

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



A bright cloud casts light and shadows over Jerusalem

*While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,
then from the cloud came a voice that said,
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” (Mt. 17:5)*

OUR COLLABORATIVE

Holy Redeemer Parish



St. Ann

Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net



Nativity

Parish offices and church:
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860
Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception Parish



Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: info@newburyportcatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

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



Collaborative Staff

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St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266
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Website: www.hriccatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (3/11)

4:00pm **IC** *Rita M. Snow, Betty Ventura, Ida Cartledge* (Fr. Harrison)

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

Sunday (3/12)

7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge, Ernie Penta* (Fr. Broderick)

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

9:00am **IC** *Kirk Moran, Elaine Murphy, For the intentions of Samuel McLachlan & Family* (Fr. Harrison)

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

11:30am **IC** *Catherine L. & Gordon P. Mitchell, Sr., Thomas A. Navarra, For the intentions of Gregory D'Ambrosio* (Fr. McLaughlin)

5:00pm **IC Youth Mass** (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (3/13)

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

Tuesday (3/14)

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

Wednesday (3/15)

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

Thursday (3/16)

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

Friday (3/17)

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

9:00am **IC** School Liturgy *Thomas Navarra* (Fr. Harrison)

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

Saturday (3/18)

4:00pm **IC** *Elizabeth "Betty" Ventura, Ruth Shea, Henry Reslewic, Emily & Jim Saccone* (Fr. Broderick)

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

Sunday (3/19)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Lillian Muldoon, Thomas A. Navarra, Margaret Cerasuolo* (Fr. Morin)

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

11:30am **IC** *Henry Reslewic, Gael Mahon, Erin Mahon Crowther, Frederick & Margaret Harrington, Alfred A. Christopher* (Fr. Morin)

In your prayers, please remember George W. Duffy, Doris deVos, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Over the years, I have enjoyed hiking with friends in the mountains of New Hampshire. Although I haven't "done all the Presidents" (referring to the peaks of the Presidential Range that are named after various chief executives from centuries-past) I've climbed often enough to know that usually going up is the hard part. Gravity, though the weakest of the naturally-occurring fundamental forces of our universe (the others being electromagnetism and the strong and weak nuclear forces) usually helps greatly in the decent, making it easier or at least more inevitable. But there was this one trip up to the top of Mt. Chocorua in Albany, NH that I recall, when the downward trek was far more grueling and lengthy due to an injury, than it ever was going up. It got so time-consuming that day, that one experienced hiker passing us actually gave my friends and I a candle and some matches, as it was getting dark and we were nowhere near the end of our descent! To this day, I'm still not sure what help a single candle would have been in trying to navigate the pitch-black woods, but we did eventually make it out alive. What's the old adage, "better to light one candle than to sit and curse the darkness"? I guess we were doing too much cursing trying to get off the mountain that day....

In today's Gospel, the trip down the mountain would have also been the harder part. Not because of any injury that we are aware of, but because of what was to lie ahead: Jerusalem, and the suffering that Christ would endure there. It was much easier and pleasant to be on top of the mountain. It is cooler, the view is arguably better and what a wonderful, if intimidating, light show! No wonder Peter wanted to stay and build a few booths! It is easier to stay and bask in this glory, rather than to follow the path of suffering and rejection that would unfold in the chapters ahead in Matthew's Gospel. It is like enjoying Easter without having to deal with Lent or Holy Week. Now there is a temptation if ever there was one!

I guess there will always be that part of our human nature that will want to skip the hard part and fast-forward to dessert. The trouble with the things of God is that the painful journey getting there is as integral and important to the experience as the end result will be. No Good Friday?...no Easter Sunday. It is tempting (there's that word again!) to think that God could have just zapped the whole thing—you know, just waved His magic wand or something and made it all better. But without limiting God in any way, the manner in which the plan of Salvation in Christ unfolded revealed the profound depth of God's passionate love for us: He would not spare even His own Son. The crucifixion was, by any standard, a brutal and excruciatingly painful way to die. It was considered so awful, that Roman citizens were not allowed to be executed in this manner. It was reserved for the worst of the worst criminals. How ironic that this was the manner in which

