

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

**SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY**

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**October 16, 2016**

**[hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org)**



*All Are Welcome*

Disciples in Mission



TIRED BUT ENERGIZED

By Susan Abbott, Coordinator of Parish Outreach for the Archdiocese of Boston's Office of Pastoral Planning

Duplicated, with permission, from *The Pilot*, Friday, October 07, 2016

*Rich admitted to having a bit of a "Star Wars" moment when Father Harrison asked him to lead the project.*

*When Rich questioned what was involved and how to proceed, Father Harrison replied, "Let the Spirit be with you!"*



Susan Abbott

The Phase III collaborative of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Catholic Parishes (HRIC) serves the towns of Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury. Recently, Father Timothy Harrison, pastor, invited parishioners to a Collaborative Town Hall meeting with representatives from the archdiocese. Pre-meeting advertising promised "an interactive presentation and discussion on Disciples in Mission and the collaborative planning process....The Archdiocese Pastoral Planning Office and HRIC's Pastoral Plan Writing Team welcome the chance to hear your thoughts, concerns, and ideas for growing together as a community on our faith journey. Don't miss this opportunity to ask questions and to help our HRIC Collaborative benefit from your ideas, your experience, and your God-given gifts."

This description of the meeting shows the enthusiasm and openness of this collaborative's staff, writing team, and key volunteers. The meeting was all that the flyer promised with a good flow of ideas and comments back and forth.



Fr. Tim (left) & Patrick Krisak (right, seated)

Father Harrison opened the meeting with the Prayer for the New Evangelization. After presentations from archdiocesan staff about Disciples in Mission and evangelizing parishes, Father Harrison reviewed key findings from the Disciple Maker Index (DMI), the survey that parishioners were invited to take earlier this year. With graphs on the screen, he highlighted the areas in which the parish was doing very well, and the areas that "we need to pay attention to." Results show where the parishes fall compared to similar size, suburban parishes, to participating parishes in this archdiocese, and to participating parishes across the country. The HRIC Writing Team had factored this information into their discussions of priorities to include in their Local Pastoral Plan (LPP).

Father Harrison spoke with admiration and gratitude for the

work that the writing team has done. Describing the evening meetings, he admitted that even when he was dead tired at the beginning of the meeting, the dedication and perseverance of the team energized him. He presented the four priorities that the team has named and encouraged parishioners to review them. The writing team has taken up the Planning Office's encouragement to be creative. The audience chuckled when Father Harrison said, "We sometimes color outside the lines."

Father Harrison asked Rich Ryan, coordinator and member of the writing team to speak about the writing process. Rich admitted to having a bit of a "Star Wars" moment when Father Harrison asked him to lead the project. When Rich questioned what was involved and how to proceed, Father Harrison replied, "Let the Spirit be with you!"



Rich Ryan

The HRIC Writing Team is the largest team that Disciples in Mission has worked with. The recommendation is that a team have 10 to 12 members, but in Phase III, the HRIC team has twice the recommended number, and another collaborative has a team of five, half of what is recommended. (Both teams are doing great work.) Rich told the large gathering: "We don't have all the answers, we're just beginning." He described the composition of the team, including archdiocesan staff and consultants, and quickly added, "The writing team is your neighbors." Speaking about the draft, he said, "We've built a foundation to our house, now we have to really start building the house. It's a living document that we're working on." He encouraged attendees to take the handout with names of the writing team, "The more input from you, the better job we'll do."

The question and answer period showed the interest of parishioners. One person is taking Father Harrison up on his offer to review the complete report from the DMI survey. Another commented that many people in the parish want to do things and get involved, saying, "We need to find what different people are comfortable with, then we put people together." A couple, in the collaborative just one year, congratulated Father Harrison on the life of the parish, today, and the great potential that exists going forward.

The collaborative knows the importance of good communication and has added Karen Leff, to the staff as Coordinator of Media Outreach.

