

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

First Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2020

hricatholic.org



The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."

He said in reply, "It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Mk 4:3-4)

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

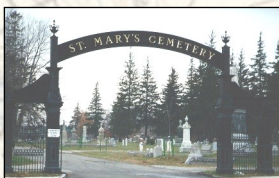
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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

Pastor

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

Senior Priests in Residence

Rev. William H. McLaughlin
Rev. George E. Morin
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Paul Dow
978-887-5350, pauldow49@gmail.com

Office Associates

Donald Alunni, Business Manager
978-462-2724 x 7351
dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org
Sheila Cruise, Receptionist
978-462-2724 x 7403 or 978-346-8604
scruise@newburyportcatholic.org or
holyredeemer@verizon.net

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

Linda Temple, Administrative Assistant
978-462-2724 x7404
temple@newburyportcatholic.org

Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, Nativity Organist
jen.acorn@comcast.net
Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director
978-317-8903
donnapostle233@gmail.com
Tim Richard, IC organist
trichard23@gmail.com
Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator
978-462-2855
swochak@netzero.com

Lifelong Faith Formation

Aaron Giard, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation
978-462-2724 x 7405 or 978-346-8604
agiard@newburyportcatholic.org
Melinda Burrell, Administrative Assistant to Lifelong Faith Formation
978-462-2724 x 7420
burrell@newburyportcatholic.org
Marin Fortune, RCIA, 978-462-2724
fortune@newburyportcatholic.org

Immaculate Conception School

Joan Sullivan, Principal, 978-465-7780
jsullivan@newburyportcatholic.org

Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance
978-462-2724
bkent@newburyportcatholic.org
Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager
978-462-2724
emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org
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
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

Online

Website: www.hriccatholic.org

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

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

 [hriccatholic](https://www.instagram.com/hriccatholic)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (2/29)

4:00pm **IC** *Cliff Moody* (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (3/1)

7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. Morin)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
9:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
11:30am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Monday (3/2)

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

Tuesday (3/3)

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

Wednesday (3/4)

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

Thursday (3/5)

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

Friday (3/6)

No Mass Scheduled

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

Saturday (3/7)

4:00pm **IC** *Laurie Ann Freeman* (Fr. Harrison)
4:00pm **Nativity** *Richard Herbert* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

Sunday (3/8)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
9:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
11:30am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers please remember Michelle Giordano, Christine Demski, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

March 6 Daily Mass

Please note that there will be no daily Mass celebrated on Friday, March 6 at Nativity Church. Mass is celebrated on Fridays at the following locations:

6:45am Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Hampton, NH
7:00am Sacred Hearts, Bradford
8:00am All Saints, Haverhill
9:00am Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Hampton, NH
9:00am St. John the Baptist, Haverhill
9:00am St. James, Haverhill
9:00am Star of the Sea, Salisbury
9:00am St. Mary, Georgetown
1:30pm Avita Community, Newburyport



Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour next weekend.

Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 8.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,
Temptation



Something comes into view. You want that something. You know you are not supposed to have that something. You want it anyway. Rationalizations come to mind. "Others have that something, why can't I?" "Having that something is no big deal, everybody gets that something sometimes." "What would happen if I went and got that something?" "Probably nothing, right?" "I mean, who would know?" "It's not like it would be broadcast around or something, right?" "Besides, nobody cares." "Everybody gets something that they aren't supposed to have sometimes, right?"

And so it goes....

Right from the very beginning of Creation, in Paradise no less, Temptation reared its ugly head. We humans learned up front that the quickest way to get rid of Temptation was to give in to it. "Eat the apple!" "It looks yummy!" "Yeah, yeah, yeah, God said not to, but why would God make something so beautiful and tasty-looking, if it wasn't meant to be eaten, right?" "I mean, what's the worst that could happen, right?" "God wags His finger and says, 'Don't do that again,' Right?"

Wrong!

Of course...we have spent the rest of human history paying for that mistake, as if we could ever afford the true cost of our sinfulness and disobedience. When we sin and turn away from the Lord, we commit an offense against the infinite. Which means we who are finite and creature cannot possibly "make it up to God," who is eternal and Creator. We can do all sort of penances, make endless sacrifices, be really, really sorry...tears, sackcloth, fasting...the whole works...but absolutely nothing we could ever do will make things right before God who is perfect.

