

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

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

**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**November 13, 2016**



*The Gleaners*

1857

Jean-Francois Millet

Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France

*All Are Welcome*

# Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 19  
9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Nativity Church Hall  
4 Green Street, Merrimac



Get a jump on your Christmas shopping. We have themed gift baskets at great prices.

Visit our “Nearly New” section to find that item you have just been looking everywhere for.

Check out the silent auction items or purchase some raffle tickets for special items.

If you are hungry, come for lunch.

We serve a huge variety of homemade soups. Then, visit the bake sale table for dessert.

Everyone is welcome.

Invite your friends and neighbors.



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (11/12)

4:00pm **IC** *Regina M. Stronge, Marie A. Atchales, George Lawrence* (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **Nativity** *Helen Noone* (Fr. Morin)

### Sunday (11/13)

7:15am **IC** *Mary (Quill) Jayne, Jeremiah & Julia Quill, Chad Jeremiah Schwechheimer* (Fr. Morin)

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

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

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

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

### Monday (11/14)

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

### Tuesday (11/15)

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

### Wednesday (11/16)

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

### Thursday (11/17)

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

### Friday (11/18)

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

### Saturday (11/19)

4:00pm **IC Mass of Remembrance**  
(Fr. McLaughlin)

4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

### Sunday (11/20)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Joseph F. Callery, Jr., Bob Auwerda*  
(Fr. Broderick)

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

11:30am **IC** *Anne Yurkovich Sivik* (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember all the faithful departed.

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

**IC**—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

**Nativity**—Merrimac

**St. Ann**—West Newbury

## 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 [fortune@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:fortune@newburyportcatholic.org).

## From the Parochial Vicar

Dear Parishioners,



One of Jean-Francois Millet's most recognizable paintings is "The Gleaners," which depicts rural life in France. Drawing from an Old Testament image, gleaners were the poor who were allowed to glean the fields after harvest time. In fact, Old Testament law commanded harvesters not to be too thorough in their harvesting, leaving especially the edges of their fields for the poor of the locality to come and glean the fields. When Millet unveiled this painting it did not go over very well in the salons of Paris. In fact he had to leave town because of several threats against his life. Why? Because he was changing the order of things. Millet in his realistic and impressionistic style had placed peasants at the center of what was a rather large canvas, the center usually reserved for royalty, the aristocracy, and the clergy! Here Millet is giving prominence to the rural poor, the have nots of French society.

The painting is a powerful statement looking straight into the eyes of what had been promised by the French Revolution. A careful look at the painting shows you wagons filled with a bountiful harvest, harvesters caring their sheaves, a foreman on horseback, and men in dark suits probably buying and selling the harvest. There are still the "haves" and the "have nots."

And yet our attention does focus on the three women, the gleaners, getting what little they can from what was left behind in back-breaking work. Their bonnets are red, white and blue, the colors of the revolution that promised Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité! This revolution which resulted in the suppression of the feudal system, the emancipation of the individual, the greater division of landed property, the abolition of the privileges of noble birth and the establishment of liberty, equality, and fraternity! Somehow they had been left behind. Through his painting Millet becomes their spokesman, their advocate, giving them a unique dignity that cannot be denied. I think Jean-Francois still felt that it was not too late for French society, that the social ills of his day could be healed and the great ideals of the Revolution could still be achieved.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Baby Bottles to Support the Pregnancy Care Center

Please return your baby bottles this weekend. If you missed the deadline, you may make a donation on our website at [www.pccfriends.org/donate](http://www.pccfriends.org/donate). The PCC is a Christ-centered ministry committed to saving lives physically, spiritually, and emotionally, one life at a time. Thank you for your donations.

## Bulletin Information

Please supply bulletin information by Monday noon to the collaborative bulletin email: [hricbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:hricbulletin@gmail.com).

