

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2023

hriccatholic.org

All Are Welcome



*"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you;
All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you."*
(from Gn 12:2-4)



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters..."

St. Ann

Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985

Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: info@hriccatholic.org

Nativity

Parish offices and church:

4 Green St., Merrimac 01860

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: info@hriccatholic.org

Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:

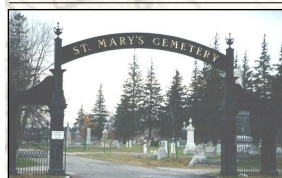
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: info@hriccatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, K-grade 8,
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



Collaborative Staff

Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

info@hriccatholic.org

Senior Priests in Residence

978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

Rev. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

Permanent Deacons

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Deacon John Moranski

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St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Holy Redeemer

978-346-8604 x 4

hrrsvdp300@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

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 [hriccatholic](https://www.instagram.com/hriccatholic)



 Holy Redeemer - Immaculate
Conception Collaborative
Parishes



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (3/4)

4:00pm **IC** Jeffrey Stone, Dan Ryan Jr., For the intentions of Dawn & Gia Rosa Gaglione, Joseph Keefe, Laurie Ann Freeman (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Moranski)

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

Sunday (3/5)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Moranski)

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

11:30am **IC** Vincent Giacchetti, Louis DellaGatta (Fr. Morin)

Monday (3/6)

9:00am **IC** John J. Mosher (Fr. Harrison)

Tuesday (3/7)

9:00am **IC** Paul Kolman (Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (3/8)

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

Thursday (3/9)

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

Friday (3/10)

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

Saturday (3/11)

4:00pm **IC** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

Sunday (3/12)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Stanley)

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

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

11:30am **IC** (Fr. Stanley)

In your prayers please remember Carol Federico, Julia O'Connor, and all of the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Vigil Mass is broadcast online through our website: hricatholic.org and on Facebook: ([Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)).

Bulletin Information

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

Want to be an Altar Server at Easter?

We are looking for new altar servers for all weekend Masses at all three Collaborative churches. Any **student** who is 4th grade or older and has made their First Communion is eligible to become an altar server.



We also welcome any **adult** who might be interested. This is a wonderful way to serve our Collaborative and our Lord.

Training will be provided. If you are interested in serving, please call the Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 and ask for Melinda or Christine.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Every year, the Second Sunday of Lent is given over to an account of the Transfiguration from one of the Gospels. The details are all similar: Peter, James and John accompany Jesus up to the top of a high mountain where Jesus is “transfigured” before them. In this mystical vision, Jesus is seen to be in dialogue with Moses and Elijah, symbolizing the continuity and fulfillment of Jesus with the fullness of the Law and the greatest of the prophets. Then a voice came from a cloud indicating, once again, that Jesus is God’s Son and that God is well-pleased with Him; and, an admonishment for those privy to this knowledge that they should “listen to Him.”



Each account ends with Jesus standing alone with His disciples and ordering them not to speak of the vision until He has “risen from the dead.” While the disciples in various ways want to stay there and build some tents so that they can prolong this extraordinary and overwhelming experience, Jesus resolutely heads down the mountain and towards Jerusalem where He knows there will be suffering and death. This “transfiguration,” therefore is seen as a strengthening and reminder for His disciples that He is the Son of God and that He carries that eternal glory within Him everywhere He goes including down the mountain and into Jerusalem, Calvary, and beyond.

Sometimes, we, too, need a kind of reminder that the triune God dwells within us, accompanies us on our daily journeys and is with us always until the end of time. Our faith provides many of these moments, though perhaps less dramatic than what occurred on Mount Tabor, to encourage us along our way. They are found in prayers and Psalms, at Mass, and in our works of charity. They are encountered in song and large gatherings, private moments, and personal interactions with others. Just this past week, the IC Choir was singing a rendition of Psalm 42 (“As the Deer Longs for Running Streams, So I Long for You My God”) and it brought a tear to my eye, transporting me in an instant to the beauty of an Easter Vigil celebration from some years before and how moving it was to celebrate the fullness of our faith. This past week, I was preaching at an Ash Wednesday Mass at Nativity Church in Merrimac where we shared a great moment of laughter together as part of the moment, reflecting on the irony of my receiving an enormous box of chocolates on the first day of Lent...talk about temptation embodied! (BTW—just for the record, I did NOT give up chocolate for Lent this year! ;) ... and thank you and God bless the parishioners who shared such a nice gift!) It is good to be in the midst of laughter and joy,

