

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2017

hriccatholic.org



*"Remember your last days, set enmity aside;
remember death and decay, and cease from sin!" (Sir 28:6)*

All Are Welcome

Holy Redeemer Parish

Invites you to a



Church of the Nativity

Merrimac, MA



St. Ann

West Newbury, MA

Wine Tasting Social

Over 25 types of wine from around the world

Something for everyone

Saturday

September 30, 2017

6:30–9:30 p.m.

Nativity Hall 4 Green Street Merrimac, MA

In partnership with

West Newbury Food Mart

\$20.00 per person

*****Must be 21 years or older to attend*****

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (9/16)

4:00pm **IC** *Jack Graham, William Moore, Lillian C. Toomey, For the intentions of John O'Connor* (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **St. Ann** (Bishop Robert Hennessey)

Sunday (9/17)

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

8:00am **Nativity** *Catherine Lorenzo* (Bishop Robert Hennessey)

9:00am **IC** *Barbara F. & William J. Griffin, Paul Kretas* (Fr. Morin)

10:15am **St. Ann** (Bishop Robert Hennessey)

11:30am **IC** *Raymond S. Mitchell, Fred H. Mitchell, Michael Twomey, Stanley Baikewicz, Paul Baker, John Bogue* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Monday (9/18)

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

Tuesday (9/19)

7:15am **IC** *Raymond Haley* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Wednesday (9/20)

7:15am **IC** *Michael S. Twomey* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Thursday (9/21)

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

Friday (9/22)

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

Saturday (9/23)

10:30am **Country Rehab** (Fr. Broderick)

4:00pm **IC** *Daniel Bradley, Michael Twomey* (Fr. Harrison)

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

Sunday (9/24)

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

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

9:00am **IC** *Alan Chu* (Fr. Broderick)

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

11:30am **IC** *John M. Deneumoustier* (Fr. Harrison)

5:00pm **Nativity** (Youth Mass)

In your prayers, please remember all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury



Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions to hricbulletin@gmail.com.

From the Pastor



Dear Parishioners,

There is nothing more sobering than to take a walk through a cemetery. From my earliest days of seminary formation, I used to take long walks through a nearby cemetery in Boston, often just to clear my head or find a moment of peace. Cemeteries are filled with so many memories of lives-lived, of tragedy and triumph, of finality and hope. It is from the legacy of those who have gone before us that we have life and the present world that we live in. It is where we will one day join them in death. Collectively, we hope for ultimate resurrection and eternal life.

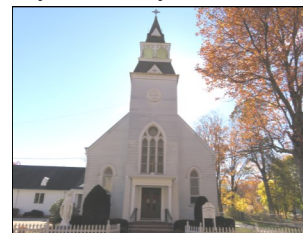
This weekend's Scriptures remind us of the great need to live our lives in the present with our hearts focused firmly on the world yet to come, on our place in God's Kingdom. When we do, all of the other needs, wants, demands, urgencies all come into view with greater perspective. Nothing is more important than our call to forgive each other...over and over and over again. Not because we all deserve to be forgiven repeatedly. Left to ourselves, there is some inner and variable human limit that says, "mercy, yes; second chance, yes..." but only so often, and at some point, "enough is enough!" We forgive, rather, because of the great mercy and forgiveness that we have already been given as an un-merited gift through Christ.

We human beings are marvelous at imitating what we see. I always take delight at the wonderful way children try to mimic their parents and others who surround them, often at times with uncanny accuracy. New parents sometimes find themselves embarrassed when their adoring little bundle of love starts to repeat some of their less-than-polished phrases or mannerisms. We can sometimes be chastened when we look into the mirror a bit more honestly than we want to. But just as often, maybe more so, we respond

(Continued on page 4)

Our Collaborative

Holy Redeemer: St. Ann, W. Newbury & Nativity, Merrimac



Immaculate Conception, Newburyport



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, September 18

AA Meeting 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–8 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, September 19

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Religious Ed, Grade 7 & 8 Student + Parent Meeting
6:00pm, Nativity Hall

Wednesday, September 20

VOTF Meeting 1:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
Holy Quilters 2:30pm, Nativity Hall
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church
HR Wine Tasting Social Planning Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Thursday, September 21

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

Friday, September 22

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library, Room 205

Saturday, September 23

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

Sunday, September 24, Catechetical Sunday

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church
IC Religious Ed., Gr. K–8 10:05am, IC Parish Center
HR Confirmation Retreat 11:00am, Nativity Hall

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.

