

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 12, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



Gehena, as it is today, just outside the walls of modern Jerusalem

"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna." (Mt. 5:29)



Disciples in Mission
Archdiocese of Boston

Second Pastoral Plan Town Hall

February 26, 2017

Immaculate Conception Parish Center, St. Louis Hall
Immediately following the 11:30 Mass

Please join Father Tim and the Writing Team
for a 1.5 hour review & discussion
of the current draft of the HRIC Pastoral Plan

An **ADVANCE** copy of the latest draft
can be obtained using one of two convenient ways:

To request an **advance ONLINE** copy, go to the HRIC website at
www.hriccatholic.org

Sign up on the HRIC home page - and request an online copy.

To receive an **advance PRINTED** copy

Please stop by the Town Hall tables this weekend, February 11 and 12, 2017
before and after each Mass @ St. Ann, Nativity, and Immaculate Conception.

Your participation is vital as it will enrich the final Plan with
the views of the Collaborative at large.

Working together, we can ensure our HRIC parishes grow to be even more
vibrant, inclusive communities benefiting from our diverse perspectives.

Pizza will be provided by the Collaborative. Your **advance** registration will help us
gauge the number of attendees. There is no cost associated with attending.

Please join us for an energetic discussion.
God Bless and see you then!

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (2/11)

4:00pm **IC** *John "Jack" A. Dow, Bob Jackson, Michael & Lucia Lombardo, Loretta V. Minalio* (Fr. Broderick)

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

Sunday (2/12)

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

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

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

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

11:30am **IC** *Louis & Lena Filomia, George H. Lawler, Jr.* (Fr. Broderick)

Monday (2/13)

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

Tuesday (2/14)

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

Wednesday (2/15)

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

Thursday (2/16)

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

Friday (2/17)

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

10:30am **Port Rehab** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (2/18)

4:00pm **IC** *Peter Santa Maria, William Lindquist* (Fr. Harrison)

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

Sunday (2/19)

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

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

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

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

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

In your prayers, please remember Joseph H. Brown, Jr., Mary Elizabeth Merrill, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

In the Gospels, Jesus spoke so frequently in parables and constantly used analogies, it can be tempting to think that today's passage about "fiery Gehenna" fits into that pattern. It does not.

Gehenna was, and is, a real place. Rather than some macabre, futuristic place of punishment in the afterlife, Gehenna in Jesus' time was a trash dump just outside the walls of Jerusalem. It was the place where people went to burn their trash, so it was constantly smoky and laden with decaying flesh and refuse. What an apt image of hell! In another passage, Jesus refers to Gehenna as the place "where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." (Mk 9:48) More than 500 years before the time of Christ, Gehenna was the place where pagan idols were worshipped and child sacrifices were made. That it would be viewed as a cursed and defiled land is easy to understand. Even today, vegetation struggles to grow on its rocky ground.

So, this image is a real one. Whether it resembles what our understanding of Hell would be like or not, to the original hearers of the Gospel, no imagination was necessary. This was a place you didn't want to get thrown into or trapped in.

And isn't that an apt understanding of sin? It is something that traps us. We freely choose it, but once we have, we are trapped by it, alienated from all that is good and right. And just like falling down into a rocky gorge with no hope of escape, when we sin, we are in a situation that we cannot extract ourselves from without God's help. In Christianity, we certainly celebrate, treasure and rely on God's mercy and forgiveness in Christ. It is only here that we find true hope for eternal life. But as the first reading reminds us, that is no reason to go around sinning! In fact, God invites us to live our lives in a holy and righteous manner. With God's Grace, we can choose to forgo sin. We can do the right and good. We don't have to sin....

But we don't find ourselves going around "not doing something," most of the time, do we? Most of our lives are



(Continued on page 4)



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.

