

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

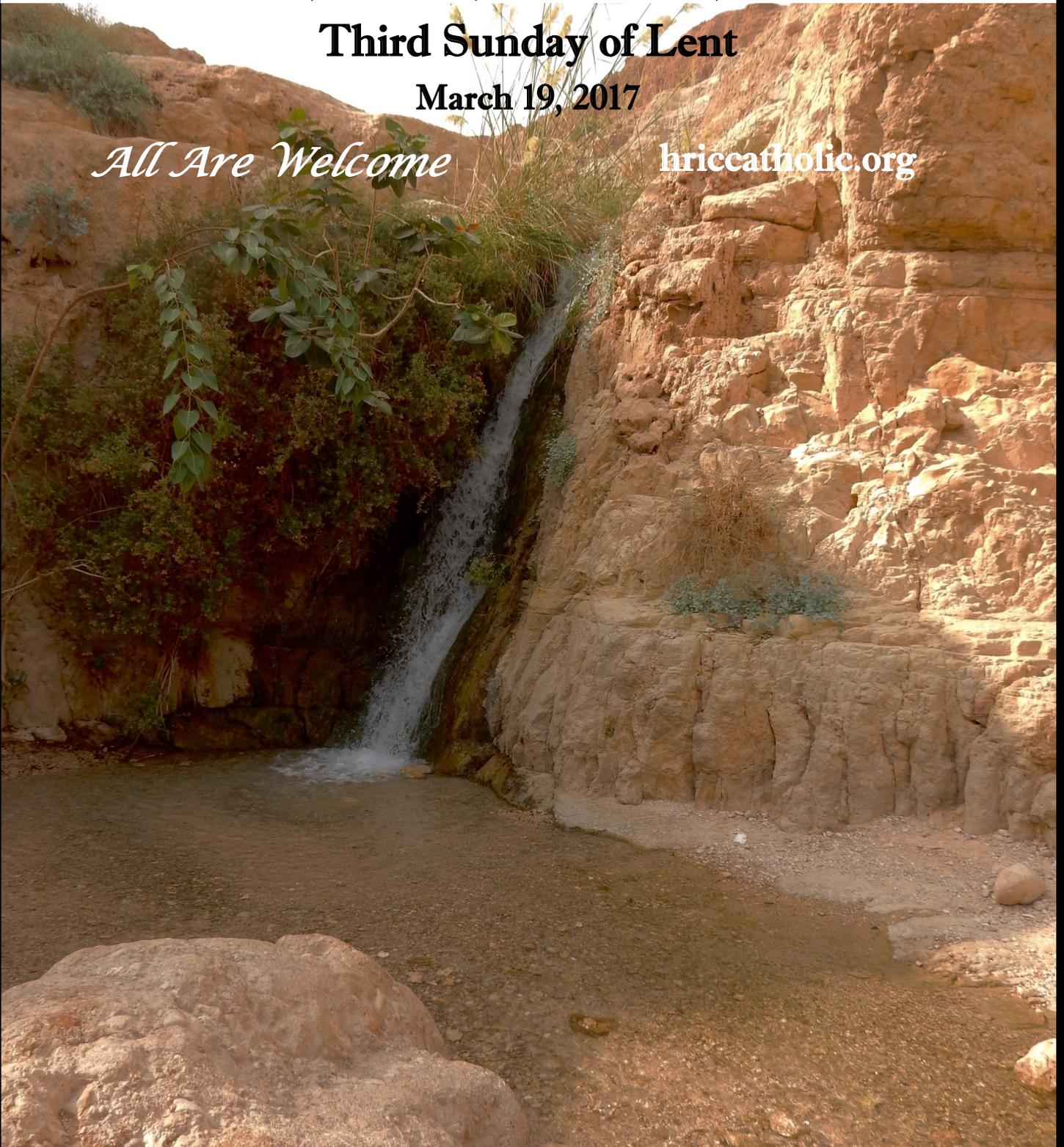
SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

## Third Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2017

*All Are Welcome*

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



Water flowing amidst the rocks at Ein Gedi Nature Reserve near the Dead Sea in Israel

*The LORD answered Moses..., "I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink."*

*This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. (Ex. 17:5-6)*

# 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](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



### 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,  
Mary Reardon, 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  
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Rev. James Broderick

### Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

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Bob Nevins, HR Building Maintenance  
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Cliff Vandenbulcke, IC School Custodian  
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### St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Redeemer, 978-346-8604 x 8  
[hrrsvdp300@gmail.com](mailto:hrrsvdp300@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)

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

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### 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, John & Geraldine Sullivan*  
(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)

### Monday (3/20)

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

### Tuesday (3/21)

7:15am **IC** *Florence R. Boschetti* (Fr. McLaughlin)

### Wednesday (3/22)

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

### Thursday (3/23)

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

### Friday (3/24)

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

### Saturday (3/25)

4:00pm **IC** *Henry Reslewic, Joanne Brislin, Romeo Dorval, Laurel Wightman Ryti, Valentina Perry, Russell Thomas Burton, Jr.* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

### Sunday (3/26)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Florence Sarna, George W. Duffy*  
(Fr. Broderick)

10:15am **St. Ann** (Bishop Hennessey)

11:30am **IC** *Deacon Richard Siebert, Robert & Eileen Siebert, Fred & Lorraine Cameron, Joseph Ford, Mary Kelley* (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Russell Thomas Burton, Jr. and all the faithful departed.

