

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas**

**December 24/25, 2017**

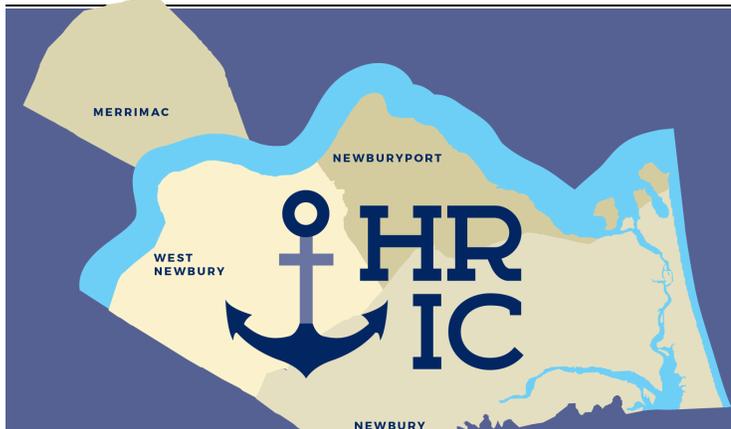
**[hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org)**



"The Birth of Christ" by Gerard van Honthorst, 1622

*"For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder  
dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-  
Forever, Prince of Peace." (Is 9:6)*

*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

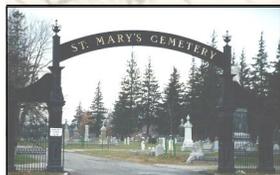
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985  
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
Email: [holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

## Nativity

Parish offices and church:  
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860  
Office Hours: By appointment  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
Email: [holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.icsnewburyport.com)



## Collaborative Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
[info@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:info@newburyportcatholic.org),  
[holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. George E. Morin,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
[frgeorge@parishmail.com](mailto:frgeorge@parishmail.com)

### Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

### Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

### Office Associates

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### Music Ministry

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Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director  
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### Religious Education

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Marin Fortune, IC RCIA, 978-462-2724  
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Dr. Margaret McKinnon, IC Religious Ed.  
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Doreen O'Leary, HR Religious Ed.  
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[reledhrp@gmail.com](mailto:reledhrp@gmail.com)

### Immaculate Conception School

Joan Sullivan, Principal, 978-465-7780  
[jsullivan@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:jsullivan@newburyportcatholic.org)

### Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance  
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[bkent@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:bkent@newburyportcatholic.org)

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager  
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[emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org)

Cliff Vandenbulcke, IC School Custodian  
978-465-7780  
[cvandenbulcke@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:cvandenbulcke@newburyportcatholic.org)

### St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at  
Holy Redeemer  
978-346-8604 x 8  
[hsvdp300@gmail.com](mailto:hsvdp300@gmail.com)

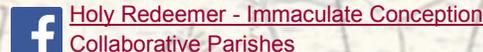
St. Vincent de Paul Society at  
Immaculate Conception  
978-518-0728

### St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266  
[joeviel@comcast.net](mailto:joeviel@comcast.net)

Website: [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org)

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# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Schedule/Intentions

### Sunday (12/24)

8:00am **Nativity** *Lee Morphett* (Fr. Harrison)  
 9:00am **IC** *Robert Connor* (Fr. Broderick)  
 10:15am **St. Ann** *Constance Cormier* (Fr. Morin)

### Christmas Eve

4:00pm **IC** (Fr. Morin)  
 4:00pm **IC School Gym** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Christiansen)  
 4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)  
 6:00pm **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 6:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

### Monday (12/25) Christmas Day

12:00 Midnight **IC** (Fr. Morin)  
 8:00am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)  
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)  
 10:00am **IC** (Fr. Morin)  
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Christiansen)



### Tuesday (12/26)

7:15am (Fr. Broderick)

### Wednesday (12/27)

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

### Thursday (12/28)

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

### Friday (12/29)

9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 7:00pm **Ultreya** (Fr. Harrison)

### Saturday (12/30)

4:00pm **IC** *John K. Herlihy, Filma Bellos, Emmi Spitzbarth* (Fr. Morin)  
 4:00pm **St. Ann** *Julie Brousseau* (Fr. Harrison)

### Sunday (12/31)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)  
 8:00am **Nativity** *Jack Gorski* (Fr. Morin)  
 9:00am **IC** *Col. Robert "Bob" Woods, Raymond H. Bardsley* (Fr. Harrison)  
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 11:30am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Marie "Murielle" Matthias and all the faithful departed.

