

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 25, 2023

All Are Welcome

hricatholic.org



*Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to
the ground without your Father's knowledge...*

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

(Mk 10:29, 31)



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

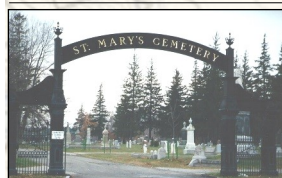
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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

hrrsvdp300@gmail.com

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 (6/24)

4:00pm **IC** *Kenneth A. Morris, Fr. Joe Clark, Jean Foley* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)
4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (6/25)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)
9:00am **IC** *Jeanine Murray, Margaret Jean* (Fr. Harrison)
10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)
11:00am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

Monday (6/26)

9:00am **IC** *John Murray, Ernest Falvo* (Fr. Harrison)

Tuesday (6/27)

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

Wednesday (6/28)

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

Thursday (6/29)

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

Friday (6/30)

9:00am **IC** *Lillian M. Foley* (Fr. Stanley)

Saturday (7/1)

4:00pm **IC** *Kenneth A. Morris, James Stehlin, Nancy Salah* (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Stanley)

Sunday (7/2)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
9:00am **IC** *Jack Stone* (Fr. Stanley)
10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)
11:00am **IC** (Fr. Stanley)

In your prayers please remember John B. Doyle, William E. Graham Sr., George & Jean Mantarian, and all of the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Vigil Mass is live-streamed online through our website: hriccatholic.org and on Facebook: ([Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)).

Donate your clothes to St. Vincent de Paul Society on

Bundle Sunday

June 24-25

IC Church Parking Lot

Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25

Clothes and shoes only, please (no toys or household items).



Independence Day Holiday

Collaborative offices will be closed on Monday, July 3 and Tuesday, July 4 for the Independence Day Holiday. Offices will reopen on Wednesday, July 5 at 9:00 a.m.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Fear has its place.



When I was a little kid, I inadvertently stepped on a wasp nest while playing in the backyard. As you can image, the wasps were not happy about it and I got stung many times as a punishment for encroaching on their humble abode. Ever since that moment, I tend to tense up and reach for a can of RAID whenever I see anything airborne that might have a stinger attached to it. It was a painful lesson to learn at an early age. The lasting effect of it all is a healthy respect...OK, an irrational fear!, of all flying, buzzing things.

Another time, I was helping my father fix a gutter on the edge of our lower roof. A moment's distraction (maybe one of those flying, buzzing things again...!) and I almost fell off the roof save for a last-minute arm lock by my dad. "Don't tell your mother," he said. Of course, she already saw the whole thing from our kitchen window and was already in launch mode, chastising him for allowing me "to help." My poor dad—he saves my life and gets yelled at for it! Of course the net result was that even to this day I have a healthy respect, err...blatant fear, of heights.

As I said, fear has its place. It can be a powerful motivator when making all sorts of choices in life. Burn yourself even once in the kitchen and you will be extra careful around the stove from then on. Slam your finger in the car door, and you will never again enter or exit your vehicle with abandon. The memory of pain and its consequences help shape every stage of our learning hopefully to the point where we don't have to suffer bodily injury to be able to work out a better and safer way to live.

But as is often the case, our fears are sometimes misplaced. We worry about things that may never happen and sometimes fail to be cautious around the real dangers that do exist. As Mark Twain is famously quoted with saying, "I've had a lot of worries in my life, most of which never happened." Then again, there are those unbelievable images on the news and social media of Yellowstone National Park tourists trying to take selfies with fully grown Bison and oh-so-cute bear cubs...what could possibly go

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Volunteers Needed for Merrimac "Old Home Days"

This year, scout Troop 41 will be unable to host their traditional Chicken BBQ as part of Merrimac Old Home Days in August.

Volunteers are being sought from the whole Collaborative who might be willing to step in and run this much-loved event this year. The Scouts will provide equipment and a step-by-step set of directions to those willing to help. If you are interested, please contact our Collaborative office and leave your name and contact information with Melinda or Christine. They can be reached at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604. Thank you for your help in carrying on a wonderful and tasty tradition!

