

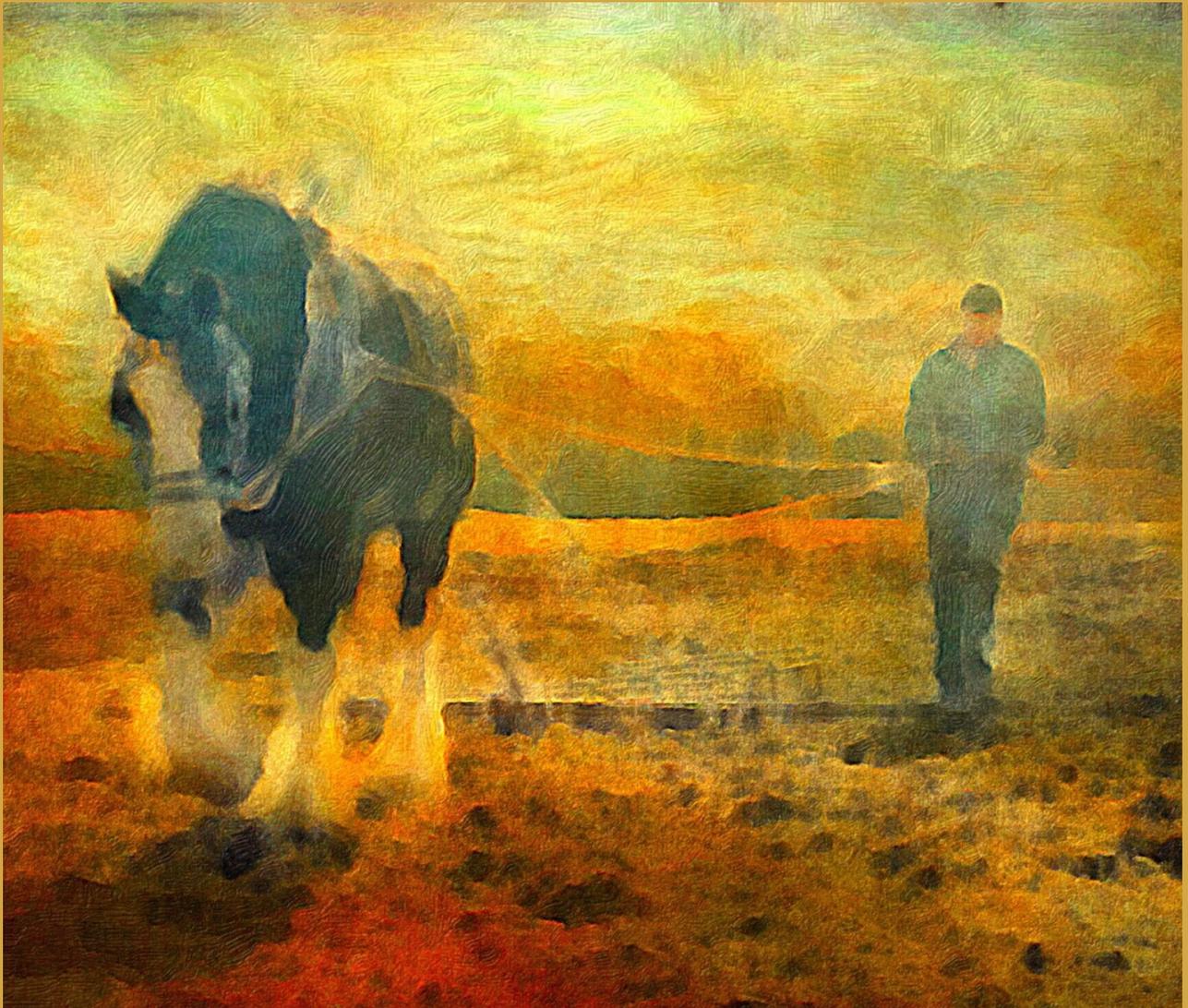
**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

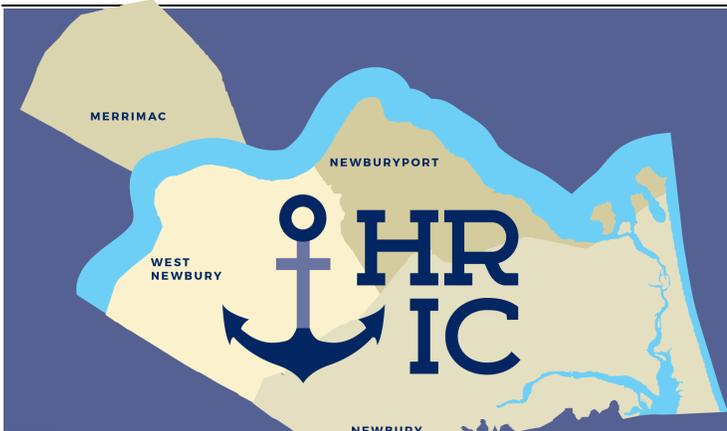
June 30, 2019

hricatholic.org



Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." (Lk 9:62)

