

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021

hricatholic.org



“And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

(Jn 3: 19, 21)

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

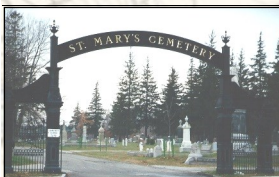
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

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 9:00 a.m.-2:30 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, K-grade 8,
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



Collaborative Staff

Pastor

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info@newburyportcatholic.org,
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Deacon John Moranski
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St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at
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Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director
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Tim Richard, IC organist
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978-462-2855
swochak@netzero.com

Online:

Website: www.hriccatholic.org

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

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

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (3/13)

4:00pm **Live-Stream James B. Lefebre**
(Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

Sunday (3/14)

8:00am **Nativity Joseph Kardas** (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

9:00am **IC Michael Sullivan** (Fr. Harrison)

9:30am **St. Ann Ann M. Daley** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

11:30am **IC Thomas F. Melican Jr., Faris Jawdeh,**
(Fr. Harrison)

Monday (3/15)

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

Tuesday (3/16)

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

Wednesday (3/17)

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

Thursday (3/18)

9:00am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

Friday (3/19)

9:00am **IC** (Fr. Stanley)

Saturday (3/20)

4:00pm **Live-Stream Maureen Heaton** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

Sunday (3/21)

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

9:00am **IC Kathleen McDermott, Ellie Bauer**
(Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

9:30am **St. Ann Maureen Heaton** (Fr. Harrison)

11:30am **IC Erin Mahon Crowther, Frederick & Margaret Harrington, Thomas & Gael Mahon, Elaine Murphy, Florence R. Boschetti**
(Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)


In your prayers, please remember Mary Fosillo, Rita Croteau, and all the faithful departed.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Live-Stream Vigil Masses are broadcast online through [Facebook](#).

 Find us on Facebook: [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)

Questions of the Week



Adult: Has it ever been hard for you to believe in God's unconditional love for you? Why or why not?

Child: How can you thank Jesus for giving you the gift of faith and the chance to know Him?

Virtual Rosary



Join us for recitation of the rosary live on Facebook twice every week. Pray along with us and add your intentions in the comments on Facebook. www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

One sweltering summer day this past year, I stood alone in a corner of a local cemetery waiting for the bereaved family to gather for the Committal prayers of a loved one. In my black suit, black clerical shirt, black socks, black shoes. . . I could feel every pore in my body opening up like a geyser. Within minutes, I was soaked. With every fiber of my being, I was trying to find the one spot with the least amount of sunlight creeping through the sparse foliage in a desperate hope of avoiding the full blast of infrared heat from our local nuclear furnace, 93 million miles away. It was fruitless. Add social distancing into the mix followed by the now-present grieving family trying to do the exact same thing I was, I gave up and made a mental note to head to the dry cleaners later that day after scraping the suit from my body.

On a hot summer day, if you are heading to the beach or otherwise able to enjoy the coolness of lighter attire, some warmth can be quite welcome. I mean, we've had a "real" winter this year with lots of snow, ice and bone-chilling temperatures. Who wouldn't want some sunshine and the extra vitamin D? And yet, the Scriptures point out to us so clearly, that we humans have often craved the darkness, and not because we were all decked-out in black.

The powerful imagery of light and darkness helps form the stark contrasts in John's Gospel between sin and grace.... between the things of God and our mere human drudgery when we are left to ourselves. There is an old story of when a country village was first offered electricity more than a century ago. One family went through all of the expense and effort to wire up their house and called over neighbors and friends to witness this new marvel. When they threw on the switch for the first time, everyone gasped with delight at how bright the new electric light bulbs made the room. Then, they collectively cringed at how dirty and dingy the walls and paint looked, having been subjected to the soot of oil lamps and wood fires for decades. After suffering the embarrassment of their neighbors and friends seeing how dirty their home really was, the family rolled up their sleeves and got to work scrubbing the walls, the floor and even the furniture until everything gleamed. One of their neighbors, however, who had been witness to the whole thing promptly cancelled their electricity installation appointment, vowing never to allow that kind of light into their home!

(Continued on page 4)

Watch Mass on Facebook

To watch our Saturday live-stream Masses:

1. Go to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/>) at the appointed time. If you don't have a Facebook page, you can still watch the live stream from your computer, smartphone, or tablet using the above link.
2. Click the "videos" link on the page.
3. The **LIVE** video should be the first one on the list.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Winter Weather Mass Cancellations



Due to the hazards of travel and the safety of priests and parishioners alike, this winter daily Mass within the Collaborative will be cancelled if Immaculate Conception School, Pentucket Regional, or Newburyport Public Schools **in-person classes** are cancelled or delayed because of inclement weather. WBZ Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at boston.cbslocal.com and we will make every effort to keep our own website and social media updated as well.

