

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



“Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Mt. 2:2



Disciples in Mission
Archdiocese of Boston

UPDATE ON OUR HRIC COLLABORATIVE PASTORAL PLAN

WHY Are We Developing a Collaborative Plan?

- to grow our parishes in membership, personal faith, and participation
- To increase vocations—particularly to the priesthood
- To enliven our faith community and enrich those we are called to serve

As we share our talents and love for God, we grow as intentional disciples of Christ.

WHAT Is in the Plan?

- Purpose: Why we exist—What is our Mission?
- Values: How we behave—What guides our decisions and actions?
- Vision: Where we feel called to be in 3 years—How our Collaborative will evolve
- Priorities: Where we focus our time and talents: Welcoming, Discipleship, Vocations, Service

We are charting the course for our Collaborative. We depend on your ideas and perspectives.

WHO Is Involved in the Planning?

- Parishioner Writing Team (25 HR IC Parishioners—largest Writing Team of Archdiocese)
- Parishioner Review Group (35 HR IC Parishioners & Staff—unique, diverse perspectives)
- Parish Council (12 HR IC Parishioners—leadership and guidance)
- Parishioners at Large: (Through surveys, town halls, contact with the Writing Team)

Parishioners are the driving force. We invite you to continue to engage and participate.

HOW and WHEN Is the Planning Work Done?

- 2016 Highlights:
 - Actions: Collected Parishioner input; formulated framework for HRIC Plan
 - Milestones: National survey; Collaborative town hall with Archdiocese
 - Deliverables: HRIC drafts submitted to Archdiocese for feedback (9/1; 12/1)
- 2017 Plans:
 - Actions: Solicit ongoing Parishioner feedback; Implementation Plan for priorities
 - Milestones: Parishioner discussion; Parish Council review; Collaborative town hall
 - Deliverables: Final HRIC Plan submitted to Cardinal Sean for approval (6/1/2017)

We are pleased with our progress to date but need to enrich the dialogue with your voice and enhance our Collaborative planning with your ideas, experience, and God-given gifts.

*“Jesus is waiting for us to be willing to serve as an instrument to help Jesus lead others to joy, peace and love in this life and the next.”
Cardinal Sean O’Malley—A New Pentecost: Inviting All to Follow Jesus*

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (1/7)

4:00pm **IC** *Norma Fagan Tenzel, Ralph Ayers, Mary Carmen Trout* (Fr. Harrison)

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

Sunday (1/8)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *For the intentions of Samuel McLachlan and Family* (Fr. McLaughlin)

10:15am **St. Ann** *Irene Mullen & Howard T. Shippen* (Fr. Harrison)

11:30am **IC** *Warren Carter, Patricia Doak, Caroline McCarthy Doyle* (Fr. Broderick)

Monday (1/9)

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

Tuesday (1/10)

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

Wednesday (1/11)

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

Thursday (1/12)

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

Friday (1/13)

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

9:00am **IC School Liturgy** *Patricia Duffy, For the intentions of Stephen D'Ambrosio* (Fr. Harrison)

Saturday (1/14)

4:00pm **IC** *Richard & Mary Shachok, Midge Duggan, Bunney Connors* (Fr. Broderick)

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

Sunday (1/15)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Jane Welch Connor* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

11:30am **IC** *Francesco Maiello, Paul Michael Doyle* (Fr. McLaughlin)

In your prayers, please remember Herbert W. Mason II, Henry C. Reslewic, Daniel S. Lynch and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Epiphany is a feast that has captured our hearts and imaginations from the earliest centuries of the Church. For many years, it was a more prominent celebration than Christmas itself, overshadowing the Nativity and focusing on the joy of Christ being made known to all the nations. It is among the richest of our festivals in its symbolism and the deep longing it conveys. There is drama, there are gifts given and received, there are the exotic magi or wise men who follow the dazzling light of a new star in the heavens... all fodder for creative speculation and wonder about these things that have occurred, piquing even the interest of a king. There are fear, wonder and joy present in abundance. There is the hand of divine guidance and the innocence of a newborn child. What is not to love about this story?!

