

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fifth Sunday of Lent

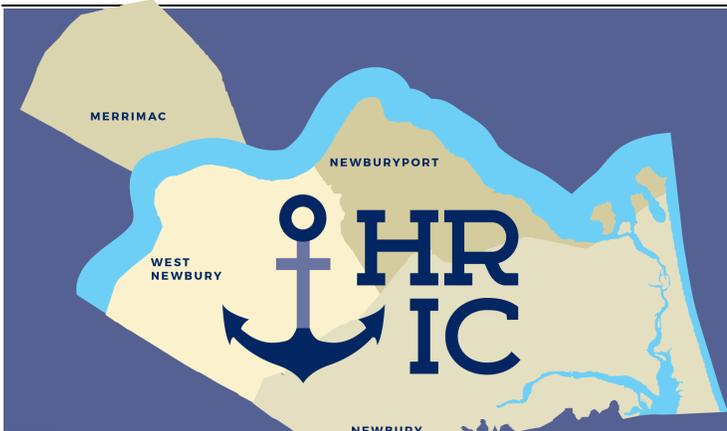
April 7, 2019



hricatholic.org

*“Now it springs
forth, do you not
perceive it?
In the desert I
make a way, in the
wasteland, rivers ...
for I put water in
the desert and
rivers in the
wasteland for my
chosen people to
drink, the people
whom I formed for
myself, that they
might announce
my praise.”
(from Isaiah 43)*

*All Are
Welcome*



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

“Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters...”

St. Ann

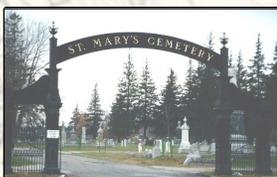
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Nativity

Parish offices and church:
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950
Office Hours: M–F 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Phone: 978-462-2724
Fax: 978-234-7399
Email: info@newburyportcatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, Pre K–grade 8,
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



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St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Immaculate Conception
978-518-0728

St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266
joeviel@comcast.net

 Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

 @HRICcatholic

 hriccatholic

Website: www.hriccatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (4/6)

4:00pm **IC** *Kevin Sullivan, John G. Abenante*
(Fr. McLaughlin)

4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (4/7)

7:15am **IC** *Jack Stone, Patricia Kelly* (Fr. Harrison)

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

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

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

11:30am **IC** *Bob Maguire, Lena Filomia*
(Fr. Harrison)

Monday (4/8)

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

Tuesday (4/9)

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

Wednesday (4/10)

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

Thursday (4/11)

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

Friday (4/12)

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

9:00am **IC School Liturgy** *Hugh & Norma Underhill* (Fr. Harrison)

Saturday (4/13)

4:00pm **IC** *Jerry Cody, Laurie Freeman*
(Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **Nativity** *Cheryl Eastman* (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (4/14) Palm Sunday

7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. McLaughlin)

8:00am **Nativity** *Kevin Morgardo* (Fr. Morin)

9:00am **IC** *Jerry Cody* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

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

11:30am **IC** *Graciela Lamas, Patricia Kelly, Robert Lynch, Louis, Lena, & Ralph Filomia, Lillian Pecht*
(Fr. Morin)

In your prayers, please remember Shirley Miller, Richard Seguin, Mary Collins Dupont, Marie Kadehjian, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

4th Annual Lenten Soup & Spirit Lecture Series

Join the Adult Faith Formation Team for a DVD/live lecture series on traditional Catholic moral teaching that refutes modern moral confusion. Ponder presentations on the 7 Deadly Sins and their contrasting 7 Virtues. Enjoy simple food, fellowship, and food for thought.

The presentations will be offered twice: Thursday evenings at Nativity Hall, Merrimac (7:00–8:30pm) and repeated Fridays at IC's St. Louis Hall, Newburyport (noon–1:30pm).

April 11 & 12: Gluttony/Asceticism and Lust/Chastity

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

What do you do when you are really angry? Scream? Yell? Strike an inanimate object? Or maybe just quietly simmer and implode?

It seems from our Gospel text that the latter is the preferred way that Jesus handled such moments. In an agonistic society (that is, one prone to short fuses and violent outbursts) unless one controlled their anger very carefully, it could easily erupt into fist-fights or worse. It was commonplace for Mediterranean men to quietly draw or doodle in the sand when they were apoplectic, given the alternative. It is a good example for us all to consider. It gives a person time to think and let the surging waves of emotion pass before offering a response to an apparent insult or offense.

