

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



The land of Zebulun and Naphtali along the Sea of Galilee, Israel

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.” (Mt. 4: 15-16)

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



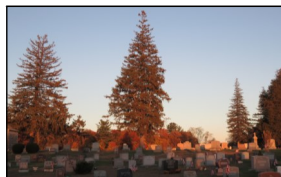
Immaculate Conception

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 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 (1/21)

4:00pm **IC** *Anthony Raven, Al Paciulan*, For the intentions of Elaine Pagliarulo on the occasion of her 75th birthday (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

Sunday (1/22)

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

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

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

10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)

11:30am **IC** *Anne Neville* (Fr. Broderick)

5:00pm **Nativity Youth Mass** (Fr. Morin)

Monday (1/23)

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

Tuesday (1/24)

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

Wednesday (1/25)

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

Thursday (1/26)

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

Friday (1/27)

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

Saturday (1/28)

4:00pm **IC** *For the intentions of Peter D'Ambrosio* (Fr. Morin)

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

Sunday (1/29)

7:15am **IC** *Robin Herlihy Follansbee, Henry Reslewic* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

9:00am **IC** *Lillian Casey, Patricia Casey, Edith Ryan* (Fr. Broderick)

10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

11:30am **IC** *For the continued vitality, excellence, and influence of Immaculate Conception School* (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Robert A. Murdock, Robert V. Serwon, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

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.

From the Pastor

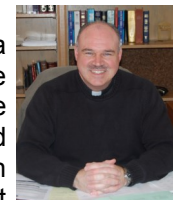
Dear Parishioners,

A few years ago, I shared with you a story about a group of students who were gathered around a rabbi, asking the question, "when is it light out?" They asked presumably to know when they could begin their prayers for the day. The first student ventured it was light out when he could look at two animals in the distance and tell the difference between a dog and a goat. "No," the rabbi replied. A second student thought that it was light outside when he could look at two trees in the distance and tell the difference between a peach tree and a sycamore. "No," the rabbi replied once again. Then the students became frustrated and asked him when it was light outside. The rabbi replied that it was light outside when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see it is your brother or sister. "Because, if you cannot see this," he said, "then it is still very dark indeed."

This weekend's Gospel invites us to recognize Jesus as that great light who came upon a world covered in the darkness of sin and the hopelessness of death. The light He brought was not found on a particular wavelength of the electromagnetic spectrum, but rather in the resonance of our hearts longing for our Creator. Jesus gave us the one thing we could not bring about on our own: reconciliation with God through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. From the early moments of his first preaching along the Sea of Galilee to his Ascension into Heaven and the sending of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to illuminate even the darkest corners of our world with the hope He brought for Eternal Life. Only through this radical oneness in Christ do we have true light. And, as we heard at Christmas and Epiphany, it is a gift for all people.

There are many in our world who cloud this light and want

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Winter Weather Mass Cancellations

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

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

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Visit www.hriccatholic.org for more events and details

Monday, January 23

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
 Merrimac Cub Scouts Den Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall
 Compassionate Friends Mtg. 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, January 24

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
 Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 7 6:00pm, Nativity Hall
 IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 Footsteps of St. Paul Mass & Reunion 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel, Charity Dining Room

Wednesday, January 25

Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall
 IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
 Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
 Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
 Collaborative Writing Team 6:00pm, Nativity Church Hall
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, January 26

HR Religious Ed. Sandwich Making 6:00pm, Nativity Hall
 Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, January 27

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

Saturday, January 28

HR Grade 6 Activity Day 1:00pm, St. Ann Hall
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, January 29

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
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 2 11:15am, St. Ann Hall
 IC Open House 12:30pm, IC School
 IC Lector Training 1:00pm IC Church
 IC Religious Ed., Confirmation Years 1 & 2 3:00pm, IC Church
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 10 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

Questions of the Week



Adult: When have you experienced being called by God?

Child: How do you follow Jesus today?

(Continued from page 3)

to remain in the shadows. It is more convenient, easier, more profitable and less painful to stay in darkness, and not venture out into the daylight of what God has done in Christ. I urge you to reject these powerful temptations to maintain the status quo and be unafraid to bring the Light of Christ out into our communities.

When is it light out?

