

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

## First Sunday of Lent

### March 9, 2025

[hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org)

All Are Welcome



*Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan  
and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days,  
to be tempted by the devil.*

(Lk 4:1)





## Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

*"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters..."*

### St. Ann

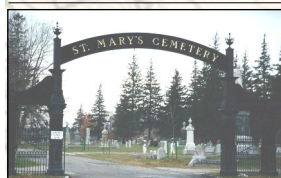
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985  
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
Email: [info@hriccatholic.org](mailto:info@hriccatholic.org)

### Nativity

Parish offices and church:  
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860  
Office Hours: By appointment  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
Email: [info@hriccatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@hriccatholic.org)



### St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,  
Newburyport 01950

### Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, Pre-K-grade 8,  
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,  
Fax: 978-234-7331, [www.icsnewburyport.com](http://www.icsnewburyport.com)



## Collaborative Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
[info@hriccatholic.org](mailto:info@hriccatholic.org)

### Senior Priests in Residence

978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
Rev. George E. Morin  
Rev. Charles Stanley

### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow  
978-887-5350  
Deacon John Moranski  
978-432-1443

### St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at  
Holy Redeemer  
978-346-8604 x 4  
[hrrsvdp300@gmail.com](mailto:hrrsvdp300@gmail.com)

St. Vincent de Paul Society at  
Immaculate Conception  
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### St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266

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### Immaculate Conception School

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### Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, HR Organist  
978-697-1082  
Kathy Peavey, HR Vocalist  
978-360-8756

Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director  
978-317-8903  
Tim Richard, IC organist  
Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator  
978-270-4924  
Paula Quann, IC Youth Choir  
609-519-3236

### Confessions

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

X @HRICatholic



hriccatholic



Holy Redeemer - Immaculate  
Conception Collaborative  
Parishes



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday (3/8)

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

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

### Sunday (3/9)

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

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

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

11:30am **IC** Shirley Marshall (Fr. Harrison)

### Monday (3/10)

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

### Tuesday (3/11)

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

### Wednesday (3/12)

9:00am **IC** For the intentions of Gregory

D'Ambrosio (Fr. Morin)

### Thursday (3/13)

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

### Friday (3/14)

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

### Saturday (3/15)

4:00pm **IC** Mary Joan Bouchard Kenny, Sheila Johnson, Laurel Wightman-Ryti, Valentina Perry (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

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

### Sunday (3/16)

8:30am **Nativity** Joyce Nevins, Chrisy Grudzien (Fr. Stanley)

9:00am **IC** Joe Messina, Elaine Murphy (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

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

11:30am **IC** Rosemary Anderson, Faris Abu-Jawdeh (Fr. Stanley)

*In your prayers please remember Robert "Bob" McCune and all of the faithful departed.*

**The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.**

*IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport*

*Nativity—Merrimac*

*St. Ann—West Newbury*

**Saturday Vigil Mass is live-streamed online** through our website: [hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org) as well as our Facebook page.

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter wholeheartedly this week into our Lenten season, I think it is important to remember the goal of everything we do during this holy time of the year: to prepare to renew our Baptismal Promises.



Wait, what about prayer, fasting, almsgiving, abstinence, sacrifice, confession, ashes... and more, aren't these all supposed to be a central part of Lent?

Well, yes and no.

Yes, to the extent that doing any of these things or embracing any time-honored discipline helps hone our relationship with God and better prepare us to renew our Baptismal commitment to Him at Easter. But, no, if any of these things are done for the wrong reason, to bring glory to ourselves and fail to draw us closer to God. As we heard on Wednesday, even generous almsgiving loses its salvific nature when done in public and with great fanfare. "When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward." (Mt. 6:2) To be helpful to our salvation, discretion and humility are required right alongside generosity and sacrifice. Give, so that you may have a greater understanding of God's love for those in need, and THAT will help you be ready to renew your Baptismal Promises at Easter.