So, why was Jesus so angry? I think it was because of the way that the "woman caught in the very act of adultery" was being used as a pawn to try and trap Him in a no-win situation as an effort to discredit Him before the people. If Jesus agreed that such a person should be stoned to death, as the Law provided, He would be in contempt of Roman law which forbade capital punishment by non-imperial forces. If He disagreed with the sentence of stoning, He would be in violation of the Jewish Law. Choosing either way as they were presented to Him, He would find Himself in great conflict and peril.

And then there was the woman. How convenient that she was "caught." This was much more likely a case of entrapment, where the woman was set-up for this confrontation, perhaps her own weakness and vulnerability being used against her for the evil intent of others. Jesus' compassion for her was evident. While not condoning her behavior, He clearly was furious that others would be using this moment to try and attack him. They showed no concern for her or her life. The men involved were never held accountable or even mentioned. They tried to make it all about her sin. All in an effort to discredit Him.

So, Jesus was angry. He saw an egregious violation of justice happening before Him and He was incensed that there would be so little regard for another person's life, never mind the truth of what was really going on. So He paused, crouched down and drew in the sand. It is too bad that there were no smartphone cameras around to capture the

(Continued on page 4)

Disciples in Mission Survey

In the weeks ahead, parishioners will be invited to participate in a brief, online survey to gauge the effectiveness and understanding of the Archdiocesan initiative called, "Disciples in Mission." This is the overall guiding document that was introduced in 2012 and has produced the system of collaboratives (or pairing of parishes) that the entire Archdiocese is in the process of being reorganized into. The entire text of "Disciples in Mission" as well as the online survey may be found at: <http://www.disciplesinmission.com>.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, April 8

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
IC Religious Ed., Mini-Retreat Make-up 3:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Altar Server Training 3:30pm, IC Church
HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, April 9

Reunion Prayer Group 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209
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 PFC Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory
IC-Haiti Board Meeting 7:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Knights of Columbus 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Wednesday, April 10

HR Sandwich Program 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
Reconciliation 6:30–8:00pm, Nativity Church
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, April 11

Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel
Lenten Soup & Spirit Lecture 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Friday, April 12

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
Lenten Soup & Spirit Lecture 12:00noon, IC St. Louis Hall
Stations of the Cross 3:30pm, IC Church
Lenten Simple Supper 6:00pm, Nativity Hall
Stations of the Cross 7:00pm, Nativity Church
AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, April 13

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, April 14 Palm Sunday

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
Coffee Social After Mass 9:00am, Nativity Hall
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church

Altar Server Training

The final session of Collaborative Altar Server training for Grades 4 and up will be held at IC Church on Monday, **April 8** from 3:30–4:30pm (Session 3 w/Father Tim). To sign up, call the office at (978) 462-2724. If you have questions, feel free to contact us:

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moment. I'd love to see what enraged, "divine doodles" looked like. Maybe they wouldn't be so different from what you and I would come up with in the heat of the moment. @#!%&!, perhaps?

What the Lord does give us, however, is a response that demonstrates that even when backed into a corner and presented with two bad choices, there are always options. Truth speaks boldly. When taking even a moment to examine their hearts, the crowd, beginning with the elders, realized that they were not innocent and blameless. Maybe their sins were small or unrelated to the present moment, maybe they were working towards atonement and were doing every penitential act they could think of, maybe they were mostly good people who just got caught up in the moment...but all had to admit that sin had some claim on them and that they could not stand innocent before Jesus or the God of their Fathers. Jesus' piercing look demanded that truth be acknowledged. And the truth was that those who had instigated the whole moment were not really interested in the poor woman who had been caught, but in somehow going after Jesus. And He called them on it. So they dropped their stones and walked away.

Anger can be a potent and salvific response to a violation of justice, if it is offered with love and compassion. The Lord balanced our sometimes unruly human emotions with patience and prudence, responding with wisdom and understanding that championed truth and mercy.

This Lent, may we learn to do the same, realizing that this is how our God treats us.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Chrism Mass

Every year priests and people gather during Holy Week at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston to celebrate what is known as the "Chrism Mass." During this Mass, the priests of the Archdiocese are invited to renew their priestly commitment to serve the Church and together with the Archbishop, will bless and consecrate the special holy oils that are used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, the Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders. This year, the Cathedral of the Holy Cross has undergone a special restoration and this will be one of the first liturgies in the newly-renovated space. It is not to be missed!

Fr. Scott Euvrard from Holy Family Parish in Amesbury has organized a bus to take interested parishioners into the Cathedral from St. Joseph Church's parking lot. The cost for the bus to the Chrism Mass **on Tuesday, April 16** is \$23. (\$21 for bus and \$2 to cover the tip for the driver). If you are making out a check, please make it payable to Holy Family and have Chrism Mass Bus on memo.

