

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 1, 2017

hricatholic.org



“A man had two sons....Which of the two did his father’s will?” (from Matthew Chapter 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

Collaborative Staff

Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
info@newburyportcatholic.org,
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Rev. William McLaughlin

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St. Vincent de Paul


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

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266
joeviel@comcast.net

www.hricatholic.org

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (9/30)

4:00pm **IC** *Regina M. Stronge, Mary McInerney, Noreen Driscoll & Parents, Stephen M. Boy, John Gorman, Pamela Gorman* (Fr. Broderick)

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

Sunday (10/1)

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

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

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

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

11:30am **IC** *John M. Deneumoustier,*

William "Billy" Hill (Fr. McLaughlin)

Monday (10/2)

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

Tuesday (10/3)

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

Wednesday (10/4)

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

Thursday (10/5)

7:15am **IC** *Robert Clements Thomas, Sr.*

(Fr. Morin)

Friday (10/6)

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

10:30am **Avita** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (10/7)

2:00pm **Atria** (Fr. Broderick)

4:00pm **IC** *Rita Snow, Connie Bucci,*

Patricia Toomey (Fr. Harrison)

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

Sunday (10/8)

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

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

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

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

11:30am **IC** *Robert Filomia, Gordon P. Mitchell, Sr. and Catherine L. Mitchell* (Fr. Morin)

In your prayers, please remember Geraldine E. Quill, Christine Webster, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

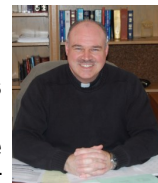
Parish offices will be closed on Monday, October 9 for the Columbus Day holiday.



Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

From the Pastor



Dear Parishioners,

The First Century hearers of this weekend's Gospel parable did not see this one coming. Culturally predisposed to value honor above all things (including God's honor), the most important thing to preserve in this story was the dignity of the father. The Italians might refer to it as "bella figura" or keeping up a good face in public. Remember, unless stated otherwise, all of these Gospel stories are presumed to take place in the public square with everyone from the town or village looking on and watching what is happening.

What was expected was that a son would always show honor and respect to his father, particularly in front of others; so to publicly say "no" to a father's legitimate request to go out and work in the vineyard would have been highly shameful and disgraceful. The villagers would have been horrified! Even if he had no intention of going out to the vineyard, the first son should have at least said yes in public, then speak with his father later and work out their differences privately. The second son acted honorably in public by agreeing with his father's request, even though he never got around to doing what was asked. This preserved everyone's honor. The fact that the work never got done was immaterial to the moment. Honor was more important.

That Jesus would have praised the first son and lifted him up, must have left more than a few in his audience scratching their heads. His point is simple: doing God's will is more important than any honor that human beings might ascribe. Even the least honorable in society—the tax collectors, prostitutes and public sinners...even they will be embraced by God ahead of others if they repent and do

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Bulletin Information

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

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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Visit our website for a full list of activities and Masses:

hricatholic.org

Monday, October 2

AA Meeting 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–8 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
HR Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory
Landings 7:15pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, October 3

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Wednesday, October 4

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 Nazareth Library Room 205
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, October 5

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel
HR Holiday Fair Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Friday, October 6

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

Saturday, October 7

Holy Quilters 8:00am, Nativity Hall
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, October 8

No Religious Ed. Classes—Columbus Day Break
Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church
Baptisms 1:00pm, IC Church

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.

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what God asks of them. It is all about repenting and doing what we are asked, not how much we might agree with or talk about doing what is asked of us. Maybe it is the difference between "liking" a post on Facebook about reaching out to hurricane victims and actually donating to a charity that really will help them.

At the end of the day, this parable must have left Jesus' audience a bit stunned and maybe re-thinking about what is most important in life. Perhaps it is also an opportunity for us to honestly assess our own follow-through when it comes to being about the things of God in our own day and age. And, as the Prophet Ezekiel reminds us, it is never too late to start.