Over the years, many of us have had it beaten into us that we must "give up something for Lent." Chocolate, screen time, desserts, booze, and excessive frivolity with our friends were often on the top of the list. No?! If you weren't sacrificing something that you really liked or wanted, well, you were a terrible sinner and getting worse by the day. Lent became a tortuous exercise of beating our will into submission, almost to the point of taking pride in how miserable one could become. But did that really help us renew our Baptismal call to holiness?

Baptism wipes away sin. It frees us from the bondage of sin and death and gives the bright promise of eternal life. Baptism is about rejecting evil, the Devil and "all of his empty show." Whenever Christ encountered the demonic, He silenced it, would not let it speak and cast it away. Our approach to the rigors of Lent must engage this same practice: do not give overt attention to temptation, to sin or its proponents. Rather, give it no voice, no place to fester and grow. In the name of the Lord Jesus, cast it out and away. Rebuke it solidly in our faith, that it may have no mastery over us. As Jesus once told His disciples, "Do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (Lk. 10:20)

Then, let's get to the all-important business of strengthening and deepening our belief in the God who has revealed Himself to be Father, Son, and Spirit, and the Church He founded. This is where prayer can be so fruitful—joyful praise that lifts our souls to the ecstasy of Heaven. No mournful dirge here! When we talk to the Lord, who has given us all things in Christ, our hearts must be filled with delight and awe. Prayer must be from the depths of our spirit—maybe

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Jubilee 2025: Evening of Reflection

Our Collaborative will begin an observance of Jubilee 2025 with an evening of reflection on **Thursday evening, March 13 at 5:45 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church.**

Fr. George will introduce us to the Jubilee theme, Pilgrims of Hope, and guide us through a reflection on Pope Francis' advice to "look to the future with an open spirit."

*"Hope does not disappoint, because God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5*





## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### This Week in Our Collaborative

See our online calendar for more listings. Link on our website: [hricCatholic.org](http://hricCatholic.org).

#### Monday, March 10

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

**Altar Server Training, Session 3** 4:00pm, IC Church

**Cub Scout Mtg.** 4:30pm, St. Ann Hall

#### Tuesday, March 11

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

**Faith Formation, Grade 2** 3:30pm, IC Nazareth Library

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

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

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

**IC Choir Rehearsal** 7:00pm, IC Church

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

#### Wednesday, March 12

**HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program** 7-9am, St. Ann Hall

**Holy Jammers Practice** 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

**Adoration** 3:00pm, Nativity Church

**IC Youth Choir Rehearsal** 4:30pm, IC Church

**Ministry Committee Mtg.** 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

#### Thursday, March 13

**My father's Father Series** 9:45am, IC Charity Dining Room

**Night of Reflection** 5:45pm, IC Church

**Adoration** 7:00pm, IC Church

#### Friday, March 14

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

**Adoration** 9:30am, IC Church

**Nativity Simple Supper** 5:00pm, Nativity Hall

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

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

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

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

#### Saturday, March 15

**Holy Quilters** 8:30am, Nativity Hall

**Confessions** 3:00pm, IC Church

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

### Pilgrim Information Night

#### Great Shrines and Saints of France 2025

Interested in joining the Pilgrimage? Join us to meet those already registered and to learn more about what we can expect as we travel.

**Place:** Immaculate Conception Parish Center

**When:** March 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

**What:** Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. in St. James Chapel, 6:45 Refreshments, presentation, and Q&A

**More information:** Pilgrimage dates: October 13-25, 2025, visit [www.206tours.com/cms/blanchette/france/](http://www.206tours.com/cms/blanchette/france/) (Booking Code: PB101325)

Save the date and RSVP (call or text Christine: 978-968-4140) if you plan to come so we can plan for the size of the crowd.

