

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



The Fight Between Carnival and Lent

Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1559
Kunsthistorisches, Vienna

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



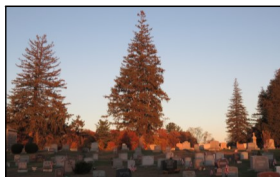
Immaculate Conception

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

Pastor

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Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

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St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Redeemer, 978-346-8604 x 8
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St. Vincent de Paul Society at Immaculate Conception, 978-518-0728

St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266
joeviel@comcast.net

Website: www.hriccatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

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)

Monday (3/27)

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

Tuesday (3/28)

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

Wednesday (3/29)

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

Thursday (3/30)

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

Friday (3/31)

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

Saturday (4/1)

2:00pm **Atria** (Fr. Broderick)

4:00pm **IC** *William Lindquist, Regina M. Stronge, Joanne Brislin* (Fr. Morin)

4:00pm **St. Ann Margaret Gallant** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (4/2)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Jean Donnelly, Maurice Donovan, Romeo Dorval* (Fr. Harrison)

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

11:30am **IC** *Lena Filomia, Margaret Cerasuolo, Elizabeth Erickson Doyle* (Fr. Harrison)

5:00pm **Nativity** Youth Mass (Fr. Morin)

In your prayers, please remember Donald Woodward, Marjorie Emerson, Rev. John F. Leonard, 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 Parochial Vicar

Dear Friends,

It's "Laetare Sunday," the mid-point of the Lenten Season! "Laetare" is a Latin word that means, "Rejoice!" Yes, rejoice because Lent is half over and the coming feast of the Lord's Resurrection, Easter, is in sight. Rejoice! The opening antiphon for today's Mass taken from the Prophet Isaiah (chapter 66) sets the tone:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were mourning;

Exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

And yes, in our collaborative, there are several reasons that give us occasion to rejoice! First, we rejoice with Father Tim as he celebrates his twenty-fifth anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. We rejoice with him and are grateful to God for his unselfish "yes" and for the twenty-five years of faithful service to the Church and to God's people in the Parish communities to which he has been assigned. As Parishioners of Holy Redeemer Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish, we rejoice with Father Tim, with his relatives, his friends, and parishioners of the other Parishes in which he has served. We welcome you and rejoice with you today in this special celebration.

As Easter draws near we rejoice with the men and women of our communities who have made the awesome decision to seek Baptism or full communion in the Catholic Church. Through study and prayer they have been in the process of preparing themselves for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. So rejoice and keep them in your prayers: Lawrence Plumer, Kai Bolduc, Raymond Bardsley, Bonnie Bowes, Mary Sinaski, and Juan Valez. And let's come together as the Catholic Community of Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury to welcome our brothers and sisters into the Church at the Easter Vigil in a few weeks.

We rejoice, too, in the coming of the springtime! This past week was the official beginning of spring. It's been a long winter and as the snows, howling winds, and freezing temperatures of a couple of weeks ago seemed to have no let up, I was reminded of what my mother would say about this time of the year: "Je n'aime pas l'hiver!" No, I don't like winter either, but let's rejoice because the springtime is here.

There doesn't seem to be much rejoicing in the painting on the cover of this week's bulletin. Painted by Pieter Bruegel the Elder in 1559, it is titled "The Fight Between Carnival and Lent." With over two hundred very busy and active figures, the painting depicts life in the Netherlands at the time of the Reformation and the clash between Catholic and Protestant values. There is so much to notice in this painting, too much for this brief article. But notice that a jousting match is about to happen with the competitors each leading a procession, one from the Church the other from the Inn. Notice works of corporeal mercy and

(Continued on page 4)

RCIA

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, March 27

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 VOTF Board Meeting 11:00am, IC Conference Room 209
 IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–6 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
 HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
 HR Cub Scouts Den Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall
 Compassionate Friends 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, March 28

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 de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 IC PFC Meeting 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Wednesday, March 29

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
 HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, March 30

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

Friday, March 31

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
 Ultreya 7:00pm, IC St. James Chapel & Charity Dining Room

Saturday, April 1

Nativity Church Spring Cleanup 9:00am, Nativity Church
 IC Confirmation Retreat 9:30am, Adelynrood Retreat House
 HR Grade 2 Activity Day 1:00pm, St. Ann Hall
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, April 2

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
 Crowning of Mary Religious Ed. 10:30am, IC Church
 St. Ann Church Spring Cleanup 11:15am, St. Ann Church
 IC 1st Eucharist Church Tour 1:00pm, IC Church
 Troop 21 Scout Meeting 4:30pm, IC School Cafeteria
 Youth Mass/Potluck 5:00pm, Nativity Church & Hall

depictions of the capital sins. See the well in the middle of the painting with a pig on one side and fish on the other. At the top center of the painting is a man who is sitting on the window sill of the upstairs floor of the house. Some art historians say that it is Pieter Bruegel. He included himself in the scene, surveying it all very carefully, not making a judgment. But what is he thinking? Is there anything he may want to tell us?