Fall Blessings,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Virtus Class

Virtus training will be held on Wednesday, October 18 at Nativity Hall, Merrimac beginning at 6:30pm. Contact Doreen O'leary to register: reledhrp@gmail.com.

Scripture for the Week

- Sun** Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32
- Mon** Zec 8:1-8 (455)/Mt 18:1-5, 10
- Tue** Zec 8:20-23/Lk 9:51-56
- Wed** Neh 2:1-8/Lk 9:57-62
- Thu** Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Lk 10:1-12
- Fri** Bar 1:15-22/Lk 10:13-16
- Sat** Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Lk 10:17-24
- Sun** Is 5:1-7/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

Our Collaborative

Holy Redeemer: St. Ann, W. Newbury & Nativity, Merrimac



Immaculate Conception, Newburyport



Questions of the Week



Adult: Do you actually live your faith or do you merely say you will?

Child: Which son are you most like? Why?

COLLABORATIVE NEWS



Come Home! We've Missed You!

If you have been thinking about becoming more active in the Church again after a time away, we want you to join us. LANDINGS is an eight-week program that offers "a safe place to land," a place for listening and for being heard, a place for asking questions and for reconnecting with the faith as an adult. If you are interested in more information, please contact:

Dr. Mag McKinnon, IC DRE at 978-462-2724 ext. 7405 or mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org or
Mrs. Doreen O'Leary, HR DRE at 978-346-8604 ext. 7 or reledhrp@gmail.com

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.

Next Youth Mass: October 29

October 29 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

We will be collecting for Pettengill House: Items include cereal, juice and juice boxes, jelly, canned fruits, canned ravioli and Spaghetti-o's, rice, pasta sides, baking goods.

Healthy snacks for children: granola bars, Nutri-Grain bars, peanut butter and cheese crackers, pretzels with sea salt, cliff bars, graham crackers, raisins, yogurt raisins, fruit snacks, trail mix, pistachios, dried fruit snacks, cheese sticks, smart food popcorn, goldfish.

Personal Care Products: shampoo, conditioner, bathroom tissue, deodorant, soap, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Paper towels, tissues, dish detergent, laundry detergent, diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6 and Pull-Ups, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, razors.

Nutrition drinks, shakes for clients with special health needs: Boost, Ensure, Glucerna.

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.

Archdiocese Web Site

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

Collaborative Website

Visit our **Collaborative Website**, www.hriccatholic.org for up-to-date information on groups, meetings, religious ed., Mass times, and current events. See our new, expanded calendar; view our current and archived bulletins; link to other Catholic websites; or check out the updated photos section. We have so much happening.

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 Nazareth Library**. 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.

Cor Unum Ministry

Cor Unum Meal Center, located in South Lawrence at St. Patrick Church, is in need of volunteers to serve meals to the poor.

Immaculate Conception and Holy Redeemer Parishes serve breakfast to the poor of Lawrence on the first Saturday of every month. Volunteers meet in the IC parking lot at 5:00 on Saturday morning. The Center serves breakfast from 6:00am to 8:00am. If you are able to give a few hours of your time serving this meal, please contact Larry Lambert at (978) 462-4842 for further information.

Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on October 1

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on October 1 at 2:00 p.m. in the IC Parish Center, returning to its regular schedule of the first and third Sundays of the month. Interested members of the Collaborative are invited to join the study group as we read and discuss *The Acts of the Apostles*, Chapters 17 through 20. In this second book, written between 80 and 90 A.D., Luke continues the story of Christianity in the first century. These chapters focus on St. Paul's leadership and expansion of the Church to the Gentiles in Greece, Corinth, and Ephesus.



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 NEWS

Walk to Defeat ALS

ALS is a disease which recently struck very close to home in our Collaborative.