Women's Evening of Prayer



Join us for a Women's Evening of Prayer on Wednesday, March 8 at St. Ann Church at 7:00pm. The theme will be **Prayer**. All women in the Collaborative are welcome.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Visit www.hriccatholic.org for more events and details

Monday, February 13

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

Tuesday, February 14

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
 Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 8 6:00pm, Nativity Hall
 IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St Louis Hall
 HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory
 BSA Troop 41 Committee Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall
 HR St. Vincent de Paul 7:00pm Nativity Rectory
 Knights of Columbus 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Wednesday, February 15

Holy Quilters 2:30pm, Nativity Hall
 SnowCAMPS Informational Meeting 3:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
 Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
 Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 Book Discussion Group 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
 Forming Intentional Disciples 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, February 16

SnowCAMPS Informational Meeting 6:00pm, Nativity Hall
 Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, February 17

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

Saturday, February 18

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

Sunday, February 19

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
 Coffee after Mass 9:00am Nativity Hall
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church
 Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

(Continued from page 3)

lived actively engaged in doing something constructive, intentional or habitual. We get up each day, shower, brush our teeth, go to work, eat, sleep, pick up the kids, give our spouse a peck on the cheek, put out the dog, check the news and weather forecast, say our prayers....These daily habits help us to live our lives and nurture our relationships well. They are habits because we make them so. They benefit us and others, because we make good choices.

This weekend's readings invite us to consider the things we do habitually and intentionally to be good disciples. The reason we do good rather than evil is not only because of the consequences of failure, but more importantly because of how much we ought to love the One we are called to be faithful to. It is one thing to stay on the "straight and narrow" because we are scared to death of what might happen to us if we should veer off course. It is quite another to passionately, relentlessly seek the path of righteousness because we love God that much! On the one, we might be afraid to breathe, lest we utter the wrong thing. On the other, we can't stop singing God's praises, even if we don't hit every note perfectly.

St. Paul gives us the best reason to cleanse our lives of frivolity and failure. Paraphrased by composer Marty Haugen, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love him; Spirit of love, come, give us the mind of Jesus, teach us the wisdom of God." (From the song, "Eye Has Not Seen" based on 1Cor 2:6-10). Paul would invite us to dream as big as we can. Imagine the very best of the best that God can give and do for us, and even then, it all falls short of the reality of what awaits us in Christ. It will be better than you can ever think. So there's a motive to be faithful, to work as hard as we can to return even some small portion of that great love back to the One who has first loved us. That's what lovers do, right? They constantly eat, sleep, breathe, and think of new ways to offer themselves more completely to the one they love. Not because they are afraid of what will happen if they don't, but because their hearts are so fixed on their beloved, they cannot think or imagine themselves doing anything else.

So, two powerful motivations to change our lives: For those convinced of the goodness and joy of their relationship with God, there is the bliss of living totally for the Lord, convinced that even the best of days here will pale in comparison to what is to come...and for those who aren't yet sure, there is the image of smoldering, stench-filled Gehenna. Either way, let's live our lives well and be mindful of God's Law. Only blessings await us if we do.

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

Questions of the Week

Adult: God's laws can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another. How do you follow God's rules in your family?

Child: Families have rules that are to be followed. God has rules too. How do you follow God's rules?



The annual March for Life in Washington on January 27 was attended by several Collaborative members. Thanks to marchers Chris Eagan and Steve Swochak for photos. See page 5 for more.



COLLABORATIVE NEWS



Lenten Events

Mark your calendars for these Collaborative Lenten events.

- **2nd Annual Lenten Series & Fellowship Meals**
Thursdays, 6:30–8:00pm, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at Nativity
Fridays, noon–1:30pm, March, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at IC
Presented by the Adult Faith Formation Team (AFFT)
- **Annual Lenten Mission**
Sunday–Wednesday, April 2, 3, 4, & 5, 7:00–8:00pm, at IC
Presented by former pastors & priests of our Collaborative

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on February 19, 2017

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on its regular third Sunday of the month, February 19 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 read and discuss *The Acts of the Apostles*, Chapter 2, verse 37–Chapter 5. In this second book, written between 80 and 90 A.D., Luke continues the story of Christianity in the first century. The early chapters, set in Jerusalem, describe the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the leadership of St. Peter after he is filled with the Holy Spirit, and the growth of the early Church there. As interested followers become believers and Peter heals a man crippled from birth in the name of Jesus Christ, Jewish Church leaders become concerned, arrest Peter and John and bring them before the Sanhedrin. Their warnings do not deter the Christian community as members begin to live a communal life, sharing what they have with those in need.

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.