This is why God had to send His Son, Jesus, to die for us, so that we could live. Only God could right this wrong. The genius of it all, that we have been privileged to barely

(Continued on page 4)

Foster Care Opportunity

Is there room in your home and heart for a foster child? There is a need for foster homes in our area to provide children a supportive and healing home during a difficult time. Learn more from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) about Foster Care



and Adopting through Foster Care during a post-Mass fellowship time on March 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Immaculate Conception St. Louis Hall, Newburyport or March 8 in Church of the Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Danielle Maloney, 978-557-2739.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

understand, is that it took God to en flesh Himself in our humanity, embracing even our sinfulness, that He might redeem it all through the Cross. That's a bit more than God wagging His finger and saying, "Don't do this again." It is a terrifyingly high cost to pay for even the slightest act of disobedience. It ought to make every single one of us shudder with the deepest of emotions at the mere thought of doing something wrong, never mind actually committing an actual sin.

But you and I know that we don't live our lives that way. Of course, we occasionally think about how we could be better. We name a few things that we've done wrong, admit to a couple of failures, acknowledge a few missed opportunities. We sincerely want to do better, most of time. We do love God and we do want to do better, right? But...

Temptation seems to get us again and again. Doesn't it? It comes at the absolute worst of times, when we are weak, tired, or thoroughly distracted. It is subtle beyond words. It is gentle when it needs to be or overt when subtleties are ineffective. It is that last, lonely slice of chocolate cake that beckons to us just as our stomach is rumbling. Give in, and the cake, Temptation, goes away, leaving only the crumbs of our failure behind. "What's a few crumbs, after all?, we might ask." (Please see above!)

So, as we begin this holy Season of Lent, what is the best way to deal with Temptation and our proclivity to sin? This weekend's Gospel passage offers us a few clues. Simply put, they are: The Sacred Scriptures, living our lives prudently and attending to our obligation before the Lord to worship. God's Word—"every Word that flows from the mouth of God"—is instructive to us on our path of holiness. Spending time reading and praying through the Scriptures is a fruitful and effective way to help keep Temptation at bay. Simply put, if you are reading the Bible and praying, you will not have the time or opportunity to engage in sin. And even if you are tempted, God's Word is there to strengthen you and guide you along the right path. As Amy Grant once referenced Psalm 119 years ago in song, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

The virtue of prudence is also effective in fending off Temptation. It encompasses the whole notion of "avoiding the near occasion of sin," that is part of our traditional Act of Contrition. Sometimes we just know that if we go to a particular place—physically, figuratively, or otherwise—we are going to experience a Temptation to sin. Lent says: "Why go there?!" "Go somewhere else, instead." Build a spiritual wall around the places where Temptation has gotten the better of us, so that we don't inadvertently, in a moment of weakness, at a moment when we might be careless or distracted...make a mistake. If that chocolate cake seems to be serenading you from down the street, avoid even going into the bake shop! Go into the hardware store instead. Nuts and bolts, spackle, and paint brushes will be far less likely to lead you down a pathway to sin than the place where the pastries run free! Seriously, think about it! Where, when, and how does Temptation tend to get the better of you? Lent invites us to ask, "What are ways to avoid being in these circumstances?" "What could we do differently?"

The last example from this weekend's Gospel on how to effectively combat Temptation is to make sure we are attending, properly, to our obligation to worship God. So here, there are a few thoughts: First, am I attending Mass regularly? Simple question. "Yes?" "No?" "Maybe?" "Yes" is better! Secondly, when I worship God, am I doing it fully, actively, and consciously? Am I giving it all that I have? Am I singing the songs, praying the prayers, reflecting during moments of silence, sharing fully in Communion when it is offered.... In short, am I truly participating in the Sacrifice of the Mass, or am I just merely, "present." Present is a good start, full participation is better. And lastly, do I worship God alone, or are there other "gods" in my life, like sex, money, power, addiction, family obligations, "life," etc...that get in the way of my first and primary obligation to the Lord? These can be subtle, too. They can creep up on us, slowly eclipsing our sense of what is important in life and what the true nature of our existence is before God. In short, "does anything regularly keep me from Mass and worship?" Put another way, "Will anything or anyone else get you into Heaven?" If not, then best attend to the command to serve God alone. Beginning this coming Holy Thursday, Cardinal Sean O'Malley has instituted what he is calling, "The Year of the Eucharist," as an opportunity for all of us to deepen our commitment to worship and our devotion to the Lord's Real and True Presence in Holy Communion. Let us open our hearts to receive the fullness of this gift from the Lord.

