

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

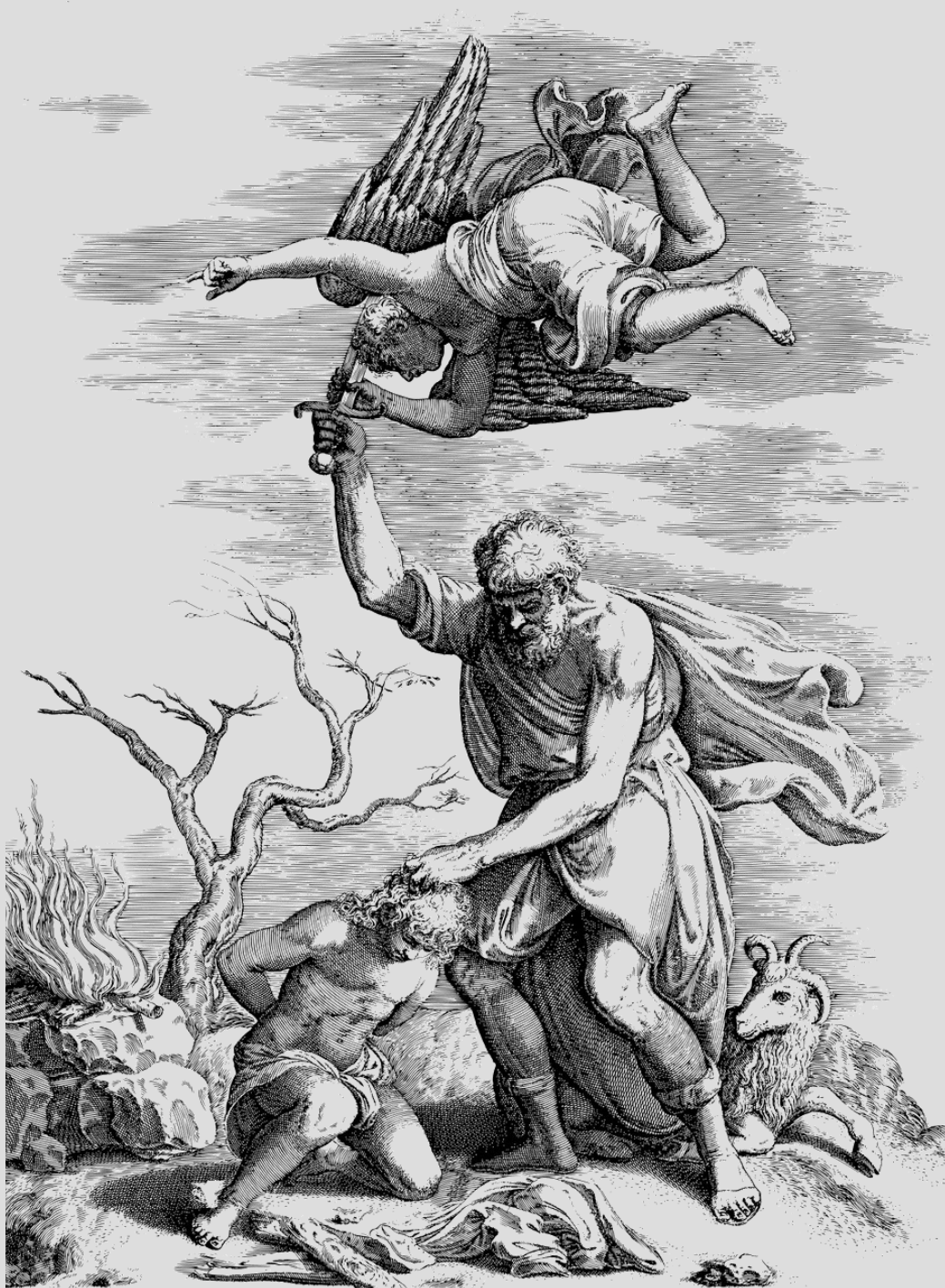
SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

All Are Welcome

hricatholic.org



*But the LORD's
messenger called to him
from heaven,
"Abraham, Abraham!"*

*"Here I am!"
he answered.*

*"Do not lay your
hand on the boy,"
said the messenger.
"Do not do the least
thing to him. I know
now how devoted you
are to God, since you did
not withhold from me
your own beloved son."*

