

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

## Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2018

[hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org)



*The Transfiguration in mosaic tile by Stefano Pozzi from St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.  
Based on the original tempura on wood by Raphael.*

***“And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.” (Mk 9:2-4)***

*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

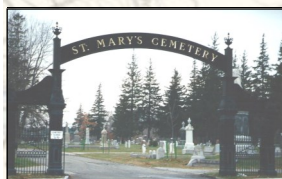
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985  
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
Email: [holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

## 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

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Saint Vincent de Paul Society at  
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978-346-8604 x 8  
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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)

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

 [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception  
Collaborative Parishes](https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Redeemer-Immaculate-Conception-Collaborative-Parishes)

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (2/24)

- 10:30am **Country Rehab** (Fr. Broderick)  
 4:00pm **IC Mary O'Donnell** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

### Sunday (2/25)

- 7:15am **IC** (Fr. Morin)  
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)  
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)  
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)  
 11:30am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

### Monday (2/26)

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

### Tuesday (2/27)

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

### Wednesday (2/28)

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

### Thursday (3/1)

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

### Friday (3/2)

- 9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)  
 1:30pm **Avita** (Fr. McLaughlin)

### Saturday (3/3)

- 2:00pm **Atria** (Fr. Broderick)  
 4:00pm **IC Brandon Lafata** (Fr. Morin)  
 4:00pm **St. Ann Nell Kaczynski** (Fr. Harrison)

### Sunday (3/4)

- 7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)  
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)  
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 11:30am **IC Kevin Funchion** (Fr. Harrison)  
 5:00pm **Youth Mass at IC** (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Arthur Wood, Robert Kealey, 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,

Last weekend's bulletin had already gone to print when the terrible news came of yet another mass-shooting in our country. This time, it was from a high school in Florida.



Like all of you, I have given much thought and prayer about these maddening and repeated episodes of senseless violence. It haunts my head and confounds my heart more than I would like to admit. Looking out on your faces this past week at mass, I know you feel this pain too. While we certainly think about these events and dutifully pray for the victims, their families, and community, the standard response of offering our "thoughts and prayers" doesn't cut it anymore. Not if we stop there. Not if using our God-given gift of intellect doesn't spur us to some thoughtful, concrete actions that might prevent these senseless acts of violence. Not if, in dialogue with our God in prayer, we simply resign ourselves to more of the same, that nothing can be done.

I do not believe that, with God's help and engaging the best and brightest among us, that we are impotent before this manifestation of evil. And let's call this for what it is: evil. Classically, evil is defined as "a privation of created goodness." It is a taking away of the goodness that God created in our world, a destruction of the divine harmony that ought to exist through an expression of God's will. We need look no further than the faces of those whose lives were cut short to see the goodness that was removed from our world. Their voices that might cry out for justice have been cut short. Ours have not. We owe it to them and to all of the victims of these crimes to find a path of healing and prevention. We are not slaves to this evil! Jesus Christ died on the cross to buy our freedom. We can do better.

I think the first thing we need to admit in looking at some kind of response to these incidents is that there are no quick or easy answers. There is no one, fast, feel-good solution that will suddenly bring these outbursts of violence to an immediate end. Disbanding the NRA, shaming our elected leaders for failing to pass a certain law or banning a particular model of gun will not make these massacres stop. I say this because I do not believe that we are dealing with one, particular evil that must be confronted, but rather a concert of evils—some obvious, some quite subtle—that are all working together to produce the carnage we rightly abhor.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Help the Homeless

All are invited to attend. Hear updates on our area's 2018 homelessness count and hear speakers from Gloucester's Grace Center discuss the free Day Center in their town. Can we create a Day Center locally? Join the conversation.

**When:** February 27 at 7:00pm

**Where:** Central Congregational Church, Social Hall, 14 Titcomb Street, Newburyport

## 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. The next weekend is March 1–4 (Women). *Ultreya* is held in the IC St. James Chapel at 7:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

On a national level, here are the major players, as I see them, in this evil symphony:

- ⇒ Too easy access to high-powered, rapid-fire weapons with large capacity magazines.
- ⇒ Poor or limited access to mental health services that have been inadequately funded along with a profound misunderstanding of those with mental illness.
- ⇒ A lack of coordinated background screening between various agencies for those who seek firearms.
- ⇒ A general breakdown for the respect and dignity of human life in our culture.
- ⇒ An embedded persistence of racism, hatred, and mistrust in our culture.
- ⇒ A general breakdown or reduction in the importance of the family as a central unit for care and nurturing.
- ⇒ A glorification and normalization of gun violence in the entertainment and gaming media.
- ⇒ A decrease in the care and attention people give to making room for God in their daily lives.

