

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024



*"This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come,
of the covenant between me and you
and every living creature with you:
I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign
of the covenant between me and the earth."*

(Gn 9:12-13)

All Are Welcome

hricatholic.org



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: info@hriccatholic.org

Nativity

Parish offices and church:
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: info@hriccatholic.org

Immaculate Conception

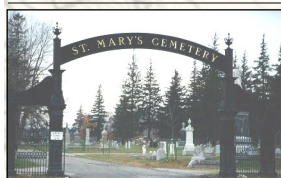
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: info@hriccatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

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



Collaborative Staff

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Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow

978-887-5350

Deacon John Moranski

978-432-1443

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Holy Redeemer

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St. Vincent de Paul Society at
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978-697-1082

Kathy Peavey, HR Vocalist

978-360-8756

Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director
978-317-8903

Tim Richard, IC organist

Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator

978-270-4924

Confessions

Saturdays 3:00-3:30 p.m., IC Church
Or by appointment. (Call Collaborative
offices to schedule.)



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (2/17)

4:00pm **IC** Alex Hasapis, Patricia Connolly, Ted LoPreste (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (2/18)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

9:00am **IC** Julia O'Connor (Fr. Harrison)

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

11:30am **IC** Ralph Filomia, Matthew Meech (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (2/19)

9:00am **IC** Debra McCann Moury (Fr. McLaughlin)

Tuesday (2/20)

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

Wednesday (2/21)

9:00am **IC** Helen Wilson, Martha Collins (Fr. Morin)

Thursday (2/22)

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

Friday (2/23)

9:00am **IC** For the needs of families (Fr. Harrison)

Saturday (2/24)

4:00pm **IC** Aurelia Quinn, Joseph Keefe, Laurie Ann Freeman, Gertrude O'Brien (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (2/25)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** Martha Collins (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

11:30am **IC** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

In your prayers please remember Kathleen M McLaughlin, Brian Buia, William LaSala, and all of the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Vigil Mass is live-streamed online through our website: hricatholic.org.

Forward in Faith



Once a year, Catholics throughout the Archdiocese are asked to partner with one another to support their parish and the many outreach ministries by contributing to the Catholic Appeal. Many of you have received a letter from Cardinal Seán requesting your participation and early support of the 2024 Appeal. We hope that you will respond to his invitation with a generous gift, knowing that each contribution has a significant impact on the lives of thousands across the Archdiocese. You can make a gift by returning your pledge card or by making an online donation at www.bostoncatholicappeal.org. For those who have already made a gift, thank you for your early support! The Appeal is a primary means by which we care for our brothers and sisters and move forward in our faith together.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



While away this past week, I took a few days before my scheduled retreat in Florida to visit with my dad. It afforded us a wonderful opportunity to get out on the golf course together, something we don't often have the chance to do. It was a spectacular day, dry, sunny with temperatures in the low 60's—perfect golfing weather. The course we chose to play was meticulously maintained, the greens shorn to perfection and beautiful landscaping and flowers everywhere. It really was like a little slice of heaven on earth! In addition to its beauty, one of the things that set this particular course aside was that it offered a 19th hole plus the usual 18. Now, I am not referring to the proverbial "19th Hole" that many golfers head to in the clubhouse after a round, but this course had a special hole called, "Lucky 13" which was snuggled right in between numbers 6 and 7. It didn't count on your score card, but presented a unique challenge of having the green and hole located on an island. The idea was that you teed-off from the land, and hopefully reached the island where you could 2-putt it in for a par of 3. Both my dad and I lost balls on this hole, though we were rewarded with the most magnificent of sights to soothe our wounded egos: in the water hazard that surrounded the island, was an amazing fountain that combined with the perfect angle of the sun to produce a brilliant rainbow! It was truly stunning! Bright blue sky, bright crisp greens and this most amazing rainbow that just hung over the whole course, or at least over "Lucky 13." For a moment, all was right with the world!



Now, from my high school physics lessons, I know how rainbows are made—the full-spectrum light of the sun is refracted as through a prism into its composite colors by the many tiny droplets of water that are suspended in the air when the light impacts them at the correct angle to the observer.... I know, it sounds so dry and mechanical. But the effect—wow! Rainbows never cease to get our attention and capture our hearts and imagination. Whether they are viewed out to sea, over a golf course or amidst the parting clouds of a passing thunderstorm, rainbows present an eternal beauty that stirs the soul.