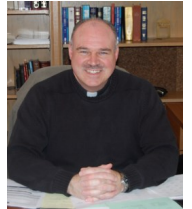
Under it all lies a theological narrative that underscores right from the beginning of Matthew's Gospel a powerful statement that the Christ was not to be a gift only to the people of Israel, but to the whole world. This good news would not, could not be contained in one nation only, even if they are God's Chosen People. Rather, all nations, all peoples, all times and places are called to rejoice in the blessings of Salvation through Jesus Christ. All were to have a share in God's Grace!

This has always been the plan from the very beginning, that all creation would enjoy the blessings of a right-relationship with God. There was to be harmony in our world, and a perfect communion of mind and heart with our Creator. All this is represented in the celebration of Epiphany, literally, a "showing around" of the light that Christ brings to the darkness of our world. One of the primary symbols that we claim in our baptism ritual is a lighted candle, that as members of the Body of Christ, we are called to bring the light of Christ's resurrection into our world and share it with others. Later in his Gospel, St. Matthew reminds us: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Mt. 5:14-16)

The challenge of Epiphany is to claim our rightful role in sharing this light with our world. We need to follow the light wherever it leads us. We need to celebrate and rejoice in the light where it rests. We need to point to the light whenever darkness threatens to overwhelm us. We must give the gift of the light to those who need to see it more clearly.

Over the past year and a half, our two parishes that make up the Holy Redeemer—Immaculate Conception Collaborative have been working intently towards the goal of growing and strengthening our collective witness

(Continued on page 4)



Bulletin Information

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our website calendar for more events and details.

www.hricatholic.org

Monday, January 9

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*

Tuesday, January 10

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*
BSA Troop 41 Committee Meeting 7:00pm, *Nativity Lower Hall*
IC Haiti Board Meeting 7:00pm, *IC Conference Room 209*
Knights of Columbus 7:30pm, *IC Nazareth Library Room 205*

Wednesday, January 11

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, *St. Ann Church Hall*
Holy Quilters 2:30pm, *Nativity Hall*
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, *IC Church*
Adoration 6:00pm, *IC St. James Chapel*
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, *IC Charity Dining Room*
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm, *IC Church*

Thursday, January 12

Rosary for Life 6:30pm, *IC St. James Chapel*
Collaborative Plan Review Meeting 7:00pm, *Nativity Hall*

Friday, January 13

Adoration 8:00am, *IC St. James Chapel*
Merrimac Cub Scouts Den Meeting 7:00pm, *Nativity Lower Hall*
AA 7:00pm, *IC Nazareth Library Room 205*

Saturday, January 14

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, *St. Ann Church*

Sunday, January 15

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, *Nativity Church*
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, *St. Ann Church*
No Religious Ed., MLK Day weekend
Baptisms 1:00pm, *IC Church*

Lenten Events

Mark your calendars for these Collaborative Lenten events.

- **2nd Annual Lenten Series & Fellowship Meals**
 Thursdays, 6:30–8:00 p.m., March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at Nativity
 Fridays, noon–1:30 p.m., March, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at IC
Presented by the Adult Faith Formation Team
- **Annual Lenten Mission**
 Sunday–Wednesday, April 2, 3, 5, 6, 7:00–8:00 p.m., at IC
Presented by former pastors & priests of our Collaborative

to the Gospel and actively seeking to welcome new members into our communities of faith. Each weekend, approximately 1300 parishioners worship at our various liturgies in the three churches that make up our Collaborative in Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury. However, more than ten (10) times that number are baptized Catholics who live within our area, and for a whole variety of reasons—some great and some small—do not worship with us regularly. While we see a percentage of them at Christmas and Easter, can you imagine how much more vibrant our faith life would be if we could welcome back even a small fraction of them? If, for example, we could reach out and successfully invite back even 5%—that would mean more than 500 additional people sharing in the Eucharist every weekend. Our masses would be full, our collections would be up, our pool of volunteers would grow, and the number of parishioners involved in our different ministries of outreach and service would increase. It would be a win-win scenario from which everyone would benefit. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World and that the Gospel message is what gives people hope for eternal life. We must find a way to share this light in an ever more effective way with our neighbors, co-workers, and friends. We must be unafraid to share it with strangers.