(Continued on page 4)



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, March 13

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 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

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15

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
 Confessions 6:30pm, IC Church & St. Ann Church
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church
 HR St. Vincent de Paul 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

Thursday, March 16

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

Friday, March 17

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
 Stations of the Cross 7:00pm, IC Church & Nativity Church

Saturday, March 18

Holy Quilters 8:00am, Nativity Hall
 Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, March 19

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
 IC Religious Ed., Grades 7 & 8 1:00pm, Leo's Superbowl
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 9 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

St. Patrick's Day Dispensation

Cardinal Sean O'Malley has granted a dispensation from the Lenten obligation to abstain from meat on this Friday, March 17, in honor of St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Boston. Please enjoy the traditional corned-beef boiled dinner or your protein of choice, guilt free! Our Lenten observances will return as usual next week.

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Jesus would give His life for us...Jesus who embodied, in every way possible, the gentle and forgiving love of God the Father for we human beings who stumble over ourselves in finding new ways every day to offend God and cause every kind of horror and umbrage.

The simple truth is this: we must be able to walk the path of suffering with Christ, each of us in our own way, in order to experience the fullness of salvation that has been won for us. Now to be clear, we don't have to go looking for the Cross. Jesus didn't. But He didn't flee from it either. He embraced it as it came to Him in the course of God's Will unfolding in His life. He knew He couldn't stay on top of the mountain, as pleasant as it was. He knew His mission lie before Him down the path that would eventually end on a small hillside outside the ancient walls of Jerusalem, a city He once wept over because of our utter lack of understanding and faithless living. This was the full measure of God's love for us: He held nothing back.

This is what God invites us to imitate as well. Notice I said, "invites." God's love for us is so perfect and so utterly respectful of our free will, that God will not force Himself on us. It is purely by invitation. In that way, when we do say, "yes," and follow Him of our own accord, it is genuine, sacrificial love returned to the Father. Maybe that is the gift that Lent will call forth from us. That is, if we dare to come down the mountain. No one is promising that there won't be moments of pain and suffering along the way, only that Resurrection lies at the end.

Candle or not, shall we head down?

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

Helping Our Homeless

According to a 2015 survey conducted by the Newburyport YWCA, there are over 400 homeless people in the Greater Newburyport area, and over half of them are children! In an effort to ease the suffering and as a **Collaborative-wide** Lenten observance, we will collect "Homeless Care Packs" in all three churches. A Homeless Care Pack is a one-gallon Ziploc bag filled with personal care items listed below. They will be distributed to local agencies serving our homeless, including our own Pelican Intervention Fund, as well as used 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 at 978-809-9337 or jntemple@comcast.net.

Shampoo	Cough drops	Feminine hygiene
Toothbrush	Protein bars	products (Women)
Toothpaste	Soap	Umbrellas
Deodorant	Life Savers candy	Wipes
Razor	Disposable face	
Socks	cloths	
Gloves	Kleenex packs	
Shaving Cream	Hand sanitizer	

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Celebration of the Priesthood

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past year I marked a quarter century of ordained ministry as a priest. Although I chose at the time to keep this event low-key, a number of parishioners have recently encouraged me to mark this event for our Collaborative. To that end, I would invite you to join with me for a celebration of ordained ministry and service on March 26 at the 11:30 am Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Newburyport. Light refreshments will follow in the school gym. For those attending this celebration, I would ask that in lieu of offering a personal gift on this occasion, instead, to offer a gift to the needy through one of the charities sponsored and affiliated with our Collaborative parishes:

The St. Vincent DePaul Societies of either Holy Redeemer or Immaculate Conception Parishes. Each confidentially serve local people who are in need.

The IC Haiti Organization which helps to maintain, staff and provide teachers, supplies, and a mid-day meal for the children who attend the Fr. Marc Piché School in Puit ChaCha, located in the Haitian countryside.

The Pelican Intervention Fund that helps provide funding for long-term, 12-Step, addiction-recovery programs for men and women who cannot otherwise afford it.