March for Life in Washington



Celebration of the Priesthood

Save the Date

Fr. Tim Harrison's 25th Anniversary to the Priesthood

Celebrate our wonderful Pastor and Laetare Sunday.

All are welcome on Sunday, March 26, 2017 for the 11:30 a.m. concelebrated Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport, followed by a reception at the IC School gym from 12:30–3:00 p.m.

Come together and rejoice in this Collaborative event with your presence and hospitality and gratitude.

Centering Prayer

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

Youth SnowCAMPS

SnowCAMPS: A weekend specifically designed with the junior high student in mind with lots of fun, friendships, music, games, 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 from throughout the Archdiocese.

SnowCAMPS will be held this year on two weekends: February 24–26 and March 3–5 at Camp Brookwoods in Alton, NH. There will be an informational meeting in Immaculate Conception Parish St. Louis Hall, Newburyport on Wednesday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m. and at Holy Redeemer Parish, Nativity Hall in Merrimac on Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. Questions? Call Father George at 978-462-2724.

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COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Book Discussion

Save the dates: February 15 & 22

The Collaborative of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception will host a book discussion on Wednesday evenings during February from 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m. in the IC Charity Dining Room. The book discussion will be Christopher Pramuk's *Hope Sings So Beautiful: Graced Encounters across the Color Line*. Christopher Pramuk offers a mosaic of images and sketches for thinking and praying through difficult questions about race. The reader will encounter the perspectives of artists, poets, and theologians from many different ethnic and racial communities. All are welcome.

Contacts: Dr. Art Ledoux, ledoux@merrimack.edu, Nancy Ledoux 978-270-5488, nancyledoux@comcast.net, Dr. Mag McKinnon, mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org.

National Marriage Week 2017

**Celebrate National Marriage Week 2017
with *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love)**

"The word of God tells us that the family is entrusted to a man, a woman and their children, so that they may become a communion of persons in the image of the union of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" (no. 29).

National Marriage Week, February 7–14, is an opportunity to promote, celebrate, and strengthen marriage. Pope Francis's exhortation *"The Joy of Love,"* (April 2016) is about marriage and family life.

For more resources on *Amoris Laetitia*, visit uscgb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/amoris-laetitia.cfm

For resources to prepare for marriage or strengthen your marriage and family, visit www.foryourmarriage.org.

Collaborative Contacts

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Mardi Gras Celebration

A Mardi Gras celebration is coming on **Monday, February 27** in the IC Parish Hall. Dinner is being served in two seatings—4:00 and 6:00 p.m. **Limited seating.**

We have begun selling Mardi Gras dinner tickets to benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. \$10/adult and \$5 for children. Ages 5 and under are free.

The celebration will include traditional foods of New Orleans, crafts, raffles, and more. Everyone is welcome.



Cursillo & Ultreya

A *Cursillo* retreat is a three-day weekend of intensive spiritual reflection and exploration at St. Basils, Methuen, that offers us the opportunity to deepen our relationship with Christ. *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. The next *Cursillo* is March 2–5 (women).

Ultreya, the Spanish word for "onward" or "to persevere," 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. The next *Ultreya* is February 24. Questions about *Cursillo* or *Ultreya*? Contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

Youth Masses

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, March 12 at IC.

Other Youth Masses (5:00pm) for the Year

March 12	Immaculate Conception
April 2	Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity
May 7	Immaculate Conception

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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 4–5 \$3,218.00
Fuel \$1,761.00

This week's second collection is the monthly.

HR Prayer Shawl

Would you like to help those in need this winter without it costing you anything?

Come join us at 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, March 2**, 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 March 2? 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 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099.



Holy Redeemer Events

Raffle Night is held in the spring at the Nativity Parish Hall. Those attending the evening buy raffle tickets to win a variety of items. Homemade dinners are available. The 2017 Raffle Night is tentatively planned for Saturday, April 29 from 5:00–9:00 p.m.

The Holiday Fair is a long-running tradition at Holy Redeemer. It is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving at the Nativity Hall. Gift baskets, homemade soups, silent auction items, and nearly new items are available. The 2017 Fair will be November 18 from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Preparing for Mass

Visit <http://liturgy.slu.edu> to read this weekend's Scripture, historical and theological commentaries, and prayerful reflections. It is a great way to get ready to hear and respond to God's Word.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



Without your help, we would be unable to assist our many clients.