Maybe this is why God chose the rainbow in our first reading this weekend to be a regular reminder of His great love for us and a sign of His promise to deliver us from the threat of

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our online calendar for more listings. Link on our website: hricCatholic.org

Monday, February 19, President's Day

Collaborative offices closed

Tuesday, February 20

Women's AA Mtg. 7:00am, St. Ann Hall

Breaking Bread Meal 4:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm, IC Church

Medjugorje Gathering 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Wednesday, February 21

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:15pm, IC Church

IC 175th Anniversary Committee Mtg. 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Thursday, February 22

Metanoia Video Series 9:45am, IC Charity Dining Room

Altar Server Training, Session 2 4:30pm, IC Church

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, February 23

St. Ann Stations of the Cross 9:00am, St. Ann Church

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

Nativity Simple Supper 5:00pm, Nativity Hall

IC Stations of the Cross 5:15pm, IC Church

IC Simple Supper 5:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Nativity Stations of the Cross 6:00pm, Nativity Church

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

Saturday, February 24

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, February 25

Coffee after Mass at Nativity 9:30am, Nativity Hall

Family Ministry Activity 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall

Confirmation Prep., Year 2 3:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Confirmation Prep., Year 2 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

To schedule your group's in-person meeting, contact Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to reserve your space.

Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

February 25 Second Collection

Next week's second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe and three important national Catholic missions: The Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world. For more information about each of these organizations go to their websites: 1. CRS: www.usccb.org/catholic-relief; 2. Church in Africa: www.usccb.org/africa 3. Church in Central and Eastern Europe: www.usccb.org/ccee 4. Military Archdiocese: www.milarch.org 5. Catholic Home Missions: www.usccb.org/home-missions 6. Black and Indian Missions <http://blackandindianmission.org/>

(Continued from page 3)

any future annihilation. Death and destruction were the result of our embracing sin and turning away from God. And yet, God would not let that be the final word for our human race, so great was God's love for us, right from the beginning. As a prefigurement of the saving waters of Baptism in Christ yet -to-come, the rainbow symbolized God's enduring love for us as we rose out of the waters of the Great Flood. It is a promise that no matter how bad the storms of this world may seem, no matter how much devastation may swirl around us, no matter how much evil may present itself...that God will ultimately triumph in Christ.

As Jesus tells us in John's Gospel: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" (14:27) and, "In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world." (16:33) The rainbow, then, is a potent sign of Hope that God will fulfill His plan of salvation for us all.

As we enter once again the holy season of Lent, Hope is front and center in all of our works of penance and call to conversion. We seek greater holiness and a purer love precisely because of all that God has done for us and will see to its fulfillment in Christ. While honesty will challenge us not to see life "through rose-colored glasses," our faith, quite the opposite, dares us to view the world in the stunning beauty of the rainbow—of God's great and enduring love for us...that while we were yet still sinners, He sent His only Son to die for us that we might have eternal life. May that profound light dazzle our hearts more than even the most radiant of earth's delights and lead us forward through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to Easter joy.

Happy Lent to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Presidents' Day

Collaborative offices will be closed on Monday, February 19 for the Presidents' Day holiday.

Questions of the Week

Adult: What temptations do you think lead most modern people away from God?

Child: When you feel tempted to do the wrong thing what do you do?

Please email any bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to hricbulletin@gmail.com.

Adoration: Be There Because Jesus Is There!

Enter the mystery of Jesus truly present in the Monstrance. You needn't understand. Just come. Be. Because He is there. Let Jesus lead. Be changed by His presence.

Place: IC Church (enter at Green Street door only)

Time: Thursdays 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fridays 9:30 a.m.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS



An Evening of Lenten Reflection with Father John Predmore, S.J.

February 22, 6:30-8:00pm

Immaculate Conception Church

An evening of Lenten reflection and Ignatian Spirituality will be offered on February 22 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the main church at IC.

Father John "Jack" Predmore, S.J., will guide us through the discovery of words, thoughts, and actions which can lead to a fruitful, meaningful, and abundant prayer life.

Fr. Predmore serves as the Chaplain for Ignatian Ministries at Boston College High School, where he forms parents, faculty, staff, and alumni in Ignatian Spirituality. While serving in Amman, Jordan, Fr. Predmore became a painter and photographer and continues his work today in his studio in Boston's South End.

Guidelines for Lent

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter. See our website's Lent 2024 page for more Lent inspiration: hricatholic.org.

Fasting during Lent

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting. Catholics over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

Abstinence during Lent

Abstinence is to be observed on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all. Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence.

