

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Third Sunday of Lent
March 12, 2023

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



Jesus...said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
(Jn 4:13-14)



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

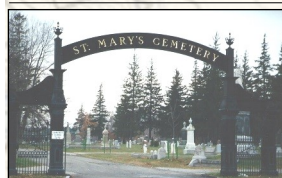
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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

Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
info@hriccatholic.org

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978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

Rev. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

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Deacon Paul Dow

978-887-5350, pauldow49@gmail.com

Deacon John Moranski

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St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Holy Redeemer

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St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Immaculate Conception

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



 Holy Redeemer - Immaculate
Conception Collaborative
Parishes



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (3/11)

4:00pm **IC** *Ann E. Randall, For the intentions of Gregory D'Ambrosio* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

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

Sunday (3/12)

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

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

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

11:30am **IC** *Joseph Messina* (Fr. Stanley)

Monday (3/13)

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

Tuesday (3/14)

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

Wednesday (3/15)

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

Thursday (3/16)

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

Friday (3/17)

9:00am **IC** *The O'Conner Family* (Fr. Morin)

Saturday (3/18)

4:00pm **IC** *Joseph, John, & Vincent O'Conner, James H. Long, For the intentions of Dawn & Gia Rosa Gaglione* (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

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

Sunday (3/19)

8:30am **Nativity** *Jozef Kardas* (Fr. Stanley)

9:00am **IC** *Richard, Robert, & Elaine Ring* (Fr. Harrison)

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Moranski)

11:30am **IC** *Irene & Renee McCarthy* (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

In your prayers please remember Albert J. Hagan 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 broadcast online through our website:

hriccatholic.org and on Facebook: ([Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)).

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

Want to be an Altar Server at Easter?

We are looking for new altar servers for all weekend Masses at all three Collaborative churches. Any **student** who is 4th grade or older and has made their First Communion is eligible to become an altar server.



We also welcome any **adult** who might be interested. This is a wonderful way to serve our Collaborative and our Lord.

Training will be provided. If you are interested in serving, please call the Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 and ask for Melinda or Christine.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



Lent is time to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. For any who were inconvenienced or upset in any way, I apologize for the cancelations of the Vigil Masses this past weekend. It was very frustrating to try and predict just how bad the weather would get. The weather apps and TV forecasts were all over the place, and right at the moment that it seemed to be clearing outside, the winds picked up and heavy snow started coming down, quickly covering every square inch of pavement and sidewalk that had just been cleared with a slick, pasty slush. The forecasts called for many more hours of this backlash from the storm before it would begin to clear. So, after consulting with a number of people, I made the call at about Noon to forgo the 4:00 p.m.'s for that day, realizing that we would likely have had a very light attendance anyway plus the travel challenges to musicians, lay ministers, etc. and, given that so many of our parishioners who attend the 4:00 p.m. are elderly and in light of the fact that we recently had a parishioner who fell on ice in one of our parking lots, I felt that this was the prudent thing to do. Word went out on our website and social media. And then at 2:30...the sun came out and the whole thing shut down, hours before anybody said it would. How frustrating! The old saying about New England weather had come true once again: "If you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes!" Apparently the same can be said for forecasts. So, mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa! We'll try and make better decisions next time around and get the word out more effectively.

Now, onto more interesting things. Recently, a series of television ads caused a bit of a stir by featuring Jesus and throwing out the line, "He gets us!" The very brief spots simply made the point that the Lord understands us completely in all of our complexity and quirks, oddities and nuances. Jesus was worth being in a relationship with, as He already knows us through and through, and is still there for us in our moments of weakness and fear. Check out the website: HeGetsUs.com for a gallery of the ads on YouTube. They are short and to the point.

This weekend's Gospel paints a similar image of Jesus as He encounters the Samaritan Woman at the well. First off, it was odd, very odd, that Jesus would have bumped into any woman in public. People of His time and place generally kept to gender-specific spaces during the day, and if both genders must share a space (such as using a common well) they would have done so at different times of the day. That it was around midday meant that it was the men's time to gather at and use the well. Women would have been there as a group earlier in the morning. So, right away this woman stood out as breaking a major social norm and daring to approach the well out of turn. Why? While we can only speculate, it likely had to do with what Jesus pointed out to her—that she had been through 5 marriages and was perhaps working on number 6. Not exactly a stellar record and a deep scandal for someone

