

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



April 5, 2020

[hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org)

*The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:*

*"Hosanna to the Son of David;*

*blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;*

*hosanna in the highest."*

Mt 21:8-9

*All Are Welcome*

# The Paschal Triduum

## Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative

Serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury



**Holy Thursday**  
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper  
7:00 p.m.

Live-streamed from St. James Chapel on Facebook

Come and enter into the sacred three days of **Triduum** by celebrating the Lord's simple command: *"as I have done for you, so you must do."* Join us for a commemoration of the Last Supper and institution of the Eucharist.

## Good Friday

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
3:00 p.m.

Live-streamed from St. James Chapel on Facebook

Join with us as we immerse ourselves in St. John's Passion account, venerate the Cross, and offer Special Intercessions for the whole world.



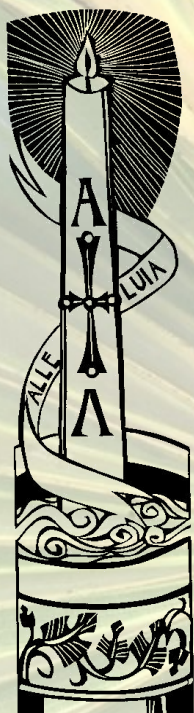
## Easter

Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection

**The Easter Vigil**—7:00 p.m.

Live-streamed from St. James Chapel on Facebook

Known as the "mother of all vigils" this sacred moment is the high point of our whole year! Beginning with the Lucinarium or service of light, this celebration continues with special readings and Psalms that tell the story of Salvation. Continuing with the renewal of our own Baptismal Promises and ending with the Eucharist—this is one joyful event not to miss! Bishop Robert Hennessey from the Merrimack Region will preside and preach this evening.



**Easter Sunday**—10:00 a.m.

Live-streamed from St. James Chapel on Facebook

Come and celebrate the Lord's Resurrection! Along with the joyful, sung Alleluia, festive decorations, and sacred stories of the Resurrection, everyone will be invited to renew their Baptismal Promises during this mass.

For a link to our Facebook page, please visit  
[www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org)

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (4/4)

4:00pm Stephen Cutter

### Sunday (4/5), Palm Sunday

10:00am Regina M. Stronge, Sandra Valente,  
Lena Filomia, Robert Lynch

### Thursday (4/9), Holy Thursday

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Friday (4/10), Good Friday

3:00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion

### Saturday (4/11), Holy Saturday

7:00pm, Easter Vigil

### Sunday (4/12), Easter Sunday

10:00am

In your prayers please remember all the faithful departed.

**All Masses will be broadcast live through Facebook Live until further notice.**



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

## Learn about the Mass

Aaron Giard, our Director of Lifelong Faith Formation, will be offering a walk-through teaching on the Mass during the 30 minutes before Mass on Sundays.

Tune in at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays via Facebook to learn more about the beauty of Mass and the whys behind the words and gestures we perform each week.

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

"This is weird." Those were the words that I shared with Fr. George this past weekend, just minutes before pushing the button to begin live-streaming one of our Masses. I should be grateful. Knowing the long history of our Church and the absolutely horrific sacrifices made by the martyrs and saints to offer Mass and share the Eucharist with people...having to celebrate Mass for our Collaborative via my cell phone in an almost empty chapel—with proper bread and wine, liturgical books and vestments, lit candles, and even occasional music is hardly worth noting. Except that is where we are today, with full knowledge of what we are capable of and that creeping feeling of what we ought to be doing as we enter into our holiest and most sacred time of the year. "Live via Facebook" is not exactly a show-stopper, now is it?

Please know that as much as I am grateful that we live in a time and place in history where the miracle of technology can connect us together electronically all over the globe, I can't help but long for something more. And that something is you!

I recently saw a meme on Facebook posted by Andy



*Last weekend's online Mass from St. James Chapel. Don't forget to tune in this weekend on Facebook.*

## Watch Mass on Facebook Live

To watch our live stream Masses:

1. Go to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/>) at the appointed time.
2. Click the "videos" link on the page.
3. The LIVE video should be the first one on the list.

## Catholic TV

Visit [www.catholicTV.com](http://www.catholicTV.com) for a schedule of the latest program details on America's Catholic Television Network.

