

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2020

hricatholic.org



“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.” (Lv 19:2)

All Are Welcome



Immaculate Conception School

OPEN HOUSE



Please join us at our next Open House and **DISCOVER WHAT'S NEW** at the IC!

Immaculate Conception School is an affordable, private, Catholic elementary school (pre-K to eighth grade) achieving academic excellence in a faith-based environment, preparing young people for success in the 21st century.

OPEN HOUSE (9 - 11 am)

- Wednesday, March 11
- Tuesday, April 7
- Wednesday, May 13

PRIVATE TOUR

Call Kelley Pappalardo at (978) 465-7780 for a private tour or more info



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (2/22)

4:00pm **IC** *Joseph Brown* (Fr. Harrison)
 4:00pm **St. Ann** *Therese & Armand Cormier*
 (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

Sunday (2/23)

7:15am **IC** *J J Nicastro, Mary Reilly* (Fr. Harrison)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)
 9:00am **IC** *Helen Ann McDonnell-Jeter*
 (Fr. Harrison)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)
 11:30am **IC** *Ralph Filomia* (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (2/24)

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

Tuesday (2/25)

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

Wednesday (2/26) Ash Wednesday

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC School Liturgy** *John Caruso*
 (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 12 Noon **IC** Service (Deacon Dow)
 7:00pm **IC** (Fr. Morin)
 7:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

Thursday (2/27)

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

Friday (2/28)

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

Saturday (2/29)

4:00pm **IC** (Fr. Morin)
 4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (3/1)

7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. Morin)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

In your prayers please remember Louis Della Gatta and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury



From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This past week, I was able to enjoy a week of prayer and reflection with more than 50 of my brother priests from the Boston area and beyond down at the Bethany Retreat Center, run by the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida. Sponsored by Bishop Robert Hennessey from our local Merrimack region, the retreat this year featured Sr. Briege McKenna, O.S.C., sometimes known worldwide as "The Healing Nun." An author of multiple books on the power of the Sacraments and God's Healing Presence in our lives, she was a feisty and charming speaker, delivering story after story with her characteristic brogue and enduring wit. That she may have had an encounter with the Blarney Stone along the way was a given!

Among the many topics that she touched on over the course of the week, one of her talks included an exploration of the importance of the connection and unity between one's inner-self and the outer expression of our faith and devotion to God. In other words, the inside ought to match to the outside. It is no good to have an inner love of God if that never gets expressed in how we live our lives, and it is similarly useless to run around with external pious devotions if we never open our hearts to the transforming power of God's love. In all that we do, this connectedness is always implied, but can easily get off-track by the distractions of the world and the habits of sin that get embedded in our lives. True holiness lies in a unity between our inner relationship with God that flows joyfully into our worship and acts of charity.

This coming week we enter into, once again, our holy season of Lent in the Church's year with our celebration of Ash Wednesday. As a reminder that our sins lead only to death, we confront our own mortality and our constant need for repentance and God's forgiveness. As we seek renewal and look to jump-start our own call to holiness of life, paying close attention to Sr. Briege's insight on our need for inner and outer harmony is a great place to start our Lenten journey. It is a sound basis for evaluating what we must do to prepare ourselves for renewing our Baptismal Promises at Easter.

In the days ahead, as we "bury the Alleluia" and embrace our Lenten acts of penance, may we experience the wholeness of minds and hearts renewed in the cleansing power of God's grace.

Prayerfully,
 Fr. Timothy Harrison,
 Pastor

Bethany Retreat Center
Sr. Briege McKenna, O.S.C.,
bottom center

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, February 24

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall

Voice of the Faithful Meeting 11:00am, IC Conference Room 209

Women at the Well Prayer Group 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

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

Compassionate Friends Meeting 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, February 25

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

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

IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

IC First Eucharist Parent Meeting 6:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Wednesday, February 26, Ash Wednesday

HR Sandwich Program 7:00–9:00am St. Ann Hall

Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209

Holy Quilters 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church

Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel

Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Conference Room 209

Thursday, February 27

Reunion Prayer Group 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209

HR Confirmation Prep Group Service Project 6:00pm, St. Ann Hall

Sharing Christ 6:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

HR First Eucharist Parent Meeting 6:30pm, Nativity Hall

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

Friday, February 28

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

IC Haiti Meeting 4:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Ultreya 7:00pm, IC St. James Chapel/Charity Dining Room