Perhaps his message would be to “Rejoice!”—something which seems to be missing on both sides of the “battle.” He perhaps may want to tell us that the reason for the feasting or the reason for the fasting is to rejoice in the Lord and that our rejoicing should be contagious. When we have it, we want to give it to others. When others have it, we want to inherit it from them. So rejoice in the Lord, always!

Fr. George

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

C.A.M.P.S. 2017 Fundraiser

Join us Tuesday, April 18 from 5:00–9:00pm at Flatbread Pizza in Amesbury. A portion of the price from each pizza sold will benefit C.A.M.P.S. Come enjoy friendships and great food while supporting the summer camp.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Fr. John (Jack) Leonard's Funeral Services

It was with great sadness that we announced the passing of Fr. John (Jack) Leonard this past weekend. Fr. Leonard was formerly the Pastor of both St. Ann Parish in West Newbury as well as Immaculate Conception Parish in Newbury and Newburyport, in addition to many other assignments over his long career. Fr. Leonard's wake will be held from 3–7 p.m. on Sunday, March 26 at Immaculate Conception Church. His Funeral Mass will take place on Monday morning, March 27 at 10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church. Burial will follow at the Veterans' Section of Cedar Grove Cemetery in Peabody. Parishioners and friends are warmly invited to attend.

San Marcos Coffee Sale

April 1–2

Our next batch of San Marcos specialty whole-bean coffee will be freshly roasted and available for \$10/pound after most Masses in our collaborative on April 1–2. Your purchase will help the poor coffee farmers in Honduras to earn a fair wage for their labor. Call Karen Finnegan with any questions about this project: 978-465-4173.

Cursillo & Ultreya

A **Cursillo** retreat is a three-day weekend of intensive spiritual reflection and exploration at St. Basils, Methuen, that offers us the opportunity to deepen our relationship with Christ.

Ultreya is a reunion of those who have experienced a Cursillo retreat, but all are welcome to attend Ultreya meetings on the Friday of each Cursillo weekend.

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

2017 Ultreya / Cursillo Calendar

Ultreya Dates	Cursillo Weekends
March 31	April 6–9 (Men)
April 28	May 4–7 (Women)
June 2	June 1–4 (Women)

Youth Masses

Youth Masses are at 5:00pm • Everyone is welcome

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

Questions of the Week

Adult: What things does "seeing with eyes of faith" keep you from being blind to?

Child: What good things does Jesus help you to see in yourself or others?

Disciples in Mission

Last week's Gospel from John shares an account of a Samaritan woman who was overjoyed with her encounter with Jesus at a water well. In fact, this "outcast" was so moved by Jesus, she couldn't wait to share her experience with the entire town. It was then she came to believe and evangelize the good news of Jesus Christ.

In the busyness of today's culture, sometimes we need a little help in learning how to share Jesus' message with others. The Archdiocese of Boston has a workshop that helps us do that. **Forming Disciples in Mission** is a workshop that provides great tools to be able to evangelize the message of Jesus Christ. For more information and dates for workshops go to their website: www.disciplesinmission.com.

Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

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Helping Our Homeless

According to a 2015 Newburyport YWCA survey, 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	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		

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

The Scripture Study group will **not** meet until further notice while Father Broderick is recuperating from surgery.

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 5: Joan Rossi presents Servant

Eddie Martinez, witness speaker

Discussion Question: At first glance, servant sounds like a negative concept. What attributes are most necessary for individuals to become a Church of servants? How do we attract others to serve?

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)



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 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

Offertory March 11-12	\$ 9,013.00
Monthly	\$ 1,819.00
Offertory March 18-19	\$ 9,291.00
Restoration/Renovation	\$ 1,491.00
Grand Annual	\$72,480.00

The second collection next weekend is the Pastor's Charity.

<h3>Catholic Appeal</h3> <p>Goal \$51,268.00 To Date \$26,470.00 52% of Goal Total Donors: 64</p>		<p>\$51,268</p> <p>\$39,000</p> <p>\$26,000</p> <p>\$13,000</p>
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Thank you to all who have participated in IC's 2017 Catholic Appeal campaign. Your support is the most effective way our parish community can join together in the Church's universal work to care for our neighbors. If you have yet to participate in this year's Catholic Appeal, please visit bostoncatholicappeal.org or pick up a pledge form available in the back of the church. Thank you.

