

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2017

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



The Incredulity of St. Thomas by Pietro Paolo Bonzi ca. 1633 from the Pantheon, Rome

*“Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand
and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” (Jn. 20:27)*



HOLY REDEEMER RAFFLE NIGHT SOCIAL

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Nativity Church Hall, 4 Green Street, Merrimac

Doors Open at 5:00pm for Supper

Fun for the Whole Family

Supper = \$8.00

Includes: Main Choice, Caesar Salad, Roll, and Drink

Main Choices include (choice of one):

Homemade Mac and Cheese, Meatballs and Sauce,

Pulled Pork, “Company Casserole,” and more

Complimentary desserts served at intermission

RAFFLE STARTS at 6:00pm

over 100 items

RAFFLE TICKETS \$1.00 each

1 raffle ticket could win multiple items

Everyone in the Collaborative is welcome!



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (4/22)

4:00pm **IC** *Ellen Kiernan, Thomas Burton, Charles M. Kelly, Jedrey A. Connors, Joe & Jeannette Donahue, For the intentions of Ellen Meade* (Fr. Morin)

4:00pm **St. Ann** *Joe & Jeannette Donahue* (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (4/23)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *George Wm. Champoux, Jr., Marjorie Emerson* (Fr. Broderick)

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

11:30am **IC** *John "Jack" Kiggins, Jeffrey Bartlett Kiggins* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Monday (4/24)

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

Tuesday (4/25)

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

Wednesday (4/26)

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

Thursday (4/27)

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

Friday (4/28)

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

Saturday (4/29)

11:00am **IC First Communion** (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **IC** *For the intentions of John O'Connor & William Moore* (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **St. Ann** *Mary Conway* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (4/30)

7:15am **IC** *Audrey Melican, Henry DiBurro* (Fr. Broderick)

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

9:00am **IC** *Daniel Riley* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

11:30am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)

12:00 Noon **St. Ann Holy Redeemer First Communion** (Fr. Morin)

In your prayers please remember Robert Lynch, Mary Ellen Clarkson, Cecilia Tuxbury, Elizabeth M. Burns, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

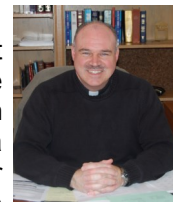
This weekend's classic text has forever cast St. Thomas as "Doubting Thomas" until the Second Coming. Poor Thomas! He gets such a bad rap. Who among us has never had a few doubts from time to time? Over and over again in the Gospels we hear accounts of the disciples believing, but doubting. "When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted." (Mt. 28:17) Thomas just becomes the poster-child for what every one of them was doing: wanting to believe, sort-of believing, but having questions and being certainly confused from time to time. When faced with a man whose son was possessed by a demon, Jesus challenged his lack of faith when the man asked Jesus to help, "if he could." His response to the Lord is the lament that I believe every Christian has uttered from time to time: "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mk. 9:24)

Doubting is something we human beings are particularly good at! We take nothing for granted, question everything and constantly want proof for every hypothesis. Just recall the snowy scene from the 1983 film, *A Christmas Story*, when after a triple-dog-dare, Flick still doubts his tongue will stick to a metal flagpole while outdoors on recess in the frigid days leading up to the holiday. (For those who have not seen the movie, this did not end well. Kids: Do NOT try that one at home! Adults: you are on your own, you have been warned!) How many of us have ever gotten the flu shot, only to wonder just how effective it really is, especially if we get a cold a few days later? And how many of us have ever spent more than just a split second before ripping off the tags on our pillow that say "Unlawful to Remove" (missing, of course, the tiny print that further adds: "except by consumer")? We know better, but we still have our questions, still ponder the alternative possibilities, still...doubt.

