtierney@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 28

1:00 p.m., West Newbury: Our **6th Grade Activity Day**. Any older students who would like to be a **Team Leader**, may sign up at their next class, or contact Mrs. O'Leary at: reledhrp@gmail.com.

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.

HR 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. All faiths welcome. Please see the Parish website calendar for meeting dates, www.hricatholic.org.



HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



Without your help, we would be unable to assist our many clients. If you are writing a check for us, please write the check to **HR Saint Vincent de Paul** to help expedite our banking.