In 2016, Team Sandy finished the 3-mile course and raised significant funds in the hope of erasing ALS in our lifetime. In honor of Sandy and Larry Lambert's grace and faith in dealing with this heartbreaking ailment, please join the HRIC team of walkers on **Saturday, October 14** at Beverly High School. You can sign up as a walker, a virtual walker, and/or donor. Of our \$10,000 goal, \$6,950 has already been raised and **we need your help to exceed our goal.**



Please join us in this effort by logging on to North Shore ALS walk at <http://www.alsa.org/fight-als/>, and sign up for Team Sandy. Hope to see you on October 14. Thank you for your support and God bless.

Walk Check-in: 9:00 a.m.
Walk Starts: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Beverly High School
Distance: 3 miles



A new season of Cursillo is upon us and we are looking forward to another year of community. 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 Ultreya/Cursillo Calendar

Ultreya	Cursillo Weekend
	October 5–8 (Men)
October 27	Nov. 2–5 (Women)
December 1	December 7–10 (Men)
December 29	January 4–7 (Women)
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)

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

EWTN: Catholic News

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

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 18

The Fair Committee is underway organizing for this year's Fair. The committee needs your help in many ways. Please contact the coordinators if you can help out the Parish:

Roberta Homan (rhoman1980@aol.com) **Themed Gift Baskets:** new donated items grouped together in decorative baskets

Paula Duhamel (pduhamel2@yahoo.com) **Bake Table:** homemade goodies of all types

Carole Sokolowski (carole.sokolowski@merrimack.edu) **Silent Auction Items:** anything of value that would interest bidders

Barbara Boucher (babsnboo1@verizon.net) **Raffle Tickets:** selling tickets for our \$ raffles

Maryellen LaPointe (LaPointeMel7@gmail.com) **Nearly New:** any item that is clean and in working order

Marie Greeley (reg3@outlook.com) **Soups:** homemade soups, delivered hot the morning of the fair in a crock pot, to serve for lunch

Cindy Quinn (978-346-0072) "coordinator"

We will be having a **Fair Meeting** on **Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. in Nativity Hall.** All are invited to join in the fun!

Nearly New Table

Downsizing? Fall cleaning? Regifting?

Consider donating items to the Nearly New Table. We are looking for donations of housewares, home and holiday decor, toys, etc. Please no books, furniture, clothes, or broken items. Donation boxes will be located at both Nativity & St. Ann churches.

Merrimac Santa Parade

Holy Redeemer will be represented this year in Merrimac's Santa Parade on Sunday, December 3. The Activities Committee is organizing a float. Our float will feature the Nativity Scene. Anyone, young or old, interested in riding on the float may sign up and choose their "character." Costumes will be provided. Sign up sheet will be in Nativity Hall. **Deadline to commit** to the parade is **Sunday, November 19.**

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, October 5.**

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

September 23–24 **\$3,084.00**

Clergy Benefit Trust **\$ 954.00**

The second collection **next** weekend is the monthly.

“With One Voice” Capital Campaign

Thank you for your pledge of support! Our capital campaign is off to a great start with many families pledging their support. **To date, we have raised over \$225,876** from just about 60 families. While the support has been tremendous, we will not reach our goal without your support.

Would you please consider supporting this effort?

As you are aware, our hope is to raise \$350,000 to complete needed updates to our parish facilities. Both St. Ann Church and The Church of the Nativity have several deferred maintenance issues that need our immediate attention.

Please place your “Commitment Envelope” in the regular collection at Mass. If you forgot to bring your pledge envelope to Mass this weekend, please mail it to the parish office this week or bring it with you to Mass next weekend. Additional brochures and pledge envelopes are available at the entrances to the churches.

Coffee after Mass

Coffee and donuts are available after the 8:00 Mass on Sunday, October 1. Please stop by.



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.

IC Online Giving

Please note that Online Giving via our website is available to only Immaculate Conception parishioners at this time.

HR Boy Scouts



Holy Redeemer charts Boy Scout Troop 41. We meet Monday evenings in Nativity Hall, Merrimac from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Interested in joining? Contact scoutmaster, Mark Friend, msf4087@gmail.com. See the website calendar for dates, www.hricatholic.org. All faiths welcome.