Departure from HFP parking lot will be promptly **at 9:45am, please arrive by 9:30am**. Fr. Scott would like to stop for lunch on the way back somewhere along Route 1 and be back in Amesbury between **3:00-3:30pm**.

To reserve a seat on the bus, contact Suzanne Greaney, Administrative Assistant at 978-388-0330 / 978-465-3334.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday, April 18

7:00pm, IC

Good Friday, April 19

The Passion of the Lord

3:00pm, IC

3:00pm, St. Ann

Stations of the Cross

7:00pm, Nativity

Easter Vigil, April 20

We will gather at 7:45pm, IC

Easter Sunday, April 21

7:30 am, IC

8:00 am, Nativity

8:45 am, St. Ann

9:30 am, IC

Continued next column

9:30 am, IC School Gym

9:30 am, Nativity

10:15 am, St. Ann

11:30 am, IC



Helping Our Homeless

In an effort to ease the suffering of our homeless and as a Collaborative-wide Lenten observance, we 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, and Community Service, as well as distributed by our youth attending the annual 30-hour famine. 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

Toothbrush

Toothpaste

Deodorant

Razor

Socks

Gloves

Shaving Cream

Cough drops

Protein bars

Soap

Life Savers candy

Disposable face

cloths

Kleenex packs

Hand sanitizer

Feminine hygiene products (Women)

Umbrellas

Antiseptic Wipes

No mouthwash or loose items please

Centering Prayer for Lent

Our Lenten reflection on Jesus' words and works reveals Jesus' intimate relationship with his Father. This developed through prayer. 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.

We, 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. Consider joining us for Centering Prayer on Wednesdays from 6–7pm in IC Conference Room 209 for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer and 30 minutes of Lectio Divina. Contact Elizabeth McCarthy (978-462-7483) to learn more.

Join the *Discovering Christ* Series

All are invited to join fellow seekers and disciples on an eight-week journey to explore, nourish, or deepen your relationship with the Lord in the supportive environment of others on this journey to *Discovering Christ*. Enjoy a free and delicious meal prepared by caring parishioners; listen to a dynamic video teaching; and participate in a small group discussion about the meaning of our life in Christ. The program will run every Sunday evening 5:30–8:00 p.m. at Nativity Hall in Merrimac from April 28–June 16. There is no cost, but only 60 seats are available so register as soon as possible as **the last day to register is April 15**, a day on which you can render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. **Register online at hriccatholic.org.**

Confessions during Lent

Additional times for confessions during Lent will be as follows:

April 10: 6:30–8:00pm at Nativity, Merrimac

April 17: 6:30–8:00pm at IC, Newburyport



Questions of the Week

Adult: Who among your family and friends do you need to ask forgiveness from?

Child: Name one thing that you can do or stop doing that will make you better friends with Jesus.

Cursillo and Ultreya

The Cursillo weekend is an invitation to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level. Many HRIC brothers and sisters have experienced this "short course in Christianity" at St. Basil's, Methuen, and we invite you. The next Cursillo is May 2 (women). Each month we gather for an "Ultreya" (onward!) at 7pm in St. James Chapel to continue the Cursillo spirit. The next Ultreya is April 26. For more info., contact Jonathan Temple 978-809-9337 or Pat Forbes 617-899-0424.

Lenten Guidelines

All **Fridays** during Lent are days of abstinence. **Good Friday** is a day of fasting and abstinence.

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should take these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Parish Mission Thank You



A big **thank you!** to all who helped, contributed baked goods, money, and set-up/clean-up help for Fr. Michael Alello's sendoff collation on Wednesday night of the Collaborative Mission. So many came through so generously.

What a wonderful turnout for all three nights of the Mission!

Ecumenical Taizé

To prayerfully enter Holy Week, Groveland Congregational Church cordially invites the community to a candlelight meditation service modeled on the services held at the Taizé community in France. This service will take place on Sunday, April 14 at 7:30pm at the church which is located at 4 King St., corner of King St. and Main St. in Groveland. Our theme will be Jesus' passion, with a special emphasis on forgiveness.

This ecumenical service is open to all in the community. What a fitting way to enter the holiest week of the year. Give yourself the gift of quiet and prayer; you'll be glad you did! The service lasts approximately 30 minutes. For further information, contact Groveland Congregational Church at 978-372-3463 or visit www.grovelanducc.org.

