

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



“Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden” by Wenzel Peter.
19th Century oil on canvas from the Vatican Museum Collection

*“The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes,
and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it;
and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.” (Gn 3:6)*



EST. 1882

Immaculate Conception School

Celebrating 135 Years 1882 - 2017

P R E S E N T S



Sunday, March 5 • 1 - 3 pm

Immaculate Conception School Auditorium

Please join us for our first annual fashion show. Students, faculty and alumni will be modeling the best fashions of the North Shore provided by our local retailers and community.

Great prizes, music and fun!

Buy tickets (\$25) online at www.icfashionshow.com.

Tickets will also be available at the door.

The IC Fashion Show is a fundraiser for our school and our children!

Happy 135th Anniversary Immaculate Conception School!

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (3/4)

2:00pm **Atria Merrimack Place**
(Fr. Broderick)
4:00pm **IC Henry Reslewic, Mary Elizabeth Merrill,
Cliff Moody, Anna Stasio** (Fr. McLaughlin)
4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (3/5)

7:15am **IC Henry Reslewic** (Fr. Morin)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
9:00am **IC Patricia A. Salach** (Fr. McLaughlin)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
11:30am **IC Anthony Guarracina, Dr. Eugene
Connolly & Fr. William Connolly, S.J., Barbara A.
Lawler** (Fr. Broderick)

Monday (3/6)

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

Tuesday (3/7)

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

Wednesday (3/8)

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

Thursday (3/9)

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

Friday (3/10)

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

Saturday (3/11)

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

Sunday (3/12)

7:15am **IC Regina M. Stronge, Ernie Penta**
(Fr. Broderick)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
9:00am **IC Kirk Moran, Elaine Murphy, For the
intentions of Samuel McLachlan & Family**
(Fr. Harrison)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
11:30am **IC Catherine L. & Gordon P. Mitchell, Sr.,
Thomas A. Navarra, For the intentions of Gregory
D'Ambrosio** (Fr. McLaughlin)
5:00pm **IC Youth Mass** (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Romeo Dorval, Maurice Donovan 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,

Many years ago, in another parish assignment, I was awoken at 2:30 a.m. to the sound of my cell phone ringing. This is never a good thing. It came during a particularly busy stretch of time in the parish when, after a series of seemingly endless meetings, masses, funerals, and events, my body was craving every precious moment of sleep it could have. It came at just the wrong time at night when it would be practically impossible to get back to sleep. Fumbling through the dark and working my way amongst the various items on my nightstand, I finally hit the right buttons and heard the voice of a nurse from the local hospital asking me to come and administer "the last rites" for a dying patient. Having fielded many of these requests over the years, we priests quickly learn that it is often important to ask a few questions before going charging out into the dark of night. Now, nurses are among the most wonderful people on the face of the planet. They are filled with deep compassion and are also incredibly practical and down-to-earth. We quite rightly place our lives in their hands every day. But not all of them are Catholic or understand the need for the Sacraments in every circumstance. So, H.I.P.P.A. or not, I asked for a few basics of the situation: "Was the person alive?" "Yes," came the answer. "Is the person's family present?" Again, "yes," was the reply. "Are they Catholic?" A pause on the phone. Finally the answer came back, "No." Ahh...a glimmer of hope for more sleep danced through my mind! Clearing my voice and trying not to express too much enthusiasm, I asked, "Has anyone attempted to locate a clergy-person from their church?" A pause, once again, and then the same answer, "No." As I was starting to wake up at this point, I simmered with anger a bit. It was a call for "father-you'll-do" once again. I had played in this parade before. With as much gentleness as I could muster at that point, I strongly suggested to the nurse that it would be more appropriate to locate a clergy person from the patient's tradition and ask them to come in and minister to this situation. She reluctantly agreed and said she would try to find someone.

I ended the call, feeling slightly victorious. Ahh, I could go back to sleep! I turned off the light, tucked the covers around me tightly and waited for sleep to come. Of course, as you might have guessed, it did not. Pangs of guilt began to assault me. (We Catholics invented that, didn't we?!) Then the questions came: Had I been too gleeful to hear that the man dying was not Catholic? Yes, I treasured that little piece of information a bit too much. Had I latched onto the fact that no effort had been made to locate a clergy person from his church? Yep, guilty as sin on that one! And then, as the gears in my head were by now spinning at full-bore, I had to ask the question: Had I sinned by not responding more generously and just going anyway? And then the all-damning question that trumps all others came blasting through my consciousness: What would Jesus



Don't forget to turn your clocks forward next weekend. Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12.

