

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



“Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?” (Mt. 6:26)

PELICAN INTERVENTION FUND

Newburyport parishioners' fund aids those with substance abuse

By Mark Labbe *Pilot* Staff • Posted: 1/6/2017 in *The Pilot* • reprinted with permission



Father George Morin and Father Timothy Harrison are pictured with Elizabeth McCarthy and Steve and Kim Keene, founders of the Pelican Intervention Fund. Courtesy photo

NEWBURYPORT—Kim Keene, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Parish in Newburyport, watched her son's friend Corey struggle to combat his substance addiction by attending various programs, none of which seemed to help.

It wasn't until after she and her husband Steven Keene helped fund Corey's placement into a residential 12-step program in a sober living home that results started to become visible.

"Really in a very short time we saw the transformation in him," Kim Keene told *The Pilot*.

That was three years ago, and since then Corey has been in recovery.

The transformation Keene has seen in Corey over the last few years has been astounding, she said, and it made her and her husband realize that "we had to help other people," she said.

So, the Keenes, along with fellow parishioner Elizabeth McCarthy who had also experienced a loved one dealing with substance abuse, decided to found the Pelican Intervention Fund.

Founded about a year ago, the fund's mission is to raise money to provide funding for residential 12-step substance abuse recovery programs for people who can't afford them, particularly those living within Essex County.

While it is run by the Keenes and McCarthy, the fund is part of the larger Essex County Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that "promotes philanthropy in Essex County by managing charitable funds for donors, providing grants and services to nonprofit organizations and engaging in community leadership initiatives," according to its website.

So far, Kim Keene said, the fund has raised tens of thousands of dollars, and has placed seven people into 12-step programs.

Some of those have since completed the programs, and remain in recovery.

"For me, it's a very spiritual journey, and I feel the Holy Spirit is pushing me in this direction to help these young people," commented Keene.

McCarthy said that four of the seven helped by the program—three men and one woman—were provided assistance by the fund and placed into programs after being released from jail.

Those who have been assisted following rehabilitation were incarcerated for addiction-related crimes, McCarthy said, and employees in the jails screen them first to ensure a residential 12-step program would be beneficial to them.

McCarthy said that the Pelican Intervention Fund communicates with the Essex County Sheriff's Department, local police departments, hospitals, and spiritual leaders in the area, and receives funding through the donations of countless individuals.

"We feel very blessed by the response of the community," she said.

Immaculate Conception Parish, too, has helped promote the fund.

"What impressed me initially about this was just the fact that here are some parishioners trying to respond to a need that no one else seemed to be attending to," said Father Timothy Harrison, pastor of the Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Collaborative.

"I felt that it was something worth supporting by encouragement," he said.

While the parish hasn't given direct financial support, it has given the fund exposure through a variety of outlets, including publishing information about it in their bulletin and giving organizers and those who have been helped through the fund opportunities to speak at parish events and Masses.

"One of their strongest selling points is the testimony that a number of the young people who have been through these longer terms programs have given," Father Harrison said.

The testimonies are powerful, he said, and they drive home the point that addiction "can happen to anybody." "The bottom line is that it can happen to you, it can happen to your family member, it can happen to anybody in our community," he added.

Father Harrison noted that the Keenes and McCarthy are all "heavily involved in a number of ministries in the Church," including acting as Eucharistic ministers and lending support to other outreach groups.

"They're definitely people of prayer and of service and ministry," he said.

Visit the website at pelicaninterventionfund.org.