HR Religious Education

Thanks to all who participated and helped with our Retreat Day for the Confirmation Candidates on Sunday, Sept. 24 at Merrimac. Our Team Leaders: Steve DiCamillo, Jill Dobson, Dr. Mag McKinnon, Jim O’Leary, Steve Swochak, and Michael Wendt. Also, special thanks to Dottie and Russell Carr for providing the wonderful ham dinner, salad and desserts for all!

Please keep these young people and their sponsors in your prayers as they approach the Sacrament of Confirmation to be celebrated on Saturday, October 28 at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac.

Tuesday, Oct. 10: Grade 7 class, Nativity Hall, 6–7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 14: Activity Day for our 1st Graders, Merrimac Hall, 1:00–3:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 15: Grades 3–6 class Nativity Hall, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Grade 9 class, Nativity Hall, 6:00–7:30 p.m. Jaymie Stuart Wolfe will be our speaker, parents are invited to attend.

Wednesday, Oct. 18: VIRTUS training for all new volunteers working with our children, Nativity Hall, 6:30 p.m. Email Doreen: reledhrp@gmail.com if you plan to attend this session.

Sunday, Oct. 22: Grades 3–6 class at Nativity Hall, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Grade 2 (First Penance students) at Nativity Church 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Grade 9 class at Nativity Hall, 6:00–7:30 p.m. with Fr. George

Tuesday, Oct. 24: Grade 7 class at Nativity Hall, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 25, Confirmation Rehearsal at Nativity Church, Merrimac at 7:00 p.m. for all candidates and their sponsors (if possible), or a parent. The candidates will pick up their rental robe that evening. **All must attend this rehearsal.**

Thursday Oct. 26, Grade 7 Sandwich Making Evening for Merrimack Valley Hope Mission. We’ll begin at 6:30 p.m. in the hall/kitchen in Merrimac.

Saturday, Oct. 28: Confirmation at 1:00 p.m. (dedicated Mass) and also at the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Robert Hennessey.

Sunday, Oct. 29: Grades 3–6 class at Nativity Hall, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Youth Mass at 5:00 p.m. at IC. Your regular monetary gift and also offertory collection for Pettengill House: Most needed: Personal care products, such as shampoo, conditioner, bathroom tissue, deodorant, soap, body wash, paper towels, Kleenex, dish detergent, larger size diapers (sizes 4,5,6, and Pull-Ups), baby-wipes, feminine hygiene products, razors. Also needed nutrition drinks/shakes for clients with special health needs: Boost, Ensure, and Glucerna.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

September 16–17 \$10,106.00
Clergy Benefit Trust \$ 2,067.00

The second collection next weekend is the monthly.

2017 Grand Annual

This week a special Grand Annual letter from Father Harrison will be mailed to all registered parishioners. Included will be a pledge card to assist in making your annual gift. You may mail it back to the parish office or place it in the collection at Mass on **October 14 and 15**. Additional pledge cards will be available next weekend.

Can we surpass last year's success?

Last year, we raised over \$75,000 through the Grand Annual. Our hope is that we can surpass this success and raise a minimum of \$100,000 to keep our parish financially sound. If possible, we ask you to consider a pledge of \$350 or more. This could be done with 2 monthly payments of \$175 each. Some have the ability to do much more and some less. We ask only that you give to the best of your ability.

We truly appreciate any assistance you can give. We understand that some households face financial difficulties. We are counting on the many who are able to support our parish in the 2017 Grand Annual drive, at any level of giving. Thank you for your generous support.

Offertory Renewal Program

Thank you to all those participating in our recent Increased Offertory Renewal Appeal. The results are extremely positive with many families participating by returning a Commitment Card. It is not too late to participate. There are additional materials in the church. Please return your "Commitment Card" as soon as possible by mail or place it in the collection at Mass next weekend. Your participation in this effort helps our parish meet our growing financial obligations. Please consider a new giving level that is best suited to your circumstances. This will allow our parish to plan accurately for the future.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection \$ 0.00
Poor Box \$277.00
Total \$277.00

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.

