

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2018

hricatholic.org



Ruins of the ancient synagogue in Capernaum, along the Sea of Galilee in Israel

“Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.” (Mk 1:21)

All Are Welcome



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

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

St. Ann

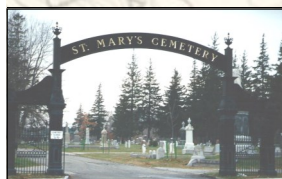
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

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, 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,
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



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St. Vincent de Paul


Saint Vincent de Paul Society at
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St. Vincent de Paul Society at
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St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266
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www.hricatholic.org

 [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (1/27)

- 10:30am **Country Manor** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00pm **IC Emmi Spitzbarth, Lillie Muldoon**
 (Fr. McLaughlin)
 4:00pm **Nativity Robert Murdock** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (1/28)

- 7:15am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
 9:00am **IC Al Paciulan, Patricia Casey, Lillian Casey** (Fr. Harrison)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 11:30am **IC John Deneumoustier, Susan Flynn, Stanley Baikewicz, Catherine Bogue, Judy Siegel**
 (Fr. Harrison)
 5:00pm **Youth Mass at Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

Monday (1/29)

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

Tuesday (1/30)

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

Wednesday (1/31)

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

Thursday (2/1)

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

Friday (2/2)

- 9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
 1:30pm **Avita** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (2/3)

- 2:00pm **Atria** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00pm **IC Joseph Brown, Jamie Grabowski, Ruth Connors** (Fr. Morin)
 4:00pm **Nativity Thomas Ritter** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (2/4)

- 7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
 11:30am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

In your prayers, please remember Jonathan Chretien and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Questions of the Week



Adult: What are the evils in today's world that you pray God will free us from?

Child: Name some bad things that you pray that Jesus will take away from our world.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This past week, I was made aware of a number of our brothers and sisters who are ill due to the onset of a particularly nasty strain of the flu. There has been much media coverage as well about the unusual rise in flu cases compared to past winters. In response, health-care providers and public officials have issued many recommendations and suggestions on how to approach this public health issue. The Archdiocese of Boston, too, has offered its own guidelines to help ensure parishioners' safety and comfort at mass.



These approaches often embody one particular element: Common Sense. We human beings are creatures of habit, and sometimes we need an extra reminder to suspend what we always do for a period of time to achieve a greater good for the larger group. When looking at the prevalence of the flu, colds, and other winter illnesses, particularly when it comes to church and public worship, the following are good measures of Common Sense:

1. If you feel you are coming down with a cold or exhibit flu-like symptoms: **STAY AT HOME**. While we always want to see you in church, God will not strike you dead for missing mass on one or two weekends this winter because you are sick! Remember, God gave us a brain and expects us to use it. There is no obligation to attend mass if you are ill.
2. While the Church maintains that the ancient practice of receiving Holy Communion from the Cup, as commanded by Christ, is safe for healthy adults, the Cardinal has asked all parishes to temporarily suspend offering the Precious Blood to the faithful for the time being. We are reminded that the faith of the Church teaches that Christ, whole and entire, is received even under only one species.
3. At the **Sign of Peace** where a kiss, embrace, or warm handshake may be called-for, we are being asked, instead, to keep our hands joined together and offer a polite bow to our neighbors in the pew. No one will think you are rude or a snob. A smile added into the mix will go a long way to communicate Christ's loving presence.

(Continued on page 4)

Scripture for the Week

- | | | |
|----|-----|---|
| 28 | Sun | Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28 |
| 29 | Mon | 2 Sm 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20 |
| 30 | Tue | 2 Sm 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30—19:3Mk 5:21-43 |
| 31 | Wed | 2 Sm 24:2,9-17Mk 6:1-6 |
| 1 | Thu | 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13 |
| 2 | Fri | Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 |
| 3 | Sat | 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34 |
| 4 | Sun | Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39 |

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our calendar at hricatholic.org for a complete listing of activities.