To this end, one of the centerpieces of the Collaborative process is the development of a local Pastoral Plan that addresses our specific needs and crafts a concrete path that we can then follow in our efforts to grow our parishes. To date, dozens of parishioners from both parishes have been involved in helping us to sketch an initial draft that went through several revisions before being submitted to the Archdiocese for comment. This spring, it will undergo further revisions based on feedback from a wide variety of parishioners and those in the Archdiocese who are involved with this process among 52 different Collaboratives like ours that have been formed so far. This weekend, a number of parishioners who are involved with our Plan Writing Team will be speaking at the conclusion of every mass within our Collaborative to give everyone an update on our progress. I would urge you to listen to their message and consider approaching them after mass, by email, or at several meetings to be held in the coming months and offer your own insights, ideas and input into this process.

I have great confidence that together, we can be effective bearers of the Light of Christ and sharers of His Gospel of life.

Happy Epiphany to all!

Fr. Tim Harrison,
 Pastor

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Please join us for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration in IC's St. James Chapel in the Parish Center on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

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.

Youth Masses

Our next Youth Mass is **Sunday, January 22 at 5:00pm** at Church of the Nativity, 4 Green Street, Merrimac. The guest speaker will be Kim Keene of the Pelican Intervention Fund. Everyone is invited to attend this Mass.

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

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

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.

Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

Pat Forbes
617-899-0424
pbfnbpt@comcast.net

Alex Hasapis
978-376-6100
alexh464@comcast.net

Rich Ryan
978-314-1094
roryan@comcast.net

Jonathan Temple
978-809-9337
jntemple@comcast.net

Dr. Margaret M. McKinnon (Dr. Mag)
978-462-2724 EXT 7405
Mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org

Charlotte Vincent
978-462-9817
pcharlie@comcast.net

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on January 8, 2017
Note January schedule change

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will **not** meet on its regular first and third Sundays in January but will meet on the second and fourth Sundays, January 8 and January 22, 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 will begin the New Year by reading and discussing *The Gospel According to Matthew*, Chapters 1 through 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.

Collaborative Contacts

Rev. Timothy Harrison, Pastor
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
info@newburyportcatholic.org,
holyredeemer@verizon.net

Rev. George E. Morin, Parochial Vicar
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
frgeorge@parishmail.com

Donald Alunni, Business Manager
978-462-2724 x 7351
dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org

Sheila Cruise, IC Receptionist, 978-462-2724 x 7403
scruise@newburyportcatholic.org

Karen Leff, Collaborative Media Outreach Coordinator,
hricbulletin@gmail.com

Sherry Pompei, HR Parish Secretary, 978-346-8604,
holyredeemer@verizon.net

Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant, 978-462-2724 x7404,
temple@newburyportcatholic.org

Let Us Hear From You

- How can we foster a welcoming community?
- How do we form disciples eager to share their love of Christ?
- How can we assist in the growth of vocations?
- How can we better serve our communities and our Collaborative?

Please join the conversation. Contact our Pastoral Plan Writing Team. We welcome your ideas and participation.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

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. Watch the bulletin for more details.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for those considering becoming Catholic as adults or youth that have not received the sacraments in the traditional years. Have you been considering it? Please contact Marin Fortune, 978-462-2724 or fortune@newburyportcatholic.org if you would like to learn more about this program.

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.

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 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 Pramuck’s *Hope Sings So Beautiful: Graced Encounters across the Color Line*. Christopher Pramuck 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@merimack.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. 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)

Questions of the Week

Adult: Following the example of the Magi, how do you persevere in following the Light of Christ in your own life?

Child: If you were one of the Magi, what gift would you bring to Jesus?