The Pastor's Charitable Fund at Immaculate Conception Parish which enables me to help directly those in need in our area.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to have served the people in the various parishes to which I have been assigned and the wider Church of the Archdiocese of Boston these past 25 years. I would ask for your prayers for God's continued blessings in the years to come.

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Tim Harrison



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The Pelican Intervention Fund Mardi Gras Thank You

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40 (NAB)

Many thanks to all who contributed their time, talents, and raffle items and donated so generously to The Pelican Intervention Fund at the Mardi Gras dinner celebration. About 150 people enjoyed a Mardi Gras dinner among festive decorations and in the company of friends and took chances on great raffle prizes.

We truly appreciate the hard work of so many to raise \$1472.13 for the Pelican Intervention Fund. The support of our parish collaborative encourages and sustains us to continue our mission: to provide funding for residential Twelve-Step based sober living residency for economically challenged adult men and women struggling with heroin and other addictive substances and living within the greater Newburyport area, including Amesbury, Byfield, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury.

Since its founding, The Pelican Intervention Fund raised over \$70,000 and placed ten clients in structured Twelve-step based sober living residency for an extended stay.

We will be gathering on Sunday, April 30 from 2:00–4:30pm at the Senior Center in Newburyport to share our mission and our progress and hear testimonials from individuals who have benefited from the transformation nurtured by their sober living experiences made possible by your generous support. We invite you all to join us and ask you to keep in your Lenten prayers all who struggle with the disease of addiction and all living to maintain their sobriety.

Again, many thanks and blessings for your continued generous support,

Elizabeth McCarthy, Kim and Steven Keene

The Pelican Intervention Fund

VOTF Prayer Practices

Join us **Sunday, March 12** from 2–4 pm in the IC Nazareth Library room 205, Newburyport, MA for a session on **Prayer Practices** (Divine Mercy rosary, a walk through a scene from the Gospels, and praying by journaling), guided by Bobbi Flynn, Jim Callahan, and Marie Meegan.

Pregnancy Care Center

Pregnancy Care Center is Hiring

PCC has a few part-time positions: Lowell Client Services Coordinator, Lowell Campus Coordinator, and Haverhill Outreach Coordinator. Volunteers are also needed in all locations. For job descriptions and volunteer opportunities visit www.pccfriends.org or call 978-373-5700.

Urgent Need for Maternity Clothing

PCC opened a new maternity boutique in it's Lawrence center. If you have clothing (size XXS-5X) or related items drop them off at the Lawrence or Haverhill centers. Please visit www.pccfriends.org for center hours. Thank you.

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

The Scripture Study group will **not** meet until further notice while Father Broderick is recuperating from surgery. Watch the bulletin for more information.

LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Collaborative Adult Lenten Series: Soup & Spirit

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

Week 3: Fr. Tim Harrison presents Sacrament

Susan DiResta, witness speaker

Discussion Question: Sacraments are signs that point to something or signify something too deep for words and not adequately symbolized. Even so, what do you say the Church signifies in your life and what would you want it to signify to others?

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)



Left: Participants enjoying fellowship after Stations of the Cross.

Bottom, right: Photos from a successful Week 1 at Soup & Spirit.

Stations of the Cross

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

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.

Centering Prayer for Lent

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 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. Lent is the time to pray as Jesus taught us and enter into the Paschal Mystery, receiving new life in God through death to self.

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice available to all who seek transformation through a more intimate relationship with God. This daily practice deepens our faith as we come to better know our God as one who loves us unconditionally just as we are and trust God has plans to give us a future of hope.

Centering Prayer helps us say to the Father, "Not my will but yours be done" (Lk. 22: 42). Consider joining us for weekly group Centering Prayer and let God move you closer to him. For information contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

Lenten Regulations

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. 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.

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**.