(Gn 22:11–12)



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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info@hriccatholic.org

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Rev. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow

978-887-5350

Deacon John Moranski

978-432-1443

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St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Holy Redeemer

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St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Immaculate Conception

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978-697-1082

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

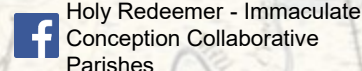
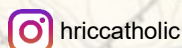
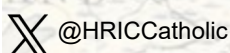
Tim Richard, IC organist

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 (2/24)

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

4:00pm **St. Ann** Thomas Ritter (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** Elizabeth Bonomi (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

Monday (2/26)

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

Tuesday (2/27)

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

Wednesday (2/28)

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

Thursday (2/29)

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

Friday (3/1)

9:00am **IC** Ralph Teran & family (Fr. Harrison)

Saturday (3/2)

4:00pm **IC** Marjorie Howard, Joseph Brown, Elizabeth Healey (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

Sunday (3/3)

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

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

10:00am **St. Ann** Jerry Mullen (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

11:30am **IC** David E. Mears, Louis DellaGatta (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers please remember Marjorie Howard 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: hriccatholic.org.

February 25 Second Collection

This 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 <https://blackandindianmission.org/>

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend's Scriptures speak of being "put to the test," that is, of being evaluated as to how we respond to an unexpected ordeal. Tests call-forth from us qualities that already exist deep within our hearts as well as gift us with the confidence that having realized these gifts within ourselves, they become ready tools to help us when facing future challenges.



Many years ago, when I was involved in Scouting, I was invited to join a fraternity of skilled campers known as the "Order of the Arrow." To become a member, one had to endure an "ordeal" of spending a night alone in the woods with no tent, sleeping bag, or equipment. While some of the details of the ordeal are meant to be kept secret, the greatest challenge I recall from this boyhood experience was nearly being eaten alive by billions...no, trillions of mosquitos that were murderously intent on making me their evening meal! While being out in the woods at night has many considerations, the greatest concern I had that night was death by blood loss via gazillions of tiny flying hypodermic needles. To this day, I truly believe that God was on a coffee break or something when mosquitos were created! Today, I certainly favor the blessings of a central heating system and every electronic comfort our modern world has to offer. But looking back on that experience, I realized that not only did I have the necessary skills to come through that experience relatively unscathed, but that if I was ever faced with a similar situation, I have the confidence that I could handle the survival moment and come through it intact. Just give me a couple gallons of DEET and I'll be fine!

Our readings carry similar themes of testing and confidence from gained-experiences.

In the passage from the Book of Genesis, Abraham is placed in the heart-wrenching position of being asked by God to slaughter his only son, Isaac. Now apart from all of the excruciating drama of any parent being asked to sacrifice a child, Isaac additionally held a vital role in ancient society as being both the heir to the family name and wealth as well as being the de-facto retirement plan for Abraham and Sarah in their old age. In addition to being a beloved son, Isaac was also the Social Security system, 401K portfolio and skilled nursing facility all built into one. It is he that his parents would turn to for care in their dotage and final years. And that Isaac came to Abraham and Sarah long after they were thought to be incapable of having children together, only underscored how precious this child was to them...and how great a sacrifice that God was demanding. God gave them every possible earthly blessing in Isaac, and now God wanted Isaac back. It was a breathtaking test of whether Abraham would place all of his future hope in God's amazing gift of Isaac, or in the gift-giver Himself. Deep down inside, Abraham realized that all blessings come from God, and that if God wanted to bless him, God would find a way despite the apparent need to surrender what appeared to be the answer to all of his longings and prayers. He trusted the gift giver, and was rewarded not only with Isaac's life being spared, but also with the promise of a never-ending and limitless covenant with the Creator. So great was the faith

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, February 26

Bible Study 9:45am, IC Conference Room 209

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

Portugal/Spain Pilgrimage Info. Night 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel/ St. Louis Hall

Women at the Well Mtg. 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Tuesday, February 27