Centering Prayer

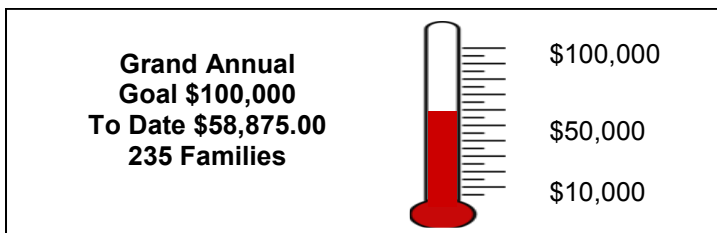
Centering Prayer, resting silently in God, facilitates the process of inner transformation. Our prayer without words is one of intention to surrender to God’s presence and action in our lives and desire for a closer relationship with God. Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00pm–7:00pm, in the IC Charity Dining Room. Please consider joining 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 or visit our website at www.hricatholic.org.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Christmas Collection	\$20,382.00
Offertory, 12-31, 1-1	\$10,411.00
Restoration	\$ 1,673.00

Today's second collection is the Monthly. Next week's second collection is for Assistance to Urban Parishes. Assistance is needed at parishes experiencing financial hardship and who struggle to sustain their mission and meet their financial obligations. Your support is needed to maintain a Catholic presence in areas where the economic realities of the parishioner base cannot fully support the expenses of a parish. This collection will help bridge the funding gap. We all share responsibility to proclaim God's Good News of Jesus Christ with all the people of the Archdiocese of Boston regardless of the parish's ability to pay. Your generous response will help sustain the vital work that occurs each day in these parishes.



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 422.00
Collection	\$ 657.50
Total	\$1079.50

Online Giving

IC Online Giving registration forms are available in the church foyer or the parish office. Contact Linda Temple, 978-462-2724 x7404 with questions.

IC Boy Scouts



Immaculate Conception charts Boy Scout Troop 21. The troop meets Sunday evenings at the Immaculate Conception School (IC) Cafeteria, Newburyport from 5:30–7:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in learning more about the troop or joining, please check out the Troop 21 website at www.nbptroop21.org. Also check out the Parish website calendar for meeting dates, www.hriccatholic.org. All faiths are welcome.

Consolers Circle Meal

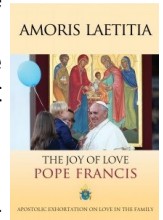
The IC community offers a light meal to families who have lost a loved one. The meal, provided by volunteers, is held in St. Louis Hall following the funeral Mass. Our hall holds up to 75 people, and there is no charge for this service. Donations are accepted. Inform the funeral director that you request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

IC 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 #72: The sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely the outward sign of a commitment. The sacrament is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses, since “their mutual belonging is a real representation, through the sacramental sign, of the same relationship between Christ and the Church. The married couple are therefore a permanent reminder for the Church of what took place on the cross; they are for one another and for their children witnesses of the salvation in which they share through the sacrament.” Marriage is a vocation, inasmuch as it is a response to a specific call to experience conjugal love as an imperfect sign of the love between Christ and the Church. Consequently, the decision to marry and to have a family ought to be fruit of a process of vocational discernment.



Religious Education Classes

- School Year Program: 1/8 and 1/9
- No Classes: MLK weekend: 1/15 and 1/16
- Grades K–6: Next classes: 1/22 and 1/23
- Grades 7–8: Next class 1/8.

Baptism

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

- Jan. 8 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00 p.m.
- Jan. 15 Group Baptism—IC Church 1:00 p.m.

Confirmation

The next Confirmation session is Sunday, January 29 from 3:00–5:00 p.m. in the Church for Years 1 and 2. The candidate and his/her sponsor, parent, or another adult are to attend the session together.

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. All are welcome. Guest Speaker: Kim Keene of the Pelican Intervention Fund. 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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Knights of Columbus



The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, January 10** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

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.

Christmas Flowers

Eric Warne, The Tarbox Family, The Reslewic Family, and The Rose Family.

Communion Calls

If you or a loved one is homebound, in the hospital, or have transitioned to a rehab/nursing facility and wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact Sandy at 978-462-4842 to arrange a home visit.

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.

Immaculate Conception School

Greetings Friends,

2017 is off and running at the Immaculate Conception School (IC). The students are rested and ready for a productive and enjoyable new year.



This year we are celebrating the IC's 135th anniversary. Our school's future is bright and its history rich....