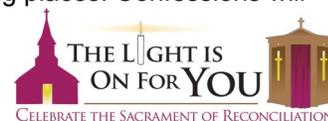
March 15, IC and St. Ann

March 22, IC and Nativity

March 29, IC and St. Ann

April 5, Confessions@ IC only: Parish Mission Week

April 12, IC and Nativity



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, March 4–5 \$3,794.00
Ash Wednesday \$ 479.00

This weekend's second collection is the **Monthly**.

This week, Catholics across the Archdiocese are invited to pledge their support to the annual Catholic Appeal. If you were unable to make your pledge at Mass, please take a pledge form from the back of the church or pledge online at bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your prayers for a successful Catholic Appeal.

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 **Wednesday, April 19** starting 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.

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.

We would love for you to join us. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00 p.m. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. **Our next meeting is Thursday, April 6 at 1:00 p.m.**

Sanctuary Light

The Sanctuary Light at Nativity, Merrimac, the week of March 12 is donated for a special intention.



HR Churches Spring Cleanup

It is time for the **Spring Cleanup** of our churches. Please mark your calendars and plan to come help clean the **inside** of both churches.

Nativity will be cleaned on **Saturday, April 1** from 9:00am–2:00pm. Contact: Cindy Quinn, 978-346-0072.

St. Ann will be cleaned on **Sunday, April 2** following the 10:15 Mass until 3:00pm. Contact: Sue Coppinger, 978-465-4078.

This is a great opportunity for *community service hours*. Anyone willing to provide refreshments for our workers?

HR Religious Education

Sunday, March 12

Grades 3–6 classes, Merrimac, 9–10am

Youth Mass, IC Parish at 5:00pm for all of our families, all are welcome! Bring the family. We will collect toiletries for the homeless. Place toiletries in Ziploc bags for the 30 Hour Famine on Good Friday. See bulletin page 4 for more details and a list of items needed for **Helping Our Homeless**. Thank you.

Tuesday, March 14

Grade 8 class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm

Sunday, March 19

Grades 3–6 classes, Merrimac, 9–10am

Grade 9 class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm

Tuesday, March 21

Grade 7 class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm

New Email Address

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

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving comprise a three-pronged approach to observing the Lenten season. Please take a mite box from the back table at either church and put your "mites" (above and beyond offerings) into it and return the box at Easter. The beneficiaries of your mites will be the needy in Merrimac and West Newbury. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.



VBS at Nativity

Join us for Vacation Bible School this summer, July 10–14 from 9:00–12:00.

The theme is *Maker Fun Factory*. Children ages 5–11 can sign up to be participants. Teens and adults can sign up to volunteer. Visit vbspro.events/p/nativity2017 to sign up. For more information call Jen Acorn, 978-697-1082.



HR Angel Project: Jesus let angels help guide him to be good, kind, and nice.

Religious Ed. students at HR received paper-chain angels and were asked to submit a picture of themselves being nice: being like Jesus. Here are some of those pictures.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, March 4-5	\$10,116.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,813.00
Utility and Energy	\$ 2,903.00
Grand Annual	\$71,635.00

This week's second collection is the **Monthly**. Next weekend's second collection is **Restoration/Renovation**. This week, Catholics across the Archdiocese are invited to pledge their support to the annual Catholic Appeal. If you were unable to make your pledge at Mass, please take a pledge form from the back of the church or pledge online at bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your prayers for a successful Catholic Appeal.



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 180.00
Collection	\$ 265.00
Total	\$ 445.00

Quilt Drawing for Alzheimer's Association MA/NH

Parishioners Dale and Dale Eckert will be running an April 50K trail race this year for the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH. Their fundraising will again include a family-made quilt. This year's quilt, "Pelican Bay," can be seen after IC Masses March 11-12. Tickets will be available: \$10 for one, \$25 for 3. Drawing will be June 21.

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.

Questions of the Week

Adult: How does knowing Christ transform your own life?

Child: How does knowing who Jesus is make your life better?

Immaculate Conception School

Dear Friends,

Lent began at Immaculate Conception School with our Ash Wednesday Liturgy celebrated by Father Tim and prepared by Mr. Wall's seventh graders. Father asked those with "artistically applied" ashes to come forward for a photo op at the end of Mass.



