

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2017

hriccatholic.org



*Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth....You are the light of the world....
Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father." (Mt. 5)*

All Are Welcome

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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St. Vincent de Paul

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

St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266
joeviel@comcast.net

Website: www.hriccatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (2/4)

2:00pm **Atria Merrimack Place** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00pm **IC Ellen Kiernan, Ted LoPreste, Edna & Edith Messina, Philip Toscano, Mary Cunha** (Fr. Morin)
 4:00pm **St. Ann Thomas Ritter** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (2/5)

7:15am **IC Raymond Haley** (Fr. Broderick)
 8:00am **Nativity Henry Duhamel** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC Betty Parisi, For a special intention of the IC School** (Fr. Morin)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC Stanley Baikewicz, Stephen & Catherine Bogue** (Fr. Morin)

Monday (2/6)

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

Tuesday (2/7)

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

Wednesday (2/8)

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

Thursday (2/9)

7:15am **IC Patricia Ann Mosher, For the special intention of Gina Racine, James Murray** (Fr. Morin)

Friday (2/10)

9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 9:00am **IC School Liturgy** (Fr. Morin)

Saturday (2/11)

4:00pm **IC John "Jack" A. Dow, Bob Jackson, Michael & Lucia Lombardo, Loretta V. Minalio** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (2/12)

7:15am **IC Regina M. Stronge** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
 9:00am **IC For the intentions of Samuel McLachlan and Family** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 10:15am **St. Ann** Aucilia Marques (Fr. Morin)
 11:30am **IC Louis & Lena Filomia** (Fr. Broderick)

In your prayers, please remember Patricia A. Salach, Lillie Muldoon, Cynthia C. DeFelice, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception

Nativity—Merrimack

St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

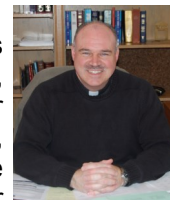
Salt is one of those ubiquitous compounds that seems to be found virtually everywhere, here is New England. Almost every one of our cars has a grayish coating on them right now, a reminder of our ongoing battle with the inclement weather that is a staple of winter in this part of the country. Look on the printed label of practically anything in your kitchen, and you will see salt listed as an ingredient somewhere...maybe more so than you would like! Try baking without at least a smidgen or a pinch of it somewhere, and you will be humbled. Salt is even increasingly found in what were once known as exclusively sweet foods, like hot fudge topping, ice cream, and that positively sinful caramel café macchiato that is just begging to defy our most earnest Lenten sacrifices in the weeks to come. It is an essential ingredient for human life. All things in moderation, of course.

To the ancients, salt fulfilled two important purposes in daily life. To begin with, it was one of the few commonly available spices in what was an otherwise quite bland diet of grain and fish. Salt jazzed things up, just a bit. It brought out and highlighted other, more subtle flavors, in common foods. A little went a long way to making the endlessly similar diet just a little more bearable and rich. It also was the chief means of preserving food in the millennia before artificial refrigeration became available. So, it added some zest and spice to life, made the daily diet more edible, and acted as a means to preserve and protect the nourishment that people needed to live on.

What a great image for a disciple!

As bearers of the light of Christ, we bring the flavor of God's love to the world. With God's mercy we are able to make the drudgery of daily life a bit less onerous. And the power of God's forgiveness will preserve us to life eternal. How amazingly saline!

The other image offered to us is just as potent: light that shines on others and illumines the world. I reflected in a homily a few weeks ago about the saving graces of the little light on my cell phone and how it saved me from stumbling through the darkness during a power outage some months



(Continued on page 4)

Questions of the Week



Adult: What obstacles do you face in being "salt" or "light" to others?

Child: How do you let your light shine for others?

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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

before. Even a tiny amount of light can make a big difference when there is great darkness that surrounds us.

Much has been said in recent weeks about the current plight of immigrants and refugees who are attempting to seek shelter in our land. In light of Isaiah's challenge in today's first reading: *"Thus says the LORD: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn..."* (Is 58:7-8) where do we see light in the dimness of our world?

In last week's column, I shared with you a little bit about my experiences from a previous parish doing some simple outreach to a small, impoverished community in the heart of the Dominican Republic. Upon returning from that trip and entering into U.S. Customs at Logan Airport, I was confronted, a bit angrily, by the Customs officer when I told him why I had travelled to the D.R. He said, "Why are you doing that? We have poor people in this country, too, you know!" Shocked, I remember mumbling something to the effect of, "Well, we serve them, too...." But I was stunned at the need to explain myself to a representative of my own government, as to why myself or anyone of our group would see the need to help others. Isn't this who we are, as Americans? Aren't we a people who reach out and help others? Aren't we usually among the first to arrive with disaster relief, with food and water and supplies? Aren't we the ones who have a long and proud history of welcoming the poor, the homeless, the refugee, the exile? Aren't the words of the poet Emma Lazarus inscribed in the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"? As a people, should we ever need to explain why we care for those in need, regardless of where they are, what language they speak, what color their skin is, or what they might believe about God?