Taken together, our attentiveness to Scripture, the virtue of prudence, and regular worship of God at Mass will go a long way to forestalling any hold that Temptation might want to have over us. God's grace works wonders in all of these moments and will help us to avoid those instances when we might be enticed to stray and fall short of the glory that God calls us to in our everyday lives.

May this time of Lent be a true opportunity to deepen our friendship with God through our works of penance and acts of charity.

Fr. Timothy Harrison

Holy Chrism Mass

Holy Family/Star of the Sea Parishes invites anyone who would like to attend the annual Holy Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, 1400 Washington St., Boston, on Tuesday, April 7, at 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$18.00 per person. **This covers the cost of the bus and the drivers' tip.**

Please be at Holy Family's parking lot by 9:00 a.m. The bus will leave promptly at 9:15 a.m. If you would you like to sign up, please contact Sue Greaney to reserve a place on the bus as soon as possible at 978-388-0330.

Please make checks payable to Holy Family Parish.

Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to hricbulletin@gmail.com.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, March 2

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
Discipleship Team Meeting 6:00pm, IC Nazareth Library
Women at the Well Prayer Group 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
IC PFC Meeting 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Tuesday, March 3

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Oberammergau Pilgrimage Mass & Meeting 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room/St. James Chapel
IC Faith Formation, Confirmation 2 6:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Wednesday, March 4

IC PTO Meeting 8:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209
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
IC PTO Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Thursday, March 5

Sharing Christ 6:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

Cursillo Group Reunion 8:00am, St. Ann Church
Collaborative Family Activity Day 8:30am, Nativity Church & Halls
Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, March 8

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
HR Faith Formation 9:00am, Nativity Hall
IC Welcoming Coffee Hour 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 10:00am, St. Ann Church
HR Faith Formation 11:15am, St. Ann Hall

Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays during Lent at 3:00 p.m. at IC Church. All are invited to attend.

We are also looking for volunteers to lead the Stations at Nativity on Friday evenings. Anyone interested in helping with the Stations at Nativity is asked to reach out to Aaron Giard or Fr. Tim.

The Pelican Intervention Fund

“Celebration of Hope”

Recovery is possible by living the 12 steps



Free and open to the public.

Hear testimonials of participants who have found hope and sobriety through 12-step recovery programs.

When: Sunday, March 22, 2020, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Where: Carry Out Café, 155 State Street, Newburyport

Come for: Information on support resources for families and individuals, refreshments, music by John R. Tavano

Cursillo and Ultreya

The Cursillo weekend is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love into your daily life. Many of your HRIC brothers and sisters have experienced this “short course in Christianity” at St. Basil’s Salvatorian Center in Methuen, MA and we invite you to include Cursillo as part of your faith journey.

Each month, we gather for an “Ultreya” (onward!) evening of Liturgy, sharing, food, and fellowship at 7:00 p.m. in IC St. James Chapel and Charity Dining Room to continue the Cursillo spirit. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dave & Kelly Colby.

Cursillo Weekends

March 5	Women
April 2	Men
April 30	Women
June 4	Women

Ultreya Evenings

March 27
April 24
May 29

Centering Prayer

If you are searching for the peace the world cannot give please consider joining us at Centering Prayer. Silently resting in God we assent to the Holy Spirit’s presence and action in our lives. In Centering Prayer we pray as Jesus prayed. He tells us: “When you pray, go into your private room, shut yourself in, and pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you” (Matt 6:6).

Please consider leaving the noise of world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday evenings from 6:00–7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 209 of the IC Parish Center. Following Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and reflect on the words of scripture.

Contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483 if you are interested in learning more or joining us. All are welcome.

Questions of the Week



Adult: What temptations most lead modern people away from God?