Stations of the Cross and Simple Suppers: Fridays during Lent

St. Ann Church

Stations of the Cross will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the church.

Nativity Church

Simple Supper is served at 5:15 p.m. in Nativity Hall.

Stations of the Cross will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

Immaculate Conception Church

Stations of the Cross begin at 5:15 p.m. in the church.

Simple Supper will follow, around 5:45 p.m. in St. Louis Hall

Lenten Evening Prayer Service at St. Ann

Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.

6:30–7:00: Prayer service

7:00–7:30: Speaker on the challenge of feeding the hungry—how can we contribute

7:30: Refreshments

All are invited.

Sponsored by the St Ann's Guild and the HRIC Social Action Committee

Visit our website for more Lent resources: hricatholic.org.

Confessions during Lent

St. Ann Church

A priest will be available for Confessions Wednesday evenings: March 6 and March 20 from 6:30–8:00.

Nativity Church

A priest will be available for Confessions Wednesday evenings: February 28 and March 13 from 6:30–8:00.

Immaculate Conception Church

A priest will be available for Confessions Thursday evenings during Adoration: February 29, March 7, 14, and 21 (during the Eucharistic Revival) from 6:30–8:00 and Saturdays from 3:00–3:30pm.

Adoration

Thursdays, 7:00–8:00 p.m. at IC Church

Fridays, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 noon at IC Church (Unless there is a funeral scheduled for that day. Please check the Collaborative calendar for changes.)

Metanoia Video Series

What: The Wild Goose "Metanoia" video series, discussion, prayer, and fellowship

Where: IC Charity Dining Room

When: Thursdays, February 1–April 4; 9:45–11:15 a.m.

Holy Week Family Festival

March 24, 10:00–11:30 a.m.—IC Pastoral Center. All are welcome to attend and walk together with our Lord as we celebrate His last days in Jerusalem through His Passion, death, and wondrous Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Lenten Eucharistic Revival

"Come Closer..."

Immaculate Conception Church

Thursday, March 21, 6:00–8:00 p.m.



Jesus always prompts you to draw closer to Him in the Holy Eucharist. Lent is a season to grow closer to Jesus, who seeks your gaze and love. Jesus gives us the gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist.

Come join us for an evening of sacred music, personal witness talks, opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession, and a Holy Hour of sacred silence in Adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

Food and fellowship will follow the Holy Hour in the IC Parish Center.

"It is not to remain in a golden ciborium that He comes down each day from Heaven, but to find another Heaven of our soul in which He takes delight."

—St. Thérèse of Lisieux

If you have questions about this event, please contact Sean Goguen at 339-927-5777.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Foundations of Our Faith: An Evening with Rabbi Alex Matthews

February 29, 7:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church
What should Catholic Christians know about Passover and the Seder?

Passover or Pesach will be celebrated this year before sundown on April 22 and ends at nightfall on April 30. It is the Jewish feast of redemption and liberation, memorializing the Israelites' deliverance from bondage in Egypt. The children of Israel were protected from the avenging angel of God as it "passed over" the doors marked with the blood of the lamb.



The Jewish Seder is the annual, symbolic meal, held during Passover, and in observance and commemoration of the Exodus story. The meal includes commentary, prayers, ritual, specific foods, and scriptural reflection.

For Christians, Jesus' sacrifice, "the blood of the lamb," delivered us from sin and gave us the promise of redemption. In our Christian tradition, the Passover Seder is also believed to be when Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, when he told the apostles, *"I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."* Luke 22:15

The Christian observance of the Eucharistic meal celebrates not only our tradition of Christ's last supper, but our own Jewish heritage.

Rabbi Alex Matthews, of Newburyport's Congregation Ahavas Achim, will lead us in exploring the foundation of our faith through an introduction to the history, symbolism, and beauty of the Passover and Seder.

Individual Directed Lenten Retreat

This Lenten retreat will focus on your coming to know who Jesus is in your heart and in your life. Through readings and scripture, Lectio Divina, prayer, and pondering the life of Christ we will explore Jesus' human emotions, his temptations, his motivation for his actions, and his relationship to his Father.

Additional Offerings

Explore a different Lenten theme or simply focus on where God is present and acting in your life this Lent. I will provide appropriate material for reading and reflection and meet with you for four spiritual direction sessions.

Retreat opens February 12 and closes: March 27. However, you may begin your retreat any time during Lent.

Four one-hour spiritual direction sessions, via telephone or Zoom, scheduled on days and times convenient for you and at your pace.