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

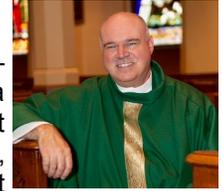
**IC**—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

**Nativity**—Merrimac

**St. Ann**—West Newbury

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



In an obscure moment in time, in a back-water arm of a very average galaxy, in a very mundane solar system, on a planet remarkable only for its many forms of life, in a tiny, unassuming village that was at the center of nothing important, in a crude stable used to house and feed livestock...the God of the Universe was born into our world, taking on our human flesh, and became like us in all things but sin. In utter poverty, frailty, and dependence, God chose to enter into our human history to bring about Salvation for us all. This gift would be made manifest in Christ's resurrection from the dead and will be fully realized in all of Creation when He returns beyond the limits of time and space to judge the living and the dead.

The cosmic nature of what we celebrate and cherish this Christmas is profound when we stop and consider the vastness of our universe and our place within it. Through the wizardry of the latest space telescopes and technology, when we peer into the night sky, we estimate that there are several hundred billion galaxies out there, each containing several hundred billion stars, most of which are likely to have planets of their own. All of this has been going on for more than 13 billion years since our universe first came into existence. Formed from the residual dust of Creation, the earth has only been around for less than half of this time. Our universe is so vast, that it takes light itself years to reach earth from even the closest stars, never mind the unfathomably distant galaxies that are barely a twinkle in the night sky. Feel a little small and insignificant?

And yet, we believe that God created us in His own image, setting us over the whole world with the purpose of reflecting back to Him the goodness and love in which we were created. Along the way, however, we freely chose a different path than the one God had wanted for us, rebelling against God's love and allowing sin and death to enter our experience. It was for precisely this reason that Jesus Christ was born among us, so that the present alienation we have from God would not be the final word. Jesus was born, so that we could ultimately live as God willed—in

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## Christmas/New Year's Office Hours

Collaborative offices will be closed on Monday, December 26 and on Monday, January 2.

## Questions of the Week

**Adult:** Name one area of your life that you think is impossible. During this week, ask God to assist you with that area of your life.

**Child:** God has a wonderful plan for you. What can you do each day to listen to God?

## Welcome Home! We're Glad You're Here

Merry Christmas! Our bulletin highlights many groups and events in the Collaborative. There are a variety of activities for all interests. Come, share your gifts.

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Christmas Collections

Every Christmas we come together to celebrate the birth of Christ with family and friends. We also come together to honor and thank our priests for the good works that they do throughout the year. Our 590 priests share the good news and build strong communities of faith. Please remember priests such as Fr. Harrison, Fr. Morin, Fr. McLaughlin, and Fr. Broderick who have made a meaningful difference in your life, and consider honoring them with a generous gift in today's collection. Thank you for your prayerful and generous support of our priests.

Visit [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) to donate online.

## This Week in Our Collaborative

Visit our calendar at [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org) for a complete activity list.

**Monday, December 25, Christmas Day**

Collaborative Offices Closed

No Religious Ed.

**Tuesday, December 26**

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

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

IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

**Wednesday, December 27**

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall

HR 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 Conference Room 209

IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

**Thursday, December 28**

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

**Friday, December 29**

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

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

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

**Saturday, December 30**

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

**Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve**

No Religious Ed.

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church

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

## 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. Contact Marin Fortune, 978-462-2724 or [fortune@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:fortune@newburyportcatholic.org) if you would like to learn more about this program.

*(Continued from page 3)*

perfect freedom and love. This is only possible through the gift that is Jesus Christ.

That is why Christmas is such an awesome feast, celebrating the moment when God put this magnificent and unmerited plan of Salvation into motion. It is the greatest gift we will ever receive. In the days ahead, take a moment to look up at the night sky. See the stars. Ponder our meager place in the Universe. Then recall our lofty inheritance in Jesus Christ as sons and daughters of God, made in God's image, redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ...and our ultimate, eternal home with God in Heaven. All this we celebrate at Christmas! All this is our hope, first given to us in a tiny babe born in Bethlehem. And it is vast, indeed!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and grace-filled New Year to come.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturdays

4:00pm **Immaculate Conception, Newburyport**

4:00pm **Holy Redeemer** (This Mass alternates between Nativity & St. Ann every 6 weeks. See the website calendar, [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org), for details.