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

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 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 Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

IC Knitting Ministry



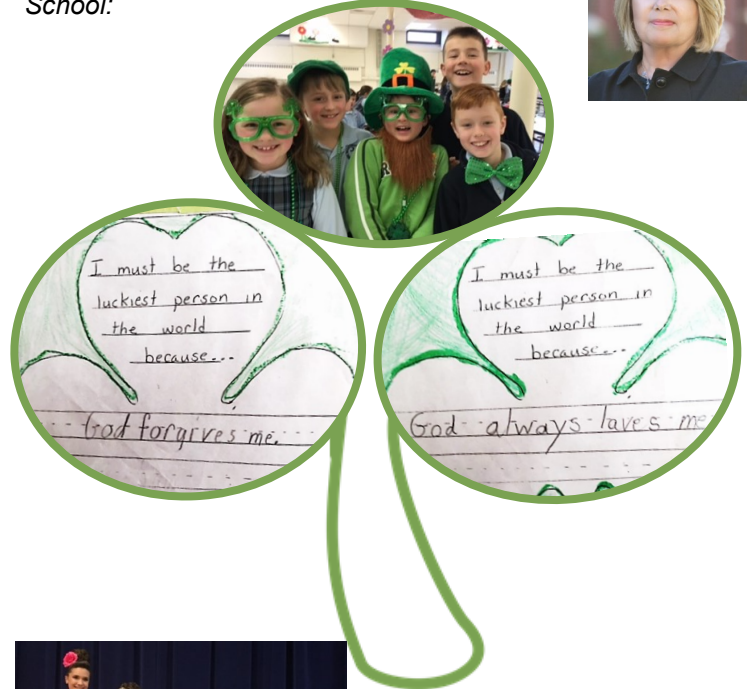
We meet Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the IC Parish Center, Room 209. We knit shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves and bring prayers and hope to people who are sick and to their caregivers and to celebrate happy occasions. We also distribute hats and scarves to homeless children. Our membership is open to all.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

This Week's Visit to Immaculate Conception School:



Gold dust, rainbows, green, tapping of feet, and a spirit of exuberance, all characterized St. Patrick's Day at Immaculate Conception School.

Below, students gather with Father Tim after Liturgy to show the "wearing of the green."



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

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.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 239.00
Collection	\$ 216.00
Total	\$ 455.00

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.

Consolers Circle Meal

The IC community offers a light meal to families who have lost a loved one. The meal, provided by volunteers, is held in St. Louis Hall following the funeral Mass. Our hall holds up to 75 people, and there is no charge for this service. Donations are accepted. Inform the funeral director that you request this service when making arrangements.

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

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 #88: The experience of love in families is a perennial source of strength for the life of the Church. “The unitive end of marriage is a constant summons to make this love grow and deepen. Through their union in love, the couple experiences the beauty of fatherhood and motherhood, and shares plans, trials, expectations and concerns; they learn care for one another and mutual forgiveness. In this love, they celebrate their happy moments and support each other in the difficult passages of their life together....The beauty of this mutual, gratuitous gift, the joy which comes from a life that is born and the loving care of all family members—from toddlers to seniors—are just a few of the fruits which make the response to the vocation of the family unique and irreplaceable”, both for the Church and for society as a whole.

Religious Education Classes

Grades K–6: Next classes: 4/2 and 4/3.

On our last class April 2–3, we will meet in the church to participate in the tradition of Venerating the Cross like we do on Good Friday. 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.

Anyone from the parish is welcome to join our Grades K–6 with a parent and grades 7–HS in this service project:

- Service Learning Project: Sunday, May 7, 2:00–4:00pm—Beach Clean up project—Plum Island. 4:30pm—St. Louis Hall to debrief experience. Bring disposable gloves. Trash bags will be provided.

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 one more retreat: 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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, March 18–19	\$3,779.26
Monthly	\$ 515.00
Roofing (additional)	\$ 70.00

Catholic Appeal

Goal **\$22,871.00**
To Date **\$9,275.00**
41% of Goal
Total Donors **33**



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

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. **Our next meeting is Thursday, April 6 at 1:00 p.m.** at Nativity 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 to sign up. For more information call Jen Acorn, 978-697-1082.

Easter Decorating at Nativity

Nativity will be decorating the church and altar for Easter on Good Friday, April 14 immediately after the 7:00pm Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to help. Any questions contact Cindy Quinn: 978-346-0072.

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 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

Friday, March 31

Stations of the Cross, Merrimac, 7:00pm. Join us for this devotional prayer experience led by parishioners and Religious Education students. All are welcome.

Saturday, April 1

First Eucharist Rehearsal at W. Newbury, St. Ann's beginning at 1:00pm.

Youth Mass

Our next Youth Mass (all are welcome!) is at Nativity on **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.

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.**

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. Below is another picture.



Raffle Night

Holy Redeemer's *Annual Raffle Night Social* will be held Saturday, April 29 at Nativity Parish Hall.

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. Also, we are looking for empty food containers for "take out" if you have any to donate. You can leave them at the back of the church also.

If you have any questions, please call Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072.