(Continued on page 4)

Spring Forward

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 12.
DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, March 6

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

Women at the Well 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Tuesday, March 7

Breaking Bread Takeout-Only Meal 4:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm, IC Church

Wednesday, March 8

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program Dropoff: 7-9am, St. Ann Hall

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church

Ministry Committee Mtg. 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Confessions During Lent 6:30pm, Nativity Church

Thursday, March 9

ICS PTO Mtg. 8:30am, IC St. Louis Hall

Confessions During Lent 6:30pm, IC Church

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, March 10

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

Collaborative Staff Mtg. 1:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

HR Simple Supper 5:15pm, Nativity Hall

IC Stations of the Cross 5:15pm, IC Church

IC Simple Supper 5:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall

HR Stations of the Cross 6:00pm, Nativity Church

AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

Saturday, March 11

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, March 12

RCIA Mtg. 10:00am, IC St. James Chapel

IC Confirmation Prep., Year 2 3:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

HR Confirmation Prep., Year 2 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

To schedule your group's in-person meeting, contact Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to reserve your space.

Recitation of the Rosary

Join us for recitation of the rosary before 9:00 Mass at IC or on Facebook. www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/ Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

Adoration is Rest



Maybe use words. Maybe use no words. Simply let the impulse of the Holy Spirit nourish your desire to grow in humility, virtue, age, wisdom, and grace. Leave all the rest to Holy One who calls you to savor rest with Him in Adoration's holy hour.

Enter through the Green Street door only.

Place: IC Church (rain or shine)

Time: Thursdays: 7 p.m.–8 p.m.

Also: Fridays 9:30 a.m.–12 noon

Note: If a Friday funeral is scheduled, or in the absence of a presider, IC Church will remain open for "Sacred Silence" only. Check the HRIC calendar online for updated information.

(Continued from page 3)

and share together that sometimes rare gift of levity. In these moments and many more like them, our God is transfigured before us in small but important ways, marking the continued journey and encouraging us not to lose hope. Sometimes it just takes a good eye and a heart open to perceiving God's grace to recognize the many blessings that are given to us each day.

As our Lenten journey continues and takes us up many mountains and hills and down through what are sometimes scary and dark valleys, may we never doubt in the true power of the Lord to bless and protect us always. In His love we trust!

Lenten Blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

Next delivery is March 8



The HRIC Collaborative Soup & Sandwich Program (formerly the HR Sandwich Program) is asking for volunteers to help make sandwiches for the Lazarus House Ministry. We deliver on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Thank you to all who have been donating since we started up again. We are delivering over 150 sandwiches every date, and are now bringing 5 gallons of soup.

Sandwiches need to be **individually wrapped or bagged** and returned to the bread wrappers. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are requested at this time, also cold cuts and/or cheese sandwiches. Please, no condiments. **Large** containers of coffee, Adobo, and minced garlic are also welcome. They are also looking for fresh vegetables (not potatoes). 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).

Any questions please contact Jill: dobsondoll@aol.com or Tom at Tom@grellafinancial.com.

Attention All Volunteers

The Archdiocese of Boston is asking all active volunteers, established or new, to fill out a Volunteer Application Form.

This is to help us keep better records, improve our current screening process which also includes CORIs, etc., and provide emergency contact information for everyone involved in our various ministries...just in case!

Therefore, a new, one-time application form must be filled out by all volunteers. If you are currently a volunteer, you will receive an email from your ministry leader. Please fill it out and return it to the office as soon as possible. In the future, new volunteers will be asked to complete this form as part of the initial sign-up process.

All applications received will be retained by our Collaborative offices and kept strictly confidential.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding! We appreciate all that you do for your parish and the wider Church!

LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Guidelines for Lent

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. See our website's Lent 2023 page for more Lent inspiration: hriccatholic.org.

Fasting during Lent

Good Friday is a day of fasting. Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless 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 fruit juices are allowed.