In recent years, there has been a substantial effort to try and explain away many elements of our faith. The mysterious Star of Bethlehem becomes a comet or supernova that appeared in the night sky. The multiplication of the loaves becomes an act of communal sharing, not divine-intervention. The plagues of Egypt were all naturally occurring, of course. The ancient Flood that wiped out most of humanity was simply global warming run amok. The parting of the Red Sea was the result of some coincidental seismic anomaly or earthquake. And the resurrection, well, that was the biggest hoax in the history of mankind, right up there with the faked Apollo moon landings and the supposed conspiracy of the grassy knoll. Wow, are we doubtful at times!

Just this past week, a parishioner pointed me towards a TV special called "The Last Days of Jesus." It was very interesting and provided many insights into possible alternative explanations of various details from the Gospel accounts. But fundamentally missing was any talk of Jesus' divinity. The whole "Jesus movement" was reduced to a

(Continued on page 4)



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, April 24

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
IC First Communion Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
Compassionate Friends 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, April 25

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
IC First Communion Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Plan Writing Session 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
IC St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. 6:00pm, IC St Louis Hall
HR St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

Wednesday, April 26

Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall
Holy Quilters 2:30pm, Nativity Hall
Brownie & Daisy Scout Tea 2:45pm, IC St. Louis 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
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, April 27

IC First Communion Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, April 28

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
Staff Meeting 8:30am, IC Charity Dining Room
AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library, Room 205
Ultreya 7:00pm, IC St. James Chapel/Charity Dining Room

Saturday, April 29

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church
Holy Redeemer Raffle Night 5:00pm, Nativity Hall

Sunday, April 30

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
HR Religious Ed., Grade 10 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

Pelican Intervention Fund

Please join us for a fundraising event on Sunday, April 30, at the Senior Center in Newburyport, 2:00pm–4:30pm. 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.

For more information contact:
Elizabeth McCarthy (978) 462-7483
Kim Keene (978) 430-1408



(Continued from page 3)

failed political coup that was later fondly reinvented in the collective memories of his disciples. From a doubting, secular perspective, this could look entirely plausible, but that doesn't take into account the whole of the Gospels or the Sacred Scriptures. There is faith in a divine initiative that fuels the heart of all the biblical accounts. God is doing something new, not simply us human beings doing what we have always done, and often doing it poorly. Faith invites us to see something more.

Maybe the greatest challenge any one of us will ever face is when we are confronted with illness and death. "Wasn't my prayer heard?" we wondered. Or doubted. Was anyone really out there listening, was all this "religion stuff" worth anything at all, if my prayers couldn't even help save the one I care for? It doesn't get much more personal than that. When we are faced with the ultimate, and when our prayers seem to be so ineffectual, doubting is the rule, not the exception. We wonder, like the Psalmist: "Will the Lord reject us forever—never again show favor? Has God's mercy ceased forever? The promise to go unfulfilled for future ages? Has God forgotten how to show mercy, in anger withheld his compassion?" I conclude: "My sorrow is this, the right hand of the Most High has abandoned us." (From Ps. 77) At least it can feel that way. For a long time, even.

Faith, we must remember, is not primarily a human action, but rather is first and foremost a gift from God. Our desire to believe is, in and of itself, a gift from God. When we accept the gift being offered by the Lord and do move beyond our doubts and dare to believe, it is because God has willed it so and has given us the immeasurable gift of His grace to accomplish this saving action. Faith begins and ends with God's grace. Doubting is part of the chaotic, messy dance that we do with the Almighty, struggling to understand His ways, ricocheting between the surety of our belief and the very real world of our questions, which even Jesus, in His humanity, shared with us.

Let's not be afraid of the doubts when they come...let's only be concerned about not having the courage to ask and ponder the questions. Thomas voiced his and in time would find enough faith to eventually surrender his life in witness to his belief in Christ. We should be unafraid to engage our doubts, that, we, too, might also be given the same gift that leads to life. Remember, "Doubting Thomas" with all of his questions and obstinacy became "Believing Thomas" who would open his heart to a love that is greater than even life itself.

We can, too...doubts, questions, and all.