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (2/25)

10:30am **Country Manor** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00pm **IC Sean Cooke** (Fr. Morin)
 4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (2/26)

7:15am **IC Henry Reslewic** (Fr. Morin)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC Betty Parisi, Pauline Lattener Kane & Family** (Fr. Broderick)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 11:30am **IC Henry Reslewic, Joseph. H. Brown, Jr.** (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (2/27)

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

Tuesday (2/28)

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

Wednesday (3/1) Ash Wednesday

7:15am **IC Regina M. Stronge** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 9:00am **IC School Liturgy Thomas A. Navarra** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
 12:00noon **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
 7:00pm **IC** (Fr. George)
 7:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

Thursday (3/2)

7:15am **IC James Murray, Cliff Moody** (Fr. Morin)

Friday (3/3)

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

Saturday (3/4)

2:00pm **Atria Merrimack Place** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00pm **IC Henry Reslewic, Mary Elizabeth Merrill, Cliff Moody** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (3/5)

7:15am **IC Henry Reslewic** (Fr. Morin)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC Patricia A. Salach** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC Anthony Guarracina, Dr. Eugene Connolly & Fr. William Connolly, S.J.** (Fr. Broderick)

In your prayers, please remember all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception

Nativity—Merrimack

St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I came across a dead bird outside the rectory the other day. It was a cute little thing, covered in colorful feathers that contrasted richly against the dull grayish-white of the winter landscape. I think it must have broken its neck trying to fly through a window. I was saddened by the scene, but I also remembered this weekend's Gospel passage and a few others like it that recall God's universal and intimate care for all of Creation. This includes all of the birds of the air and, most especially, we who have been made so magnificently in God's image! Not a single bird will be allowed to fall from the sky without our Creator's knowledge. And if God will pay attention to even these tiny and somewhat insignificant details of our world, how much more will the Lord show concern and care for our needs and struggles. Even when confronting death there can be comfort and encouragement.

When I was a little boy, my mother once took me shopping to a large department store. Inevitably, and despite repeated warnings from her to the contrary, I wandered off into the maze of aisles, mesmerized by flashing lights, colorful signs, and endless rows of bright shiny things that captured my complete attention. It felt like I was roaming the store for hours, when all of a sudden it dawned on me that my mother was nowhere in sight. And then panic struck! Not only had I disobeyed her, but now I was lost and had no idea where she was or how to get back to her. Did she abandon me? No doubt, tears ensued, followed by a frantic running up and down the aisles in a fruitless search for her voice. Of course, during this time, my mother was actually running up and down the aisles herself, actively searching for me, calling out my name and enlisting the help of an army of store employees and other shoppers

(Continued on page 4)



Ash Wednesday is March 1

Ashes will be distributed at the following liturgies:

7:15am Immaculate Conception

9:00am Immaculate Conception (School Liturgy)

9:00am St. Ann

12:00noon Immaculate Conception

7:00pm Nativity

7:00pm Immaculate Conception



Reconciliation During Lent

In addition to the weekly schedule for confessions, there will be extra confessions for Lent on Wednesdays from March 8–April 12 at the following places. Confessions will be from **6:30pm–8:00pm**.

March 8, IC and Nativity

March 15, IC and St. Ann

March 22, IC and Nativity

March 29, IC and St. Ann

April 5, Confessions@ IC only: Parish Mission Week

April 12, IC and Nativity

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Visit www.hriccatholic.org for more events and details

Monday, February 27

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 Mardi Gras Dinner 4:00pm & 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–6 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
 HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
 HR Cub Scouts Den Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall
 Compassionate Friends 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, February 28

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
 IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory
 Plan Writing Team 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Wednesday, March 1 Ash Wednesday

Holy Quilters 2:30pm, Nativity Hall
 IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
 Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
 Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, March 2

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
 Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel
 Lenten Series, Soup & Spirit 6:30pm, Nativity Hall

Friday, March 3

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
 Lenten Series, Soup & Spirit 12:00noon, IC St. Louis Hall
 AA 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Saturday, March 4

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

Sunday, March 5

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
 HR Religious Ed., Grades 3–6 9:00am, Nativity Hall
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church
 IC Religious Ed., Grades K–6 10:05am, IC Parish Center
 RCIA 10:15am, IC Youth Ministry Room
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 2 11:15am, St. Ann Hall
 Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 10 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

Youth Masses

Youth Masses (5:00pm) for the Year

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

(Continued from page 3)

alike. When she finally found me, there was a weird and wonderful mix of anger and joy on her face. Was I due some punishment? Sure. But it was certainly mitigated by a relief that washed over her face to find me unharmed and no worse for the experience. Her love for me was evident and exceeded my expectations or limited understanding at the time. My hand and arm were not my own for the rest of the excursion....

