

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Palm Sunday

March 25, 2018

hricatholic.org



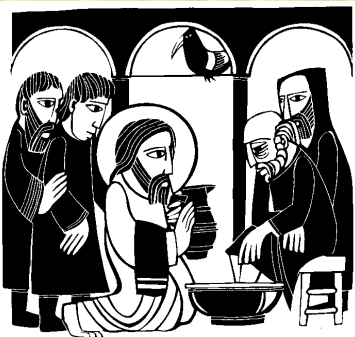
And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mk 15:34)

All Are Welcome

The Paschal Triduum

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative

Serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury



Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church

Come and enter into the sacred three days of **Triduum** by celebrating the Lord's simple command: *"as I have done for you, so you must do."* This beautifully simple celebration begins our holiest time of the year and is marked with a procession of the Holy Oils, an opportunity for everyone to participate in the Washing of Feet, a celebration of the Eucharist and a Eucharistic Procession that leads to a time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Good Friday

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion

3:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church and

7:00 p.m. at Nativity Church

Marked by a solemn proclamation of St. John's Passion account, this service is highlighted with the veneration of the Cross and an opportunity for Holy Communion.

Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church and

3:00 p.m. at St. Ann Church



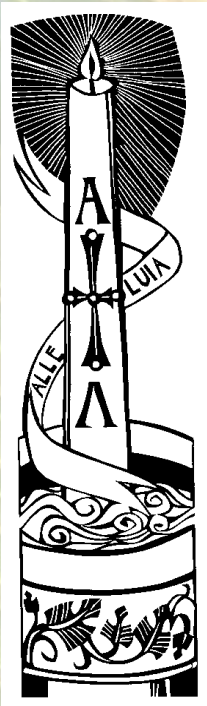
Easter

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection

The Easter Vigil — gather at 7:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church

Known as the "mother of all vigils" this sacred moment is the high point of our whole year! Beginning with a solemn candlelight procession from the new fire, this celebration continues with special readings and Psalms that tell the story of Salvation. Continuing with the Blessing of our Easter Font, the initiation of those preparing to enter the Church, the renewal of our own Baptismal Promises and ending with the Eucharist—this is one joyful event not to miss!



Easter Sunday

Immaculate Conception Church:

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Church and School Gym), & 11:30 a.m.

St. Ann Church:

8:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Nativity Church:

8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Come and celebrate the Lord's Resurrection! Along with the joyful, sung Alleluia, festive decorations and sacred stories of the Resurrection, everyone will be invited to renew their Baptismal Promises at all masses.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (3/24)

- 10:30am **Country Rehab** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00pm **IC Eugene Campiola, Laurel Wightman & Valentina Perry, Jim Murphy, Regina Laite & Thomas Wefers** (Fr. Harrison)
 4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (3/25)

- 7:15am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
 8:00am **Nativity Robert Thumser** (Fr. Morin)
 9:00am **IC Robert Kealey, Patricia Brochu** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC Graciela Lamas, Graciela Labanca** (Fr. Broderick)
 5:00pm **Nativity Youth Mass** (Fr. Morin)

Monday (3/26)

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

Tuesday (3/27)

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

Wednesday (3/28)

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

Thursday (3/29) **Holy Thursday**

- 7:00pm **IC Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Friday (3/30) **Good Friday**

- 3:00pm **IC The Passion of the Lord**
 3:00pm **St. Ann Stations of the Cross**
 7:00pm **IC Stations of the Cross**
 7:00pm **Nativity The Passion of the Lord**

Saturday (3/31) **Holy Saturday**

- Gather at 7:30pm **IC**

Sunday (4/1) **Easter Sunday**

- 7:30am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 8:45am **St. Ann** (Fr. Drew Christiansen)
 9:30am **IC Church** (Fr. Morin)
 9:30am **IC Gym** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 9:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Drew Christiansen)
 11:30am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

In your prayers, please remember Sheila Kay Russo, James Muldoon, 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,

In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the old city of Jerusalem, you can fight your way through the crowds (and sometimes it can be a bit of a shoving match!) to climb to the upper gallery of the church to reach the top of Calvary, the place where Jesus was crucified. Today, it is mostly encased in glass with oil lamps galore casting a soft, yellow glow around one of our Faith's holiest sites. Patient waiting in long lines will give you the briefest moment to kneel before the indentation in the rock where it is believed the actual cross of Jesus was placed and secured. While waiting in line, you can slip your hand under one of the glass panels and touch the chalky, dusty rock that once bore the broken body of the Lord and the cruel instrument of his torture and death. It is an unsettling experience. The words of the song, "Were You There," haunted my mind:

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord
 Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord
 Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
 tremble, tremble, tremble...*

It is impossible, I think, not to be deeply disturbed by this place. Hundreds, if not thousands of people in addition to our Lord, died excruciatingly painful and prolonged deaths here at the hands of the Roman soldiers who routinely handed out the most severe punishment the empire could inflict. It is a place of bitterness and sorrow. It is not hard to imagine Mary's inconsolable heart breaking to pieces at the sight of her firstborn son writhing in agony. Simeon's words to Mary must have come to mind: "and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Lk 2:35) Sometimes I wonder whose pain was worse.