Monday, January 29

AA Meeting 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC Religious Ed., 1st Eucharist Tour of Church Makeup Class
5:00pm, IC Church

IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–8 6:00pm, IC Parish Center

HR Boy Scouts Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

HR Counters & Ushers Meeting 7:00pm, St. Ann Hall

Tuesday, January 30

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

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

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

Landings for Returning Catholics 7:30pm, Nativity Hall

Wednesday, January 31

Holy Quilters 2:00pm, 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

IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, February 1

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

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

Friday, February 2

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

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

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

Saturday, February 3

Holy Quilters 8:00am, Nativity Hall

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, February 4

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church

IC Religious Ed., Grades K–8 10:05am, IC Parish Center

IC Religious Ed., Confirmation Catholic School Students
1:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Baptism Class 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

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

HR Religious Ed., Grade 9 4:00pm, Nativity Hall

(Continued from page 3)

- Eucharistic Ministers** are reminded to wash their hands before offering Holy Communion, and again, afterwards. It is just good, common sense hygiene that when practiced by all will benefit everyone. Even the priests wash their hands during mass!
- If anyone is sick and is unable to attend mass for an extended period of time, please contact our Collaborative Office and we will make arrangements for you to receive Holy Communion in your home or in the hospital, nursing home, etc. where you are recuperating. If you can't come to church, the Church will come to you.

In addition to the above and always following the advice of your doctor, we encourage parishioners to get a flu vaccination, especially if you are in a high-risk group.

**A Common Sense approach
to cold and flu season will help keep our Church
a safe and healthy place for all!**

Winter Blessings,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

This Week's Second Collection

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 Latin America (CLA), 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 visit their websites:

- CRS: www.usccb.org/crscollection
- CLA: www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm
- Church in Africa <http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/solidarity-fund-for-africa/index.cfm>
- Church in Central and Eastern Europe: www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/central-and-eastern-europe/collection/index.cfm
- Military Archdiocese <http://www.milarch.org/>
- Catholic Home Missions: www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-home-missions-appeal/index.cfm
- Black and Indian Missions <https://blackandindianmission.org/>

Visit our Collaborative website at hricatholic.org/publications to view the bulletin online and link to these sites.

Bulletin Information

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

Volunteers Needed for Avita of Newburyport

Every Sunday, Avita of Newburyport Assisted Living brings residents to Mass at Holy Redeemer. They are in need of volunteers to escort residents from Avita to church and back on the Avita bus at 9:30 Sunday mornings. Please contact Debra Shapiro at deb@avitaofnewburyport.com or 978-225-7000.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on February 4



Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on the regular scheduled first Sunday of the month, February 4, at 2:00 p.m. in the IC Parish Center.

This would be an ideal time for interested members of the Collaborative to join the study group as we begin reading St. Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*. This letter was probably written in Corinth several years prior to Paul's actual arduous voyage to Rome as a prisoner. This is Paul's longest letter and widely considered to be his masterpiece. We will read and discuss Chapters 3–6.

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.

Archdiocese Web Site

Visit www.bostoncatholic.org for the latest news and information around the Archdiocese of Boston.

Ecumenical Candlelight Taizé Meditation Service

The Groveland Congregational Church (4 King St., in Groveland) cordially invites the community to a candlelight mediation service modeled on the services held at the Taizé community in France. The service will take place on Sunday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m.

God is always with us, and yet we yearn for a closer connection. This month's service will focus on contemplation, following Jesus in his ministry, always returning to pray to the Father. In addition to readings from Scripture, prayers, petitions, and short, sung refrains, there will be an extended period of silent meditation as we sit together in the church's candlelit sanctuary. Come, and rest in the Lord.

The service lasts about 30 to 40 minutes. For more information, contact the church at 978-372-3463 or visit the website at www.grovelanducc.org.

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/>

Landings

Last fall, we began a new ministry called LANDINGS, a program for Returning Catholics wanting to explore a more active return to the Catholic faith. We are pleased to report it was a success, not just for the two returning Catholics that we welcomed back to our church, but also for the active parishioners who participated as well. During this eight-week series of compassionate listening, the group prayed together, shared their faith journeys, and discussed their Catholic beliefs, all guided by the Holy Spirit.

A new eight-week LANDINGS will begin on Tuesday, January 30. One reason that many returning Catholics give for attending LANDINGS is that someone asked them. We urge you to think of someone you know who "used to be Catholic" or attends Mass only occasionally. God just asks us to invite them: the Holy Spirit will do the rest. What greater act of love this year than to reactivate your own faith, or invite someone back home to the church especially during the season of Lent? The full participation of every Catholic is a precious gift to our faith community. There is no pressure, just an invitation to explore the possibilities.