I have asked the children to challenge me and to ask "How my Lent is going?" I am asked this question at least ten times a day! This certainly helps to keep me accountable. How is your Lent going?

This Week's Visit to Immaculate Conception School:

We held our annual Talent Show on March 2. From pianists, to soloists, to a synchronized swimming comedy routine, the audience vacillated between roaring laughter and utter admiration.

Members of the eighth grade leadership team, Emma Walsh, Elizabeth Gorman, James Hayes, Clara Riley, Erin Osinski, Shannon Conte, Maria Mataac, and Lily Troupe perform "Scars to Your Beautiful" by Alessia Cara.



Seventh grade students in Ms. Cookson's Language Arts Class present their perfect society, "Slano in the Sky." This project is based on the book *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. The promotional brochure for "Slano" maintains that this society is for *you*, if you are well-educated, creative, and want your family to be raised in a safe and unique environment. Sounds a lot like Immaculate Conception School to me!



Ms. Cookson's class: Avery Thibeault, Olivia D'Ambrosio, Lucia Strazulla, Nick Brescio, and Sam Majewski

Sincerely,

Mary Reardon, Principal

Upcoming Events

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

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

For more information about the school events please call our office at (978) 465-7780.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Knights of Columbus



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

Cemetery Cleanup

IC St. Mary Cemetery cleanup began on March 6. Cleanup includes all winter items, holiday items, and any items that are in violation to the rules and regulations of the cemetery.

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.

Breaking Bread

St. Vincent de Paul's Breaking Bread dinner program at Immaculate Conception is hoping you will share a little of your time and talents as we need a team of two volunteers to prepare and cook for our guests on a Tuesday of your choice. A seasoned volunteer chef will work with you as you gain experience in our kitchen. This is a truly wonderful experience that you will share with a great team of volunteers. Contact Bunny Chiasson, 978-465-5810 or sandbunnyc@yahoo.com.

Cursillo & Ultreya

Cursillo The next Cursillo is April 6–9 (Men) 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).

Boy Scouts



Has your son indicated a desire to try his hand at such high-adventure activities as backpacking, cycling, camping, swimming, canoeing, rock climbing, and horseback riding? If your son is older than 10 and has completed the fifth grade, he is eligible to join Boy Scouts. Scouting helps youth develop self-reliance, strong character, respect for others, good citizenship skills, and physical and mental fitness. Join Troop 21 for our **open house** at 6:00 pm on **Sunday, March 26** at Immaculate Conception School Cafeteria, Newburyport. See some of our troop activities and visit with our Scouts and their adult leaders. Bring any questions to the meeting. All faiths welcome. Leonard Wallace, Scoutmaster, www.nbptroop21.org

IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

The Family and the Church—In #86. "With inner joy and deep comfort, the Church looks to the families who remain faithful to the teachings of the Gospel, encouraging them and thanking them for the testimony they offer. For they bear witness, in a credible way, to the beauty of marriage as indissoluble and perpetually faithful. Within the family 'which could be called a domestic church' (*Lumen Gentium*, 11), individuals enter upon an ecclesial experience of communion among persons, which reflects, through grace, the mystery of the Holy Trinity. 'Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous—even repeated—forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life' (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1657)".

Religious Education Classes

Grades K–6: Next classes: 3/18 and 3/19.

Grades 7–8: remaining schedule is as follows:

- 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.hriccatholic.org/Baptism>

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

May 14 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

Our last 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.

Youth Mass—March 12

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, March 12 at Immaculate Conception.

Youth Masses (5:00pm) for the rest of the year are:

- March 12 IC— We will be collecting toiletries for the homeless. If you wish, you can place toiletries in Ziploc bags for the 30-Hour Famine. See page 4 for details.
- April 2 HR
- May 7 IC

Pelican Intervention Fund Mardi Gras Update

More donations for the Pelican Intervention Fund have come in for the Mardi Gras Dinner. We are able to gift the Pelican Fund with \$2,400 from the collaborative. Thank you to everyone who contributed time, talent, and treasure to this worthy cause that leads to healing and wholeness of body and spirit.