Down below in the lower church lies the shrine known as the Edicule, which was built over the tomb where Jesus' body was laid, and where the greatest miracle of all time took place—His resurrection. Even longer lines greet a pilgrim seeking to go in and briefly pray at this sacred place. To enter, one must crouch down and go, only a few at a time, into a tight, cramped space that encloses a niche

(Continued on page 4)

Scripture Study

Scripture Study Meets April 8 Note Schedule Change

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on Sunday, April 8, at 2:00pm in the IC Parish Center. This would be an ideal time for members of the Collaborative to join the study group as we will read and discuss Chapters 5–8 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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our calendar at hriccatholic.org for more activities.

Monday, March 26

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

Tuesday, March 27

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

Wednesday, March 28

Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209
HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Church Hall
Holy Quilters 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
Girl Scout Meeting 2:15pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Collaborative Confessions 6:30pm, IC Church
IC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, March 29 *Holy Thursday*

Care Package Organization 1:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, March 30 *Good Friday*

No activities

Saturday, March 31 *Holy Saturday*

Easter Vigil Rehearsal 1:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, April 1, *Easter Sunday*

No Religious Ed., Easter Holiday

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).

Questions of the Week

Adult: What part of the Passion story most touches your life this year?

Child: Name one thing that you will do each day this week to remind you that Jesus died and rose to new life for you.

(Continued from page 3)

that was carved into the rock. It is now covered by a marble slab and adorned with more oil lamps, candles, icons, and flowers. There is a profundity in its simplicity. There were no eye-witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection. The earliest disciples were challenged in their faith by an empty tomb. Modern day pilgrims are confronted by the same emptiness and called to believe in what they cannot see. It is not a place for the claustrophobic.

A journey through Jerusalem and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is an assault on the senses. Exotic sights dazzle the eyes. Candles flicker and lamps twinkle. Light plays through the spicy haze of incense that chokes the throat and conjures phantom remembrances of centuries past. Crowds push and shove. Light and darkness confuse an unfamiliar architecture that echoes the sad divisions of Christianity. Chanting and bells waft through the structure. The stench of human excrement escapes from the lower-level rest rooms. The murmuring of many different languages spoken and hushed betrays the vast sea of humanity that this holy place serves. Here, the good, the bad and the ugly all congeal into one microcosm of our world. Such as it was in Jesus' time, so it is today.

I did not feel peace anywhere in this disjointed building until our group of pilgrims were able to celebrate Mass in a side chapel, momentarily cut off by a thick oak door from the chaos of the larger nave. There, in a burst of relief, was a sense of the holy, a reminder that the Resurrection was real, that Christ was truly risen, that there was hope for life beyond the pain, death and bitterness of this world. Although I have been blessed to celebrate many sacred, special liturgies in spaces both opulent and grand as well as simple and humble, I treasure that one Mass more than others as it connected me in ways that words cannot describe to a sense of the Other. These rare and fleeting bursts of clarity that can bolster our faith and reassure us in our moments of doubt. However, in the midst of the pandemonium of daily life, it can sometimes be hard to parse out the presence of the Divine. Our souls long for the God of Salvation, yet we are often surrounded by the murkiness of problems, uncertainty, pain, and failure. Where can we find true and lasting peace, we wonder?

The answer was and always will be Jesus Christ. Jesus, our brother, entered into our human lives in the gentlest and most unassuming of ways, not seeking to avoid the angst of our existence, but rather by embracing it, so as to bring God's gift of Salvation to us precisely through it. This Holy Week, let us open our hearts to the reality of this gift in our lives by our participation in the sacred mysteries that celebrate the full measure of God's love for us. In our true home, the new and eternal Jerusalem, we will not be disappointed!

A blessed Holy Week to all,
Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

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Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes



LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Holy Week Services

Please see page 2 of this bulletin for a detailed listing of Holy Week services from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday.



Easter Offertory Collection

Next week, at all our Easter Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergyfunds.org.

Reconciliation During Lent

Please make plans to come and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know. To help prepare, visit TheLightsOnForYou.org

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

March 28 IC

Lenten Regulations

Good Friday is a day of fasting and 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.