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

Cursillo & Ultreya

The next Ultreya is Friday, April 28, in the IC Charity Dining Room/St. James Chapel beginning at 7:00pm. All are welcome. The next Cursillos are May 4–7 (women) and June 1–4 (men). Questions about Cursillo or Ultreya? Contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Care Packs for the Homeless

All things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Thank you to all who provided much needed supplies for the homeless and poor in our communities during Lent. Over 325 *Care Packs for the Homeless* were graciously donated by members of the HRIC Collaborative—a very successful start to this annual Collaborative initiative.



On Good Friday, volunteers worked to sort the items for delivery to The Pelican Intervention Fund, St. Vincent de Paul at both Immaculate Conception and Holy Redeemer, the Salvation Army, and Pettengill House. In support of the youth participants in the 20 hour famine, 100+ care packs were delivered to St. Mary's in Lynn for distribution to the homeless on Boston Common.

The generosity of the Collaborative was overwhelming and testimony to the power of working together on behalf of those who are challenged by daily life. May God bless you for your kindness.

The Ministry of Women

Join us for the lecture "The Ministry of Women, Then and Now: **Can there be Women Deacons?**" This talk, by Francine Cardman, Ph.D., Boston College, will present the ministry of women in the early Church and relate its history to the current discussion of women deacons in the Catholic Church.

The lecture is Sunday, April 23, from 2–4 p.m. at St. Agnes Church Hall, Middleton.

Refreshments served—Free Will offering appreciated.
Sponsored by North Shore-Seacoast Affiliate of VOTF.

Youth Masses

Youth Masses are celebrated as a collaborative. Students take part in the ministries during the Mass. Folk music, with guitar, is featured. Youth Masses begin at 5:00pm. All ages are welcome to this lively celebration.

For each Youth Mass, a charity is chosen for donations. Please watch the bulletin for details about that month's charity. The May 7 Youth Mass will include a service project from 2:00–4:00pm at Plum Island for beach cleanup. Bring disposable gloves to the beach. All are welcome to help out.

Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

Join Fr. Tim on a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi on October 8–17, 2017. During the 10-day tour, we will visit Rome where we will attend a Papal audience and a tour of St. Peter's, as well as other sites in Rome. The trip includes two days in Assisi as well.

To reserve your space or for more information, visit www.pilgrimages.com/FatherTim_RomeAssisi2017 or call 206 Tours at 800-206-8687, and ask for Amanda or Bika.

Lift up Your Voice and Sing!

All are invited to join host Mike Fay and The New England Tenors and members of IC Choir to "Lift up Your Voice and Sing" at an interfaith musical celebration and hymn sing. This event will be on Sunday, April 30 at 2:00pm at Methuen Music Hall, home of one of the oldest and largest pipe organs in the world. Choirs from St. Theresa's, Rye, NH, North Parish Church, N. Andover, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lawrence and Methuen, and Treble Corus of New England will all perform and lead selections in the hymn sing. All will be invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship after the concert.

Some proceeds to benefit Merrimac Valley Hospice House. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.thenewenglandtenors.weebly.com or call Mike Fay at 978-476-6053 or coachmikefay@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage to Canada

Join Fr. George on a pilgrimage to Canada on August 21–26, 2017. During the six-day tour of Montreal and Quebec City, we will visit shrines, churches, cathedrals, museums, chapels, monasteries, and much more.

To reserve your space or for more information, visit www.pilgrimages.com/frgeorgemorin or call 206 Tours at 800-206-8687, and ask for Amanda or Bika.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer, resting silently in God, facilitates the process of inner transformation. Our prayer without words is one of intention to surrender to God's presence and action in our lives and desire for a closer relationship with God. Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00pm–7:00pm, in the **IC Nazareth Library**. Join us as we pray in this ancient Christian tradition and together deepen our understanding of this prayer in our own spiritual journey. For information

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for those considering becoming Catholic as adults or youth that have not received the sacraments in the traditional years. Have you been considering it? Please contact Marin Fortune, 978-462-2724 or fortune@newburyportcatholic.org if you would like to learn more about this program.



