

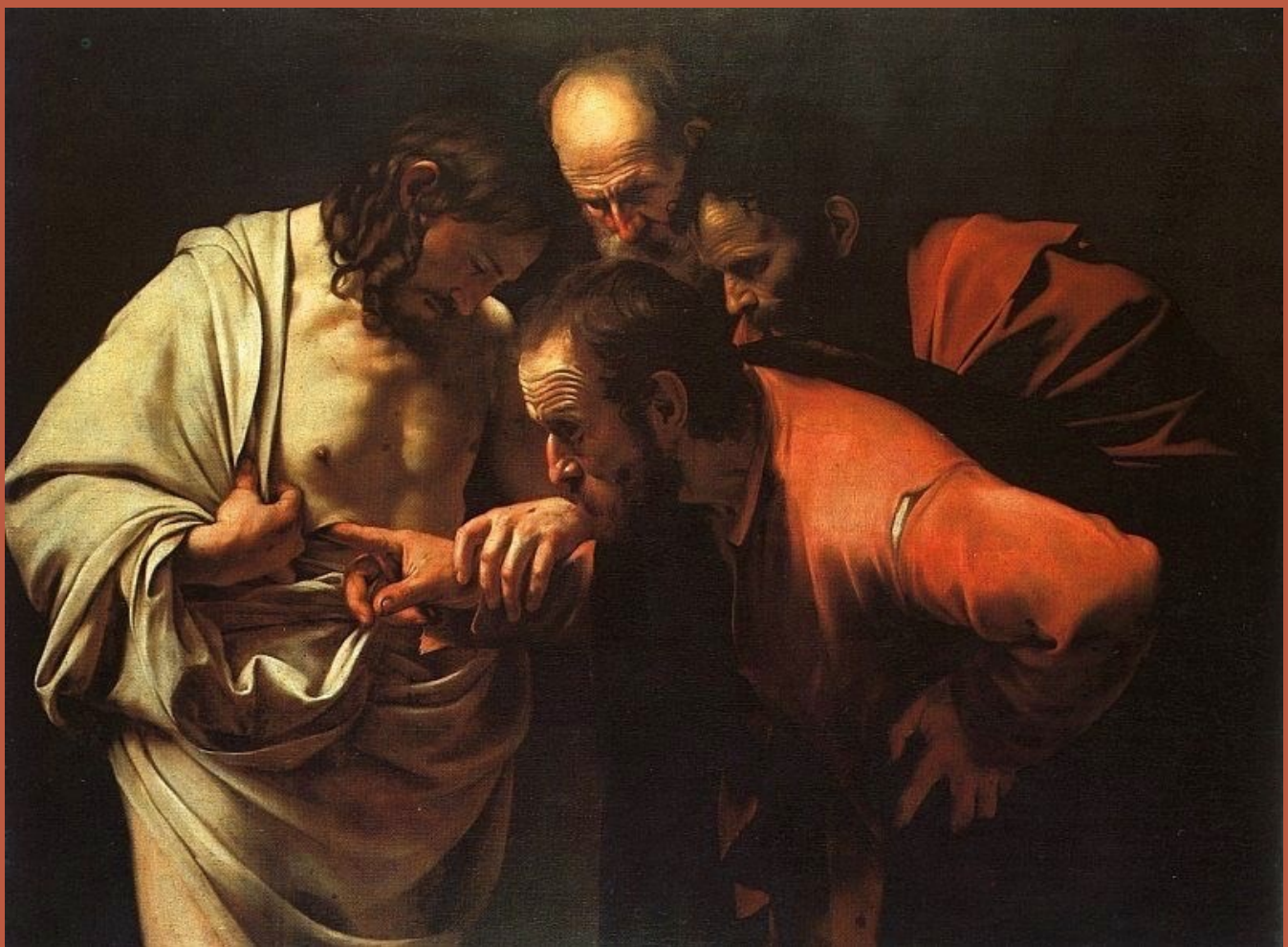
**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

**Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday**

April 8, 2018

hricatholic.org



"The Incredulity of St. Thomas" by Caravaggio. Oil on canvas. ca. 1602

***"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."
Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:27-28)***

All Are Welcome



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

“Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters...”

