

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**March 11, 2018**

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



*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (Jn 3:14-15)*

*All Are Welcome*



# Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

*“Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters...”*

## St. Ann

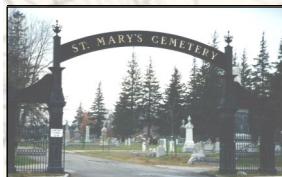
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985  
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
Email: [holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

## Nativity

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

## Immaculate Conception

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



## St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,  
Newburyport 01950

## Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, Pre K–grade 8,  
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,  
Fax: 978-234-7331, [www.icsnewburyport.com](http://www.icsnewburyport.com)



## Collaborative Staff

### Pastor

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

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. George E. Morin,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
[gemorin1945@gmail.com](mailto:gemorin1945@gmail.com)

### Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

### Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

### Office Associates

Donald Alunni, Business Manager  
978-462-2724 x 7351  
[dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org)

Sheila Cruise, Receptionist  
978-462-2724 x 7403 or 978-346-8604  
[scruise@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:scruise@newburyportcatholic.org) or  
[holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

Karen Leff, Coordinator of Media Outreach  
[hricbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:hricbulletin@gmail.com)

Linda Temple, Administrative Assistant  
978-462-2724 x7404  
[temple@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:temple@newburyportcatholic.org)

### Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, Nativity Organist  
[jen.acorn@comcast.net](mailto:jen.acorn@comcast.net)

Drew Donahue, St. Ann Organist  
[drew.donahue@gmail.com](mailto:drew.donahue@gmail.com)

Michael Martin, IC Organist  
[fsteadman@aol.com](mailto:fsteadman@aol.com)

Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director  
978-317-8903, or 978-465-0978  
[donnaPostle233@gmail.com](mailto:donnaPostle233@gmail.com)

Tim Richard, IC organist  
[trichard23@gmail.com](mailto:trichard23@gmail.com)

Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator  
978-462-2855  
[swochak@netzero.com](mailto:swochak@netzero.com)

### Religious Education

Melinda Burrell, IC Religious Ed. Secretary  
978-462-2724 x 7420  
[burrell@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:burrell@newburyportcatholic.org)

Marin Fortune, IC RCIA, 978-462-2724  
[fortune@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:fortune@newburyportcatholic.org)

Dr. Margaret McKinnon, IC Religious Ed.  
978-462-2724, x 7405  
[mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org)

Doreen O'Leary, HR Religious Ed.  
978-346-8604 x 7  
[reledhrp@gmail.com](mailto:reledhrp@gmail.com)

### Immaculate Conception School

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

### Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance  
978-462-2724  
[bkent@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:bkent@newburyportcatholic.org)

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager  
978-462-2724  
[emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org)

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


### St. Vincent de Paul


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

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

### St Mary's Cemetery

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

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

 [@HRICCatholic](https://twitter.com/HRICCatholic)

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

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (3/10)

4:00pm **IC** *Rita M. Snow, Antonio Luigi Zannella, Thomas Burton* (Fr. Broderick)

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

### Sunday (3/11)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Elaine Murphy, For the intentions of Gregory D'Ambrosio* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

11:30am **IC** *John Powell* (Fr. Morin)

### Monday (3/12)

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

### Tuesday (3/13)

7:15am **IC** *For the intentions of Gregory D'Ambrosio* (Fr. Harrison)

### Wednesday (3/14)

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

### Thursday (3/15)

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

### Friday (3/16)

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

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

### Saturday (3/17)

4:00pm **IC** *Ernie Penta, Rev. John Leonard* (Fr. Harrison)

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

### Sunday (3/18)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Slavko Stojanko* (Fr. Harrison)

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

11:30am **IC** *Erin Mahon Crowther, Gael Mahon, Margaret & Frederick Harrington, Emily & Jim Saccone* (Fr. McLaughlin)

In your prayers, please remember Ralph Gibbs 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,

My grandmother, God rest her soul, went screaming out of the room and slammed the door to her kitchen on her way to hide-out in the laundry room. As a precocious child, all of five years old, I had somehow procured a big, black, juicy, rubber snake from a friend at school (kindergarten, I think) and had snuck it under my belt to torment my poor grandmother when we went over for a visit one afternoon. I am still not sure how I got it past my all-knowing, all-seeing mother, who was ever vigilant for just such an egregious offense, but I managed to pull it off, nonetheless. The fall-out was predictable: grounded for a week with no TV. Mercifully, my grandmother hadn't suffered a heart attack or anything (thank God), and family harmony was restored after a very sincere apology and suitable period of penance. But I will never forget her guttural, blood-curdling screams! She REALLY didn't like snakes!



