

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 31, 2017

hricatholic.org



The Holy Family from the della Robbia altarpiece, Assisi, Italy

All Are Welcome



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters..."

St. Ann

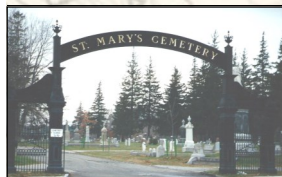
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Nativity

Parish offices and church:
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Phone: 978-462-2724
Fax: 978-234-7399
Email: info@newburyportcatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, Pre K-grade 8,
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



Collaborative Staff

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St. Vincent de Paul


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

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

www.hricatholic.org

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (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)

Monday (1/1)

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

10:00am **IC** *Dorothy & Ralph Franzese, Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. Harrison)

Tuesday (1/2)

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

Wednesday (1/3)

7:15am **IC** *Peter C. Boschetti* (Fr. Morin)

Thursday (1/4)

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

Friday (1/5)

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

1:30pm **Avita** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (1/6)

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

4:00pm **IC** *Stephen Bower, Jo Bridges* (Fr. Harrison)

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

Sunday (1/7)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Raymond H. Bardsley* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

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

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

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Ok, Jesus was born. So what?!

I know these might sound like fighting words to some. Others in our wider community might scratch their heads wondering, "Hmmm. . . Jesus. . . now where have I heard that name before?!" The truth is that although there are a great many of us who treasure the name of Jesus and deeply celebrate his Nativity, the majority of our world might give a collective shrug, if that, when they hear about Christ's birth. This is nothing new. Our world barely noticed when the Christ Child was born in Bethlehem several millennia ago. Following his life and death, it was only after the repeated preaching and witness of his friends that people began to hear the message that God was doing something new through this "Anointed One." Indeed, it took the heroic suffering of many martyrs and the conversion of an emperor to cement the name of Jesus in the consciousness of the Western world. Many centuries of missionary work would take the name further to the east and among varying cultures that span our globe. Jesus is now an international phenomenon. And despite the bombastic hoopla that make up our secular holiday extravaganza, if pushed, most people will admit that the birth of Jesus had something to do with Christmas... somewhere, somehow, right?!

But all this leads me back to the question of "So what?" What difference did it make? How is our world different since Jesus was born? What's the big deal, anyway?

Now, before anyone is tempted to launch into lengthy theological treatises, I would argue that these questions are best answered not by trained theologians and clergy, but by everyday believers who love and have faith in the Savior. A quote once attributed to St. Francis of Assisi was, "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." And here lies the challenge that we disciples have been wrestling with from the beginning: How do we best spread the Good News that is Jesus Christ in a world that asks, "So what?"

The answer, I think, lies in how well we go about sharing Christ's love with others. Think of two lovers who are completely smitten with one another. Do we not marvel at the extraordinary ways they contort themselves to reflect their blossoming relationship? They can't help but share their joy! It is evident in everything they say and do. Would the world say the same thing about us in our love for

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Collaborative Website

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

Questions of the Week

Adult: How do the members of your household show love for one another during difficult times?

Child: How do you show your family that you love and trust in them?

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our calendar at hriccatholic.org for a complete listing of activities.

Monday, January 1, New Year's Day

Collaborative Offices Closed

No Religious Ed.

Tuesday, January 2

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

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

HR Religious Ed, Grade 7 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

Wednesday, January 3

HR Holy Quilters 2:00pm, 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, January 4

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

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

HR Activities Committee Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Friday, January 5

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

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

Saturday, January 6

Pastoral Plan Leadership Team Retreat 10:00am, Location TBA

HR Religious Ed., Gr. 5 Activity Day 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

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

Sunday, January 7

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church

HR Religious Ed., Grade 2 Parent + Student 9:00am,
Nativity Hall

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

IC Religious Ed., Grades K-8 10:05am, IC Parish Center

Baptism Class 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

IC Religious Ed., Grade 2 + Family Church Tour 1:00pm,
IC Church

Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

HR Religious Ed., Grade 10 + Sponsor 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

New Year's Office Hours

Collaborative offices will be closed on Monday, January 1 and will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2.

