

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2020



hricatholic.org

And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. (Mt 17:2-3)

All Are Welcome



Immaculate Conception School

Celebrating Family Spirit



Father/Daughter Dance



Special Person Luncheon



Mother/Son Event



Parents often visit the classrooms as 'Mystery Readers' and to help with projects and holiday crafts



In preparation for the North Pole Express, grandfather and father show train set to students during "Pajama Day"

Family spirit is what makes Immaculate Conception School so special! Throughout the year, parents and children engage in numerous events and activities creating a caring and personal educational experience. Join our family!

OPEN HOUSE (9 - 11 am)

- Wednesday, March 11
- Tuesday, April 7
- Wednesday, May 13

PRIVATE TOUR

Call Kelley Pappalardo at (978) 465 - 7780 for a private tour or more info

Pre-K Through 8th Grade

- **Pre-K Program** offers children ages three and four a flexible schedule of 2, 3, 4 or 5 days per week
- **Full Day Kindergarten**
- Before care starts at 7 am
- After care until 5:30 pm

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

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)

Monday (3/9)

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

Tuesday (3/10)

7:15am **IC** *Sr. Regina McAuley* (Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (3/11)

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

Thursday (3/12)

7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge, Ernie Penta* (Fr. Morin)

Friday (3/13)

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

Saturday (3/14)

4:00pm **IC** *Fr. John Leonard* (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **Nativity** *Peter Albano* (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (3/15)

7:15am **IC** *Marsha Reilly Sullivan* (Fr. McLaughlin)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
9:00am **IC** *Faris Abu-Jawdeh* (Fr. Morin)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)
11:30am **IC** *Erin Mahon Crowther, Gael Mahon, Frederick & Margaret Harrington, Ida & Bud Cartledge, Carol & Michael Boguszewski, Arnold & Helen Bizeau, For the intentions of those recently married* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

Collaborative Contacts

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

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

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

Sheila Cruise, Receptionist,
978-462-2724, scruise@newburyportcatholic.org or
978-346-8604, holyredeemer@verizon.net

Aaron Giard, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation,
978-462-2724 x 7405 or 978-346-8604
agiard@newburyportcatholic.org

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

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

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Many years ago when I was participating in a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy, I found myself in the small Italian village of Lanciano in the Abruzzo region of central Italy. Here, in the 8th century, it is reported that a Basilian monk was celebrating Mass, yet doubted in the Real Presence of Christ in the eucharistic elements. During the institution narrative, the bread and wine changed their outward appearance to become real flesh and blood. These are preserved today and can be seen by visitors and pilgrims alike. The Church considers this a genuine miracle. At the time, I remember viewing the flesh and blood which had been preserved in a monstrance with reverence and awe, but also with a creeping sense that this is something that I encounter as a priest every day.

Now, let me be clear, when I celebrate Mass, the bread and wine which we Catholics believe actually becomes the Body and Blood of Christ retains its outer attributes of bread and wine. It looks like bread and wine, tastes like bread and wine, acts like bread and wine. I am no Basilian monk from the 8th century! But what happened then, happens for us now—namely, what are ordinary and very simple elements of food and drink are transformed for us through our Eucharistic Prayer by the Holy Spirit at Mass into the Real Presence of Jesus Christ—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. We then eat and drink this Precious Body and Blood as Holy Communion, challenged to become what we have consumed. Whether our eyes or our other senses could ever perceive that which we truly hold in our hands and take into our bodies or not, our minds and hearts are invited to consider the mystery of what God does for us every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

We Christians have been immersed into this mystery from the Last Supper forward. Somehow, in a way that we will never fully understand, the bread and wine we offer is actually changed in its inner reality to Christ's own Body and Blood. This is the true miracle that happens every time we come to the Lord's Table. That a few have glimpsed through a Eucharistic miracle centuries ago what the true

(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 8 in Church of the Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 9:00 a.m.

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



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, March 9

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall

Women at the Well Prayer Group 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

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

Tuesday, March 10

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209

Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

HR Faith Formation, Confirmation 1 6:30pm, Nativity Hall

HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

Reunion Prayer Group 7:00pm, IC Conference Room 209

Knights of Columbus 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library

Wednesday, March 11

HR Sandwich Program 7:00–9:00am, St. Ann 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

Women's Evening of Prayer 7:00pm, St. Ann Church

Thursday, March 12

Reunion Prayer Group 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209

Sharing Christ 6:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

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

Friday, March 13

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

Staff Meeting 9:00am, IC Charity Dining Room

Stations of the Cross 3:00pm, IC Church

AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, March 14

IC First Eucharist Church Tour 10:00am, IC Church

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, March 15

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church

IC Faith Formation 10:00am, IC Parish Center

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 10:00am, St. Ann Church

HR Faith Formation, Grade 2 11:45am, Nativity Hall

nature of our celebration entails, is subservient to the fact that this is what we believe happens all the time at our Masses. Sometimes, it is helpful to pause and consider the mystery which we are called to witness.