The Holy Jammers is an impromptu group of musicians that meet on Wednesdays in the IC Pastoral Center, second floor at 9:00am. Anyone is welcome. Bring your instrument.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS



Fr. Broderick and some young friends at Easter Sunday brunch

Bulletin Information

Please supply bulletin information by Monday noon to the collaborative bulletin email: hricbulletin@gmail.com.

The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild or sibling—any age, any cause. Our monthly support meetings are held in the IC Conference Room 209 from 7:30–9:00pm on the 4th Monday of the month. The next meeting is April 24. Questions? Contact Barbara J. Hopkinson, founder and chapter leader, 617-410-6309, or info@abutterflysjourney.org.

Collaborative Contacts

Rev. Timothy Harrison, Pastor,
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info@newburyportcatholic.org,
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Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant,
978-462-2724, temple@newburyportcatholic.org

Parish Membership

We welcome all newcomers to our Parish communities and hope you take an active part in parish life. Please introduce yourself and register in the parish. Forms are available online at www.hriccatholic.org or you can call the Parish offices.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

All Saints Parish Mission Invitation

All Saints Parish, Haverhill MA (978-372-7721) is excited to have a Parish Mission during the Easter season given by Fr. Patrick Martin, who at age 9, was diagnosed with meningitis resulting in him losing his sight and his ability to walk. Fr. Pat's ministry has grown from his blindness (*the first spark in his vocation came in 8th grade when he said, "maybe—just maybe—with the blindness I can serve God's people"*).

Fr. Pat will be preaching a Mission titled **"God's Love in our Suffering Lives."** This is an event not to be missed.

Mission Schedule

April 22–23: Will speak at all weekend Masses (will also Preside @ 4:00pm Mass 4/22). **Homily: "God's Love"**

April 24: Confessions: 9:00–11:00am & 6:00pm–6:50pm
Mass/Liturgical Celebration @ 7:00pm. Presider and Homilist: Fr. Pat. **Homily: "God's Forgiving Love"**

April 25: Confessions: 9:00–11:00am & 6:00pm–6:50pm.
Mass/Liturgical Celebration @ 7:00pm. Presider and Homilist: Fr. Pat. **Homily: "God's Redeeming Love"**

Learn more about Fr. Pat at www.awildcanary.com.

Scripture for the Week

23 Sun Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
24 Mon Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
25 Tue 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20
26 Wed Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
27 Thu Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
28 Fri Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
29 Sat Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21

Community Food Pantry

First Parish Church of Newbury Community Food Pantry, 20 High Road, Newbury, is open every Friday from 3:00pm–5:00pm for anyone in need in the Collaborative's towns as well as Georgetown, Rowley, and Salisbury. The volunteers are very welcoming and no one is made to feel uncomfortable when visiting. No registration or proof of residency required. Fresh fruit and vegetables, many types of frozen meats, pasta, and desserts, as well as an array of canned goods, toiletries, etc. are available.


If you would like to donate, nonperishable goods, personal hygiene products, and/or pet food may be dropped off on Sunday mornings from 9:30–11:30am. Grocery store gift cards as well as cash/checks (made out to "First Parish" and write "food pantry" in the memo) are always welcome.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, April 8-9	\$11,914.00
Restoration/Renovation	\$ 2,716.00
Holy Thursday, St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,513.00
Good Friday, Holy Lands	\$ 1,062.00
Easter, Clergy Retirement	\$19,122.00
Grand Annual	\$7,3380.00

The second collection this weekend is Home Missions and Black and Native Americans. The second collection next weekend is the Monthly.