The Town Hall was well attended and well organized, thanks to the great work of Charlotte Vincent and Pat Forbes, writing team members of the communication sub-committee. At the close of the meeting they encouraged parishioners "to continue to talk to us.... Communication must be two way: You hear from us and we want to hear from you. We have an enormous opportunity to participate in an amazing evangelizing collaborative."



Charlotte & Pat

The ingredients for an exciting local pastoral plan—prayer, energy, enthusiasm, and creativity—are all in place.

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (10/15)

4:00pm **IC** *George & Veronica Blaikie, Hank & JeanMarie Caron, Florence Boschetti, John E. & Katherine Doyle Kelley, Louis Paul Dubuc, Michael Harrington Sr., Michael Harrington Jr.*

(Fr. Broderick)

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

### Sunday (10/16)

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

8:00am **Nativity** *John R. Minihan, Norman W. Armstrong* (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** *Mass of Thanksgiving for Rochelle Rose, Eleanor Rose* (Fr. Morin)

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

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

### Monday (10/17)

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

### Tuesday (10/18)

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

### Wednesday (10/19)

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

### Thursday (10/20)

7:15am **IC** *Robert W. Cynewski* (Fr. Morin)

### Friday (10/21)

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

### Saturday (10/22)

4:00pm **IC** *Charlotte McLaughlin, Brian Sullivan* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

### Sunday (10/23)

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

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

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

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

11:30am **IC** *Gordon McLachlan* (Fr. Harrison)

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

In your prayers, please remember George J. Lawrence, Joseph F. Callery, Jr., and all the faithful departed.

**The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.**

**IC**—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

**Nativity**—Merrimac

**St. Ann**—West Newbury

## Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Training Sessions

Our monthly Sunday 5:00pm Youth Masses have returned. We are seeking excellent readers (grade 5 and older) to become Lectors and confirmed teens and adults to be Extraordinary Ministers of Communion from Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception parishes.

Training provided: First 45 minutes: Lectors. Last 45 minutes: EMCs. Please contact Dr. Mag if interested.

**October 23** 1:00–2:30pm Church of the Nativity, Merrimac

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Recently I was invited to contribute to the local newspaper's "In the Spirit" column that appears on most Saturday mornings. This weekly column has been in existence for many years now and is rotated among clergy of different denominations in our area. Below is the text of my most recent submission that appeared in last week's paper, in case any of you may have missed it. I hope it is helpful in some way as we all get ready to head to the polls:



*As people of faith, it can seem that this fall more than others, we are faced with a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" set of choices when it comes to the impending November elections. I would like to suggest a path that might allow us to go to the polls with confidence and still maintain our hope to get to heaven one day.*

*As a Catholic Christian and citizen of this country, I believe we all have a moral duty to participate in our government and its electoral process. We are greatly privileged to have a democratically elected government that enables "We the People" to have a say in what happens in our nation and, by extension, our world. Many billions of good-willed people over the centuries have longed for what we so often take for granted. Although grotesquely imperfect, we have an opportunity in this time and place to make our voices heard. Let's not squander it or throw it away. But let's not allow our participation in it to jeopardize our eternal future with God, either!*

*What I propose as a path of grace through the political minefield of this process is the inestimable gift of a well-formed human conscience. Our conscience is that place within us where we are our truest self before God and the world. The Catholic Church's Catechism invites us to consider that our conscience is our most secret core and sanctuary. There we are alone with God, whose voice echoes in our depths. (See CCC #1776) When we listen to our conscience, in prudence, we can hear God speaking. We must always obey our conscience. It is sinful to do otherwise knowingly.*

*That much being said, we also have a serious duty to form our conscience well. This process accompanies us through every stage of our lives. Properly forming our conscience involves actively bringing the many voices of goodness and reason to bear in our hearts where they may interact and coalesce. We use our God-given gift of reason to study and think through the many complex issues and situations we face. We reflect on our own experiences and knowledge from life. We engage our thoughtful neighbors, friends and family members in conversations about what is good and right. We spend time pondering God's Word in the Sacred Scriptures. We consider the teachings of our Church—the fruit of many centuries of thought. And then, most importantly, we spend time ourselves in serious prayer considering all of the above. Even if you haven't found*

*(Continued on page 4)*

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## This Week in Our Collaborative

Visit our website for details on these and other events.