### Sundays

7:15am **Immaculate Conception, Newburyport**

8:00am **Nativity, Merrimac**

9:00am **Immaculate Conception, Newburyport**

10:15am **St. Ann, West Newbury**

11:30am **Immaculate Conception, Newburyport**

### Mondays

9:00am **St. Ann, West Newbury**

### Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

7:15am **Immaculate Conception, Newburyport**

### Fridays

9:00am **Nativity, Merrimac**

**Immaculate Conception, 42 Green Street, Newburyport**

**Nativity, 4 Green Street, Merrimac**

**St. Ann, 300 Main Street, West Newbury**

## January 1 Mass Schedule

Monday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mass times are as follows:

9:00am St. Ann, West Newbury

10:00am Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

*Note: this is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.*

## Adoration

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

# OUR COLLABORATIVE

## What is a Collaborative?

"A collaborative is a grouping of one, two, or three parishes that work together for the goal of evangelization.

A collaborative has one pastor, one set of assigned priests and deacons, and one Pastoral Team (including Pastoral Associates, Religious Education and Faith Formation leaders, Finance and Operations specialists, and administrative and facilities personnel). All of these work together for all of the parishes of the collaborative. The collaborative has one Pastoral Council, and one Local Pastoral Plan for evangelization. The collaborative does not share money or bank accounts." *(To learn more about Collaboratives and Disciples in Mission, visit the DIM website at [disciplesinmission.com/general-questions](http://disciplesinmission.com/general-questions))*

## Collaborative Website

Visit our **Collaborative Website**, [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org) for up-to-date information on groups, meetings, religious ed., Mass times, and current events. Find links to our calendar, view our current and archived bulletins, link to other Catholic websites, or check out the photos section. We have so much happening.



**Like Us on Facebook**

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception  
Collaborative Parishes

## Celebrating the Sacraments

**Contact the Collaborative offices for more information**  
**Baptism**

We offer monthly baptism classes for new parents as well as monthly baptisms.

### Reconciliation

IC: Saturdays: 3:00pm to 3:30pm or by appointment.

HR: Saturdays before the 4:00pm Mass or by appointment.

### First Eucharist

Our second graders celebrate First Communion every spring. Contact the HR or IC Religious Ed. directors for more information.

### Confirmation

Confirmation at IC is celebrated in the spring. Confirmation at HR is celebrated in the fall. Contact the HR or IC Religious Ed. directors for more information.

### Marriage

Archdiocesan guidelines request that couples planning to marry in the Church contact your Parish office 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 the Parish offices if someone is in the hospital, so that we can visit the loved one and have the community pray for them.

## Our Collaborative

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



Immaculate Conception, Newburyport



## 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 [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org) or you can call the Parish offices.

## Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer, resting silently in God, facilitates the process of inner transformation. Our prayer without words is one of intention to surrender to God's presence and action in our lives and desire for a closer relationship with God. Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm, in the **IC Conference Room 209**. Join us as we pray in this ancient Christian tradition and together deepen our understanding of this prayer in our own spiritual journey. For information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

## Offertory Envelopes

You can attend Mass at any worship site in our Collaborative and use your usual offertory envelope. Drop it in the collection and we will deliver it to your home Parish.

## Youth Masses

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

For each Youth Mass, a charity is chosen for donations. Please watch the bulletin for details about that month's charity.

### 2018 Youth Mass Schedule

January 28 at Nativity, Merrimac

March 4 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

March 25 at Nativity, Merrimac

May 20 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### From the Parochial Vicar