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

have done? Well, there was no escaping clarity on that one! Exasperated and muttering as many four-letter words that were contained in the Bible that I could conjure (and maybe a few that weren't) I realized that I was not going to get any more sleep that night no matter what, so I might as well call the hospital back. Maybe twenty minutes had passed since I last called, but I got the same nurse on the phone. I asked the inevitable question, "Have you been able to locate the patient's own clergy?" The inevitable answer came back, "No, we haven't." Resigned to my fate, I said, "I'll be right up."

Driving through the city streets in the middle of the night can be peaceful, even serene. No one except the police are out at that hour. Mercifully, they ignored me. The ride gave me a few moments to collect myself. When I walked into the ICU, I was quickly led to the patient's room. A man lay on a gurney connected to what seemed like dozens of machines, tubes, monitors, etc.... It was a scene right out of any science-fiction movie. I was impressed: every effort had been made to preserve this man's life. In the corner of the room was a young woman, his daughter, maybe about 25 years old. After our greeting, she thanked me for coming and gently explained that while her father wasn't Catholic, she had been brought up in the Church and deeply appreciated having someone to talk to as she was getting ready to take her father off of life support. With a growing lump in my throat, I inquired whether she had any other family in the area. "No," she replied, "it's just me."

At this point the full measure of my sin and shame washed over me. In my weakness and fatigue, I was so focused on my own meager needs, I had given-in to laziness and tried to "pass the pastoral buck," so-to-speak. And yet clearly, God wanted me to be present to this family. Here in this final moment it didn't matter whether the dying man was Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, or Protestant. He was immeasurably loved by the God who would shortly embrace him into eternity. Slight variations in creed were immaterial. His daughter was the one who needed me the most. I could feel deep wells of compassion rising up from within me. No one should ever have to face such a gut-wrenching decision like removing a loved-one from life-support alone. And up until this moment, it was evident that this young woman was feeling incredibly alone and vulnerable and grieving deeply and struggling to know what the right thing to do was. So we spoke for a while, and then we prayed together for her dad and I offered him a blessing and we spoke a little more. When I finally left the room, she seemed much calmer and at peace with the decision that only she alone could make. Through God's Grace and despite my own failings, I think I had really made a difference. It was a powerful reminder of why I had become a priest.

Driving away from the hospital that night, I shuddered, however, at how close I had come to missing that moment, of failing to respond to what was, in hindsight, very clearly God's call for me to be present to someone who was in need. God wanted me, not someone else there at that

moment. I cursed my own weakness. I was ashamed at my whole handling of this moment, but grateful that in the end I had gone and done what I should have done from the start. The "Parable of the Two Sons" from chapter 21 of Matthew's Gospel was lingering in my mind.

This weekend, we encounter the pervasiveness of temptation in our Scripture readings. In the famous scene from the Garden of Eden, we see the moment of the Fall, when we humans first gave-in to temptation, turned away from God's Will and sinned. And then, we see in the Gospel just how powerful temptation can be, when even Jesus is assaulted by one subtle opportunity after another to choose a different path than the one that God has called Him too. From my own struggles with temptation and sin, one example of which is listed above, I can tell you that temptation hits us at our weakest moments, when we are least able to ward off the impetus to turn away from the (sometimes difficult) path that God has laid open before us. But the Good News is that for every moment we start leaning towards Adam & Eve's choice, we also have the example of Christ's choice of faithfulness. God can and will give us the strength and courage to do His Will, even if we find it reluctantly. God's Grace can shine through even our own most half-hearted response. As St. Paul would say, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness...for when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor 12)

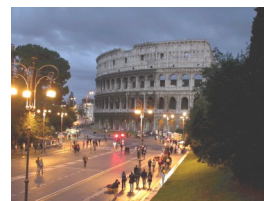
I still give my phone a good, hard stare-down before going to bed each night, as if to say, "Don't you even think about ringing tonight!" But if it does, I pray that God will give me a generous heart to respond with His love and mercy, and if needed, to act upon His Will, even at 2:30 a.m.

May this Lenten Season be fruitful, filled with joy and through our acts of penance enable us to better respond to the Lord when He calls.

Fr. Tim Harrison

Religious Travel Information Night

Are you interested in being part of a life-changing experience? Participating in a religious pilgrimage can be an incredibly rich way to enhance your faith experience as well as see new sights and make lasting friendships. Join us on **Friday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Louis Hall** at the IC Pastoral Center for an informative evening on upcoming trips that currently are being planned for our Collaborative as well as help us to dream about future excursions in the years to come. Right now, we are accepting applications for a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi with Fr. Tim Harrison this coming October. A summer trip with Fr. George Morin to Montreal and Quebec City is also



in the works for August. For more information on either of these adventures or if you have any questions please contact Paul Blanchette at: pblanchette@me.com or (978) 500-5661. We would love to have you join us!