Apparently these days, we do need to explain ourselves better to our elected officials and remind them of why we have acted to care for those in need in the past—both at home and abroad, and why it is vital for us as a nation to continue to do so. It's not just because it is a nice thing to do. It is because this is who we are. We are a people, a nation, who care. It's in our blood, our DNA.

Because we are disciples of the Lord, being salt and light for others means finding a way to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, comfort the sick, visit the imprisoned, and give drink to the thirsty. It means we open our hearts and our doors when those in need knock.

So, today, with the words of Isaiah and Jesus percolating inside of us, how do we better reflect the light of Christ so that others may see our good works and give glory to God? How might we find a way to spread a bit more salt and light today? Remember, even a little goes a long way!

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, February 6

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–6 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
IC PFC Meeting 7:00pm, IC School Library

Tuesday, February 7

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
Lenten Program Q&A 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Wednesday, February 8

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall
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 Nazareth Library Room 205
Book Discussion Group 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, February 9

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

Friday, February 10

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
AA 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Saturday, February 11

Grade 4 Activity Day 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, February 12

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
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
Baptisms 1:00pm, IC Church
IC Religious Ed., Confirmation Years 1 & 2 3:00pm, IC Church
Troop 21 Scout Meeting 4:30pm, IC School Cafeteria
HR Religious Ed., Grade 10 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

Pastoral Plan Second Town Hall

February 26, 2017

• All are invited



Disciples in Mission
Archdiocese of Boston

Join Father Tim and the Writing Team at the upcoming Town Hall following the 11:30am Mass at IC. A copy of the latest draft can be obtained in advance using one of two ways:

- Online: To request an advance **online** copy, go to the HRIC website at www.hricatholic.org, sign up for the town hall on the homepage, and request a copy online.

- To receive an advance **printed** copy, please stop by the Town Hall tables at all Masses on February 11–12.

Pizza will be provided by the Collaborative so your advance registration will help us gauge the number of attendees. There is no cost associated with attending.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on February 5, 2017

Note return to regular schedule

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on its regular first and third Sundays, February 5 & 19 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 begin reading and discussing The Acts of the Apostles, Chapters 1-4. In this second book, written between 80 and 90 A.D., Luke continues the story of Christianity in the first century. The early chapters, set in Jerusalem, describe the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and the growth of the early Church there. Luke details the experiences of Jesus' disciples over three decades, with special focus on St. Peter and St. Paul.

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.

Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

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Collaborative Town Hall



Mark your calendars for the next Collaborative Town Hall on February 26 immediately following the 11:30 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception.

Join Father Tim and the Writing Team in a review of the current draft of the HRIC Collaborative Plan.

Watch the bulletin for more information.



Disciples in Mission
Archdiocese of Boston

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 7:00pm-8:00pm

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.

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.

Women's Evening of Prayer

Join us for a Women's Evening of Prayer on Wednesday, March 8 at St. Ann Church at 7:00pm. The theme will be **Pray**. All women in the Collaborative are welcome.

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.



Lenten Events

Mark your calendars for these Collaborative Lenten events.

2nd Annual Lenten Series & Fellowship Meals

Thursdays, 6:30-8:00pm, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at Nativity

Fridays, noon-1:30pm, March, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at IC

Presented by the Adult Faith Formation Team (AFFT)

Annual Lenten Mission

Sunday-Wednesday, April 2, 3, 4, & 5, 7:00-8:00pm, at IC

Presented by former pastors & priests of our Collaborative

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Book Discussion

Save the dates: February 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@merrimack.edu, Nancy Ledoux 978-270-5488, nancyledoux@comcast.net, Dr. Mag McKinnon, mmckinnon@newburyprotcatholic.org.



National Marriage Week 2017

Celebrate National Marriage Week 2017 with *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love)

"The word of God tells us that the family is entrusted to a man, a woman and their children, so that they may become a communion of persons in the image of the union of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" (no. 29).

National Marriage Week, February 7–14, is an opportunity to promote, celebrate and strengthen marriage. Pope Francis's exhortation *"The Joy of Love,"* (April 2016) is about marriage and family life.