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, March 13

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

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

Tuesday, March 14

Breaking Bread Takeout-Only Meal 4:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

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

IC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Knights of Columbus Mtg. 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

Wednesday, March 15

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church

Confessions During Lent 6:30pm, St. Ann Church

Thursday, March 16

Confessions During Lent 6:30pm, IC Church

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, March 17

IC St. Patrick's Day Dinner, 1st Seating 4:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

HR Simple Supper 5:15pm, Nativity Hall

IC Stations of the Cross 5:30pm, IC Church

IC St. Patrick's Day Dinner, 2nd Seating 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

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

AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

Saturday, March 18

HR Quilters 8:30am, Nativity Hall

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, March 19

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

RCIA Mtg. 10:00am, IC St. James Chapel

Social Action Committee

The next meeting of the Collaborative Social Action committee will be held on Monday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. in IC St Louis Hall. There will be a brief presentation by one of the many groups that are active in the collaborative in addition to continuing discussions on prospective projects and finding pathways to making it easier for parish members to contribute. All are invited, so if you'd like to make a difference for someone in need, please come, listen, and contribute! You CAN make a difference.

(Continued from page 3)

living in a time and place where stability in marriage was absolutely necessary for social congruity and peace. She must have stood out like a sore thumb! And perhaps was ostracized and bullied by others because of it. No wonder she took the risk of seeking water at an inconvenient time versus enduring the daily chastisement and persecution of her peers.

And just as much as craving water to meet her physical needs, she also pined for something more on the inside. Instinctually, Jesus recognized her inner longing for acceptance, self-understanding, and redemption. He "got" her! Breaking down the religious and cultural barriers that stood like a vast chasm between them, Jesus spoke honestly and directly to her heart. As she would later describe it to the people of her village, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done!" Jesus spoke of the truth of her situation without condemnation or ridicule. He also named the inner desires of her heart when he offered her "living water," that had the promise to quench every thirst and satisfy every hunger and yearning. What an amazing experience when two human hearts can connect in simple and yet profound ways to affirm human dignity and offer the possibility of hope and healing. It is a healing balm!

And then, things got really interesting! Not only did this unnamed woman have a personal encounter and conversion experience after meeting Christ, she, in effect, became the first evangelist. Instead of avoiding the people of her village, she went right into the heart of them and would not stop speaking of this guy Jesus and how He must be the Christ, the long-awaited Anointed One, the Messiah! And because she spoke so fervently of the truth of her encounter with the Lord, it had a claim on their hearts as well. Surely they would not have given her even the time of day unless she was so amazingly persistent and profoundly convincing. That spurred them to seek the Lord themselves and have their own encounter with Jesus, insisting that He come and stay with them.

So: human weakness and vulnerability were met with compassion and understanding that brought about a conversion of heart and radical openness to God's love which was fertile ground for the Good News to take root, blossom and be spread among many others who would hear and respond to the truth. The end result was that despite sin and failure, cultural divisions and gender differences...many people came together to form a community of faith and love in Christ's name. He gets us! All of us! He really does.

This Lent, what places have you been hanging around and about...and where have you encountered the compassionate and redeeming presence of Christ?

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor



Our RCIA candidates,
Cathedral of the
Holy Cross
Rite of Enrollment
2/26/2023

Pictured:
Matthew & Emily
Chagas and
Benjamin Houston

THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL PUTS

Faith into Action

SCAN HERE TO
MAKE YOUR GIFT
OR VISIT
bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now



LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

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 2023 page for more Lent inspiration: hriccatholic.org.

Fasting during Lent

Good Friday is a day 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 Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be eaten 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

Holy Redeemer Parish

Simple Supper is served at 5:15 p.m. in Nativity Hall. Stations of the Cross will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Nativity Church

Immaculate Conception Parish

Stations of the Cross begin at 5:15 p.m. in IC Church. Simple Supper will follow, around 5:45 p.m. in St. Louis Hall

Note: No Simple Supper at IC on March 17 due to the 175th anniversary St. Patrick's Day dinner. Stations of the Cross at IC will be moved to 5:30 on March 17.

Confessions during Lent

Holy Redeemer Parish

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

March 15: St. Ann Church March 22: St. Ann Church
March 29: Nativity Church

Immaculate Conception Parish

A priest will be available at IC for Confessions Thursday evenings in March from 6:30–8:00 (during Adoration) 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.)