Saturday, February 29

Prayers of the Faithful Meeting 8:30am, IC Charity Dining Room

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

HR BINGO Night & Dinner 5:00pm, Nativity Hall

Sunday, March 1

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church

IC Faith Formation 10:00am, IC Parish Center

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 10:00am, St. Ann Church

HR Faith Formation, Grade 2 11:15am, Nativity Hall

IC Faith Formation, Confirmation 1 1:00pm, IC Parish Center

HR Faith Formation, Confirmation 2 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

Collaborative Baptisms

We rejoice with the families of our new brothers and sisters who received the Sacrament of Baptism in January.

Giuliana Diane Carter • Aiden Joseph Frew •
Chase Redmond Lemire • Freya Elizabeth Loring •
Seamus Robert Loring • Thomas Alan Loring •
William Edward Loring • Carmen Aileen Souther.

Collaborative Contacts

Rev. Timothy Harrison, Pastor,
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Foster Care Opportunity

Is there room in your home and heart for a foster child? There is a need for foster homes in our area to provide children a supportive and healing home during a difficult time. Learn more from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) about Foster Care

and Adopting through Foster Care during a post-Mass fellowship time on March 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Immaculate Conception St. Louis Hall, Newburyport or March 8 in Church of the Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Danielle Maloney, 978-557-2739.



FORMED This Lent

FORMED offers many topics for Lent including

- Lenten reflections
- Home study sessions
- Lenten study on prayer
- Bishop Robert Barron meditations
- Stations of the Cross

Visit formed.org to log in or sign up (search for "Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative" or type in code JRNDGP to sign up). It's free!

Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to hricbulletin@gmail.com.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Lenten Guidelines

Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** are days of fast and abstinence. **Fridays of Lent** are also days of abstinence.

Fasting is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

Collaborative Lenten Family Activity Day

March 7, 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Church of the Nativity, Merrimac

This Family Activity Day will be for *all* HRIC Collaborative children K–8th grade and their parents and will focus on the theme of Lent. Come join us for a morning of reflection, activity, crafts, and prayer. If you had a child in our summer program or you homeschool your children, this is a great opportunity to engage with the faith community! We also welcome anyone who has missed several school year sessions, or those who want to engage with community outside Sundays.

Please RSVP at agiard@newburyportcatholic.org at your earliest convenience.



Follow Us on Twitter
@HRICatholic

L'Arche "As I Am" Lenten Event

Exploring the Dignity of People with Developmental Disabilities

Join our neighbors/fellow parishioners in the L'Arche Boston North community for simple *soup and bread dinner*, followed by a video presentation and discussion about the dignity and gifts of people with developmental disabilities.

When: Friday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Church of the Nativity Hall, Merrimac

L'Arche (French for "the Ark") Boston North is a member of an international community of people with and without developmental disabilities growing through mutually transformative relationship. Based out of Haverhill and with a home in Merrimac, L'Arche Boston North is ecumenical, faith based, with roots in the Catholic faith.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is **Wednesday, February 26** and is a day of fasting (one full meal and two smaller meals) and abstinence (no meat).

Ashes will be distributed at the following liturgies:

7:15am	Immaculate Conception
9:00am	Immaculate Conception (school liturgy)
9:00am	St. Ann
12:00noon	Immaculate Conception (service)
7:00pm	Immaculate Conception
7:00pm	Nativity



Mass Scripture Readings

February 23–March 1, 2020

Praying with the Scriptures is an intentional way of deepening our relationship with the Lord. Set aside fifteen minutes each day, in the same place, and at the same time. What do each day's Scripture passages reveal to me about our loving Father, our Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? What do the passages reveal about me? What am I being called upon to do, to be? Please access the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures www.HRICcatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, Feb 23: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48
- Monday, Feb 24: James 3:13-18; Psalm 19; Mark 9:14-29
- Tuesday, Feb 25: James 4:1-10; Psalm 55; Mark 9:30-37
- Wednesday, Feb 26: Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday, Feb 27: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Luke 9:22-25
- Friday, Feb 28: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 51; Matthew 9:14-15
- Saturday, Feb 29: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 86; Luke 5:27-32
- Sunday, March 1: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

(The free App "Laudate" allows you to access the daily Scripture readings on your cell phone.)