	Catholic Appeal	\$51,268
	Goal \$51,268.00	\$39,000
	To Date \$54,287.00	\$26,000
	106% of Goal!	\$13,000
	Total Donors: 191	

Easter Flowers

The Burton Family, The Twomey Family, Jeanne Twomey, The Grenier Family, Arthur H. Allen, Jr., Norann Allen, The Allen Family, The Terrio Family, Stanley Baikewicz, Tony & Mary Baikewicz, Catherine & Stephen Bogue, Alison & Joseph Baikewicz, The DiBurro Family, and The Zajicek Family.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 657.00
Collection	\$ 394.00
Total	\$1051.00

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.

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).

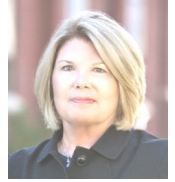
If you know anyone who needs a prayer shawl or for more information please call Frances Ronan 978-462-4972 or Julia O'Connor at 978-465-3350.

Immaculate Conception School

Dear Friends,

This Week's Visit to Immaculate Conception School:

The Immaculate Conception School continues to celebrate the joy of Easter.



Left: Ella Peddie puts the finishing touches on an art project.



Right: Lucia Arteaga does "bunny math."

Grade 2 is studying simple machines. Their first project focused on inclined planes and how they help move things up and down. The students took a walking tour of the school to find inclined planes all around them, then completed a homework assignment that showed how an inclined plane helped them at home. In class the students worked in small groups to build a Marble Trampoline Run—made with an inclined plane. They followed the process of brainstorming, designing, building, testing, modifying, and re-testing before showing off their completed project. The students learned through hands-on experience that the steepness of their inclined plane made a difference.

Sincerely,
Mary Reardon, Principal



Mrs. Lacefield and her second grade class show off their Marble Trampoline Runs after learning about simple machines through music and movement.

Upcoming Events

135th Gala ~ Friday, May 19, 7-10pm

Tuesday Tours ~ IC school tours, including classroom visits, second Tuesday of each month, 9-11am.

For more information about the school events please call our office at (978) 465-7780.

Adoration

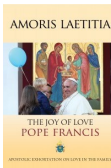
Please join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in IC's St. James Chapel on Fridays from 8:00am-12:00noon.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

Pope Francis released the Exhortation on the Family. We continue to review the various statements from the Holy Father.



Love in Marriage: Our Daily Love—In #92. Being patient does not mean letting ourselves be constantly mistreated, tolerating physical aggression or allowing other people to use us. We encounter problems whenever we think that relationships or people ought to be perfect, or when we put ourselves at the centre and expect things to turn out our way. Then everything makes us impatient, everything makes us react aggressively. Unless we cultivate patience, we will always find excuses for responding angrily. We will end up incapable of living together, antisocial, unable to control our impulses, and our families will become battlegrounds. That is why the word of God tells us: “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, with all malice” (Eph 4:31). Patience takes root when I recognize that other people also have a right to live in this world, just as they are. It does not matter if they hold me back, if they unsettle my plans, or annoy me by the way they act or think, or if they are not everything I want them to be. Love always has an aspect of deep compassion that leads to accepting the other person as part of this world, even when he or she acts differently than I would like.

Love in Marriage: Our Daily Love—In #93. *Love is at the service of others.* The next word that Paul uses is *chrestéuetai*. The word is used only here in the entire Bible. It is derived from *chrestós*: a good person, one who shows his goodness by his deeds. Here, in strict parallelism with the preceding verb, it serves as a complement. Paul wants to make it clear that “patience” is not a completely passive attitude, but one accompanied by activity, by a dynamic and creative interaction with others. The word indicates that love benefits and helps others. For this reason it is translated as “kind”; love is ever ready to be of assistance.

Baptism

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

May 7 Parent Class-Charity Dining Room	1:00pm
May 14 Group Baptism—Church	1:00pm

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.