Spiritual director: Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director, MA Pastoral Counseling. Call (978) 462-7483 to register or for additional information. Suggested donation: \$90.00

A Great Success



On behalf of Community Service of Newburyport, many thanks to our Collaborative Parishes for their support of the January drive. We filled a Honda CRV three times from floor to ceiling with paper towels, laundry detergent, tissues, and more. The folks at Community Service are overwhelmed by the generosity of our parishes and grateful for every donation, regardless of size.

And as always, the Social Justice Team is grateful for your ongoing support of our regular food drive.

Empowering men to live their faith
at home, in their parish, at work and
in their communities.



**Knights of
Columbus**
Massachusetts
State Council

For more information visit:
kofc.org/join



Prayers for the Sick

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

Patricia Baikewicz	Jay Hanslig	Joanne Pesa
Kathy P. Brodeur	Ed Hardy	Lee Preble
Priscilla Brown	Jane Harney	Donika Pulake
Vasfije Buhali	Chloe Hequet	Maureen Russell
Autumn Rose	Rosemarie Hines	Rob Schweizer
Coulombe	Linda Hofferty	Frank Siderio
Bill Crounse	Armand Hyatt	Yvonne Sloban
Drew Daubach	Michael Juralewicz	Gary Smith
Kristen	Arthur LaPointe	Mona Spalding
D'Entremont	Helen McCance	Arlene Stoddard
Deb Downie	Patricia Carey	Tom Tribble
Jeanine Ebacher	McCarthy	Michael Tucker
Fowler	Carol O'Neal	Maddie Villers
Ann-Margaret	Eleanora Paciulan	Laurent Vincent
Ferrante	Joseph Palumbo	

Collaborative Faith Formation Summer Program

Check back in a few weeks for information about our summer program.

Baptism

We celebrate this sacrament the second Sunday of each month at IC Church. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.

Confirmation

In January, Cardinal Seán announced his decision to move the Sacrament of Confirmation from 10th grade to 8th grade. As a result, our Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation process will need to change. While we are working on how this change will be rolled out, please help us to spread the word to families of middle schoolers who may not yet be aware. Program updates will be made available as they occur.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

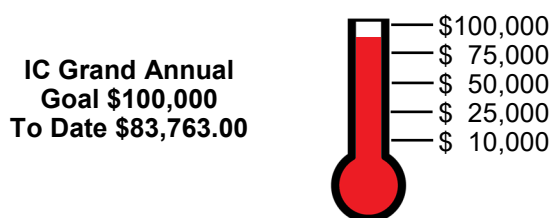
IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Feb. 10–11	\$4,725.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Feb. 9	\$1,600.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,025.09
Total Weekly Offertory, Feb. 10–11	\$9,350.09
Monthly, Feb. 10–11	\$ 911.00

The second collection this weekend (Feb 18) is St. Vincent de Paul. Make checks payable to "IC St. Vincent de Paul." The second collection next weekend (Feb. 25) is Support for the Church Around the world. See p. 4 for details.

Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Immaculate Conception Parish with the second collection noted in the memo. If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to **Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.**

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



IC Altar Server Training

There will be training for those interested in becoming an altar server at Immaculate Conception for anyone, youth or adult, who feels called to become an altar server.

Training will consist of 3 one-hour sessions held on February 15, February 22, and March 1 from **4:30–5:30** in IC Church. Please plan on attending all 3 sessions. Anyone, grade 4 or older who has been baptized and received Holy Communion is eligible.

If you are interested, please call the office at 978-462-2724 for further details.

Family Resource Table

Check out IC's new **Family Resource Table** in the narthex beginning this Lent.

Gather here to find information and ideas of ways your family can celebrate the various Liturgical seasons of our faith and build your Domestic Church.

We will provide different printables, activities, crafts, recipes, displays, and more to help celebrate feasts, seasons and saints to take home. There will also be interactive books and card rings to help kids follow along at Mass each week (those we ask you return to the table after Mass).

The table will be updated weekly to monthly by Amanda Barcus.

"Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches."

-Pope Francis



Immaculate Conception School

Immaculate Conception School students raised money for their school by reading!! The annual Read-A-Thon took place last week, which is a wonderful way to combine the love of reading with fundraising. Individual challenges and class challenges had students logging the time that they read during the 10-day event, totaling almost 85,000 minutes. Although fundraising continues for a few more days, almost \$15,000 has been raised by the children. Leading classes won a pizza party, movie day, and popsicle party.