**“Well done good and faithful servant.”**

Over the past several weeks the 80 parishioners/families who accepted the challenge of the talents have been doing wonderful and creative things and have seen a tremendous increase from the use of their talent! Just so you'll know what I am talking about . . . A few weeks ago the Gospel passage at Mass was taken from Matthew 25: 14–30, The Parable of the Talents. Inspired by the Gospel and the challenge that comes with it, I asked the people at Mass to accept a talent (\$5.00) from me. 80 parishioners/families accepted a talent and have been very busy doing all kinds of things to increase their talent in order to bring great increase to benefit the important work of the Saint Vincent de Paul Societies of our Collaborative. **To date \$3,435.00 has been received!** This is amazing! Thank you and well done. Here are some great stories. From Bill: “I am a photo enthusiast and make my own cards for family and friends on special occasions. So I took some of my photos, placed them on note cards and printed them. I live in a condominium development where we have a mail house. Neighbors occasionally post events or charities in the mail house they are involved with and thought I could do this with my note cards. I was able to collect \$30.00 from selling my note cards. I have never done anything like this before but found it thrilling to be part of the ‘talent fund raiser’! I give credit to my wife who guided me throughout this process and encouraged me along the way. I want to thank you Father as you helped me find my ‘talent’ to better serve God and our community.” Trish writes: “In response to your challenge to use a talent to earn a return on your \$5.00 investment, my son Jack has donated most of his earnings from raking leaves for a neighbor. In addition, I have donated two days as a substitute teacher. We hope the Saint Vincent de Paul Society finds this helpful. Thanks so much for inspiring Jack and me to participate in such a worthy cause!” From Anonymous (and unfortunately didn't say how they were able to gain such a great increase—\$406.00): “My family and I thank you for allowing us to be part of such a beautiful offering. WOW!” What inspiring stories! Keep those talents coming and more updates will follow!  
—Fr. George

### Cursillo & Ultreya

**Cursillo** A Cursillo retreat is a three-day weekend of intensive spiritual reflection and exploration at St. Basils, Methuen, that offers the opportunity to deepen our relationship with Christ. The next Cursillos are January 4–7 (women) and February 8–10 (men).

**Ultreya**, the Spanish word for “onward,” is a gathering that unites us in prayer and fellowship. It is a reunion of those who have experienced a Cursillo retreat, but all are welcome to attend Ultreya meetings on the Friday of each Cursillo weekend. *Ultreya* is held in the St. James Chapel in the IC Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. Questions about Cursillo or Ultreya? Contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

### Youth SNOWCAMPS

SNOWCAMPS is a high-energy, activity-filled, spiritual growth experience weekend designed specifically for 7–8 graders and is held at Camp Brookwoods, Alton, NH. Get ready for lots of fun, friendships, music, games, and faith sharing witness talks by teens and adults. Sign up soon for the best weekend of your life! Join the fun with the 100+ junior high kids from several different parishes throughout the Archdiocese. There are two SNOWCAMPS weekends: February 23–25 or March 2–4. Cost for the weekend is \$183. To learn more or to download an application, visit [www.snowcampsparty.com](http://www.snowcampsparty.com). Contact Fr. George with questions, 978-462-2724.

### Winter Weather Mass Cancellations



Due to the hazards of travel and the safety of priests and parishioners alike, this winter, daily Mass within the Collaborative will be cancelled if either Pentucket Regional or Newburyport Public schools are cancelled because of inclement weather. Any Religious Education classes will also be cancelled on such days. WBZ Chanel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at [boston.cbslocal.com](http://boston.cbslocal.com).

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

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

### Scripture Study

**Scripture Study will meet on January 7, 2018**

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on January 7, 2018 at 2:00pm in the IC Parish Center. This would be an ideal time for interested members of the Collaborative to join the study group as we begin reading St. Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*. This letter was probably written in Corinth several years prior to Paul's actual arduous voyage to Rome as a prisoner. This is Paul's longest letter and widely considered to be his masterpiece. We will read and discuss Chapters 1 through 3.

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.



# DISCOVER WHAT'S NEW Immaculate Conception School

*Celebrating 135 Years 1882 - 2017*



A NEW WAY OF LEARNING ~ HIGH-TECH TOYS BRINGS CODING TO KINDERGARTEN



OUR NEW PRE-K TEACHER

## Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

Immaculate Conception School is an affordable, private Catholic elementary school, providing high-quality, faith-based education, preparing young people for life, spiritually, academically and socially.

### OPEN HOUSES (9-10 am)

- Wednesday, January 17
- Thursday, February 8

# WHAT'S HAPPENING



*There is so much happening in the Collaborative.*

*Join us!  
All are welcome!*

# IN THE COLLABORATIVE



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Welcome to Holy Redeemer

Holy Redeemer is comprised of two churches: Church of the Nativity in Merrimac and St. Ann's Church in West Newbury. We are part of the Holy Redeemer/Immaculate Conception Collaborative. Please visit our website at [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org) for our Mass schedule as well as more information on how to get involved in our vibrant community.