Greeters for Easter Masses

We plan to have greeters at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday to welcome everyone as they arrive for Mass. We would love to have you greet with us. If you would like to be an Easter greeter or have any questions, please contact Mary Fitzsimmons, Welcoming Priority, at 978-465-2904. Easter Mass times are:

Easter Vigil Mass, April 20

7:45 pm, gather at IC

Easter Sunday, April 21

7:30 am, IC	9:30 am, IC School Gym
8:00 am, Nativity	9:30 am, Nativity
8:45 am, St. Ann	10:15 am, St. Ann
9:30 am, IC	11:30 am, IC

Calling All Cooks

The ChristLife Hospitality Team is setting up a team of volunteers to provide meals for the weekly meetings of **Discovering Christ** on Sunday afternoons from April 28–June 16. We will provide volunteer cooks with: one 9x13 foil casserole pan, one easy to follow recipe card, and a reminder phone call or email. We're asking our volunteer cooks to provide: the time required to prepare one casserole dish, the cost of the ingredients, and delivery of the hot meal to church at 4:30 p.m. on their designated Sunday(s). There's no need to volunteer every week. One week will be deeply appreciated as will any more our volunteers choose to cook. Would you be able to help us?

Sign up at the ChristLife volunteer link on hriccatholic.org or contact: Mary Bragg: 978-465-8779.

Sign up for FORMED

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HRICatholic

Mass Scripture Readings: April 7–April 14, 2019

Please refer to the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures.

Go to <http://www.hriccatholic.org/blog/lectio-divina> or to www.HRICcatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sun., April 7: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11
- Mon., April 8: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Psalm 23; John: 8:12-20
- Tues., April 9: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102; John 8:21-30
- Wed., April 10: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52-56; John 8:31-42
- Thurs., April 11: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105; John 8:51-59
- Fri., April 12: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18; John 10:31-42
- Sat., April 13: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10-13; John 11:45-56
- Sun., April 14: Luke 19:28-40 (Palms); Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Philippians 2:6-11, Luke 22:14–23:56 (Passion)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



Immaculate Conception School

Teaching children to be
good role models
is a **top priority**



Kindness, caring and respectful behavior are reflected in every aspect of the learning environment at the IC... and that's what makes us such a special school!

See if Immaculate Conception School is the right choice for your family, visit us!

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, April 25 • Thursday, May 9
Wednesday, May 22

9 - 11 AM

Call Kelley Pappalardo (978) 465-7780
for a private tour

One Washington Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 • icsnewburyport.com

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, March 30-31 \$ 12,315.00
IC Grand Annual \$77,180.00

The second collection next weekend is Restoration/Renovation.

Due to a printing error, we are scheduling the Pastor's Charity Account Collection for May 19, 2109. Please save your envelopes until this date.

Catholic Appeal

Goal \$55,614.00
To Date \$24,010.00
43% of goal



\$55,614
\$40,000
\$25,000
\$10,000

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection \$ 16.00
Poor Box \$323.00
Total \$339.00

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 basket with the names of those you wish to be remembered or make a donation for the flowers. We have provided envelopes for you at the entrances to the Church. Please make sure your gift is received by noon on **Monday, April 8** so that the names can be included in our Easter bulletin.

VOTF Lecture Announced

"The Sacraments, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, Signs of Hope and Dismay"

Speaker: Fr. John Baldovin, SJ, Professor of Historical and Liturgical Theology at Boston College

When: Sunday, April 7, 2019 from 2-4 p.m.

Where: Our Lady of Hope, Ipswich, MA

What: Lecture sponsored by Voice of the Faithful (VOTF), Northshore and Seacoast Affiliate. Everyone is invited. Free will offering appreciated. Refreshments served. For further info. call John and Barbara Gould: 978-535-2321.

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

IC Religious Education

Religious Ed. Office: 978-462-2724

School Year Programs

The school year program for Grades K-8 concludes this Sunday. We want to thank everyone who volunteered their time to share their faith with the children of this Parish.

Registration forms for the school year beginning September, 2019 will be available in June. Watch the bulletin for updates.

Grades 1–8 Summer Program

At this time, we anticipate offering a week of Religious Education for those students **entering** Grades 1–8 in September of 2019 **dependent on the availability of volunteers to teach and assist.**

There will only be (1) session this summer on the week of **June 24–28** for this age group.

Registration forms are available. If you have not yet received one or you are able to volunteer, please contact the Religious Ed. office.