## Follow Us on Instagram

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Crouch that read: "Honestly hadn't planned on giving up quite this much for Lent." I had to wince as I found myself nodding in agreement. We have all made incredible sacrifices this Lenten Season, giving up many things that were never on the table when we considered what penance should be done on Ash Wednesday, which seems so long ago. We have closed down our schools, transitioning instead to "remote learning," we have shuttered so many of our places of business—grinding our once-strong economy to a halt, confined ourselves to our homes, have witnessed innocent strangers become suspected sources of contagion, we have lost needed jobs, we have suffered the agony of helplessly watching family, friends, and neighbors who became ill with a mysterious, invisible disease that threatens death and wreaks havoc on our healthcare system. We have been forced to let go of tens of thousands of precious souls—young and old alike—who have succumbed to the dreaded coronavirus. It is a darker and more robust storyline than anything ever found in an episode of Alfred Hitchcock's, *The Twilight Zone*.

And yet here we are, chastened to the bone, ready to enter into a week that has always been so richly filled with signs and symbols, smells and bells, tradition and pageantry...all reduced to a sometimes-pixelated video feed on a laptop. And we can't even give out Palms! I've got a garage full of

*(Continued on page 4)*

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

them, but we are forbidden from distributing them either now, or in the weeks ahead, so great is the fear of this pandemic.

Maybe God has a purpose in all of this. Not that God would intentionally cause any one of us to suffer in this world—that's not the way that God works. But He doesn't prevent our suffering, sometimes, as there are greater things at stake, greater goods to be had despite them or, often, through our experience of them.

Anybody remember their first encounter with death? Maybe it was the passing of a beloved family pet at a tender age, or much more painfully of a cherished grandparent. Maybe it was the total devastation that comes from a tragic death or long, lingering illness that seems to drain every ounce of life from those who suffer vicariously with its victim. If we survive those moments even somewhat intact, we never look at the gift of life the same way again, do we? We realize that life is precious, fragile, and that each moment we have with those we love is sacred and to be savored to its fullness, because, we now know...painfully know...that it will not last. The lesson for us clear: don't take anything or anyone for granted, for one day we may not have them with us. Learn to enjoy and celebrate the present, because it will never be the same ever again.

What we also learn, from our encounters with suffering and death, with loss and grief, is that while things will never be the same as before, life can and will be good again in new and even unexpected ways.

On the other side of this pandemic, we may never look at a roll of toilet paper or bottle of Purell the same again! But more importantly, I hope we never look each other the same way either. I hope we see and understand in an ever greater way the need each of us has to be connected with one another. Right now we are feeding that need with the internet and video chats, texts and emails, emojis and "likes." But when the air clears and this foul virus goes into remission, I hope we can appreciate what it means to truly be in communion with our sisters and brothers—at Mass certainly—but also in our neighborhoods, community, nation and world. As we are so painfully experiencing right now: we are all in this together. We always were. It was only an illusion to think that, "I can do my own thing and it won't affect anyone else." Lent is a time to shed our illusions and confront the truth of our real place before God. Individualism, selfishness, racism, division, xenophobia, greed and fear—these only seek to destroy the good and healthy bonds of being human and holy before our God. The connectedness we crave with one another pales in comparison to the inner longing we have for true union with our Creator. This desire has been etched into our very soul by the One who brought us forth in the divine image.

This Holy Week, we Christians celebrate the very heart of our faith in God: that while we're yet sinners, God held nothing back and sacrificed His only Son that we might not perish in our sins but have the well-founded hope and promise that we will rise from our graves and live with Him forever. It is through our Baptism in Jesus Christ that we are bonded with the Lord so completely that nothing can separate us from the Love of God. Absolutely nothing! It is a connection, a social-gathering, a closeness and intimacy

beyond any other. All gifted to us by a God who loves us and calls us to new life.

So, for now, we stream and tweet and text. We work to "flatten the curve" and do our part to support those on the front line of this epic battle against something so small it cannot even be seen by the naked eye. We hunker down and self-isolate, that others might have the chance just to live. It is the right thing to do.

But let us take from this Lent a new appreciation of human life, the blessings of each day and a profound awareness of our own inter-relatedness with each other and in Christ Jesus. What a joyful day awaits us all, when we can share in true Communion, once again!

Happy Holy Week,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

### Women at the Well Catholic Women's Group

*We Are Going Virtual*

We will be meeting virtually until further notice. All are welcome to join in, whether you are a new face or have come before!