All Are Welcome



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

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

St. Ann

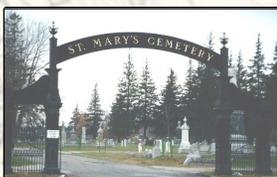
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Nativity

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

Immaculate Conception

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



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

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



Collaborative Staff

Pastor

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

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gemorin1945@gmail.com

Weekend Assistant

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Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

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Tim Richard, IC organist
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St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at
Holy Redeemer
978-346-8604 x 8
hsvdp300@gmail.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Immaculate Conception
978-518-0728

St Mary's Cemetery

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

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

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

Website: www.hriccatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (6/29)

4:00pm **IC Lucia Vincent, Helen Mantarian**
(Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

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

Sunday (6/30)

7:15am **IC Lillian M. Foley, Adolf Benca**
(Fr. Harrison)

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

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

10:15am **St. Ann Thomas H. Pendergast, Jr. & Family** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

11:00am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

Monday (7/1)

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

Tuesday (7/2)

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

Wednesday (7/3)

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

Thursday (7/4)

7:15am **IC Tom & Peg Pendergast & Family**
(Fr. Morin)

Friday (7/5)

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

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

Saturday (7/6)

4:00pm **IC Sandy Lambert, Douglas Mulica**
(Fr. Morin)

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

Sunday (7/7)

7:15am **IC Regina M. Stronge, Sandy Lambert,**
For the intentions of Rozalia Benca (Fr. Morin)

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

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

10:15am **St. Ann In memory of Michaelina & James DiResta** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

11:00am **IC Sandy Lambert** (Fr. McLaughlin)

In your prayers, please remember Roger I. Kelley and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, July 1

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

Discipleship Priority Meeting 6:30pm, *IC Charity Dining Room*

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

Tuesday, July 2

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

Wednesday, July 3

Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, *IC Conference Room 209*

Holy Quilters 1:00pm, *Nativity Hall*

Adoration 6:00pm, *IC St. James Chapel*

Centering Prayer 6:00pm, *IC Conference Room 209*

Thursday, July 4, Independence Day

Collaborative Offices Closed

Friday, July 5

Collaborative Offices Closed

Ask A Priest 6:00pm, *Inn St., Newburyport*

Saturday, July 6

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, *Nativity Church*

Sunday, July 7

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, *Nativity Church*

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, *St. Ann Church*

Mass Scripture Readings: June 30–July 7, 2019

All of us are encouraged to start or end our day praying with the Scriptures. The Word of God can speak to our hearts as well as strengthen and support us to live by Jesus' great commandment to love one another as he has loved us. 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, June 30: 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-18; Luke 9:51-62
- Monday, July 1: Genesis 18:16-33; Psalm 103; Matthew 8:18-22
- Tuesday, July 2: Genesis 19:15-29; Psalm 26; Matthew 8:23-27
- Wednesday, July 3: Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 117; John 20:24-29
- Thursday, July 4: Genesis 22:1b-19; Psalm 115; Matthew 9:1-8
- Friday, July 5: Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Psalm 106; Matthew 9:9-13
- Saturday, July 6: Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29; Psalm 135; Matthew 9:14-17
- Sunday, July 7: Isaiah 66:10-14c; Psalm 66; Galatians 6:14-18; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Save the Date

Strawberry/Blueberry Dessert Festival
Sunday, July 28 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

(or until we run out of berries)



Join us on the front lawn of Immaculate Conception at the corner of High and Green Streets, across from the Bartlett Mall.

Park in the IC Church lot and come enjoy some sweet homemade desserts.

(Proceeds to benefit all HRIC ministries.)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



In the past 50 years or so, we have seen collectively many dramatic changes in our society and in the Church as well. Technologically speaking, the internet and the connectivity of things has offered an explosion of new ways to communicate and live. Self-driving cars already prowl our streets. Amazon is promising to deliver our packages by drone. Your toaster can now talk to the refrigerator! “Alexa, time to order more bread!” Who knew progress would be so profound! Of course, not all changes are helpful or produce the results we hope for. While our internet-connected devices offer many forms of assistance to our daily lives, they also can have the effect of dis-connecting us from one another.