Do we ever realize that God's care for us is more complete than even the most conscientious and attentive mother ever could be? That even when we feel like we are lost or have wandered far and away in life that God knows exactly where we are and is always close by, ready to take our hand and lead us forward? It is a humbling and awesome thing to consider just how loved and cared for we are by God. Far from the Deist notion of God as the "great watch-maker in the sky" who put the gears and mechanics of our world in motion but since then is un-involved in its running, the Christian understanding of God is that of Incarnation and an intimate, passionate involvement in even the smallest and most insignificant moments of our lives.

As a Christian, we realize that God comes to us in the doting love of a grandparent who is always eager to hear of our latest adventure and never tires of listening to our latest story. God is present in the watchful sibling who knows just how much space to give us as we explore the growing world around us. God is alive and joyful in that special teacher or co-worker who ignites our inner creativity. God is close to us in the comfort of a friend, the companionship of a peer at a time when we need it the most. God touches us through even a "chance" encounter with a perfect stranger, enlarging our world and refocusing our purpose. God reassures us through the love of a spouse, affirming goodness in the holiness of intimacy. God even is found in the silence of the early morning hours when we are awake with our thoughts and at our most vulnerable. Even there, in that time and place where we may be tempted to feel most alone and unimportant, God is there with mercy and compassion. God's love never goes away, never diminishes, never fades, never tires. As St. Paul once wrote, "Love never fails."

It is my sincere hope that this week none of us have to confront the loss of even the tiniest of God's feathered friends. But if you do, just remember, you are worth more than a whole flock of sparrows and that God's love for each of us is more profound than an entire library of books could ever describe. These are comforting thoughts to take with us into our Lenten Season in the days ahead.

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

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COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Adult Lenten Series: Soup & Spirit

The theme is Vatican II's Vision of "The 5 Models of the Catholic Church"

Week 1: Fr George Morin presents *Community*
John Leary, witness speaker

Discussion Question: Is a true Community feasible in this age of individualism, busyness, "selfies" and self-reliance?

Thursday, March 2, Nativity Hall (6:30pm–8:00pm)

Friday, March 3, IC St. Louis Hall (noon–1:30pm)

Week 2: Mary Schmidt presents Institution

Thursday, March 9, Nativity Hall (6:30–8:00pm)

Friday, March 10, IC St. Louis Hall (noon–1:30pm)

Week 3: Fr. Tim Harrison presents Sacrament

Thursday, March 16, Nativity Hall (6:30–8:00pm)

Friday, March 17, IC St. Louis Hall (noon–1:30pm)

Week 4: Dr. Mag McKinnon presents Herald

Thursday, March 23, Nativity Hall (6:30pm–8:00pm)

Friday, March 24, IC St. Louis Hall (noon–1:30pm)

Week 5: Joan Rossi presents Servant

Thursday, March 30, Nativity Hall (6:30–8:00pm)

Friday, March 31, IC St. Louis Hall (noon–1:30pm)

Presentations hope to highlight HRIC's Pastoral Plan for Disciples in Mission while fostering the formation of lay adults as intentional Catholics.

All sessions are **free**, include a light meal, a personal witness talk by a peer, and small-group discussion based on a faith-building question. Watch the bulletin for questions so you can ponder your response in advance; then see if your answer shifts or deepens after hearing the presenters' Models of the Church.

Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team (AFFT)



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 throughout the Archdiocese.

SnowCAMPS will be held this year on March 3–5 at Camp Brookwoods, Alton, NH. Questions? Call Fr. George at 978-462-2724 or click the snowflake at hriccatholic.org.