### "With One Voice"

#### Capital Campaign

Goal \$350,000

To Date \$259,951.00

81 Families

All pledges and one-time donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated.



## HR Religious Education

Tuesday, Jan. 2 **Grade 7 Class**, Nativity Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan 6 **Grade 6 Activity Day**, Nativity Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, Jan 7 **Grade 2 Parents & Students**, Nativity Hall, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

**Grade 10 w/ Sponsor**, Nativity Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 9 **Grades 7 & 8**, Nativity Hall, 6:00–7:30pm

## Sanctuary Candle



For the week of December 24, the Sanctuary Candle at Nativity Church, Merrimac is donated for a Special Intention.

## HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

The conference appreciates any gift certificates for food and gasoline that have been or will be donated during the Christmas season. These certificates will help our clients during the long, upcoming winter season. Thank you, Merry Christmas, and God Bless!

## 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](mailto:msf4087@gmail.com). All faiths welcome.

## 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, January 4**. See our picture p. 8.

## HR Sandwich Program



The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park

Street in Lawrence. 200 sandwiches are needed each day to feed the hungry. Thanks to all for your support this past year.

We are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag. Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann's Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, December 27**. Please see the Collaborative calendar at [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org) for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

## Saturday Vigil Masses at Holy Redeemer

Our Saturday vigil Masses at Holy Redeemer alternate every six weeks between St. Ann and Nativity. Visit our website calendar at [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org) for the 2018 schedule.

## Christmas Flowers

Donations from/in memory of: The DiResta Family, The Pendergast Family, Stephen & Catherine Lorenzo, Francis J. Smith, Kenneth Lumsden, William & Dorothy Hansen, Michael Kirwan, Sheila Kirwan, Lloyd Hayes, Wilhelmina Hayes, Tracy Sheehan, Deceased Members of the Heaton & Pontorno Families, Jean (John) Daigle, Ann LaSelva, Constance Cormier, In Memory of The Family of Peter McCarron, Robert Miller, Malcolm Homan, Helen & Arthur Clark, Bridget & William O'Callaghan, Thomas O'Callaghan, Joseph Burak, A. Henry Duhamel, Jack Gorski, Fred & Margaret Gallant, John & Theresa Gorski, Gerard Routhier, Ann Somma, Bob Murdock, Deceased Ross Family, Deceased Garozzo Family, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Lambert, Joseph Burak, Margaret Sullivan, Joseph Sullivan, Gert Bradley, Brad Sullivan, Joseph Frank, Patricia Frank, Grace Dobson, Winnie Quill, Carol Mullen, Dan Phelan, David Kolman, Bob Nevins, Eugene Wood, Paul Wood, Peter Wood, Olive Soucy, Mimi Campbell, Bernie Alston, The Murphy Family, Robert W. Rollins, Robert M. Rollins, Alyene Rollins, Arlene Burnell, Janice Sherburne, Alfred L. Duchemin, Henry J. Duchemin, Jr., Henry & Victoria Duchemin, Robert Johnston, Ronald Johnston, In Memory of The Leo Family, Robert & Edith deLyon, Charles & Katherine Friel, Joanne Crouse, Stephen Crouse, The Proposki and Myers Families, Hannelore Petry, In Memory of Maman.

# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Holy Redeemer Activities Committee

The **HR Activities Committee** organizes events and socials for the parishioners of Holy Redeemer Parish. Our next meeting is **Thursday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.** in Nativity Hall. We will be meeting to plan Parish events for 2018. Please come join us. We would love to hear your ideas! Can't make the meeting? Contact Cindy Quinn at 978-346-0072 or [cynwinnquinn@aol.com](mailto:cynwinnquinn@aol.com) if you would like to be involved in this group or in any of our annual events. Some of our annual events include *the Holiday Fair and Raffle Night*.

## Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair

The **Holiday Fair** has been a long-running tradition in Holy Redeemer Parish. It is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving in the Nativity Hall (4 Green Street, Merrimac).



Parishioners donate themed gift baskets to sell, homemade baked goods, silent auction items, nearly new items, and homemade soups for lunch. A grand raffle is held also. It is an annual event with the families of our parish. Planning starts in June. Visit the photos page on the website ([www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org)) to see event photos.