(Continued from page 3)

even without words, lifting our souls to reach out to the divine. Prayer can be simple and quick or lengthy and thorough. But it must be honest and real and without pretense, remembering that God already knows what we are praying for even before we ask. Prayer must ponder the ineffable, while taking delight in the mundane. When at Easter we say that we believe in God, has our Lenten prayerfulness furthered our understanding of who the Lord is, that we might love Him with greater fervor?

When we fast, we must not treat it as some divine-inspired diet...you know, to lose a few of those pounds that our doctor keeps bringing up. No, fasting must be happy and purposeful. We let go of something good, to make a hole and make room for God to fill that space with something better. We embrace silence so as to better hear the voice of God speaking to us. We open our routine and daily schedule that God may arrange things differently, and for a purpose. Fasting can be done by forgoing the dreary and selfish to embrace the life and festivity of the other...to better encounter God in service to another. At Easter, will we be more-full of God's love, and less of hatred, despair, and neglect?

Almsgiving is about sharing. Or, rather, about taking delight in other's benefitting from the gifts that God has first lent to us. It might be about money. It might be about offering our gifts and talents to others who are struggling. It might be about donating our time or attention to those whom other's give none at all. Our simple presence, lavishly given, is redemptive and life-giving. It might be about resolving to spend this Lenten period more "in the moment." And there we will encounter the God who never leaves that singular moment of love for us and our world. At Easter, through what we have given, how much more have we received?

And what of our relationship to the Church? While the human face of the institution will always be in need of reform, Church is about so much more than a body of rules and proscriptions. It is a mystical Body of believers, with Christ as our head. It is the holy People of God, redeemed and cleansed. It is partially seen now, yet its fullness is yet to be revealed. It is already, but not yet. It is the hope of all the earth, and the fulfillment that can only be found in Heaven. There is great strength in united prayer and faith. This Easter, through our Lenten journey, will our relationship with the Church be stronger, more vibrant and deeply sincere?

Using the lens of our Baptismal Promises to guide our choices and efforts in these next six weeks will better enable us to embrace Christ: crucified, buried and risen. May this be happy and holy time of the year for us all!

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

**Please email any bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to [hricbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:hricbulletin@gmail.com).**

### Thinking About Becoming Catholic?

If you, or anyone you know, are thinking about becoming Catholic, we always welcome new inquirers at any point in your spiritual journey. Contact Aaron Giard, the Director of OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) at (978) 462-2724 x405 to learn about the process and to get started.

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

**Next delivery is Wednesday, March 12**



This program delivers soup, sandwiches, and casseroles to the Good Shepherd Center in Lawrence on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.

**We ask that sandwiches be cut and individually wrapped, then placed in the bread wrapper. Please label the bread wrapper with the variety of sandwich.** Cold cuts—with or without cheese—and peanut butter & jelly are favorites. *Please do not use condiments.*

Homemade **soups** and **casseroles** are always gratefully accepted. You can pick up soup containers and/or foil baking pans during the drop off dates/time.

Party-sized **powered drink mixes** such as iced tea, lemonade, and Kool-Aid, along with fresh fruits and goodies (cookies, chips, candies, etc.) are greatly appreciated!

**Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury from 7–9. a.m.**

*If you would like more information or have any questions about the HRIC Soup and Sandwich program, feel free contact the Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724.*

## Prayers for the Sick

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

Patricia Baikewicz	Renee Fowler	Eleanora Paciulan
John Bourque	Ed Hardy	Joseph Palumbo
Kathy P. Brodeur	Jane Harney	Joanne Pesa
Michael Brenner	Chloe Hequet	Elizabeth Pettingell
Priscilla Brown	Emma Hurley	Donika Pulake
Autumn Rose	Armand Hyatt	Rose Raimo
Coulombe	Mabel Jancewicz	Rob Schweizer
Bill Crounse	Michael Juralewicz	Regina Seely
Drew Daubach	Arthur LaPointe	Yvonne Sloban
Kristen D'Entremont	Michael Lichtenstein	Gary Smith
Deb Downie	Johannah Lord	Arlene Stoddard
Barbara Dunbar	Monica Maguire	Taylor
Dotty Duval	Sia Mahalati	Captain Bill Taplin
Ann-Margaret	Ovidio Martinez	Tom Tribble
Ferrante	Patricia Carey	Michael Tucker
John Flynn	McCarthy	Maddie Villers
Jeanine Ebacher	Molly O'Donnell	Laurent Vincent
Fowler	Carol O'Neal	Sandra Welch