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, March 6

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–6 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
 HR Raffle Night Organizational Meeting 6:30pm, St. Ann Hall
 HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, March 7

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
 Plan Writing Session 6:00pm, St. Ann Hall

Wednesday, March 8

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
 Women's Evening of Prayer 7:00pm, St. Ann Church

Thursday, March 9

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

Friday, March 10

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
 Staff Meeting 8:30am, IC Charity Dining Room
 Lenten Series, Soup & Spirit 12:00noon, IC St. Louis Hall
 AA 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 Rome Travel Night 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 Stations of the Cross 7:00pm, IC Church & Nativity Church

Saturday, March 11

HR Grade 5 Activity Day 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
 Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, March 12

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
 VOTF Prayer Meeting 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 IC Religious Ed., Confirmation Year 2 3:00pm, IC Church

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Collaborative
Mardi Gras
fun.



A great big heartfelt **thank you** to all our attendees and volunteers who supported the Mardi Gras dinner and the Pelican Intervention Fund. We are happy to donate \$1472.13 to this worthy cause and are already looking forward to next year's celebration which will be **bigger and better**.

Celebration of the Priesthood

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

Celebrate our wonderful Pastor and Laetare Sunday.

All are welcome on Sunday, March 26, 2017 for the 11:30 a.m. concelebrated Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport, followed by a reception at the IC School gym from 12:30–3:00 p.m.

Town Hall Thank You

Thank you to all parishioners who attended our Second Pastoral Planning Town Hall. Over 75 parishioners joined Fr. Tim and



the Writing Team on February 26 for a fruitful discussion of the current draft of HRIC's Pastoral Plan. The Town Hall yielded a wealth of ideas for consideration as the Plan evolves and implementation begins. It is gratifying and promising to see the energetic interest in shaping the direction and future of our Collaborative. We encourage all parishioners to add their voices to those who have assisted in formulating the Pastoral Plan to date. Our thanks as well to those who provided feedback via email. Stay tuned for more info. on how you can join the conversation and share your unique perspective as the work continues. God bless.

Recent Church Thefts

Earlier this week, there were news reports circulated that several churches in the Newburyport and Salisbury area were burglarized and that some money was stolen. I want to make it clear that Immaculate Conception and Holy Redeemer Parishes were not among the victims of these crimes, our churches were not vandalized, and that our collections were safe and properly deposited this week as usual. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. If you have any information about any of these incidents, please contact the Newburyport Police Department. ~Fr. Tim Harrison

LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Women's Evening of Prayer



Join us for a Women's Evening of Prayer on **Wednesday, March 8** at St. Ann Church at 7:00pm. The theme will be **Prayer**. All women in the Collaborative are welcome.

Collaborative Adult Lenten Series: Soup & Spirit

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

Week 2: Mary Schmidt presents *Institution*

Karen Finnegan, witness speaker

Discussion Question: Why does a Church founded on Love have so many rules that are perceived as negative by so many? Does morality change because culture does? Why or why not?

Thursday, March 9, Nativity Hall (6:30–8:00pm)

Friday, March 10, IC St. Louis Hall (noon–1:30pm)

Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team (AFFT)

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.

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.**

Stations of the Cross

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

Centering Prayer for Lent

Jesus tells us "When you pray, go into your private room, shut yourself in, and so pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you" (Matt 6:6). In Centering Prayer you enter your private room.

Lent is a time to follow Jesus more closely and learn how to pray by entering your secret room, spending time that places God at the center of your life, opening yourself to a loving Father, surrendering your will and in trust allowing God to transform you. This is how we pray as we Center in silence. Lent is the time to pray as Jesus taught us and enter into the Paschal Mystery, receiving new life in God through death to self.

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

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

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on March 5, 2017



Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on March 5 at 2:00pm in the IC Charity Dining Room. We will read and discuss *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ch. 3–6. In this second book, written between 80 and 90 A.D., Luke continues the story of Christianity in the first century. The early chapters, set in Jerusalem, describe the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, the leadership of St. Peter after he is filled with the Holy Spirit, and the growth of the early Church there. As interested followers become believers and Peter heals a man crippled from birth in the name of Jesus Christ, Jewish Church leaders become concerned, arrest Peter and John, and bring them before the Sanhedrin. Their warnings do not deter the Christian community as members begin to live a communal life, sharing what they have with those in need. All are welcome.