St. Ann

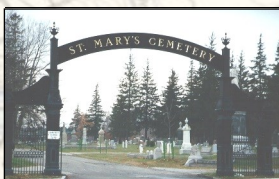
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Nativity

Parish offices and church:
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950
Office Hours: M–F 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Phone: 978-462-2724
Fax: 978-234-7399
Email: info@newburyportcatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, Pre K–grade 8,
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



Collaborative Staff

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St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at
Holy Redeemer
978-346-8604 x 8
hsvdp300@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Immaculate Conception
978-518-0728

St Mary's Cemetery

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

 [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes](https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Redeemer-Immaculate-Conception-Collaborative-Parishes)

 [@HRICatholic](https://twitter.com/HRICatholic)

Website: www.hricatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (4/7)

- 2:00pm **Atria** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00pm **IC** *Bill Lindquist, Thomas Burton, Ted LoPreste* (Fr. McLaughlin)
 4:00pm **St. Ann** *Marie Matthias* (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (4/8)

- 7:15am **IC** *Alexander Szurpicki* (Fr. Harrison)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
 9:00am **IC** *For the intentions of John O'Connor & Family and Ellen Meade & Family* (Fr. Broderick)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
 11:30am **IC** *Nicola & Angelina Maiello, Lena Filomia, John "Jack" Kiggins & Jeffrey Bartlett Kiggins, Deacon Richard Siebert, Fred & Lorraine Cameron, Joseph Ford, John Abenante* (Fr. McLaughlin)
 1:00pm **Nativity First Eucharist**

Monday (4/9)

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

Tuesday (4/10)

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

Wednesday (4/11)

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

Thursday (4/12)

- 7:15am **IC** *Graciela Lamas, Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. Morin)

Friday (4/13)

- 9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 9:00am **IC School Liturgy** (Fr. Morin)

Saturday (4/14)

- 4:00pm **IC** *Richard Guertin, Patrick Murray, Jack Graham, Dick Ring, Lillian Pecht, For the intentions of Stephen Gadziala* (Fr. Harrison)
 4:00pm **St. Ann** *K. Theodore "Zak" Pruyyn* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (4/15)

- 7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. Morin)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC** *Sheila Kay Russo, Bill Moore, Noreen Driscoll* (Fr. McLaughlin)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC** *Robert Filomia, Sheila Kay Russo, Robert Lynch* (Fr. Broderick)

In your prayers, please remember Anne Marie Scaletti, Jessica Brown 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,

Sometimes from our perch of two thousand years-worth of theological reflection and prayer, we can be tempted to acknowledge the Resurrection of the Lord with a nod and a shrug, not realizing the incredible faith journey it took the early disciples to fully realize what had happened on that first Easter morning and what it all would mean for everyone who would follow. The empty tomb was puzzling. Although they may have recalled something that Jesus had mentioned about "rising from the dead," Him actually accomplishing it was a whole different matter! Was the tomb empty simply because someone had stolen his body, or did it mean something else? How do you know the difference? Who do you believe?



St. Thomas and his protestations occupy the quintessential place in the heart of many struggling believers—we want proof beyond that of mere words. There is a part of many of us that wants something more than cryptic stories from bewildered disciples overcome with joy in the midst of their sorrow and fear. While there might have been some verifiable certainty if there were numerous, identical accounts of crowds of people holding vigil at Christ's tomb in the wee hours of the morning, who saw the stone rolled back by an angel and the resurrected Jesus come strolling out of the tomb, much like the Lazarus event some weeks before, maybe even a few pagan historians like Josephus could have been around for the event to give an objective, third-party witness to the whole thing...in fact there were no human witnesses at all to this most central event in human history. At most, there were a few nearby guards who were sound asleep when the greatest miracle of all time occurred. How then, are we to really believe that this actually happened? Suddenly, the idea of putting our fingers in the nail-marks and our hand into Jesus' side doesn't seem like asking too much. If Jesus really did come back to life, is it too much to ask for a little proof? After all, we are asked to follow him completely with our own lives, something that has led hundreds of thousands, maybe even millions of Christians to their own deaths over the millennia. It'd sure be nice to have a little proof that this was all real.

