

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2023

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



*He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth.
So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."*

(Jn 11:43–44)



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

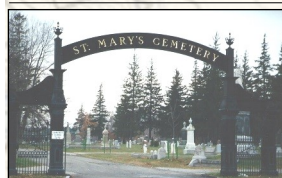
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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

Senior Priests in Residence

978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

Rev. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow

978-887-5350, pauldow49@gmail.com

Deacon John Moranski

978-432-1443, jmoranski51@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Holy Redeemer

978-346-8604 x 4

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St. Vincent de Paul Society at

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St Mary's Cemetery

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Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator
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 [hriccatholic](https://www.instagram.com/hriccatholic)



 Holy Redeemer - Immaculate
Conception Collaborative
Parishes



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (3/25)

4:00pm **IC** *Laurel Wightman, Valentina Perry, The Graham Family, Garry F. Doyle, Dottie Sullivan Driscoll* (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **Nativity** *Regina Laite* (Fr. Stanley)

Sunday (3/26)

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

9:00am **IC** *Maureen Lagasse* (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

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

11:30am **IC** *Ann Fiore, Claire Doherty, Sheila Perry, Erin Mahon Crowther* (Fr. Stanley)

Monday (3/27)

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

Tuesday (3/28)

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

Wednesday (3/29)

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

Thursday (3/30)

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

Friday (3/31)

9:00am **IC** *Peg Horgan, Ernest J. Falvo* (Fr. Morin)

Saturday (4/1)

4:00pm **IC** *Lorraine Lauricella, Jack & Kate Grealish, For the intentions of Amy Monogal* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

4:00pm **St. Ann** *Rev. Drew Christiansen* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

Sunday (4/2) **Palm Sunday**

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

9:00am **IC** *Helen & Tom O'Donnell*

Procession (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

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

11:30am **IC** *Bob, Oscar & William Moore, Thayer Fremont-Smith* (Fr. Stanley)

In your prayers please remember Theresa DesAutels, Daniel J. Ahern Jr., 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](#)).

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Lazarus was really dead. He was entombed and his body had started the inevitable process of decay. Over the centuries, there has been and sometimes continues to be a debate on exactly when the moment of death occurs. Is it instantaneous when the heart stops, or is there some scaled process that we go through to fully transition from this life to the next? Different times and cultures have engaged this question with various answers. Today, we might tend to look at things quite scientifically measuring data like an active heartbeat and the presence of electrical brainwaves. Absent these things, our blood flow stops, our organs and cells are quickly deprived of necessary oxygen and we begin to die. A few precious minutes into this process, many of us can be revived and brought back to life through extraordinary life-saving measures such as CPR, the use of an AED and a whole host of exotic medications that stimulate the heart and open the flow of essential blood vessels to the brain. Outrageously expensive and incredibly complicated machines can even extend the physical efforts of emergency room medical staff to mimic signs of life, and, for a while, keep us "alive." But absent active brain waves and any real hope of recovery, these measures are usually discontinued at some point in time and the inescapable process of death proceeds to its ultimate conclusion.

At just what point in this "process" does the soul leave the body? Well that's been the focus of debate throughout the millennia. For us, today, we think it is when the heart stops and the brainwaves cease based on our best theological guess and the latest scientific and medical understanding of human life. For the people of Jesus' time and place, it was as much as a full three days after a person "passed." Before that point, a person could be really sick—so sick that they might be barely breathing, indiscernible to the untrained eye. Before that point, a person could be in a very deep coma with only the slightest pulse. Before that point, even though their limbs and extremities might be showing signs of decay, there might still be hope of recovery. A stroke, for example, might incapacitate a person, make them unable to move or respond to pain or other stimuli. The human soul, perhaps, could linger long enough to see...but by a full three days into this condition, it would become obvious that the body was not going to reverse itself, that any hope of a return to life was gone. Death was accepted at that point as the final condition of sin. Three days.