In severe situations, it may also be necessary for safety reasons to cancel weekend Masses. Again, please watch WBZ or consult the websites and/or social media for cancellation information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. In all things, God gave us the gifts of wisdom, reason, and prudence. Let's use them wisely this winter and exercise sound judgment when considering going out in severe weather.

Prayers for the Sick

May the comfort and healing of Christ embrace all in our Collaborative who are suffering from illness, especially:

Dan Bedard
Priscilla Brown
Brett Burkinshaw
Bridie Hubley
Joe Messina

Vincent Oberhofer
Mary Shachok
Ruth Sullivan
Ron Sylvester
Michael Tucker

St. Patrick's Day Snippets

- There are 450 churches in the US named after St. Patrick.
- It takes 40 pounds of dye to turn the Chicago River green for St. Patrick's Day.
- A little over 20% of MA residents say they are Irish.
- There are 16 places in the United States named Dublin.

(Source: Merrimac Senior Center Newsletter)

Mass Scripture Readings

The Scripture passages read each day at Mass can be found online at bible.usccb.org the site of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. There you will find the daily readings, be able to listen to them on podcast, and have the opportunity to watch a short reflection piece on the readings offered by a Catholic priest, deacon, religious, or lay person.

Praying with the Scriptures daily is a wonderful way to deepen our relationship with Our Lord and to discern how best to serve God as an intentional disciple of Christ. Please access the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures. Go to www.HRICatholic.org; click on HRIC Pastoral Plan; and then click on Lectio Divina.

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

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Maybe we have felt the same at different points in our life? We see the searing glare of an extensive audit of some situation or another and realize that while we may have not had the exact same failings in our life, we would rather not undergo that level of scrutiny. Instinctively, we know there are imperfections, dust and dirt that would certainly be revealed if an unexpected blast of light were to come our way. So we hide, or avoid, or deflect an honest look into the darkest corners of our lives, afraid of what we might find, afraid of what level of effort it might take to clean them up. A friend of mine who has been involved extensively in recovery programs and helping those with addictions once said to me, "a person is only as sick as their secrets."

Lent is a time when the Church invites us to come forward into the light of Christ's forgiveness, to cease hiding in the darkness of our habits and routines. Rather, we are challenged to confess our failings, put names onto those fears and confidently welcome the intensity of daylight into our crevices. In doing so, if there are things that need addressing or sprucing up, we can do that confidently in the assurance of God's love for us. We know this because, as the author of the Letter to the Ephesians said, that while we were yet still dead in our transgressions, God brought us to new life through Christ. And furthermore, God has a purpose for each of us as His handiwork, that we should be about the good works that God calls us to. . .that there, we have life!

It is possible to live the vast majority of our life darting from one canopy of shade to another, of avoiding the intensity of honest discernment or close personal scrutiny. But the Lenten promise and the Easter joy that follows is that we are saved by God's grace, not by our human efforts. Therefore, we have nothing to fear from confronting our sins, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking God's forgiveness. As Jesus once said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." (Jn 10:10). There is only life by embracing the light. As John's Gospel also reminds us from the start, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (Jn 1:5)

As we fidget with our clocks this weekend to welcome more sunlight into our day, may we also open our hearts to the true light that God shines upon us through Christ our Savior.

Happy Laudate Sunday,
Fr. Timothy Harrison,
Pastor

Register to Attend Mass

To register to attend an in-person Mass celebrated in our Collaborative, go to the "Attend a Mass" section on our website: www.hricatholic.org to link to the signup page. At this time a **reservation is required** to attend a live Mass for capacity limits and contact tracing purposes.

Call the offices at (978) 462-2724 for IC or (978) 346-8604 for HR if you have questions or need assistance making a reservation.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

EWTN Easter Programming

EWTN brings you inspiring Holy Week and Easter Programming on TV, Radio, and Internet!

Go to ewtn.com/lent to learn more.

ENGAGE & FORMED

We have a treasure chest of online faith formation resources available free to all in the HRIC community. We encourage you to take full advantage of these resources.

To access the resources of Word on Fire's **ENGAGE**, register at flocknote.com/hriccollaborative or by texting "HRIC" to 84576.