Fr. Broderick’s Scripture Study

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

Summer Religious Education Classes

Grades 1–8: Summer registration has begun. Forms can be downloaded from the website:

Gr 1–6: <http://www.hricatholic.org/IC-Children-s-Religious-Education>

Gr 7–8: <http://www.hricatholic.org/IC-Youth-Religious-Education>

Please be sure to complete a **Catechetical Events Log Sheet** to be eligible to participate in the Summer program. It needs to be submitted prior to the start of the program.

We are offering **2 programs for Gr. 1–8**: June 26–30 and July 24–28. Monday–Thursday 9:00am–3:00pm and Friday 9:00am–1:00pm. Cost: \$175/student.

We are also introducing a **Collaborative MS Mission Week** July 10–14 for grades 7–8 youth, Monday–Thursday 10:00am–4:00pm and Friday 10:00am–6:00pm. We have limited enrollment. It will combine catechesis and service and for IC youth it can be done in place of regular Religious Education. Learning how to live our faith in service to those in need. Cost: \$200 includes transportation to agencies that serve the poor.

Service Learning Project—Beach Clean up

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

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

Youth Mass—May 7

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, May 7 at Immaculate Conception at 5:00pm.

Confirmation

Rehearsals:

Monday, May 1 at 6:30pm in the Church for the Saturday, May 6 Mass at 10:30am.

Thursday, May 4 at 6:30pm in the Church for the Saturday, May 6 Mass at 1:30pm.

Please be sure you have identified the time of Mass you prefer and the number of guests, not including sponsor and candidate, to the Religious Education Office ASAP.

Summer Confirmation session is July 17–20 from 5:30–8:00pm for Grades 9 and 10. More information and registration can be found online: <http://www.hricatholic.org/Confirmation-Immaculate-Conception-Parish>

School Year Confirmation sessions will begin in the fall once a month on Sunday 1:00–3:00pm. For information and registration go online: <http://www.hricatholic.org/Confirmation-Immaculate-Conception-Parish>

First Eucharist

1st Eucharist Rehearsals and Mass times:

Monday, April 24 at 4:30pm for Saturday, April 29 Mass at 11:00am.

Tuesday, April 25 at 4:30pm for Saturday, April 29 Mass at 4:00pm.

Thursday, April 27 at 4:30pm for Saturday April 29 Mass at 4:00pm.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, April 8–9	\$4,383.00
Monthly	\$2,444.00
Good Friday, Holy Lands	\$ 523.00
Easter, Clergy Retirement	\$6,493.00

The second collection next weekend is the Home Missions/ Black & Native Americans.

	Catholic Appeal	\$22,871
	Goal \$22,871.00	\$17,400
	To Date \$20,842.00	\$11,500
	91% of Goal	\$ 5,800
	Total Donors 87	

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 vbapro.events/p/nativity2017 to sign up.

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

Raffle Night

Holy Redeemer's *Annual Raffle Night Social* is **next 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.

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 **today, 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 1:00pm. Don't know how to crochet or knit, we will teach you and give you yarn. **Our next meeting is Thursday, May 4 at 1:00 p.m.**

HR Religious Education

Sunday, April 30

Grades 3–6 last classes (w/ party), Merrimac, 9–10am

Grade 10 last class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm

Sunday, April 30

First Communion, St. Ann, W. Newbury, 12:00noon. *Please keep our First Communicants in your prayers.*

Sunday, May 21

Grade 9 last class, Merrimac, 6–7:30pm

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

The May 7 **Youth Mass** at IC will include a service project from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at Plum Island for beach cleanup. Bring disposable gloves to the beach. Mass is at 5:00pm at IC. All are welcome.

New Email Address

The Office of Religious Education at Holy Redeemer has a new email address: reledhrp@gmail.com.

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, April 26**. Please see the Collaborative calendar at www.hriccatholic.org for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



Thank you for taking mite boxes during Lent and giving mites so that our conference can assist others. You can return your mite box donations to either church when you are done.

If you are writing a check for us, please write the check to HR Saint Vincent de Paul to help expedite our banking.