HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

The Most Holy Trinity

June 11, 2017

hriccatholic.org



"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life"

John 3:16

All Are Welcome

OUR COLLABORATIVE

Holy Redeemer Parish



St. Ann

Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985 Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985

Phone: 978-346-8604 Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net



Nativity

Parish offices and church: 4 Green St., Merrimac 01860 Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 978-346-8604 Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception Parish



Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices: 42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399 Email: info@newburyportcatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue, Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, Pre K-grade 8,



Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison, 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 info@newburyportcatholic.org, holyredeemer@verizon.net

Parochial Vicar

Rev. George E. Morin, 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 frgeorge@parishmail.com

Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

Office Associates

Donald Alunni, Business Manager 978-462-2724 x 7351

dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org

Sheila Cruise, IC Receptionist 978-462-2724 x 7403

scruise@newburyportcatholic.org Karen Leff, Coordinator of Media Outreach

hricbulletin@gmail.com

Sherry Pompei, HR Parish Secretary 978-346-8604, holyredeemer@verizon.net

Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant 978-462-2724 x7404

temple@newburyportcatholic.org

Mary Reardon, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780, Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



Collaborative Staff

Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, Nativity Organist jen.acorn@comcast.net

Drew Donahue, St. Ann Organist drew.donahue@gmail.com

Michael Martin, IC Organist fsteadman@aol.com

Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director 978-317-8903, or 978-465-0978 donnapostle233@gmail.com

Tim Richard, IC organist trichard23@gmail.com

Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator 978-462-2855

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Religious Education

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burrell@newburyportcatholic.org

Marin Fortune, IC RCIA, 978-462-2724 fortune@newburyportcatholic.org

Dr. Margaret McKinnon, IC Religious Ed. 978-462-2724, x 7405

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Doreen O'Leary, HR Religious Ed. 978-346-8604 x 7 reledhrp@gmail.com

Immaculate Conception School

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Maintenance

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emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org

Bob Nevins, HR Building Maintenance 978-346-8604

Cliff Vandenbulcke, IC School Custodian 978-465-7780

cvandenbulcke@newburyportcatholic.org

St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Redeemer, 978-346-8604 x 8

hrsvdp300@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

www.hriccatholic.org



Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (6/10)

11:00am ICS Graduation (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm IC Elizabeth J. & Paul L. Hanlon, Michael

F. Twomey (Fr. McLaughlin)

4:00pm Nativity Armand Cormier (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (6/11)

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

8:00am Nativity (Fr. Morin)

9:00am IC Michael F. Twomey

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

11:00am IC Graciela Labanca (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (6/12)

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

Tuesday (6/13)

7:15am IC Thomas Friedrich (Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (6/14)

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

Thursday (6/15)

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

Friday (6/16)

9:00am Nativity (Fr. Morin)

9:00am IC School Liturgy (Fr. Harrison)

10:30am Port Rehab (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (6/17)

4:00pm IC Warren W. Snow, Daniel J. Snow, William Lindquist, Ernie Penta, For the intentions of Paul &Christine Blanchette on the occasion of their 48th Wedding Anniversary (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm Nativity (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (6/18)

7:15 IC Mabel Kalashian (Fr. Harrison)

8:00am Nativity (Fr. Morin)

9:00am IC Frank J. Aldrich (Fr. Harrison)

10:15am St. Ann (Fr. McLaughlin)

11:00am **IC** Brian Dwyer, Jane Joe Shea, Natalie Kelly

In your prayers please remember Olga M. Rymsha, Eric Marshall and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Parish Membership

Welcome all newcomers to our Collaborative! Parish registration forms are available online at hriccatholic.org">hriccatholic.org.

"Ask a Priest"

You are needed on the Friday evenings of this coming

summer, from June 30–September 1, 2017, from 6:00–8:30 p.m. on the Inn Street pedestrian way in Newburyport.



Our plan is to have a priest present to

answer questions people might have in a one-on-one setting plus other members of the Parishes present to talk about their faith and to perhaps have some literature explaining all the many services and opportunities the Catholic Church has to offer.

To learn more about this community outreach, we are offering an information/training session on **Saturday, June 17** at the IC Parish Center Charity Dining Room, 42 Green Street, Newburyport from 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

If you are interested, but cannot make the information/training session, please call Father George, 978-462-2724.

Prayerfully consider becoming part of the outreach. We need you.

C.A.M.P.S. Mega Sports Raffle

Come prepared to purchase a few tickets

Raffle tickets will be sold after Masses on the weekend of June 17 and 18 in Merrimac and West Newbury as a fundraiser for C.A.M.P.S. (just in time for inserting in a Father's Day card!). Raffle Tickets are only \$5 each. Winning tickets will be drawn the first week of August. Proceeds help defray the operational costs for this life-changing retreat experience for high school age teens.