In sharing some of my thoughts with local clergy from other traditions this week, one of our local ministers in another church added “a distorted vision of masculinity” to the list above, citing the recurrence of these events as perpetrated by all male-shooters. Combined, I think and believe that it is the mix of all of the above that bring about what we see far too frequently in the news today.

In Massachusetts, we have addressed the first issue reasonably well by banning “assault rifles” and large capacity magazines. We have some of the toughest and most effective gun laws in the nation that mostly seem to be working. But many places do not. Although we have some of the best mental healthcare facilities in the country, there is much work that can be done to make access to these services more broadly funded and available. But, as a society, we have done little to address the rest, even though I know we all work very hard every week at bring God’s love to others in our communities.

I think the path forward to first a reduction, then an eventual elimination of mass-shootings in our society is to take the long view and work at confronting, changing, and improving each of these individual pieces at opportune moments, without losing the bigger picture. As Christians, we must be the bearers of hope that with God, all things are possible. As citizens, I think we can effectively support, piece by piece, the needed change of heart, laws, and policies that will over time make these painful incidents part of our history, not our present.

That much said, how ought we proceed?

Another local clergy member, reflecting on the Book of Nehemiah, pointed-out that after weeping, repenting, and seeking God in prayer, Nehemiah shared the vision of a restored holy city for God’s people and then provided a way for each person and family to rebuild the part of the wall of

Jerusalem that was nearest their house and focus of interest. They did this together, and each one had a personal, vested interest in seeking the common good. Individually, this task would have been overwhelming. Taken piece-by-piece and section-by-section, it was accomplished together as a community with God’s blessing.

We have done enough weeping. It is time to repent for our inaction, seek God’s blessing through our prayer and get to work to make our nation’s schools, shopping malls, concert venues, night clubs, stores, places of work, and wherever people gather safe for all.

So, how can you see yourself engaging one of the issues listed above? What hasn’t been said that still needs to be brought to light? What one thing will you do?

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

### 2018 Catholic Appeal



Next weekend, the Catholic Appeal will be announced in all parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

Each of us is responsible not only for the well being of our parish, but also for the well being of the Church throughout our Archdiocese and throughout the world. In preparation, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a generous gift. To make an online pledge, please visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org). Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this year’s Appeal.

### 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. The charity for March is First Parish Church Food Pantry, Newbury. Donation suggestions include food (dry or canned), toiletry supplies (especially toothbrushes and toothpaste), toilet paper, paper towels, children’s diapers any size. **Sr. Lisa, our Lenten Mission speaker, will be addressing the assembly at the end of this Mass on March 4. Please join us for this celebration.**

#### Youth Mass Schedule

- March 4 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport
- March 25 at Nativity, Merrimac
- May 20 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

### Questions of the Week

**Adult:** Name a time this past week when you recognized Jesus’ presence.

**Child:** Name or draw a picture of a time when you knew Jesus was with you.

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## This Week in Our Collaborative

See our calendar at [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org) for more activities.

### Monday, February 26

AA Meeting 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
 IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–8 6:00pm, IC Parish Center  
 HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 7:00pm, Nativity Hall  
 IC PFC Meeting 7:00pm, IC School Library  
 Compassionate Friends 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209  
 Landings 7:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

### Tuesday, February 27

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  
 Travel Meeting 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room  
 HR St. Vincent do Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

### Wednesday, February 28

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall  
 Holy Quilters 1:00pm, 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  
 Confessions 6:30pm, Nativity Church  
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

### Thursday, March 1

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall  
 Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel  
 Pastoral Plan Leadership Meeting 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

### Friday, March 2

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel  
 Lenten "Simple Supper" before Stations 6:00pm, Nativity Hall  
 AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
 Stations of the Cross 7:00pm, Nativity Church  
 Stations of the Cross 7:00pm IC Church

### Saturday, March 3

HR Grade 1 Activity Day 1:00pm, Nativity Hall  
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

### Sunday, March 4

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church  
 HR Religious Ed., Grades 3–6 9:00am, Nativity Hall  
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church  
 IC Religious Ed., Grades K–8 10:05am, IC Parish Center  
 IC Religious Ed., Confirmation (Catholic School, Adult+ Students) 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room  
 Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library, Room 205

## Travel Information Night

### "Italia Due" a Pilgrimage to Northern Italy

Join Fr. Tim and our Travel Ministry Group

**When:** February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Immaculate Conception Parish Center, Charity Dining Room

See & hear the highlights for our planned October 2018 Itinerary—*Lake Como, Milan, Padua, Venice, Florence, Siena, and Assisi.*

Also, we are pre-planning info. for our Passion Play Pilgrimage to Oberammergau Germany in 2020.