Please email [HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com](mailto:HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com) to join us.

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.

please email [HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com](mailto:HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com) if you have any questions

### Collaborative Contacts

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# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## HOLY WEEK RESOURCES



Visit our **Collaborative Website**, [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org) for a list of resources and ideas, collected by the Archdiocese of Boston, for Holy Week. Resources include prayers, Scripture, readings, and family activities.

## 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  
James McCobb

## Archdiocese Web Site

Visit [www.bostoncatholic.org](http://www.bostoncatholic.org) for the latest news and information around the Archdiocese of Boston.



Follow Us on Twitter  
@HRICatholic

## Mass Scripture Readings

April 5–April 12, 2020

Praying with the Scriptures during **Holy Week** is a beautiful way to share in Our Lord's freely chosen path to "humble himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." What do each day's Scripture passages reveal about our loving Father, our saving Lord Jesus, and the empowering 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.HRICatholic.org](http://www.HRICatholic.org) and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, April 5: Matthew 21:1-11 (procession with palms); Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 22, Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66
- Monday, April 6: Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27; John 12:1-11
- Tuesday, April 7: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71; John 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wednesday, April 8: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 69; Matthew 26:14-25
- Thursday, April 9: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15
- Friday, April 10: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42
- Saturday, April 11: (Easter Vigil) Isaiah 54:5-14; Psalm 30; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10
- Sunday, April 12: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

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



## Community Service of Newburyport Donations

In addition to the Helping Our Homeless Care Pack program this Lent, we are piloting something new at IC. Community Service of Newburyport operates a pantry that provides household essentials like toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, deodorant, laundry detergent, and dish detergent for people in need. Many people in our community, and in particular clients of our St. Vincent de Paul Society, rely on Community Service to make ends meet. When you shop for these items yourself, please consider picking up an extra and drop it off at church. Unlike the care packs these should be full size items.

You can find more information about Community Service at [communityserviceofnewburyport.com](http://communityserviceofnewburyport.com). There is a bin in the IC Parish Center Lobby. Alternatively you may consider dropping things off at Community Service of Newburyport directly. They're located behind St. Paul's Church just a few doors down the street from the IC Church. If you do so please mention you're from Immaculate Conception Parish.

## Act of Spiritual Communion

We cannot receive Communion right now but we are all encouraged to make an act of Spiritual Communion.

*My Jesus,*

*I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.*

*Amen.*

## 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



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- Visit [formed.org](http://formed.org)
- Click "Sign up"
- Click "I belong to a parish or organization" and type in "Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative" (or type in code JRNDGP) and tap "next"
- Add your name and email and click "sign up"
- You will receive an email that links you to the site

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS



www.hriccatholic.org

Holy Redeemer Parish  
4 Green Street  
Merrimac, MA 01860  
978-346-8604

Immaculate Conception Parish  
42 Green Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
978-462-2724

March 30, 2020

**TO:** All Parishioners  
**FROM:** Fr. Timothy Harrison  
**SUBJECT:** “90 Days Now – For Your Parish”

**Dear Friends,**

It is at times like these our faith reminds us that we are never truly alone, even as we face unprecedented challenges as a parish community. Though we are not able to join together in the celebration of the Eucharist, we continue daily to pray for the health of you and your loved ones.

**I am reaching out to you about an effort created by a member of the laity with concern for our parishes during this time of crisis. It is a special, 90-day campaign that will provide offertory support directly to the parish.**

## **90-DAYS NOW – FOR YOUR PARISH**

**This special initiative asks, if possible, for parishioners to rally around their parish by making a special *daily* offertory commitment for the next 90 days. This effort is intended to *supplement* weekly offertory gifts, given the challenges of the current crisis. Should you choose to join in this effort, the Archdiocese has created an easy-to-use link to donate.**

**The link is available by clicking [here](https://bcatholic.sites.bostoncatholic.org/90DaysYourParish) or using this link:  
<https://bcatholic.sites.bostoncatholic.org/90DaysYourParish>**

**I am incredibly moved by this effort and forward this information for your consideration.**

I understand many of you may not be able to contribute to this special offertory collection given the economic impact this pandemic has had on your personal finances. I remain extremely grateful for your prayers of support for our parish family.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Timothy Harrison,  
Pastor

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



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"He has risen."  
Matt 28:6

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Immaculate Conception, Newburyport, MA 1090

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Immaculate Conception Parish  
42 Green Street  
Newburyport MA 01950

## IC Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation.

Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. (At this time, Online Giving is available for only IC members. 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](http://hriccatholic.org) and click the “Links” tab or the Online Giving link on our homepage, then click on “Online Giving” to get to the site. There are four different funds you can choose to contribute to.