Abstinence during Lent

Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be eaten at all. Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence.

Stations of the Cross and Simple Suppers: Fridays during Lent

Holy Redeemer Parish

Simple Supper is served at 5:15 p.m. in Nativity Hall. Stations of the Cross will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Nativity Church

Immaculate Conception Parish

Stations of the Cross begin at 5:15 p.m. in IC Church. Simple Supper will follow, around 5:45 p.m. in St. Louis Hall

Note: No Simple Supper at IC on March 17 due to the 175th anniversary St. Patrick's Day dinner and Stations of the Cross at IC will be moved to 5:30 on March 17.

Confessions during Lent

Holy Redeemer Parish

A priest will be available for Confessions Wednesday evenings in March from 6:30–8:00:

March 8: Nativity Church March 22: St. Ann Church
March 15: St. Ann Church March 29: Nativity Church

Immaculate Conception Parish

A priest will be available at IC for Confessions Thursday evenings in March from 6:30–8:00 (during Adoration) and Saturdays from 3:00–3:30pm.

Adoration

Thursdays, 7:00–8:00 p.m. at IC Church

Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 noon at IC Church (*Unless there is a funeral scheduled for that day. Please check the Collaborative calendar for changes.*)

Holy Week & Easter Family Festival

April 2, 10:00–11:30 a.m., IC Pastoral Center

All are welcome to attend and walk together with our Lord as we celebrate His last days in Jerusalem through His Passion, death, and wondrous Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Helping the Homeless

**Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed.**

Post-pandemic inflation has brought new suffering to many in our communities, and we will be collecting Care Packs for the Homeless at all three churches in the Collaborative. The packs consist of a one-gallon Ziploc bag filled with travel size, new and unused personal care items for men, women, and children. They will be distributed to local agencies serving those in need, including Cor Unum, Salvation Army, Community Service of Newburyport, Lazarus House, and others.

Easy-to-carry, travel-size personal care items can be found in many local stores. There will be a collection bin at the entrance of each church and in the lobby of the IC Parish Center for your donations. Please, no clothing or used or damaged goods, as these are discarded. For more information or to help with collection, sorting and delivering, contact Aaron: agiard@newburyportcatholic.org, or Jonathan Temple at hricshare@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity and compassion. **Items needed:**

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|--|
| Shampoo | Cough drops | Feminine hygiene products (Women) |
| Toothbrush | Protein bars | Umbrellas |
| Toothpaste | Soap | Antiseptic Wipes |
| Deodorant | Life Savers candy | |
| Razor | Disposable face cloths | No mouthwash or loose items please. |
| Socks | Kleenex travel packs | |
| Gloves | Hand sanitizer | |
| Shaving Cream | | |

Personal Directed Lenten Retreat

"Come, follow me." Mt.4:19

When Jesus called the apostles, he spoke to their hearts and they heard with their hearts and were moved from within to respond to God's call. They left where they were to go where they were called.

Choices and actions flow from what fills your heart. This retreat is about searching, opening, and cleansing your heart to hear and respond to God as he works in your life each day. Prayer, reading, and reflection will help open your heart. Guided by the Holy Spirit as we meet, you will explore the path you are on. As you search your heart for whatever is hindering a full response to God's call, you may become more aware of what is taking space in your heart and is difficult to surrender to answer his call.

This retreat is designed to be affordable, convenient, and meet your needs. **Begin your retreat any time during Lent.** We will meet for 4 one-hour sessions of Spiritual Direction via Zoom, telephone, or in person on a convenient day and time. Provided retreat materials will support your journey through Scripture and spiritual writings. Retreat begins February 22 and ends April 6. Suggested Donation \$85.00.

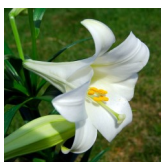
Call (978) 462-7483 or email emccarthy1028@hotmail.com to register and for additional information. Spiritual Director: Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director.



LENT

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Easter Flower Donations



Each Easter we are able to beautifully decorate our three churches with Easter flowers as a result of the donations from our parishioners and friends who generously contribute in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The flowers and other decorations that make our churches look so stunning each Easter would not be possible without your continued support.