Bulletin Information

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

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Jesus? Does it ooze from our pores, spill over from our hearts? Are we a "pleasing aroma of Christ" as St. Paul wrote in his Second Letter to the Corinthians? When people encounter us, do they truly see Christ in us? Heady stuff, I know. Yet, if Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension are to mean anything to our troubled world, it must be something that burns within us so much that it can't help but have an effect on those we encounter. Otherwise, our world will answer the question, "So what?" with "nothing much," and move on. Jesus' birth among us is far too important. We must find a way to share this treasure with others.

This past year, a very special woman from our Collaborative passed to the Lord, but not before leaving a wonderful legacy of good works, in particular, her relentless visitation of the sick and homebound. She had a simple approach to everyone she met: she repeated over and over again the words, "I love you." And it was obvious that this came not only from her heart, but from Jesus' as well. This was her answer to the "so what?" of our world. As we move into a new year, what will ours be?

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

January 1—Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

With January 1 falling on a Monday this year, the Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God is not a holy day of obligation. Nonetheless, we will be offering Mass to honor the feast at:

9:00am at St. Ann Church in West Newbury

10:00am at Immaculate Conception in Newburyport

Join us, and begin the New Year, 2018, with Mass!

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 or you can call the Parish offices.

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. The charity for January is Merrimack Valley Hope Mission. Donation suggestions: Winter hats, gloves, scarves, heavy socks, gently worn jackets, and travel-size toiletries.

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



Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

From the Parochial Vicar

“Well done good and faithful servant.”

On the weekend of November 19, the Gospel passage proclaimed at Mass was taken from Matthew 25: 14–30, the Parable of the Talents. Inspired by that text and the challenge of using one’s God-given talents well, I asked the people at Mass to accept a talent from me, namely, \$5.00. Using that talent well and creatively I asked that this talent be returned and with it an increase! The increase would then be given to the Saint Vincent de Paul Societies of our Collaborative. 80 parishioners/families accepted the challenge and have to date realized \$4,962.00! Isn’t that amazing! Here are a few more stories of how some of our creative parishioners arrived at such an increase:

Karen writes: “I used your \$5.00 toward matting material and sold one of my watercolors for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you for this opportunity! Here is a check for \$100.00.” And from Samuel: “I’m in the 2nd grade ...and... about a month ago I had the opportunity to hear your homily and accept the challenge to turn your \$5.00 into something even greater for the St. Vincent de Paul. I decided to make and then sell Christmas ornaments to friends and family. I’m happy to say I raised \$100.00. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and for being a blessing in my life!” Robert writes: “I play guitar and went to the boardwalk and played. I collected some donations. So here is \$50.00 and your original \$5.00.” And from David: “I was at your service the Sunday before Thanksgiving and took one of your \$5.00 and promised to use my talents to “grow” it for charity. Although I am a Pediatrician by day, my hobby is playing guitar in a classic rock cover band... We had a Christmas gig on December 4 and I put the \$5.00 bill in my guitar case, we also played an acoustic show at an ice cream shop in NBPT last night at Invitation Night and again put the \$5.00 in a jar, here is what I earned! (\$146). Paying tribute to one of my favorite gospels of all time!”

These are beautiful stories—and there are more just like these—using our talents to realize an increase for the glory of God and for the good of our brothers and sisters. My sincere thanks to everyone who participated in this simple and yet obviously effective way to hear the Gospel and put it into practice. Blessings this Christmas Season and in the New Year.

–Fr. George

Cor Unum Ministry

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

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

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.

RCIA

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

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. Contact Fr. George with questions, 978-462-2724.

Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on January 7, 2018

Father Broderick’s Scripture Study will resume its regular schedule 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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Cursillo

Cursillo is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love and joy into your daily life.