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, June 26,

Summer Faith Formation 9:00–3:00, IC Campus
Cub Scout Pack 26 Mtg. 4:00pm, St. Ann Hall
IC Berry Festival Mtg. 6:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Women at the Well Mtg. 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room
Scout Troop 41 Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
Compassionate Friends Mtg. 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, June 27

Women's AA Mtg. 7:00am, St. Ann Hall
Summer Faith Formation 9:00–3:00, IC Campus
Breaking Bread Meal (in-person) 4:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. 6:15pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Wednesday, June 28

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program 7:00–9:00am, St. Ann Hall
Summer Faith Formation 9:00–3:00, IC Campus
Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Church

Thursday, June 29

Summer Faith Formation 9:00–3:00, IC Campus
Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, June 30

Summer Faith Formation 9:00–3:00, IC Campus
Adoration 9:30am, IC Church
AA Mtg. 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, July 1

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, July 2

K of C Hospitality Sunday 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall

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

(Continued from page 3)

wrong there?! Come on people, common sense! Common Sense!

So, what to fear? In a word, God.

Not in a trembling, cowering, hide-under-the-bed kind of terror. But in the best possible way: being so awestruck and reverential that we want to make sure that we don't ever show God any disrespect by breaking His law or violating His commandments. We are so grateful for God's magnificent gift of merciful forgiveness through Christ that we live our lives with a "holy fear" of always wanting to do and say the right thing before the Lord. It is not a paralyzing fear that dis-enables our ability to live a healthy life, but quite the contrary, imbues us with a life-giving reverence for God's greatness and perfect honor. We rejoice in the Spirit-led gift of "Fear of the Lord," knowing that it helps us grow in holiness and wisdom.

Jesus warns us in this weekend's Gospel passage to fear no one in this world: "do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." (Mk 10:28). And it is not that God has it out for us, either, just waiting to zap us into a cinder at the slightest transgression. Last week we heard in the writings of St. Paul, "but God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rm 5:8). Unchanged, unrepentant, unrefined, unconverted, unwashed...and God still loved us with the greatest love by sending His only Son to die for us that we might live. So God's faithfulness is supreme, hopefully inspiring us to want to always please Him in all that we are. Even when we sin and fall short of everything that God asks of us, we still have great reason to trust in His mercy and forgiveness. Not that we ever take it for granted, but that we have every confidence in His unfailing promise of reconciliation in Christ.

In the days ahead as our summer unfolds, I recommend staying away from nests of pests, being wary around ladders and leaving the wildlife alone. Life is short, after all, so let's make the most of it. We do that best by a healthy reverence and respect for the One who gives us life in the first place and renews it into eternity. So...Be afraid! Be very afraid! (Of God) (In the best possible way!)

Summer blessings,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Prayers for the Sick

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

Patricia Baikewicz	Jeanine Ebacher	Eleanora Paciulan
Priscilla Brown	Fowler	Lee Preble
Baby Boyle	Eddie Gagnon	Donika Pulake
Vasfije Buhali	Charmaine Haan	Douglas Rose
Autumn Rose	Hillar Haan	Robert Rose
Coulombe	Jay Hanslig	Maureen Russell
Bill Crounse	Al Hasapis	Rob Schweizer
Drew Daubach	Terence Healey	Frank Siderio
Kristen	Sam Kitchen	Yvonne Sloban
D'Entremont	Arthur LaPointe	Arlene Stoddard
Ann-Margaret	Chet LeBlanc	Tom Tribble
Ferrante	Carol O'Neal	Michael Tucker
Jack Flynn	Rev. Mario Orrigo	Laurent Vincent

Ordinary Time Welcomes Extraordinary Time with Jesus



As we step into weeks of Ordinary Time, if you are a visitor or parishioner seeking an extraordinary moment of inner transformation, enter Sacred Silence any Thursday for serene dialogue with Jesus the Lord in the monstrance. His personal loving words to you will not disappoint.

Place: IC Church

Enter through the Green Street door only.