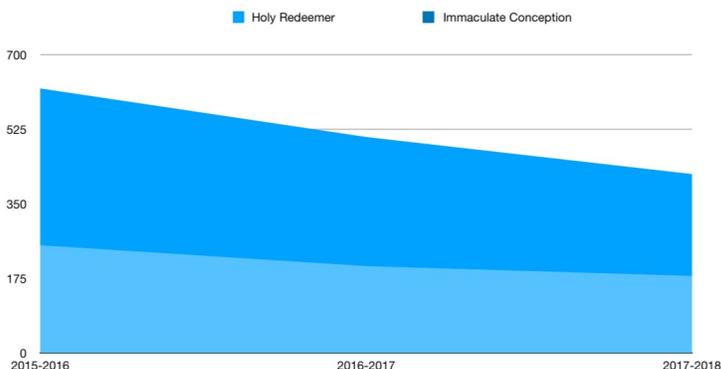
Within the life of the Church, over these years we have seen the liturgy transformed from Latin into English, many new and exciting forms of lay ministry taking hold in our parishes and an ever-greater prevalence of the importance of Sacred Scripture brought to bear in living our faith commitment. We have also seen a dramatic decrease in Mass attendance and sacramental participation, along with a significant reduction in those responding to religious vocations. There are many contributing ingredients that have come together to produce these effects, and no single reason will explain it completely.

For more than a generation, there has existed a phenomenon where parents drop their children off at the parish for “CCD classes” but never make the time as a family to worship together at Sunday Mass. Many multiple incentives over the years for families to try and include worship with religious instruction have failed. Now this generation that was dropped-off is considering what their options are for their children’s religious education... and many are opting out of even this minimalist approach. In the increasingly secular world in which we live, more and more families are choosing sports and other activities over Mass and a commitment to traditional parish religious education programs. If this trend continues, there will be no one left in the next generation to hand on our most sacred and important traditions. It is no secret that when many of our young people finish with their formal religious education classes and celebrate Confirmation, we practically never see them again. This is the exact opposite of what we intend as the fruit of any religious education or faith formation experience!

(Continued second column)

The parishes of our Collaborative are no exception to this wider trend that is affecting dioceses all over our country. Below is a graph of recent enrollment figures for the religious education programs of both of our parishes:

Religious Education Enrollment within Our Collaborative



As you can see, this graph shows an almost 30% decline in enrollment between both parishes from 2015 to 2018. While changing local demographics can account for a small portion of this, actual census information lists an increase in the population of our Collaborative communities. It is clear that we need to consider a new approach moving forward. A famous quote that has often been repeated is that “insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result.”

While I believe that we have been offering excellent programming in both of our parishes for many years and have certainly benefited from good and faithful leadership, I also believe that it is time for us to embrace new models of forming people in our faith—the old and young alike—so that they might become lifelong, committed disciples of the Lord. In concert with our Local Pastoral Plan that has called for new initiatives in Faith Formation for our parishes and in response to these wider trends in our area, I have decided to make some changes in how both of our parishes approach religious education and faith formation. This summer we will be reorganizing the religious education programs in both of our Collaborative parishes. This is being done to utilize our limited resources in the most effective way possible while at the same time seeking new models to reach out and serve the people and families of our local communities.

To this end, three existing positions are ending:

Director of Religious Education, Immaculate Conception Parish

Religious Education Secretary, Immaculate Conception Parish

Director of Religious Education, Holy Redeemer Parish

And two new positions are being created:

Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

Administrative Assistant to Lifelong Faith Formation

(Continued on page 5)

Bulletin Information

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 4)

These new positions will be for the whole Collaborative and will be responsible for adult, youth, and children's Faith Formation initiatives within both parishes and on all three campuses.

This spring, in consultation with the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation and Parish Support from the Archdiocese of Boston, new job descriptions were drafted and a hiring process was followed for these openings that included the participation of a local Interview Team made up of parishioners from both parish communities. Working with the Archdiocese, Ms. Melinda Burrell was hired to be the new Administrative Assistant and Mr. Aaron Giard has been hired to be the new Director of Lifelong Faith Formation for our Collaborative. I am very grateful for the support from the Archdiocese in helping to make this possible and took great confidence in the work of the Interview Team that led to Aaron's hiring. The Interview Team members were drawn from people who have already been deeply involved in various aspects of faith formation within our Collaborative. It is my hope that many of them will continue on as an advisory and resource group in the months ahead.