Child: When you feel tempted to do the wrong thing what do you do?

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Lenten Guidelines

Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** are days of fast and abstinence. **Fridays of Lent** are also days of abstinence.

Fasting is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

FORMED This Lent

FORMED offers many topics for Lent including

- Lenten reflections
- Home study sessions
- Lenten study on prayer
- Bishop Robert Barron meditations
- Stations of the Cross



Visit formed.org to log in or sign up (search for "Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative" or type in code JRNDGP to sign up). It's free!

Look for the FORMED posters in our churches this Lent.

Lent in the Collaborative

Visit our website hricatholic.org and click on the **Lent** tab for more information and activities for Lent.

L'Arche "As I Am" Lenten Event

*Exploring the Dignity of People
with Developmental Disabilities*

Join our neighbors/fellow parishioners in the L'Arche Boston North community for simple *soup and bread dinner*, followed by a video presentation and discussion about the dignity and gifts of people with developmental disabilities.

When: Friday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Church of the Nativity Hall, Merrimac

L'Arche (French for "the Ark") Boston North is a member of an international community of people with and without developmental disabilities growing through mutually transformative relationship. Based out of Haverhill and with a home in Merrimac, L'Arche Boston North is ecumenical, faith based, with roots in the Catholic faith.

Collaborative Lenten Family Activity Day

March 7, 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Church of the Nativity, Merrimac

This Family Activity Day will be for *all* HRIC Collaborative children K–8th grade and their parents and will focus on the theme of Lent. Come join us for a morning of reflection, activity, crafts, and prayer. If you had a child in our summer program or you homeschool your children, this is a great opportunity to engage with the faith community. We also welcome anyone who has missed several school year sessions, or those who want to engage with community outside Sundays.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience.

Mass Scripture Readings

March 1–8, 2020

Praying with the Scriptures is an intentional way of deepening our relationship with the Lord. Set aside fifteen minutes each day, in the same place, and at the same time. What do each day's Scripture passages reveal to me about our loving Father, our Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? What do the passages reveal about me? What am I being called upon to do, to be? Please access the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures www.HRICatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, March 1: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
- Monday, March 2: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Psalm 19; Matthew 25:31-46
- Tuesday, March 3: Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 34; Matthew 6:7-15
- Wednesday, March 4: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 51; Luke 11:29-32
- Thursday, March 5: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Psalm 138; Matthew 7:7-12
- Friday, March 6: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Psalm 130; Matthew 5:20-26
- Saturday, March 7: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Psalm 119; Matthew 5:43-48
- Sunday, March 8: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9

(The free App "**Laudate**" allows you to access the daily Scripture readings on your cell phone.)



Women's Evening of Prayer

The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be **Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Ann Church. All women of the collaborative are invited to this evening of prayer and song.

What a wonderful time for reflection to start your Lenten journey. Invite your friends.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 22–23 **\$8,649.00**
Church Around the World **\$1,663.00**

This week's second collection is **Utility and Energy**.

Next week's second collection is the **Monthly**.

IC Grand Annual
Goal **\$100,000**
To Date **\$85,639.00**



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$607.50
Poor Box	\$350.00
Total	\$957.50

IC Haiti's Lenten Collection

The second collection on the weekend of March 21–22 will be taken up for IC Haiti. In this season of Lent when all of us are encouraged to include prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as part of our Lenten observances, let us prayerfully consider our outreach mission to the poor in Haiti.

Our parish has been generously supportive of IC Haiti since its inception in 2009. Despite ongoing political turmoil in the capital, our continued financial contributions have allowed the faculty and staff of the Fr. Marc Piché Elementary School in Puit Chacha, Haiti, to educate over 200 students each school year and to provide a breakfast and lunch program each school day. For the past two school years, IC Haiti has provided funding for graduates of the Fr. Marc school to continue their education at the closest secondary school. In addition, in conjunction with Health Equity International (*formerly the Saint Boniface Haiti Foundation*), health and dental care services have been made available to the school community.

This Lent, as intentional disciples of Christ, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti; let us choose a specific time during the week to fast on their behalf; and let us continue to support IC Haiti's efforts through generous almsgiving.