If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made.

Any questions? Contact Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant 978-462-2724 x7404.

## Prayer during the coronavirus pandemic

*May we who are merely inconvenienced  
remember those whose lives are at stake.  
May we who have no risk factors  
remember those most vulnerable.  
May we who have the luxury of working from home  
remember those who must choose between preserving  
their health or making their rent.  
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children  
when their schools close  
remember those who have no options.  
May we who have to cancel our trips  
remember those that have no place to go.  
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of  
the economic market  
remember those who have no margin at all.  
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
remember those who have no home.  
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms  
around each other,  
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our  
neighbors.*

Amen

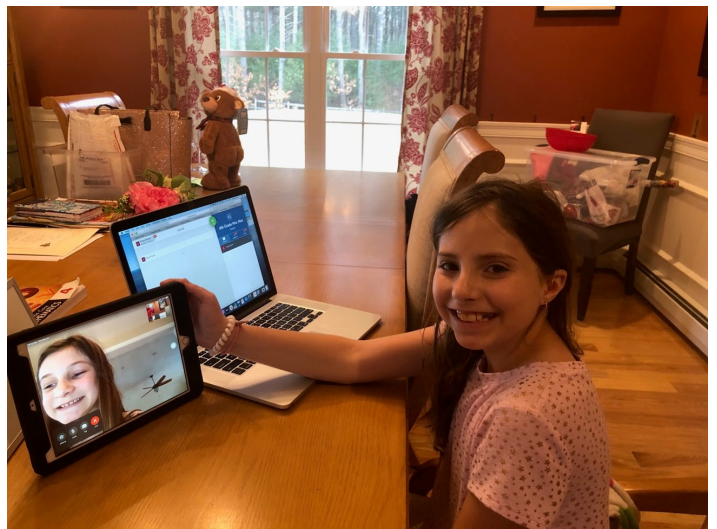
## The Compassionate Friends

TCF 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 temporarily being held online via Zoom software at 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on 4th Mondays. Barbara J Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Join free online meeting by going to <http://zoom.us>, click on “Join a Meeting,” enter Meeting ID: 952-104-4920.

## Immaculate Conception School



Immaculate Conception School jumped right into online learning just one day after Newburyport schools closed for COVID-19. The faculty and administration started to actively prepare for a possible school closure in late February. Several weeks worth of work was gathered and cued up to be ready to go at a moment's notice. The Technology Team scheduled additional training sessions with students and teachers for review sessions and introduced log on procedures for digital tools that would be beneficial for an at-home learning dynamic. Families were asked to think about the stress that home computers and devices would endure if everyone were at home working and learning. When the decision was made to close the IC, the teachers didn't miss a beat and rolled right into posting online assignments which included video messages of daily prayer. The first week was amazing, exhausting, impressive, and a total team effort by our entire IC community. We adjusted with every new day and supported each other through positive communication. The distance has pushed our school family together to be stronger and far more adept at online learning. Pelican Pride is powerful!



First day of online learning—Grace and Sophia in Grade 4 collaborate with each other from a distance.

## Mary A. Kelly Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Mary A. Kelly Scholarship Fund. Email your request for an application to [maryakscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:maryakscholarship@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 15, 2020.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



Immaculate Conception School

## Spiritual Support During Distance Learning



Mrs. Pike prays with her first grade class

Distance learning keeps Immaculate Conception School (IC) students and teachers connected, even in prayer. Google Education tools and video apps benefit students with personal lessons from teachers. Students from Pre-K to Grade 8 continue to learn, share and collaborate, despite the physical distance.

**The IC community sends love and prayers to you and your family.**

### 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

One Washington Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 • [icsnewburyport.com](http://icsnewburyport.com)

## IC Faith Formation

### School Year Programs

We want to take this time to thank all of our volunteers who have contributed in any way to the success of the school year program. We could not do it without you!