Holy Week & Easter Family Festival

April 2, 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.

Helping the Homeless

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Post-pandemic inflation has brought new suffering to many in our communities, and we will be collecting Care Packs for the Homeless at all three churches in the Collaborative. The packs consist of 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 those in need, including Cor Unum, Salvation Army, 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 for your donations. Please, no clothing or used or damaged goods, as these are discarded. For more information or to help with collection, sorting and delivering, contact Aaron: agiard@newburyportcatholic.org, or Jonathan Temple at hricshare@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity and compassion. **Items needed:**

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

Personal Directed Lenten Retreat

This retreat is about searching, opening, and cleansing your heart to hear and respond to God as he works in your life each day. Prayer, reading, and reflection will help open your heart. Guided by the Holy Spirit as we meet, you will explore the path you are on. As you search your heart for whatever is hindering a full response to God's call, you may become more aware of what is taking space in your heart and is difficult to surrender to answer his call.

This retreat is designed to be affordable, convenient, and meet your needs. **Begin your retreat any time during Lent.** We will meet for 4 one-hour sessions of Spiritual Direction via Zoom, telephone, or in person on a convenient day and time. Provided retreat materials will support your journey through Scripture and spiritual writings. Retreat begins February 22 and ends April 6. Suggested Donation \$85.00.

Call (978) 462-7483 or email emccarthy1028@hotmail.com to register and for additional information. Spiritual Director: Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director.

Centering Prayer for Lent

Please consider joining us for weekly group Centering Prayer and let God move you closer to him. We gather via Zoom each Wednesday 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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Easter Flower Donations



Each Easter we are able to beautifully decorate our three churches with Easter flowers as a result of the donations from our parishioners and friends who generously contribute in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The flowers and other decorations that make our churches look so stunning each Easter would not be possible without your continued support.

Please consider making a donation "in memory" of a deceased loved one or "in honor" of someone special in your life. Flower envelopes have been included in the envelope packets mailed to your home or you can pick one up in the back of any of our churches. Drop them in the collection any Sunday or mail them to the HR or IC offices (see addresses page 2). Deadline to see your gift included in the Easter bulletin is **noon on Friday, March 31**.

IC Haiti

IC Haiti collection date: March 25–26

The Board of Directors for IC Haiti is happy to inform you that the most recent update on the Father Mark Piché Elementary School's students, staff, and services is encouraging! Despite the ongoing political, economic, and humanitarian crisis that has overwhelmed the Haitian society this past year, the school opened its doors only one month behind the normal starting date and welcomed 142 students on October 10, 2022. This year's student body consists of 75 girls and 67 boys. Thirty-six of the children are new students. Since October, our school has been opened consistently with just a short Christmas break after which classes resumed on January 3. Our growth-conscious principal in Puit Chacha has plans to offer special training to the teachers in social sciences and math this spring with enrichment programs this summer.

We are very grateful to share the news that our breakfast and lunch program has continued, with both our students and staff receiving hot food every day. Also, the radiant smiles on the faces of our beautiful students will continue to gleam as dental clinics planned for March and April are already taking place.

With this year's first quarterly collection scheduled to take place the weekend of **March 25–26**, let us continue to provide our generous support; and, during this Lenten season of prayer and almsgiving, may we renew our commitment to helping our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We have been blessed to share in this ministry; may Christ Our Lord guide us in prayer to keep us ever focused on this our very important mission.



*Pictured:
the school children
at Christmas time*

Collaborative Faith Formation

All Faith Formation schedules and registration forms are posted on our website at www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

Summer 2023 Faith Formation Week
Mark your calendars! Grades 3–8
June 26–30, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. each day.

Holy Week & Easter Family Festival
April 2, 10:00–11:30 a.m. at the 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.

School Year Programs (Grades K–10)
School year Faith Formation and Sacramental preparation schedules and registration forms are available on the website at (hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation). Please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x405) with any questions or reach out via email to Aaron (agiard@hriccatholic.org) or Melinda (burrell@hriccatholic.org).

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 beginning in May at 1:30 p.m. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.