Please consider making a donation "in memory" of a deceased loved one or "in honor" of someone special in your life. Flower envelopes have been included in the envelope packets mailed to your home or you can pick one up in the back of any of our churches. Drop them in the collection any Sunday or mail them to the HR or IC offices (see addresses page 2). Deadline to see your gift included in the Easter bulletin is **noon on Friday, March 31**.

Thank you from Community Service, Inc.



Thanks to the generosity of our Collaborative parishioners, the recent soap and detergent drive for Community Service was a great success. Over 110 bottles of dish soap and 90 bottles of laundry detergent were donated from

all three churches. Your donations will fill the needs of so many of the Community Service clients in our communities.

As we approach the beginning of Lent, we are reminded of the importance of alms giving as acts of mercy. Thank you for your generosity of spirit and willingness to help.

"Alms are an inheritance and a justice which is due to the poor and which Jesus has levied upon us." ~St. Francis of Assisi



Knights of Columbus



All men of the Collaborative, 18 years or older, are welcome to join the Knights.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the IC Nazareth Library. Also, all are welcome to join us on the first Sunday of every month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the IC parish center for coffee and donuts.

For more information about our meetings or to join the Knights, call 978-225-0804 or email kofc231@outlook.com.

Knights Hospitality Sunday

Join us this weekend right after the 9:00 Mass, March 5, in the IC Parish Center for Hospitality Sunday. We will have free coffee and donuts for all.



Hospitality Sunday

1st Sundays after the 9AM Mass | Parish Center



Collaborative Faith Formation

All Faith Formation schedules and registration forms are posted on our website at www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

Summer 2023 Faith Formation Week

Mark your calendars! Grades 3–8
June 26–30, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. each day.

Holy Week & Easter Family Festival

April 2, 10:00–11:30 a.m. at the IC Pastoral Center. All are welcome to attend and walk together with our Lord as we celebrate His last days in Jerusalem through His Passion, death, and wondrous Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

School Year Programs (Grades K–10)

School year Faith Formation and Sacramental preparation schedules and registration forms are available on the website at (hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation). Please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x405) with any questions or reach out via email to Aaron (agiard@hriccatholic.org) or Melinda (burrell@hriccatholic.org).

Baptism

No Baptisms will be taking place during the season of Lent. We will resume our schedule of celebrating this sacrament the second Sunday of each month at IC Church beginning in May at 1:30 p.m. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.

Prayers for the Sick

May the comfort and healing of Christ embrace all in our Collaborative who are suffering from illness, especially:

Priscilla Brown
Baby Boyle
Judy Capone
Bill Crounse
Drew Daubach
Kristen D'Entremont
Carol Ann Doyle
Ann-Margaret Ferrante
Jack Flynn
Jeanine Ebacher Fowler
Charmaine Haan
Hillar Haan
Jay Hanslig

Al Hasapis
Terence Healey
Sam Kitchen
Lee Preble
Douglas Rose
Robert Rose
Maureen Russell
Rob Schweizer
Yvonne Sloban
Tom Tribble
Michael Tucker
Laurent Vincent
Lorraine Zollo

Contact the Collaborative offices to add someone to or remove someone from our prayer list: 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604.

AED and First Aid Kits

The total cost for all kits is a total of \$17,533 (\$2,192 each). To date we have received \$7,793 in donations to help pay for the purchase of these life-saving kits. We still need \$9,740 to cover the costs of all 8 kit locations. We invite parishioners who are able to consider making a donation to help pay for these potentially life-saving kits. Full or partial donations for these sets are welcome and appreciated for both parishes.

Please contact Dennis LaMalfa (978-462-2724) for more information.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

| | |
|---|------------|
| HR Mailed in Offertory, week ending Feb. 17 | \$ 180.00 |
| HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving | \$ 275.00 |
| Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 | \$ 423.00 |
| HR Offertory, Feb. 25–26 | \$1,601.00 |
| Church Around the World | \$ 376.00 |
| HR Mailed in Offertory, week ending Feb. 24 | \$1,303.00 |
| HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving | \$ 275.00 |

The second collection this weekend (Mar. 5) is Fuel. The second collection next weekend (Mar. 12) is the Monthly. Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Holy Redeemer Parish with the second collection noted in the memo.