Helping Our Homeless

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

Palm Sunday weekend is the final weekend for collections. For more information or to help, please contact Jonathan Temple, 978-809-9337 or jntemple@comcast.net. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Ecumenical Taizé

An ecumenical candlelight meditation service modeled after those held at the Taizé community in France will be held on Sunday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King St. For information, call the church at 978-372-3463 or visit the website: gccucc@www.grovelanducc.org.

Centering Prayer for Lent

Our Lenten reflection on Jesus' words and works reveals Jesus' intimate relationship with his Father. This relationship developed through prayer. Often we see Jesus withdraw from the crowds and even his apostles to pray alone in silence. 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. Through the Paschal Mystery Jesus of Nazareth was transformed to become Jesus the Christ. We, too, can be transformed through prayer that unites us to God. 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.

Please join us for Centering Prayer Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the IC Conference Room 209.

The Wearing of the Green



Fr. Tim and parishioners pause for a picture following the 4:00 p.m. Mass on St. Patrick's Day.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Please join **Father Tim Harrison** for



ITALY 2



A PILGRIMAGE TO NORTHERN ITALY



October 21 – November 1, 2018

12 AMAZING DAYS!

\$4,799 from Boston (BOS)

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: \$150 PER PERSON
FOR RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT
RECEIVED BY MARCH 31, 2018.**

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

March 10–11	\$9,033.00
Monthly	\$1,241.00
March 17–18	\$8,728.00
Restoration/Renovation	\$1,773.00

The second collection this weekend is IC Haiti. **Please make checks payable to IC Haiti.**

The Holy Thursday collection supports St. Vincent de Paul. **Please make checks payable to St. Vincent de Paul.**

The Good Friday collection supports the Church in the Holy Land.

The Easter collection, our only collection, will be the Clergy Benefit Trust to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston.



Catholic Appeal

Goal \$52,231.00

To Date \$23,625.00

75 Donors



\$52,231
\$45,000
\$30,000
\$15,000

The Immaculate Conception 2018 Catholic Appeal campaign is off to a wonderful start with \$18,920.00 already pledged! The early outpouring of support from so many helps sustain the important ministries that make IC a vibrant place of worship. If you have yet to give, please pick up a pledge form at the back of the church or visit bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your prayers and support.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 20.50
Poor Box	\$129.00
Total	\$149.50

Breaking Bread

The Breaking Bread dinner program is in need of a dedicated volunteer to help in the kitchen once or twice per month. We serve every Tuesday at 5:00pm. The time commitment would be no more than 2 hours. Cooks and servers are doing well, but the very small group of men that keep the kitchen sink area clean and organized need help.

We are a “family” of happy and caring volunteers. **You** would be blessed to be a part of our group. We always leave the Parish Center happy to be a part of such a wonderful group of “kitchen angels.” Please join us!

Contact: “Bunny” Chiasson, Co-ordinator for the St. Vincent de Paul Breaking Bread dinner. 978-465-5810 or sandbunnyc@yahoo.com.

IC Haiti

Much to be Thankful for, Much to be Hopeful For

Today IC-Haiti has one of our four annual second collections for the support of our mission in Haiti. As we prepare for the next school year at the Father Marc Piché Memorial School in Puit Chacha, we see both much to be thankful for and much to look forward to.

Your generous support has provided much for the community we serve. We’ve successfully built a strong and beautiful building. We have provided education and food in an area where both were often unavailable. As time has moved on, the building has been improved to provide critical health infrastructure for the community—a solar powered water filtration system, which can protect the entire village from the risks of unclean water.

These investments have paid very significant dividends. Haiti has experienced several years punctuated by extreme weather events which have destroyed entire harvests, straining the food supply for the island to the limit and spiking food prices. Political turmoil has limited international aid investment. But in the community of Puit Chacha, our commitments and investments have meant that aid workers find extremely low rates of malnutrition and the village has been spared the devastation of cholera, widespread in other communities without sources of clean water.

IC-Haiti’s President, Stuart Meurer, had the opportunity to visit the village again a few months ago. His discussions with families and staff were both heartwarming and encouraging. The entire community of Puit Chacha is now looking ahead with optimism and is ready and willing to take on challenges to improve conditions there. When teacher training was offered, 100% of the teachers opted to participate: they have asked for more opportunities to be provided to improve their skills. We were able to offer scholarships this year for children who have completed their primary education to move on to the secondary school in Fond des Blancs: while that requires a long and hot walk down the mountain each day, every single child seized the opportunity to continue their education.

Your contributions provide more than shelter and food. They provide the foundation for lasting change and improvement in the lives of hundreds of families. Please, help us to continue this work. Remember, as an all volunteer organization, over 99% of the funds that we receive go directly to the people of Haiti—every one of your dollars makes a significant difference.