Light Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend. All are welcome.



Florence —  
the heart  
of the  
Renaissance

## Scripture Study

### Scripture Study will meet on March 4

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on the regular scheduled first Sunday of the month, March 4, at 2:00 p.m. in the IC Parish Center.

This would be an ideal time for interested members of the Collaborative to join the study group as we continue 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 3–6.

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.

## Youth SNOWCAMPS



Snowcamps, a high-energy, activity-filled, spiritual growth experience weekend for 7–8 graders, is held at Camp Brookwoods, Alton, NH. Get ready for fun, friendships, music, games, and faith sharing from teens and adults.

Join the fun with the 100+ junior high kids from several different parishes throughout the Archdiocese. The next weekend is March 2–4. Cost 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.



## Find Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception  
 Collaborative Parishes  
 "Like" our page

# LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

## Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 7:00pm at **both Immaculate Conception Church and Nativity Church.**

Stations of the Cross at **Nativity** will include a “Simple Supper” that will be served in the Nativity Hall beginning at 6:00. There is no cost for the meal.

## Helping Our Homeless

**Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.**

The Newburyport YWCA has conducted its annual census of the homeless in our community. And, while statistics are not yet available, it is expected there are close to 500 homeless people in our community and over half of them are children! In an effort to ease the suffering and as a Collaborative-wide Lenten observance, we again will be collecting “Homeless Care Packs” in all three churches. A Homeless Care Pack is a one-gallon Ziploc bag filled with personal care items for men and women. They will be distributed to local agencies serving our homeless, including our own Pelican Intervention Fund, St. Vincent de Paul, Pettengill House, Salvation Army, and Community Service, as well as distributed by our youth attending the annual 20-hour famine. Travel-size personal care items are the best size and can be found in most pharmacies in the area. There will be a collection box at the entrance of each church. For more information or to help, please contact Jonathan Temple, 978-809-9337 or [jntemple@comcast.net](mailto:jntemple@comcast.net). Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

### Items needed:

Shampoo	Cough drops	Feminine hygiene products (Women)
Toothbrush	Protein bars	Umbrellas
Toothpaste	Soap	Antiseptic Wipes
Deodorant	Life Savers candy	
Razor	Disposable face cloths	<b>No mouthwash or loose items please</b>
Socks	Kleenex packs	
Gloves	Hand sanitizer	
Shaving Cream		

## Reconciliation During Lent

On all Wednesdays of Lent from 6:30–8:00pm, all parishes and chapels of the Archdiocese of Boston will be open for individual confession. To help prepare, visit [TheLightsOnForYou.org](http://TheLightsOnForYou.org) to see videos on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, sheets on how to make a good confession, answers to frequently-asked questions, and more. Please make plans to come and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know.

### Collaborative Confessions (6:30pm–8:00pm)

February 28 Nativity  
 March 14 Penance Service, IC 7:00 p.m.  
 March 21 Saint Ann  
 March 28 IC



## HRIC Lenten Mission

### Save the Dates

**Location:** Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport

**Time:** 7:00pm–8:30pm

**Dates:** Monday–Wednesday, March 5–7

**Speaker:** Sr. Lisa Valentini

The theme of our Lenten Mission is: **God LOVES You! God LOVES You! God REALLY LOVES You!**

Sr. Lisa is a Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. She has spent much of her life as a missionary in Mexico, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. She is full of stories, songs, and the love of Jesus, which permeate her presentations. Why not attend all three sessions? You will love her!

*Our Collaborative Mission is sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team (AFFT).*



## Women’s Evening of Prayer



Join us for a Women’s Evening of Prayer on Wednesday, March 14 at St. Ann Church at 7:00pm. The theme for the evening is Strength and Courage. All women of the Collaborative are welcome to this evening filled with prayer and song.

## Centering Prayer for Lent

Our Lenten reflection on Jesus’ words and works reveals Jesus’ intimate relationship with his Father. This developed through prayer. Jesus tells us, “When you pray, go into your private room, shut yourself in, and so pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who see all that is done in secret will reward you” (Matt 6:6). In Centering Prayer you enter your private room.