IC Knitting Ministry



The Knitting Ministry meets Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Room 209 in the IC Parish Center. We knit/crochet prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves for charity. Come join this friendly group. New people, ideas, and patterns are always welcome. For more information call Julia O'Connor 978-465-3350 or Frances Ronan 978-462-4972.

Immaculate Conception School



The IC cracks the code! Immaculate Conception School integrates the use of technology in classrooms to help prepare students for the future. Coding is used in a vast array of industries and services, and is a "language" that today's students need to understand.

Recently, the 1st and 2nd graders at the IC began an online coding program, titled Kodable. Kodable utilizes mazes and furry, alien-like characters to engage students in the beginning concepts of the process of coding and computer science. As the program progresses, students will be challenged to learn concepts such as debugging and condition statements, such as "if then" statements. In addition, students will later be able to create new characters and begin learning game design. Coding programs challenge students to use sequencing, logic, and critical thinking skills to problem solve and create solutions. These skills are valuable both in school and in real world scenarios. Students at the IC will continue to use the coding programs throughout the school year and progress through more challenging levels and skill requirements. Preparing students with 21st century skills is an essential part of the education at Immaculate Conception School.



Altar Servers Needed



We are in need of altar servers for all weekend Masses. Any adult or child who is 4th grade or older who has made their First Communion is eligible to become an Altar Server. This is a wonderful way to serve our Lord and our parish.

There will be three one-hour training sessions at 3:00 pm on March 16, 23, and 30 at IC Church.

If you are interested, please contact Sheila Cruise in the Parish office at 978-462-2724 x 7403 or 978-346-8604.

Free Hair Cuts



Donna Koen, a parishioner and licensed hairdresser of over 30 years, is offering free hair cuts to anyone in need. She is willing to travel to your home. Her number is (978) 998-9219.

This is a service she has been offering for years for the Newburyport Housing Authority, Salvation Army, and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

She is happy to help our parishioners who are in need.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Women at the Well Catholic Women's Group

Do you ever feel like there must be something more than your day-to-day routine? Looking for a way to connect to other faith-centered women in the midst of a busy work, social or parenting life? Or maybe you're just searching for a new way to regularly meet and connect with Jesus.

WELCOME TO A COMMUNITY FULL OF

women just like you

Wherever you are in your faith journey, join us as we meet weekly for *Blessed Is She* bible study, community and friendship as we grow together in Christ.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PASTORAL CENTER
42 GREEN STREET
NEWBURYPORT, MA

MONDAY NIGHTS, WEEKLY
6PM-7:30PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!

please email HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com if you have any questions

Coffee Hour



Come make a new friend or renew an acquaintance. Join us for coffee and homemade baked goods after the **9:00 Mass on March 8** at St. Louis Hall.

Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, March 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 (978) 572-0231, membership@kofc231.org.

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.

Pre-Planning/At-Need Burial Space

Immaculate Conception Parish owns and operates a private cemetery located on Storey Avenue. St. Mary's Cemetery is a 35-acre cemetery with consecrated grounds that provides tranquility and peacefulness at those difficult times that we all are faced with. Please visit the parish cemetery and you will find the cemetery to be well-managed and maintained. Cemetery plots are available for full-body and cremated remains burials in any denomination. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent, at 978-208-0266 to schedule an appointment.

IC Faith Formation

School Year Programs

Classes will resume this weekend (March 1).

We are now entering the final few weeks of the program for this school year, so looking forward to great class attendance!

Summer Programs

We are happy to announce that the HRIC Summer Program will take place the week of July 13–17 for those children entering grades 3–6 in September, and July 27–31 for students entering grades 7–9.

Please contact the Faith Formation office to request a registration form and/or to have more information sent to you.

Confirmation

Confirmation Prep class for Year 1 (Grade 9) will take place this Sunday, March 1 from 1:00–2:30.

Please note that this class will gather twice this month with another meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 29.

Class for Year 2 (Grade 10) will meet this Tuesday, March 3rd from 6:30 to 8 and again on March 31.

Baptism Dates to Remember

The sacrament of Baptism is not scheduled during the Lenten Season. Therefore, our next Baptism class will be held **Sunday, May 3** with the sacrament celebrated on **Sunday, May 17**.