To access **FORMED**, visit (formed.org), click "Sign up," then "I belong to a parish or organization" and type in "Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative" to log in.

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction During Lent

Join us Thursdays during Lent at Immaculate Conception Church for **Adoration**. All are welcome. No reservations needed. Seating is limited. All attending must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

1:00–1:45 p.m.* and 7:15–8:00 p.m.

**Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction will be offered only when clergy are present. There may be a couple afternoon times when no priest or deacon is present. All evening times will have a priest or deacon. In the event that there is no priest or deacon, the church will be open for silent prayer time.*

Evangelization Support Team

Are you looking to grow as a missionary disciple, helping others come to the hope-filled and joyful realization of God's awesome plan for their lives? Beginning during the Easter season, we will be starting a new small group to support one another in the task of bringing the Good News out into our everyday interactions.

After His Resurrection, Jesus said to His Apostles "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19), thereby giving us all a solemn duty to bring the message of God's love out into the darkness and messiness of the world. Clearly "evangelization" needs to be reclaimed as a word in our vocabulary from negative associations of an intrusive imposing of belief and fiery judgment. We need images of Jesus' fiery LOVE and freeing truth, urgently shining into a world in darkness and confusion that gives light and hope beyond hope, images of everyday acts of radical love, and invitations to prayer and trust in Jesus.

For most of us, this task seems daunting. However, with fellow disciples we can support and encourage one another. In our small group, we will be talking about what it means for us as Catholics to evangelize. We will support one another in this endeavor through prayer and sharing. If you are interested, please contact Aaron Giard at agiard@newburyportcatholic.org for more.

Collaborative Pastoral Council

Invitation to Participate in the Collaborative Pastoral Council Meetings

In 2019 a Pastoral Council was formed in our Collaborative to assist the Pastor in his responsibilities as the leader of the Collaborative. They serve in a consultative role and there are members from both of our parishes. They have been meeting virtually on Zoom since mid-March of 2020 and are now meeting once a month, mostly on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. We would like to invite any of our Collaborative members to join our meetings on Zoom, giving you a chance to listen to our discussions and to comment or ask questions at certain points in the meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m.** If you are interested in joining the meeting on Zoom, please send an email to Jim Williamson at jimwilliamson35@gmail.com and he will send you the Zoom link before the meeting. Included on the agenda for this meeting are a discussion of future Mass schedules, how to get people back to Mass after the Pandemic ends, and how can we better communicate with all our parishioners. Our educational segment will be a continuation of the discussion on the Vatican II Document on the Church, which we began in February. If you have any concerns or questions about the work of the Council, you can reach out to Jim or contact any Council member.

Members of the Pastoral Council

Father Tim Harrison, Chair	Chris Eagan
Jim Williamson, Vice Chair	Amy Friend
Mary Bragg, Secretary	Aaron Giard
	Paula Higgins
Kathy Betz	Deacon John Moranski
Beth Brennan	Lucia Parker
Sue Coppinger	Carol Robertson
Steve DiCamillo	Jonathan Temple
Deacon Paul Dow	Pat Temple

Stations of the Cross

We will have in-person **Stations of the Cross** on Fridays during Lent at 3:30 p.m. We will alternate the location among all three sites. The service will be live-streamed on our [Facebook](#) page. Please follow COVID protocol.

Mar. 19 St. Ann

Apr. 2 Nativity (Good Friday)

Mar. 26 IC

Confessions



We are offering face-to-face, individual Confessions by appointment only. These will take place outdoors. The weather must be amenable for the appointment; both priest and penitent **must wear a face mask** and practice proper social-distancing during the Confession.

For more information or to schedule a time for Confession, please contact our Collaborative Office at (978) 346-8604 or (978) 462-2724.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Centering Prayer for Lent

Lent is a time to follow Jesus more closely and learn from the fully human Jesus how to pray by entering your secret room, spending time that places God at the center of your life, opening yourself to a loving Father, surrendering your will and in trust allowing God to transform you. This is how we pray as we Center in silence.

Through prayer, Jesus, strengthened and moved by his Father's love for him, could willingly surrender his human life for love and reveal our God to us. Through the Paschal Mystery, Jesus of Nazareth was transformed to become Jesus the Christ. We, too, can be transformed through prayer that unites us to God. Lent is the time to pray as Jesus taught us and enter into the Paschal Mystery, receiving new life in God through death to self.

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice available to all who seek transformation through a more intimate relationship with God. This daily practice deepens our faith as we come to better know our God.