Lent is a time to follow Jesus more closely and learn from the fully human Jesus how to pray by entering your secret room, spending time that places God at the center of your life, opening yourself to a loving Father, surrendering your will and in trust allowing God to transform you.

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice available to all who seek transformation through a more intimate relationship with God. Centering Prayer helps us say to the Father, “Not my will but yours be done” (Lk. 22:42). Please consider joining us for weekly group Centering Prayer and let God move you closer to him. If you are unable to attend on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm in IC Conference Room 209, you are welcome to contact me to explore this simple prayer of resting in God. Elizabeth McCarthy 978 462-7483.

# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Offertory February 17-18      \$2671.00

## Stations of the Cross/ Simple Supper

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday at 7:00pm at Nativity. A "Simple Supper" will be served in the hall beginning at 6:00. There is no cost for the meal.

## Holy Redeemer Raffle Night

Save the Date: April 28

Holy Redeemer will hold Raffle Night on Saturday, April 28 at Nativity Hall. Join us for dinner and raffles. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Watch the bulletin for details and for ways you can help out.



## 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.

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 Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, February 28.**

See the Collaborative calendar at [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org) for the schedule. Contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

## 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, March 1.**

## HR Religious Education

*Friday, Mar. 2, Stations of the Cross*, Nativity Church, Merrimac, 7:00 p.m.

A **Simple Supper** precedes the Stations beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Merrimac Hall. Please join us. All are welcome.

*Saturday, Mar. 3, Activity Day for our 1st Graders*, All of the first graders are invited to this day of learning and fun. We will begin at 1:00 p.m. and end about 3:15 p.m. Please bring a snack to share and water and juice boxes will be provided.

*Sunday, Mar. 4, Grades 3-6 classes*, Nativity Hall, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

**Youth Mass, Immaculate Conception Church**, Newburyport, 5:00 p.m. Sr. Lisa, our Lenten Mission speaker, will be addressing the assembly at the end of this Mass. Please join us. The collection is for First Parish Church Food Pantry, Newbury. Donation suggestions include food (dry or canned), toiletry supplies (especially toothbrushes and toothpaste), toilet paper, paper towels, children's diapers any size.

*Tuesday, Mar. 6, Grade 7 class*, Nativity Hall, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Contact Info: Office of Religious Education**

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

## Activities Committee Updates

**HR Activities Committee is planning ahead:**

**Easter Church Cleaning Helpers Needed:** Would you help us **clean the inside of our churches** for Easter? We are organizing two crews for Saturday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m. Sign-up sheets are in the back of both churches.

**Raffle Night Donations Needed:** Would you donate a **new** item (of any type) for our **Raffle Night** on April 28?

**Spring Church Yards Clean up:** Saturday, May 19.

Contact: Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072.

## Saturday Mass at St. Ann

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **St. Ann** in W. Newbury on **March 3.**

## HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



Praying, fasting and abstinence, and almsgiving are cornerstone activities that are carried out during Lent.

Please take a mite box as you leave Mass, fill it, and return it at Easter. All donations will be used by SVdP to help local clients in need. Your generosity is appreciated.

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

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Offertory Collection

February 17–18	\$8,396.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$3,187.00
Catholic Charities, 2-14-18	\$2,820.00

The Second collection next weekend is Utility and Energy.

**Grand Annual Goal \$100,000**  
**To Date \$75,250.00**  
**310 Families**



## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 35.00
Poor Box	\$456.00
Total	\$491.00

## 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, [riccatholic.org](http://riccatholic.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.

## Skipper’s Alley Performance

### An Evening of Irish Music featuring Skipper’s Alley

As part of the Belleville Roots Music Series, enjoy an evening of wonderful traditional Irish music from Skipper’s Alley. Irish step dancers from Bracken School of Irish Dance, Salisbury, start the show (beginning at 7:15). Skipper’s Alley, a modern Irish folk band with an old school approach, begins at 8:00. Tickets are \$35 at the door (cash or check only) or \$30 in advance.

**When:** Friday, March 2 at 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:00)

**Where:** Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High Street, Newburyport

**More Info.:** [www.bellevilleroots.org](http://www.bellevilleroots.org)

## Immaculate Conception School

STEM activities provide essential hands on learning opportunities and are a favorite of students in all grades.