On September 4, 1882, the Immaculate Conception School opened with 520 students under the guidance of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. The new school was located on Court Street on the site now used as the parish parking lot. The following year, 1883, saw an influx of an additional two hundred students, prompting the parish to rent two vacant public school buildings in order to accommodate the growing student body.

In 1937, the parish purchased the vacated Newburyport High School building, which was located right next to the church. The Immaculate Conception School used the facility until it was destroyed by a tragic fire on May 9, 1945. After the fire, the parish's Sacred Heart Chapel and its adjoining hall were converted to classrooms, and the IC reopened its doors the following September in a refurbished facility serving close to 400 students.

A longtime dream became a reality in 1955 when a new red-brick building, our current school, was constructed consisting of spacious classrooms, a large auditorium/gymnasium and a cafeteria. Over the years, our school has been meticulously maintained, updated, and renovated. Our pride is reflected in every square inch of our school.

Today, we accommodate pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes, and grades one through eight in a comfortable school with up-to-date technological teaching tools, including iPads and Smart Boards. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, parents, and community benefactors, we continue to make capital improvements to make the IC better every year.

Throughout the years, the heart of the Immaculate Conception School has always been the profound belief that each child is a special individual created by God and endowed with natural intelligence, curiosity, and a yearning to learn and discover. Some things will never change.

Sincerely, Mary Reardon, Principal

Upcoming Events

Open House ~ Sunday, January 29, 12:30–2 pm

Fashion Show ~ Sunday, March 5, 1–3 pm

135th Gala ~ Friday, May 19, 7–10 pm

Tuesday Tours ~ IC school tours, including classroom visits, second Tuesday of each month, 9–11 am.

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



Immaculate Conception Parish in its finery for Christmas



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Christmas Collection \$8,516.00

Today's second collection is the Catholic Charities. Next week's second collection is for Assistance to Urban Parishes. Assistance is needed at parishes experiencing financial hardship and who struggle to sustain their mission and meet their financial obligations. Your support is needed to maintain a Catholic presence in areas where the economic realities of the parishioner base cannot fully support the expenses of a parish. This collection will help bridge the funding gap. We all share responsibility to proclaim God's Good News of Jesus Christ with all the people of the Archdiocese of Boston regardless of the parish's ability to pay. Your generous response will help sustain the vital work that occurs each day in these parishes.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



The HR SVdP has recently helped two families with Market Basket gift cards and Irving gas cards. The total amount of assistance was \$200.00. Thank you for your unwavering support.

Without your help, we would be unable to assist our many clients. Please be aware that the Society is always interested in learning about used automobiles that you are getting rid of and might wish to donate; several of our clients are looking for used automobiles, as their autos have reached the end of their useful lives. Thank you for your consideration.

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

HR Prayer Shawl



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.

We would love for you to join us. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00 p.m. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. **Our next meeting is Thursday, February 2 at 1:00 p.m.**

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.hriccatholic.org.



HR Religious Education

Sunday, 1/8/17

Grades 3–6, Merrimac, 9:00–10:00 a.m.
Grade 9, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/10/17

Grade 7, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/17/17

Grade 8, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Youth Mass

Please note: Next Youth Mass is Sunday, January 22 at Merrimac at 5:00 p.m. Our offertory collection: trial size toiletries and canned goods, and of course-your weekly offering! Guest Speaker will be Kim Keene of the Pelican Intervention Fund. All ages welcome.

New Email Address

The Office of Religious Education at Holy Redeemer has a new email address. Please change it in your contacts: reledhr@gmail.com.

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 11**. Please see the Collaborative calendar at www.hriccatholic.org for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

Holy Redeemer Events

Raffle Night is held in the Spring at the Nativity Parish Hall. Those attending the evening buy raffle tickets to win a variety of items. Homemade dinners are available. Planning starts in January. The 2017 Raffle Night is tentatively planned for Saturday, April 29 from 5:00–9:00 p.m.

The Holiday Fair is a long-running tradition at Holy Redeemer. It is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving at the Nativity Hall. Gift baskets, homemade soups, silent auction items, and nearly new items are available. The 2017 Fair will be November 18 from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.