To find out more, contact: Dr. Mag McKinnon, 978-462-2724 ext. 7405, mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org.

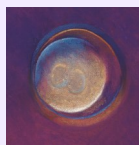
Spiritual Adoption Program

Program Kick-off

On January 21 The Collaborative of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception began a special program inviting young and old to "spiritually" adopt a newly conceived baby and her mother and father. Students in Religious Education and all parishioners are asked to commit to praying daily for their "adopted" baby for nine months. Pledge and prayer cards will be available during Religious Education and at the entrances of the churches. We will be praying for unborn babies and their parents. While this child will remain unknown to his or her "spiritual parent," God knows who the child is so we encourage participants to name their child. Then watch the bulletin and the website for monthly reports describing your baby's development. At the end of nine months—October—we'll have a "baby shower" to collect items for Pregnancy Care Center.

Watch here each month the Baby's Development

Thank you for participating in this Spiritual Adoption program. We hope you enjoy it. You will receive information with updates on your spiritually adopted baby's development each month via the bulletin and www.hricatholic.org.



Already, your spiritually adopted baby is a wonder! Even though s/he is only one cell, everything about this little person is already present: eye color, blood type, how tall s/he will be, hair color—everything!

This baby will play a role in our community only s/he can play! This baby's parents do not even now s/he exists yet—please pray for them to safely bring their baby to birth so s/he can fulfill the mission God has planned for her/him.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Cursillo

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.

2017–2018 Calendar

Ultreya	Cursillo Weekend
February 2	February 8–11 (Men)
February 23	March 1–4 (Women)
April 6	April 5–8 (Men)
April 27	May 3–6 (Women)
June 1	June 7–10 (Women)

Ultreya is held in the St. James Chapel in the IC Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

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 because of inclement weather. Any Religious Education classes will also be cancelled on such days. WBZ Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at boston.cbslocal.com.

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

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

Community Food Pantry

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

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

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.

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 on Wednesdays, 6:00pm–7:00pm, in the IC Conference Room 209. Join us as we pray in this ancient Christian tradition and together deepen our understanding of this prayer in our own spiritual journey. For information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

Youth SNOWCAMPS



Snowcamps, a high-energy, activity-filled, spiritual growth experience weekend for 7–8 graders, is held at Camp Brookwoods, Alton, NH. Get ready for fun, friendships, music, games, and faith sharing from teens and adults.

Join the fun with the 100+ junior high kids from several different parishes throughout the Archdiocese. There are two SNOWCAMPS weekends: February 23–25 or March 2–4. Cost for the weekend is \$183. To learn more or to download an application, visit www.snowcampsparty.com. Contact Fr. George with questions, 978-462-2724.

Youth Masses

Youth Masses are celebrated as a collaborative. Students take part in the ministries during the Mass. Folk music, with guitar, is featured. Youth Masses begin at 5:00pm. All ages are welcome to this lively celebration.

For each Youth Mass, a charity is chosen for donations. Please watch the bulletin for details about that month's charity. The charity for January is Merrimack Valley Hope Mission. Donation suggestions: Winter hats, gloves, scarves, heavy socks, gently worn jackets, and travel-size toiletries.

Youth Mass Schedule

January 28 at Nativity, Merrimac
March 4 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport
March 25 at Nativity, Merrimac
May 20 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory January 13–14 \$3,635.00
 Monthly, January 13–14 \$2,030.00

This week's second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Latin America (CLA), 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 will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world.

Next weekend's second collection is Fuel.

2017 Grand Annual

The Holy Redeemer Grand Annual collection has raised **\$13,080.00** to date.

It is not too late to return your pledge card. Bring it to Mass next weekend or mail it to the parish office. Your participation in the Grand Annual Collection is sincerely appreciated.

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. Our next meeting is **Thursday, February 1.**

Holy Redeemer Dinner & BINGO Night

February 24, 5:00 p.m.



Join Holy Redeemer Parish for a fun night out: Dinner (ham, macaroni and cheese, salad, roll, and homemade pie) are included. Tickets are \$8 each. Three bingo games will follow dinner. Bingo cards are \$1 each. Prizes (gift basket, gift card, cash) will be awarded to the winners.

Want to help out? Join us for our organizational meeting on **Tuesday, February 13** at 6:30 p.m. at St. Ann Hall, W. Newbury. All are welcome.