First grade students recently collaborated to research and create 3-D animals and their habitats, each publishing a digital book of facts with illustrations. Grade 2 students have studied birds in depth. They built owl houses, dissected owl pellets, and are currently researching birds in a variety of countries. Students in grades 3

and 4 have been coding with “ozobots,” which are mini robots that are programmed using color language. By using markers to draw lines in a specific color sequence, students program the robots to turn successfully through a maze at various speeds. Our Junior High students are embarking on their biggest project of the year for the Learning Fair. Science projects require an experiment, lab report, and presentation, plus a correlating research paper for Language Arts. Throughout all of the grades, students are using a multitude of skills and thinking processes to complete STEM challenges.



*Pictured: Grade 4 students collaborate to write color codes to program mini robots.*

## 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 February 26.** Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ at (617) 410-6309 or [info@abutterflysjourney.org](mailto:info@abutterflysjourney.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).



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

### School Year IC Religious Education Classes

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

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

- No Classes: February 25—End of Winter Break and March 4 and 5.
- In place of Religious Education classes on March 4 and 5—we have the **Collaborative Lenten Mission—God Loves You. God Loves You. God Really Loves You. with Sr. Lisa Valentini, Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.** She will be our Mission Speaker and is asking for all families in Religious Education (Summer and School year programs), First Eucharist, and Confirmation (Summer and School year processes) to attend the Mission on Monday, March 5 from 7:00–8:30pm at IC Church. This evening will be focused on families and faith. We hope you can join us Tuesday and Wednesday as well. Hope you will join us!

Next Classes:

- Gr. K–8 Sunday, March 11 10:05–11:05am.
- Gr. 1–8 Monday, February 26 6:00–7:10pm.

### Baptism

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

Please pre-register for the class. There are no classes or baptisms during Lent.

Apr. 8 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm

Apr. 15 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

### Confirmation

**Please come to the Lenten Mission on Monday, March 5 at 7:00pm.**

**Confirmation Year 2 for Summer & School year candidates: Public, Private, and Catholic school candidates** Session is Sunday, March 18 at 1:00–3:00pm in the church. Reminder: candidate and adult (sponsor, parent, or another adult) to attend the session.

**Catholic School candidates Year 2 and adults**—next session Sunday, March 4 at 1:00–3:00pm in the Charity Dining Room 114.

For information and registration go online:

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

### First Eucharist

**Please join in the Lenten Mission on Monday, March 5 at 7:00pm. This evening is focused on families.**

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

Our next 1st Eucharist session for candidates and parents is Sunday, March 11 from 1:00–3:00pm. Walk through the Mass with Fr. George in the church.

## EWTN: Catholic News

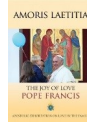
EWTN News: Your Online Catholic News Resource.

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

*IC Religious Ed., Continued*

### Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

Pope Francis released the Exhortation on the Family. We continue to review the various statements from the Holy Father.



**Love and pregnancy** In #170: Scientific advances today allow us to know beforehand what color a child's hair will be or what illnesses they may one day suffer, because all the somatic traits of the person are written in his or her genetic code already in the embryonic stage. Yet only the Father, the Creator, fully knows the child; he alone knows his or her deepest identity and worth. Expectant mothers need to ask God for the wisdom fully to know their children and to accept them as they are. Some parents feel that their child is not coming at the best time. They should ask the Lord to heal and strengthen them to accept their child fully and wholeheartedly. It is important for that child to feel wanted. He or she is not an accessory or a solution to some personal need. A child is a human being of immense worth and may never be used for one's own benefit. So it matters little whether this new life is convenient for you, whether it has features that please you, or whether it fits into your plans and aspirations. For "children are a gift. Each one is unique and irreplaceable....We love our children because they are children, not because they are beautiful, or look or think as we do, or embody our dreams. We love them because they are children. A child is a child." The love of parents is the means by which God our Father shows his own love. He awaits the birth of each child, accepts that child unconditionally, and welcomes him or her freely.



Landings meets on Monday, February 26 from 7:30–9:00pm in the IC Charity Dining Room 114. The next session will be to attend the Lenten Mission on Monday, March 5 at 7:00pm. To find out more about LANDINGS, please contact: Dr. Mag McKinnon 978-462-2724 ext. 7405, [mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org).

### Youth Mass—March 4, 2018

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, March 4 at Immaculate Conception at 5:00pm. Sr. Lisa, our Lenten Mission speaker, will be addressing the assembly at the end of this Mass. Please join us for this celebration.

Charity: First Parish Church Food Pantry—Newbury Food: dry or canned, toiletry supplies, especially toothbrushes and tooth paste, toilet paper, paper towels, children's diapers any size.

## Stations of the Cross

Join us at 7:00pm every Friday during Lent at Immaculate Conception Church for Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to this traditional Lenten devotion.