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

## Evensong

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Nbpt., March 9, 5:00 p.m.**

Evensong is an ancient tradition of music, Scripture, and prayer, oftentimes referred to as Vespers or Evening prayer. It is typically celebrated in the Anglican Church prior to Nighttime prayer or Compline. Similar forms of song and prayer are observed daily in monastic life.

On March 9, at 5:00 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church and its Jubilate Choir will share sung psalms and canticles interspersed with Scripture readings and prayer. All are welcome to join in this beautiful act of praising God, reflecting on His word and preparing for a peaceful sleep.

## Collaborative Faith Formation

**School Year Programs (K–10, Including Sacramental Prep.)**

Registration forms are no longer available for 2024–25, but the schedule is still on the website at [www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation](http://www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation), for reference. We will have registration forms and schedules for 2025–26 uploaded in July.

### Baptism

No Baptisms will be taking place during the season of Lent. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information regarding this sacrament.

### Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will now be celebrated with students currently in Grade 8 rather than with Grade 10 students. As a result, our Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation process has changed. Help us to spread the word to families of middle schoolers who may not be aware of this policy change.

**Summer Faith Formation: June 23–27**

**Grades 3–8, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. daily**

Registration forms for summer Faith Formation are now available on our website:

[hriccatholic.org/faith-formation-registration-forms](http://hriccatholic.org/faith-formation-registration-forms)

**NOTE:** If your child is preparing for **Sacraments** (First Reconciliation, First Communion, or Confirmation) we offer preparation only during the school year.

If your child is entering **8th grade** in the fall, but has not received Faith Formation in recent years, enrolling them in the summer Faith Formation week is a great way to catch them up and get in a prerequisite year before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation (8th graders can begin preparation for Confirmation only if they have attended recent Faith Formation with us).

## 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. 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 up one 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 listed in the April 27 (Divine Mercy Sunday) bulletin is Monday, April 14.

## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** What temptations lead people away from God the most in these modern times?

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

## LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

### This Week's Lenten Activities

**Wednesday, March 12**

**Adoration** 3:00pm, Nativity Church

**Centering Prayer** 6:00pm, Zoom

**Thursday, March 13**

**My father's Father Series** 9:45am, IC Charity Dining Room

**Adoration** 7:00pm, IC Church

**Friday, March 14**

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

**Adoration** 9:30am, IC Church

**Nativity Simple Supper** 5:00pm, Nativity Hall

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

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

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

**Saturday, March 15**

**Confessions** 3:00pm, IC Church

### Adoration



Eucharistic Adoration is the most conspicuous demonstration of taking Jesus at His word when He pronounced at the Last Supper: "This is My Body."

*Come & worship the Real Presence of the Lord at Adoration.*

**Wednesdays** 3:00–4:00 p.m. Nativity Church

**Thursdays** 7:00–8:00 p.m., IC Church  
(enter at Green Street door only)

**Fridays** 9:30 a.m., IC Church (unless a funeral is scheduled)

### Guidelines for Lent

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent.

### 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.

### Lenten Series

**Thursdays during Lent, March 6–April 10**



Join us on Thursdays this Lent for a six-part video series called "My father's Father."

"God is Father" – This is the life-altering revelation of Jesus. Yet, how many of us struggle to know that we have a Father in heaven who knows, loves, and chooses us as His sons and daughters?