Follow Us on Twitter
@HRICcatholic

Prayers for the Sick

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

Patricia Baikewicz	Jack Flynn	Douglas Rose
Priscilla Brown	Jeanine Ebacher	Robert Rose
Baby Boyle	Fowler	Maureen Russell
Judy Capone	Charmaine Haan	Rob Schweizer
Bill Crounse	Hillar Haan	Yvonne Sloban
Drew Daubach	Jay Hanslig	Tom Tribble
Kristen	Al Hasapis	Michael Tucker
D'Entremont	Terence Healey	Laurent Vincent
Carol Ann Doyle	Sam Kitchen	Lorraine Zollo
Ann-Margaret	Chet LeBlanc	
Ferrante	Lee Preble	

Contact the Collaborative offices to add someone to or remove someone from our prayer list: 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604.

Collaborative Baptisms

We rejoice with the families of our new brothers and sisters who received the Sacrament of Baptism in the month of **January**:

Elynn Rose Collins
Kai Thomas Collins
Margot Louise Gill

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Get your Irish on and join us for a fun time and a traditional Irish dinner!!

This is the first in a series of events celebrating the **175th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Parish.**



Date: Friday, March 17
Times: 1st seating: 4:00–5:30 p.m.
 2nd seating: 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Place: IC St. Louis Hall
Price: Adults \$15, Children under 12 \$10

There will be music by the Holy Jammers, raffles, and a few surprises!

Due to space limitations in the hall, there will be two seatings as noted above.

Tickets will be sold following all IC Masses or stop by IC offices to purchase tickets. Attendees must have a ticket to attend.

Immaculate Conception Parish celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2023. In celebration of this milestone of faith and service to the greater Newburyport community, the parish is planning a series of events throughout the year. If you would like to be part of the planning, join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, March 29.



The Holy Jammers musical group will perform at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

The group meets every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the IC Nazareth Library to jam for an hour. All are welcome to join us!

Immaculate Conception Parish: 175th Anniversary



Immaculate Conception Parish celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2023.

In celebration of this milestone of faith and service to the greater Newburyport community, the parish is planning a series of events throughout the year.

A committee has formed to create, plan, and execute these year-long events, focused on celebrating the history of our parish and our patroness. Want to be a part of the planning? Our next meeting is **Wednesday, March 29** at 6:30 p.m. in St. Louis Hall

Volunteer for Consolers Circle

Consolers Circle is asking for additional volunteers for one of our three teams. Volunteers are asked to supply a dish for the meal. Please contact Melinda (978-462-2724) if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

The IC community offers a light meal to families who have lost a loved one. The meal is provided by volunteers and 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. Please let the funeral director know that you request this service when making arrangements.

Harvest Fair

Join us and make new friends

As part of the 175th anniversary celebration of our Church, we are planning to hold a Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 21. It will include a bake sale, artisan/craft tables, Grandma's Attic table, a wine rack, raffles, 175th anniversary commemorative items, and much more.



In order to make this happen, we need volunteers—many volunteers! We currently meet once a month. If you'd like to share your talents and have some fun meeting new friends, please contact Betty Harrington at 978-595-7776 or hbees@comcast.net.

Knights of Columbus



All men of the Collaborative, 18 years or older, are welcome to join the Knights.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the IC Nazareth Library. Also, all are welcome to join us on the first Sunday of every month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the IC parish center for coffee and donuts.

For more information about our meetings or to join the Knights, call 978-225-0804 or email kofc231@outlook.com.

Follow Us on Instagram
[HRICCatholic](https://www.instagram.com/HRICCatholic)



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Mar. 4-5	\$3,177.00
Utility & Energy	\$ 779.00
IC Mailed in Offertory, week ending Mar. 3	\$2,045.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,085.09

The second collection this weekend (Mar. 12) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (Mar. 19) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. 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: hricatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving.

IC Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$80,050.00



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.svdpnewburyport.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 to-go Meal

We serve our weekly Breaking Bread meal on Tuesday evenings. It is a hot, nourishing, 3-course dinner which is currently **take out only** and is distributed at the entrance to the IC Parish Center from 4:30-5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

women at the well

We invite all women to come join us at any time, no matter where you may be in your relationship with God. The new study, *Keeping in Balance from Walking with Purpose*, is all about managing life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness rooted in Christ. We meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in person at the IC Parish Center and virtually on Zoom. If you have any questions, or would like to join via Zoom, please email hricwomenatthewell@gmail.com for the link.

If you are unable to make it to every meeting, please do not worry! This group is designed to allow you to drop in whenever you are able to join us, no pre-reading necessary from week to week.