Please watch for future announcements regarding Fall 2020.

### Summer Programs

We are looking forward to the HRIC Summer Program which 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. Many families depend on this week of faith formation for their children and it cannot take place without you!

There is a great need for **catechists** and **classroom assistants** at all grade levels. Please contact the office of Faith Formation for further information.

### Confirmation

As we continue to receive guidelines from the Archdiocese, we will keep families informed of any pertinent information.

Please feel free to call or email the Faith Formation Office with any questions or concerns you might have. We will respond as soon as possible.

### Baptism Dates to Remember

The sacrament of Baptism is not scheduled during the Lenten Season.

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

### First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Please don't hesitate to call or contact the Faith Formation Office should you have any questions or concerns regarding the postponement of our First Eucharist celebrations.

## 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.

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## HR Sandwich Program Update



We received a call from Good Shepherd and they are not allowed to take things made off site at this time per order of the CDC. We will not be delivering until further notice.

Please consider making a financial donation at <https://lazarushouse.org/ways-to-give/#donate-financially>.

## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** To what in your life must you die in order to rise with Christ?

**Child:** What can you give up to be closer to Jesus?

## Work Begins!

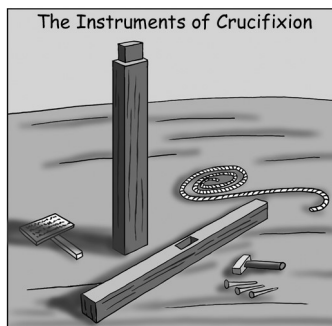
This past week, workers have been taking advantage of the church shutdown to begin some long-anticipated pointing work on the foundation of St. Ann Church in West Newbury. This is part of the Capital Campaign that began in earnest several years ago and was scheduled to start this spring when the weather got better. Work on the steeple of Nativity Church in Merrimac is scheduled to take place mid to late summer. Stay tuned for more updates in the weeks ahead.

## FAITH FACTS

The Gospel Reading.

Crucifixion was the method used by the Romans to execute people. Often, the vertical part of the cross stayed in the ground. The prisoner carried the cross-beam to the place of execution. He might or might not be tied to the beam. At the place of execution he was nailed to cross-beam and the beam was slotted onto the upright. Then the victim's feet were nailed to the upright. In Jesus' case, a notice was fixed to the cross.

Crucifixion was a horrible and agonizing way in which to die.



## HR Faith Formation

### School Year Programs

At this time we wish to thank all of our volunteers who have contributed in any way to the success of the school year program. We could not do it without you!

Please watch for future announcements regarding Fall 2020.

### Summer Programs at IC

We are looking forward to the HRIC Summer Program which 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.

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Please don't hesitate to contact the Faith Formation Office should you have any questions or concerns regarding the postponement of our First Eucharist celebrations.

### Baptism Dates to Remember

The sacrament of Baptism is not scheduled during the Lenten season.

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

### Confirmation Prep Classes

The class for Year 2 (Grade 10) which was scheduled to meet today Sunday, April 5 has been cancelled.

As we continue to receive guidelines from the Archdiocese, we will keep families informed of any pertinent information.

## HR SVdP Mite Boxes

Local needs continue to increase during this crisis. Please continue to put donations into our Lenten mite boxes and return them once Masses resume. No donation is too small and all gifts aid the needy in Merrimac and West Newbury.

## 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/](http://www.ewtnnews.com/)

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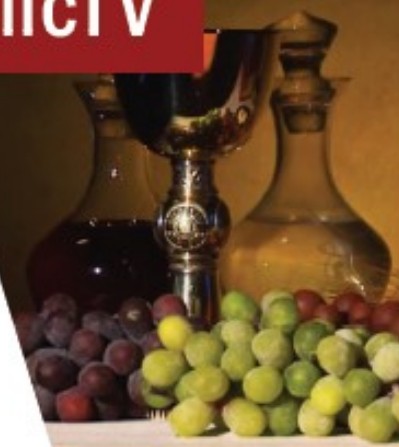
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During this difficult time, CatholicTV wants to ensure that all Catholics have access to the Mass and other vital prayer resources. You can watch daily and Sunday Masses on **WatchtheMass.com**, and you can find other prayers like the Divine Office, the Rosary, and more on **CatholicTV.com**.



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“Jesus Wept.” John 11:35

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