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### This Week in Our Collaborative

See our website calendar for more events and details.  
[www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org)

#### Monday, November 14

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205  
IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–6 6:00pm, IC Parish Center  
Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall  
Merrimac Cub Scouts Den Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall

#### Tuesday, November 15

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

#### Wednesday, November 16

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, November 17

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

#### Friday, November 18

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

#### Saturday, November 19

Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair 9:00am, Nativity Hall  
Grade 2 Activity Day 2:00pm, Nativity Church  
Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

#### Sunday, November 20

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church  
HR Religious Ed., Grades 3–6 9:00am, Nativity Hall  
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church  
IC Religious Ed., Grades K–6 10:05am, IC Parish Center  
RCIA 10:15am, IC Youth Ministry Room  
Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205  
IC Religious Ed., Confirmation, Yrs. 1 & 2 3:00pm, IC Church  
Troop 21 Scout Meeting 4:30pm, IC School Cafeteria

### Questions of the Week

**Adult:** Name the time that you will set aside to remember all that God has done for you.

**Child:** Draw a picture or write a story about how Jesus has helped you to live as one of His followers.

### Offertory Envelopes

Did you know that you can attend Mass at any worship site in our Collaborative and use your usual offertory envelopes? Just drop your envelope in the collection and we will make sure it gets delivered to your home Parish.

What kind of painting and what topic would Jean-Francois Millet portray to depict America today? What images would he use to capture who we are as a nation? What would he want us to see about ourselves? Our country is about to complete what has been a most difficult political campaign. (I'm writing this on Monday and tomorrow is Election Day.) Whoever our next president will be will have an enormous task ahead of him or her. The greatest challenge I believe will be to unite the people of this great country, to be the president for all people not just some, not to one political party or the other but to become a unifier and in all things to seek the common good.

Almighty ever living God, in his hand lies every human heart and the rights of people, look with favor, we pray, on those who govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of religion may through your gift be made secure. Amen.

Fr. George

### Scripture for the Week

13	Sun	Mal 3:19-20a/2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19
14	Mon	Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Lk 18:35-43
15	Tue	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Lk 19:1-10
16	Wed	Rv 4:1-11/Lk 19:11-28
17	Thu	Rv 5:1-10/Lk 19:41-44
18	Fri	Rv 10:8-11/Lk 19:45-48
19	Sat	Rv 11:4-12/Lk 20:27-40

### Parish Membership

We welcome all newcomers to our Parish communities and hope you take an active part in parish life. Please introduce yourself and register in the parish. Forms are available online at [hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org).

### 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

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

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

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

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### Let Us Hear From You



Disciples in Mission  
Archdiocese of Boston

- 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.

### Youth Masses

Our next Youth Mass is **Sunday, December 11 at 5:00pm** at Immaculate Conception Parish, Newburyport. Everyone is invited. **Donations at this Mass** will benefit the Pregnancy Care Center, Haverhill. Consider donating the following items: size 4 diapers, baby food, toiletries, any clothing only sizes: 3–6 months and 6–9 months.

### 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.

### Cursillo

#### 2016–2017 Ultreya / Cursillo Calendar

Ultreya	Cursillo Weekend
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)

### Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

**Pat Forbes**  
617-899-0424  
[pbfnbpt@comcast.net](mailto:pbfnbpt@comcast.net)

**Alex Hasapis**  
978-376-6100  
[alexh464@comcast.net](mailto:alexh464@comcast.net)

**Rich Ryan**  
978-314-1094  
[rgryan@comcast.net](mailto:rgryan@comcast.net)

**Jonathan Temple**  
978-809-9337  
[jntemple@comcast.net](mailto:jntemple@comcast.net)

**Dr. Margaret M. McKinnon (Dr. Mag)**  
978-462-2724 EXT 7405  
[Mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:Mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org)

**Charlotte Vincent**  
978-462-9817  
[picharlie@comcast.net](mailto:picharlie@comcast.net)

### Merrimac Valley Hope Mission Thank You

Please accept my thank you and pass it along to the youth ministry students and those who donated to the Youth Mass collection in October.