But here lies the crux of it all, if you will allow the pun. Belief is not about what we can see and prove, it is first and foremost a gift from God. "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) Realization and evidence are not the same as cold, scientific proof. This gift of God is made manifest through the lives of the believers, in community. It is seen by their actions. If there ever was hard-core proof of the Resurrection, it is found in the bold and confident way the disciples lived their lives following Jesus' death. Instead of hiding in fear of the same religious and civil authorities who

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our calendar at hriccatholic.org for more activities.

Monday, April 9

AA Meeting 10:30am, 7:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–8 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
HR Boy Scouts 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
Landings Meeting 7:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Tuesday, April 10

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC-Haiti Board Meeting 7:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Knights of Columbus 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library, Room 205

Wednesday, April 11

Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209
HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall
Holy Quilters 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
IC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church
HR St. Vincent de Paul 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

Thursday, April 12

Pastoral Plan Implementation Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, April 13

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, April 14

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, April 15

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church
Baptisms 1:00pm, IC Church
Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Italy 2 Pilgrimage

It's not too late!

We are in the process of putting together our **Pilgrimage to Northern Italy** for the fall. The **"Early Bird Discount"** has been extended, so if you are interested, please contact Paul Blanchette at (978) 500-5661 as soon as possible so as not to miss out on this important opportunity. Religious travel is a wonderful way to see the world and deepen your faith experience along the way. Join us for what will be a memorable and unforgettable journey!



Assisi at night

(Continued from page 3)

conspired to have their Lord put to death, they would be found out in the Temple area, in the synagogues, preaching and teaching about the Risen Lord, as if they had just been with Him moments before. They knew Him intimately in the present moment, not only from some fuzzy, distant memory of the past. He was alive in and through their teaching and preaching. They discovered that every time they gathered to tell and re-tell the special stories about Him, every time they broke bread and shared a cup together, just like He told them to do, He was present in a new and life-changing way in their midst. Take the time to read Luke's "Road to Emmaus" account, to see a concise example of this. (Lk 24:13–35) Many scholars consider this to be an example of an early Christian liturgy. If you take a closer look, all the elements of Eucharist are there: gathering, story-telling, breaking bread, and sending. The transformative effect of the encounter is clear: the disciples go from being downcast to having their "hearts burning from within." They are redirected from escaping the pain and loss of Jerusalem to running back there intentionally, unafraid of the dark or any danger that may await them. Fear and despair are converted into hope and joy. All this, from encountering the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread. Eucharist, then, becomes the very source of their faith-life, and the only proof they need that Jesus is indeed alive, that He has truly risen.

Have you ever thought of Mass in those terms? Every week, we offer a minimum of 12 Masses in our Collaborative, often many more than that when weddings, funerals, school liturgies, and Ultreyas are added into the mix. We gather each week, like clockwork, to "take and eat, take and drink...do this in memory of me." We do this so often because Mass is the primary place where we find our faith strengthened, where we encounter not "proof" of the resurrection, but evidence that God is alive and well in our community of believers: a realization that there truly is hope of healing and life from the Lord. It's not finger-poking and hand-sticking, but it is a real experience of the present-day action of the resurrected Christ among us.

When the questions and doubts of the empty tomb get to be a bit too much, come to Eucharist and experience the living faith of our sisters and brothers. In word and gesture, in song and prayer, you will discover new life.

Continued Easter Blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Cursillo

Cursillo is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love and joy into your daily life. The next *Cursillo* weekend is May 3–6 (women).

Ultreya is held in the St. James Chapel in the IC Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. Our next *Ultreya* is April 27. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

The Pelican Intervention Fund

Updates and Events

The Pelican Intervention Fund's 3rd annual Celebration of Hope will be Sunday, April 29 from 1:00–3:00pm at the Senior Center in Newburyport. The event is free. Come hear testimonials of funded recipients who are in recovery and other speakers.