This is why in this weekend's Gospel, John makes such a big deal of the fact that it was four days after Lazarus' death that Jesus called him from his tomb. Anything before that, and maybe, just maybe it could have been seen as just another recovery from some awful illness; something that could have been aided or accomplished by a human being or the natural processes of life on earth. But by the end of three days, and then add one more to underscore the point: what Jesus did was something of the supernatural, of Divine Grace. Only God could raise someone from the dead. Only God! That Jesus had done this once was enough for anyone

(Continued on page 4)



HRIC Playgroup



Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16

Join our new HRIC playgroup! Come let your little ones play, read, and sing while meeting other parents of young ones in our Collaborative. We meet on Friday mornings from 9:45–11:15 in the IC Conference Room 209. Open to all ages including infants! Contact Kim (mom of Max, 2) at kimberly.a.schulte@gmail.com for more information. We would love to see you!

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, March 27

AA Mtg. 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
Women at the Well Mtg. 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room
Scouts Troop 41 Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
Compassionate Friends Mtg. 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, March 28

Breaking Bread Takeout-Only Meal 4:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC SVdP Mtg. 6:15pm, Virtual
IC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Wednesday, March 29

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Cub Scouts Pack 26 Mtg. 5:30pm, St. Ann Hall
IC Anniversary Committee Mtg. 6:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Confessions During Lent 6:30pm, Nativity Church

Thursday, March 30

Confessions During Lent 6:30pm, IC Church
Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, March 31

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church
HRIC Playgroup 9:45am, IC Conference Room 209
HR Simple Supper 5:15pm, Nativity Hall
IC Stations of the Cross 5:15pm, IC Church
IC Simple Supper 5:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Stations of the Cross 6:00pm, Nativity Church
AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

Saturday, April 1

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Procession 8:45am, IC School Gym to IC Church
Holy Week/Easter Family Festival 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall
KofC Hospitality Sunday 10:00am, IC Parish Center Lobby
Baptism Preparation 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
IC Confirmation Prep, Year 1 3:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Confirmation Prep, Year 1 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Recitation of the Rosary



Join us for recitation of the rosary Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. (before 9:00 Mass) in person at IC Church or on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/

Knights Hospitality Sunday

Join us next weekend right after the 9:00 Mass, April 2, in the IC Parish Center for Hospitality Sunday. We will have free coffee and donuts for all.



Hospitality Sunday

1st Sundays after the 9AM Mass | Parish Center



(Continued from page 3)

to believe that He is the Son of God, but the Gospel stories contain other examples, maybe less clear, that He had done this before. In Mark's Gospel chapter 5 (and again in Matthew 9 and Luke 8) Jesus calls a young teenage girl back to life after everyone, including her parents and immediate family had thought she was dead. He tells them that she was only sleeping, but they ridiculed Him, because it was obvious to them that she had died. In another account, Jesus raises a young man from death calling him back to life from his very coffin en route to the cemetery (Luke chapter 7).

But Lazarus' resurrection was beyond the beyond. That Jesus could do this for him, meant that Jesus had the power to do it for anyone, not simply those who might be in some form of extreme coma or whatnot. Raising Lazarus from the dead was the bold, provocative, and crystal-clear sign that Jesus is the Messiah, the One who is to come, the One we could place all our hope in! If you hadn't come to believe that He was the Messiah up to this point in John's Gospel, there was no mistaking it now. Jesus is God. Above all things and beyond any human conventions, we must follow Him. Those who become His friends will rise to new life! This is what Jesus does for His friends—He restores them to life! He has complete power over sin and death. Nothing can stand in His way. Nothing. Taken to its obvious conclusions, and left to the inevitability of His actions, Jesus would become the new religious leader of Israel. And with the power of God at His disposal, every established order would be overturned and disrupted.

That means that all those who enjoyed positions of power and prestige, of wealth and comfort—the ruling class, the religious leaders, those involved in the Temple worship, the priestly class, those who colluded with the occupying Roman forces, those who made their presence felt and lorded it over others...all those folks who placed their full hope and energy on the things and kingdoms of this world would be cast aside and brought to nothing. Their grip on control was over... unless, of course, there could be some way to stop Jesus, to discredit Him before the people, to accuse Him of some kind of heresy or show Him disloyal to the emperor or something like that. It didn't have to be true, it didn't have to be infallible, just enough of a semblance of possibility to make enough people doubt Him and get Him condemned. Then He can be dispatched or killed or whatever...and He will go away into the ashbin of history. And life will continue on, unchallenged...and so it would play out in the days and weeks ahead, that first Holy Week.