Maybe many of us have had similar, instinctual reactions like that over the years. The Book of Genesis notwithstanding, there is something hard-wired into our DNA to fear snakes. They seem to move silently by some sort of malevolent magic, slithering along the ground, up the sides of trees, and can leap without warning from their stealthy, coiled positions in the grass. Despite their creepiness, the real fear comes, of course, from their venom. Not all snakes are venomous, but the ones that are can maim and even kill the unsuspecting victim who falls prey to their wrath. All hissing and rattling aside, a serpent can strike at a moment's notice.

What an apt image for the devil and temptation in the Bible. The snake's venom serves as a potent symbol for sin that courses through our veins and leads to paralysis and death. Antivenom, or the antidote for the deadly bite, is made from small quantities of the offending venom, which is particular to the individual species. If you are bitten by a rattlesnake, you will need rattlesnake antivenom to not die. Thus the source of the suffering and the cause of death ironically have been turned around to become the source of life and healing.

In the Book of Numbers, when the Israelites became weary of the "wretched food" and their suffering in the desert, they grumbled and complained about the way God was caring for them. God punished the people by sending serpents to torment them. When the people repented of their sin and asked Moses to intercede to God on their behalf, the Lord told Moses to make a serpent and mount it on a pole. Anyone who was bitten was told to look upon the mounted serpent and they would recover from the venom. Their faith in what God promised them as symbolized in the mounted serpent would lead them from death to life, from suffering the effects of the venom to healing and peace.

It is this precise image that John refers to when he tells of

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** When is it difficult for you to believe?

**Child:** Name one action you can do this week to thank Jesus for the gift of faith and of knowing Him.

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## This Week in Our Collaborative

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

### Monday, March 12

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  
 Landings Meeting 7:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

### Tuesday, March 13

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 Lower Hall  
 IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
 Knights of Columbus 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

### Wednesday, March 14

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall  
 Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209  
 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  
 HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory  
 Collaborative Penance Service 7:00pm, IC Church  
 Women's Evening of Prayer 7:00pm, St. Ann Church

### Thursday, March 15

IC Religious Ed., 1st Eucharist Church Tour Make-up session  
 3:30pm, IC Youth Ministry Room  
 Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel  
 Pastoral Plan Welcoming Committee 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining  
 Room

### Friday, March 16

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 17

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church  
 IC School Auction 6:00pm, IC School Gym

### Sunday, March 18

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 Year 2 1:00pm, IC Church  
 Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205  
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 9 + Parent 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

(Continued from page 3)

Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus and the reference to the Son of Man being lifted up. The cross, which was just about the worst way imaginable to suffer and die, became a powerful antidote for the effects of sin that courses through our spiritual veins. When we look with faith upon Jesus lifted-up and crucified, and believe in His power to save us, we are freed from the venomous effects of sin and death. That which was loss becomes gain, death becomes life. It is a complete reversal, God's way of turning the world upside-down and rescuing victory from the jaws of defeat.

I still give snakes a wide berth today, and still utter an occasional prayer for forgiveness to my poor grandmother. Rubber snakes may seem like a good practical joke for a five year-old, but overcoming sin and death is the most serious of adult business. So much so, that God held nothing back in Christ who died for us all.

Let us continue our Lenten journey, not with grumbling and complaints to God about the indignities and struggles of daily life, but rather with grateful and humble hearts that look upon the depth of God's love for us . . . love that was lifted up for all to gaze upon and find life.

Lenten Blessings,  
 Fr. Timothy Harrison

## Italy 2 Pilgrimage

Join Fr. Tim for *Italy 2*, a Pilgrimage to Northern Italy. Enjoy 12 amazing days in Italy touring Lake Como, Milan, Padua (St. Anthony), Venice, Florence, Siena, and Assisi (St. Francis). The dates are October 21–November 1. Cost is \$4,799 from Boston. Book by March 31, 2018 and receive a \$150 Early Bird discount. For more information, visit [www.pilgrimages.com/fathertim-hric](http://www.pilgrimages.com/fathertim-hric).