Please be aware that the Society is always interested in learning about used automobiles that you are getting rid of and might wish to donate; several of our clients are looking for used automobiles, as their autos have reached the end of their useful lives. Thank you for your consideration.

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

HR Religious Education

Sunday, February 12

Grade 10 (Year II Confirmation Prep), Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14

Grade 8, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

No Classes for the weekends of *February 19 and 26* due to school vacation

Monday, February 27

Mardi Gras Dinner Don't forget to buy your Mardi Gras tickets. There are two seatings, 4:00pm and 6:00pm at IC. Come and enjoy our celebration with your whole family. Tickets are on sale now: \$10, adults, \$5, children, and children under 5 yrs.

Free. This collaborative event will benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. Tickets are available for sale after every weekend Masses. Come, enjoy!

New Email Address

The Office of Religious Education at Holy Redeemer has a new email address: reledhrp@gmail.com.

Coffee After Mass



Coffee will be served after the 8:00 Mass at Nativity next Sunday, **February 19**. Plan on coming and, if possible, bring your favorite treat to share.

Scripture for the Week

- 12 Sun** Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
13 Mon Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13
14 Tue Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21
15 Wed Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26
16 Thu Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33
17 Fri Gn 11:1-9/Mk 8:34—9:1
18 Sat Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13
19 Sun Lv 19:1-2,17-18/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

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/>

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. See the website calendar for dates, www.hricatholic.org. All faiths welcome.

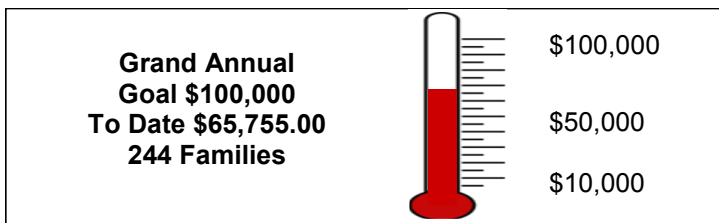


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 4–5 **\$9,933.00**
 Restoration/Renovation **\$1,838.00**

This week's second collection is the Monthly.
 Next weekend's second collection is IC Haiti. **Please make checks payable to IC Haiti.**



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.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 216.00
Collection	\$ 67.50
Total	\$ 283.50

IC Haiti

In order to carry out our mission to the people we are currently serving in Haiti, particularly the schoolchildren of the Fr. Marc Piché elementary school in Puit Chacha, IC-Haiti is permitted to take up four collections a year. You have demonstrated your ongoing support for our mission by your constant generosity both during these quarterly collection weekends and in response to emergency appeals following natural disasters and medical crises in Haiti.

The next IC-Haiti collection, the first one this year, will take place the weekend of February 18–19. Thanks to your generosity at the time of our December 2016 collection, we were able to meet the increased costs for the daily food program for the schoolchildren in Puit Chacha for the remainder of this school year. These dramatic cost increases for food products are directly related to the devastating effects the October hurricane had upon agriculture in the southern peninsula of Haiti.

Thank you for trusting IC-Haiti to use your kind donations wisely in service to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Haiti.

Immaculate Conception School

Dear Friends,

Did you know that in the Archdiocese of Boston there are 118 Catholic schools, overseen by the Catholic Schools Office? Recently in a publication entitled, "We Believe in Catholic Schools," the Campaign for Catholic Schools asserted that "Catholic schools are the largest private educator of children in this country and that research shows that Catholic school students test higher than their public school peers." Currently, thirty percent of the students who attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese are not Catholic. Schools in the Archdiocese of Boston are open to all families who are interested in quality Catholic education.



This Week's Visit to Immaculate Conception School:

At Immaculate Conception School we not only pride ourselves on the quality education we provide, but also on the young men and women of character that are fostered here. Below is a picture of students who received "A Good Citizenship Award" for exemplary conduct and effort in the recently completed second quarter of this school year.