2017–2018 Calendar

Ultreya	Cursillo Weekend
	January 4–7 (Women)
February 2	February 8–11 (Men)
February 23	March 1–4 (Women)
April 6	April 5–8 (Men)
April 27	May 3–6 (Women)
June 1	June 7–10 (Women)

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

All Care Hospice

Looking for Ways to Give Back this Season? If so, All Care Hospice needs you! All Care Hospice is currently seeking caring, compassionate people to offer comfort and support to our patients and families through companionship. As part of the care team, volunteers serve a vital role in affecting the quality of our patients' lives. All Care Hospice serves the North Shore, Merrimack Valley and Greater Boston. Volunteer opportunities available close to home. For more information or to enroll in a training, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Maureen Burge at 781-244-1129.

Winter Weather Mass Cancellations

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

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

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

Volunteers Needed for Avita of Newburyport

Every Sunday, Avita of Newburyport Assisted Living brings residents to Mass at Holy Redeemer. They are in need of volunteers to escort residents from Avita to church and back on the Avita bus at 9:30 Sunday mornings. Please contact Debra Shapiro at deb@avitaofnewburyport.com or 978-225-7000.

Happy New Year!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends 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 Room 209 of the IC Parish Center at 7:30 to 9:00pm on the fourth Monday of the month. Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. **Our next meeting is January 22.** Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ at (617) 410-6309 or info@abutterflysjourney.org.

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.

Christmas Flowers

Donations from/in memory of: Gordon McLachlan, Violet Tomecka, Edmund Tomecki, Ann McLachlan, Ian McLachlan, Leon Smart, Harriet Smart, Gary Smart, Michael Smart, Ronn Smart, Sr. Anita Lapeyre, Eugene & Anna Mueskes, Audrey Melican, Thomas Melican, Larry Kolesar, Carl Bragg, Sr., Edna Bragg, Stanley, Joseph & Alison Baikewicz, Tony, Mary & Paul Baker, Stephen & Catherine Bogue & Family, The Deceased Members of the Sullivan, Furbush & Kelleher Families, Linda Brackett, Christine Miaszkiewicz.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

December 16-17 \$11,443.00
 IC Haiti \$ 1,587.00

The second collection next weekend is Restoration/ Renovation.

Christmas Collection 2017

Last week's Christmas collection for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust supported the health and well-being of our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to participate and you would like to do so, please visit clergytrust.org. On behalf of the 590 priests of our Archdiocese, thank you for your prayerful and generous support.



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.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 10.00
Poor Box	\$540.00
Total	\$550.00

IC St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thank You for Helping The Society of St. Vincent de Paul to help others. The Advent Project at Immaculate Conception provided \$4,000 worth of gift cards for food, gasoline, medicine, and household supplies. The cards will be distributed to residents of Newburyport and Newbury who call on the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for help during the year ahead. Your generous response to the Advent Project makes it possible to respond to every call with a meaningful offer of practical assistance. If the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can help you, call us at 978-518-0728.

In addition to the Advent Project, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at I.C. has received more than \$2,000 from Fr. Morin's "5 Talent" homily. His creative challenge showed how the gifts we are given can turn into great things with unexpected benefits. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will use the resources obtained during Advent to help our local neighbors in need. Thank you!

Immaculate Conception School

In the spirit of giving, IC students are donating mittens and gently used coats to area residents who need a little warmth this Christmas. Organized by the Junior High Leadership Team, these annual drives are an important way for our students to learn how to make a difference. Service to others is a continuous focus for students of all ages at the IC. Cultivating empathetic and compassionate youngsters, who have the skills to organize and act to lessen life's burdens for others, compliments our rigorous academic program to develop well-rounded individuals.