Youth Mass Schedule

September 24 at Nativity, Merrimac. *We will be collecting Children's Pajamas and bedtime books for Emmaus House, Haverhill.*
October 29 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport
December 10 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport
January 28, 2018 at Nativity, Merrimac
March 4, 2018 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport
March 25, 2018 at Nativity, Merrimac
May 20, 2018 at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

EWTN: Catholic News

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

(Continued from page 3)

beautifully to the goodness in those who journey through life with us. How many of us have ever been inspired to do good and help others because of the good example given to us from our families and friends? How many of us have ever “stepped up” or “risen to the occasion” through the positive and loving initiatives of even strangers?

God’s Word encourages us to see how much we have been loved, how much God has already gone seriously out of His way to forgive us, and then, within our own circumstances to do our best to try and offer that gift back in some way. It might seem heroic and well-beyond anything remotely, humanly, reasonable...but when compared to what God has already accomplished for us, our attempts at forgiveness will always pale in comparison.

In fact, God will actually do the work. That’s right! On our own, we can never really, truly accomplish complete forgiveness. We can do a lot, mind you. And we should always try. But the real work of forgiveness is ultimately the realm of the Divine. When we go to try and forgive another person, we accomplish that not relying on our own strength, our own wisdom, our own ideas. Rather, it is accomplished through us when we turn the whole mess over to God and surrender to His will. God’s strength is what we need. Our humble petition to the Lord to help us with the often daunting task of forgiving someone who has deeply offended and hurt us will happen on God’s timetable, not our own. It will happen in ways that we will often have no clue about. It will happen when we learn to better imitate our Creator.

As our summer begins to make its inevitable turn towards fall, let us allow the changing of seasons to remind us of our own place in this world and our call to cling to our promised place in the Kingdom yet to come.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Friends of the Poor Walk

The St. Vincent de Paul Societies of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception assist many people throughout the year and we need **your help to continue**. We are only able to assist others because **you** help to support our combined annual fundraiser.

The “Friends of the Poor Walk” 3K (or a shorter 1K route) will be held on Saturday, September 30. Please join us **or** donate to our cause. To **register to walk** or **donate** online go to www.FOPWalk.org and search for Immaculate Conception’s event. If you are from HR be sure to make Holy Redeemer the beneficiary of your donation and/or registration to walk.

If you would like an official SVdP Walk sheet to collect donations for your walk, call Kathie @ 978-992-6450 or Linda at 978-500-9245.

All funds remain locally with our organizations and there are no administrative fees. We are completely volunteer organizations not supported by either parish’s budgets.

You may also register at the event. Registration begins at 8:30am and the walk starts at 9:00am in the IC Church parking on Court Street, Newburyport.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

San Marcos Coffee

Coffee Sale September 16-17

Father Ray Richard is back in Honduras after his annual summer visit to this area. He is a Newburyport native who has spent the past 40 years as a Franciscan Capuchin in Honduras. "Padre Ramon" was the originator of the San Marcos Coffee Project over 10 years ago to bring a fair wage to the people of his former parish so that their hard work and top quality coffee could bring them a better standard of living.

On September 16-17 you can buy this specialty Honduran dark-roasted coffee for \$10 per pound (whole bean or ground) after all collaborative Masses. The farmers of San Marcos say "Muchas Gracias and Paz de Cristo!" **Also we are looking for a volunteer to help sell coffee after the HR Saturday 4:00pm Mass at St. Ann.**

Please call Karen Finnegan to learn more: 978-465-4173.

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.

Landings

The Collaborative of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception has started LANDINGS, a welcome program for returning Catholics. LANDINGS invites returning Catholics to return to a more active practice of their faith. We ask for your support in finding both active Catholic parishioners who would be willing to work in this ministry and potential returning Catholics who would benefit from it.

LANDINGS is a lay ministry that has operated successfully in faith communities in the United States and around the world since 1989. Based on small groups, the LANDINGS program offers "a safe place to land," a place for listening and for being heard, a place for asking questions and for reconnecting with the faith as an adult. During the eight-week program, a small group of active Catholics, some of them "returnees" themselves, meets with a small group of returning Catholics to share and explore their faith together.