Lazarus was dead, however. Four days dead. And Jesus really did raise him and bring him back to life, restoring him to his family, friends and community...and giving all of us who would follow in the centuries to come one more reason to believe that He is truly the Son of God and that we will have life in His name. Let us open our hearts to the truth of His saving love for us today.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Questions of the Week

Adult: Are there parts of your life that Jesus has called "back to life"?

Child: What can you do to become better friends with Jesus?



LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

Guidelines for Lent

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. 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. Only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, enough to maintain strength, may be eaten according to your 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 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

Confessions during Lent

Holy Redeemer Parish

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

Triduum Schedule

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m., IC Church *Live stream*

Good Friday: 3:00 p.m., IC Church *Live stream*
3:00 p.m., St. Ann Church

7:00 p.m., Nativity Church **Stations of the Cross**

Holy Saturday: Gather at 7:30 p.m., IC Church *Live stream*

Easter 2023

Easter Vigil: Saturday

7:30pm IC

Easter Vigil and 9:00am

Easter Sunday

8:30 Nativity

Mass will be Live Streamed
on Website & Facebook

9:00 IC

9:00 IC School Gym

10:00 St. Ann

11:30 IC



Easter Flower Donations



Each Easter we are able to 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.

Make a donation "in memory" of a deceased loved one or "in honor" of someone special. Flower envelopes are in the back of our churches. Drop them in the collection or mail them to the HR or IC offices (see addresses page 2). Deadline to see your gift included in the April 16 bulletin is **noon, March 31**.

Helping the Homeless

We are 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 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 Centering Prayer and let God move you closer to him. 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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

The Sacrament of the Sick

The **Anointing of the Sick** is one of the seven sacraments of our Church and is administered by a priest for healing and inner wholeness. Those who are seriously ill, elderly, or are entering the hospital can request to be anointed. Due to varied schedules and availability, it may not always be possible for a priest to come on short notice to offer the Sacrament, therefore it is strongly recommended that you request the Anointing of the Sick ***before going in for a hospital stay, upon entering a nursing home, or at the beginning of hospice care.*** Please call the Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to learn more.

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
Donald Buckley	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	
Ann-Margaret	Chet LeBlanc	
Ferrante	Lee Preble	

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

Follow Us on Instagram

[HRICatholic](#)



IC Haiti

IC Haiti collection date is this weekend: March 25–26

The Board of Directors for IC Haiti is happy to inform you that the most recent update on the Fr. 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**, (Please make out checks to "IC Haiti") 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.hricatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

Summer 2023 Faith Formation Week

Grades 3–8 June 26–30, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. each day.

Registration forms available: hricatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

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 (hricatholic.org/Faith-Formation). Please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x405) with any questions or reach out via email to Aaron (agiard@hricatholic.org) or Melinda (burrell@hricatholic.org).

Baptism

No Baptisms will take place during the season of Lent. We will resume our schedule of celebrating this sacrament the second Sunday of each month at IC Church. The April baptisms are scheduled for April 16 at 1:30 p.m. due to Easter falling on the second Sunday. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.

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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

San Marcos Coffee March 25-26



We will have plenty of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase after **all** Collaborative Masses on **Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26.**

\$10 per pound for this specialty coffee (whole bean or ground). Your purchase helps the poor farmers earn a fair wage for their hard work.

Gracias from Honduras!

Social Action Spotlight

San Marcos Coffee Program

Did you know...How the sale of coffee got started here?

Fr. Ray Richard, a Newburyport native, is a Franciscan missionary who spent the majority of his service in Central America. Many of you have gotten to know Fr. Ray when he visits Newburyport each August.

While pastor in San Marcos, Ocotepeque, Honduras from 1999–2008, Fr. Ray had an increasing concern for the well-being of his parishioners who were small-scale coffee growers struggling to sustain themselves. San Marcos, in the southwest corner of Honduras and bordering Guatemala and El Salvador, has a rich history in coffee farming. With limited land to plant and no opportunity to buy more, the growers were forced to sell their coffee to “coyotes” who forced the growers to sell at extremely low prices.

Working with the parish council, the community developed a way to get the coffee to a cooperative called “COCOAFELOL.” The cooperative bought the coffee at better prices, taught the parishioners and growers better techniques and methods for producing very good coffee, and assisted in getting the coffee to market. With the improved quality of the coffee and an increase in price from \$1 per pound to \$10 per pound, 20 growers were able to improve their homes and provide not only an education but a future for their children.