Time: Thurs. 7 p.m.–8 p.m. and Fri. 9:30 a.m.–12 noon

Note: If a Friday funeral is scheduled, or in the absence of a presider, IC Church will remain open for "Sacred Silence" only. Check the HRIC calendar online for updated information.

Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to hricbulletin@gmail.com.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Knights Hospitality Sunday

Join us **July 2, after the 9:00am Mass**, in IC St. Louis Hall for Hospitality Sunday. We will have free coffee and donuts for all.

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 call 978-225-0804 or email kofc231@outlook.com.



Hospitality Sunday

1st Sundays after the 9AM Mass | Parish Center



Pastoral Council Nominees

We have almost completed our third full year and are seeking the names of people you think might be good candidates for this Council. We are now looking for parishioners who might be interested in serving in this capacity. At this point we would just like the names of people who might serve the parish in this way. Please list your own name if you are interested and/or list the names of others. No need to ask them at this point—this will be done as the process unfolds. No one will be chosen for this Council until they fully understand what they are being asked to do and the time involved. This is just the initial surfacing of names.

The purpose of the Collaborative Pastoral Council is to assist the pastor in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating, and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education, and service activities within the parish.

If you are interested in serving on the Council, consider nominating yourself. All confirmed, active, practicing members of the Collaborative who are 16 years of age or older are eligible to be nominated. Please send the name, address, and phone number of individuals (if you have that information) you choose to nominate and email Jim: jimwilliamson35@gmail.com by **August 5, 2023**. Thank you for your assistance in this important aspect of the life of our Collaborative. Please also pray for the work of this Council.

Selection of candidates for expiring terms will be chosen by lot in late August.

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. Our study, *Keeping in Balance from Walking with Purpose*, is 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 Charity Dining Room 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.

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

Next delivery is Wednesday, June 28



The HRIC Collaborative Soup & Sandwich Program (formerly the HR Sandwich Program) is asking for volunteers to help make sandwiches for the Lazarus House Ministry. We deliver on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Thank you to all who have been donating since we started up again. We are delivering over 150 sandwiches every date, and are now bringing 5 gallons of soup.

Sandwiches need to be **individually wrapped or bagged** and returned to the bread wrappers. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are requested at this time, also cold cuts and/or cheese sandwiches. Please, no condiments. **Large** containers of coffee, Adobo, and minced garlic are also welcome. They are also looking for fresh vegetables (not potatoes). Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury, from 7:00–9:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. (Door on the larger parking lot side of the church).

Any questions please contact Jill: dobsondolls@aol.com or Tom at Tom@grellafinancial.com.

Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina

We welcome all members of our Collaborative community to join us each Wednesday 6:00–7:00 p.m. via Zoom for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer, silently resting in God and surrendering and assenting to God's presence and action in our lives, and 30 minutes of reading Sacred Scripture in group Lectio Divina. Both practices strengthen our faith and reliance on God and deepen our personal relationship with God. For more information, please call Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

Confessions

We offer confessions Saturdays from **3:00–3:30 p.m.** at IC Church. No appointment needed. Confessions are also available at other times and places during the week by appointment only. For more information or to schedule a time for confession, contact our Collaborative offices at (978) 346-8604 or (978) 462-2724.

The Pelican Intervention Fund



We provide funding for non-profit, 12-step residential sober homes for economically challenged people struggling with addiction. Contact Kim Keene 978-430-1408 or visit www.pelicaninterventionfund.org to learn more.

Donations can be made to **"The Pelican Intervention Fund at ECCF"** Essex County Community Foundation, 175 Andover Street, Danvers, MA 01923

IC Haiti

May the Lord continue to bless our ongoing efforts to support the people of Haiti. We thank Him for offering us a ministry of service to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you would like to contribute to IC Haiti, please mail checks to **IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA. 01950. Checks should be made out to "IC Haiti."**

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Faith Formation

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

School Year Programs (K–8)

Registrations for the 2023–24 school year will be posted on the website in the weeks ahead. Watch the bulletin for details.

Baptism

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

Questions of the Week



Adult: From what fear does your faith in Christ help you to overcome?

Child: If someone you are with is feeling afraid, how are you able to help him or her?