Some of your CCD and confirmation students spent last Saturday night assembling care bags. The generous donations from so many families and parishioners helped to complete a total of 120 care bags. They will be distributed directly to the homeless population of Lawrence and to the residents of Daybreak shelter in Lawrence. Thank you to all for making this possible!

*Kristine Markuns*



*Care bags ready for delivery*

### Priest, Prophet, King Program

*Jesus is the Anointed One—the ultimate priest, prophet, and king foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.* As the holiday season approaches, consider taking time out to prepare spiritually and reflect on the deeper meaning behind what we celebrate in Jesus and to grow in our understanding of how he is the fulfillment of the biblical archetypes of priest, prophet, and king. Bishop Barron's program assists in helping to better understand these in context to Jesus and the role we are called to realize in our own priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission.

*The program is three Tuesday evenings:* November 15, 22, and 29 from 7:00–8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope Church Hall, 1 Pineswamp Road, Ipswich. For more information, contact the rectory, 978-356-3944. There is no cost or formal registration required. However, if you would, please let us know if you would like to attend to allow us to adequately plan for seating.

### Archdiocese Web Site

Visit [www.bostoncatholic.org](http://www.bostoncatholic.org) for the latest news and information around the Archdiocese of Boston.

## A Few More Highlights from the Footsteps of St. Paul Pilgrimage

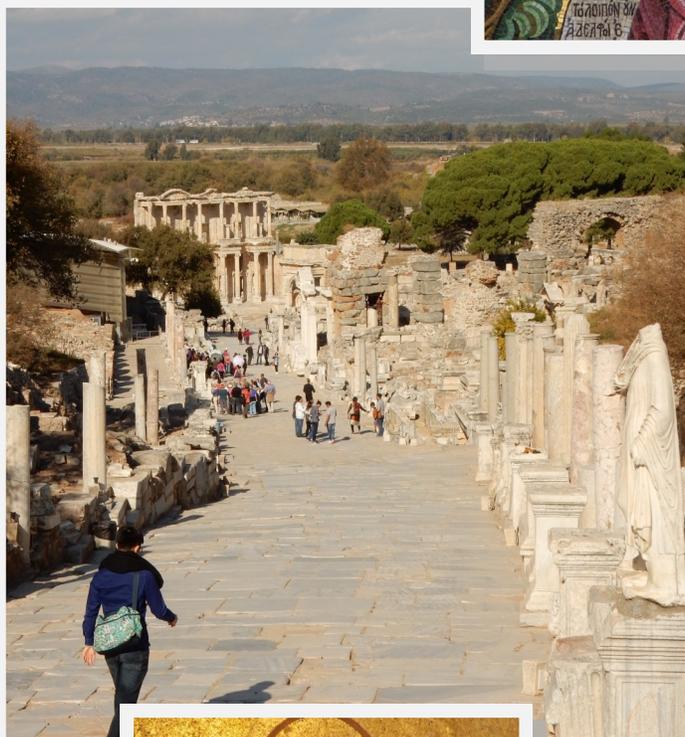


*Traditional site of Mary's house in Ephesus (above).*

*A mosaic image of St. Paul from Veria, Greece where St. Paul preached near Thessalonica (right).*

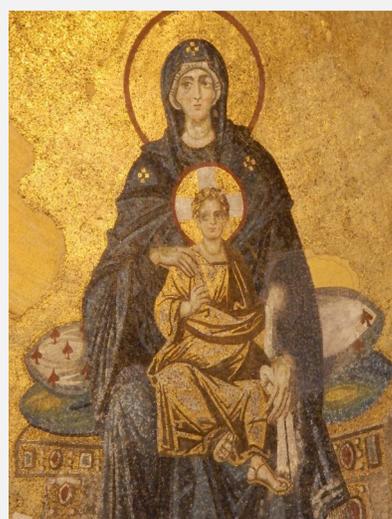


Weary, but thrilled, our group of pilgrims returned safely home this week after a week-long excursion that took us from the lofty heights of the Acropolis in Athens to the ruins of ancient Corinth, the city streets of Thessaloniki, the excavations of ancient Philippi and the remote island of Patmos in Greece as well as Istanbul, Pergamon, and ancient Ephesus in Turkey—all sites of Christianity from antiquity and many of the places where St. Paul traveled and preached.