For more resources on *Amoris Laetitia*, visit usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/amoris-laetitia.cfm

For resources to prepare for marriage or strengthen your marriage and family, visit www.foryourmarriage.org.

Parish Membership

Welcome all newcomers to our Collaborative! Parish registration forms are available online at hricatholic.org.

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, and Salisbury. 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.

Mardi Gras Celebration

A Mardi Gras celebration is coming on **Monday, February 27** in the IC Parish Hall. Dinner is being served in two seatings—4:00 and 6:00 p.m. **Limited seating.**

We have begun selling Mardi Gras dinner tickets to benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. \$10/adult and \$5 for children. Ages 5 and under are free.

The celebration will include traditional foods of New Orleans, crafts, raffles, and more. Everyone is welcome.



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 9–12 (Men)
February 24	March 2–5 (Women)
March 31	April 6–9 (Men)
April 28	May 4–7 (Women)
June 2	June 1–4 (Women)

Scripture for the Week

5 Sun	Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16
6 Mon	Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56
7 Tue	Gn 1:20–2:4a/Mk 7:1-13
8 Wed	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk 7:14-23
9 Thu	Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30
10 Fri	Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37
11 Sat	Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10
12 Sun	Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, January 28–29 \$10,149.00

Church In Latin America \$2,216.00

This week's second collection is Restoration/Renovation. The second collection next weekend is the Monthly.

**Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$65,755.00
244 Families**



\$100,000

\$50,000

\$10,000

Pre-Planning/At-Need Burial Space

Immaculate Conception Parish owns and operates a private cemetery located on Storey Avenue. St. Mary Cemetery is a 35-acre cemetery with consecrated grounds that provides tranquility and peacefulness at those difficult times that we all are faced with. Please visit the parish cemetery and you will find the cemetery to be well-managed and maintained. Cemetery plots are available for full-body and cremated remains burials in any denomination. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent at 978-208-0266 to schedule an appointment.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box \$ 119.00
Collection \$ 32.00
Total \$ 151.00

IC Haiti

In order to carry out our mission to the people we are currently serving in Haiti, particularly the schoolchildren of the Fr. Marc Piché elementary school in Puit Chacha, IC-Haiti is permitted to take up four collections a year. You have demonstrated your ongoing support for our mission by your constant generosity both during these quarterly collection weekends and in response to emergency appeals following natural disasters and medical crises in Haiti.

The next IC-Haiti collection, the first one this year, will take place the weekend of February 18–19. Thanks to your generosity at the time of our December 2016 collection, we were able to meet the increased costs for the daily food program for the schoolchildren in Puit Chacha for the remainder of this school year. These dramatic cost increases for food products are directly related to the devastating effects the October hurricane had upon agriculture in the southern peninsula of Haiti.

Thank you for trusting IC-Haiti to use your kind donations wisely in service to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Haiti.

Immaculate Conception School

Dear Friends,

Our celebration of Catholic Schools Week was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Liturgy and Open House!



This Week's Visit to Immaculate Conception School:

Rochester Electronics and Immaculate Conception School's Eighth Grade Class are designing and building Bluetooth-enabled speakers. Mentors from Rochester

are guiding students through the planning, layout, assembly, and, if necessary, troubleshooting of problems with the finished



speakers. The students are designing the enclosures with the thought that there are no limitations except that it should hold all the components securely. The speaker, circuit boards, transformers and controls will all be assembled by the students. When complete, each student will have a working Bluetooth speaker system to take home.



Immaculate Conception School continues to be grateful to Rochester Electronics for their support of our school and students.

Owen Reid, an eighth grade student, won the Immaculate Conception School National Geographic Society Geography Bee recently. Owen placed first, over nine other contestants. The runner-up was also an eighth grader, James Hayes; the third place winner was seventh grader, Kaie Bolger. Other Bee participants were fourth graders Zachary Bishopp and Max Donahue; fifth graders Abby Ragusa and Chase VanDoorne; sixth graders Anna Affolter and Alex Paglia, and seventh grader Julie Durning. We are especially proud of our winners and participants!

Sincerely,

Mary Reardon, Principal

Upcoming Events

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.

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

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. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. 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. There are four different funds you can choose contribute to. If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made. Any questions? Contact Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant 978-462-2724 x7404.