If you would like to mail in your collections, send them to Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hricatholic.org/hr-online-giving.

HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$19,495.00



HR St. Vincent de Paul

*Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord,
who will pay back the sum in full.*

Proverbs 19:17



With the Lenten observances of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving upon us, our conference is bringing back the tradition of the **mite box**. These boxes will be available in the backs of the churches. Please take one. Try to add a few coins each day. Your daily "sacrifice" can make a difference in the lives of the poor around us. Simply return the mite box during Holy Week.

Don't forget the clothes collection bin behind the Green St, Merrimac rectory and also beside the Food Mart in West Newbury. As always, we appreciate your generosity.

If you know of someone who needs help, please have them call our hotline at 978-346-8604 X4.

A NUDGE to get you Spring Cleaning!

The Activities Committee will be having an **Indoor Yard Sale** in the Nativity Hall on **Saturday, April 29** from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. We are asking you to look around your home and donate those items that you just don't need or use anymore but are still in good condition. We will be accepting your donations (no clothing, please) on the 2 weekends before the yard sale: Saturdays, April 15 and 22 from 1:30–3:30 p.m. and Sundays, April 16 and 23 from 9:30–11:30 a.m. Please know, we will **not** be able to accept donations the day of the yard sale.

HR Online Giving

It's convenient and safe. To learn more about Online giving (one-time or recurring donation options available), visit our website, hricatholic.org and click the "Links" tab, then click on "HR Parish Online Giving" to get to the site or contact Christine Breslow at 978-462-2724 x 402.

Fellowship, French Toast, and Coffee



We had a great turnout last Sunday for our



Fellowship, French Toast, and Coffee in the Nativity Hall. We also saw some new faces!



Volunteers during Confessions this Lent

We are looking for parishioners from St. Ann to be present in the church during Wednesday night Confessions from 6:30–8:00 p.m. on March 15 and 22. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend Confession and sit in the silence of the church to pray or read. There is nothing to do—just be a presence in the church during Confessions. To volunteer, contact Melinda at 978-346-8604. Thank you.

Simple Supper and Stations of the Cross Fridays at Nativity

Simple Suppers will be served at 5:15 p.m. in Nativity Hall before Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. in Nativity Church.

The March 10 meal will be prepared by Ellen Colburn and Stations will be lead by Ed Madden. Please join us!



Simple Supper on February 24

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

| | |
|---|------------|
| IC Mailed in Offertory, week ending Feb. 17 | \$ 686.00 |
| IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving | \$3,262.59 |
| Ash Wednesday, March 22 | \$1,036.00 |
| IC Offertory, Feb. 25–26 | \$2,734.00 |
| Church Around the World | \$ 849.00 |
| IC Mailed in Offertory, week ending Feb. 24 | \$6,346.00 |
| IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving | \$3,262.59 |

The second collection this weekend (Mar. 5) is *Utility & Energy*. The second collection next weekend (Mar. 12) is the *Monthly*. Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Immaculate Conception Parish with the second collection noted in the memo.

If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to **Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950**.

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hriccatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving.

**IC Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$80,000.00**



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Get your Irish on and join us for a fun time and a traditional Irish dinner!! This is the first in a series of events celebrating the **175th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Parish**.

Date: Friday, March 17

Time: 1st seating: 4:00–5:30 p.m.

2nd seating: 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Place: IC St. Louis Hall

Price: Adults \$15, Children under 12 \$10

There will be music by the Holy Jammers, raffles, and a few surprises!

Due to space limitations in the hall, there will be two seatings as noted above. Tickets will be sold following all IC Masses beginning the weekend of February 25–26 or stop by IC offices to purchase tickets. Attendees must have a ticket to attend.



Immaculate Conception School

The students at Immaculate Conception School participated in the faith practice of Burying the Alleluia just before leaving for February vacation. The 8th grade students planned and organized the celebration for the whole school. Each grade decorated an Alleluia banner to be buried. From the podium, a prayer was read as each grade was invited to process around the gym before folding the banner and placing it in a purple wooden box. As they processed, 8th grade students waved ribbon streamers as the rest of the school community sang "Alleluia" over and over again. As each grade placed their banner in the purple box, the singing grew louder and louder. By the time the final banner was presented by the 8th grade, the singing was at window shattering levels!! The box was closed, the room went dark, and all fell silent. Students then returned to their classrooms in total silence. The school children will joyfully resurrect their Alleluia banners after Easter.