2017 Prizes

Prizes include pairs of tickets to Red Sox, Celtics , Bruins, and Patriots games.

C.A.M.P.S. 2017—34th Year

July 31–August 5, 2017 for High School Youth grade 9 through recently graduated seniors at Lakeside Christian Camp and Retreat Center, Pittsfield, MA.

What is C.A.M.P.S.?

C.A.M.P.S. is a ministry to youth with a three-fold mission:

- 1. That all participants come to a saving, personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- 2. That Christian community be formed and lived; and
- That continued spiritual growth and commitment be fostered.

C.A.M.P.S. Leadership

Fr. George Morin, 978-346-8604: Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, W. Newbury

For more information and registration, visit:

http://www.campsministry.com/application.html

Cost: \$478 registration and bus. PayPal available for an extra fee.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, June 12

AA Meeting 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205 Collaborative Altar Server Training, #3 3:30pm, IC Church Travel Night Mass/Mtg. 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel/St Louis Hall

Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, June 13

Reunion Group 8:30am, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC St. Vincent de Paul 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Knights of Columbus 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Wednesday, June 14

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Church Hall Holy Quilters 2:30pm, Nativity Hall

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, June 15

Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, June 16

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

ICS Last Day of School

AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library, Room 205

Saturday, June 17

Ask a Priest Training Session 8:30am, IC Charity Dining Room Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, June 18

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church

Bulletin Information

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

Volunteer Needed for Avita of Newburyport

Every Sunday Avita brings senior citizens to Mass at Holy Redeemer. They are in need of a volunteer to help with this project. Please contact Deb Shapiro, 978-225-700, deb@avitaofnewburyport.com.



Like us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

Travel Night

Join us on **Monday, June 12** for a travel presentation about upcoming pilgrimage trips as well as information about possible future trips. The evening begins with 6:30pm Mass at IC St. James Chapel. Refreshments and meeting begin at 7:00pm in IC St. Louis Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Gospel Night at the Pops



Five members of the Immaculate Conception Adult Choir will be singing with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall on **June 17** to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Gospel Night at the Pops.

Jonathan Temple, Pat Forbes, Krista LaForte, Kate Prescott, and Emily Rosetti will be among 80 gospel singers from around the Commonwealth for a rousing night of praise and celebration.

Those interested in attending can take advantage of the "friends and family" discount offered by calling 617-266-1200 or visit bostonpops.org/gospel50 to get your tickets. You will be dancing in the aisles as you join this amazing choir in praising God through this singularly American art form. Come and get your praise on!

San Marcos Coffee Sale

June 17-18



For Father's Day please consider treating Dad to a pound of Father Ray's delicious San Marcos coffee. This specialty whole-bean coffee is produced by poor farmers in Honduras who benefit greatly from our

quarterly sales. It will be freshly roasted and available for \$10/pound after all Masses on June 17/18. Also we are looking for a couple of volunteers to help sell coffee after Masses at our quarterly sales. Please call Karen Finnegan to learn more: 978-465-4173.

Questions of the Week



Adult: Name one way in which you experience God's presence as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Child: How do you know God loves you?

Scripture for the Week

11 Sun Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18

12 Mon 2 Cor 1:1-7/Mt 5:1-12

13 Tue 2 Cor 1:18-22/Mt 5:13-16

14 Wed 2 Cor 3:4-11/Mt 5:17-19

15 Thu 2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6/Mt 5:20-26

16 Fri 2 Cor 4:7-15/Mt 5:27-32

17 Sat 2 Cor 5:14-21/Mt 5:33-37

18 Sun Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Newburyport Community Iftar

When: Monday June 12, 2017 6:30pm-9:30pm

Where: Newburyport Senior Center

What is an Iftar? An Iftar is the daily Muslim breaking of the fast during the month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Join local Muslims, members of the Islamic Center of Boston, and friends from Newburyport as they share their



Ramadan traditions with the Newburyport Community.

Evening Events: Following a talk about fasting and Ramadan and a video presentation about the meaning of Ramadan, attendees will have an opportunity to break fast with observant Muslims and to observe a Muslim prayer. A traditional South Asian dinner will be served after the fast is broken and a Q&A panel discussion will take place during dinner.

How to attend: Please RSVP to nbpthrc@gmail.com. Walk-ins welcome but space and food may be limited due to building capacity limits.

Note: Food will not be served until sunset (8:23pm). Please plan accordingly.