Principal Job Announcement

Immaculate Conception School in Newburyport, MA is seeking a principal for the 2017–2018 school year. The principal is the spiritual, instructional, and administrative head of the school, and is responsible for the effective operation of the school as a Catholic educational institution. He/she is the primary agent for creating an environment that fosters academic excellence, Catholic faith formation, and vitality and viability. He/she is responsible for creating a welcoming atmosphere for all members of the school community (faculty, staff, students, parents, and donors) and a climate that encourages the engagement of each student in the learning process while fostering a love for learning. The principal reports directly to the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish. The Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Boston will participate in reviewing candidates.

Qualifications:

The principal of Immaculate Conception School is a **practicing Catholic**, holds a Master's degree in education and current Mass. certification as a school principal, with significant teaching experience. Catholic school experience is preferred.

Interested candidates should email a cover letter, resume, copy of current MA certification and a list of references to apply@catholicschools@rcab.org. Deadline for applications is March 1.

IC Knitting Ministry

We meet every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the IC Parish Center, Room 209. We knit 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 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.

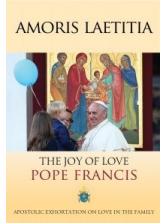


IC Religious Education

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—Seeds of the Word and Imperfect Situations In #76—"The Gospel of the family also nourishes seeds that are still waiting to grow, and serves as the basis for caring for those plants that are wilting and must not be neglected." Thus, building on the gift of Christ in the sacrament, married couples "may be led patiently further on in order to achieve a deeper grasp and a fuller integration of this mystery in their lives."



Religious Education Classes

Grades K–6: Next classes: 2/5 and 2/6.
Grades 7–8: Next class 2/5.

Baptism

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

Feb. 5 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm
Feb. 12 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

The next Confirmation session is Sunday, February 12 from 3:00–5:00pm in the Church for Years 1 and 2. The candidate and his/her sponsor, parent, or another adult are to attend the session.

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.

Youth Mass—March 12

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, March 12 at IC.

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

- March 12 IC
- April 2 HR
- May 7 IC

Mardi Gras Dinner to Benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund—Monday, February 27

Limited seating

We have begun selling Mardi Gras dinner tickets to benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. \$10/adult and \$5/ for children. Traditional foods of New Orleans, crafts, raffles and more. Ages 5 and under are free. Dinner is being served in two seatings: 4:00pm and 6:00pm.

Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, February 14** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, January 28–29 \$3,833.00
Church In Latin America \$ 276.11

This week's second collection is for fuel. Next weekend's second collection is the monthly.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



Our Conference received \$1,182.13 during the past few weeks. That money came from the poor boxes and your generous donations and will allow us to continue to help our clients. Thank you for your generosity and caring.

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

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, March 2**, at Nativity Hall in Merrimac. We will knit/crochet hats, scarves, and mittens for Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, the group supported by our Parish youth. We will provide yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks, and patterns. We can even teach you to knit/crochet. Can't make it on March 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.



Merrimack Valley Hope Mission Community Service

A big **thanks** goes out to all 9th and 10th grade Religious Ed. students and families who donated and participated to help serve the poor in Haverhill.

We had a tremendous response with donations for all the makings for 100 nutritious bagged lunches. Also many of you came together to make bagged lunches on Thursday night or serve at GAR park, Haverhill on Friday. Thanks for also donating blankets and coats. We were also very lucky that the HR Prayer Shawl group donated many hand-knitted hats, gloves, and scarves.



HR Religious Education

Sunday, February 5

Grades 3–6, Merrimac 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 7

Grade 7, Merrimac 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 11

Grade 4 Activity Day, Merrimac 1:00 p.m. Students are asked to bring a snack to share, and drinks will be provided. If possible, plan to attend the 4:00 p.m. Mass in Merrimac.

Sunday, February 12

Grade 10, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14

Grade 8, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Monday, February 27

Mardi Gras Dinner, IC St. Louis Hall, This event will raise funds for the Pelican Intervention Fund. Tickets will be on sale over the next two weekends. Come, enjoy!

Coffee After Mass



Coffee will be served after the 8:00 Mass at Nativity on Sunday, February 19. Plan on coming and, if possible, bring your favorite treat to share.

Bake Sale at HR This Weekend

Stop by the bake sale table following the 4:00pm, 8:00am and 10:15am Masses this weekend, **February 4 & 5**. I am raising money for my Eagle Scout project, to build two marimbas for the PRMS Percussion students. Thank you for your support. ~Gabe Mailhot

HR Sandwich Program

The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 200 sandwiches are needed each day to feed the hungry.

We are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag.

Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann's Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, February 8**. Please see the Collaborative calendar at www.hricatholic.org for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

Saturday Mass at Nativity

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **Nativity** in Merrimac on **February 11**.