## Holy Redeemer Raffle Night

**Raffle Night** is a parish social/fundraiser held in the Spring, at the Nativity Hall (4 Green Street, Merrimac). This parish social helps everyone emerge from the winter. Those attending the evening buy raffle tickets to win a variety of items. Homemade dinners are available to purchase. Planning starts in January. Visit the website ([www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org)) to see event photos.

## 2017 Holiday Fair Roundup

Our 2017 Holiday Fair was wonderful! We deposited \$11,740.50.

Our money raffle earned \$3,256. Thank you to all who returned the raffle tickets that were mailed to every registered parishioner. (If you are aware of any wrong addresses or wrong names, please contact the parish office to update our Parish census).

Our silent auction earned \$2,741.00. Thanks to the wonderful donations—especially the artwork. The paintings really excited our bidders! Perhaps next year, **you** could make a donation to the silent auction. Start thinking....

The basket table made \$1,927.00. Thank you to everyone who donated beautifully decorated baskets. Perhaps next year **you** could reserve some time, the week before the Fair, to come down to the hall and help our volunteers create new baskets.

Our nearly new table made \$1,846.50. We always need donated items. Plan ahead, start collecting those thoughtful gifts given to you (that you may never use).

The bake table made \$1,156.00. Thank you to all who baked. Although, we could use additional creative donations. Anybody great at making pies? How about those cute cookies that look like animals? Anyone willing to organize the children in creating cookies that look like turkeys? Always a crowd favorite.

The Kitchen made \$789.00. We served over 120 people. Our specialty is homemade soups. Anyone have a family favorite recipe? Maybe next year we could serve it.

We plan on having the fair next year on Saturday, November 17. Mark your calendars.

## Coffee After Mass

Come join us for coffee, donuts, and fellowship after the 8:00 Mass on Sunday, December 31 at Nativity.

**A great time to talk to your Parish Family.**

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## The Compassionate Friends



The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age, any cause. Our monthly support meetings are held in the IC Parish Center Room 209 at 7:30–9:00p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Our next meeting is January 22. For more information, please contact Barbara Hopkinson at 978-697-1349 or [barhop@comcast.net](mailto:barhop@comcast.net).

Local website: [www.tcfnewburyport.org](http://www.tcfnewburyport.org). National website: [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org). Another local nonprofit for all types of grief/loss is A Butterfly's Journey, offering Grief Recovery Classes, Resource Center, and more: Web site: [abutterflysjourney.org](http://abutterflysjourney.org) or contact Barbara Hopkinson.

## Boy Scout Blood Drive



Boy Scout Troop 21 of Newburyport and the American Red Cross are teaming up to boost blood supply. Please continue supporting your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers by donating blood on Wednesday, December 27 at the Newburyport Elks Club Function Hall, 25 Low Street, Newburyport. Donor hours are 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

It takes about an hour of time—and one small pinch—to become a hero and give the “Gift of Life” to someone in need. Anyone 17 years of age or older, weighing 110 pounds or more and feeling in good health may be eligible to donate blood. To make an appointment to donate blood call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Welcome to Immaculate Conception Parish

Immaculate Conception Parish is located in Newburyport and serves the towns of Newbury and Newburyport and is part of the Immaculate Conception/Holy Redeemer Collaborative. Visit our website at [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org) for our Mass schedule as well as more information on how to get involved in our active community.

**Grand Annual Goal \$100,000**  
**To Date \$55,955.00**  
**239 Families**



## 2017 Grand Annual

If you did not bring your pledge card with you to Mass this weekend, please mail it back to the parish office or place it in the collection next weekend. Thank you for your support.

## 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.

## ICS Kindness Team



This year the ICS Kindness Team invited the 3rd grade to join us and now we have 42 members! We've had two successful meetings and they were led by Morgan Signore and coaches Mrs. Troisi, Miss Rivera, and Jenna Signore. Our first project was making

Blessings Bags that were delivered to the Salvation Army. We filled small bags with toiletries, snacks, a kind note, and a small cross. We made over 100 bags that we hope will help people who need those things more than we do. Our second project was making Christmas ornaments for the ICS Christmas store and for Opportunity Works in Haverhill.