Rose Window Update

We are very happy to report that the Rose Window project that has been ongoing for more than a year at Immaculate Conception Church has been finally completed! Please take a moment to look up while you are at mass in the weeks ahead and enjoy its beautiful light! Gratitude and much thanks go out to all who have contributed to the cost of this restoration, especially to the Knights of Columbus who matched parishioner donations during our fundraising campaign several years ago. It is a joy to be able to pass along this great treasure to the next generation. Thank you for your support and patience as this project was brought to completion.



Baptisms

We rejoice with the families of our new brothers and sisters who received the Sacrament of Baptism in November and December:

- Eleana Mercedes Calix • Olivia Lorraine deMoraes •
- Ashton Lee Hajj • Finn Porter Healey • Hunter William Holmes • Christopher Robert Kelleher, Jr. • Benjamin Bodhi LeBlanc • Carolina McCaslin • Brielle Grace Meyer • Addison Elizabeth Grey Moscardini • Owen David O'Donnell.

IC Knitting Ministry



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

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

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 #138: Develop the habit of giving real importance to the other person. This means appreciating them and recognizing their right to exist, to think as they do and to be happy. Never downplay what they say or think, even if you need to express your own point of view. Everyone has something to contribute, because they have their life experiences, they look at things from a different standpoint and they have their own concerns, abilities, and insights. We ought to be able to acknowledge the other person's truth, the value of his or her deepest concerns, and what it is that they are trying to communicate, however aggressively. We have to put ourselves in their shoes and try to peer into their hearts, to perceive their deepest concerns and to take them as a point of departure for further 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>

No Classes: December 31–January 1.

Next Classes:

- Gr. K–8 Sunday, January 7 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 or Melinda Burrell 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.

On December 10, Religious Ed. made fleece blankets for the Pregnancy Care Center.



We will be hosting a fleece scarf making day on Sunday, January 21 from 11:15-1:00. Pizza will be served.



IC Rel. Ed. Sing-a-long

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Newburyport Council 231 was founded in 1897. 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.

We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at (978) 572-0231, membership@kofc231.org.

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, January 9** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

December 23–24 \$2,731.25

Christmas Collection 2017

Last week's Christmas collection for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust supported the health and well-being of our priests. If you did not have the opportunity to participate and you would like to do so, please visit clergytrust.org. On behalf of the 590 priests of our Archdiocese, thank you for your prayerful and generous support.

2017 Grand Annual

The Holy Redeemer Grand Annual collection has raised **\$10,180 to date.**

If you did not bring your pledge card to Mass with you this weekend please bring it next weekend or mail it to the parish office this week. Your participation in the Grand Annual Collection is sincerely appreciated.

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 and God Bless!

There is a wonderful way to honor someone who has requested "No gifts, please." You can send a check to Holy Redeemer Saint Vincent de Paul at 4 Green Street in Merrimac. Your donation will honor someone's celebration and will also help those in need. A note will be sent to let that someone know about the donor's meaningful gift. Donations can be made to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other significant occasions.

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

Archdiocese Web Site

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

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.**

HR Religious Education

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

Saturday, Jan 6 Grade 5 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 Class, Nativity Hall, 6:00–7:30pm

Youth Mass

At our 5:00pm Youth Mass on **Sunday, January 28** at Nativity, Merrimac, we will be donating our scarves and collecting items for the Merrimack Valley Hope Mission: Other items that can be donated include: Winter hats, gloves and heavy socks, Gently worn jackets, travel-size toiletries.

Thank you for your generosity to those in need.

Contact info: Office of Religious Education

Doreen O'Leary (Rel. Ed. email: reledhrp@gmail.com)

Activities Committee Meeting

The Activities Committee will meet on **Thursday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.** in Nativity Hall. We will be meeting to plan HR parish events for 2018. Please come join us. We would love to hear your ideas.

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.

EWTN: Catholic News

Want the latest Catholic News? EWTN News has you covered. EWTN News: Your Online Catholic Resource.

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

HR Boy Scouts

Holy Redeemer charters 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. All faiths welcome.

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.