Immaculate Conception School

The annual Read-a-Thon at Immaculate Conception School is a wonderful way to get kids reading! This spring fundraiser was very successful, while providing an opportunity for students to dress up as their favorite story book characters. The Read-a-Thon kicked off on March 2, which of course is Dr. Seuss's birthday. The children came to school dressed as their favorite Dr. Seuss characters. There were some crazy hairdos, many "thing 1" and "thing 2's", lots of blue hair, and Cat in the Hats galore. Friday was pajama day and bedtime stories. The students in 5th to 8th grade were stationed all around the school for the younger students to cozy up to hear a bedtime story. On Wednesday the students dressed as their favorite story book characters. Everyone charted the minutes they read each day to contribute to class totals and personal goals. Prizes are always part of the fun! The online Read-a-Thon donation site enabled friends and family from near and far to support the IC readers! Coming together as a community to read while supporting the school is time well spent!



Delia from Grade 8 shares her favorite Madeline book with Grade 1.

Grace from 7th grade shares a favorite book with Grade 3 students.



Pre-K children enjoy spending time with the 5th graders.

Substitute Custodians

IC Parish is looking for substitute Custodians to work on an as-needed basis. Duties would include cleaning, event setup, and snow removal. If you are interested in becoming a substitute custodian, please contact Christine or Melinda in the IC offices, 978-462-2724.

Questions of the Week



Adult: What thirst of yours does Christ satisfy?

Child: How does knowing Jesus make you happy?

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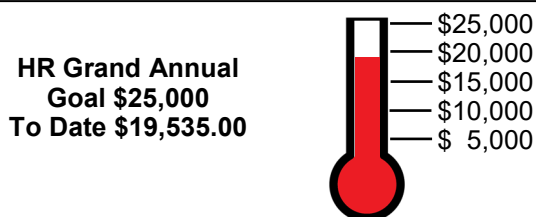
HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Mar. 4–5	\$1,220.00
Fuel	\$ 673.00
HR Mailed in Offertory, week ending Mar. 3	\$ 865.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 187.50

The second collection this weekend (Mar. 12) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (Mar. 19) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. 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 St. Vincent de Paul

*Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord,
who will pay back the sum in full.*

Proverbs 19:17



With the Lenten observances of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving upon us, our conference is bringing back the tradition of the **mite box**. These boxes are available in the backs of both churches. Please take one. Try to add a few coins each day. Your daily "sacrifice" can make a difference in the lives of the poor around us. Simply return the mite box during Holy Week.

Don't forget the clothes collection bin behind the Green St., Merrimac rectory and also beside the Food Mart in West Newbury. As always, we appreciate your generosity.

If you know of someone who needs help, please have them call our hotline at 978-346-8604 X4.

Simple Supper and Stations of the Cross Fridays at Nativity

Simple Suppers will be served at 5:15 p.m. in Nativity Hall before Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. in Nativity Church.

The March 17 meal will be prepared by Donna Pallone and the Stations of the Cross will be lead by Marie Greeley. Please join us!

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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 or hvktax@aol.com. 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 4, 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 4. All are welcome!**

A NUDGE to get you Spring Cleaning!

The Activities Committee will be having an **Indoor Yard Sale** in the Nativity Hall on **Saturday, April 29** from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. We are asking you to look around your home and donate those items that you just don't need or use anymore but are still in good condition. We will be accepting your donations (no clothing, please) on the 2 weekends before the yard sale: Saturdays, April 15 and 22 from 1:30–3:30 p.m. and Sundays, April 16 and 23 from 9:30–11:30 a.m. Please know, we will **not** be able to accept donations the day of the yard sale.

Communion to the Homebound

We would like to offer our Holy Redeemer parishioners the opportunity to receive the Eucharist if you are homebound or unable to attend Mass on a regular basis. If any parishioner knows of someone who might be interested in receiving the Eucharist, please also let us know. This could be a one-time occasion, or a regular schedule could be arranged. Please call Melinda Burrell at 978-462-2724 to schedule a visit.

HR Online Giving

Holy Redeemer offers Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly or monthly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Holy Redeemer Parish community. Parish registration forms are available on the website or contact the parish office.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, hricatholic.org and click the "Links" tab, then on "HR Parish Online Giving" to get to the site. There are three different funds you can contribute to: Offertory, Monthly, and Grand Annual.

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.

Questions? Contact Christine Breslow at 978-462-2724 x 402



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