

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 2, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



Oculus window from the Church of St. Lazarus in Bethany, Israel

*“...whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (Jn 11:25-26)*

Youth Mission

The youth of our Parishes will have their own Lenten Mission Night
Sunday April 2, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at Nativity, Merrimac

Guest speaker: Andrea Alberti

Gather at 5:00 p.m. for the Youth Mass at the Church of the Nativity, Merrimac

As is our custom, the youth will be asked to bring a gift for the benefit of the poor which they will present at the Altar at the Offertory of the Mass.

Andrea Alberti, who served as Youth Minister at Immaculate Conception, will be our guest speaker and will give a personal witness of her faith. Andrea presently serves as the Campus Minister and Head of the Theology Department of Saint Mary's Junior and Senior High School, Lynn, MA.

Collaborative Lenten Mission

April 3-5

7:00 p.m.

Immaculate Conception
Church, Newburyport

Monday, April 3

A Welcoming Community

Speaker: Fr. Bob Connors

We hear how important it is for a Church community to be welcoming. In fact, the Pastoral Plan that is being written by a group of Parishioners calls for our Parish Collaborative to be "welcoming." Welcoming is obviously important.

Father Robert Connors is a former pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish. He is presently serving as the administrator to the Salem Catholic Collaborative. He will offer us practical insights on how to be a welcoming community.

Tuesday, April 4

Evangelization and Service

Speaker: Fr. Matt Williams

Our Pastoral Plan speaks about the need for Evangelization. We might be overwhelmed by the word or unsure of what it means. And yet, we are called to Evangelize. What does that mean and how do we do it?

Father Matt Williams served as a Deacon at Immaculate Conception Parish prior to his ordination to the Priesthood. He is presently the director of the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization of Youth and Young People.

Wednesday, April 5

Becoming a Disciple

Speaker: Fr. Derek Borek

Jesus calls us to follow him, to become his disciples. This is our joy: to follow Jesus in faith, hope and love. Becoming a Disciple also comes with a responsibility to go and transform our environments for Christ.

Father Derek Borek served at Immaculate Conception Parish as a newly ordained priest and now serves as the Parochial Vicar of the Parish Collaborative of Immaculate Conception Parish and Saint James Parish in Stoughton, MA.

All Are Welcome!

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (4/1)

4:00pm **IC** *William Lindquist, Regina M. Stronge, Joanne Brislin, Nancy Gorman, Edward Tremblay, John Graham* (Fr. Morin)

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

Sunday (4/2)

7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge, Noreen Driscoll and her Parents Peter and Florence* (Fr. Broderick)

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

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

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

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

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

Monday (4/3)

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

Tuesday (4/4)

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

Wednesday (4/5)

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

Thursday (4/6)

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

Friday (4/7)

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

9:00am **IC** School Liturgy *Thomas Navarra, Neal Foley, Rosemary Leszczynski, Janice Lane* (Fr. Morin)

1:30pm **Avita** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (4/8)

4:00pm **IC** *Patricia Toomey, Zachary Hilton, Marjorie Emerson, Thomas J. Adrignola* (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **St. Ann** *Marie Venturi, Jack Gorski* (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (4/9) Palm Sunday

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Gino Risti, Neal Foley* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

11:30am **IC** *James F. Doyle, Nicola & Angelina Maiello, Robert Filomia* (Fr. Broderick)

In your prayers, please remember all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception

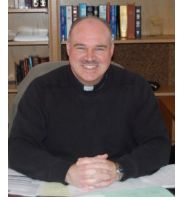
Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

On the bulletin cover, you will see a rather dramatic image of the oculus window that is the sole source of natural light in the Church of St. Lazarus in the village of Bethany near Jerusalem in Israel. When in this church, it has the feel of being deep in a tomb. The challenge is to listen for the voice of Christ, calling us to new life. This weekend's Gospel, though rich in symbolism and offering many layers of interpretation, has at its core, the



overwhelming reality that Jesus brought someone back from the dead. This was not the borderline case of someone who was ill and had slipped into a coma and was thought to be dead. Nor was it a story of their inexactness of ancient medicine where someone might have been close to death and was revived. Lazarus was dead. It had been four days. One ancient understanding of the boundary between life and death thought that the soul lingered for several days after the body appeared to be deceased (and in some cases the person returned to life if it wasn't their time). But here, the Gospel makes it completely clear that Lazarus had crossed any point of question in this regard. "Master, it has been four days, surely there will be a stench!" This only goes to underscore the supreme drama of Jesus' miracle and the deeply personal way that Jesus in His humanness and as God experienced this loss. It is a comfort to us to know that this is how the Lord looks at each of our losses as well. God takes it all personally! How intense His love for us and His attention to the smallest details of our lives. God's Promise in St. Paul's Letter to the Romans is His Promise to each of us: "...if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is alive because of righteousness...and the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you."