*The exotic island of Patmos, where St. John the Divine wrote the Book of Revelation (above).*

*Walking (literally) in the footsteps of St. Paul in the extensive ruins of Ephesus where St. Paul spent nearly three years teaching, preaching, and writing several of his New Testament letters (left).*



*Our Pilgrims in the ancient theatre at Philippi where St. Paul founded his first Christian community (above).*

*5th Century mosaic of Madonna and Child from the Hagia Sophia Church in Istanbul, Turkey (left).*

# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Offertory, November 5-6	\$ 3,551.00
All Saints	\$ 405.00
Roofing Expenses as of 10/30	\$25,901.00

This week's second collection is the monthly. Next weekend the Archdiocese will take up the Collection for Retired Sisters. Since 1988, the collection has provided needed financial support for religious communities who have served the Archdiocese of Boston as educators and health care and social service providers. Please give generously in recognition of the Sisters' years of dedicated service. For more information, please contact Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637 or [Sr\\_Marian\\_Batho@rcab.org](mailto:Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org).

## Parish Planning Study

We would like to make you aware of a parish-wide *Planning Study* to formulate a strategy for addressing some needed improvements to our parish facilities. Both St. Ann's Church and The Church of the Nativity have a number of deferred maintenance issues and other possible projects that need our attention.

Careful consideration and thoughtful planning is required for us to move forward. This is why **input from our parishioners is of the utmost importance at this time**. Your opinions and suggestions will enable us to formulate a final plan that will help meet the needs of our entire parish.

With the support of our Finance Council, I have retained Cornerstone Fundraising, a professional religious fundraising firm, to assist us with this work. Cornerstone has been approved to direct a Planning Study for our parish. Members of the Cornerstone staff will be conducting a series of Focus Groups with our parish.

**You are invited to participate in one of these Focus Groups** so this study can include your valued input. These hour-long meetings will take place as follows:

**Monday, November 14**, 7:00pm at St. Ann's Church Hall (300 Main St., W. Newbury)

**Wednesday, November 16**, 1:00pm at Parish Office/Nativity Church (4 Green Street, Merrimac)

**Wednesday, November 16**, 7:00pm at Parish Office/Nativity Church (4 Green Street, Merrimac)

Thank you for your continued support,  
Fr. Tim

## Holiday Fair Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets will be available one half hour before and after all masses and the day of the fair. Please be on the lookout for tickets being mailed to all registered parish family households. **All cash prizes total \$1000**. 1st Prize: \$500 cash, 2nd Prize: \$300 cash, and 3rd Prize: \$200 cash. Donations for these raffles are a book of 6 for \$5. If you need tickets, please call Helen Kelley, 978-771-4673 or email: [HVKTax@aol.com](mailto:HVKTax@aol.com).



## HR Religious Education

Sunday, 11/13

**Grades 3-6 classes**, 9-10:00am, Nativity

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

**Parent must attend this session with student.**

Saturday, Nov. 19

**Grade 2 Activity Day**, 2-5:00pm, Nativity, for our students preparing for the Sacrament of Penance. Thanks to our 8th and 9th grade students serving as Team Leaders. Come early to the **Holiday Fair**, then bring your child into the church for the Activity Day. We will attend the 4:00pm Mass together.

Keep these students in your prayers as they learn about Jesus' mercy, love and forgiveness.

### New Email Address

The Office of Religious Education at Holy Redeemer has a new email address. Please change it in your contacts: [reledhrp@gmail.com](mailto:reledhrp@gmail.com).