Summer Volunteers

We are once again asking for assistance in making our Summer Program a reality. Registration forms are being submitted, but there is still a huge need for catechists/assistants. Many families depend on this week of Faith Formation as classes during the school year are not feasible for them.

Please consider offering your time the week of June 24.

For more information as to what this would entail please contact the Religious Ed. office.

Reconciliation / First Eucharist

Rehearsals for First Eucharist will begin the last week of April. If you are not sure of your rehearsal time, please check with the Religious Ed Office.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please keep in mind that there are no Baptism classes scheduled until after the celebration of Easter which is April 21 this year. Please call the Parish office for information regarding the next **Baptism class** scheduled for **Sunday, May 5** with the sacrament scheduled to be celebrated on May 12.

Confirmation

For those students who anticipate receiving the sacrament this fall, please note that Confirmation will take place on **Sunday, September 22** here at IC. Any questions please contact the Religious Education office.

Confirmation Summer Program

A summer session will be held the week of July 15 for those students **entering** Grade 9 in September.

For those students **entering** Grade 10 in September, classes will be held the week of July 22.

These classes will be held in the evenings from 5:30–8pm. Registration forms are available. If you have not yet received one, please contact the Religious Ed. office.

Immaculate Conception School



Two 6th grade students recently competed in a Rubik's Cube sponsored challenge at Salisbury Elementary School, coming away with the Bronze! Maddie and "JT," pictured, initially shared their love of Rubik's Cubes during the Talent Show, which is an annual IC event held during Catholic Schools Week. Their skill in solving the 3-D puzzles lead to an invitation to compete in the "You CAN solve the Rubik's Cube" competition. Students in all grades are sharpening their puzzle solving skills and are enjoying their common interest of Rubik's Cubes.



Mary A. Kelly Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Mary A. Kelly Scholarship Fund. Email your request for an application to maryak scholarship@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 Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

Oops! Coffee Sale Encore

We thought we had sold out of the 240 pounds of San Marcos Honduran coffee we had ordered for last week's sale, but discovered another 35 forgotten pounds (mostly ground). Please consider buying a pound or two after IC Masses this weekend (April 6–7). Thank you for your enthusiastic support of The Coffee Project.

Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, April 9** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205. We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at membership@kofc231.org, (978) 572-0231. Local Knights are encouraged to ensure email addresses are on file so volunteer opportunities can be communicated. Please contact us at membership@kofc231.org.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Offertory, March 30–31 \$ 3,530.00
 HR Grand Annual \$20,335.00

Catholic Appeal

Goal \$22,183.00.00
 To Date \$16,190.00
 83% of goal



\$22,183
 \$15,000
 \$10,000
 \$ 5,000

Lenten Food Drive

We will be having a food drive during Lent to benefit the senior centers. We will collect donations until Palm Sunday. We will be collecting nonperishable dry goods, canned goods (Please check expiration dates.), and gift certificates to local markets. Donations may be left in the backs 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, May 2**.

Coffee After Mass

You are invited to join us for our next **coffee hour** after the 8:00 Mass in the Nativity Church Hall on **April 14**.



*Our March 31
 Coffee Hour.*

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 basket 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, April 8** so that the names can be included in our Easter bulletin.

HR Religious Education

Sun., 4/7 **Grade 9 class** at Nativity Hall, 6–7:30 p.m. with our speaker, Linda Thayer. Parent(s) are asked to attend with the student.

Tues., 4/2 **Grades 7 & 8 classes** at Nativity Hall, 6–7:30 p.m., (Last classes! Please bring snacks to share for our party.)

Grade 10 Sandwich Making: Sandwich Making at 6:00 p.m. at St. Ann, WN, on **Thursday, April 25**. Sandwich Making for GAR Park, Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, all students should have received an email with the details. Contact Mrs. O'Leary with any questions.

Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross every Friday at Church of the Nativity, preceded by a simple supper at 6:30 PM. Stations begin at 7 PM. 4/5 and 4/12 are the remaining dates for Stations.

HR Sandwich Program

The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 200 sandwiches are needed each day to feed the hungry.



We are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag. Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, April 10**.

See the Collaborative calendar at www.hricatholic.org for the schedule. Contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

Easter Decorating

Nativity church decorating for Easter will be done on Saturday, April 20th at 10:00am. Everyone is invited to come lend a hand in preparing our church for Easter Sunday. Any questions, call Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

During Lent, we pray, fast, and give alms. Please consider using our SVdP mite boxes for your Lenten donations. All of the money received goes to help our Merrimac and West Newbury neighbors. There are mite boxes for the taking at the backs of both churches. Thank you for your consideration.