Join Fr. Dave Pivonka as he journeys home to reflect on the urgent need to know God as Father amidst the backdrop of his hometown and the relationship he shared with his dad. This poignant documentary series explores the transformative impact of embracing our inheritance, unraveling the intricate tapestry of fear, doubt, shame, and brokenness to reveal a loving Father—for each of us.

We will be reflecting on the love of God the Father for us, his sons and daughters, through this beautiful series, over some refreshments. We hope to see you there!

**Dates:** Thursdays through April 10

**Time:** 9:45 a.m.–11:15 a.m.

**Location:** IC Charity Dining Room

*Coffee/tea, Baked goods, and breakfast foods provided.*

### Confessions for Lent 2025

*Additional Confession times during Lent:*

IC Church, Saturdays 3:00–3:30 p.m.

Thursdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. on March 20 and 27, April 3 and 10

Nativity Church, Wednesdays from 3:00–4:00 p.m. on March 19 and April 2

Saint Ann Church, Wednesdays from 6:00–7:00 p.m. on March 26 and April 9

### Stations of the Cross

**St. Ann: Friday mornings during Lent: 9:00 a.m.**

March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, and 18 (Good Friday)  
*More details page 8.*

**Nativity: Friday evenings during Lent:**

**5:00 supper, 6:00 Stations**

March 14, 21, 28, April 4, and 11 (no Stations Good Friday)  
*More details page 8.*

**Immaculate Conception: Friday evenings during Lent:**

**5:15 Stations, 5:45 supper**

March 14, 21, 28, April 4, and 11 (no Stations Good Friday)

### Online Giving

Both HR and IC offer Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring (weekly or monthly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of one of our parish communities. Parish registration forms are available on the website or contact the Collaborative offices.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org), and click the "Links" tab, then on "HR Parish Online Giving" or "IC Parish Online Giving" to get to the appropriate site.

Questions? Contact Christine Breslow at 978-462-2724.



# LENT IN THE COLLABORATIVE

## Lenten 5-Week Rosary Challenge

**The First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony In the Garden**

**Spiritual Fruit:** God's Will Be Done

Together with His disciples, Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray to His Heavenly Father. Although accompanied by His followers and friends, Jesus feels utterly alone as He contemplates the mission He is soon to complete. Although fully submissive and dedicated to His Father's will, Jesus allows His humanity to feel the immense horror and pain that His sacrifice will entail. Jesus sees the sins of all mankind, whose guilt He will take upon Himself.



This mystery teaches us that in times of darkness and anguish, God is present to give us strength against the temptation towards weakness. We are comforted by our trust that God's Mercy and Justice will prevail. (Source: [Rosary.com](http://Rosary.com))

Additional research:

- Biblical Reference: Luke 22: 39-46
- Formed video: The First Sorrowful Mystery ([www.hriccatholic.org/formed](http://www.hriccatholic.org/formed))
- Rosary in a Year podcast Day 39
- Hallow app has several guests that you can pray the rosary with including: Bishop Barron, Cardinal Dolan, Mark Wahlberg, Sr. Miriam James Heidlandm, and many others
- YouTube video: The First Sorrowful Mystery
- <https://www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>

## 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/](http://www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/)



## Directed Lenten Retreat

**Lent: A Time of Choice, Challenge, and Change**

*Exploring the cost of becoming Jesus' disciple by carrying your cross each day.*

This retreat will focus on the inner work of Lent signified by the outward sign of ashes. It will provide a time and space to engage in interior work to support and explore your public proclamation and respond to Jesus' call. In Luke we hear Jesus invite us to follow him *if* we are willing to pay the cost of discipleship and be changed. What concretely, does Jesus mean by this?

Taking up your cross daily and giving up your life in order to find a deeper life in Christ means six interpenetrating things that we will explore. Why is suffering necessary and salvific? What supports you to change? How do you pray? What is hard to surrender? Where do you resist change? Do you believe in Jesus' promise? The season of Lent calls us to reflect on and explore such questions with faith.