I am very pleased to welcome Aaron and Melinda to these new positions and look forward to working with them and introducing (or re-introducing!) them at weekend Masses in the weeks to come. I am also very grateful for the many years of faithful service and hard work that Dr. Margaret McKinnon and Mrs. Doreen O'Leary have offered in service to our parishes and the wider Church. I am very grateful as well to Melinda Burrell who helped to continue Immaculate Conception's program this past year when Dr. McKinnon left the Collaborative this past September to pursue a position in another parish. In the weeks to come, there will be an opportunity to offer any personal notes of gratitude to Doreen O'Leary you may wish to share with her. Please consult the bulletin next week for more information.

Finally, I would ask each of you to pray for the success of our new Collaborative programs and help us together as a community discover the best way to hand on the gift of faith that we have been given to the next generation as we move deeper into the 21st century. We can all take encouragement from the example of St. Paul who used every technological and cultural advantage of his time: Roman roads, Greek "arenas" of public debate and the mail system, to reach people and further the Gospel message. He wasn't afraid to try new things and use any advantage (his own Roman citizenship, for instance) to spread the Good News and promote the Kingdom of God. While I am not sure that St. Paul would be all that amused with his appliances conversing with one another through the "internet of things," I am quite certain his Twitter account would be epic!

May the Lord work powerfully through our collective effort to spread the Gospel in our time and place! May God bring to fulfillment the good work that He has begun in our midst.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Say No to Roe

Many people may not be informed of this latest bill being proposed by Massachusetts lawmakers. This bill, The Roe Act S1902/H 3320 is due to be voted upon soon. "The Roe Act" overhauls the abortion code contained in Massachusetts General Law thus creating a right to unrestricted abortion. (Dr. David Franks of masscitizensforlife.org)

What does this mean? Why should we be concerned?

- Eliminates parental consent requirements for minor girls seeking an abortion
- Expands taxpayer funding of abortion
- Refuses legal protection to infants who survive an abortion thereby allowing for passive infanticide
- Eliminates the requirements that abortions after the first trimester be performed in the hospital
- Allows for late-term and full-term abortions (from masscitizensforlife.org)

What can you do?

- Visit masscitizensforlife.org.
- Contact your State lawmakers and let them know what you think about this bill.
- Pray a rosary for our legislators.
- Tell others.

Lent in the Holy Land

We are in the early stages of organizing a return Pilgrimage to the Holy Land on February 28–March 9, 2021 for Lent. Often known as "The Fifth Gospel," the Holy Land is truly a place where we experience the love of God in Jesus Christ. Come walk where He walked. Come pray where He prayed. Come see what He saw. It is a life-changing experience like no other! For more information please contact Paul Blanchette at 978-500-5661 or visit <http://www.pilgrimages.com/fathertim-hric/holyland/>.

Below: Our Pilgrimage Group from 2015 on the Via Dolorosa



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Holiday Office Hours

Collaborative offices will be closed Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 for the Independence Day holiday. Offices will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, July 8.

Olde-Fashioned Sunday Church Tour

Save the Date: Sunday, July 28

Join the Adult Faith Formation Team for a special, kid-friendly "Open House" inside IC Church.

- Want to learn about IC's Gothic architecture? We have a tour for you!
- Want to learn about IC's history as Newburyport's Mother Church? We have a tour for you!
- Want to learn about Catholic traditions & Sacraments? We have a tour for you!
- Want to learn obscure facts? We have a scavenger hunt for you! (Teaser: find fossils in the sanctuary marble; guess how many stops the Tracker organ has; locate the stoup, the Paraclete, the thurible, the cloud of witnesses, the ambry, the sacristy and more—includes an answer key.)
- Prefer a self-directed tour at your own pace? We also have that option for you.

Everything is **free**: handouts, tour guides, and amazement at what the Catholic Church contains historically and sacramentally. It's our heritage. Get personally acquainted with it. No sign-up necessary.

Date: Sunday, July 28

Time: 12:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. (specific tours will be posted on a sidewalk billboard)

If you'd like to serve as a presenter or greeter to hand out tour flyers to guests, please contact Mary at 978-462-6191.