Pictured, students in Kindergarten dressed up as characters from their favorite storybooks.

From The Little Mermaid, to Where's Waldo, Spider Man, and Dr. Seuss, everyone enjoyed the Read-A-Thon!



Offertory Collectors Needed

We are hoping to return to the passing of the collection baskets and bringing up the gifts at Mass but we cannot do this without the help of our "always willing to help" parishioners. Any adult, man or woman, would be welcomed to this Ministry.

We hope to have a "captain" of collectors with each collector team who would organize the collectors. All collectors will complete a CORI and volunteer application form.

If you are interested in helping out with this effort at weekend Masses at Immaculate Conception, please contact the parish office at 978-462-2724.

IC St. Vincent de Paul

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

You can now make online donations on our website: **www.svdpnnewburyport.org**. If you would like to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to **"Svdp of Newburyport"** and drop it into the collection box at Mass or mail it to the parish office at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Breaking Bread Meal

We serve our weekly Breaking Bread meal on Tuesday evenings. It is a hot, nourishing, 3-course dinner. Supper is served from 4:45–5:30. Those who prefer to continue "Grab & Go" can pick up at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

IC PARISH

St. Joseph's Day Dinner

March 16, 2024

Immaculate Conception's 175th Anniversary continues!

We will have two seatings: 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale at all IC weekend Masses beginning February 24 and weekdays in the parish office until sold out.

There will be a raffle and door prizes.

Price: \$20.00/person Cash/checks (and at some Masses, Credit Cards) will be accepted

Enjoy an evening of entertainment by the Holy Jammers!

Menu:

Antipasto	Italian wedding soup
Garden salad w/ homemade Italian dressing	Pasta with meatballs Italian pastries
Bread	Beverages

Rev. Ryan's Legacy

175th Anniversary History Continued

December 19, 1924, marked the Golden Jubilee of Rev. Ryan's ordination to the priesthood, an anniversary which the parish planned to commemorate in a fitting manner with a Solemn Mass and a banquet. However, because of Rev. Ryan's poor health, the celebration could not be held until February 1925.

Stricken and confined by illness during the last six years of his life, Rev. Ryan was unable to see the fulfillment of many of his plans for the greater improvement and expansion of parochial activity. After serving the parish for approximately 36 years, Rev. Ryan died in January 1929. Under his guidance, the parish extended outreach to the community with the institution of the St. Anthony Guild, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Aid Society, and the Daughters of Isabella. Additionally, he oversaw numerous improvements to the church, the convent, and the school during his time as pastor.

175th Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the 175th Anniversary Committee will be on Wednesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. in IC St. Louis Hall. Join us!

The Compassionate Friends



Our next monthly support meeting is Monday, **February 26** in the IC Conference Room 209 from 7:30–9:00 p.m. Contact Mel Yell, 978-764-2547 or Heidi Damiano, 978-360-7525 with questions.

Raffle Items Wanted

Do you have any items that were given to you for Christmas that you don't want or can't use? Why not put them away for our Fall Fair on October 19. They would be a welcome addition on our raffle table. We will be calling for donations in the bulletin beginning in September.

Thanks from the IC 2024 Fall Fair Committee

HR PARISH

HR St. Vincent de Paul

Please join us on the journey of Lent 2024. When making your plans for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, please remember our conference and its mission to serve the less fortunate in Merrimac and West Newbury.



Please take a Mite Box, found in the back of each church. We ask that you use these boxes to collect a few coins (or dollars) each day. Use the boxes as a reminder of the importance of almsgiving during Lent.

Alternatively, simply make use of the envelopes in the pews at St. Ann and Nativity churches for your donations. These can be mailed or placed in the poor boxes. Reminder: make sure to make checks payable to HR St. Vincent de Paul. Scan the QR code to donate online.



As always, anything that you can give is greatly appreciated.

Gift Baskets and Christmas Cards Wanted

If you received any **baskets** this Christmas and have no use for them, the Activities Committee would love to repurpose them for next year's **Holiday Fair**.

We are also looking to reuse **Christmas cards**. Please leave baskets and cards in the back of either church and we will collect them for our fair in November.

Shawls and Lapghans



Shawls and lapghans are given freely as a gift, to offer comfort and joy! We would be happy to deliver to anyone. Or if you personally would like to give one to a friend, relative or neighbor, please

contact Helen at 978-771-4673. Come join us. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you!