To date the Pelican Intervention Fund has raised over \$175,000 and placed 23 local men and women in 12-step-based programs. Five of these individuals have come from Essex County Correctional Facility.

We have been very blessed by the generous and continued support of individuals and organizations in the communities we serve and our Collaborative. Thank you.

If you have any questions please contact Kim Keene 978-430-1408 or Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483.

Care Packs Thank You

God is so good! Thanks to your generosity we collected 25% more Care Packs for Homeless this year—over 400 packs were collected and distributed to the Hunger for Justice participants, both St. Vincent de Paul organizations, the Pelican Intervention Fund, Salvation Army, and enough to include new recipients this year.

Your kindness and compassion clearly demonstrated the goals of our Lenten observance in the practice of charity and care of those less fortunate. And a beautiful expression of teamwork among all the parishes in our Collaborative.

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. (Lamentations 3:22–23)



Volunteers assemble the care packs.

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. Our next youth Mass is **Sunday, May 20 at IC**.

For each youth Mass, a charity is chosen for donations. The May charity is St. Vincent de Paul Society. Donations: toiletries, lotions, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste.

Prior to Mass, a **beach clean up day** is scheduled from 2:00–4:00pm at the North End of Plum Island. Please bring trash bags and disposable gloves. This activity is open to families. A permission form is required for any teens not accompanied by an adult. Form to be posted to the website in Youth Mass section of page: hriccatholic.org/Youth-Ministry.

Fr. Broderick's Scripture Study

Scripture Study Meets April 8 Note Schedule Change

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will **not** meet on the regular scheduled first Sunday of the month, Easter Sunday, but will meet on Sunday, April 8, at 2:00pm in the IC Nazareth Library Room 205. This would be an ideal time for members of the Collaborative to join the study group as we will read and discuss Chapters 5–8 in St. Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*. This letter was probably written in Corinth several years prior to Paul's arduous actual voyage to Rome as a prisoner. This is Paul's longest letter and is widely considered to be his masterpiece.

Our beloved teacher, Father Broderick, not only explains the meaning of the Scripture passages, but also presents rich description of the period and places cited, as well as the culture and practices of the people involved. He connects the events in the New Testament to Old Testament prophecies and events, as well as to our own time. This is a worthwhile way to spend an hour and fifteen minutes on a Sunday afternoon. All are invited to attend these sessions and grow in knowledge and faith.



Follow Us on Twitter
@HRICatholic

Palliative Care, Advance Care Planning Seminar

The Collaborative of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception invite you to a program on Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning.

Are you over 18? Have you or someone you love faced medical challenges? Have you wondered what the difference between palliative care and hospice care is? Have you ever wondered what the Catholic Church teaches regarding health care proxy, advance directives, or end-of-life care?

Come hear a presentation and join in a discussion at Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity, 4 Green St., Merrimac on Sunday, April 29 at 6:30pm. Presented by the Archdiocese of Boston's *Initiative for Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning*.

Please RSVP for refreshment planning purposes to:

Ms. Doreen O'Leary, Director of Religious Education at Holy Redeemer reledhrp@gmail.com or 978-346-8604, ext. 7

Dr. Mag McKinnon, Director of Religious Education at Immaculate Conception mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org or 978-462-2724 ext. 7405.

Questions of the Week

Adult: Do you feel that there are situations in people's lives when they can withhold forgiveness from another?

Child: Do you ever choose not to forgive someone?

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Exposition of Sacred Relics

Today, April 8, 3:15 p.m.
St. Mary's Church, 202 Main Street, Rowley

Visit a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics. Over 150 relics will be on display, some as old as 2,000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Paul, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas of Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska, and a piece of a veil which is believed to have belonged to Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world.

The veneration of relics is a communion with the heroes of our Christian faith, asking for their powerful intercession. Many people have reported blessings and conversions through the veneration of relics, and many have reported healings. Attendees are encouraged to bring their articles of devotion (rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends or family members to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercessory prayer. Holy Hour begins at 2:30pm, followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00. The presentation of Sacred Relics begins at 3:15pm. All are welcome. Visit treasuresofthechurch.com to learn more.