Brought to you by the Newburyport Human Rights Commission, Newburyport Friends for Peace, the Newburyport Clergy Association, and the Islamic Center of Boston-Wayland.

Celebrating the Sacraments

Reconciliation

IC: Saturdays: 3:00pm to 3:30pm or by appointment. HR: Saturdays before the 4:00pm Mass or by appointment.

Baptism

Call the Parish Office for information and to register.

Marriage

Archdiocesan guidelines request that couples planning to marry in the Church contact the church at least six months prior to the wedding date.

Sacrament of the Sick

This Sacrament should not be seen as only administered when there is danger of death. Please call us if someone is in the hospital, so that we can visit the loved one and have the community pray for them.

"Voices of the Newburys"

Watch Jean Foley Doyle's "Voices from the Newburys: Oral History Interviews" series from Port Media. Jean, local educator and historian, discusses what it was like growing up in Newburyport and Newbury during the Depression and World War II. It's well worth a listen. The link can be found on our website and Facebook pages as well.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_oV4NAz-N6Q

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 tour St. Peter's as well as other sites in Rome. The trip includes two days in Assisi also.

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.

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.

Ecumenical Taize

The community is cordially invited to attend an ecumenical Taize meditation service on Sunday evening, June 11 at 8:30pm as the sun is setting, at Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King St., Groveland. We will be giving thanks for the beauty of God's creation while praying for its stewardship. This half-hour service consists of prayers, Scripture readings, short sung refrains, petitions, and an extended period of silence in the candlelit sanctuary. What a beautiful way to begin the summer season! All are welcome. For further information, contact the church at 978-372-3463.

Altar Server Training

This past week, our Collaborative Altar Server Training sessions began. Please pray for our new volunteers and watch for them serving at Mass.



Forming 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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Ascension, May 25 \$ 414.00
Offertory, May 27–28 \$3,244.00
Offertory, June 3–4 \$4,098.00
Seminary, June 3–4 \$1,107.00



Holy Redeemer Scholarship for High School Seniors

Holy Redeemer Parish offers a scholarship, to any graduating senior who plans on furthering their education after high school. The senior must have been confirmed through the Holy Redeemer Religious Ed. An essay stating "How I live a Catholic life as a member of Holy Redeemer Parish" must be received at 4 Green Street, Merrimac today, Sunday, June 11.

HR Religious Education

2017-18 Religious Ed.

Needed for the Rel. Ed. Program: A 3rd Grade teacher is needed for Sunday morning classes beginning in September, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass in Merrimac. Please contact Doreen O'Leary if you have any questions, or to volunteer. Thanks.

Incoming **First Graders** need to be registered for the Holy Redeemer Religious Ed. program. Please download our registration form online: hricatholic.org, click Faith Formation, then the Holy Redeemer tab.

Incoming 7th and 8th Graders who may be interested in our Mission Week (in Collaboration with IC Parish) July 10–14 need to register now. Forms are online: <a href="https://hittage.ncb/h

Group emails have been sent to all of our Religious Ed. families to register now for the fall.

The Registration Forms for Religious Ed. are one per family. Please include your Confirmation Candidate (if applicable) on the family form. (Remember this student need only pay \$25 for their robe rental fee.)

Vacation Bible School

All students in Grades K–6 are reminded to check out the Holy Redeemer Vacation Bible School (VBS) program in Merrimac July 10–14. Don't miss out. Older students and adults can sign up as volunteers. Sign up at: vbspro.events/p/nativity2017.

Contact info: Office of Religious Education

Doreen O'Leary (Rel. Ed. email: reledhrp@gmail.com, or for forms to register for the fall: hriccatholic.org. (click the Faith Formation tab, then the Holy Redeemer tab).

"With One Voice"

Dear Holy Redeemer Parishioners,

This past weekend, I spoke before all the masses, highlighting the need to make some substantial repairs and improvements to both of our church properties. Many of you are aware that for some time now, we have had a number of maintenance needs that have gone



unaddressed, and it is now time that we attend to these before they become much larger and more expensive projects. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis recently reminded us: "For only in sharing, in giving, will our life be fruitful." I believe our parishioners here at Holy Redeemer Parish live up to this call. I am very aware that over the years, the people of Holy Redeemer Parish have been extremely generous, supporting numerous repairs on both sides of the river, including roofing repairs, foundation work, structural improvements and the like. Fr. George was very busy in his time as pastor attending to multiple repairs and renovations and was a good steward of the multiple parish facilities.