This may seem like an unlikely segue to a discussion of our Local Pastoral Plan, but to me the analogy is vivid. It's all about engaging the enduring presence of Christ's Spirit in each of us and in our Collaborative Parishes. The Plan is the framework for how we will focus our work over the next three years. But, it is the implementation of the Plan that will actually breathe new life into our personal faith and our Collaborative faith community.

This week, I was asked to submit the third draft of the Collaborative Pastoral Plan to the Archdiocese for review. This is the last opportunity for various offices in the Archdiocese to offer feedback before the final draft of our Local Pastoral Plan is submitted to Cardinal Sean O'Malley for approval on June 1st.

Throughout the first three months of this year, the Writing Team has been actively soliciting Parishioner feedback on this Plan. Facilitated discussions with staff, Parish Council and Parishioner Review Groups, the Second Collaborative

(Continued on page 4)

Catholic TV

Visit www.catholicv.com for a schedule of the latest program details on America's Catholic Television Network.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, April 3

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–6 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
 HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
 Collaborative Lenten Mission 7:00pm, IC Church

Tuesday, April 4

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
 Collaborative Lenten Mission 7:00pm, IC Church

Wednesday, April 5

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 only
 Collaborative Lenten Mission 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, April 6

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
 Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, April 7

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
 AA 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
 Stations of the Cross 7:00pm, IC Church & Nativity Church

Saturday, April 8

Holy Quilters 8:00am, Nativity Church
 IC Confirmation Retreat 9:30am, Adelynrood Retreat House
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church
 RCIA 10:15am, IC Youth Ministry Room
 IC First Eucharist Mini-Retreat 1:00pm, IC Church
 Troop 21 Scout Meeting 4:30pm, IC School Cafeteria
 HR Religious Ed. Grade 9 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

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.

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.

(Continued from page 3)

Town Hall in February, and parishioner emails have been very fruitful with many diverse and broad-ranging ideas brought forth. I am so appreciative to all of you for your participation in these forums and for openly sharing your ideas, perspective, insights, and experience.

From the myriad of ideas, a few common themes have emerged. These call for us to become a Collaborative faith community that is inclusive, intergenerational, and actively visible within the lives of our parishioners and within the four communities that we serve. In particular, future programs require a focus on providing an environment to attract and retain our youth and young adults as active members of the church, to support those children and families with special needs, and to serve those in need.

It is gratifying for me to see the energy with which these possibilities are being embraced already by parishioners, as well as to witness many who are being catalysts for starting some exciting new programs. Parishioners are taking the lead and fulfilling the intent of the Plan before it is even finalized! This is so hopeful! As in all aspects of parish life, parishioner participation is critical to the successful implementation of the Plan and the realization of the many great ideas proposed.

I encourage those of you interested in sharing your energy on the upcoming Implementation Team to get in touch with the Disciples in Mission contacts listed in the bulletin. Tasks will be focused on the identified Priorities and will need your involvement:

- **Welcoming**—hospitality and sacramental engagement
- **Intentional Discipleship**—prayer life and faith formation
- **Supporting Vocations**—priesthood, religious, married, and single life
- **Service and Ministry**—support of families, fellow parishioners, and the community in their outreach to others

Underpinned with values of Faith, Love, and Fellowship, Collaborative parishioners are “tilling the soil and sowing the seeds” to enliven our faith communities and enrich those we are called to serve. As we await the approval of our Local Pastoral Plan, Christ’s Spirit already is breathing new life into the lives of our parishioners and the communities of our Collaborative. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us on our journey to become ever more intentional disciples of Jesus Christ as we go to work on making the Local Pastoral Plan a reality. If we do this well enough, it will be as powerful a sign of God’s presence in our midst as was the return of our friend, Lazarus, millennia ago.