He is risen!

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 Conference Room 209. 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 please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions

Divine Mercy Sunday is today, April 8

In 1931, Jesus appeared to a young Polish nun, Sister Faustina Kowalska, and told her that she was going to prepare the world for His Second Coming and that He wanted the first Sunday after Easter to be established as the Feast of Mercy where He would be pouring out His mercy like a "whole ocean of graces."

Sister Faustina, now St. Faustina, reported seeing a merciful Jesus, with beams of red and white light shining from his heart. Jesus promised that "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 699).

Pope John Paul II established that Feast of Mercy during the Jubilee Year 2000, saying that he had fulfilled the will of Christ.

You are invited to come to the fount of His Mercy on Sunday, April 8 at the following locations:

Star of the Sea, Town Church, Salisbury, MA Holy Hour starting at 3:00pm including Recitation of the Chaplet, Reverence of the portrait.

-or-

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Hampton, NH 2:30–4:00pm Recitation of the Chaplet, Confession available 2:30–4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Hour begins at 3:00pm.

-or-

Saint Mary's, Rowley, MA Holy Hour 2:30–3:30 including Recitation of the Chaplet, reverence of the portrait.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to receive an outpouring of an ocean of graces that Jesus promises. To fulfill the Divine Mercy requirement it is acceptable to have attended Confession within about 20 days, before or after Divine Mercy Sunday.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Prayer Shawl



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

Come join us. Don't know how? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, May 3**.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

Please return your **mite boxes** to either church. Your support allows us to provide local assistance. Thank you.

The HR conference greatly appreciates the generosity of parishioner, **Ted Xenakis** who donated the proceeds from his annual "Shamrock Hockey Tournament" raffle.

Over \$2,800 was donated to our conference so that we can continue our mission in service to those in need.

Thanks goes out to all of the folks who purchased raffle tickets. We're happy to report that at least two Holy Redeemer parishioners were holding winning raffle tickets!

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

EWTN: Catholic News

EWTN News: Your Online Catholic News Resource.
<http://www.ewtnnews.com/>

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

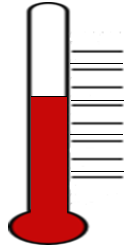
HR Offertory Collection

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| March 24–25 | \$3,889.00 |
| Good Friday: Holy Land | \$ 548.00 |
| Easter: Clergy Benefit Trust | \$6,542.00 |



Catholic Appeal

Goal \$22,862.00
To Date \$14,085.00
59 Donors



\$22,862
\$15,000
\$10,000
\$5,000

The 2018 Catholic Appeal campaign is well underway at Holy Redeemer. So far, we have raised \$14,085.00 toward our parish goal of \$22,862.00. Thank you to all who have already participated. Your generosity will benefit hundreds of pastoral, charitable, and educational programs at work within the Archdiocese of Boston. If you have yet to participate in this year's Catholic Appeal, please pledge online at bostoncatholicappeal.org or complete a pledge form available in the back of the church.

Holy Redeemer Raffle Night

Holy Redeemer's *Annual Raffle Night Social* will be held Saturday, April 28 at Nativity Parish Hall. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for a buffet supper of all our favorite comfort foods. \$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 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come to our **organizational meeting** on **Tuesday, April 17** at 6:45 p.m. at St. Ann Hall.

Raffle Donations Needed

We are asking for donations for our raffle night. Anything new—any size, any shape, any type. Gift cards and gift certificates are welcome. Donations may be left in the back of either church. Please mark donation with "Raffle." We need the donations by Sunday, April 22. Contact Cindy Quinn, cynwinnquinn@aol.com, 978-346-0072 with questions.

HR Easter Flowers

In memory of/from: Gert Bradley, Brad Sullivan, Dan Mecherone, Joe & Mgt Sullivan, Fred & Fred Jr. Sloban, The Murphy Family, Mary Drouin, Mark Drouin, Patrick Drouin, Eugene Wood, Sr., Paul Wood, Peter Wood, The Ross & Garozzo Families.