While much has been accomplished, there is still work to be done. The results of our recent Parish Planning Study that was conducted this past fall indicate that Holy Redeemer Parish is in a good position to address necessary updates to our properties. These include needs such as replacing a retaining wall, addressing drainage issues and foundation issues at St. Ann as well as the need for repair work on the bell tower, plastering, painting, and flooring replacement at Nativity.

Last weekend, I announced the inauguration this summer of a Capital Campaign entitled, "With One Voice," with a goal of raising \$350,000.00 to address these important projects that will directly affect our communal gatherings, life and worship. The successful completion of this campaign will ensure that we have adequate funding to make these necessary repairs and be able to continue to enjoy the use of our buildings, which we have received as a legacy from generations past. Our proper care of them will be a gift to those who come after us and an investment in the future sharing of our faith in each town.

Our campaign-plan is to invite each of you to attend an informational reception over the next month or so. At these receptions, which will be held in both West Newbury and Merrimac, we will explain in more detail the specifics of the work to be done, our fundraising plan to pay for these projects and will offer the opportunity for everyone to ask any questions they may have. You will receive a letter in the mail later this month. These receptions will begin in July.

I strongly encourage you to attend one of these

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Sanctuary Light

The Sanctuary Light at Nativity, Merrimac, the week of June 11 is donated for a special intention.



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

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receptions—it is your best opportunity to learn much more about our plans and how you can play a role in this most important effort. So I put out a request: Will you please give *One Hour* of your time to come to a campaign reception? It is important to me that you attend so I can explain our needs in greater detail and discuss our plans for the future. You will hear more about the Campaign over the course of the next two months. Each household will receive an invitation in the mail to attend a reception.

Pastors typically are reluctant to take on Capital Campaigns, but I am in full support of getting this Campaign off the ground and beginning the work that needs to be done. It is my commitment as your pastor to do everything that can be done to build up and strengthen our parish for the future. It is an ambitious project, but with your help and support, I am confident that we will succeed in our fundraising effort.

Please watch your mail in the weeks ahead. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

There is a wonderful way to honor someone who has requested "No gifts, please." You can send a check to Holy Redeemer Saint Vincent de Paul at 4 Green Street in Merrimac. Your donation will honor someone's celebration and will also help those in need. A note will be sent to let that someone know about

need. A note will be sent to let that someone know about the donor's meaningful gift. Donations can be made to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and other significant occasions.

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

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 contact Jen Acorn, 978-697-1082.

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, July 6 at 1:00 p.m.

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**, **June 14**.

See the Collaborative calendar at www.hriccatholic.org for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

Saturday Mass at Nativity

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **Nativity** in Merrimac on **June 24**.

Thank You!

This past weekend, one of our parishioners, Alice Mulvaney, participated in a "Leap of Faith" on behalf of the Pelican Fund. Alice, jumping in tandem with another supporter of the fund, leapt from an airplane in Maine and made it safely back to earth, but not before raising \$250 from the generosity of parishioners from St. Ann Church. The Pelican Fund sponsors long-term, 12-step addiction recovery programs. Thank you for your support!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL



Mrs. Connelly's class under the direction of Mrs. Philippa Dunn showing their artistic talent!



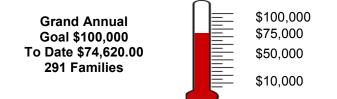
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

Offertory, June 3–4 Seminarians

\$9,594.00 \$1.811.00

The second collection this weekend is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend is Restoration/Renovation.



1

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Collection Poor Box \$ 9.00 \$236.00

Total

\$245.00

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.

Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office. Once you register, visit our website, hriccatholic.org and click the Online Giving picture at the bottom of our home page to get to the site. There are four different funds you can choose to contribute to. If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made. Any questions? Contact Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant 978-462-2724 x7404.

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 please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483. or visit www.hriccatholic.org.

"What you received as a gift, give as a gift."

Dear Immaculate Conception Parishioners,

These words of Jesus are both a reminder and a challenge. A reminder: whatever good we have is a gift from God. A challenge: what do we give back from what we have received? This month I am asking everyone in our parish to share what God has given to



you with a grateful and generous heart. At every Mass, we bring a portion of the gifts that the Lord has given and we give them back to him. During the offertory, we offer two kinds of gifts. One is the fruit of the earth: the bread and wine that signify our basic needs. These are brought to the Lord's table and become the Body and Blood of the Lord. But there is another gift we bring to the Lord: the gift of ourselves in the offerings we make each week. We are all blessed to have food, shelter, clothing, and so many other things that we take for granted.