The principal market for their coffee is Our Lady Help of Christians in Newton and IC in Newburyport. Through a relationship with the owner of the Burger King franchise in Honduras, Fr. Ray and his team secured shipping containers to get the product to market.

How does it get to us and why do we do this? Thanks to the dedication of IC parishioner Karen Finnegan, the coffee is received, tagged, organized, and sold each quarter at Masses throughout the HRIC Collaborative. For the past 20 years, Karen’s hard work in partnership with Fr. Ray, along with the help of Joseph Patchett and Confirmation students, brings not only significant income but dignity to the growers of San Marcos. They take pride in producing this wonderful coffee and derive great satisfaction from our enjoyment.

Catholic Social Justice teaches us that “*all people are made in the image of God and so possess an equal and inalienable worth.*” And, one of the principles of Catholic Social Justice teaching is the dignity of work and the worker as well as care for the poor. How gratifying to know that the simple act of purchasing a pound of coffee in Massachusetts can help to secure the future of our brothers and sisters in Christ 3,600 miles away! Thanks to Fr. Ray for his initiative and compassion and to Karen for her commitment to service. May God continue to bless the growers and their families in their honest work.

IC PARISH

St. Mary’s Cemetery Cleanup

Please note that spring cleanup at the cemetery will begin soon.

Immaculate Conception Parish owns and operates a private cemetery located on Storey Avenue. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent, at 978-208-0266 to learn more.

The Compassionate Friends



The Compassionate Friends provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age, any cause. Visit our website tcfnewburyport.org.

Our next monthly support meeting is **March 27** in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 from 7:30–9:00 p.m. Contact Barbara with questions: 978-697-1349 or 617-410-6309, or barbarajhopkinson@gmail.com.

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, come to our next meeting on **Thursday, April 6, at 9:45 a.m.** in the IC Charity Dining Room or contact Betty Harrington at 978-595-7776 or hbees@comcast.net.

Attention vendors: Are you a local vendor looking to sell your creative treasures? Our committee is looking for up to 15 vendors to fill our gymnasium with artistic holiday items. If you are interested in reserving a table at our IC Harvest Fair or know someone who may be interested, contact Kathie at Kathie108a@gmail.com and include a picture of the items or crafts you will be selling.

Immaculate Conception Parish: 175th Anniversary

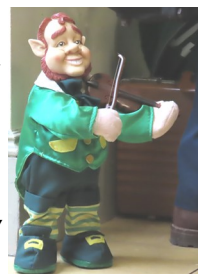


Immaculate Conception Parish celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2023.

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 yearlong 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.

Watch for photos from the St. Patrick’s Day dinner in next Sunday’s bulletin.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Mar. 18–19	\$3,933.00
Ongoing Church Maintenance	\$ 645.00
IC Mailed in Offertory, week ending Mar. 17	\$3,040.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,085.09
Grand Annual Goal: \$100,000	\$80,375

The second collection this weekend (Mar. 26) is IC Haiti. Please make checks payable to "IC Haiti." The second collection next weekend (April 2) is Pastor's Charity.

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.

Immaculate Conception School

A favorite annual event at Immaculate Conception School is the Alumni Basketball Game which is played every year in mid-March. Last Saturday night, almost 50 IC graduates gathered for a celebration and lighthearted but competitive game of basketball. The evening started with the Girls 2020, Girls 2022, and Boys 2022 teams unveiling their North Shore Catholic Elementary School Basketball League championship banners. All three teams went undefeated. Their seasons were played during the pandemic which delayed a proper celebration until now. Applause and pictures were followed by a dynamic, fast-paced co-ed game where the now high school freshman and seniors took on the sophomores and juniors. Regulation play ended in a tie at 70 points. A ten-minute overtime period included a "dare to try" 5-point shot from the half court line. The sophomore-junior team came up victorious at the buzzer, even with the half-court 5-point swoosh by the freshman Thomas Thoreson. It was great to see everyone back on the court having fun, celebrating our IC family, and showcasing the awesome basketball skills that all began so many years ago at Immaculate Conception.



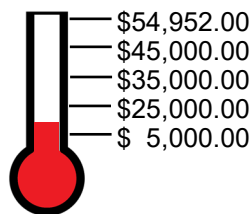
Three new championship banners unveiled.

Below: Alumni players from IC Class of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.