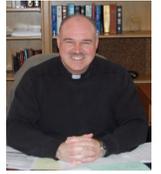
**The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.**

*IC—Immaculate Conception*

*Nativity—Merrimac*

*St. Ann—West Newbury*

## From the Pastor



Dear Parishioners,

I rounded the corner of the stream, heading with my canoeing partner, to a known spring of fresh water along the Allagash River in northern Maine, to fill our jugs. We were in the middle of a week-long canoe trip with the Boy Scouts and had run low on the ever-so-necessary liquid. Immediately in our path was a full-grown moose! It was huge, had motley fur that it was partly shedding from its back and was covered in horse flies. Oh, and did I mention that it smelled?! Weeds from the stream-bottom hung from its enormous mouth as it lifted its head to inspect our meager boat as it floated along, rapidly closing the distance between us. The stream was carrying us forward at a good pace. Maybe we thought of back-paddling, I can't quite remember, but we were mesmerized by this chance encounter.

At age 13, you don't much think much about your own mortality. Later and afterwards, having learned about how mean, unpredictable and stupid (and phenomenally strong!) moose are, I thought about the great danger that I had been in. But at that moment, we just floated on by, silently. The moose was in no mood, apparently, to get all ornery on us, so it just kept doing its moose thing, savoring the weeds. As awesome as that encounter was, one of the things I remember most about that day, however, was how good and cold the spring water tasted! Now you would think that I had never had a glass of cold water before. But on that day, taking-in the whole adventure of it all, that water had never tasted better. I drank several canteens-full and we poured dozens of gallons into our collapsible jugs and returned to our campsite by another, thankfully, moose-less way.

Sometimes the context can flavor the experience, if you pardon the phrase. High adventure with a moose makes ice-cold spring water taste better! Who knew? Maybe it is a bit like having an ice-cold beer on a hot summer day at Fenway Park, or that mug of hot cocoa on a snowy day after you come in from shoveling (wince!, sorry!) One of the best glasses of wine that I can ever recall enjoying was one that I shared with a friend one chance afternoon on the Champs Élysées in Paris when our European connecting-flight was seriously delayed and we escaped from Charles De Gaul Airport for a late lunch. Context, context, context! It makes all the difference.

Now, enter into this weekend's Scriptures.

The people of Israel had been wandering in the desert for quite a while. The hot, arid landscape was taking its toll on them. They were tired and exhausted. Jubilation over their deliverance from slavery in Egypt had devolved into the growing fear that they were going to die from exposure in the desert. "How was this better," they might have wondered, "than getting 3 squares a day and a bed to sleep on in Egypt?" "Servitude, yes, but at least we'd be alive," they began to openly wonder. "If God was so great, surely

*(Continued on page 4)*

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

*(Continued from page 3)*

He would have not brought us to this place of death?" And so they grumbled and their faith grew weak and thin. How good the water from Horeb must have tasted on THAT day! How much they needed it, how much they had questioned everything, even God. That is real thirst! To be brought to such an extreme place that you question everything that is good and right and true. They were thirsting for more than a liquid. They were thirsting for reassurance that God had not abandoned them, that their hopes in the Lord for salvation were not in vain.

God, and Moses, His servant, were not happy with the people's attitude. Their faith was weak, their perseverance in hope, disappointing. But God took pity on them and brought fresh, clean water from the rock at Horeb. God would not let His chosen people die. God knew their limits, exactly.

Exactly.

In the Gospel, Jesus knew the exact moment to call the Samaritan woman to faith. Not a moment sooner, or she wouldn't have been so thirsty for God's love. Not a moment later, or she might have given-in to despair. Just at that right moment He reached out to her and invited her to consider that there was more to life than simply existing. She had been thirsting for something all her life, never knowing exactly what she was pining for. She had tried to find it in relationship after relationship, going through 5 husbands and likely questioning whether candidate #6 was going to be "the one." "The one" of what, exactly? The one who would know and love her for who she really is? The one who would show her the compassion she needed? The one who would complete her awkward personality, make sense of her frayed-edges or loose-ends? She was searching, looking...thirsting for something more. And the water at that well must have tasted AWESOME that day! Finally, she met someone who could touch, ever so gently, that painful, inner place and bring the healing she so longed for. So much so, she went barging into her village, breaking all social norms about where and when women were supposed to be, how they were supposed to interact with men...and became one of the first evangelists! You think an evangelist must be somebody named Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, but no...this Samaritan woman was among the first to accept her call to conversion and then go and share it with others, calling them to holiness and healing. It is a heart-rending and deeply moving account of God taking pity on her and bringing life-giving water to one who was more thirsty than she knew. It must have tasted so good!