### Monday, October 17

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  
 Cub Scouts Troop 41 Pack Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall  
 VIRTUS Training 7:00pm, St. Ann Church Hall

### Tuesday, October 18

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209  
 Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
 Plan Writing Session 6:00pm, Nativity Hall  
 HR Holiday Fair Meeting, 6:45pm, St. Ann Church Hall  
 IC Knights of Columbus Assembly 391 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library, Rm 205

### Wednesday, October 19

Holy Quilters 3:00pm, 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, October 20

HR Holiday Fair Mailing Preparation 3:00pm, Nativity Hall  
 Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

### Friday, October 21

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

### Saturday, October 22

Holy Quilters 8:00am, Nativity Hall

### Sunday, October 23

HR Religious Ed., Grades 3–6 9:00am, Nativity Hall  
 IC Religious Ed., Grades K–6 10:05am, IC Parish Center  
 Youth Mass Lector & EMC Training 1:00pm, Nativity Church  
 Baptisms 1:00pm, IC Church  
 IC Religious Ed., Confirmation, Years 1&2 3:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

(Continued from page 3)

yourself praying every day, it is not too late to begin. Seek God's voice with a humble heart and God will bless the effort. And then, when all is said and done, we follow the clarity of our inner voice, trusting that in the goodness that is there, God will work through our choices. Again, from the Catechism: "A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator." (CCC #1783)

A few final thoughts: we must never choose evil that good may come from it. The Golden Rule is always relevant, "Do unto others that which you would have them do unto you." Finally, even if we find personal freedom in a particular situation, we must never act so as to cause another to falter.

Choices this November may be difficult, but they need not cause us to surrender our integrity or eternal life with God. Let us use our conscience well and make the best choices for our country and future.

May God bless and guide all of us in the weeks ahead!

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

## Collaborative Pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston



Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has encouraged all Catholics to go on a pilgrimage during the course of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. While most people around the world will not be able to make a pilgrimage to Rome, the Holy Father has extended the grace of the pilgrimage experience to each diocese. See [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org) Jubilee Year of Mercy for more information.

Our Holy Redeemer/Immaculate Conception Collaborative will host a day of pilgrimage to Boston on **Saturday, November 12**. Crossing the threshold of the Pope-blessed Door of Mercy, attending Mass, prayer, and a guided tour of the Cathedral will take place.

Bus transportation will be provided. Please come along.

**Departure:** IC parking lot 7:30am **Return:** 1:30pm

**Cost:** \$10 per person (47 seat maximum)

**Reservation Deadline** November 7, 2016

Sign up by phone or email. Call Mary 978-465-8779  
[csbraggjr@comcast.net](mailto:csbraggjr@comcast.net)

## Scripture for the Week

16	Sun	Ex 17:8-13/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8
17	Mon	Eph 2:1-10/Lk 12:13-21
18	Tue	2 Tm 4:10-17b/Lk 10:1-9
19	Wed	Eph 3:2-12/Lk 12:39-48
20	Thu	Eph 3:14-21/Lk 12:49-53
21	Fri	Eph 4:1-6/Lk 12:54-59
22	Sat	Eph 4:7-16/Lk 13:1-9
23	Sun	Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14

## RCIA

RCIA is a program for those over the age of 7 who wish to become Catholic. RCIA meets weekly at 10:15 in the Youth Ministry Room at the IC Parish Center. If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact Marin at 978-462-2724 ext. 7411 or email [fortune@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:fortune@newburyportcatholic.org).