## Scripture Study

### Scripture Study will meet on March 18

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on the regular scheduled third Sunday of the month, March 18, at 2:00 p.m. in the IC Nazareth Library Room 205. This would be an ideal time for members of the Collaborative to join the study group as we will read and discuss Chapters 4–7 in St. Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*. This letter was probably written in Corinth several years prior to Paul's arduous actual voyage to Rome as a prisoner. This is Paul's longest letter and is widely considered to be his masterpiece.

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.

## Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to [hricbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:hricbulletin@gmail.com).

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Cursillo

*Cursillo* is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love and joy into your daily life. The next Cursillo weekend in April 5–8 (men).

*Ultreya* is held in the St. James Chapel in the IC Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. Our next *Ultreya* is April 6. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

## 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 March charity is Our Neighbor's Table. Suggested donations: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, diapers (sizes 4,5,6), juice (juice boxes and large bottles), canned meals (ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, stews), cereal, pasta sauce, gluten-free items, toiletry supplies, especially toothbrushes, toilet paper, paper towels.

### Youth Mass Schedule

March 25 at Nativity, Merrimac (Followed by potluck dinner)  
May 20 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

## San Marcos Coffee Sale

Our next batch of San Marcos specialty whole-bean or ground coffee will be freshly roasted and available for \$10/pound after all Masses in our Collaborative on March 17–18. Your purchase will help the poor coffee farmers in Honduras to earn a fair wage for their labor.

We are looking for a volunteer to spend 10 minutes selling the coffee after the 4:00pm HR Mass at St Ann. Can you help? Call Karen Finnegan with any questions about this project. 978-465-4173.

## Lecture for Lent

### The Resurrection of Jesus and the Resurrection of Believers

All are invited to hear Father Thomas L. Leclerc, La Salette Missionary priest, speak on **Sunday, March 11**, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at St. Agnes Church in Middleton. His lecture is **“The Resurrection of Jesus and the Resurrection of Believers.”** This presentation will examine how belief in the resurrection of the body emerged in the Old Testament; the earliest account of the resurrection of Jesus; 1 Corinthians 15; similarities and differences of the four gospel accounts of the resurrection of Jesus; the role of women witnesses; and the implications of the resurrection for believers today. Refreshments will be served. Free will offering appreciated.

For further information you may call Barbara and John Gould, 978-535-2321.

*Sponsored by the North Shore-Seacoast Affiliate of Voice of The Faithful.*

## 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 Immaculate Conception School, Pentucket Regional, or Newburyport Public Schools, are cancelled because of inclement weather. Any Religious Education classes will also be cancelled on such days. WBZ Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at [boston.cbslocal.com](http://boston.cbslocal.com).

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

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

## The Pelican Intervention Fund

### Updates and Events

The Pelican Intervention Fund invites all our friends and faithful supporters to join us for the following events:

The production of **“I Have This Friend”** will donate play proceeds to The Pelican intervention Fund:

**March 16, 7:00pm**, with guest speakers from the Link House and Pelican Intervention Fund

**March 17 at 3:00pm and 8:00pm**

Adults \$16, Students and Seniors \$14

Byfield Community Arts Center, 7 Central St, Byfield

“I Have This Friend” deals with the widespread issue of addiction in all its forms. The show was originally written by a group of Triton High School students in the 80s, and the stories and monologues that form the play are based on their friends' or their own struggles with addiction.

The Pelican Intervention Fund's 3rd annual Celebration of Hope will be Sunday, April 29 from 1–3pm at the Senior Center in Newburyport. This event is free. Please come hear testimonials of funded recipients who are in recovery and other speakers. Watch for more information.

To date the Pelican Intervention Fund has raised over \$175,000 and placed 23 local men and women in 12-step-based programs. Five of these individuals have come from Essex County Correctional Facility.

We have been very blessed by the generous and continued support of individuals and organizations in the communities we serve and our parish collaborative. Thank you.

Please continue to keep us, those struggling with addiction, and others working to maintain sobriety in your prayers.

If you are interested in joining us or have any questions please contact Kim Keene 978-430-1408 or Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483.

# LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

## Mission Thank You

Thank you to all who helped out with our Lenten Mission in any way. Also thanks to those who participated. It was a blessing to see so many participants.