Church Cleanups Planned

Spring Church Yards Clean up: Saturday, May 19, 9:00.
Contact: Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072.

HR Religious Education

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

Youth Mass

Our next youth Mass is Sunday, May 20 at IC at 5:00pm.

The May charity is St. Vincent de Paul Society: Donation suggestions: toiletries, lotions, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

Prior to Mass, a **beach clean-up day** is scheduled from 2:00-4:00pm at the North End of Plum Island. Please bring trash bags and disposable gloves. This activity is open to families. A permission form is required for any teens not accompanied by an adult. Form to be posted to the website in Youth Mass section of page: hricatholic.org/Youth-Ministry.

Contact Info: Office of Religious Education

Doreen O'Leary (Rel. Ed. email: reledhrp@gmail.com)

Saturday Mass at Nativity

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **Nativity** in Merrimac on **April 21**.

Offertory Envelopes

You can attend Mass at any worship site in our Collaborative and use your usual offertory envelope. Drop it in the collection and we will deliver it to your home Parish.

HR Sandwich Program

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



We are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag. Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, April 11**.

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

Find Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| March 24–25 | \$10,587.00 |
| IC Haiti | \$ 6,562.00 |
| Good Friday: Holy Land | \$ 1,841.00 |
| Easter: Clergy Benefit Trust | \$18,391.00 |

The second collection this weekend is Restoration/Renovation.

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

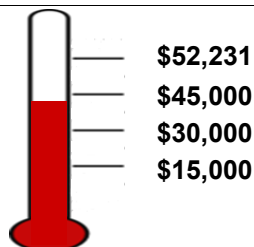


Catholic Appeal

Goal \$52,231.00

To Date \$40,655.00

160 Donors



The Immaculate Conception 2018 Catholic Appeal campaign is off to a wonderful start with \$40,655.00 already pledged! The early outpouring of support from so many helps sustain the important ministries that make IC a vibrant place of worship. If you have yet to give, please pick up a pledge form at the back of the church or visit bostoncatholicappeal.org. Thank you for your prayers and support.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Collection | \$ 475.50 |
| Poor Box | \$ 652.00 |
| Total | \$1127.50 |

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.

Breaking Bread

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

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

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

Immaculate Conception School



Science is a favorite class of many of our students. A recent 7th grade study of natural disasters included the design and building of mini models of structures that can withstand a significant earthquake. The strength of the models will be tested on an earthquake shaking table.



Grade 7 builds models of earthquake-tolerant structures

Our Junior High students are diligently working on their Science Fair projects—testing hypothesis, collecting data, and formulating results.

Seventh grader Gabby R. released a balloon with a camera attached to test a do-it-yourself option for collecting pictures from space. Stunning images of the Earth from 15km up began transmitting within just a few hours of the launch, proving that NASA is not the only game in town.



Quilt Drawing

Parishioners Dale and Dale Eckert are part of this year's Run to End Alzheimer's program. As part of their fundraising, they will once again have a drawing for a family made quilt. This year's quilt, "Life is a Sampler," can be seen after IC Masses April 14–15. Tickets will be available \$10 for one and \$20 for three. Drawing will be June 21.

The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) 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 Parish Center, Room 209 at 7:30–9:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. **Our next meeting is April 23.** Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ at (617) 410-6309 or info@abutterflysjourney.org.

Mary A. Kelly Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Mary A. Kelly Scholarship Fund. Email your request for an application to maryakscholarship@gmail.com. Scholarship eligibility:

- Young man or woman parishioner of IC Parish
 - High school graduate in pursuit of a scientific education
- Completed applications must be postmarked and returned to the Trustees no later than **Monday, April 16, 2018**.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

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

An Expanding Fruitfulness: In #179: Some couples are unable to have children. We know that this can be a cause of real suffering for them. At the same time, we know that “marriage was not instituted solely for the procreation of children...Even in cases where, despite the intense desire of the spouses, there are no children, marriage still retains its character of being a whole manner and communion of life, and preserves its value and indissolubility.” So too, “motherhood is not a solely biological reality, but is expressed in diverse ways.”