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### Adult Education and Faith Formation Program

Voice of the Faithful North Shore—Seacoast Affiliate  
Presents

***The Catholic Voter in a Major Election Year***  
**Reverend Kenneth R. Himes, O.F.M., Ph.D.**

*Professor, Boston College Department of Theology*

Father Kenneth Himes will speak about *The Catholic Voter in a Major Election Year*, on **Sunday, October 23, 2:00–4:00pm** at Our Lady of Hope Church Hall, 1 Pineswamp Rd., Ipswich, MA. This presentation is sponsored by the VOTF North Shore—Seacoast Affiliate in collaboration with Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Vatican II's "Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World" encouraged believers to read the "signs of the times" in order to discern where God is to be found in the world and how we are to respond. The electoral season can be read as revealing a number of significant social issues that ought to be considered as Catholic citizens go to the voting booths.

Kenneth R. Himes, OFM, is a member of the Department of Theology at Boston College and a past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. He is a Franciscan friar and Catholic priest. Awarded a Ph.D. from Duke University in religion and public policy, he has a special interest in the area of Catholic social teaching and the role of the Church in American public life. He authored three books, edited two, and wrote more than 75 essays. Father Himes is a well-known speaker whose 2012 presentation before our group on "*Being a Responsible Catholic Voter*" was outstanding. He also served as a mentor to our planning committee for many years.

*Directions to Our Lady of Hope Church Hall: From the North:* Rt. 1 South from Newburyport and turn left at Linebrook Rd. traffic light (first light after Agawam Diner). Proceed 3.5 miles to Church, on the right. **Or,** Rt. I-95S to Exit 54A. Follow Rt. 133 East to traffic lights in Rowley. Turn right onto Rt. 1S. (Agawam Diner will be on your right.) Take left at next traffic light onto Linebrook Rd. Follow Linebrook Rd. 3.5 miles to Church on the right.

### Youth Masses

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, October 23 at 5:00pm at Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green St., Newburyport. Please consider donations of scarves, hats, gloves, heavy socks, etc. for children and adults in need as we prepare for winter. Everyone is invited.

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

October 23	Immaculate Conception
December 11	Immaculate Conception (Service learning experience after Mass until 7:30pm in St. Louis Hall for grades 7–12.)
January 22	Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity
March 12	Immaculate Conception
April 2	Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity
May 7	Immaculate Conception

### Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study Will Meet on October 16

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on its regular third Sunday of the month on October 16 at 2:00pm in the IC Parish Center. We will be reading and discussing Chapters 52 through 56 in *The Book of Isaiah*, completing the section known as The Book of Consolation. The Book of Consolation is generally attributed to an anonymous poet who prophesied toward the end of the Babylonian exile and contains the great messianic oracles known as the Suffering Servant songs. Chapter 56 begins Part III, Return of the First Captives, which contains oracles from a later period, composed by disciples who continued the work of the great prophet.

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.



### Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all those who walked, worked and donated to our "Walk for the Poor" on September 24. Due to your generosity, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at both Holy Redeemer Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish received close to \$15,000. The money will be used to help us respond to the requests for assistance from residents of Newburyport, Newbury, Merrimac, and West Newbury. Frequent requests are for rent, food cards, gasoline cards, car repairs, medical bills, heating oil, and mortgage payments. We are so grateful to all those who donated their time and treasure so that we will be able to help all those who come to us for assistance.

*Thank You for Helping Us Help Others!*



### VIRTUS Training

On Monday, October 17 we will offer VIRTUS training for all adult volunteers in our parishes who are helping with our programs involving youth. The session will begin at 7:00pm in the downstairs hall at St. Ann Church in West Newbury. If you plan to attend, please call Doreen O'Leary at 978-346-8604. Ext. 7 and leave a message.

# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Offertory Collection

This week's second collection is for Hurricane Matthew relief.

Next week's second collection supports Catholic World Missions. By Baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church and share their faith as missionaries. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelization programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society. Visit [www.propfaithboston.org](http://www.propfaithboston.org) for more information.

## Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 19, 2016, 9:00am–2:00pm

Please mark your calendars. We will be holding our annual Holiday Fair in the Parish Hall in Merrimac. As always, it is the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Please plan on attending. Invite your friends and neighbors. You can get a jump on Christmas shopping or come enjoy lunch: a selection of homemade soups.

The committee is always looking for new ideas and new helpers. Please contact the committee leaders if you can lend a hand.

**Gift Baskets**, Roberta Homan, [rhoman1980@aol.com](mailto:rhoman1980@aol.com), 978-346-9448 (We need large or small; 3, 4, or 5 like items grouped together)

**Soups**, Susan MacLeod, [smac01860@aol.com](mailto:smac01860@aol.com), 978-346-4586 (15 homemade soups are needed for lunch)

**Baked Goods**, Leona Preble, 978-363-2218 and MaryAnn Mikson, [Mmikson@comcast.net](mailto:Mmikson@comcast.net), 978-994-021 (Individually wrapped goodies sell best)

**Raffle Tickets**, Helen Kelley, [HVKTax@aol.com](mailto:HVKTax@aol.com), 978-771-4673, (Available after Masses beginning 10–29)

**Nearly New**, Stefania Zak, [harvey.ing@verizon.net](mailto:harvey.ing@verizon.net), 978-363-2472 and MaryEllen LaPointe,

[LaPointeMel7@gmail.com](mailto:LaPointeMel7@gmail.com), 978-363-5359, (Do you have hidden treasures tucked away?)

**Silent Auction**, Carole and Tony Sokolowski, [carole.sokolowski@merrimack.edu](mailto:carole.sokolowski@merrimack.edu), 978-346-9031, (Large or small items, services, tickets, gift certificates)

## Preparing for the Christmas Season

Coming soon in the back of both churches will be a *Nativity Scene Wish List*. Both churches need updated **Outside** Nativity figurines. There will be tags (with prices) for each figurine that needs to be purchased. Our hope is that families will purchase a figurine.

All you need to do is remove the desired tag, write a check for the specified amount of the figurine, and return the check in an envelope marked "Nativity Scene." Tags need to be returned by Sunday, November 6 to have delivery for the Advent season.

## HR Religious Education

Sunday, 10/16, **Grades 3–6** classes, Merrimac following the 8:00am Mass

**Grade 9** class, Merrimac 6-7:30pm

Monday, 10/17 **VIRTUS training** for all adult volunteers in our parishes who are helping with our programs involving youth. The session will begin at 7:00pm in the hall at St. Ann Church in W. Newbury. If you plan to attend, please call Doreen O'Leary at 978-346-8604. Ext.7 and leave a message.

Sunday, 10/23 **Grades 3-6** classes, Merrimac following the 8:00am Mass

**Eucharistic Minister and Lector training**, Merrimac 1–2:30pm. First 45 minutes is for youth (grades 5 and up) to become Lectors at our Youth Masses, the last 45 minutes of training session is for Confirmed youth to become Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. Youth from both Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception parishes are encouraged to attend. See you on the 23rd.

Tuesday, 10/25 **Grade 8** class, Merrimac 6-7:30pm

Congratulations to our students Confirmed on Sunday, October 9, 2016: Michael Armao, Danielle Arsenault, Jason Attili, James Brooks, Chris Burak, Nathan Burgess, Chris Capo, James Caulfield, Ethan Cruz, Rachael Drislane, Olivia Edic, Noah Fitzgerald, Sarah Freeman, Emily Giampa, Aisling Gigandet, Ashlyn Haley, Nathan Heusser, Gabriel Mailhot, Liam McDonough, Duncan McNeil, Connor Mokrzycki, Christine Nelson, Steven O'Connor, Coragh O'Friel, Laurel Omasta, Haley Palermo, Francesca Ragonese, Trevor Roy, Kelsey Shain, Nicholas Sheehan, Belle Smith, Austin Trim, Katherine Townsend, Nicholas Vecchi, Autumn West, Brandon Wilbur, and Christopher Yates. Many blessings to each of you as you continue on your journey of faith. God bless!