## 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)

March 14 Penance Service, IC 7:00 p.m.

March 21 Saint Ann

March 28 IC



## Helping Our Homeless

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

In an effort to ease the suffering of our homeless 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 30-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		
Gloves	Kleenex packs	
Shaving Cream	Hand sanitizer	

## 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.

## 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 relationship 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 sees 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. This is how we pray as we Center in silence. Please join us for Centering Prayer Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the IC Conference Room 209.

## Lenten Regulations

All **Fridays** during Lent are days of abstinence.

**Fasting** is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

**Abstinence** is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should take these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

## Collaborative Penance Service

**Wednesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m.**

The Collaborative will hold a Penance Service on Wednesday, March 14, at 7:00 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Church. The service will begin with music and prayer and will offer individual confessions as part of the service.

All are welcome to attend.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Offertory Collection

March 3–4 **\$10,244.00**  
Utility & Energy **\$ 2,539.00**

The second collection this weekend is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend is the Restoration/Renovation.

Through your support of the 2018 Catholic Appeal, we are able to bring the Gospel message to life. If you have yet to make a pledge to this year's Catholic Appeal, please complete a pledge form available in the church or visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org). Thank you for your prayers and support for a successful Catholic Appeal.

Grand Annual  
Goal **\$100,000**  
To Date **\$75,450.00**  
311 Families



## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$447.50
Poor Box	\$165.00
Total	\$612.50

## IC Haiti

The next collection for IC Haiti will take place on the weekend of March 24–25 when we celebrate Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Please continue to support our parish's outreach to the rural community of Puit Chacha in south central Haiti by contributing to the second collection that weekend. Your ongoing generosity has been used to keep the Father Marc Piché elementary school there up and running for the past five years as well as to provide a variety of health and relief services from natural disasters for the community. In the purpose statement for our Holy Redeemer-Immaculate Conception Collaborative, we profess our commitment to be ever more intentional disciples of Christ. As we prayerfully prepare to participate in the Passion of our Lord and to celebrate His Easter rising, let us continue to be His intentional disciples in our missionary outreach to Haiti. IC Haiti is the sole source of funding for the school in Puit Chacha. We are in this for the long haul just as God's love for us, revealed to us in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, is an everlasting gift of self-emptying. Like Our Lord, let's continue to be generous. Thank you.

## Stations of the Cross

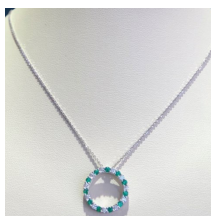
Join us at 7:00pm every Friday during Lent at Immaculate Conception Church for Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to this traditional Lenten devotion.

## Immaculate Conception School

March Madness is in full swing at the IC, impacting our students' basketball team experience as well as their commitment to service. Our older students fulfill an important supportive role to many parent volunteers who oversee three weekends of tournament competition. Our students help out with fun activities that take place between games, scorekeeping, concessions, and also serve as the welcoming committee at the door. March Madness is a valuable opportunity for our students to practice their athletic, social, and organizational skills.



## Immaculate Conception School Auction Raffle



Please help support Immaculate Conception School by purchasing a raffle ticket for a chance to win an emerald and diamond pendant (retail value \$2,300), donated by M.K. Benatti Jewelers. The raffle tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at M.K. Benatti Jewelers, 1 State St., Newburyport. The necklace is

on display at the jewelers. The raffle will be held on March 17. Winner need not be present. 100% of money raised goes directly to IC School.

## Easter Flowers

We are now taking donations and memorials toward the purchase of Easter flowers. Simply mail in or place an envelope in the offertory basket with the names of those you wish to be remembered or make a donation for the flowers. We have provided envelopes for you at the entrances to the Church. Please make sure your gift is received by noon on **Monday, March 12** so that the names can be included in our Easter bulletin

## Adoration

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

## IC Knitting Ministry

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

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



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Religious Education

### **Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis**

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

*The love of a mother and a father:* In #172: "Children, once born, begin to receive, along with nourishment and care, the spiritual gift of knowing with certainty that they are loved. This love is shown to them through the gift of their personal name, the sharing of language, looks of love and the brightness of a smile. In this way, they learn that the beauty of human relationships touches our soul, seeks our freedom, accepts the difference of others, recognizes and respects them as a partner in dialogue....Such is love, and it contains a spark of God's love!" Every child has a right to receive love from a mother and a father; both are necessary for a child's integral and harmonious development.