HR Religious Education

Sunday, Jan. 28, **Grades 3–6 Classes**, Nativity Hall, 9:00–10:00am.

Grade 2 Class, Nativity Church, 9:00–10:00am.

Youth Mass, Nativity Church, 5:00 p.m.

We will be collecting items for the **Merrimack Valley Hope Mission**. Items that can be donated include: Winter hats, gloves and heavy socks, gently worn jackets, travel-size toiletries. *Thank you for your generosity to those in need.*

Tues., Jan. 30, **Grade 8 Class**, Nativity Hall, 6:00–7:30pm.

Please Note: Grade 9 Class Time Change

Sunday, Feb. 4 class will begin at 4:00 p.m. because of the Super Bowl, and will end at 5:30 p.m. Game time is 6:30 p.m. **Go Patriots!!!**

Contact info: Office of Religious Education

Doreen O'Leary (Rel. Ed. email: reledhrp@gmail.com)

Holy Redeemer Raffle Night

Save the Date: April 28

Holy Redeemer will hold Raffle Night on Saturday, April 28 at Nativity Hall. Join us for dinner and raffles. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Watch the bulletin for details and for ways you can help out.



HR Boy Scouts

Scouting builds more than just campfires. Scouting builds character, values, community, and family. Holy Redeemer charts Boy Scout Troop 41. The troop meets Monday evenings in Nativity Hall, Merrimac from 7:00–8:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in learning more about the troop or joining, contact the scoutmaster, Mark Friend at msf4087@gmail.com. All faiths welcome. Please see the Parish website calendar for meeting dates, www.hricatholic.org.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



There is a wonderful way to honor someone who has requested "No gifts, please." You can send a check to Holy Redeemer Saint Vincent de Paul at 4 Green Street in Merrimac. Your donation will honor someone's celebration and will also help those in need. A note will be sent to let that someone know about the donor's meaningful gift. Donations can be made to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other significant occasions.

If you are writing a check for us, please write the check to HR Saint Vincent de Paul to help expedite our banking.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

January 20–21

\$10,762.50

This week's second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Latin America (CLA), 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 will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world.

Next week's second collection is Restoration/Renovation.

Grand Annual Goal \$100,000
To Date \$73,960.00
301 Families



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 30.00
Poor Box	\$211.00
Total	\$241.00

IC Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. (At this time, Online Giving is available for only IC members.) 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 “Links” tab, then click on “Online Giving” to get to the site. There are four different funds you can choose to contribute to. If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made. Any questions? Contact Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant 978-462-2724 x7404.

Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, February 13** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205. We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at membership@kofc231.org, (978) 572-0231.

Adoration

Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in IC's St. James Chapel on Fridays from 8:00am–12:00noon.

Immaculate Conception School



It is an honor to be the Principal of the IC and to be part of such a supportive community. Children's school experience must encompass guidance, support, and meaningful opportunities in the social and emotional aspects of their lives, as well as academics.

The faculty, parents and I work together as a team to provide our students with an enriching school experience that we all are proud of. I personally invite you to come for a tour of our school and meet the best representatives of true Pelican Pride—our students.



IC Knitting Ministry



We meet Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the IC Parish Center, Room 209. We knit shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves and bring prayers and hope to people who are sick and to their caregivers and to celebrate happy occasions. We also distribute hats and scarves to homeless children. 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.

Mardi Gras Celebration



Our Mardi Gras Celebration and Dinner will be held on Monday, February 12, 5:00–7:00pm with open seating. Raffles drawn at 7:00pm. Raffle and Dinner Tickets will be on sale in early February. \$10/adults, \$5 children, and children under 5 free.

We also need volunteers for a variety of tasks. Please consider signing up for positions: cook, baker, server, clean up, decorator, selling of tickets, etc. Go to:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4caaa72eaaff2-mardi>.

Raffle Items

We are looking for donations for our Raffle. If you have any items, gift cards, services, etc. that you would like to donate to the raffle, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Dr. Mag McKinnon, DRE, mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org or Melinda Burrell burrell@newburyportcatholic.org 978-462-2724. Proceeds for the dinner and raffle to benefit IC Haiti and IC Religious Education. Come join us for fun, food, and fellowship.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

Pope Francis released the Exhortation on the Family. We continue to review the various statements from the Holy Father.