It is light out when in the name of Christ we see ourselves in relationship with all peoples, all nationalities, all creeds, all colors, all tongues and languages, all backgrounds and personal histories. It is light out, when in the name of Christ, we see the homeless, the addicted, the felons, the illegal immigrants, the mentally ill, the pathologically obtuse, the ideologically insane and the habitually selfish as our brothers and sisters. It is light out when in the name of Christ we love them all just the same. Not because there is some benefit in it for us, but only because—simply because—Jesus loves them. We don't need, nor ought we seek, any other reason.

At the end of the day, Jesus came into this world to call us to love, radically. It is the path to Heaven. It is the way of the saints. It is the light that can cast away the darkest of nights. It is the very heart of God. And it is our duty as disciples to share this most profound of gifts, richly, with those around us.

Let's go and shed a little light on those who dwell in darkness, that they, too, might know the joy that is ours in Christ. Let's do it with great humility, profound reverence, unrelenting conviction and overwhelming love. Let's share the gift of Christ today.

Winter blessings,

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

Youth Masses

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

This weekend we will begin selling Mardi Gras dinner tickets to benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. \$12/adult and \$5/child. Ages 5 and under are free.

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

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

Bulletin Information

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on January 22, 2017

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

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



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Last week, several parishioners from the Collaborative met to review and give feedback on our Collaborative's Pastoral Plan that was submitted to the Archdiocese on December 1.



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.

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.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer, resting silently in God, facilitates the process of inner transformation. Our prayer without words is one of intention to surrender to God's presence and action in our lives and desire for a closer relationship with God. Join us Wednesdays, 6:00pm–7:00pm, in the IC Charity Dining Room. For information contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483 or visit www.hricatholic.org.

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, 5, 6, 7:00–8:00pm, at IC
Presented by former pastors & priests of our Collaborative

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

March for Life



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

Scripture for the Week

- 22 Sun** Is 8:23—9:3/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
23 Mon Heb 9:15, 24-28/Mk 3:22-30
24 Tue Heb 10:1-10/Mk 3:31-35
25 Wed Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18
26 Thu 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Tit 1:1-5/Mk 4:21-25
27 Fri Heb 10:32-39/Mk 4:26-34
28 Sat Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Mk 4:35-41
29 Sun Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Community Food Pantry

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

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

Immaculate Conception School Open House

Sunday, January 29, 2017 • 12:30–2:00pm

The IC is a private Catholic school in the heart of Newburyport where students receive an outstanding academic education in a faith-based, fun, and safe environment, where the emphasis is on respect, personal growth, and developing individual potential. See if the Immaculate Conception School is the right choice for you and your family. Read Principal Reardon's column on page 8 of this bulletin for more details.

Collaborative Book Discussion

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

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



Cursillo & Ultreya

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

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

2017 Ultreya / Cursillo Calendar

Ultreya Dates	Cursillo Weekends
February 3	February 9-12 (Men)
February 24	March 4-6 (Women)
March 31	April 6-9 (Men)
April 28	May 4-6 (Women)
June 2	June 1-4 (Women)

Mardi Gras Celebration

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

Tickets will be on sale soon. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. Ages 5 and under are free. Ticket sales will benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. All are welcome. The celebration will include traditional foods of New Orleans, crafts, raffles, and more.



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Second Collection

The second collection next weekend supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other. Please visit www.usccb.org/catholicgiving/opportunities-for-giving/latinamerica/index.cfm for more information.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



HR SVdP received \$1,070 in Market Basket gift cards and \$510 in Irving gas cards over the Christmas season. These will go to our clients during 2017. Thank you for your generosity and caring.

SVdP recently helped with \$514 in rent money for a homeless family of seven. SVdP also supplied Market Basket and gas cards.

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

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, January 25**. Please see the Collaborative calendar at www.hricatholic.org for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

EWTN: Catholic News

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

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

HR Religious Education

Sunday, January 22

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

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

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

Tuesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 26

Sandwich making for the Merrimack Valley Hope Mission for the students who have signed up for this service at the hall in Merrimac 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 28

Grade 6 Activity Day, 1:00 p.m., West Newbury. All students are asked to bring a snack to share, drinks will be provided. Parents are asked to arrive back by 3:45 p.m. and we will attend the 4:00 p.m. Mass together.

Sunday, January 29

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

Grade 10 class, Merrimac 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31

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

New Email Address

The Office of Religious Education at Holy Redeemer has a new email address: reledhrp@gmail.com.