## HR Prayer Shawl

Would you like to help those in need this winter without it costing you anything? Come join us at 1:00pm on Thursday, December 1, at Nativity Hall in Merrimac. We will knit/crochet hats, scarves, and mittens for Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, the group supported by our Parish youth. We will provide yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks, and patterns. We can even teach you to knit/crochet. Can't make it on December 1? Gather your own group at a time convenient for you, give us a call, and we'll provide you with everything you'll need.



If you need information or a blessed prayer shawl, they are free, please call Helen Kelley, 978-771-4673, Connie Cormier, 978-363-2020, Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099.

## Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair

**Saturday, November 19, 2016, 9:00am-2:00pm**



Our annual Holiday Fair in the Merrimac Parish Hall is next Saturday, November 19. 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.

## EWTN: Catholic News

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

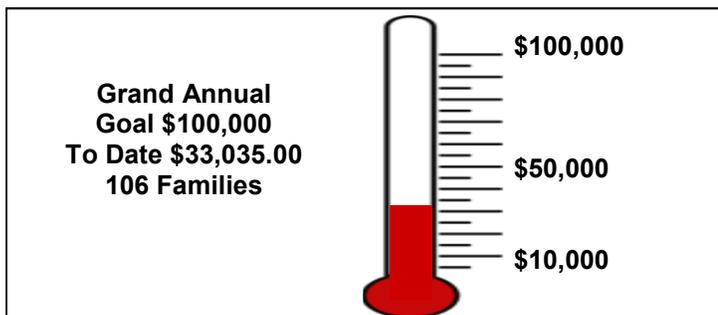
<http://www.ewtnnews.com/>

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Offertory November 5–6 **\$10,417.00**  
 Campaign for Human Development **\$ 1,452.00**

This week's second collection is the Monthly. Next weekend the Archdiocese will take up the Collection for Retired Sisters. Since 1988, the collection has provided needed financial support for religious communities who have served the Archdiocese of Boston as educators and health care and social service providers. Please give generously in recognition of the Sisters' years of dedicated service. For more information, please contact Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637 or [Sr\\_Marian\\_Batho@rcab.org](mailto:Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org).



## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 123.00
Collection	\$ 142.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 265.00</b>

## Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office. Once you register, visit our website, [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org) and click the Online Giving picture at the bottom of our home page to get to the site. There are four different funds you can choose 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.

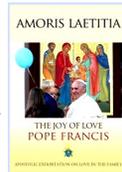
## Consolers Circle Meal

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.

## 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.



Jesus Restores and Fulfills God's Plan—In #63—  
 “Jesus, who reconciled all things in himself, restored marriage and the family to their original form (cf. Mt 10: 1–12). Marriage and the family have been redeemed by Christ (cf. Eph 5: 21–32) and restored in the image of the Holy Trinity, the mystery from which all true love flows. The spousal covenant, originating in creation and revealed in the history of salvation, takes on its full meaning in Christ and his Church. Through his Church, Christ bestows on marriage and the family the grace necessary to bear witness to the love of God and to live the life of communion. The world, from the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1: 26–27), to the fulfillment of the mystery of the covenant in Christ at the end of time with the marriage of the Lamb (cf. Rev 19: 9).”

### Religious Education Classes

School Year Registration is ongoing. Class: November 14.  
 No class November 13—Veteran's Holiday Weekend.  
 Grades K–6: Next classes: 11/14 and 11/20.  
 Grades 7–8: Next class: 12/4.

### Baptism

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

Dec. 4 Parent Class-Charity Dining Room 1:00pm  
 Nov. 13 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

### Confirmation

The next Confirmation session is Sunday, November 20 from 3:00–5:00pm in the Church for Years 1 and 2. The candidate and his/her sponsor, parent or another adult are to attend the session.

### Admonish the Sinner



“If anyone among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” (James 5: 20).  
 Are you a sinner? So am I. That is a good place to begin.