May God bless us in the weeks ahead,

Fr. Tim Harrison,
 Pastor

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

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.

Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

Pat Forbes

617-899-0424

pbfnbpt@comcast.net

Alex Hasapis

978-376-6100

alexh464@comcast.net

Rich Ryan

978-314-1094

roryan@comcast.net

Jonathan Temple

978-809-9337

jntemple@comcast.net

Dr. Margaret M. McKinnon (Dr. Mag)

978-462-2724 EXT 7405

Mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org

Charlotte Vincent

978-462-9817

pcharlie@comcast.net

Cursillo & Ultreya

A **Cursillo** retreat is a three-day weekend of intensive spiritual reflection and exploration. The next Cursillo is April 7–9 (men)

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).

Lift up Your Voice and Sing!

Join us for an interfaith musical celebration and hymn sing to benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice House. This interfaith musical celebration and hymn sing will showcase area organists, choirs, (including Immaculate Conception) and soloists as they perform some favorite seasonal pieces and then encourage the members of the audience to "Lift up your voice and sing!" The final set will include a rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus!

The concert is Sunday, April 30, 2:00pm, at Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, Methuen. Tickets are \$25. Contact Mike Fay, coachmikefay@gmail.com for info.

Questions of the Week

Adult: Are there parts of your life that Jesus has called back to life? What are they?

Child: How does loving Jesus give you new life?

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

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

Disciples in Mission

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.

Thank you!

I would like to express a sincere word of thanks to all who came together to help me mark my 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood this past weekend. I was truly overwhelmed by the many gestures, small and

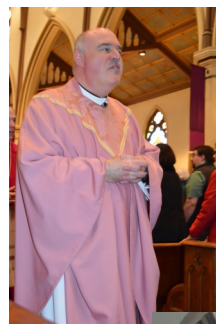


large, that you offered to help me celebrate this milestone in my life. A special thanks goes out to the committee led by Mary Bragg and Loretta Haley who helped to coordinate the food, fun and festivity. From where I sat during the mass, I saw a diverse gathering of family, friends, current and former parishioners from the Collaborative and beyond. It was a wonderful day for me and I am most grateful for your generous support of the charitable works within our parishes.

Thank you again for your prayers and kindness!

With gratitude,

Fr. Tim



Fr. Tim celebrates Laetare Sunday



A great turnout for the celebration

Youth Masses

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

April 2 Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity—Potluck dinner to follow the Mass. Please bring a dish to share. We hope families can join us. This is our Youth Mission night. Guest speaker: Andrea Alberti. See page 2 for details.

May 7 Immaculate Conception

LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

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**.

April 5, Confessions@ IC only:
Parish Mission Week
April 12, IC and Nativity



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 | | |

Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday, April 13

7:00pm, IC

Good Friday, April 14

The Passion of the Lord

3:00pm, IC

3:00pm, St. Ann

Stations of the Cross

7:00pm, IC

7:00pm, Nativity

Easter Vigil, April 15

We will gather at 7:30pm, IC



2nd Annual HRIC Lenten Mission

Monday–Wednesday, April 3–5 at Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport, 7:00pm–8:00pm. See bulletin page 2 for more details.

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.

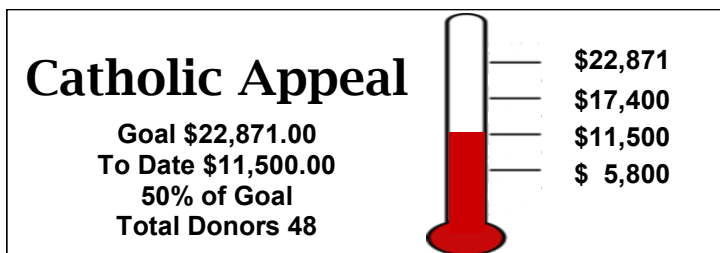
Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should take these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, March 25–26 **\$3164.00**

The second collection next weekend is the monthly.



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.

Raffle Night

Holy Redeemer's *Annual Raffle Night Social* will be held Saturday, April 29 at Nativity Parish Hall. Doors open at 5:00pm for supper—Homemade comfort foods, meatballs and sauce, mac and cheese, pulled pork, "company casserole" and more. \$8.00 for dinner includes main choice, Caesar salad, roll, and drinks. Homemade desserts served at intermission. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each and the raffles will be drawn starting at 6:00pm.