Questions? Contact Ms. Doreen O'Leary, DRE, Holy Redeemer: reledhrp@gmail.com or 978-346-8604, ext 7 or Dr. Mag McKinnon, DRE Immaculate Conception: mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org or 978-462-2724 ext 7405.

Women's Evening of Prayer



The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be Wednesday, September 27, at 7:00 pm in St. Ann Church, West Newbury. All women are welcome.

Hope Conferences, Inc.

Hope Conferences, Inc. is a small group of Catholic men and women with a deep desire to answer the call from our Holy Fathers to evangelize. Speakers include Jim Wahlberg, Andy Lavalee, Fr. Francis Valerio, Sonja Corbitt, and Fr. Mark Nolte. Music by Delmore Worship featuring Mike McDuffee and Collin McBride of Saint Mary's High School (Lynn) and Hunger for Justice. Please join us for The Reason for Our Hope conference on September 30 from 8:30am-6:00pm at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Tickets for the event are available online at www.hopeconferences.com.



Ask a Priest

A Concluding Prayer

Lord, You divinely inspired your holy and fervent priest, Fr. George, with an idea that he named "Ask a Priest."...An invitation for us to go! To go and share with others, the gift of our faith....It is what You call Us to do: To transmit our faith to others! To make Jesus known! To proclaim the Good News!...To share our gift of faith. To engage others in discussions about our faith....To offer the opportunity to ask a priest a question....Lord, we humbly pray you continue to look kindly upon our efforts and know that only You Lord, can cause the seeds that were planted on Inn St. to grow and bear lasting fruit. We thank You Lord for making this a fun and positive experience for Fathers George, Tim, Broderick, Ray, Kiley, MacInnis, and all parishioners of Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes who heard this call....Amen.

Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet Today, September 17

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on September 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205. Interested members of the Collaborative are invited to join as we read and discuss *The Acts of the Apostles*, Chapter 16, verse 11-Chapter 19. In this second book, Luke continues the story of Christianity in the first century. These chapters describe the expansion of the Church to include Gentiles and communities beyond Jerusalem. These chapters move beyond the leadership of St. Peter and the Church in Jerusalem to St. Paul's leadership in expanding the Church to the Gentiles of places beyond as he outreached from Antioch.

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.



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi



Our pilgrimage to the Eternal City is fast approaching! There are only a few seats left on this awesome trip if there are any last-minute travelers out there!

Please contact Paul Blanchette ASAP at pblanchette@me.com or 978-500-5661. This is a limited-

time offer. Join us if you can!

Collaborative Contacts

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

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

Donald Alunni, Business Manager,
978-462-2724 dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org

Sheila Cruise, IC Receptionist,
978-462-2724, scruiase@newburyportcatholic.org

Karen Leff, Collaborative Media Outreach Coordinator,
hricbulletin@gmail.com

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

Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant,
978-462-2724, temple@newburyportcatholic.org

Scripture for the Week

17 Sun Sir 27:30—28:7/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35
18 Mon 1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 7:1-10
19 Tue 1 Tm 3:1-13/Lk 7:11-17
20 Wed 1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35
21 Thu Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13
22 Fri 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3
23 Sat 1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15

Cursillo

A new season of Cursillo is upon us and we are looking forward to another year of community. 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.

2017 Ultreya/Cursillo Calendar

Ultreya	Cursillo Weekend
September 29	October 5–8 (Men)
October 27	Nov. 2–5 (Women)
December 1	December 7–10 (Men)
December 29	January 4–7 (Women)

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

Questions of the Week



Adult: To whom do you find it difficult to show mercy and forgiveness?

Child: How do you show people that you forgive them?

Virtus Classes

Now is the time to reserve a place in one of the upcoming Virtus classes in the Archdiocese.

Local classes are listed below. To register for any of these classes or to see a list of other locations, visit www.virtus.org. Click on "First Time Registrant" and then "View a List of Sessions."

Sacred Hearts Church Hall (Bradford/Haverhill)

Tuesday, September 19, 6:00–8:00pm

Thursday, September 28, 9:30–11:30am

Holy Redeemer, Nativity (Merrimac Hall)

Wednesday, October 18, 6:30pm

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, October 5.**

Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair

Empty Baskets Needed

If anyone has empty baskets that are in good condition to be used for the fair, please leave in the back of either church no later than Sunday, September 17. That will give the committee time to spray paint baskets "outside" with matching colors!

Get Creative: we will be looking for donated gift baskets for our fair. Now is a good time to start picking up those "special items" to create your own themed baskets.