Lent in the Collaborative

Visit our website hricatholic.org and click on the Lent tab for more information and activities for Lent.

Women's Evening of Prayer



The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be **Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Ann Church. All women of the collaborative are invited to this evening of prayer and song. What a wonderful time for reflection to start your Lenten journey. Invite your friends.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Second Collection This Weekend

This week's second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world where there are insufficient resources for evangelization and formation. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe and three important national Catholic missions: the Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your generosity to this collection will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world. For more information about each of these organizations go to their websites:

1. CRS: www.usccb.org/crscollection
2. Church in Africa www.usccb.org/catholicgiving/opportunities-forgiving/solidarity-fund-forafrica/index.cfm
3. Church in Central and Eastern Europe: www.usccb.org/catholicgiving/opportunities-for-giving/centraland-easterneurope/collection/index.cfm
4. Military Archdiocese: www.milarch.org/
5. Catholic Home Missions: www.usccb.org/catholicgiving/opportunities-for-giving/catholichome-missions-appeal/index.cfm
6. Black and Indian Missions: <https://blackandindianmission.org/>

Questions of the Week



Adult: Home is where we learn about caring for others not just ourselves. Has there been a time when you learned a lesson about caring for others because of something that happened at home?

Child: What are some things you say or do to show your friends that you care about them? What about the children who are not your friends or that you don't really like?

Women at the Well Catholic Women's Group

Do you ever feel like there must be something more than your day-to-day routine? Looking for a way to connect to other faith-centered women in the midst of a busy work, social or parenting life? Or maybe you're just searching for a new way to regularly meet and connect with Jesus.

WELCOME TO A COMMUNITY FULL OF

women just like you

Wherever you are in your faith journey, join us as we meet weekly for *Blessed Is She* bible study, community and friendship as we grow together in Christ.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PASTORAL CENTER
42 GREEN STREET
NEWBURYPORT, MA

MONDAY NIGHTS, WEEKLY
6PM-7:30PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!

please email HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com if you have any questions



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**Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes**

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 Immaculate Conception School, Pentucket Regional, or Newburyport Public Schools, are cancelled or delayed because of inclement weather. WBZ Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at boston.cbslocal.com and we will make every effort to keep our own website and social media updated as well.

In severe situations, it may also be necessary for safety reasons to cancel weekend Masses. Again, please watch WBZ or consult the websites and/or social media 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.

Cursillo and Ultreya

The Cursillo weekend is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love into your daily life. Many of your HRIC brothers and sisters have experienced this "short course in Christianity" at St. Basil's Salvatorian Center in Methuen, MA and we invite you to include Cursillo as part of your faith journey.

Each month, we gather for an "Ultreya" (onward!) evening of Liturgy, sharing, food, and fellowship at 7:00 p.m. in IC St. James Chapel and Charity Dining Room to continue the Cursillo spirit. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dave & Kelly Colby at davecolby724@gmail.com.

Cursillo Weekends

March 5	Women
April 2	Men
April 30	Women
June 4	Women

Ultreya Evenings

February 28
March 27
April 24
May 29

Centering Prayer

If you are searching for the peace the world cannot give please consider joining us at Centering Prayer. Silently resting in God we assent to the Holy Spirit's presence and action in our lives. In Centering Prayer we pray as Jesus prayed. He tells us: "When you pray, go into your private room, shut yourself in, and pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you" (Matt 6:6).

Please consider leaving the noise of world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 209 of the IC Parish Center. Following Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and reflect on the words of scripture.

Contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483 if you are interested in learning more or joining us. All are welcome.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 15–16 \$7,635.00
St. Vincent de Paul \$2,821.00

This week's second collection will support the Church in underdeveloped areas of the world. **See page 6 of this bulletin for more information on this collection.**

The **Ash Wednesday** collection is **Catholic Charities**.

Next week's second collection is **Utility and Energy**.