Cursillo & Ultreya

Cursillo The next Cursillo is March 2–5 (women) at St. Basils, Methuen.

Ultreya The next Ultreya is March 31, 7:00pm at IC.

Questions about Cursillo or Ultreya? Contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

Celebration of the Priesthood

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.

2nd Annual HRIC Lenten Mission

Location: Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport

Time: 7:00pm–8:00pm

Dates: Monday–Wednesday, April 3–5

Speakers:

Fr. Bob Connors (Monday, April 3) speaks about **Hospitality:** Forming Welcoming Parishes.

Fr. Matt Williams (Tuesday, April 4) speaks about **Evangelization & Service:** What It Means.

Fr. Derek Borek (Wednesday, April 5) speaks about **Discipleship:** Forming Intentional Disciples.

Workshop on Visiting the Sick

A workshop on Pastoral Care to the Sick and the Homebound will be offered at Holy Family, Amesbury on Saturdays, March 4 and 11, 2017 from 9:00am–3:00pm. Timothy Duff, a certified chaplain, will teach the course.

The workshop will include a review of communication skills, the basics of pastoral visitation, key illness issues, spiritual needs and concerns, grief, loss and dying, and caregiving issues. Eucharistic ministers, pastoral visitors, parish nurses, and others are encouraged to attend. Fee: \$40. Pre-registration is required. Call 617-746-5843 to register. Please register by March 1.

Questions of the Week

Adult: God cares for us every day. How have you experienced God's care for yourself and/or your family?

Child: Jesus tells us to look at how the birds and the flowers are cared for. We can be sure that God will care for us even more. Thank God for caring for all living creatures and for caring for us.



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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Second Pastoral Plan Town Hall

Calling all Parishioners to this Weekend's
Town Hall on our HRIC Pastoral Plan



Father Tim and the Writing Team invite you to help set our destination and the GPS course for our HRIC Collaborative for the next 3–5 years.

We are eager to hear from you! Please come and give us the benefit of your comments, your perspective, your experience. Please come and exchange ideas with your fellow parishioners and enrich our Plan.

Please join us for the lively dialogue. Please join us for the pizza. But please join us and help guide our Collaborative for the next 3 years.

You still have time to request an advance online copy of the current draft of the Plan. Visit www.hricatholic.org. Sign up on the HRIC home page and request an online copy. Printed copies of the Plan will be available at the door.

**See you at our Second Pastoral Planning Town Hall
This Sunday, February 26, 2017—
Immediately after the 11:30 Mass
Immaculate Conception—St. Louis Hall**

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.

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on March 5, 2017

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on its regular first Sunday of the month, March 5 at 2:00pm in the Parish Center. We will read and discuss *The Acts of the Apostles*, Chapters 3–6. 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.

Mardi Gras Celebration

A Mardi Gras celebration is coming on **Monday, February 27** in the IC St. Louis 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 (Providing funds for 12 step residential treatment to addicts and alcoholics in the Greater Newburyport area) after weekend Collaborative Masses and at the IC Parish Center. \$10/adult and \$5 for children. Ages 5 and under are free. Limited seating.



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

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults meets on Sundays at 10:15am in the IC Youth Ministry Room. Contact Marin, 978-462-2724 or fortune@newburyportcatholic.org for info.

Religious Travel Information Night

Are you interested in being part of a life-changing experience? Participating in a religious pilgrimage can be an incredibly rich way to enhance your faith experience as well as see new sights and make lasting friendships. Join us on **Friday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Louis Hall** at the IC Pastoral Center for an informative evening on upcoming trips that currently are being planned for our Collaborative as well as help us to dream about future excursions in the years to come. Right now, we are accepting applications for a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi with Fr. Tim Harrison this coming October. A summer trip with Fr. George Morin to Montreal and Quebec City is also in the works for August. For more information on either of these adventures or if you have any questions please contact Paul Blanchette at: pblanchette@me.com or (978) 500-5661. We would love to have you join us!