HR Prayer Shawl

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

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

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



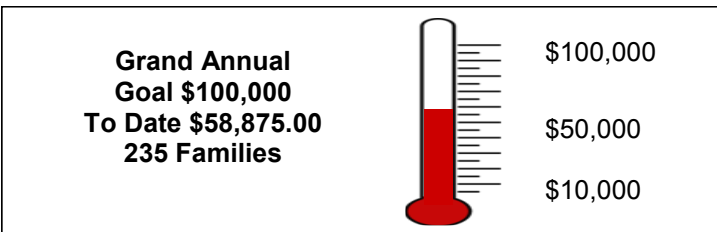
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, January 7–8 **\$9,376.00**

Assistance to Urban Parishes **\$1,587.00**

The second collection next weekend supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other. Please visit www.usccb.org/catholicgiving/opportunities-for-giving/latinamerica/index.cfm for more information.



Giving Tree Thank You

To our friends at Immaculate Conception Parish - Thank you so much for your wonderful support of our Giving Tree Program.

It is only through the support we receive from people like you that we are able to provide so many in our community these resources!

God Bless each and every one of you.

Laurie Salen

Parish Membership

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

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 provide 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 remain burials in any denomination. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent at 978-208-0266 to schedule an appointment.

Immaculate Conception School

Greetings Friends,

We are all so excited about the Immaculate Conception School (IC) annual Open House next Sunday, January 29, from 12:30–2:00 pm. This event will be a perfect opportunity for parents who are considering an affordable, private, faith-based education for their children, to learn about the IC. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the school escorted by one of our middle school students, learn about our special programs and activities and meet with current families. Please join me and our devoted teachers and staff to see if the Immaculate Conception School is the right choice for you and your family. We will greet you and answer any questions you may have.



The Open House is also for all current parents. Visit your child's classroom to see recent projects. For example, in Mrs. Pike's first grade class you will see the students' animal reports. In Mrs. Lacefield's second grade class you will see owl houses and posters. In Mrs. Rivera's third grade class you will see various games, showcasing the students' math skills. All of the classrooms will have great student projects on display. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to see how learning is fun at the IC. Please also join us in the gym for refreshments and to meet our first-time visitors. Parents, please invite family and friends with school-age children to our Open House.

Prior to the Open House, all are invited to the 11:30 Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church to celebrate the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This special Liturgy is prepared by the Student Leadership Team. The celebration continues all week with festive activities at the school including the annual "Special Person Luncheon," ice cream served by our PTO, a dress down day, and this year, finishing up with our annual "Father-Daughter Dance."

The IC is unique. It is a private Catholic school in the heart of Newburyport where students receive an outstanding academic education in a faith-based, fun, and safe environment, where the emphasis is on respect, personal growth and developing individual potential. Research shows that students in Catholic schools score above grade level in reading, math, science, and social studies, and they benefit from a respectful and disciplined classroom with the freedom to learn.

The Immaculate Conception School educates young men and young women who go on to serve as role models, influencing our world through goodness and love in their words and deeds. In 2017, the IC's 135th anniversary, we are proudly celebrating this legacy.

I hope to see you at next Sunday's Open House. The Immaculate Conception School is a community treasure, one of which we can all be proud. Come and see why.

Sincerely, Mary Reardon, Principal

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Online Giving

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

Consolers Circle Meal

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

IC Knitting Ministry



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

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

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

Breaking Bread

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

The Compassionate Friends

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

IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

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

The Sacrament of Matrimony—In #74—“...the common life of husband and wife, the entire network of relations that they build with their children and the world around them, will be steeped in and strengthened by the grace of the sacrament. For the sacrament of marriage flows from the incarnation and the paschal mystery, whereby God showed the fullness of his love for humanity by becoming one with us. Neither of the spouses will be alone in facing whatever challenges may come their way. Both are called to respond to God's gift with commitment, creativity, perseverance and daily effort. They can always invoke the assistance of the Holy Spirit who consecrates their union, so that his grace may be felt in every new situation that they encounter.”



Religious Education Classes

School Year Classes: 1/22 and 1/23.

Grades K–6: Next classes: 1/29 and 1/30.

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, January 29 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—January 22

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, January 22 at Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity, Merrimac. Guest Speaker is Kim Keene, from the Pelican Intervention Fund.

This weekend we will begin selling Mardi Gras dinner tickets for the February 27 Mardi Gras dinner. Sales to benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. \$12/adult and \$5/child. Ages 5 and under are free. The event will include traditional foods of New Orleans, crafts, raffles, and more. Dinner is being served in two seatings: 4:30pm and 6:00pm.