I will provide material for reading and reflection from scripture and of spiritual teachers that reflect your unique relationship with God as we explore these and other questions you may have. We will meet for four in-person or Zoom spiritual direction sessions throughout the retreat. This offering is designed to provide an affordable, convenient retreat that creates an intimate space for you to share yourself deeply with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

**Retreat Opens March 3. Retreat Closes April 16.**

Begin retreat any time you choose. Four one-hour spiritual direction sessions scheduled at your convenience.

**Spiritual Director:** Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director, MA Pastoral Counseling. Call (978) 462-7483 to register or for additional information.

Suggested donation: \$95.00

## Centering Prayer for Lent

Centering Prayer is an ancient Christian practice available to all who seek transformation through a more intimate relationship with God. Centering Prayer helps us say to the Father, "Not my will but yours be done" (Lk. 22: 42).

Consider joining us and let God move you closer to him. All are welcome. We gather Wednesdays from 6:00–7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Following 30 minutes of Centering Prayer, we practice Lectio Divina. We listen to God's words in scripture, ponder, and share what we hear the Lord saying to us here and now and contemplate for the following week God's message to us and let it guide our choices and actions. Both practices strengthen our faith and reliance on God and deepen our personal relationship with God.

If you are interested in joining us or learning more about these practices contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483



## 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 at 7:00 p.m. in the IC Nazareth Library. For more information about our meetings or to join the Knights, call 978-225-0804 or email [kofc231@outlook.com](mailto:kofc231@outlook.com).

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.** in the IC Nazareth Library.

# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, March 1–2	\$2,228.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Feb. 28	\$ 100.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 451.25
<b>Total Weekly Offertory, March 1–2</b>	<b>\$2,779.25</b>
Fuel, March 1–2	\$ 705.00
HR Grand Annual, Goal: \$25,000	\$26,540.00

The second collection this weekend (March 9) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (March 16) 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: [hrccatholic.org/hr-online-giving](http://hrccatholic.org/hr-online-giving).

## HR Coffee Hours



Holy Redeemer Coffee Hours are held twice a month to promote fellowship among our parishioners. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and make a new friend!

Please join in the fun **after the 8:30 Mass on March 23 or after the 10:00 Mass on April 13**

Anyone interested in helping with setup, clean up or making “breakfast food” are asked to call Donna Pallone, (978) 886-1621 if interested in helping after the 10:00 Mass (St. Ann) or Cindy Quinn (978-346-0072) if interested in helping after the 8:30 Mass (Nativity).

## HR Cookbook Corner: Faith & Food

### Simple Friday Suppers for Lent Series Friday March 14, 2025

In the gospel for Friday of the First Week of Lent Jesus teaches about forgiveness. *“Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”*

**Reflection** We cannot come before God and ask for forgiveness, if we ourselves are unable to forgive.

**Simple Friday Supper Menu** Blessing Before Meals (Cookbook page PP-5)  
Tuscan Bean Soup (page 26)  
Twin Mountain Muffins (page 102)



If you do not have a copy of the HR parish cookbook, *Our Favorite Recipes* and would like to purchase one, please stop in at the IC parish offices during business hours and ask for Melinda. The cookbooks are \$15.00 each and make wonderful gifts!

## HR St. Vincent de Paul

### Our Lenten Mission

We begin our Lenten journey with the story of the Widow's Mite:

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.*

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on. Mark 12: 41-42*

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?

Please pick up your Mite Box from the tables near the entrance to the church. Try to add a few coins each day to your Mite Box. Simply return your Mite Box during Holy Week. Thank you!



Your kind donations in any form are always greatly appreciated. Please use the envelopes at St. Ann and Nativity churches for your donations. These can be mailed or placed in the poor boxes at the churches. Reminder: Make sure to *make checks payable to **HR St. Vincent de Paul***.