Collaborative Contacts

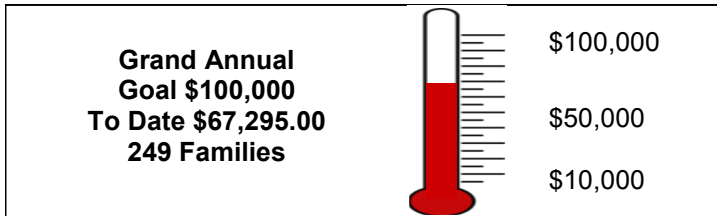
Rev. Timothy Harrison, Pastor
Rev. George E. Morin, Parochial Vicar
Donald Alunni, Business Manager
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Immaculate Conception 978-462-2724,
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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 18-19 **\$8,879.00**
 IC Haiti **\$6,697.00**

This week's second collection is St. Vincent DePaul. **Please make checks payable to St. Vincent DePaul.** The **Ash Wednesday** collection is for the Church in Africa and Central & Eastern Europe. The second collection **next weekend is Utility and Energy.**



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box \$ 347.00
 Collection \$ 51.00
 Total \$ 398.00

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.

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.

The Compassionate Friends



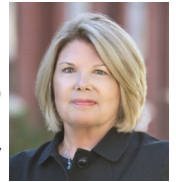
The Compassionate Friends of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild or sibling—any age, any cause. Our monthly support meetings are held in the IC Conference Room 209 from 7:30-9:00pm on the 4th Monday of the month. The next meeting is February 27. Questions?

Contact Barbara J. Hopkinson, founder and chapter leader, 617-410-6309, or info@abutterflysjourney.org.

Immaculate Conception School

Dear Friends,

During Catholic Schools Week it is an honored tradition at Immaculate Conception School to invite the "special people" in our lives to lunch! Below are some shots of our guests taken by Eighth Grader, Elizabeth Gorman.



Left: Eighth graders Maria Mataac, Clara Riley and, Lily Troupe preparing for the luncheon.



Right: Grace Belknap's special persons.



Left: Julianna Camozzi's special person



Below: Molly Bernard's special persons

Below: Antonio and Mateo Calapiz's special persons.



Above: Will Bean's special person

It was wonderful to have so much mutual admiration in one place!

Sincerely, Mary Reardon, Principal

Upcoming Events

Fashion Show ~ Sunday, March 5, 1-3 pm

135th Gala ~ Friday, May 19, 7-10 pm

Tuesday Tours ~ IC school tours, including classroom visits, second Tuesday of each month, 9-11 am.

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 this Wednesday, March 1.

Irish Community Documentary

Join us for the initial screening of local historian and parishioner Jean Foley Doyle's documentary about Newburyport's Irish Community, to be shown at the Newburyport Senior Center on Wednesday, March 8 from 7:00–9:00pm.

The documentary includes 3 sections:

Section 1—Newburyport's early Irish immigrants and how they bolstered their sense of community by building churches and schools

Section 2—A focus on the feuding between Hannah Gillis (mother of Bossy Gillis) and the Cashman family

Section 3—Shows how Bossy Gillis' 6 terms as mayor brought both intrigue and excitement to the city. Gillis' sense of sensationalism amused some and horrified others, while leaving an indelible mark on the Newburyport community

Free Admission. To ensure a seat, please reserve by calling 978-462-2681 (Museum of Old Newbury) or by sending an email to info@newburyhistory.org.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Please join us for Adoration in IC's St. James Chapel in the Parish Center on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

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.

The Transmission of Life and the Rearing of Children—In #83. Here I feel it urgent to state that, if the family is the sanctuary of life, the place where life is conceived and cared for, it is a horrendous contradiction when it becomes a place where life is rejected and destroyed. So great is the value of a human life, and so inalienable the right to life of an innocent child growing in the mother's womb, that no alleged right to one's own body can justify a decision to terminate that life, which is an end in itself and which can never be considered the "property" of another human being. The family protects human life in all its stages, including its last. Consequently, "those who work in healthcare facilities are reminded of the moral duty of conscientious objection. Similarly, the Church not only feels the urgency to assert the right to a natural death, without aggressive treatment and euthanasia," but likewise "firmly rejects the death penalty."