IC Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$85,639.00



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 10.00
Poor Box	\$220.00
Total	\$230.00

IC Knitting Ministry



The Knitting Ministry meets Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Room 209 in the IC Parish Center. We knit/crochet prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves for charity. Come join this friendly group.

New people, ideas, and patterns are always welcome. For more information call Julia O'Connor 978-465-3350 or Frances Ronan 978-462-4972.

Pre-Planning/At-Need Burial Space

Immaculate Conception Parish owns and operates a private cemetery located on Storey Avenue. St. Mary's 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.

Free Hair Cuts



Donna Koen, a parishioner and licensed hairdresser of over 30 years, is offering free hair cuts to anyone in need. She is willing to travel to your home. Her number is (978) 998-9219.

This is a service she has been offering for years for the Newburyport Housing Authority, Salvation Army, and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

She is happy to help our parishioners who are in need.

Immaculate Conception School



Students in our Pre-Kindergarten program are an important part of the Immaculate Conception School family. They are part of daily morning meetings and school activities, community service projects, monthly church services, assemblies, celebrations of learning, and many other annual events. They build relationships with the older students who serve as role models throughout the school year. We welcome our youngest students as part of the community and build long-lasting and supportive relationships amongst students, faculty, and families.

The IC offers flexibility for families looking for a Pre-K program for 2, 3, 4, and 5 days a week, half-day and full-day hours. Before Care is available at 7:00 a.m. and After Care until 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Kelley Pappalardo at 978-465-7780.



Family Mass

There will be another Family Mass (formerly known as Children's Mass) next Sunday, March 1 at 9:00 a.m. at IC Church. Family Masses occur whenever there is K–8th grade Faith Formation at IC (typically twice a month). They include the angelic voices of the Children's Choir, an opportunity for kids to sit on the altar steps during the family-friendly homily, depending on the priest, and opportunities for kids to serve as gift bearers. Please also consider bringing a **canned-food item** for your child to bring to the altar as donation to the local food pantry during the Offertory.

Future dates: March 15, and March 29.

Follow Us on Instagram
HRICatholic



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Adoration & Rosary

Please join us for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration in IC's St. James Chapel in the Parish Center.

- **Wednesdays** from 6:00–6:30 p.m.
- **Thursdays** from 6:30–7:00 p.m., including recitation of the Rosary for Life.
- **Fridays** drop in any time from 8:00 a.m.–noon. During the last hour we pray the Divine Mercy chaplet and conclude with Benediction.

No prior experience necessary. Come and learn how powerful it is to pray before the Real Presence of our Lord.

Our Neighbors' Table

The Our Neighbors' Table Newburyport Market is open Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. We are located at Community Service of Newburyport, 35 Summer Street, in the lower level of St. Paul's Church. For your convenience we have several saved on-street parking spots in front of the market.

Each ONT location offers a beautiful, modern market where fresh, healthy food is made available to anyone in need—at no charge! There are no income requirements, just bring an ID with you.

We look forward to showing you around our Newburyport Market. If you have any further questions call Our Neighbors' Table at 978-388-1907.

The Compassionate Friends



The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age, any cause. Visit our website at tcfnewburyport.org.

Our monthly support meetings are held in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 at 7:30–9:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Our next meeting is **February 24**.

Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ at barbarajhopkinson@gmail.com.

IC Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs continue to take place for all grade levels.

Due to school vacation week, there will be no class this Sunday (Feb. 23). We hope that all of our families have been able to enjoy this time off and we look forward to seeing you back in class on March 1.

Summer Programs

We are happy to announce that the HRIC Summer Program will take place the week of July 13–17 for those children entering grades 3–6 in September, and July 27–31 for students entering grades 7–9.

Please contact the Faith Formation office to request a registration form and/or to have more information sent to you.

Confirmation

The next Confirmation Prep class for Year 1 (Grade 9) is scheduled for Sunday, March 1 from 1:00–2:30.

Please note that this class will gather twice in March with another meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 29.

Class for Year 2 (Grade 10) will meet on Tuesday, March 3 from 6:30–8:00 and again on March 31.