In a similar vein, this weekend we ponder the story of the Transfiguration of the Lord, as Christ was revealed in His true, glorious nature at the top of Mt. Tabor. Although this moment must have been awesome and amazing in every way our human senses could experience it, this very same reality in all of its fullness was with the disciples on the way up the mountain, as well as everywhere they accompanied Jesus when they journeyed down the mountain, including to Jerusalem and His death on the Cross. It is not within our nature to be able to behold, constantly, the true glory of God, at least not yet. Glimpses, yes, the fullness, no. Not in our sinfulness.

So, we have these few moments when we are invited to consider what we are REALLY doing whenever we approach the Lord in Holy Communion and Who it is that actually accompanies us on our journey through life. It is no One short of God Himself. While we will never be able to "figure it all out," what this realization will offer us is confidence in facing the challenges and low valleys of our lives and the reassurance that we are never alone in this world or the next. Our God goes with us for the duration.

Transfigured, transubstantiated. . . . God brings the truly extraordinary to our everyday lives. May we be blessed to even glimpse a tiny portion of the grace He bestows on us!

Lenten Blessings,

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.

Prayers for the Sick

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

Priscilla Brown
Brett Burkinshaw
Eunice Campbell
Joe Messina

Ron Pagliaruto
Ruth Sullivan
Michael Tucker

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.



Follow Us on Twitter
@HRICCatholic

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

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.

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" in 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. For more information or to help, please contact Jonathan Temple, 978-809-9337. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Items needed:

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

Lent in the Collaborative

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

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.

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.

Centering Prayer for Lent

Our Lenten reflection on Jesus' words and works reveals Jesus' intimate relationship with his Father. We see the depth of Jesus' faith, trust, and love for God. This relationship developed through prayer. Often we see Jesus withdraw from the crowds and even his apostles to pray alone in silence. Jesus 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). In Centering Prayer you enter your private room.

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.

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 as one who loves us unconditionally just as we are and trust God has plans to give us a future of hope.

Centering Prayer helps us say to the Father, "Not my will but yours be done" (Lk. 22: 42). Please consider joining us for weekly group Centering Prayer and let God move you closer to him. We gather Wednesday evenings from 6:00–7:00 pm in IC Conference Room 209 for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer and 30 minutes of Lectio Divina. All are welcome. Please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483, if you are interested in learning more about this simple prayer of resting in God.

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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Scripture Readings

March 8–15, 2020

Praying with the Scriptures during Lent is a compassionate way to accompany the Lord on his way to the cross. 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. Go to www.HRICcatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, March 8: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9
- Monday, March 9: Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79; Luke 6:36-38
- Tuesday, March 10: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50; Matthew 23:1-12
- Wednesday, March 11: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalm 31; Matthew 20:17-28
- Thursday, March 12: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; Luke 16:19-31
- Friday, March 13: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Psalm 105; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday, March 14: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 103; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
- Sunday, March 15: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42

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



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

Bulletin Information

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

Coronavirus, Church, and You!

With all of the media attention given to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we might wonder about how all of this will affect our families, community, and the Church. Because this situation is evolving so rapidly, it is best to turn to online sources for the latest information and best-practices. Here are a few resources for up-to-date information from reputable authorities:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health: www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19

The Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/
Boston Children's Hospital: www.childrenshospital.org

Additionally, the Archdiocese of Boston will have updated information available as this situation affects our life together as a Church: www.bostoncatholic.org. We will endeavor to keep our Collaborative website www.hriccatholic.org up-to-date as well.

This past weekend, officials from the Archdiocese asked parishes to drain the Holy Water Fonts that parishioners customarily use to remind themselves of our Baptism as we enter and leave church. Many years ago, I took a sample of the holy water from one of these fonts and looked at it under a microscope—all I can say is that it's teeming with life! So, this is a very good precaution to embrace for the remainder of Lent. Also, we have already suspended the use of the common Communion Cup during Mass. This weekend we were asked to refrain from any physical contact with other parishioners by a handshake or kiss during the Sign of Peace or to simply skip the Sign of Peace altogether for the time being.

I would also underscore the encouragement we are all receiving from health officials to:

- stay home if you are sick
- wash your hands very frequently
- cover your mouth and nose with your elbow if you need to cough or sneeze.