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

Faith Formation, Grade 2 Church Tour 3:30pm, IC Church

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

IC St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. 6:15pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm, IC Church

Wednesday, February 28

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program 7:00–9:00am St. Ann Hall

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:15pm, IC Church

Confessions 6:30–8:00pm, Nativity Church

Thursday, February 29

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

Confessions 6:30–8:00pm, IC Church

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Our Jewish Foundations Discussion 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Friday, March 1

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

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

Altar Server Training, Session 3 4:00pm, 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, March 2

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, March 3

KofC Hospitality Sunday 10:00am, IC Parish Center

Faith Formation, Grades K–8 10:00am, IC Parish Center

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

Next delivery is Wednesday, February 28

This program delivers soup and sandwiches to the Good Shepherd Center in Lawrence on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month.

We ask that sandwiches be **cut and individually wrapped**, then placed in the bread wrapper. Cold cuts, and peanut butter and jelly are favorites. Please do not use condiments on the sandwiches. Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury from **7:00–9:00 am**.

Catholic Appeal

One of the most meaningful ways that we witness the presence of Christ and deepen the impact of our Church's ministries is by supporting the Catholic Appeal. To make a gift online, visit www.bostoncatholicappeal.org.

(Continued from page 3)

that was called forth from his heart!

The Gospel story carries a similar theme. While at the top of the mountain, Peter, James, and John were overwhelmed with divine glory in the Transfiguration of Jesus. In an instant, they saw the complete vision of who the Christ is: the fulfillment of all that the prophets and the Law had promised, and more: Jesus is the Son of God! Ecstatic in joy and blow-over by the vision, Peter's inclination was to stay and preserve this encounter. What could possibly be better than all of this? Surely, on earth there can be no greater experience of God's magnificence?! The test came, however, when they were left alone with Jesus and asked to come down the mountain and head towards Jerusalem where Jesus would find betrayal, suffering, and death. And then would rise from the dead three days later. Whatever that meant! To cling to the present moment of glory, or trust that the One who glorifies would offer even greater blessings on the other side of it all be sacrificed and put asunder?

From a post-resurrection faith perspective, it is to believe that the willingly-offered sacrifice that was stayed for Abraham, was actually carried-out in Christ, for the salvation of the world. As we hear in the First Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation:

*Indeed, though we once were lost
and could not approach you,
you loved us with the greatest love:
for your Son, who alone is just,
handed himself over to death,
and did not disdain to be nailed for our sake
to the wood of the Cross.*

It underscores the completely free nature of Christ's sacrifice offered in obedience to the Father, thus making up in His perfect freedom, what lacks in our faith and fallen human nature. And in those who follow, it calls forth an even greater gift of faith in Christ that He who conquers sin and death has also conquered the world and every bit of darkness within it.

For us today, we can experience many smaller tests of our faith—when we suffer illness, when we lose a trusted relationship, when unemployment hits, when death casts its dark shadow over a loved one, when injustice and hatred seem to gain the upper hand, when violence and war overcome all efforts at peace and reconciliation...when our imperfect love just doesn't feel like enough....In all of these moments, we are called to remember to trust in the gift-giver, the One who is the very author of all things good, the giver of all true and lasting blessings in this world and beyond. And place our hope and trust in God's eternal promises that He made not only to Abraham and all of his dependents, but especially in all who look with faith to God's Son, Jesus Christ and the eternal life purchased through His one, singular sacrifice on the Cross. There we will always find hope in the darkest of night, in the greatest of tests, in the most tortuous of ordeals, in the bleakest of winters... new life awaits those who have faith.

This Lenten season, may we open our hearts to the gifts that lie within and trust evermore in those gifts put into practice for the greater glory of God.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

LENT

Guidelines for Lent

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. See our website's Lent 2024 page for more Lent inspiration: hriccatholic.org.

Fasting during Lent

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting. Catholics age 18–59 are bound to the obligation of fasting. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including water, milk, and fruit juices are allowed.

Abstinence during Lent

Abstinence is observed on *all* Fridays of Lent. Abstinence is the absence of meat all day. Fish is allowed during Lent, though. 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 5:00 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

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

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.