## Fair Mailing Help Needed



The Fair committee is looking for volunteers to prepare the Fair mailing on **Thursday, October 20** at 3:00pm in the parish hall in Merrimac. This could take 1–2 hours depending on number of volunteers. It is also a great opportunity for Confirmation candidates to earn hours. Hope to see you there! Any questions call Helen Kelley, 968-771-4673 or email [HVKTax@aol.com](mailto:HVKTax@aol.com).

## Fair Meeting

Please join us for the next fair planning meeting on **Tuesday, October 18** at Saint Ann Hall, West Newbury. The meeting starts at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

## HR Prayer Shawl

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, November 3**.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Offertory October 8–9 **\$10743.00**  
 Monthly **\$1638.00**

This week's second collection is for Hurricane Matthew relief. There will be two opportunities to donate this weekend. If you would like to donate to **The Cardinal's** request for Hurricane relief checks should be made payable to **Immaculate Conception**.

You can also donate to **IC Haiti** hurricane relief. Those checks should be made payable to **IC-Haiti**. Please see article on right for more details.

Next week's second collection supports Catholic World Missions. By Baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church and share their faith as missionaries. World Mission Sunday gathers support for the pastoral and evangelization programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society. Visit [www.propfaithboston.org](http://www.propfaithboston.org) for more information.

We are moving the restoration/renovation collection to the end of the month (October 30).

## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 261.00
Collection	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 261.00</b>

## Online Giving

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

## New England Tenors

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Immaculate Conception will sponsor an upcoming concert. The New England Tenors will be performing at IC church on Sunday, November 27. Don't miss these talented tenors. As in past years, they will be sharing the program with some of our IC choirs. Hopefully we will have some surprise guests joining the choirs.

Tickets will be on sale in early November. Make plans to begin the Advent/Christmas season with joyful harmony.



## ICHaiti Needs Your Help

**We need \$10,000 in 2 Weeks**



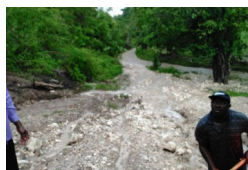
Hurricane Matthew has hit the Southern department of Haiti—the same area where the Fr. Marc Piché school is located. The UN has said that this is the worst humanitarian disaster in Haiti since the 2010 earthquakes.

Damage is dramatic and severe. Roofs have been torn off of homes; what roads there were have flooded; the main bridge which connected the area to the road leading to Port-au-Prince has been washed away, leaving the entire region cut off from immediate access to clean food or water. In Les Anglais, a coastal town slightly to the west of Puit Chacha, only 82 homes remain for the 40,000 residents.



The Fr. Marc Piché School in Puit Chacha provided sound shelter for many members of the community who were without it during the storm, for which we are incredibly grateful. But the school has been damaged—we don't yet know to what extent—food is currently unavailable, homes destroyed, and the devastation in the area will take tremendous time, effort, and funds to repair.

In addition to help with infrastructure repairs, it will take a major recovery effort to ensure the health of the Puit Chacha families. Cholera is already on the rise. Cholera is not fatal—or even difficult to treat—if clean water can be provided; but the roads to the hospital have been destroyed. Starvation is a terrible reality: all of the fields and gardens have been lost, and the usual supply routes are cut off. Many communities are totally isolated.



We are asking your help to do what we can for the community in Puit Chacha. We are raising emergency funds to directly support the hurricane recovery efforts. This is in addition to the funds that will be required to keep the school operating and the feeding program going—which is even more important during this chaotic time. We have set an aggressive \$10,000 goal over the next two weeks. We can do it—we must do it—and it will make a real difference. \$10,000 represents clean water, food, and significant infrastructure repair. We will send whatever funds we raise directly to Haiti to help with the most pressing needs of the community. The need is urgent. We have already raised almost \$2,000 through the school community and our social media channels —\$8,000 more to go.