Taken together, all of the above will help keep everyone as safe as possible during this time of concern. We will work to update our response as needed and required by those in authority. Please check the above websites for the latest information.

May the Lord protect all of us, especially the most vulnerable and needy in our midst.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Medjugorje Pilgrimage

Join Shirley and Jim Noonan on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, October 3–10, 2020. Our group will be staying with the visionary Marjana Soldo. Mirjana is one of the visionaries and she will interact with the group during the week at mealtime, and also give a private talk to our group. The total cost of the pilgrimage will be \$2,194 which covers plane fare, taxes, housing, and two full meals each day. Lunch and tips are not included. To sign up, go to <https://medjugorje.org/resn.php> For further information, please call Shirley or Jim 978 465-8495

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

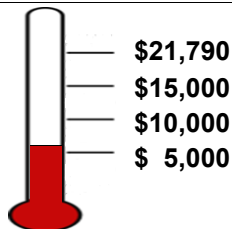
HR Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 29–March 1	\$ 3,412.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 401.00
Grand Annual	\$22,780.00

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

Catholic Appeal

Goal \$21,790.00
To Date \$6,660.00



HR Sandwich Program



The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 150 sandwiches are delivered and need to be **individually wrapped or bagged** and returned to the bread wrappers. Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches are requested at this time, also some cold cuts and/or cheese. Please, no condiments. **Large** containers of coffee, Adobo, and minced garlic are welcome. They are also looking for fresh vegetables (not potatoes). Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury, from 7:00–9:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. (Door on the larger parking lot side of the church). Our next dropoff date is **March 11**.

See the Collaborative calendar at www.hriccatholic.org for the schedule. If you are new to the program, or have any questions, please contact Dottie Carr at 978-363-2909.

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.



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 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 anticipate 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.

Summer Program Volunteers

We are once again asking for assistance in making our Summer Program a reality.

Registration forms are being submitted, but there is a need for **catechists** and **classroom assistants**. We do not want to have to turn any applicants away. Please contact the office of Faith Formation for further information.

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 again Sunday, April 5, from 6:00–7:30 also in the Nativity Church Hall.

HR SVdP 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.

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, April 2**.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, February 29–March 1	\$ 9,388.00
Utility and Energy	\$ 1,712.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 2,516.00
Grand Annual	\$85,639.00

This week's second collection is the **Monthly**.
Next week's second collection is **Ongoing Church Maintenance**.

Catholic Appeal

Goal **\$53,541.00**
To Date **\$9,245.00**



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 747.00
Poor Box	\$ 385.00
Total	\$1132.00

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

CHAMPIONS!!

The Immaculate Conception School Girls Varsity basketball team captured the North Shore Catholic Elementary School Basketball League title.

Congratulations girls!!



Pictured from left to right: Sami, Kate, Caroline, Lila, Kate, Jessica, Lily, Abby, CeCe, Maeve, Maddy, Margaret, Caroline, and Kayley

Archdiocese Web Site

Visit www.bostoncatholic.org for the latest news and information around the Archdiocese of Boston.

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

St. Vincent de Paul Thank You

We humbly thank the parish faithful for contributions to our recent special collection. Through your kindness and generosity, our Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be able to continue to reach out to many residents as they need assistance in rent, food, gas, and medical issues. We pray for these needy families, but their basic life needs sometimes are overwhelming. **You** have made a difference for so many less fortunate.

Blessings to you,

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Immaculate Conception Parish

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.

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.

Questions of the Week



Adult: How does knowing Christ transform your own life?

Child: How does knowing who Jesus is make your life better?

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HRICCatholic



Family Mass

There will be another Family Mass (formerly known as Children's Mass) next Sunday, March 15 at 9:00 a.m. at IC Church. Family Masses occur whenever there is K–8th grade Faith Formation at IC (typically twice a month). They include the angelic voices of the Children's Choir, an opportunity for kids to sit on the altar steps during the family-friendly homily, depending on the priest, and opportunities for kids to serve as gift bearers. Please also consider bringing a **canned-food item** for your child to bring to the altar as donation to the local food pantry during the Offertory.

Future date: March 29.

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 . . . 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.

Summer Program Volunteers

We are once again asking for assistance in making our Summer Program a reality.

Registration forms are being submitted, but there is a huge need for **catechists** and **classroom assistants**. We do not want to have to turn any applicants away. Please contact the office of Faith Formation for further information.

Confirmation

Confirmation Prep class for Year 1 (Grade 9) is scheduled for Sunday, March 29 from 1:00–2:30.

Class for Year 2 (Grade 10) will meet Tuesday, March 31 from 6:30–8:00.

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.

Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, March 10** at 7:30 p.m. 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.