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

September 2-3	\$3,829.00
Catholic University of America	\$ 735.00
September 9-10	\$3,609.00
Hurricane Relief	\$3,358.00
Monthly	\$1,170.00

The second collection next weekend is Clergy Benefit Trust.

"With One Voice" Capital Campaign

Thank you for your pledge of support! Our capital campaign is off to a great start with many families pledging their support. **To date, we have raised over \$215,000** from just about 50 families. While the support has been tremendous, we will not reach our goal without your support.

Would you please consider supporting this effort?

As you are aware, our hope is to raise \$350,000 to complete needed updates to our parish facilities. Both St. Ann Church and The Church of the Nativity have several deferred maintenance issues that need our immediate attention.

Please place your "Commitment Envelope" in the regular collection at Mass. If you forgot to bring your pledge envelope to Mass this weekend, please mail it to the parish office this week or bring it with you to Mass next weekend. Additional brochures and pledge envelopes are available at the entrance to the church.

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 make sure it is delivered to your home Parish.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



Our Conference wishes to thank everyone for supporting our bake sales this past weekend. We raised several hundred dollars, all of which will go toward helping our clients in need. We appreciate your willingness to give.

Don't forget to register for the Walk for the Poor, which will take place on September 30. We encourage you to sign up to walk to show your support. If you can't walk, consider sponsoring Fr. George or Fr. Tim. Sponsor sheets for them will be available after Masses until the walk.

Sanctuary Candle



For the week of September 24, the Sanctuary Candle at Nativity Church, Merrimac is donated for a Special Intention.

HR Religious Education

Sunday, Sept. 17: Classes begin for **grades 3-6** following the 8:00am Mass at Nativity

Grade 2 Meeting with parents and students, Nativity Church, 9:00am

Year 1 (grade 9) Class with parents, Nativity Hall, 6:00pm

Tuesday, Sept. 19: **Grades 7 & 8 Parent/Student Meeting**, Nativity Hall, 6:00pm

*****Note the change from the original schedule*****

Sunday, Sept. 24: **Youth Mass**, Merrimac Church, 5:00pm

Sunday, Sept. 24: **Confirmation Retreat Day** for the Confirmation Candidates receiving the Sacrament next month. Please pray for each of these young people as they commit to a life of communion with our Lord and His Holy Church. This retreat begins at 11:00am at the Merrimac Hall and concludes with the Mass beginning at 5:00pm.

VIRTUS training at Holy Redeemer

Virtus training will be held on October 18 at Merrimac beginning at 6:30pm.

Contact info: Office of Religious Education

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

A Thank You from the Nevins Family

Joyce, Kristin, Eric, Ryan, and Kate want to thank all the special people in our lives who hugged us, sent cards, flowers, called, texted, fed us, and made quilts to keep Bob warm (Roberta and Sue). We are so blessed that people care and love us. Thank you Cindy, Roberta, Cheryl, and Sherry for the wonderful meal and to Jim who played the Last Tribute to Bob. Special thanks to Father Tim and Father George who were there for Bob. Love to All....Thank you.

Wine Tasting Social



Join us for the HR Wine Tasting Social on Saturday, September 30 from 6:30pm -9:30pm in the Nativity Hall. 25 different wines, appetizers (sample creations from Five Daughters Catering, a new business in Merrimac), and desserts will be served.

Tickets will be sold at the door but also **after Masses in September**. Invite your friends. Tell your neighbors. Tickets are \$20 per person. You must be 21 or older to attend. The Social is in partnership with West Newbury Food Mart.

Our next planning meeting is Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00pm in the Nativity Hall.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

September 9–10	\$ 8,102.00
Hurricane Relief	\$14,223.00
Monthly	\$ 935.00

The second collection this weekend is Clergy Benefit Trust. The second collection next weekend is Restoration/Renovation.

Offertory Renewal Program

Thank you to all those participating in our recent Increased Offertory Renewal Appeal. The results are extremely positive with many families participating by returning a Commitment Card. It is not too late to participate. There are additional materials in the church. Please return your "Commitment Card" as soon as possible by mail or place it in the collection at Mass next weekend. Your participation in this effort helps our parish meet our growing financial obligations. Please consider a new giving level that is best suited to your circumstances. This will allow our parish to plan accurately for the future.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 15.00
Poor Box	\$111.00
Total	\$126.00

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.