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 **June 27** in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 from 7:30–9:00 p.m. Contact Mel Yell, 978-764-2547 or Heidi Damiano, 978-360-7525 with questions.

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.

Bundle Sunday

Clothing Donation Event June 24–25



Bundle up your old clothes for donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. A collection truck will be in the Immaculate Conception church parking lot. Clothing, coats, and shoes of every size will be accepted. No toys or household items. The donation event will take place on **Saturday, June 24, from 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 25, from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon.**

IC CHURCH

Immaculate Conception School



Immaculate Conception School marks the end of the school year with a longstanding tradition—the First Grade Mass. Each grade level leads a school Mass throughout the year, starting with the oldest students and finishing with the 1st Grade. Every grade anticipates the honor of leading the community in prayer. Speaking in front of 300 or so people is an annual experience for IC students, starting at six or seven years old. Through the many visits to the church during the school year to pray, and attend Mass, by taking food donations up to the altar, and then reading from the ambo, the students at the IC become active participants in the Mass and develop church-going habits that last a lifetime. “Church Buddies,” who are older IC schoolmates, sit with the younger students to model appropriate church behavior, help them to follow along with the prayers, songs, and parts of the Mass, and foster the sense of community that is foundational to the IC educational experience.

The “Last Day of School Mass,” led by the 1st Grade on June 14, carried a theme of PEACE. The young children asked their schoolmates to seek peace and be peaceful over the summer. That was a wonderful message to embrace at the start of the summer vacation. At the conclusion of the Mass, the children sang a song of peace in different languages, and danced around a large blow-up globe. Their performance, angelic voices, and innocent perfection brought tears to the eyes of many of the adults in attendance. It was a poignant moment to reflect on the immense growth that children of all ages experience each year in school, and how fortunate we are at the IC to be able to incorporate prayer, faith, and God into everyday life in the classroom.

Immaculate Conception School is accepting applications for the 2023–2024 school year. Starting at age 3 through grade 8, an IC education incorporates academic rigor, Catholic Christian values, and develops empathy and respect for the needs of all people. Give us a call to schedule a tour to find out more about the advantages of a Catholic education and the value of joining the Immaculate Conception School community: 978-465-7780.

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 Dining-in Now Available

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!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, June 17–18	\$4,121.00
IC Mailed in Offertory, week ending June 16	\$5,924.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,031.34
Total Weekly Offertory	\$13,076.34
Promoting the Gospel	\$ 739.00
Grand Annual Goal: \$100,000	\$82,065

The second collection this weekend (June 25) is *Missionary Appeal*. See below for details. No second collection next weekend (July 2). 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.

Missionary Appeal This Weekend

The missionary visiting us this weekend is Fr. Tulio Ramirez, mxy. He belongs to the Yarumal Mission Society. He is a missionary priest who has served the people of God in Kenya and Ethiopia in Africa and in The Bronx, NY. He is originally from Colombia, South America. The goal of the Yarumal Mission Society is to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ among people and cultures where the Gospel is not yet fully preached. We are present in Angola, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Panama and Thailand. In order to carry out our pastoral programs and social projects, our missionaries depend very much on the generosity of the Christians from parishes they visit. Our support for Fr. Tulio and his missions, is a sign that reminds us of our baptismal vocation: We are all missionaries of Christ. Please be generous.

Fr. Ray Richard Returns

Fr. Ray will be returning to IC Parish for a visit from the end of July (in time for Yankee Homecoming) until the end of September. We look forward to welcoming him back to his native home after a number of years staying in his missionary work in Honduras due to COVID travel restrictions.

IC Parish 175th Anniversary Harvest Fair

As part of the 175th anniversary of IC Church, we are planning to hold a Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 21. The fair will include a bake sale, artisan/craft tables, a wine rack, Grandma's Attic table, all-holiday table, 175th anniversary commemorative items, raffle and door prizes, and much more.

Harvest Fair Items Needed

All-Holiday Items Raffle Prizes
Grandma's Attic Items

How Can You Help? Do you have any "once loved" holiday items from **any** holiday that you no longer use or display at home that could be donated to our All-Holiday Table especially Halloween, Thanksgiving, or Christmas?