Baptism Dates to Remember

The sacrament of Baptism is not scheduled during the Lenten Season. Therefore, our next Baptism class will be held **Sunday, May 3** with the sacrament celebrated on **Sunday, May 17**.

Please call the Collaborative Offices (978 462-2724) for further information.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

The first **Parent Meeting** regarding First Eucharist is scheduled for this **Tuesday, February 25** at 6:30. Please make every effort to attend along with your child.

Please also remember to complete and submit the **First Eucharist registration form** if you have not already done so.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

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 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099 for a shawl or more information.

Come join us. Don't know how? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm.

Prayer Shawl will *not* meet in March. Our next meeting is **Thursday, April 2**.

Women's Evening of Prayer



The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be **Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Ann Church. All women of the collaborative are invited to this evening of prayer and song. What a wonderful time for reflection to start your Lenten journey. Invite your friends.

EWTN: Catholic News

Your Online Catholic Resource. <http://www.ewtnnews.com/>

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

This week's second collection is in support of the Church around the world. **See page 6 of this bulletin for more information on this collection.**

The **Ash Wednesday** collection is **Catholic Charities**.

**HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$22,380.00**



HR Sandwich Program



The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 150 sandwiches are delivered and need to be **individually wrapped or bagged** and returned to the bread wrappers. Please, **no** condiments. **Large** containers of coffee, adobo, and minced garlic are also needed. Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury, from 7:00–9:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. (Door on the larger parking lot side of the church). Our next dropoff date is **February 26**.

See the Collaborative calendar at www.hrrcatholic.org for the schedule. If you are new to the program, or have any questions, please contact Dottie Carr at 978-363-2909.

Service Hours Opportunity

Lent is almost here...Looking for service hours?

The Activities Committee is looking for help. We will be setting up Nativity Hall on Saturday, February 29 at 10:30 a.m. Please come help us move tables and chairs, clean the kitchen, set the tables, and get ready for our dinner and BINGO night. We are also looking for help during our parish event serving our ham dinner and, of course, **clean up help** is needed too!

Contact Cindy Quinn if you are able to volunteer.

HR St. Vincent de Paul

During Lent, there is an emphasis on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Please support our SVdP work by taking a mite box and filling it with donations throughout the Lenten season. No donation is too small and all of the money goes directly to support our Merrimac and West Newbury neighbors in need. Boxes are at the rear of both churches.

Saturday Mass at Nativity

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **Nativity, Merrimac** on **February 29**.

HR Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs continue for all grades. We hope that all of our families were able to enjoy some time off this past vacation week, and we look forward to seeing you back in class this Sunday.

Summer Programs at IC

We are happy to announce that the HRIC Summer Program will take place on the IC campus the week of July 13–17 for those children entering grades 3–6 in September, and July 27–31 for students entering grades 7–9.

Please contact the Faith Formation office to request a registration form and/or to have more information sent to you.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Please note the first of two **Parent/Child meetings** regarding First Eucharist is scheduled for this **Thursday, February 27** at 6:30 p.m. in the Nativity Church Hall. The second meeting will take place on Thursday, April 2 also at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall.

Baptism Dates to Remember

The sacrament of Baptism is not scheduled during the Lenten season. Therefore, our next Baptism class will be held **Sunday, May 3** at 1:00 p.m. in the Charity Dining Room located in the IC Pastoral Center. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for further information.

Confirmation Prep Classes

The next class for **Year 1 (Grade 9)** is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 in the Nativity Church Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Year 2 (Grade 10) class will meet again on Sunday, March 1, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. also in the Nativity Church Hall.

Holy Redeemer Dinner & BINGO Night

Saturday, February 29, 5:00 p.m.

The Activities Committee is having a Ham Dinner & BINGO Night on Saturday, February 29 following the 4:00 Mass in Merrimac.

\$8.00 for baked ham, baked beans, coleslaw, and roll with homemade apple crisp for dessert.

4 BINGO games will be played starting after dinner (about 6:30) \$250.00 Cash prizes: **1st game:** \$25.00, **2nd game:** \$50.00, **3rd game:** \$75.00, and **4th game:** \$100.00.

Each BINGO card is \$1.00. Play as many cards per game as you like! New BINGO cards are needed for each BINGO game.