Please take part in the IC-Haiti raffle for the beautiful quilt created by parishioner Carol Robertson. Please consider making a larger donation of any amount by writing a check to IC-Haiti. Donations may also be made through PayPal by using the "donate" button on IC-Haiti's website, [ichaiti.org](http://ichaiti.org). Every dollar counts during this critical time—the community of Puit Chacha counts on us. It is our privilege and our responsibility to do everything we can.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Knitting Ministry



We meet every Tuesday from 1:00–3:00pm at the IC Parish Center, Room 209 to knit prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves. We bring prayers and hope to people who are sick and their caregivers and to celebrate happy occasions. We have 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.

## Consolers Circle Meal

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

## The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends of Greater Newburyport supports families after a child dies—any age/cause. Our normal October support meeting will be held as usual on the 4th Monday, **October 24 at 7:30pm** in room 209 of the IC Parish Center. For more information, please contact Barbara Hopkinson at [barhop@comcast.net](mailto:barhop@comcast.net) or 978-697-1349. Barbara's grief resources can also be seen at <http://abutterflysjourney.org>.

TCF of Greater Newburyport is a non-profit organization, donations (to PO Box 872, Newburyport, MA 01950) are tax deductible. National website:

[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)

## 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](mailto:sandbunnyc@yahoo.com).

## 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. For information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483 or see our website.

## IC Religious Education

Pope Francis released the Exhortation on the Family. In #50: In many cases, parents come home exhausted, not wanting to talk, and many families no longer even share a common meal. Distractions abound, including an addiction to television. This makes it all the more difficult for parents to hand on the faith to their children...the effect of severe stress on families, who often seem more caught up with securing their future than with enjoying the present. This is a broader cultural problem, aggravated by fears about steady employment, finances and the future of children.

### Religious Education Classes

School Year Registration is ongoing. Classes: Oct 16 & 17.

Grades K–6: Next classes: 10/23 & 10/24.

Grades 7–8: Next class: 10/16.

### Baptism

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

Nov. 6 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm

Nov. 13 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

### Confirmation

The Confirmation process begins Sunday, 10/23 from 3–5pm in the Church for Years 1 & 2. The candidate & his/her sponsor, parent or another adult must attend the session.

### Bury the Dead

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Ps 116: 15).

Have you ever buried someone you deeply care about? What if you couldn't do that? What if you couldn't honor those you love? What if you couldn't have that closure? It is a great act of mercy to bury the dead and show reverence for them at their grave site.

### Mother Olga Yaqob...Hopeful Mercy

Through my ministry with young people, I have come to witness a different kind of death and grief—a spiritual one. Today we find in our culture many people who are spiritually poor and, unfortunately at times, perhaps even spiritually dead. The effects of sin and ignorance on faith and morality can be very dangerous to the lives of individuals, leading to confusion and poor choices, which harm the soul. Unfortunately we all know families and individuals who have been impacted by such darkness and loss. Here, too, I find my way to Calvary, through the spiritual works of mercy of instructing the ignorant, comforting the afflicted, and helping those who might have been at the edge of spiritual death to come back to life and allow themselves to be found by God, who is not only the source of life but also the giver of grace for those who seek new birth in Christ through the sacrament of his mercy. I have seen the birth of such life in young women who came to the fountain of mercy after suffering from abortion and in young men who came seeking healing after being wounded in the darkness of pornography and addiction.

Yes, it is painful to be at Calvary, yet because there I meet Jesus, the one who is the life and Resurrection, even when I'm there to bury the dead or walk with those who are spiritually dead, I stand there with hope, to carry hope, and to pass on hope. (*Beautiful Mercy: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love so we can share it with Others*, Dynamic Catholic, pp. 73, 78).



# AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

## Catholic High School Open Houses

### Bishop Fenwick

Please join the students and faculty at our Open House on Sunday, October 23, from 11:30–1:00 and Wednesday, November 16, from 6:30–8:30.