Religious Education Classes

Grades K–6: Next classes: 3/5 and 2/27.

Grades 7–8: remaining schedule is as follows:

- Service Learning Project: Sun. February 26—Decorating the Parish Center for Mardi Gras dinner 4:00–7:00pm.
- Service Learning Project: Mon. February 27 for Mardi Gras dinner (gr. 7–8 student volunteers are needed for 4:00 and 6:00pm dinner seatings). Dinner to benefit Pelican Intervention Fund.
- Pizza and Bowling: Sun. March 19, 12:30-2:30pm, Fun outing pizza and bowling: Leo's Super Bowl, 84 Haverhill Road, Amesbury, MA 01913 978-388-2010
- Service Learning Project: Sun. 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>

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

May 14 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

The next Confirmation session is Sunday, March 12 from 3:00-5:00pm in the Church for Year 2 public, private, and Catholic school candidates. The candidate and his/her sponsor, parent, or another adult are to attend the session. Confirmation candidates in Year 1 are to continue to do their monthly service activity until next fall.

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 to Benefit the Pelican Fund— Monday, February 27

See page 6 for details.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 11–12	\$3,062.00
Monthly, February 11–12	\$1,745.00

The Ash Wednesday collection is for Church in Africa and Central & Eastern Europe.

Raffle Night Meeting

Holy Redeemer's *Annual Raffle Night Social* will be held Saturday, April 29 at Nativity Parish Hall. Doors will open at 5:00pm for supper—**homemade comfort foods**—will be on our menu. Raffles will start at 6:00pm.



Everyone is invited to come to our organizational meeting on **Monday, March 6** starting at 6:30pm at St. Ann's hall. (The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 19 at 7:00pm at Nativity.)

We are asking for help. We need **Donations** for our Raffles. Anything **New**—any size, any shape, any type. Gift cards and gift certificates are welcome too. Donations may be left in the back of either church. Please mark donation with "Raffle." We need the donations by Sunday, April 23. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072.

Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair

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.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



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.

Scripture for the Week

26 Sun	Is 49:14-15/1 Cor 4:1-5/Mt 6:24-34
27 Mon	Sir 17:20-24/Mk 10:17-27
28 Tue	Sir 35:1-12/Mk 10:28-31
1 Wed	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
2 Thu	Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
3 Fri	Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
4 Sat	Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
5 Sun	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

HR Religious Education

Monday, February 27

Mardi Gras Dinner, IC St Louis Hall, Newburyport. Dinner seatings are at 4:00pm and 6:00pm. Thanks to all who purchased tickets for this collaborative event, or those who made a donation to benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. **Tickets may be purchased at the door.** \$10, adults, \$5, children, and children under 5 yrs. free. This collaborative event will benefit the Pelican Intervention Fund. **See you there.**

Tuesday, February 28

Grade 7, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30pm

Saturday, March 4

Grade 1 Activity Day, Merrimac, 1:00pm–4:00pm Families may attend the Mass at 4:00pm. Cold drinks and water will be provided. Students are asked to bring a snack to share. Parents are welcome to stay! See you soon.

Sunday, March 5

Grades 3–6, Merrimac, 9:00–10:00am

Grade 2, West Newbury Hall, 11:15–12:15

Grade 10, Merrimac, 6:00–7:30pm

Tuesday, March 7

Grade 7, Merrimac 6:00–7:30pm

New Email Address

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

HR Boy Scouts

Holy Redeemer charts Boy Scout Troop 41. We meet Monday evenings in Nativity Hall, Merrimac from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Interested in joining? Contact scoutmaster, Mark Friend, msf4087@gmail.com. See the website calendar for dates, www.hricatholic.org. All faiths welcome.



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.