Do you have a "gently used" item for the Grandma's Attic Table?

Or perhaps you could donate a gift card to a local restaurant, tickets to a sporting or musical event, or a weekend at a summer cottage or ski resort for our raffle?

Please help support our Parish's 175th Anniversary Harvest Fair by setting aside your treasures now! Drop off dates will be announced in a future bulletin.

Father's Day BBQ

Despite a very soggy day, over 100 parishioners enjoyed an old fashioned Father's Day BBQ in the IC School gym on Saturday, June 17. Entertainment was provided by jazz guitarist Sean Goguen and a special treat of bagpipes by Tom Welch.

Popcorn, cornhole, hula hoops and bubbles provided fun for children and adults alike with a special treat of candy apples and cotton candy provided by Dean Flynn Co. and of Jennifer and Peter Durning.

Many thanks to the HRIC Cursillo community and the numerous volunteers who made this a memorable event.



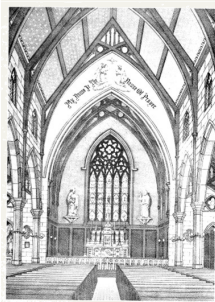
IC 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Celebrating the Consecration of our Church

IC's 175th Anniversary History Continued

In 1879, it was amazing that our Parish was able to be ready for consecration. At this point in time, only two other churches were set apart for "divine worship." One of the prerequisites for consecration is that the parish be free from debt. This condition was met despite Rev. Teeling's spending spree to improve, maintain, and expand the church grounds...spending \$65,000 over 8 years! Surely this was a testimony to the parishioners who despite their modest incomes were generous with their donations. The church met the additional requirement that it is to be built from brick or stone.

Prior to consecration Rev. Teeling needed to make a few improvements to the church. It was on this occasion that the 14 paintings that note the Way of the Cross were added. Also, the wonderful marble sanctuary and marble altar were added. The floor of the sanctuary is of gray and white Tennessee marble and the main stairs to the altar are of white Italian marble. The altar, has a simple yet decorative look with over 20 kinds of marble in use. The four marble pillars are incorporated with slabs of American statuary marble and bands of French marble which are themselves inlaid with flowerets of onyx, Galway, and Tennessee marble. The altar was the work of Charles S. Hall & Co. of Boston.



It was on this day, June 24, 1879—144 years ago—that the ritual of consecration occurred. A consecrating prelate, accompanied by attending priests proceeded three times around the church exterior, anointing the walls with holy water. Each time around he knocked on the closed doors reciting the lines from the Psalm 24; "Lift up your gates, O ye princes, and be lifted up, O eternal gates: and the King of Glory shall enter in." After entering the church, the Bishop anointed the threshold with holy oil and proceeded to the consecration of the inside walls. Finally, the altar was consecrated to the sole service of God and in it are placed the relics of "various saints" and carefully sealed.

IC Berry Festival



Mark your calendars for the **IC Berry Festival** which will be held on Sunday, July 30 on the grounds of IC Church during Yankee Homecoming. This will be our third festival.

Join us for our next Berry Festival **planning meeting** on **Monday, June 26 at 6:30** in IC St. Louis Hall. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the July 29 Berry Festival is urged to attend this planning meeting.

175th Anniversary Prayer

Immaculate Conception Church

1848-2023

Gracious and loving Father, on this 175th anniversary of our Parish, we join in celebration of our past and rejoice in our present.

We praise You for all the joy we have shared in these years of faith and fellowship. We pray for all who together make up this community of Your people.

Through the guidance and intercession of our Patroness, may we be ever mindful of the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the strength of the Holy Spirit who renews all things.

May our Parish continue to grow as a home for all who seek Your love and mercy. Mary, Queen of Peace, conceived without original sin, pray for us. Amen

IC Parish: 175th Anniversary

Immaculate Conception Parish celebrates 175 years

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.