## Immaculate Conception School



There is no better place to be during the Christmas season than in a Catholic school! The faculty, staff, and I feel so blessed to be able to talk about the coming of Jesus with our students. Family traditions and memories that each child shares through writing, storytelling, and drawings give powerful voice to their experiences, beliefs, and Christmas dreams. The teachers and I are often witness to acts of kindness and grace that confirm for us that our Catholic school makes a difference for children. The entire IC Staff wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!



## Knights of Columbus



The Knights of Columbus Newburyport Council 231 was founded in 1897. We welcome new members to this long standing group of Catholic men. If you are interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, growing in faith, obtaining exclusive access to top-rated insurance protections for you or your family, or just connecting with other Catholic men, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.

Contact us at (978) 572-0231, [membership@kofc231.org](mailto:membership@kofc231.org).

## IC Knitting Ministry



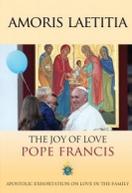
We meet Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the IC Parish Center, Room 209. We knit shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves and bring prayers and hope to people who are sick and to their caregivers and to celebrate happy occasions. We also distribute hats and scarves to homeless children. Our membership is open to all. Please join us for knitting, fellowship, and tea (and goodies). See our picture on p. 9.

If you know anyone who needs a prayer shawl or for more information please call Frances Ronan 978-462-4972 or Julia O'Connor at 978-465-3350.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 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.

*Dialogue:* In #136: Dialogue is essential for experiencing, expressing and fostering love in marriage and family life. Yet it can only be the fruit of a long and demanding apprenticeship. Men and women, young people and adults, communicate differently. They speak different languages and they act in different ways. Our way of asking and responding to questions, the tone we use, our timing and any number of other factors condition how well we communicate. We need to develop certain attitudes that express love and encourage authentic dialogue.

### School Year IC Religious Education Classes

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

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

Next Classes:

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

### Baptism

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

Please pre-register for the class.

Jan. 7 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm  
Jan. 14 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

### Confirmation

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

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

For information and registration go online:

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

### First Eucharist

Information/registration for 2017–2018 First Reconciliation and Eucharist is posted on our website: <http://www.hricatholic.org/First-Eucharist-First-Reconciliation-Immaculate-Conception-Parish>.

Our next 1st Eucharist session for candidates and parents is Sunday, January 7 1:00–3:00pm Tour of the Church. (Snow date: Sunday January 21, same time and place.)

### Landings

Landings for Returning Catholics will begin a new session on Tuesdays 7:30–9:15pm at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac beginning Tuesday, January 30. If you know of anyone interested, please contact Dr. Mag McKinnon for more information 978-462-2724.

### Youth Mass—January 28, 2018

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, January 28 at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac at 5:00pm.

Charity: Merrimack Valley Hope Mission

Donations: Winter hats, gloves, scarves, heavy socks, gently worn jackets, and travel-size toiletries.

## Mardi Gras Celebration

### Save the Date

Our Mardi Gras Celebration and Dinner will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018. Tickets will be on sale at the end of January and early February.

### Raffle Items

We are looking for donations for our Raffle. If you have any items, gift cards, services, etc. that you would like to donate to the raffle, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Dr. Mag McKinnon, DRE, [mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org) or Melinda Burrell [burrell@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:burrell@newburyportcatholic.org) 978-462-2724.

Proceeds for the dinner and raffle to benefit IC Haiti and IC Religious Education. Come join us for the fun, food, and fellowship.

## IC Haiti

**IC Haiti** is proud to fund healthcare and education projects in Haiti. Since 2009 The Fr. Marc Piché Immaculate Conception elementary school in Puit Chacha Haiti, a remote hamlet within the catchment of Fond des Blanc, offers a quality educational program and hot meals to over 200 students within a well-constructed school building that has provided shelter to the local residents during storms.

Please visit our website, [ICHaiti.org](http://ICHaiti.org), to learn more or to help support IC Haiti.

## 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](http://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.

## The Pelican Intervention Fund

The Pelican Intervention Fund is dedicated to supporting men and women on their journey from addiction to recovery. The Pelican Intervention Fund offers hope for sustained recovery for adults who live in the communities of Amesbury, Byfield, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, West Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, and Salisbury. Visit our website, [www.pelicaninterventionfund.org](http://www.pelicaninterventionfund.org) to learn more.