IC Catholic Appeal
Goal \$54,952.00
To Date \$12,090.00

Visit bostoncatholicappeal.org to learn more or to donate.



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MAKE YOUR GIFT
OR VISIT



THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL PUTS

Faith into Action

TO SUPPORT
OUR PARISHES,
SCHOOLS, AND
COMMUNITIES,
AND IT ALL
STARTS WITH YOU

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 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!

Mary A. Kelly Scholarship

Scientific Education for IC Parish Students

Applications are now being accepted for the Mary A. Kelly Scholarship Fund. Email your request for an application to maryaksscholarship@gmail.com.

Scholarship eligibility:

- Young man or woman parishioner of IC Parish
- High school graduate in pursuit of a scientific education

Completed applications must be postmarked and returned to the Trustees no later than **Tuesday, April 18, 2023**.

Flocknote

We ❤️ love
having you as part of our flock

Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

- Choose to get updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime, no spam we promise

We have invested, thanks to a generous donor, in a simple, user-friendly service called Flocknote in order to help our "flock" stay in touch with all the exciting things happening in our parishes. We will be able to text and/or email you important news about parish ministries and events, periodically, as well as any cancellations (*like we had a few weeks ago due to the snow*). This is free and does not involve usernames or passwords or, most importantly spam.

For Immaculate Conception Parish news, **text "ICPARISH" to 84576**. Once you are texted back, you will be able to go to the website "dashboard" to select any other groups you might want to join. You can also sign up online at hriccatholic.flocknote.com.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Mar. 18–19	\$1,821.00
Ongoing Church Maintenance	\$ 369.00
HR Mailed in Offertory, week ending Mar. 17	\$ 878.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 187.50
Grand Annual Goal: \$25,000	\$19,535

The second collection this weekend (Mar. 26) is *IC Haiti*. Please make checks payable to "IC Haiti." No second collection next weekend.

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: hrccatholic.org/hr-online-giving.



HR Catholic Appeal
Goal \$21,665.00
To Date \$7,650.00

Visit bostoncatholicappeal.org to learn more or to donate.



\$21,665.00
\$20,000.00
\$15,000.00
\$10,000.00
\$ 5,000.00

SCAN HERE TO
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OR VISIT



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Faith into Action

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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.

Shawls and Lapghans

We are 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. 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. Our next meeting is Thursday, May 4, at 2:00 in Nativity Hall, Merrimac. All are welcome!

Saturday Mass at St. Ann

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **St. Ann, W. Newbury** for the month of April.

Note: the Saturday, April 8 Easter Vigil will be at IC, Newburyport.

HR St. Vincent de Paul

It's been said that almsgiving sometimes gets the least of our attention among the three Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer and fasting are personal actions focused on our own spiritual growth...these are often simply "second nature" and easy to practice. Almsgiving is the act of giving so that others less fortunate are helped. Why can't almsgiving become as natural and easy as saying our daily prayers? Recall also: It's not all about giving money but can also be a donation of time, energy or talents to those in need. Did we mention that our conference is looking for new members? Check out ssvpusa.org to learn more about our mission.

Please try to add a few coins each day to your Mite Box or use our poor boxes. During Lent, let's make almsgiving an encounter with God through our care for the poor. Your daily sacrifice can *make a difference in the lives of the poor around us*.

Simply return your Mite Box during Holy Week. Thank you!

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.



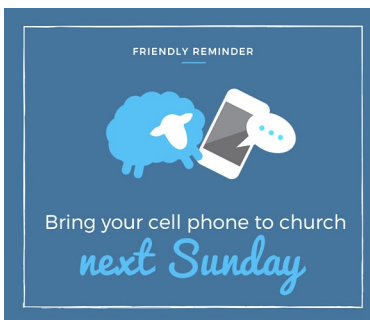
Simple Supper and Stations of the Cross Fridays at Nativity

Come join us Friday, March 31 for the Lenten devotion of praying the Stations of the Cross.

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 31 meal will be prepared and the Stations of the Cross will be lead by the Confirmation students. All are welcome.

Bring Your Phone to Church



April 1–2
at St. Ann & Nativity Churches

We are going to showcase an exciting communications tool so we can stay in touch easier as a parish.

Easter Decorating at Nativity

We will be decorating Nativity Church for Easter Sunday on Friday, April 7 after 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross. Anyone wanting to help out is invited to stop by and join us.