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 8, IC and Nativity

March 15, IC and St. Ann

March 22, IC and Nativity

March 29, IC and St. Ann

April 5, Confessions@ IC only: Parish Mission Week

April 12, IC and Nativity



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 18–19 \$3,062.00

Offertory, February 25–26 \$3,181.00

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

Next week, Catholics across the Archdiocese will be invited to pledge their support to the 2017 **Catholic Appeal**. The Appeal helps to maintain and expand the many ministries that serve the Catholic faithful in our part of Christ's vineyard. Please be sure to read the insert in today's bulletin to see how these ministries impact our parish and the life of our Church.

Raffle Night Meeting

Holy Redeemer's Annual Raffle Night Social will be held Saturday, April 29 at Nativity Parish Hall. Doors will open at 5:00pm for supper—**homemade comfort foods**—will be on our menu. Raffles will start at 6:00pm.



Everyone is invited to come to our **organizational meeting** on **Monday, March 6** starting at 6:30pm at St. Ann's hall. (The next organizational meeting will be Wednesday, April 19 at 7:00pm at Nativity.)

We are asking for help. We need **donations** for our raffles. **Anything new**—any size, any shape, any type. Gift cards and gift certificates are welcome too. Donations may be left in the back of either church. Please mark donation with "Raffle." We need the donations by Sunday, April 23. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072.

HR Prayer Shawl

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

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

Sanctuary Light

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



HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



Starting on Ash Wednesday, mite boxes will be available at both churches. Please take one and contribute to helping others during Lent. The boxes can be returned at Easter and the funds collected will support our work with clients in West Newbury and Merrimac. If you are writing a check for us, please write the check to HR Saint Vincent de Paul to help expedite our banking.

HR Religious Education

Sunday, March 5

Grades 3–6 classes, Merrimac, 9–10am

Grade 2 class, West Newbury, 11:15am–12:15pm

Grade 10 class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm

Tuesday, March 7

Grade 7 class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm

Friday, March 8

Stations of the Cross, Nativity Church, 7:00pm, our volunteer students will be leading the Stations of the Cross **every Friday evening during Lent**. All are welcome. If you would like to help with this devotion, please arrive by 6:30pm (in our hall).

Saturday, March 11

Grades 4 and 5 Activity Day, Merrimac, 1–4pm.

Due to the snow cancellation for our 4th grade last month—this Activity Day will include our scheduled 5th graders' day with the 4th graders that can attend. Please bring a snack to share, and the parish will provide cold drinks.

If any 9th and 10th graders would like to be Team Leaders for this day, and have not signed up, contact Mrs. O'Leary ASAP: reledhrp@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 12

Grades 3–6 classes, Merrimac, 9–10am

Youth Mass, IC Parish at 5:00pm. We will collect toiletries for the homeless. Place toiletries in Ziploc bags for the 30 Hour Famine. See bulletin p. 9 for more details on Helping Our Homeless.

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 8**. Please see the Collaborative calendar at www.hricatholic.org for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 25–26	\$ 9,344.00
St. Vincent DePaul	\$ 2,898.00
Grand Annual	\$71,135.00

This week's second collection is **Utility and Energy**. The second collection next weekend is the **Monthly**.

Next week, Catholics across the Archdiocese will be invited to pledge their support to the 2017 **Catholic Appeal**. The Appeal helps to maintain and expand the many ministries that serve the Catholic faithful in our part of Christ's vineyard. Please be sure to read the insert in today's bulletin to see how these ministries impact our parish and the life of our Church.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 145.00
Collection	\$ 2.50
Total	\$ 147.50

Quilt Drawing for Alzheimer's Association MA/NH

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

IC Knitting Ministry



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

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.

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

Immaculate Conception School

Dear Friends,

This Week's Visit to Immaculate Conception School:



Vacation Week was very quiet around the IC School. Except for the occasional bouncing of basketballs and cranking of the pipes, the week offered time to reflect and renew, to be ready to leap joyfully into Lent and the spring!

The Navarra Family and our school have experienced a deep loss with the passing of former student, Thomas. As a school community, we will continue to hold up the family and each other in prayer. We are grateful to Rev. Richard Burton for his consoling homily and we will be mindful of the challenge to continue the influence and work of a beloved student and classmate.

Today we will hold our Inaugural Fashion Show! Please join us for a glimpse of spring fashions from local retailers. See IC alumni, faculty, parents, and students walk the catwalk to stunning commentary and music. The Show begins at 1:00pm in the School Gymnasium. Tickets are \$25. Raffle tickets for a luxurious vacation will be on sale! Please join us for this festive event.