The World of Emotions: In #144: As true man, Jesus showed his emotions. He was hurt by the rejection of Jerusalem (cf. Mt 23:27) and this moved him to tears (cf. Lk 19:41). He was also deeply moved by the sufferings of others (cf. Mk 6:34). He felt deeply their grief (cf. Jn 11:33), and he wept at the death of a friend (cf. Jn 11:35). These examples of his sensitivity showed how much his human heart was open to others.

School Year IC Religious Education Classes

Registration for the School Year Religious Education Class is ongoing. Registration form:

<http://www.hricatholic.org/IC-Children-s-Religious-Education>

Next Classes:

- Gr. K–8 Sunday, January 28 10:05–11:05am.
- Gr. 1–8 Monday, January 29 6:00–7:10pm.

Baptism

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

Please pre-register for the class.

Feb. 4 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm
Feb. 11 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

Confirmation monthly session is Sunday, January 28 at 1:00–3:00pm in the church. Reminder: candidate and adult (sponsor, parent, or another adult) to attend each session.

Catholic School candidates and adults—next session Sunday, February 4 at 1:00pm in the Charity Dining Room, Room 114.

For information and registration go online:

<http://www.hricatholic.org/Confirmation-Immaculate-Conception-Parish>.

First Eucharist

Information/registration for 2017–2018 First Reconciliation and Eucharist is posted on our website: <http://www.hricatholic.org/First-Eucharist-First-Reconciliation-Immaculate-Conception-Parish>. Make up Session for Tour of Church is Monday, January 29 at 5:00pm. Notify the Religious Education of your participation. Our next 1st Eucharist session for candidates and parents is Sunday, March 11 1:00–3:00pm. Walk through the Mass with Fr. George in the church.

Landings

Landings for Returning Catholics begins Tuesday, January 30 from 7:30–9:15pm at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac. If you know of anyone interested, please contact Dr. Mag McKinnon for more information 978-462-2724.

Youth Mass—January 28

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, January 28 at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac at 5:00pm. Charity: Merrimack Valley Hope Mission. Donations: Winter hats, gloves, scarves, heavy socks, gently worn jackets, and travel-size toiletries.

IC Haiti

The Father Marc Piché School had a successful fall semester. We had 206 students return and take advantage of all our health care and food program. In addition, we had 14 students continue on with 7th grade at the St. Francois secondary school in Fond-des-Blancs. We should all be very happy and proud that we were able to provide an extension of education for our students to 7th grade. This is a huge and important step with providing a full primary and secondary education for the youth of the Puit Chacha community.

This year's teacher training took place from October 30–November 3. Twenty teachers participated in the training, eight from the Chacha School and twelve from four other schools in the parish. The training focused primarily on various methods to best prepare a class as well as effective methods to teach French. The trainers started with a pre-test to determine the base level of understanding of these topics. Throughout the week, teachers used brainstorming techniques, general presentations, and practice sessions to teach training materials. A final test was then used to evaluate the changes. Many teachers' scores improved by 400% from the pre- to final test following the training. The participants were excited to have taken part and demonstrated a solid understanding of the presented material. The group expressed interest in having the same training for science and math classes in the future.

IC Haiti is grateful for the opportunity to provide an ever-improving educational program for the community of Puit Chacha. We have appealed to the parish four times a year to make this possible, and we are happy to report we are currently in a strong financial position to continue to finance the Fr. Marc Piché school as well as to support health programs provided by the Saint Boniface Hospital in Fond-des-Blanc.

A few weeks ago we received a letter from Conor Shapiro, the C.E.O. of the Saint Boniface Haiti Foundation, our partner organization in service to the people of Haiti. Here is an excerpt from his letter that we think you will find inspirational.

“Eight years ago this month disaster struck Haiti. The earthquake lasted for less than a minute, but its impacts reach to today and likely far into the future. No one in Haiti was untouched. Everyone has friends or family who were lost or injured. Everyone hurts in remembering that day. Every year, January 12th is a difficult and somber day in Haiti.

I know you stand with me in remembering those who were lost, honoring those who survived horrible ordeals during and after the disaster, and celebrating the resilient and optimistic spirit of the Haitian people who said ‘we can recover, we can move forward, we will survive and thrive again.’

So this month, let's lift up that truth about the Haiti we know, and the incredible Haitian people we are so honored to work with, side by side.”