### **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>

- Classes: March 11 and 12

Next Classes:

- Gr. K-8 Sunday, March 18 10:05-11:05am.
- Gr. 1-8 Monday, March 19 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**

**Confirmation All Year 2 for Summer and 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.

For information and registration go online:

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

### **First Eucharist**

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.

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>.

### **Youth Mass—March 25, 2018**

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, March 25 at Nativity, Merrimac at 5:00pm followed by a potluck dinner. Please bring a side dish to share. Charity: Our Neighbor's Table. Suggested donations: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6), juice (juice boxes and large bottles), canned meals (ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, stews), cereal, pasta sauce, gluten-free items, toiletries, especially toothbrushes, toilet paper, and paper towels.

## Landings

Landings meets on Monday, March 12 from 7:30-9:00 in the IC Charity Dining Room 114. To find out more about Landings, please contact: Dr. Mag McKinnon 978-462-2724 ext. 7405, [mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org).

## Mary A. Kelly Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Mary A. Kelly Scholarship Fund. Email your request for an application to [maryakscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:maryakscholarship@gmail.com). Scholarship eligibility:

- Young man or woman parishioner of IC Parish
- High school graduate in pursuit of a scientific education

Completed applications must be postmarked and returned to the Trustees no later than Monday, April 16, 2018.

## 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, [hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.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.



## Find Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception  
Collaborative Parishes

"Like" our page

## Knights of Columbus

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

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

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, March 13** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Offertory Collection

The second collection this weekend is the Monthly.

Through your support of the 2018 Catholic Appeal, we are able to bring the Gospel message to life. If you have yet to make a pledge to this year's Catholic Appeal, please complete a pledge form available in the churches or visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org). Thank you for your prayers and support for a successful Catholic Appeal.

## Easter Flowers

We are now taking donations and memorials toward the purchase of Easter flowers. Simply mail in or place an envelope in the offertory basket with the names of those you wish to be remembered or make a donation for the flowers. We have provided envelopes for you at the entrances to the Churches. Please make sure your gift is received by noon on **Monday, March 12** so that the names can be included in our Easter bulletin

## HR Sandwich Program



The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 200 sandwiches are needed each day to feed the hungry.

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, West Newbury, by **9:00am** on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, March 14**. Contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

## 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.

**We are asking for help.** Please consider volunteering to make your family's favorite casserole or crock pot meal to be served at Raffle Night. Sign up sheets are in the back of **both** churches. (Foil pans will be provided to fit our sterno flame stands.)

**Donations** for our Raffle Night are now being collected. Please leave your **new** item (of any type or value) at the back of either church.

## HR Prayer Shawl



We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, April 5**. All are welcome. Call Helen Kelley 978-771-4673 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099 for a shawl or more information.

## HR Religious Education

**Sunday, Mar. 11, Grades 3–6 classes**, Nativity Hall, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

**Grade 2 class**, Nativity Church, 9–10 a.m.

**Grade 9 class**, Nativity Hall, 6–7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Mar. 13, Grade 8**, 6–7:30 p.m., Nativity Hall

**Friday, Mar. 9, Stations of the Cross**, Nativity Church, Merrimac, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a **Simple Supper** at 6:00 p.m. at the Merrimac Hall before Stations. All are welcome each Friday in Lent.

**Upcoming events: Mark your calendars now**

**Grade 10 Sandwich Making** to benefit the Merrimack Valley Hope Mission on **Thursday, March 22** beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**Grade 2 Activity Day**, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Nativity Church on **Saturday, March 24**. Students are asked to bring a snack to share. **It is most important for the students and parents to attend as this is our First Communion Rehearsal.**

**Sunday, March 25, Youth Mass** here at Nativity at 5:00 p.m. followed by our annual Pot Luck Dinner. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next class meeting times.

## Activities Committee Updates

**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. We want to clean the benches, walls, statues, and windows. Sign-up sheets are in the back of both churches.

**Spring Church Yards Clean up:** Saturday, May 19, 9:00.

Contact: Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072.

## Sanctuary Candle



For the week of March 11, the Sanctuary Candle at Nativity Church, Merrimac is donated for a Special Intention.

## 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.

## 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.