What do I give back to God? I ask this question concretely in terms of our offertory. Three years ago, I asked you to reflect on what you made as a weekly offering in our collections at Mass, and, if possible, to increase your gift by a small percentage. You responded beautifully to this invitation and our collections that year showed a substantial increase! Over the past several years, however, this has dropped off a bit. So, this week, I will be reaching out to you in a letter asking you to renew the commitment that you made three years ago. The fact is that we need your help not just to maintain our buildings and our programs but also to make them better and stronger.

My sacrifice and yours. We have a beautiful church and great places to meet and to serve one another. When we come to Mass, the priest says to us just before the consecration prayers: "Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours, may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father." As a priest, I am not exempt from making personal sacrifices as a gift to the Lord. I make a serious commitment to do so and today I am asking you to do the same. Plainly and simply: offer your sacrifice to the Lord. Pray and search your heart this month and ask yourself the question we find in the psalms: "How shall I give back to the Lord in return for all he has given me?" (Psalm 116:12).

In the letter I am sending you are suggestions for increased contributions. These may help you determine your new level of commitment or a renewal. You will also receive a pledge card. Please fill it out and return it next weekend, Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18. These can be dropped in our regular collection basket along with your weekly offering. There will also be an opportunity to fill out

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Knights of Columbus



The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday**, **June 13** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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a commitment card at the beginning of mass next week as well. How much should we give each week? My letter offers some guidelines for giving at various levels. Please review your contribution and if possible, consider an increase in what you regularly give.

I also want to encourage you to consider giving electronically through our EFT program. If you are like me, so many of our regular payments and contributions are done electronically these days. Why not consider making your weekly gift to the parish this way as well? It is easy, secure and so simple. You can visit our parish website to find out how to donate a set amount to our parish each week / month. Or please call and speak to our business manager, Donald Alunni, who will be happy to walk you through the whole process. EFT giving can be started and ended with the click of a mouse. You are in complete control of your giving the whole time!

I want to thank you in advance for your generous response to this request. Please know that whatever amount you are able to give, it is deeply appreciated and will be put to good use by our parish as we continue to spread the joy of the Gospel with our wider community.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

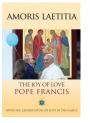
Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetita...Pope Francis

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

Love is not rude. In #100: To be open to a genuine encounter with others, "a kind look" is essential. This is incompatible with a negative attitude that readily points out other people's shortcomings while overlooking one's own. A



kind look helps us to see beyond our own limitations, to be patient and to cooperate with others, despite our differences. Loving kindness builds bonds, cultivates relationships, creates new networks of integration and knits a firm social fabric. In this way, it grows ever stronger, for without a sense of belonging we cannot sustain a commitment to others; we end up seeking our convenience alone and life in common becomes impossible. Antisocial persons think that others exist only for the satisfaction of their own needs. Consequently, there is no room for the gentleness of love and its expression. Those who love are capable of speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation, and encouragement. These were the words that Jesus himself spoke: "Take heart, my son!" (Mt 9:2); "Great is your faith!" (Mt 15:28); "Arise!" (Mk 5:41); "Go in peace" (Lk 7:50); "Be not afraid" (Mt 14:27). These are not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn. In our families, we must learn to imitate Jesus' own gentleness in our way of speaking to one another.

IC Summer Religious Education Classes

Grades 1–8: Summer registration is available. Forms can be downloaded from the website:

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

Gr. 7–8: http://www.hriccatholic.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 Grades 1–8**: June 26–30 and July 24–28. Monday–Thursday 9:00am–3:00pm and Friday 9:00am–1:00pm. Cost: \$175/student. Deadline: June 12 for June session and July 1 for July session.

We are also introducing **new this summer**: a **Collaborative MS Mission Week** July 10–14 for grades 7–8 youth. Schedule is as follows: Monday 10am–4pm, Tuesday 9am–4pm, Wednesday 8am–4pm, Thursday 10am–4pm, 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 Summer Religious Education. Learning how to live our faith in service to those in need. Cost: \$200 includes transportation to agencies that serve the poor.

Youth Mass—September 24, 2017

Our next Youth Mass is Sunday, September 24 at Nativity, Merrimac at 5:00pm.

Baptism

Baptism info: http://www.hriccatholic.org/Baptism

July 9 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm June 11Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

Summer Confirmation session is July 17–20 from 5:30–8:00pm for Grades 9 and 10. More information and registration is available online:

http://www.hriccatholic.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.hriccatholic.org/Confirmation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish

First Eucharist

Registrations for 2017–2018 First Reconciliation and Eucharist will be available on the website in August 2017.

Collaborative Altar Server Training

The last of 3 Altar Server Training sessions for Rising grade 4 through grade 12 is Monday, June 12 at 3:30–4:30pm in IC Church with Fr. Tim.

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.