Hosted by the Adult Formation Team

Houseboat Vacation Raffle

The Welcoming and Service Priorities' Summer Raffle

Win a 3-night stay on Newburyport's Houseboats

August 19, August 20, and August 21

Check out the beautiful accommodations at:

www.houseboatsatnewburyport.com



Maximum of 4 overnight guests; maximum of 8 on the boat at any time; one guest must be over 25 years of age. **Tickets are \$10.00 ea. or 5/\$40.00**

Winning ticket will be selected at IC during the **Strawberry/Blueberry Festival on July 28** at 4:00 p.m.

You do not have to be present to win. Tickets will be sold after all weekend Masses in July.

To purchase tickets sooner call Kathie: 978-992-6450 or Sheila at the Collaborative offices: 978-462-2724.

"Ask A Priest"

Makes a Pop-Up Comeback

It's our 3rd year to invite you to this impromptu 9-evening event that's based on street evangelization protocol: friendliness, prayerfulness, simple social engagement with passers-by.

If you love Jesus or have a passion to (somehow) inspire others to love Him, take the plunge and let the Holy Spirit direct you how to use your open heart and goodwill to impact neighbors, visitors, and fellow parishioners.

Dates: Friday nights from July 5 through August 30

Place: Meet at St. James Chapel (IC Parish Center) for training intro., prayer, and commissioning

Times: 6:00 p.m.—sunset

A priest always leads and we serve in a supportive role as goodwill ambassadors for the city and, more importantly, as Ambassadors for Christ! Bring your pet, your musical instrument, your smile, a friend! We'll walk as a Team to Inn Street and carry Pope Francis with us (check out his new look for 2019!)

Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team

The Adult Faith Formation Team Wants You

Join in the fun of an Adult Faith Formation Team event.

We have 2 "one & done" volunteer opportunities related to the IC Church Tour on Sunday, July 28.

1) Computer Layout Designer: convert 3 texts into a tri-fold, double-sided, single-sheet handout.

2) Greeter: hand out brochures, for one hour, to guests seeking a self-guided tour or any of 3 guided tours. Four shifts available.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Mary at 978-462-6191 (leave your phone number/name/message).

Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes



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HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Offertory, June 22–23 \$ 2,814.00

Promoting the Gospel \$ 694.00

HR Grand Annual \$21,151.00

Thank you to all who contributed to our Grand Annual this fiscal year.

Catholic Appeal

Goal \$22,183.00

To Date \$22,051.00

99% of goal

We can do it!



HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



There is a wonderful way to honor someone who has requested “No gifts, please.” You can send a check to Holy Redeemer Saint Vincent de Paul at 4 Green Street in Merrimac. Your donation will honor someone’s celebration and will also help those in need. A note will be sent to let that someone know about the donor’s meaningful gift. Donations can be made to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other significant occasions.

If you are writing a check for us, please write the check to HR Saint Vincent de Paul to help expedite our banking.

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? Call Helen Kelley 978-771-4673 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099 for a shawl or more information.

Prayer Shawl is on vacation for the month of July. Our next meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday of August, August 1, at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. See you there.

HR Altar Server Training

Additional Altar Servers are needed for the Nativity and St. Ann Masses. Altar Server training for grades 4 and up will be provided by Ryan Hankins, current Altar Server, and recent St. John’s Prep graduate. Ryan will train and serve alongside new Altar Servers throughout the summer until he leaves for college in late August.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Elaine Hankins.



Faith Formation

School Year Programs

Registration forms for the upcoming school year beginning September, 2019 are now available for both Immaculate Conception and Holy Redeemer Parishes.

Please complete a registration form indicating your interest in participating in a school-year program. Forms can be downloaded from our website (hriccatholic.org) or by contacting the Lifelong Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x7420).

Please watch the bulletin for information regarding program times and dates.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for information regarding the next **Baptism class** which is scheduled for **Sunday, July 14** at 1:00 p.m. in the Charity Dining Room located in the IC Pastoral Center.

Confirmation

For those students who anticipate receiving the sacrament this fall, please note that this will take place on **Saturday, October 26** for the Holy Redeemer Parish at the Church of the Nativity.

Please watch the bulletin for further information regarding the Confirmation retreat and rehearsal.

HR Sandwich Program

June, July, and August Requests



The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers salad and sandwiches to the Good Shepherd Center (Lazarus House Ministry) on the **second** and **fourth** Wednesdays of the month.

For the **summer months** they would like some **peanut butter & jelly sandwiches**. We also bring large containers of **coffee** (about 30oz.) and **minced garlic** (32oz.). Packaged **snacks** are also helpful. Items should be dropped in the kitchen of St. Ann Church (door on the large parking lot side) between 7:00–9:00 a.m. on Wednesday. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, July 10**.