## Time to Celebrate

### Fr. Stanley's 80th Birthday



The HR Activities Committee invites all celebrate with Fr. Stanley on this very happy occasion!

**When/Where:** Sunday, March 30 at St. Ann Hall following the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Join us for a festive **Birthday Brunch** featuring delicious home baked treats, great coffee, and—of course—birthday cake!

## HR Stations of the Cross

### St. Ann: Friday Mornings during Lent: 9:00 a.m.

St. Ann will be praying the Stations of the Cross on Friday mornings during Lent. Please note that Stations on a given Friday may be cancelled if there is a funeral at St. Ann.

Lenten Fridays: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, and 18 (Good Friday) at 9:00 a.m.



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

Nativity will be praying the Stations of the Cross on the Friday evenings during Lent: March 14, 21, 28, April 4, and 11 (no Stations on Good Friday) starting at 6:00 p.m.

We will serve a community supper starting at 5:00 p.m. We will serve supper until 5:55 p.m.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, March 1–2	\$7,002.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Feb 28	\$2,987.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	<u>\$3,250.84</u>
<b>Total Weekly Offertory, March 1–2</b>	<b>\$13,239.84</b>

Utility and Energy, March 1–2	\$1,089.00
IC Grand Annual, Goal: \$100,000	\$99,306.00

The second collection this weekend (March 9) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (March 16) 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: [hriccatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving](http://hriccatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving).

## 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.svdnpnewburyport.org](http://www.svdnpnewburyport.org) or scan the QR code. If you would like to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to **"SVdP of Newburyport"** and drop it into the collection 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!

## Catholic Appeal



Next weekend, the 2025 Catholic Appeal will officially launch here at IC parish. As your pastor, I hope and encourage you to join me in making a gift to this year's Catholic Appeal.

As we celebrate the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, our participation in the Catholic Appeal signifies an important way that we can share Christ's promise, care, and love with others. For those who have already made a gift, please know that I am deeply grateful. We are hoping to have 100% participation from our parish! When we reach our Appeal goal of \$59,300, our parish will receive funds back for our local programs and ministries. To make an online gift, please visit: [www.bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://www.bostoncatholicappeal.org).

Thank you for moving us "Forward in Faith"!

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## Immaculate Conception School

The 5th grade students at Immaculate Conception School are baking bread for Tuesday afternoon meals served out of the IC Parish Center. Teams of 3–4 students carefully measure ingredients into three bread making machines on Monday mornings. The aroma of fresh baking bread fills the school throughout the day, producing three loaves of bread to be offered the following day for the Breaking Bread Tuesday meal. The students apply sequencing and math skills, and a sense of caring for the community with each loaf of bread they bake. With only about 20 minutes of prep time, the end result is priceless. The students presented their first loaf of bread to the dedicated volunteers who make the Tuesday meal possible, which was a powerful moment for all.

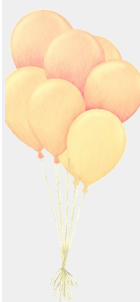
*Pictured, Kellan (L), Brody and Matthew look on as Ben and Noah measure flour into the bread machine pan.*



Photo courtesy of J. Sullivan

## Time to Celebrate

### Fr. Stanley's Birthday



The Faith, Fun, and Fellowship Committee is happy to announce there will be a **Birthday Dinner Celebration** in IC St. Louis Hall after the 4:00 p.m. Mass on March 29 to celebrate Fr. Charles Stanley's 80th birthday.

If you would like to attend please reserve your seat as soon as possible as St. Louis Hall can seat only 70 attendees. To reserve your seat please contact Nancy via text or call at 978-270-1579.

## St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drop Box



Immaculate Conception SVdP now offers a St. Vincent de Paul clothing drop box. We are accepting **clothing and shoes only** in the drop box.

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