Maybe we thirst, too, in ways that we can struggle to bring to words. They can be all of those inner wounds that have never healed over decades of enduring life's many little insults. A moment of abuse, violence, or neglect carves a gash within us that no one ever sees on the surface, but gnaws away at our soul every day. We pine for relief from the indignity of misunderstanding, the loneliness of private grief. We look for hope that someone out there, somewhere, might "get us," and comprehend our inner quirkiness, our crooked path through life. We crave

wholeness, but could not possibly tell another where to begin to fix all that can feel out of place. We long for a kind of love that goes beyond a one-hour TV drama or lingers longer than an image on Instagram. We can be so thirsty for completeness that maybe we question everything...everything.

Sound even a little familiar?

Lent is time when, in the silence of our own hearts, we are called to name our thirst and confront our longings for what they really are. It is an opportunity, like the woman at the well, to encounter One who knows everything we ever did, and loves us just the same, despite our sins and failings. In Lent, we are challenged to open our hearts to Jesus Christ and see our complete fulfillment in the mystery of His salvific love. God is never happy with our failings, but He has never shied away from offering His forgiveness or lavishing us with the richness of His mercy. God is always there, ready to quench the dryness of our souls. May we embrace this timely gift in the weeks ahead. If we do, I have it on good authority that even the water will taste better!

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

## 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

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## This Week in Our Collaborative

### Monday, March 20

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 Pack Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall

### Tuesday, March 21

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

### Wednesday, March 22

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall  
 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 & Nativity Church  
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

### Thursday, March 23

HR Sandwich Making 6:00pm, St. Ann Hall  
 Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel  
 Lenten Series, Soup & Spirit 6:30pm, Nativity Hall

### Friday, March 24

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 25

IC Confirmation Retreat 9:30am, Adelynrood Retreat House  
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

### Sunday, March 26

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  
 Fr. Tim's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 12:30pm, IC School Gym  
 HR Religious Ed., Grade 9 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

## 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](mailto:fortune@newburyportcatholic.org) for info.

## Questions of the Week

**Adult:** What thirst of yours is satisfied by Christ?

**Child:** How does knowing Jesus make you happy?

## Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

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## Youth Masses

**Youth Masses (5:00pm) for the Year**  
**Everyone is welcome**

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

## 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.

## 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](mailto:jntemple@comcast.net).

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

## Theology on Tap

**Living Lent With St. Patrick**

Join Fr. John Cassain at the Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal St., Lawrence for Theology on Tap on Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00pm. For more information, contact Isabela Peixoto, [methuencatholicnews@gmail.com](mailto:methuencatholicnews@gmail.com).

# 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 4: Dr. Mag McKinnon presents *Herald***

*Doreen O'Leary, witness speaker*

**Discussion Question:** To be a herald is to evangelize, to spread the message of Jesus. How do I do that if I don't think I know Him well enough and am not confident speaking in public about anything, much less religion?

**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)

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)



Photos from a successful Week 2 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.

### Children's Stations of the Cross

Children of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception can participate as readers for the Stations of the Cross on Fridays 7:00pm at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac. Please arrive at 6:30pm to meet with Mrs. O'Leary. Light refreshments follow the prayer service. All are invited.

## 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 22, IC and Nativity

March 29, IC and St. Ann

April 5, Confessions@ IC only: Parish Mission Week

April 12, IC and Nativity



## 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.

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.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Grand Annual \$72,480.00

This week's second collection is Restoration/Renovation.

<h3>Catholic Appeal</h3> <p>Goal \$51,268.00 To Date \$23,420.00 46% of Goal</p>		\$51,268
		\$39,000
		\$26,000
		\$13,000

## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box \$ 266.00  
Collection \$ 21.00  
Total \$ 287.00

## Easter Flowers

IC is 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 **Wednesday, April 5** so that the names can be included in our Easter bulletin

## Adoration

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

## Mary A. Kelly Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Mary A. Kelly Scholarship Award. If you would like an application, send a request for an application to: Mary A. Kelly Scholarship P. O. Box 464 Newburyport, MA 01950, or email [maryak scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:maryak scholarship@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 Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

## 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 School

Dear Friends,

Parents, students, and alumni attended our recent Fashion Show. This event was a great deal of fun and helped to foster the strong community spirit which is the hallmark of Immaculate Conception School.