Please call the Collaborative Offices (978 462-2724) for further information.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

The **Tour of the Church** is scheduled for **Saturday, March 14** from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 11:30 a.m. Please remember that each child will need to be accompanied by an adult.

The second **Parent Meeting** regarding First Eucharist is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 24** at 6:30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.

Please also remember to complete and submit the **First Eucharist registration form** if you have not already done so. A copy of your child's Baptismal certificate **if baptized outside of our parish** must also be submitted if not done so previously.

Adoration & Rosary

Please join us for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration in IC's St. James Chapel in the Parish Center.

- **Wednesdays** from 6:00–6:30 p.m.
- **Thursdays** from 6:30–7:00 p.m., including recitation of the Rosary for Life.
- **Fridays** drop in any time from 8:00 a.m.–noon. During the last hour we pray the Divine Mercy chaplet and conclude with Benediction.

No prior experience necessary. Come and learn how powerful it is to pray before the Real Presence of our Lord.

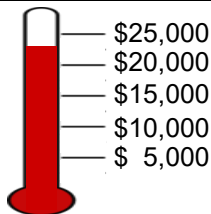
HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 15–16	\$2,442.00
Offertory, February 22–23	\$2,236.00
Church Around the World	\$ 645.00

The second collection **next** weekend is the **Monthly**.

HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$22,780.00



HR St. Vincent de Paul Mite Boxes

During Lent, there is an emphasis on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Please support our SVdP work by taking a mite box and filling it with donations throughout the Lenten season. No donation is too small and all of the money goes directly to support our Merrimac and West Newbury neighbors in need. Boxes are at the rear of both churches.

Reid Landry Garrant Foundation Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets for a number of incredible prizes will be on sale after the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Nativity on March 21 and after the 10:15 a.m. Mass at St. Ann Church on March 22. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20.

Winners will be drawn at the 4th Annual Shamrock Shootout Hockey Tournament on March 28–29 at the Veterans Memorial Rink, Haverhill.

Proceeds from the event and the raffle will go to the Reid Landry Garrant Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that raises money for leukemia research and support for families dealing with this disease. Visit ReidsRebels.com for more information.

Contact Ted Xenakis at 978-373-5493 for more information. Make checks payable to Reid Landry Garrant Foundation, Inc. or you can pay by Venmo at 9788731492 or PayPal.

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.

Prayer Shawl will *not* meet in March. Our next meeting is **Thursday, April 2**.

HR Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs continue for all grades. As we are approaching the last few weeks of class for this school year, we are hoping for continued great attendance!

Summer Programs at IC

We are happy to announce that the HRIC Summer Program will take place on the IC campus the week of July 13–17 for those children entering grades 3–6 in September, and July 27–31 for students entering grades 7–9.

Please contact the Faith Formation office to request a registration form and/or to have more information sent to you.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

The second **Parent Meeting** for Eucharist will take place on **Thursday, April 2** at 6:30 p.m. in the Nativity Church Hall. Please mark your calendars!

Also note the **Tour of the Church** is planned for **Saturday, March 21** from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 11:30 a.m.

Baptism Dates to Remember

The sacrament of Baptism is not scheduled during the Lenten season. Therefore, our next Baptism class will be held **Sunday, May 3** at 1:00 p.m. in the Charity Dining Room located in the IC Pastoral Center. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for further information.

Confirmation Prep Classes

Class for Year 1 (Grade 9) is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 in the Nativity Church Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Year 2 (Grade 10) class will meet this Sunday, March 1, from 6:00–7:30 also in the Nativity Church Hall.

HR Altar Server Training



Additional Altar Servers are needed for Nativity and St. Ann Masses. Training will be provided for Grades 4 and up. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Tracy Blais at tblais@comcast.net.

Women's Evening of Prayer

The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be **Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Ann Church. All women of the collaborative are invited to this evening of prayer and song. What a wonderful time for reflection to start your Lenten journey. Invite your friends.

EWTN: Catholic News

Want the latest Catholic News? EWTN News has got you covered. Check this link daily for news about the Catholic Church, and the latest issues in Catholicism. EWTN News: Your Online Catholic Resource.

www.ewtnnews.com/