Adoration

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

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.

Immaculate Conception School

Corey the Dribbler, academic entertainment, recently visited Immaculate Conception School. As you can see, the students loved him!



ICS High School Fair

Are you exploring options for a High School? Parents and students from all communities are invited to take advantage of this great opportunity. Join us Thursday, September 28, 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the ICS Gymnasium, One Washington Street, Newburyport. Representatives from Public High Schools, Catholic High Schools, and Prep Schools all over the North Shore and Seacoast will be in attendance to meet with parents and students in grades 6, 7, and 8. For more information call 978-465-7780.

IC 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. (At this time, Online Giving is available for only IC members.) 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 "Links" tab, then click on "Online Giving" 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.

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 endures all things. In #118: *Panta hypoménei*. This means that love bears every trial with a positive attitude. It stands firm in hostile surroundings. This “endurance” involves not only the ability to tolerate certain aggravations, but something greater: a constant readiness to confront any challenge. It is a love that never gives up, even in the darkest hour. It shows a certain dogged heroism, a power to resist every negative current, an irrepressible commitment to goodness. Here I think of the words of Martin Luther King, who met every kind of trial and tribulation with fraternal love: “The person who hates you most has some good in him; even the nation that hates you most has some good in it; even the race that hates you most has some good in it. And when you come to the point that you look in the face of every man and see deep down within him what religion calls ‘the image of God,’ you begin to love him in spite of [everything]. No matter what he does, you see God’s image there. There is an element of goodness that he can never sluff off....Another way that you love your enemy is this: when the opportunity presents itself for you to defeat your enemy, that is the time which you must not do it....When you rise to the level of love, of its great beauty and power, you seek only to defeat evil systems. Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system, you love, but you seek to defeat the system....Hate for hate only intensifies the existence of hate and evil in the universe. If I hit you and you hit me and I hit you back and you hit me back and so on, you see, that goes on ad infinitum. It just never ends. Somewhere somebody must have a little sense, and that’s the strong person. The strong person is the person who can cut off the chain of hate, the chain of evil....Somebody must have religion enough and morality enough to cut it off and inject within the very structure of the universe that strong and powerful element of love.”

Pray for All Catechists

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 Room 209 of the IC Parish Center at 7:30 to 9:00pm on the fourth Monday of the month. Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. **Please note our September 25 meeting will be held at TCF Chapter leader Barbara Hopkinson’s home, 64 Northern Blvd., Plum Island, Newbury.**

Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ at (617) 410-6309 or info@abutterflysjourney.org.

School Year IC Religious Education Classes

Registration for the School Year Religious Education Class is ongoing. Registration form:

<http://www.hriccatholic.org/IC-Children-s-Religious-Education>

If you have missed our deadline of September 8, please complete your registration form as soon as possible. You are welcome to register late but will need to wait to begin class on Sunday, September 24 or Monday, September 25. Make up materials from the first class will be provided for you by the catechist to review at home.

First classes begin this week:

- Sunday, September 17 10:05–11:05am for Gr K–8
- Monday, September 18 6:00–7:10pm for Gr 1–8.

Note: We have added grades 7–8 to our Sunday and Monday programs.

Baptism

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

Please pre-register for the class.

Oct. 1 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm

Sep. 17 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

Confirmation Parent Orientation has been completed. If your family is new to Confirmation, please email or call Dr. Mag McKinnon for a review of the process.

School Year Confirmation monthly sessions begin Sunday, October 22 at 1:00–3:00pm in the IC church. Reminder: candidate and adult (sponsor, parent, or another adult) to attend each session.

For information and registration go online:

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

First Eucharist

Information/registrations for 2017–2018 First Reconciliation and Eucharist is posted on our website: <http://www.hriccatholic.org/First-Eucharist--First-Reconciliation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish>.

Please register by Friday, September 29.

Youth Mass—Sunday, September 24, 2017

Our next Youth Mass is Sept. 24 at Nativity, Merrimac at 5:00pm. Collection: Children’s Pajamas and bedtime books for Emmaus House, Haverhill. Details to follow.

Catechetical Sunday

Today, the Church **celebrates Catechetical Sunday**. The 2017 theme is “Living as Missionary Disciples.” Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists are called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Catechists will be commissioned at the Sunday, **September 17 9:00am** Liturgy. Please pray for our catechists and all our learners as they begin a new year of exploring our faith.

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.