Immaculate Conception School

As a Catholic school educator, it is extremely rewarding to be able to help children put life's challenges into perspective and assure them that challenges are God's way of making them stronger. I feel very blessed but also obligated to be able to share the struggles I endured as a child as a way of validating their feelings while inspiring them to never give up. For all of my childhood, I was an underachieving student, which often frustrated my teachers, despite the fact that I was trying as hard as I could. I was also very overweight. In the fall of my sophomore year in college, after a painful freshman year of barely making passing grades, I started jogging. At first I could barely run to the end of the parking lot outside my dorm room. Determined, I forced myself back out there everyday, running one more tree each time, with tears streaming down my face because it was so hard to do. It wasn't long before I was running 5 miles a day and earning almost straight A's. Running changed the trajectory of my life, and started me on a path of mental strength that I still find astonishing. I recently shared this story with my students. Perhaps it made an impact—our Cross Country Team grew by 15 students this year. The IC is well represented by 45 eager and determined runners, each focused on reaching a personal best. I'm proud of our students for challenging themselves. They will grow stronger in body and mind and possibly astonish themselves at their own accomplishments.



Joan Fowler Sullivan, Principal



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, hricatholic.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.

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.

Love endures all things. In #121: Marriage is a precious sign, for “when a man and a woman celebrate the sacrament of marriage, God is, as it were, ‘mirrored’ in them; he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love. Marriage is the icon of God’s love for us. Indeed, God is also communion: the three Persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit live eternally in perfect unity. And this is precisely the mystery of marriage: God makes of the two spouses one single existence”. This has concrete daily consequences, because the spouses, “in virtue of the sacrament, are invested with a true and proper mission, so that, starting with the simple ordinary things of life they can make visible the love with which Christ loves his Church and continues to give his life for her.”

School Year IC Religious Education Classes

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

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

Religious Education has begun. You are welcome to register your child. Make up materials can be provided by the catechists for missed lessons.

Classes this week:

- Gr K–8 Sunday, October 1 10:05–11:05am and **no class October 8.**
- Gr 1–8 Monday, October 2 6:00–7:10pm and **no class October 9.**

Baptism

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

Please pre-register for the class.

Oct. 1	Parent Class—Charity Dining Room	1:00pm
Oct. 8	Group Baptism—Church	1:00pm

Confirmation

Confirmation Parent Orientation has been completed. If your family is new to Confirmation, please email or call Dr. Mag McKinnon for a review of the process.

School Year Confirmation monthly sessions begin Sunday, October 22 at 1:00–3:00pm in the IC church. Reminder: candidate and adult (sponsor, parent, or another adult) to attend each session.

For information and registration go online:

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

First Eucharist

Information/registrations for 2017–2018 First Reconciliation and Eucharist is posted on our website: <http://www.hriccatholic.org/First-Eucharist-First-Reconciliation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish>. Please register by Friday, September 29.

Landings

Landings session for Returning Catholics is Monday, Oct. 2 from 7:15–9:00pm in the Charity Dining Room 114.

Youth Mass—Sunday, October 29

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, October 29 at Immaculate Conception at 5:00pm. Charity: Pettingill House.

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.

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 provides tranquility and peacefulness at those difficult times that we all are faced with. Please visit the parish cemetery and you will find the cemetery to be well-managed and maintained. Cemetery plots are available for full-body and cremated remains burials in any denomination. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent at 978-208-0266 to schedule an appointment.

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.

Thank You

Dear Church Members,

Please accept our sincere thanks for your annual collection of back-to-school socks and underwear for the children of our clients. 125 packages were collected, which benefited so many of our local children. We are grateful for the time and effort you put into this very generous donation.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated by our clients and their children and by all of us at Community Service.

A very special thanks to all the ladies who came by with your donations.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Cameron,

General Secretary, Newburyport Community Service, Inc.

Knights of Columbus

The next meeting of the Knights of Columbus is **Tuesday, October 10** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