### Daniel Burke...Faithful Mercy

Admonishing the sinner in mercy is the all-important task of helping people understand they are off the path to God and lighting the way back to that path through love and truth. If you are not among the cowardly who love themselves and their comfort too much to speak truth, all you need to remember is this one simple phrase: “Love builds a bridge over which truth can pass.” If you build that bridge of love in the way you give yourself to others and the way you communicate truth, you will find profound and consistent success in leading hearts to God. (*Beautiful Mercy: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love so we can share it with Others*, Dynamic Catholic, pp. 131, 144).

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Haiti Quilt Raffle Winner

The winning ticket for IC-Haiti's Quilt Raffle to support hurricane relief in Haiti was drawn at the Breaking Bread Meal on All Saints Day. We congratulate Jan Manfredi for winning the beautiful quilt that parishioner Carol Robertson created and so graciously donated to IC-Haiti.

## 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 and Christmas season with joyful harmony.

## Breaking Bread

St. Vincent de Paul's Breaking Bread dinner program at Immaculate Conception is hoping you will share a little of your time and talents as we need a team of two volunteers to prepare and cook for our guests on a Tuesday of your choice. A seasoned volunteer chef will work with you as you gain experience in our kitchen. This is a truly wonderful experience that you will share with a great team of volunteers. Contact Bunny Chiasson, 978-465-5810 or [sandbunnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:sandbunnyc@yahoo.com).

## 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.

## Collaborative Website

Visit the Holy Redeemer/Immaculate Conception website at [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org).

You can find information about many Collaborative organizations, Religious Ed., Mass times, our calendar events, and much, much more.

## Immaculate Conception School



Dear Friends,

There are many attributes which make the Immaculate Conception School (IC) special. One important quality is that students can attend the IC from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. I've always felt that the continuity of attending the same school was very important. Recent research supports my view, and will make you feel even better about sending your child to the IC.

The *American Educational Research Journal* published a study that gives evidence that students attending K–8 schools, like the IC, benefit from what is being referred to as the “top dog/bottom dog” (TDBD) phenomenon. The study looked at the experiences of sixth- through eighth-graders in New York City schools with different grade spans: K–8 vs. 6–8 and 6–12. “Top dogs” are the older children in these grade spans, and “bottom dogs” are the younger children.

According to the study, “top dog” status improves the learning environment and academic achievement. It also lessens the effects of bullying and improves safety and belonging. The article goes on to say that this TDBD effect is strongest in the sixth grade and in schools with longer grade spans. The study also states that moving to middle school “has a negative effect on students’ academic achievement. The TDBD effect is one possible mechanism for this drop in achievement.”

Students in a K–8 school benefit from this TDBD phenomenon. Being a “top dog” at the IC, especially in sixth grade, gives students more confidence, produces better grades and test scores and makes them much less prone to bullying. Also, IC pre-k through fourth grade students are protected from possible negative “bottom dog” effects from the older students, since our students in the upper grades serve as reading and church buddies, shepherds, tutors, and role models. Our “top dogs” care for the younger ones in so many ways. Seeing these student relationships on a daily basis all around our school affirms my belief in the pre-k through eighth grade model.

The academic and learning environment at the IC is something very special. It is nice to have research which further confirms and supports my strong, enduring belief!

Please visit the IC website at [www.icsnewburyport.com](http://www.icsnewburyport.com) and click the “top dog/bottom dog” banner to view news stories regarding this research.

Sincerely, Mary Reardon, Principal

### Upcoming Events

**Tuesday Tours** ~ IC school tours, including classroom visits, second Tuesday of each month, 9:00–11:00 a.m. Call Mrs. Kelley Pappalardo at (978) 465-7780.

**Open House** ~ Sunday, January 29, 12:30–2:00 p.m.

**Fashion Show** ~ Sunday, March 5, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

**135<sup>th</sup> Gala** ~ Friday, May 19, 7:00–10:00 p.m.