Please consider joining us for weekly group Centering Prayer and let God move you closer to him. We gather Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. via ZOOM for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer and 30 minutes of Lectio Divina. All are welcome. Contact Elizabeth McCarthy, **978 462-7483**, if interested.

Bulletin Information

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

Helping Our Homeless

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

In an effort to ease the suffering of our homeless and as a Collaborative-wide Lenten observance, we again will be collecting "Homeless Care Packs" at all three churches. A Homeless Care Pack is a one-gallon Ziploc bag filled with personal care items for men and women. They will be distributed to local agencies serving our homeless, including Pelican Intervention Fund, St. Vincent de Paul, Pettengill House, Salvation Army, YWCA, Community Service, and others.

Travel-size personal care items are the best size and can be found in most pharmacies in the area. There will be a collection box at the entrance of each church and in the lobby of the IC Parish Center, or you can contact a member of our Confirmation classes. For more information or to help, contact Aaron Giard at agiard@newburyportcatholic.org, or Jonathan Temple at jntemple@comcast.net. Thank you for your generosity and compassion. **Items needed:**

Shampoo	Cough drops	Feminine hygiene products (Women)
Toothbrush	Protein bars	Umbrellas
Toothpaste	Soap	Antiseptic wipes
Deodorant	Life Savers candy	Disposable masks
Razor	Disposable face cloths	
Socks	Kleenex packs	No mouthwash or loose items
Gloves	Hand sanitizer	
Shaving Cream		

Women's History Month

During March, we will highlight some Catholic women who have become doctors of the church. A Doctor of the Church is a title given to a saint whose works—including their writings and teachings—have contributed to the theology and philosophy of the Church, who is a tremendously holy person, and who has a great insight of Church doctrine. There are only 36 Doctors of the Church.

St. Catherine of Siena

Although not a religious sister, St. Catherine was a Third Order Dominican and was taught by the sisters to read.

Although pressured by her family, she refused to marry,



continued to live at home, devoted her life to Jesus, and served the poor and the sick. St. Catherine was instrumental in convincing Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon in 1376. She was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. Her feast day is April 29.

Content source: <https://blessedisshenet/blog/female-doctors-church/>

Lenten Activities

Visit our website for suggestions to fulfill the Lenten disciplines of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Click on the Lent 2021 tab on our website: hricatholic.org.

HRIC

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

How can we help you?

Some in our Collaborative may have challenges getting everyday needs accomplished during the COVID-19 emergency.

Holy Redeemer-Immaculate Conception Collaborative *Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program* can help those in need within our communities of Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury. The focus of the program is to comfort and nurture our parish community and send its faith, love, and generosity outward by offering meaningful ways to love and serve our greater communities as this pandemic continues to pose a threat.

If you are a parishioner in the Collaborative and want assistance with fundamental needs such as grocery store runs, prescription pick ups, meal deliveries, etc., please call the Collaborative offices at **978-462-2724** or **978-346-8604** and let us know how we can help.

Are you feeling isolated and alone during the pandemic?

Neighbors Helping Neighbors volunteers would love to give you a call to chat or send you a note. We know that this is a difficult period for everyone, particularly to those who live alone. Let us help brighten your day! If you would be interested in receiving a call or note, please call the HRIC offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 and leave your name, address and phone number and we will reach out to you.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, March 7	\$805.00
Mailed-in Offertory, week ending March 5	\$3,620.00
Grand Annual	\$24,030.00

If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to

Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac. MA 01860

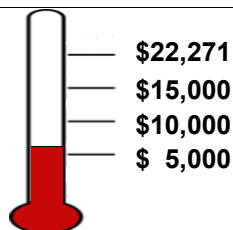
You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hriccatholic.org/hr-online-giving.

Catholic Appeal

Goal \$22,271.00

To Date \$5,475.00

Visit bostoncatholicappeal.org
To learn more.



HR Online Giving

Holy Redeemer now provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly or monthly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Holy Redeemer Parish community. Parish registration forms are available on the website or contact the parish office.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, hriccatholic.org and click the “Links” tab, then click on “HR Parish Online Giving” to get to the site. There are three different funds you can contribute to: Offertory, Monthly, and Grand Annual.

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.

Questions? Contact Linda Temple, HRIC Administrative Assistant at 978-462-2724 x7404.