If you have any questions please call Dottie Carr (978-363-2909) or Marie Pierce (978-518-0898—call or text)

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www.ewtnnews.com/

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, June 22–23 **\$9,019.00**
Promoting the Gospel **\$1,258.00**

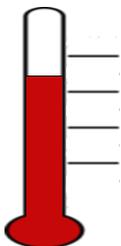
The second collection this weekend is for Restoration/Renovation.

IC Grand Annual **\$78,785.00**

Thank you to all who contributed to our Grand Annual this fiscal year.

Catholic Appeal

Goal **\$55,614.00**
To Date **\$47,783.00**
86% of goal
We are getting close!



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

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection \$ 15.00
Poor Box \$362.00
Total \$377.00

The Pelican Intervention Fund



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

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

Our Neighbors' Table

Our Neighbors' Table would like to announce that we've opened a new market in Newburyport—so come and shop with us for free.

The ONT Newburyport Market is open Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. We are located at Community Service of Newburyport, 35 Summer Street, in the lower level of St. Paul's Church. For your convenience we have several saved on-street parking spots in front of the market.

Each ONT location offers a beautiful, modern market where fresh, healthy food is made available to anyone in need—at no charge! There are no income requirements, just bring an ID with you.

We look forward to showing you around our Newburyport Market. If you have any further questions call Our Neighbors' Table at 978-388-1907.

Immaculate Conception School

Immaculate Conception School is an affordable, private Catholic elementary school (pre-K – eighth grade), providing high-quality, faith-based education, to help prepare young people for life—spiritually, academically, and socially.



See if Immaculate Conception school is the right choice for your family. Call Kelley Pappalardo at 978-465-7780 for more information or to schedule a visit.



First Grade Mass, June 2019

Collaborative Website

Visit our Collaborative Website, www.hricatholic.org for up-to-date information on groups, meetings, religious ed., Mass times, registration forms, and current events. Link to our calendar and Facebook pages, view our current and archived bulletins, find other Catholic websites, or check out the photos section. We have so much happening in our Collaborative.

Adoration & Rosary

Please join us for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration in IC's St. James Chapel in the Parish Center on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Fridays at 8:00 a.m. Join us for recitation of the Rosary on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

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.) Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office. Once you register, visit our website, hricatholic.org and click the "Links" tab, 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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Faith Formation

School Year Programs

Registration forms for the upcoming school year beginning September, 2019 are now available for both Immaculate Conception and Holy Redeemer Parishes.

Please complete a registration form indicating your interest in participating in a school-year program. Forms can be downloaded from our website hriccatholic.org or by contacting the Lifelong Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x7420). Please watch the bulletin for information regarding program times and dates.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for information regarding the next **Baptism class** which is scheduled for **Sunday, July 14** with the sacrament scheduled to be celebrated on July 21.

Confirmation

For those students who anticipate receiving the sacrament this fall, please note that this will take place on **Sunday, September 22** here at Immaculate Conception Parish.

Information regarding the retreat and rehearsal times will be made available shortly.

Summer Confirmation Program

Space is limited for the summer sessions of Confirmation. If you are thinking of registering your student please do so soon.

Classes 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 at IC from 5:30–8:00pm.

Questions of the Week

Adult: What does it cost you to be a follower of Jesus Christ?

Child: How can others tell that you know and love Jesus?



IC Church Hours

During the summer, Immaculate Conception Church will remain open until 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Knights of Columbus

Local Knights are encouraged to ensure email addresses are on file so that volunteer opportunities can be communicated. Please contact us to update your information at membership@kofc231.org.

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, July 9** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

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.

Consolers Circle Meal

The IC community offers a light meal to families who have lost a loved one. The meal, provided by volunteers, is held in St. Louis Hall following the funeral Mass. Our hall holds up to 75 people, and there is no charge for this service. Donations are accepted. Inform the funeral director that you request this service when making arrangements.

Centering Prayer

If you are searching for the peace the world cannot give please consider joining us at Centering Prayer. Silently resting in God we assent to the Holy Spirit's presence and action in our lives. This act of faith and surrender opens our hearts and minds to God. As we continue to pray, the Holy Spirit moves in the activities and interactions of our daily lives and within us and over time we are transformed.

Centering prayer is a practice and a discipline. Daily periods of silent prayer shift focus from self to God. As God becomes the center of our being the vicissitudes and storms of life affect us less. Living out of God as our Center we experience the peace the world cannot give.

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

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

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.