Fenwick: where opportunity and achievement meet. Visit our website at [www.Fenwick.org](http://www.Fenwick.org).

### Central Catholic

Prospective students and families have the opportunity to explore Central Catholic High School, Lawrence at an open house on Sunday, October 30, from 12:30–4:00. Visit or call [www.centralcatholic.net](http://www.centralcatholic.net), 978-682-0260 ext. 612.

### St. Thomas Aquinas

There is no one more special, more treasured than a child and, at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, we not only recognize that fact, *we celebrate it*.

On Sunday, October 23 at 1pm and on Monday, October 24 at 7pm, St. Thomas Aquinas High School will host Open Houses. To learn more about the St. Thomas Aquinas journey, please visit: [www.stalux.org/welcomehome](http://www.stalux.org/welcomehome).

### BC High

BC High, a college prep school for boys in grades 7–12, will host an Open House on Sunday, October 23 from 12:00–3:00pm. Registration is required prior to this event. Please visit [www.bchigh.edu/admission/visit](http://www.bchigh.edu/admission/visit).

## Moments of Mercy

From: *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (usccb.org)*

This Jubilee of Mercy is not the first time that Pope Francis has emphasized the need for the faithful to live their lives in a witness to the mercy of God. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, or The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis highlights the connection between mercy and continually spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in our everyday lives. In paragraph 24 of *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Church is called to be “missionary disciples” as an “evangelizing community” seeking “to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father’s infinite mercy” (EG, no. 24). Our faith is not our own; it is ours as members of the Body of Christ, who continually testify to the truth of the Gospel through all of our actions. Just as mercy is an overarching theme for Pope Francis’s pontificate and his life, we are all called to make mercy the theme of our life.

1. Throughout this month, read *Evangelii Gaudium*. Take note of the various places that the mercy we show others is described as a reflection of God’s merciful love and compassion.

2. Share your faith with someone else. This is somewhat intimidating, but it can be done in a variety of ways since all of our words, actions, and lives should reflect the joy of God’s great gift of mercy and love. Even something as simple as stating that you are a Christian can help someone recognize the connection between your actions of compassion and your faith in Jesus Christ.

## Cursillo

A new season of Cursillo is upon us and we look 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.

### 2016–2017 Ultreya / Cursillo Calendar

Ultreya	Cursillo Weekend
October 28	Nov. 3-6 (Women)
December 2	December 1-4 (Men)
December 30	January 5-8 (Women)
February 3	February 9-12 (Men)
February 24	March 4-6 (Women)
March 3	April 6-9 (Men)
April 28	May 4-6 (Women)
June 2	June 1-4 (Women)

**All are welcome.** If you have questions, feel free to contact either Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

## Questions of the Week

**Adult:** Name a time this past week when your actions matched your thoughts.

**Child:** When is God so close to you that what you feel in your heart is what you do?

## LIFT Ministries

Join LIFT Ministries on Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00pm for an inspiring night of worship at St. John Church in East Bridgewater with speaker Dave VanVickle. The night will include uplifting music, a relevant talk, confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, and is **free** to attend and open to all ages. More information about LIFT, can be found on their website at [www.liftedhigher.com](http://www.liftedhigher.com). Come and worship with hundreds of Catholics from around the Boston area.

## WINGS

WINGS (Women In God’s Spirit) is a ministry of encouragement and enrichment for women of all ages who seek to deepen their faith and grow in their relationship with God and one another. We meet monthly, September through May, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Holy Family Parish Center, Amesbury. Our Fall theme is “On the road to Emmaus”, and our schedule is as follows: **Sunday, October 16**, Lynn Kenn, World Apostolate of Fatima Sunday; **November 20**, Sister Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ “Word of God Everyday” Ministry; and **December 11**: Pot Luck Social. Contact Jeanine Fowler, 978-388-5176, for more information.