HR Easter Flowers



We are now taking donations and memorials toward the purchase of Easter flowers. Simply mail in or place an envelope in the offertory box with the names of those you wish to be remembered or make a donation for the flowers. Please make sure your gift is received by **noon on Monday, March 22** so that the names can be included in our Easter bulletin

Holiday Helper Thank You

Dear Parish Members,

Please forgive the lateness of this thank you. We had a successful pajama drive for the Merrimac Holiday Helper Program. We provided toys, food, and clothing to many Merrimac families. Thank you for your generosity. Stay well.

Fondly,
Kathy Devaney

HR Faith Formation

All Faith Formation schedules and registration forms are posted on our website at www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

School Year Programs

Program information for those students entering Grades K–8 can be found on our parish website. **Registration forms are also available.** As always, please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 ext. 7405) or email agiard@newburyportcatholic.org should you have any questions.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Dates have been set for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Please be aware that we **are not yet** accepting registrations as COVID restrictions keep us in flux. As always, please reach out to the Faith Formation Office with any questions you might have.

First Reconciliation:

IC: Friday, April 30, 3:00 p.m.
Friday, May 7, 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 8, 11:00 a.m.

Nativity: Saturday, May 1, 11:00 a.m.

First Eucharist:

IC: Monday, June 7, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 12, 11:00 a.m.
Monday, June 14, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 19, 1:00 p.m.

Nativity: Saturday, June 5, 11:00 a.m.

For those families whose child was prepared for First Eucharist last spring, but has yet to receive the sacrament, arrangements can still be made for your family. We would be happy to help you with this.

Baptism

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for information regarding the celebration of the sacrament.

Confirmation

Confirmation prep classes for both Grades 9 and 10 have begun. Information regarding these sessions can be found on the Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org along with registration forms. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

HR St. Vincent de Paul



Please consider donating to SVdP as part of your Lenten almsgiving. Checks can be made out to HR SVdP. Cash and checks can be placed in the poor boxes at the churches or mail your donations to: HR St. Vincent de Paul, 4 Green St., Merrimac, MA 01860

HR Prayer Shawl

If you know of anyone, who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please give their name to Helen hvktax@aol.com or 978-771-4673. We will not intrude at this difficult time but simply leave it at their door.

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 Mary Ellen Sullivan 978-346-7200
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 30 Grove Street, Merrimac
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IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, March 7	\$2,277.00
Fuel & Utilities, March 7	\$ 445.00
Mailed-in Offertory, week ending March 5	\$6,769.09
Grand Annual	\$104,360.00

If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to
Immaculate Conception Parish
42 Green Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hriccatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving.

Catholic Appeal

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To learn more.



IC Haiti Appeal

The first quarterly collection for IC Haiti will be taken up on **Palm Sunday weekend (March 27–28)**. Once again, we appeal to your care for, and generosity toward, the children and school community of Puit Chacha, Haiti.

Last year, despite a reduction in our collection totals, we were able to keep the school up and running during the pandemic. We were also able to provide funding for the construction of a Covid-care building for those who were unable to be attended to properly at home or at the hospital complex in Fond des Blanc.

During this Lenten season, all of us are encouraged to deepen our relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer and acts of mercy. Although we are thousands of miles away from Haiti, we have been invited since 2009 to see our Haitian brothers and sisters with the eyes of Christ. Let us continue to support them with our prayers and almsgiving.

Please use the special IC Haiti envelopes and make out checks to "IC Haiti."

IC St. Vincent de Paul



If you know someone living in Newbury/Newburyport who needs assistance, please suggest that they call our **help line 978-518-0728**. We are still ready to assist.

To donate, visit our website and donate online at www.svdpnewburyport.org, drop your donation (checks payable to "Svdp of Newburyport.") into the collection box at Mass, or mail it to the parish office at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Breaking Bread to-go Meal

Tuesday evenings • **take out only** • 4:30 p. m. at the entrance to the IC Parish Center. All are welcome!

IC Faith Formation

All Faith Formation schedules and Registration Forms are posted on our website at www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

School Year Programs

Program information for those students entering Grades K–8 can be found on our parish website. **Registration forms are also available.** As always, please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 ext. 7405) or email agiard@newburyportcatholic.org should you have any questions.

Confirmation

Confirmation prep classes for both Grades 9 and 10 have begun. Information regarding these sessions can be found on the Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org along with registration forms. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Baptism

Please call the Collaborative Offices (978-462-2724) for information regarding the celebration of the sacrament.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Dates have been set for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Please be aware that we **are not yet** accepting registrations as COVID restrictions keep us in flux. As always, please reach out to the Faith Formation Office with any questions you might have.

First Reconciliation:

IC: Friday, April 30, 3:00 p.m.
Friday, May 7, 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 8, 11:00 a.m.