School Year Religious Education Classes

Sunday and Monday are our last classes: Our monthly **assembly is on Divine Mercy**—come join us for prayer Sunday 10:15am or Monday 6:15pm in the church. Prayer service begins our last classes.

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

Summer Religious Programs

Religious Education is coming this summer. The weeks of June 25–29 and July 23–27. Monday–Thursday, 9:00am–3:00pm and Friday 9:00am–2:00pm. Cost: \$175/person. Letter and registration online:

hricatholic.org/IC-Children-s-Religious-Education

We will also host our Collaborative MS Mission week for grades 7–8 the week of July 16–20 from 9:00am–4:00pm. Time will flex with visits to different agencies. This is an alternative Religious Education experience for IC youth.

hricatholic.org/IC-Youth-Religious-Education

Baptism

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

Please pre-register for the class.

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|---------|----------------------------------|--------|
| Apr. 8 | Parent Class—Charity Dining Room | 1:00pm |
| Apr. 15 | Group Baptism—Church | 1:00pm |

Confirmation

Confirmation Years 1 and 2: Please be working on your service activities. You need 24 hours over a two-year period.

Summer Confirmation Sessions for Years 1 and 2 is scheduled for July 9–12 from 5:30–8:00pm. Registration information will be posted to the website very soon.

Landings

Landings meets on Monday, April 9 from 7:30–9:00 in the IC Charity Dining Room 114. To find out more about Landings, please contact: Dr. Mag McKinnon 978-462-2724 ext. 7405, mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org.

Youth Mass—May 20, 2018

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, May 20, 5:00pm at IC. Prior to Mass, a **beach clean up day** is scheduled from 2:00–4:00pm at the North End of Plum Island. Please bring trash bags and disposable gloves. This activity is open to families. A permission form is required for any teens not accompanied by an adult. Form to be posted to the website in Youth Mass section of page: hricatholic.org/Youth-Ministry.

Charity: St. Vincent de Paul Society: Donations: toiletries, lotions, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste.

IC Easter Flowers

In memory of/from: George & Veronica Blaikie, Hank & Jean Marie Caron, Mary, William & Richard Horrigan, Mary & Joseph DiFabbio, Derek Steven Hines, The Hines Family, The Ouellette Family, Stanley Baikewicz, Alison & Joseph Baikewicz, Catherine & Stephen Bogue, George & Robert Bogue, Tony & Mary Baikewicz, The Seliga Family, The Jancewicz Family, Richard Curran, Carole Shea, Roger Gagnon, The Packard Family, The Zerigian Family, Sheila Coughlin, The Donahue, Lynch & Bryant Family, Esterina Rose & Francis J. Melluzzo, John L. VanderSande, Emiel D. VanderSande, Genevieve K. VanderSande Townsend, The Carrier & Murray Families.

Italy 2 Pilgrimage

Join Fr. Tim for *Italy 2*, a Pilgrimage to Northern Italy. Enjoy 12 amazing days in Italy touring Lake Como, Milan, Padua (St. Anthony), Venice, Florence, Siena, and Assisi (St. Francis). The dates are October 21–November 1. Cost is \$4,799 from Boston.



Visit www.pilgrimages.com/fathertim-hric to learn more.

Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, April 10** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205. We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at membership@kofc231.org, (978) 572-0231.

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.

IC First Eucharist

Our 1st Eucharist Rehearsals are at 4:30pm in the church as follows:

- Monday, April 30 for May 5, 11:00am Mass.
- Tuesday, May 1 for May 5, 4:00pm Mass.
- Thursday, May 3 for May 6, 11:30am Mass.
- Monday, May 7 for May 12, 11:00am Mass.
- Tuesday, May 8 for May 12, 4:00pm Mass.
- Thursday, May 10 for May 13, 11:30am Mass.

Please pray for our candidates as they prepare for their reception of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.