Our First Annual Student and Alumni



March 5, 2017 1-3PM
\$25 per ticket

Upcoming Events

Fashion Show ~ Sunday, March 5, 1–3 pm

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.

Baptisms

We rejoice with the families of our new brothers and sisters who received the Sacrament of Baptism in February:

Jack Edward Baran, Rory Murphy Hall, Arianna Jacqueline LaCourse, Benjamin Hendrickson Loan, Lilah Cecile Mitchell, Maeve Ann Monaco, and Tate Huntley Snell

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Helping Our Homeless

According to a 2015 survey conducted by the Newburyport YWCA, there are over 400 homeless people in the Greater Newburyport area, and over half of them are children! In an effort to ease the suffering and as a **Collaborative-wide** Lenten observance, we will collect "Homeless Care Packs" in all three churches. A Homeless Care Pack is a one gallon Ziploc bag filled with personal care items listed below. They will be distributed to local agencies serving our homeless, including our own Pelican Intervention Fund as well as used by our youth attending the annual 30 hour famine. Travel size personal care items are the best size and can be found in most pharmacies in the area. There will be a collection box at the entrance of each church. For more information or to help, please contact Jonathan Temple at 978-809-9337 or jntemple@comcast.net.

Shampoo	Chapstick	Hand Lotion
Toothbrush	Scarf	Small First Aid Kit
Toothpaste	Gloves	Small \$ Gift Cards
Deodorant	Thermal Socks	Lightweight
Comb	Mints/Gum	snacks
Razor	Bottled water	

Irish Community Documentary

Join us for the initial screening of local historian and parishioner Jean Foley Doyle's documentary about Newburyport's Irish Community at the Newburyport Senior Center on Wednesday, March 8 from 7:00–9:00pm.

The documentary includes 3 sections:

- Newburyport's early Irish immigrants and how they bolstered their sense of community by building churches and schools
- A focus on the feuding between Hannah Gillis (mother of Bossy Gillis) and the Cashman family
- Shows how Bossy Gillis' 6 terms as mayor brought intrigue and excitement to the city. Gillis' sense of sensationalism amused some and horrified others, while leaving an indelible mark on the Newburyport community

Free Admission. To ensure a seat, please reserve by calling 978-462-2681 (Museum of Old Newbury) or by sending an email to info@newburyhistory.org.

Scripture for the Week

5 Sun	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11
6 Mon	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
7 Tue	Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
8 Wed	Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
9 Thu	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
10 Fri	Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
11 Sat	Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
12 Sun	Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Knights of Columbus

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



IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

The Transmission of Life and the Rearing of Children—In #84. The Synod Fathers also wished to emphasize that "one of the fundamental challenges facing families today is undoubtedly that of raising children, made all the more difficult and complex by today's cultural reality and the powerful influence of the media". "The Church assumes a valuable role in supporting families, starting with Christian initiation, through welcoming communities". At the same time I feel it important to reiterate that the overall education of children is a "most serious duty" and at the same time a "primary right" of parents. This is not just a task or a burden, but an essential and inalienable right that parents are called to defend and of which no one may claim to deprive them. The State offers educational programs in a subsidiary way, supporting the parents in their indeclinable role; parents themselves enjoy the right to choose freely the kind of education—accessible and of good quality—which they wish to give their children in accordance with their convictions. Schools do not replace parents, but complement them. This is a basic principle: "all other participants in the process of education are only able to carry out their responsibilities in the name of the parents, with their consent and, to a certain degree, with their authorization". Still, "a rift has opened up between the family and society, between family and the school; the educational pact today has been broken and thus the educational alliance between society and the family is in crisis."

Religious Education Classes

Grades K–6: Next classes: 3/5 and 3/6.

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

The next Confirmation session is Sunday, March 12 from 3:00–5:00pm in the Church for Year 2 public, private, and Catholic school candidates. The candidate and his/her sponsor, parent, or another adult are to attend the session. Confirmation candidates in Year 1 are to continue to do their monthly service activity until next fall.

First Eucharist

Next First Eucharist session is Sunday, April 2, 1–3:00pm in the Church. We will tour the church with an opportunity to go behind the scenes and see what happens in the many spaces. Candidates and parents attend the session.

Youth Mass—March 12

Next Youth Mass is Sunday, March 12 at IC. We will collect toiletries for the homeless. Place toiletries in Ziploc bags for the 30 Hour Famine. See **Helping Our Homeless** for details.