The act of placing the joyous Alleluia in a box and then falling silent is a way for young children to understand the Lenten season a little better. Faith practices bring deeper meaning and help to connect us to our Catholic faith.



Pre-K students were the first class to present their banner.

Grade 3 presents their Alleluia banner.



A wooden purple box will hold the Alleluias until Easter.

IC Haiti

May the Lord continue to bless our ongoing efforts to support the people of Haiti. We thank Him for offering us a ministry of service to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you would like to contribute to IC Haiti, please mail checks to **IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA. 01950**. Checks should be made out to "IC Haiti."

Questions of the Week



Adult: How does knowing Christ transform your own life?

Child: How does knowing about Jesus make your life better?

IC PARISH

Immaculate Conception Parish: 175th Anniversary



Immaculate Conception Parish celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2023.

In celebration of this milestone of faith and service to the greater Newburyport community, the parish is planning a series of events throughout the year.

A committee has formed to create, plan, and execute these year-long events, focused on celebrating the history of our parish and our patroness. Want to be a part of the planning? Watch the bulletin for the next scheduled meeting date and join us.

IC St. Vincent de Paul



If you know someone living in Newbury/ Newburyport who needs assistance, please suggest that they call our **help line 978-518-0728**. We are ready to assist.

You can now make online donations on our website: www.svdpnnewburyport.org. If you would like to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to "**SVDP of Newburyport**" and drop it into the collection box at Mass or mail it to the parish office at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Breaking Bread to-go Meal

We serve our weekly Breaking Bread meal on Tuesday evenings. It is a hot, nourishing, 3-course dinner which is currently **take out only** and is distributed at the entrance to the IC Parish Center from 4:30–5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Volunteer for Consolers Circle

Consolers Circle is asking for additional volunteers for one of our three teams. Volunteers are asked to supply a dish for the meal. Please contact Melinda (978-462-2724) if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

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

Free Hair Cuts



Donna Koen, an IC parishioner and licensed hairdresser for 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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Centering Prayer for Lent

Lent is a time to follow Jesus more closely and learn from the fully human Jesus how to pray by entering your secret room, spending time that places God at the center of your life, opening yourself to a loving Father, surrendering your will and in trust allowing God to transform you. This is how we pray as we Center in silence.

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice available to all who seek transformation through a more intimate relationship with God. This daily practice deepens our faith as we come to better know our God as one who loves us unconditionally just as we are and trust God has plans to give us a future of hope.

Please consider joining us for weekly group Centering Prayer and let God move you closer to him. We gather via Zoom each Wednesday from 6–7 p.m. for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer and 30 minutes of Lectio Divina. All are welcome. Please contact Elizabeth McCarthy (978-462-7483) if you are interested in learning more about this simple prayer of resting in God.

The Pelican Intervention Fund



We provide funding for non-profit, 12-step residential sober homes for economically challenged men and women struggling with addiction. Questions? Contact Kim Keene 978-430-1408 or visit www.pelicaninterventionfund.org

to learn more. Donations can be made to "**The Pelican Intervention Fund at ECCF**"

Essex County Community Foundation, 175 Andover Street, Danvers, MA 01923

women at the well

We invite all women to come join us at any time, no matter where you may be in your relationship with God. The new study, *Keeping in Balance from Walking with Purpose*, is all about managing life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness rooted in Christ. We meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in person at the IC Parish Center and virtually on Zoom. If you have any questions, or would like to join via Zoom, please email hricwomenatthewell@gmail.com for the link.

If you are unable to make it to every meeting, please do not worry! This group is designed to allow you to drop in whenever you are able to join us, no pre-reading necessary from week to week.

Retrouvaille

Rediscover Your Marriage

Retrouvaille (retro-vi) means "rediscovery." The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving marriage. We teach couples a new way to communicate. Thousands of couples have successfully transformed their marriages by attending.

We have a weekend coming up on March 10 in Andover. Visit HelpOurMarriage.org to learn more.

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