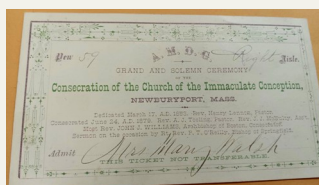
A committee has formed to create, plan, and execute these yearlong events, focused on celebrating the history of our parish and our patroness. If you would like to be part of the planning, join our next meeting at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 19** at IC St. Louis Hall. All are welcome.



Consecration of IC Church

June 24 represents a special day in the history of Immaculate Conception Church. On this day in 1879, Immaculate Conception church was officially consecrated and became a valid place of Catholic divine worship by order of Archbishop John Williams.

Consecration, in general, is an act by which a thing is separated from the common and becomes sacred..., or by which a person or thing is dedicated to the service and worship of God by prayers, rites, and ceremonies. Consecration is a rite reserved to a bishop, who by the solemn anointing with Holy Chrism with twelve crosses, and in the prescribed form, dedicates a building to the service of God.



The consecration of Immaculate Conception was an important event for its parishioners and a ticket was required for entrance. Mary Walsh, great-great aunt of IC parishioner Mary Bragg, was one of the lucky ones to procure

a ticket and attend the event. So important was this event to her family, that her original ticket has been saved by the family for many generations! Thank you, Mary, for sharing this treasured artifact.

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HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, June 17–18	\$2,093.00
HR Mailed in Offertory, week ending June 16	\$ 591.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 267.50
Total Weekly Offertory	\$2,951.50
Promoting the Gospel	\$ 439.00
Grand Annual Goal: \$25,000	\$19,715

No second collection this weekend (June 25) or next weekend (July 2). 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.

Saturday Mass at Nativity

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

Activities Committee Updates

We are in the planning stages of a **ham and bean dinner** followed by BINGO on Saturday, September 23 after the 4:00 Mass at Nativity. We continue to plan for the November 18 Holiday Fair as well.

If you would like to help out with the ham and bean dinner or any of the other Activities Committee events such as the November Holiday Fair, we welcome you to **join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, July 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Nativity Hall.**

Volunteers Needed for Merrimac "Old Home Days"



This year, scout Troop 41 will be unable to host their traditional Chicken BBQ as part of Merrimac Old Home Days in August.

Volunteers are being sought from the Collaborative who might be willing to step in and run this much-loved event this year. The Scouts will provide equipment and a step-by-step set of directions to those willing to help. If you are interested, please contact our Collaborative offices and leave your name and contact information with Melinda or Christine. They can be reached at 978-346-8604. Thank you for your help in carrying on a wonderful and tasty tradition!

HR St. Vincent de Paul



Just after the feast of Corpus Christi a couple of weeks ago, our conference used the words below from Pope Francis as our spiritual reflection before our meeting began. It touched us. And it reinforces what we do.

Jesus does not prefer exclusive, selective places. He looks for places untouched by love, untouched by hope. Those uncomfortable places are where he wants to go and he asks us to prepare his way...All of us know people who are lonely, troubled and in need: they are abandoned tabernacles. Jesus became bread broken for our sake; in turn, he asks us to give ourselves to others, to live no longer for ourselves but for one another. The Eucharist is translated into life when we pass beyond ourselves to those around us.

Pope Francis, Corpus Christi 2018

Please join us as we seek and help those "empty tabernacles" around us. Continue to give generously using our poor boxes and the envelopes provided in the pews of each church. Your donations are very much appreciated. Mail donations to 4 Green St. Merrimac, MA 01860.

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

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. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall in Merrimac at 2:00 p.m. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you! All are welcome.

Our next meeting is Thursday, July 6. at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 2:00 p.m.

New Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Altar Servers

Please give thoughtful consideration to becoming a Lector, Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, or Altar Server for St. Ann or Nativity Church. No experience is necessary: we will teach you everything you need to know. Scheduling is very flexible. If you are interested in any of these helpful ministries, please contact the Collaborative office at 978-346-8604. Thank you for your consideration.

HR Online Giving

It's convenient and safe. To learn more about Online giving (one-time or recurring donation options available), visit our website, hricatholic.org and click the "Links" tab, then click on "HR Parish Online Giving" to get to the site or contact Christine Breslow at 978-462-2724 x 402.



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

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