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. 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.

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 #175: A mother who watches over her child with tenderness and compassion helps him or her to grow in confidence and to experience that the world is a good and welcoming place. This helps the child to grow in self-esteem and, in turn, to develop a capacity for intimacy and empathy. A father, for his part, helps the child to perceive the limits of life, to be open to the challenges of the wider world, and to see the need for hard work and strenuous effort. A father possessed of a clear and serene masculine identity who demonstrates affection and concern for his wife is just as necessary as a caring mother. There can be a certain flexibility of roles and responsibilities, depending on the concrete circumstances of each particular family. But the clear and well-defined presence of both figures, female and male, creates the environment best suited to the growth of the child.

School Year IC Religious Education Classes

- Classes: March 25 and 26.

No Classes: April 1 and 2—Easter break.

Next Classes: Our monthly **assembly is on Divine Mercy**—come join us for prayer Sun. 10:15am or Mon. 6:15pm in the church.

- Gr. K–8 Sunday, April 8, 10:05–11:05am.
- Gr. 1–8 Monday, April 9, 6:00–7:10pm.

Baptism

Baptism info.: <http://www.hricatholic.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 Years 1 and 2: Please be working on your service activities. You need 24 hours over a two-year period.

First Eucharist

Our next 1st Eucharist session for candidates and parents is our mini-Retreat on Sunday, March 25 from 1:00–3:00pm. We will begin in the church.

Landings

Landings meets on Monday, March 26 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.

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.

Immaculate Conception School

Congratulations to our Varsity Girls' Basketball Team on their amazing season! Last weekend the girls played in the Eastern Massachusetts CYO Tournament.



The lady pelicans beat previously undefeated St. Mary's of Melrose 38–25 in the semifinals on Saturday, making it to the finals! Sunday's game was against Saint Catherine's of Norwood—a team that rarely misses a shot. Although the IC came away in 2nd place, our girls used their skill and

determination to upset the rhythm of their opponent with some amazing steals and tipped passes that held Saint Catherine's to a 10-point win. We are so proud of our team for their grace and poise both on and off the court.



The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age, any cause.

Our monthly support meetings are held in Room 209 of the IC Parish Center at 7:30 to 9:00pm on the fourth Monday of the month. Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. **Our next meeting is March 26.** Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ at (617) 410-6309 or info@abutterflysjourney.org.

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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Offertory March 17–18 \$3,148.00

The Good Friday collection supports the Church in the Holy Land. The Easter collection, our only collection, will be the Clergy Benefit Trust to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston.

2018
Catholic Appeal
Living Our Faith Together

Catholic Appeal

Goal \$22,862.00

To Date \$8,995.00

31 Donors



\$22,862

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000

The 2018 Catholic Appeal campaign is well underway at Holy Redeemer. So far, we have raised \$8,995.00 toward our parish goal of \$22,862.00. Thank you to all who have already participated. Your generosity will benefit hundreds of pastoral, charitable, and educational programs at work within the Archdiocese of Boston. If you have yet to participate in this year's Catholic Appeal, please pledge online at bostoncatholicappeal.org or complete a pledge form available in the back of the church.

Church Cleanups Planned

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

Contact: Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072.

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. Our next planning meeting is **Tuesday, April 17 at 6:45 p.m. in St. Ann hall.**

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



Do you know of any woman, man, or child who needs comfort and could use a Blessed Prayer Shawl or Lap Blanket? Please call Helen Kelley 978-771-4673 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099 for a shawl or more information.

Come join us. Don't know how? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, April 5.**

HR Religious Education

Sunday, March 25, Grades 3–6 last class, Nativity Hall, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Youth Mass here at Nativity at 5:00 p.m. followed by our annual Pot Luck 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.

Please pray for our youngsters receiving First Communion, Sunday, April 8 at 1:00 p.m. at Church of the Nativity.

New Wireless Microphone

The Holy Redeemer Activities Committee is happy to report that because of all of our fundraising we were able to purchase a new wireless microphone system for the parish. The new wireless system cost \$2,764.00 and includes two Tuner receiver modules, several lapel transmitters with microphones and tie clips, one handheld microphone, and a microphone input adapter. The new wireless microphone has been very helpful and enjoyable to use while praying the Stations of the Cross.

HR Sandwich Program

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

We are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag. Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, March 28.**

See the Collaborative calendar at www.hricatholic.org for the schedule. Contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



Because of our parishioners' willingness to help those in need, our Conference has been able to help a number of clients with their past due rents and electric bills.

Please remember to return your Lenten mite boxes so that additional clients can be helped. Thank you for your assistance and willingness to help others.