Everyone is invited to come to our **organizational meeting on Wednesday, April 19** starting at 7:00pm at Nativity. We are asking for **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.



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 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, April 2

Grades 3–6 will do the Way of the Cross, Merrimac, 9–10am

Note: Grades 3–6 (*Last classes will be Sunday, April 30*)

Youth Mass, Nativity, 5:00pm followed by a Pot Luck Dinner, please join us!

Tuesday, April 4

Grade 8 class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm, bring goodies to share

Friday, April 7

Stations of the Cross, 7:00pm, Church of the Nativity, Merrimac. If you would like to lead a station, arrive in the hall by 6:30pm. The Way of the Cross begins at 7:00pm in the church.

Sunday, April 9

Grade 9 class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm

Tuesday, April 11

Grade 7 **Last class**, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm, bring goodies to share

Confirmation

Bishop Hennessey is celebrating the Confirmation Mass(es) Saturday, October. 28 at Merrimac at 1:00pm and 4:00pm (within the parish Mass).

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 Churches Spring Cleanup

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?

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, March 26–27 \$11496.00
 Grand Annual \$72780.00

The second collection this weekend is the Pastor's Charity Account. The second collection next weekend is the Restoration/Renovation.

| | | |
|---|--|----------|
| <h3>Catholic Appeal</h3> <p>Goal \$51,268.00 To Date \$40,827.00 80% of Goal Total Donors: 136</p> | | \$51,268 |
| | | \$39,000 |
| | | \$26,000 |
| | | \$13,000 |
| | | |

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 maryak scholarship@gmail.com. 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:



This week, as we wrapped up March Madness, our Basketball season, and began play practice for the production of "Peter Pan," on June 1 and 2, I have reflected on the importance of our coaches and many volunteers. Certainly, I could not do my ministry as well without Father Tim's advice and assistance, without the leadership of our Athletic Director, Michael Doyle, and without the myriad of volunteers that



North Shore Catholic Elementary Boys Runners-up

step forward to help with marketing, fundraising, library and recess, without Room Parents, PTO, and so many caring others. It takes the ministry of many, many self-giving adults to model, set boundaries, and nurture the faith of

our students at IC. I will be forever grateful to all of you who have seen your school support as a ministry of love and self-sacrifice. To God be the glory for placing the school on your heart and calling you into service!

Sincerely,
 Mary Reardon, Principal



Girls Varsity Champions for March Madness



Spirited students arrived early on Saturday to create posters for March Madness!



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.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Poor Box | \$ 153.00 |
| Collection | \$ 57.00 |
| Total | \$ 210.00 |

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.

Adoration

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

Knights of Columbus



The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, April 11** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

Pelican Intervention Fund April Fundraising Events

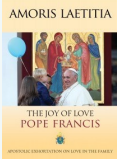
Belleville Congregational Church, Newburyport generously offered to share half the proceeds from their presentations of *Godspell* in April to The Pelican Intervention Fund. We invite all parishioners to attend one of the productions and are very grateful for the support and generosity of Pastor Rev. Ross Varney and the Belleville parish.

The second fundraising event is April 30 at the Senior Center in Newburyport. Please join us to hear two men share powerful testimonies of recovery through their sober living experience funded by your contributions to the Pelican Intervention Fund and learn of resources for individuals and families struggling with the disease of addiction.

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.



Love in Marriage—In #89. All that has been said so far would be insufficient to express the Gospel of marriage and the family, were we not also to speak of love. For we cannot encourage a path of fidelity and mutual self-giving without encouraging the growth, strengthening and deepening of conjugal and family love. Indeed, the grace of the sacrament of marriage is intended before all else “to perfect the couple’s love”.¹⁰⁴ Here too we can say that, “even if I have faith so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing” (1 Cor 13:2-3). The word “love,” however, is commonly used and often misused.

Religious Education Classes

Grades K–6: This is our last week of classes: 4/2 and 4/3.

For 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 child/ren 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.hriccatholic.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. We completed one retreat and have one more on April 8 from 9:30am–3:00pm at Adelynrood Retreat Center, Byfield. 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 in the summer or next fall.

First Eucharist

This weekend, our 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.

On Sunday, April 9, the candidates and their families will participate in a mini-retreat at 1:00pm beginning in the church.