Two fabulous models, Amelia Aussant and Izzie Veno, walk the cat walk to loud applause!



*This Week's Visit to Immaculate Conception School:*

Basketball has been the biggest news this week at IC. March Madness is in full swing. We are going to have to build a new trophy case!



In other sports, Ethan Tracy, a sixth grader here at the IC made the U12 NH Alpine State Team. Congratulations Ethan!



The Junior High Mardi Gras Social on Friday was attended by almost all the fifth through eighth grade students! Despite the snow squalls, everyone had a blast!

Sincerely,

Mary Reardon, Principal

### Upcoming Events

**135<sup>th</sup> 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

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.nbptroop21.org)

## The Compassionate Friends

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 March 27.

## IC Religious Education

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

*The Family and the Church*—In #87. The Church is a family of families, constantly enriched by the lives of all those domestic churches. “In virtue of the sacrament of matrimony, every family becomes, in effect, a good for the Church. From this standpoint, reflecting on the interplay between the family and the Church will prove a precious gift for the Church in our time. The Church is good for the family, and the family is good for the Church. The safeguarding of the Lord’s gift in the sacrament of matrimony is a concern not only of individual families but of the entire Christian community.”

### Religious Education Classes

Grades K–6: Next classes: 3/26 and 3/27.

On our last class Divine Mercy Sunday, April 2 and 3, we will meet in the church to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Parents are to bring their children directly to the church upon arrival and are welcome to stay for the prayer. After prayer, the children will return to their classroom with their catechists as they wrap up the school year.

Grades 7–8: Remaining schedule is as follows:

- Pizza and Bowling: Sunday, 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: Sunday, May 7, 2:00–4:00pm —Beach Clean up project—Plum Island. 4:30pm St. Louis Hall-to debrief experience.

### Baptism (There are no Baptisms during Lent.)

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

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

May 14 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

### Confirmation

Confirmation Year 2 candidates have completed all their sessions. They are about to participate in the Confirmation Retreat at Adelynrood Retreat Center, Byfield. We have two retreats: March 26 and April 8 from 9:30am–3:00pm. Please keep our candidates in your prayers as they enter into the final stages of preparation for the sacrament.

Confirmation candidates in Year 1 are to continue to do their monthly service activity until we meet again 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.

### Children’s Stations of the Cross

Children of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception can participate as readers for the Stations of the Cross on Fridays 7:00pm at Holy Redeemer (Church of the Nativity, Merrimac). Please arrive at 6:30pm to meet with Mrs. O’Leary. Light refreshments follow the prayer service.

### Youth Mass—April 2

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, April 2 at Holy Redeemer.

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

- April 2 HR
- May 7 IC

# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## Offertory Collection

Offertory, March 11–12      \$2,520.00  
 Monthly                      \$1,550.00

### Catholic Appeal

Goal \$22,871.00  
 To Date \$8,625.00  
 38% of Goal



\$22,871  
 \$17,400  
 \$11,500  
 \$ 5,800

## Saturday Mass at St. Ann

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **St. Ann** in W. Newbury on **March 25**.

## HR Sandwich Program

The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 200 sandwiches are needed each day to feed the hungry.

We are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag.

Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann's Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, March 22**. Please see the Collaborative calendar at [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org) for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

## HR Churches Spring Cleanup

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 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.

## HR Religious Education

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

Thursday, March 23

7th and 8th Graders will be assembling lunch bags to be distributed the next day at GAR park in Haverhill. Students should receive an email from Mrs. Tierney soon with more details. We will meet at 6:00pm at St. Ann hall in W. Newbury

Sunday, March 26

Grades 3–6 classes, Merrimac 9–10am

Grade 9 class, Merrimac 6–7:30pm

**An adult must attend this session with student.**

Tuesday, March 28

Grade 8 class, Merrimac 6–7:30pm

### Youth Mass

Our next Youth Mass (all are welcome!) is Sunday, April 2 at 5:00pm followed by a Pot Luck Dinner. Join us! Let Mrs. O'Leary know what you are bringing to share. email: [reledhrp@gmail.com](mailto:reledhrp@gmail.com).

### Stations of the Cross

Join us each Friday evening at 7:00pm at Nativity, as we pray the stations during this Lenten journey. Please arrive by 6:30 in the hall in Merrimac if you would like to lead one of the stations. **Light refreshments follow in the hall.**

## 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](http://vbspro.events/p/nativity2017) to sign up.

For more information call Jen Acorn, 978-697-1082.

## 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, meatballs and sauce,

mac and cheese, pulled pork,

"company casserole" and more. \$8.00 for dinner includes

main choice, Caesar salad, roll, and drinks. Homemade

desserts served at intermission. Raffle tickets are \$1.00

each and the raffles will be drawn starting 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.