We will be taking a "winter break" from our meetings until May 2, but will continue to deliver shawls and lapghans to those who need them during our break. When we start again, we meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall in Merrimac at 2:00 p.m. **Our next meeting is Thursday, May 2. All are welcome!**

HR Ushers Wanted

We would like to bring back ushers. We are looking for volunteers over the age of 18 who would like to be ushers in the churches during weekend Masses. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact the offices at 978-346-8604.

Duties may include: assisting with seating, collecting the offertory and bringing it to the altar, as well as distributing the bulletin.



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HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Feb. 10–11	\$1,905.00
HR Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Feb. 9	\$1,155.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 306.25
Total Weekly Offertory, Feb. 10–11	\$3,366.25
Monthly, Feb. 10–11	\$7,160.00

The second collection this weekend (Feb. 18) is St. Vincent de Paul. Make checks payable to "HR St. Vincent de Paul." The second collection next weekend (Feb. 25) is Support for the Church Around the world. See p. 4 for details.

Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Holy Redeemer Parish with the second collection noted in the memo.

If you would like to mail in your collections, send them to **Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860.**

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

**HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$21,355.00**



Lenten Evening Prayer Service at St. Ann

Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.

6:30–7:00: Prayer service

7:00–7:30: Speaker on the challenge of feeding the hungry—how can we contribute

7:30: Refreshments

All are invited.

Sponsored by the St Ann's Guild and the HRIC Social Action Committee

St. Ann Lenten Sacrifices and Prayer Intentions



During Lent, there will be paper hearts located at the table near the entrance of the church. Please write your Lenten sacrifices and prayer intentions on the hearts and put them in the basket. The hearts will then be placed at the altar throughout this Lenten season. Your sacrifices and prayer intentions will be remembered during all Lenten Masses at St. Ann.

Nativity Coffee Hour

Coffee and conversation after the 8:30 Mass at Nativity on **February 25**. Please plan on attending and bring a friend!



Volunteers for Confessions During Lent

We have scheduled some extra times for Confession during Lent. We are looking for parishioners from St. Ann and Nativity to be present in the churches during Wednesday night Confessions from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Dates: February 28 (Nativity), March 6 (St. Ann), March 13 (Nativity), March 20 (St. Ann)

This is a wonderful opportunity to attend Confession and sit in the silence of the church to pray or read. There is nothing to do—just be a presence in the church during Confessions. To volunteer, contact Melinda (978-346-8604).

St. Ann Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent, 9:00 a.m.

Please join us at St. Ann on Friday mornings during Lent as we retrace the footsteps of Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Garden Tomb.

Lenten Fridays: February 16 and 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 (Good Friday) at 9:00 a.m.

Please note that Stations will be cancelled if there is a funeral at St. Ann on any of these Friday mornings or if school is cancelled due to inclement weather.

Nativity Stations of the Cross and Simple Supper

Friday evenings during Lent: 5:00 supper, 6:00 Stations

Nativity will be praying the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays during Lent starting at 6:00 p.m.

We will serve a "Simple Supper" starting at 5:00 p.m. We will serve supper until 5:55 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers to make the suppers for 2/23, 3/1, 3/8 and 3/15. The first night, 2/16, is vegetable soup. A sign-up sheet available on Fridays for people to volunteer.

Fat Tuesday Bake Sale Update



The HR Activities Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the "Fat Tuesday Bake Sale" a terrific success. Thank you to all our incredibly generous parishioners who helped us raise funds that will be used, in part, to update St. Ann's kitchen with items needed for our hugely popular monthly coffee socials: new coffee maker, card tables, etc. We are all so very grateful to be part of such a wonderful parish community!

Adult Altar Servers at HR

Holy Redeemer Parish is seeking adult men or women who would be interested in being servers for Liturgies at one or both of our churches. You will be trained by Deacon John Moranski and will be scheduled to serve at a Mass of your choice and as often as you wish. Please call Melinda at 978 346-8604 to volunteer.



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"He has risen." Matt 28:6

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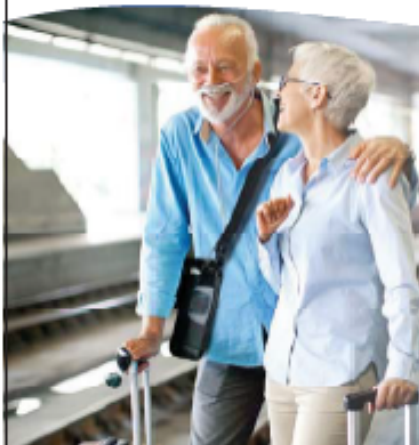
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