Centering Prayer for Lent

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice available to all who seek transformation through a more intimate relationship with God. This daily practice deepens our faith as we come to better know our God as one who loves us unconditionally just as we are and trust God has plans to give us a future of hope. Please consider joining us. We gather via Zoom Wednesdays from 6–7 p.m. for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer and 30 minutes of Lectio Divina. All are welcome. Please contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978 462-7483 if you are interested in learning more about this simple prayer of resting in God.

Helping the Homeless

During Lent we will be collecting Homeless Care Packs at all three churches. This is a one-gallon Ziploc bag filled with travel size, new, and unused personal care items for men, women, and children. They will be distributed to local agencies serving the homeless, including Cor Unum, Community Service of Newburyport, Lazarus House, and others. Easy to carry, travel-size personal care items can be found in many local stores. There will be a collection bin at the entrance of each church and in the lobby of the IC Parish Center. Please, no clothing, used, or damaged goods, as these are discarded. For more information or to help, contact Jonathan Temple at hricshare@gmail.com.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion. Suggestions:

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

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.*)



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.

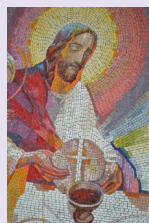
Metanoia Video Series

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

Where: IC Charity Dining Room

Lenten Eucharistic Revival

*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

This week: Thursday, February 29, 7:00 p.m.
IC St. Louis Hall (Note location)

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.



Last Sunday, our catechumen, Nathan Hazlett (center), was accompanied by his sponsor, Tom Welch (right) and Aaron Giard (left), director of RCIA, to the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. Cardinal Seán presided over the annual ceremony where hundreds of catechumens from across the Archdiocese gathered to be admitted into the Order of the "Elect," as they prepare for the sacraments of initiation this year at the Easter Vigil. Please join in praying for

Nathan this Lent as he enters this final phase of being reborn in Baptism and made a member of Christ's Body, the Church!

Douro River Cruise Information Night

We have scheduled our first Lisbon Fatima Avila River Cruise information night for **Monday, February 26** at the IC Parish Center. **Mass at 6:00 p.m.** in St. James Chapel, followed by refreshments with Q & A about the journey will follow.

This meeting is open to those who have already registered, plus anyone who might be interested in joining us on this "Trip of a Lifetime." We still have a few cabins available.

Men's Retreat



The Guest House of Saint Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, MA has been reserved for the exclusive use of the men of Holy

Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Parishes from Monday, May 13–Friday, May 17. Spend a week in silent prayer and meditation joining the community of Monks at daily Mass and at various hours of the day and night as they sing the Divine Office. There is also a daily conference given by one of the Monks. The Guest House welcomes 11 guests (all private rooms with bath). The cost for the mid-week retreat is \$500.00 per person with arrival Monday at 3:00 p.m. and departure on Friday after breakfast. Make your reservation with a check payable to Immaculate Conception Parish for \$500.00 (Spencer Retreat in the memo line). If you have questions or want more information, please see or leave a message in the offices for Father George Morin.

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

Collaborative Faith Formation

Summer Program

The summer Faith Formation program dates for grades 3–8 has been set for June 24–28. Watch the bulletin for registration details.

Baptism

No Baptisms will be taking place during the season of Lent. We will resume our schedule of celebrating this sacrament the second Sunday of each month at IC Church after Easter. 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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Feb. 17–18	\$1,866.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 306.25
Total Weekly Offertory, Feb. 17–18	\$2,172.25
Catholic Charities, Ash Wednesday	\$ 387.00

The second collection this weekend (Feb. 25) is Support for the Church Around the world. See p. 3 for details. The second collection next weekend (March 3) is Utility Energy/Fuel.

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 \$21,705.00**



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.

On Friday, March 22, Stations will be led by the Confirmation students and they will also be providing the Simple Supper.

St. Ann Coffee Hour

St. Ann Church Welcomes All to the Return of Our "Coffee And..."

This month, the St. Ann "Coffee And..." coffee social. We will meet on **Sunday, February 10, after the 10:00 Mass**. We hope you will join us in the church hall, for coffee and baked goods, to visit with old friends, and to make new ones.

For your convenience, the side door on the parking lot side will be open with easier access to the hall.