Nativity: Saturday, May 1, 11:00 a.m.

First Eucharist:

IC: Monday, June 7, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 12, 11:00 a.m.
Monday, June 14, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 19, 1:00 p.m.

Nativity: Saturday, June 5, 11:00 a.m.

For those families whose child was prepared for First Eucharist last spring, but has yet to receive the sacrament, arrangements can still be made for your family. We would be happy to help you with this.

Follow Us on Instagram

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



IC Easter Flowers



We are now taking donations and memorials toward the purchase of Easter flowers. Simply mail in or place an envelope in the offertory box with the names of those you wish to be remembered or make a donation for the flowers. Please make sure your gift is received by **noon on Monday, March 22** so that the names can be included in our Easter bulletin

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Mary A. Kelly Scholarship

Scientific Education for IC Parish Students

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

Scholarship eligibility:

- Young man or woman parishioner of IC Parish
- High school graduate in pursuit of a scientific education

Completed applications must be postmarked and returned to the Trustees no later than Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

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. Parish registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, hriccatholic.org and click the “Links” tab, then click on “IC Parish 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.

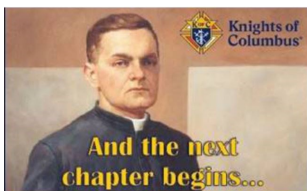
The Pelican Intervention Fund



The Pelican Intervention Fund is dedicated to supporting men and women on their journey from addiction to recovery. The Pelican Intervention Fund offers hope for sustained recovery for adults who live in the communities of Amesbury, Byfield, Georgetown, Groveland, Ipswich, Merrimac,

Newbury, West Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, and Salisbury. If you have any questions contact Kim Keene 978-430-1408 or visit www.pelicaninterventionfund.org to learn more.

Knights of Columbus



Fr. Michael J. McGivney, our founder, was beatified on October 31, 2020. Be a part of this new chapter and his legacy by becoming a Knight of Columbus today.

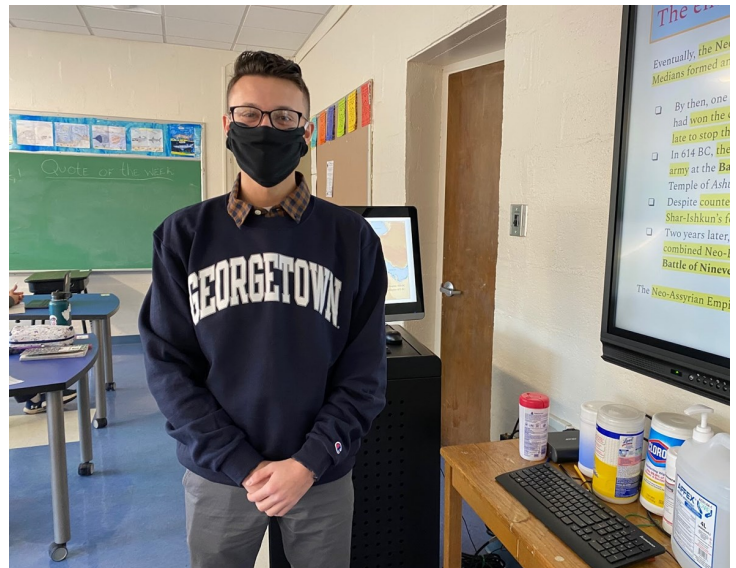
Free online memberships now through June 30, 2021. Visit kofc.org/joinus and enter code MCGIVNEY2020.

Immaculate Conception School



Congratulations to Immaculate Conception Social Studies teacher and alum Nick Meissner!! Next September, Nick will head to Georgetown University for graduate school to study International Studies. The pandemic delayed Nick's graduate school plans for a year, which he spent teaching Social Studies to Middle School students at the IC. Nick came to the school's aid when we encountered an unforeseen teacher shortage just one week into the school year. His experience using technology for remote learning as well as his love of history made for a seamless transition back to his alma mater to serve our community when we really needed it.

Congratulations, Nick!!



Nick Meissner pauses for a picture during Grade 6 Social Studies class.

Women at the Well Bible Study

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.

We are meeting virtually during the pandemic. We meet Monday nights, 6:30–8:00. All are welcome.

Please email HRIcWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com to join us.

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 being held online (due to coronavirus) 7:30–9:00 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month. Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Our next meeting is **March 22**. Join our free online meeting by going to <http://zoom.us>, click on “Join a Meeting,” enter Meeting ID: 952-104-4920.



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