From left to right—top row: Mrs. Reardon, Principal, Aoife DeClercq, Margot Anderson-Song, Catherine Batchelder, Anna Farrell, Erin Osinski, Maria Mataac, and Daniel Strazzulla
Bottom row: Anna Affolter, Matthew McDougall, Grace Belknap, Katherine Powers, Caroline Doyle, Campbell Pearce, Julie Durning, and Julianna Camozzi

The "Kindness Team" is an enthusiastic group of third graders who are meeting once a month to "do good for others." They have created placemats that were donated to Salvation Army for their meal service and the group also made beautiful gift tags for clients at the Opportunity Works Holiday bazaar in December. The Kindness Team is also hoping to assist in the Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program in the coming months. Below we see the team working on Valentines to go to a local nursing home. An important note, this Kindness Team was the idea of an innovative third grader, Morgan Signore (pictured in the right photo below).



At Immaculate Conception School quality academics and character development go hand in hand!

Sincerely, Mary Reardon, Principal

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Principal Job Announcement

Immaculate Conception School in Newburyport, MA is seeking a principal for the 2017–2018 school year. The principal is the spiritual, instructional, and administrative head of the school, and is responsible for the effective operation of the school as a Catholic educational institution. He/she is the primary agent for creating an environment that fosters academic excellence, Catholic faith formation, and vitality and viability. He/she is responsible for creating a welcoming atmosphere for all members of the school community (faculty, staff, students, parents, and donors) and a climate that encourages the engagement of each student in the learning process while fostering a love for learning. The principal reports directly to the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish. The Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Boston will participate in reviewing candidates.

Qualifications:

The principal of Immaculate Conception School is a **practicing Catholic**, holds a Master's degree in education and current Mass. certification as a school principal, with significant teaching experience. Catholic school experience is preferred.

Interested candidates should email a cover letter, resume, copy of current MA certification and a list of references to apply@catholicschools@rcab.org. Deadline for applications is March 1.

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.

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.



Baptisms

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

Charlotte Leigh Blais, William Francis deBernado, Benjamin Anthony DeMeo, Lauren Rose DeMeo, Cameron James Herman, Adalyn Jean Langlois, Emma Gray McConnell, Logan John McConnell, Bailey MacKinnon Millette, Kinley Ann Mora, Addison Mae Olsen, Jason James Olsen, Bridget Evelina Provost, Emmett Michael Reiner, Aubrey Michelle Rice, and Hazel Susan Whittemore

Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, February 14** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

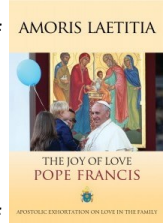


IC Religious Education

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.

The Transmission of Life and the Rearing of Children—In #80—Marriage is firstly an “intimate partnership of life and love” which is good for the spouses themselves....The child who is born “does not come from outside as something added on to the mutual love of the spouses, but springs from the very heart of that mutual giving, as its fruit and fulfillment.” He or she does not appear at the end of a process, but is present from the beginning of love as an essential feature, one that cannot be denied without disfiguring that love itself. From the outset, love refuses every impulse to close in on itself; it is open to a fruitfulness that draws it beyond itself.



Religious Education Classes

Grades K–6: Next classes: 2/11 and 2/12.

Grades 7–8: remaining schedule is as follows:

- Service Learning Project: Sunday, February 26—Decorating the Parish Center for Mardi Gras dinner 4:00-7:00pm.
- Service Learning Project: Monday, February 27 for Mardi Gras dinner (grades 7–8 student volunteers are needed for 4:00 and 6:00pm dinner seatings). Dinner to benefit Pelican Intervention Fund.
- Pizza and Bowling: Sunday, March 19, 12:30–2:30pm (Tentative) Fun Outing Pizza and Bowling: Leo's Super Bowl, 84 Haverhill Road, Amesbury, MA 01913 978-388-2010
- Service Learning Project: Sunday, May 7, 2:00–4:00pm—Beach clean up project—Plum Island. 4:30pm St. Louis Hall-to debrief experience.

Baptism (There are no Baptisms during Lent.)

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

Feb 12 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

May 7 Parent Class-Charity Dining Room 1:00pm

May 14 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

The next Confirmation session is Sunday, February 12 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.

First Eucharist

Our next First Eucharist session will be Sunday, April 2 at 1:00-3:00pm in the Church. We will have a tour of the church with an opportunity to go behind the scenes and see what happens within the many spaces. Candidates and parents are to attend the session.

Mardi Gras Dinner—Monday, February 27

See page 6 for details.