Nativity Coffee Hour

This weekend!

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



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.

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 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.

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.

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.

HR PARISH

HR St. Vincent de Paul

By now you might have picked up your mite box and started your Lenten practice of making donations! Where did the mite box originate? The Gospel of Mark tells us of the "widow's mite"...or two small coins.



A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." (Mark 12:42-44)

It's not about how much you give as long as the amount you give is given willingly and with heartfelt intention.

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.

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

Saturday Mass at Nativity

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass will move to **Nativity, Merrimac** for the month of **March**.

Troop 41 Boy Scouts News

It is with sadness and heartache that we share the news that the Parish-sponsored Boy Scout troop in Merrimac and West Newbury (Troop 41) will not be re-chartering in 2024. The decision comes as the result of reduced scouting interest in general and decisions by "crossing over" Cub Scouts to choose different community Boy Scout troops in which to continue their scouting journey. In 2015, Troop 26 from West Newbury merged with Troop 41 in Merrimac. Over several decades, these troops separately fostered leadership, citizenship, first-aid, life-saving, and outdoor skills (to name a few) for hundreds of boys. Collectively, dozens of boys have achieved scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. The people of Merrimac and West Newbury have been the recipients of hundreds of hours of service projects that continue to benefit them. Finally, we offer thanks to those of you who supported scouting with donations, participation, and encouragement over the years. Please know that the legacy of these troops lives on in the young men who experienced a "scouting life" in Merrimac and West Newbury.



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Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

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	Pasta with meatballs
Italian dressing	Italian pastries
Bread	Beverages

Meet Rev. McManmon

175th Anniversary History Continued

Today we meet Rev. Thomas P. McManmon, our parish's fifth pastor. He was appointed to be Fr. Ryan's successor on April 3, 1929. Born in Ireland, he came to this country as a young boy and lived in Lowell, MA. After graduating from St. Joseph's University in New Brunswick, he entered St. John's Seminary in Brighton. He was ordained a priest in 1899. After serving at parishes in Winchester and Dorchester, he became the Pastor of Corpus Christi parish in Auburndale in 1922. His success there lead to his appointment here in Newburyport.



REV. THOMAS P. MCMANMON

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.

Questions of the Week



Adult: How does knowing Christ transform your life?

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

The Compassionate Friends

We are moving our meeting location to the First Church of Christ-Bradford, 10 Church Street, Bradford, MA starting February 27, and on every 4th Tuesday of each month thereafter from 7:30-9:00 p.m. There is handicap access. Any questions please call Heidi at (978)-360-7525.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

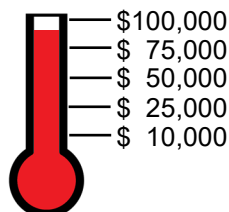
IC Offertory, Feb. 17–18	\$3,752.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,025.09
Total Weekly Offertory, Feb. 17–18	\$6,777.09
Catholic Charities, Ash Wednesday	\$1,311.00

The second collection this weekend (Feb. 25) is Support for the Church Around the world. See p. 3 for details. The second collection next weekend (March 3) is Utility Energy/Fuel.

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 Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$84,340.00**



Knights Hospitality Sunday

Join us **Sunday, March 3, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass**, in IC St. Louis Hall for Hospitality Sunday. We will have free coffee and donuts for all.

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.

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).



Open House 10 a.m. March 1, 2024



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Meet the Principal, Faculty and Staff and learn about the community involvement that makes our school so special.

Talk one-on-one with our Admissions Team to answer any questions you may have and to and register for Fall 2024.

Questions Please Email: admissions@icsnewburyport.com

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Catholic Appeal Weekend

Next weekend (March 2–3), the 2024 Catholic Appeal will officially launch at IC. One of the most meaningful ways that we witness the presence of Christ and deepen the impact of our Church's ministries is by supporting the Catholic Appeal. Many of you have already donated and we are deeply grateful. As a parish, we hope for 100% participation! When our parish reaches its goal, a portion of the additional funds received will be returned to us for use in our parish. To make a gift online, please visit bostoncatholicappeal.org.

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!



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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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"He has risen." Matt 28:6

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