

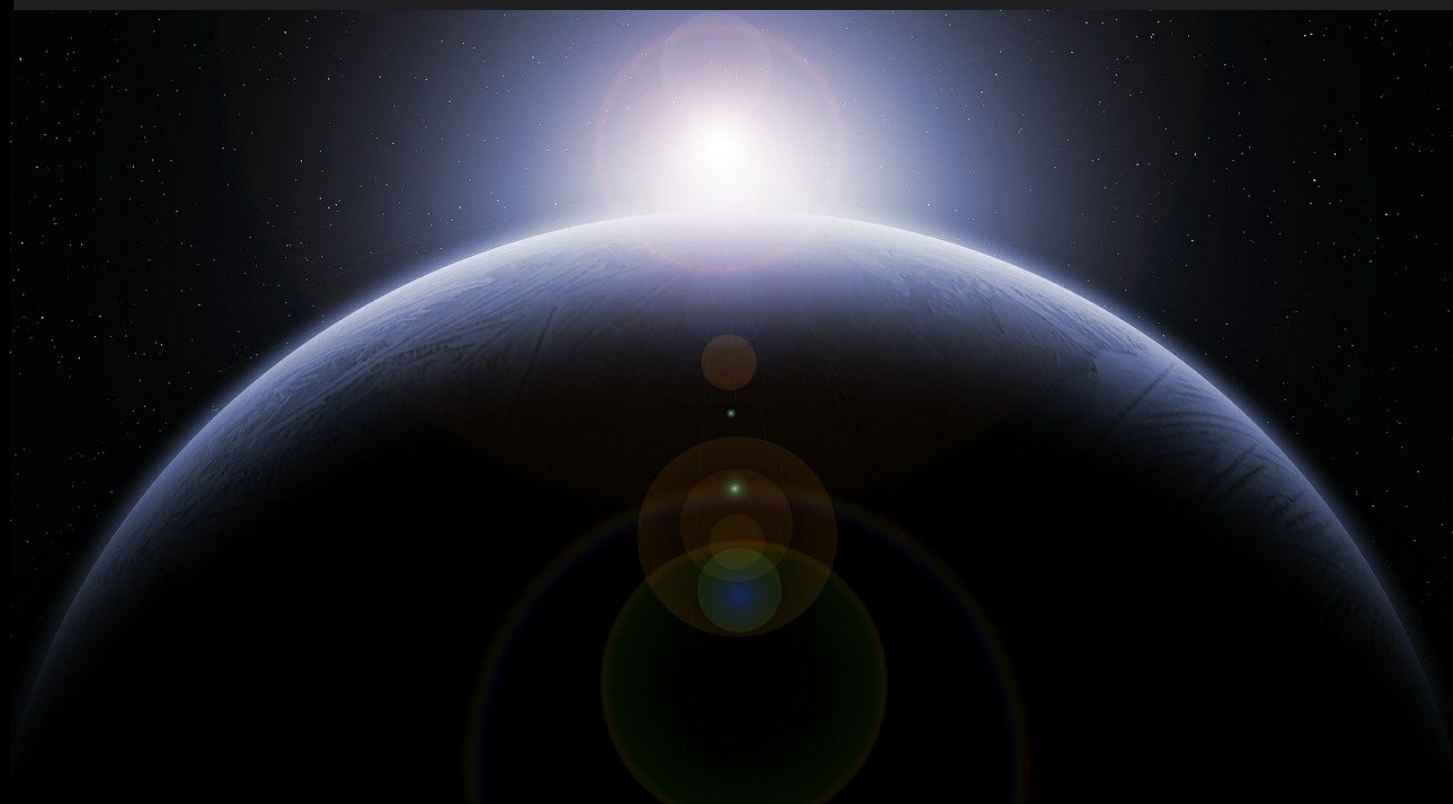
**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 19, 2020

hriccatholic.org



*"I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation
may reach to the ends of the earth." (Is 49:6)*

All Are Welcome



CARDINAL'S OFFICE
66 BROOKS DRIVE
BRAintree, MASSACHUSETTS 02184-3839
617-782-2544

January 19, 2020

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we proceed with the New Year in the life of the Church allow me this opportunity to bring to your attention two very serious and deeply troubling legislative bills being considered by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary at the Massachusetts State House.

If enacted into law these proposals would significantly expand abortion access in Massachusetts beyond what is currently permitted. The proposed legislation goes far beyond the Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court. I urge you to learn about the specific details of the proposals by way of information provided in this week's bulletin insert.

With your help and the help of your family, friends and neighbors, we must make every effort to ensure that these bills do not become law in Massachusetts. Your voice and the voices of all opposed to unprecedented expansion of abortion will make a difference. It is of critical importance that the women and men who represent us in the Legislature know where we stand on the protection of life.

With the assurance of my prayers for you and all your loved ones, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Boston

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (1/18)

4:00pm **IC** *Richard & Mary Shachok, Ann Hickey, Ernest & Marion Bombard, Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Cody, Francis X. Babineau* (Fr. McLaughlin)

4:00pm **St. Ann** *Wilfred A. Vaillancourt* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Paul)

Sunday (1/19)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** *Monique Cote, Robert Desepoli* (Fr. McLaughlin)

10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

11:30am **IC** *For the intentions of those recently married* (Fr. O'Brien)

Monday (1/20)

9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

Tuesday (1/21)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (1/22)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Thursday (1/23)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Morin)

Friday (1/24)

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

Saturday (1/25)

4:00pm **IC** *Ada Durairaj, Albert J. & Ann T. Savina, Eugene Greco, Lillie Muldoon* (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (1/26)

7:15am **IC** *Mary S. Herlihy* (Fr. Harrison)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

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

10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

11:30am **IC** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

In your prayers please remember Paula Pearson and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Collaborative offices will be closed on Monday January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 21 at 8:00 a.m.

Archdiocese Web Site

Visit www.bostoncatholic.org for the latest news and information around the Archdiocese of Boston.

Bulletin Information

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

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Many years ago, on a warm September evening, I had the window of my seminary dorm room wide open, the screen in place, of course, desperately trying to catch the faintest of breezes that might pass by. It was going to be a late-night study session, so I had all the lights on, books spread all over the floor and bed. To fuel this endeavor, I decided at one point to get a soda and a snack—that my concentration might be strengthened for the task ahead. As sometimes happens, I got distracted by a few others doing the same thing, got lost in a longer conversation than I really could have afforded at that moment...and by the time I returned to my room: I had company!



Actually, lots of company. Company in the thousands, that is. Unbeknownst to me, while I was off snacking, thousands of tiny bugs had found their way through tiny holes in the screen and were now swarming around my overhead light, casting its 100-watt glow for all to see. It was really grotesque and disgusting. Did I mention that they were swarming?! “Now what do I do?” I thought. After spending what felt like hours trying to vacuum up each little critter (after I actually found a working vacuum, that is) I had to give up on the studying for the night and finally admit defeat, hoping I hadn’t missed any of the little suckers, creeping in the corners. Note to self: Light attracts bugs! Do not leave light on and window open! Remembering that event more than 35 years ago still gives me the shudders.

Light attracts. Any one of us who have ever struggled through a power outage knows how much we rely on light to find our way around and live our lives. While it can be fun to sit outside at night and ponder the heavens, most of us prefer the convenience of electricity and all the clarity it brings to our daily tasks. If the rest of the house is darkened and the light is on in one room—it beckons to us, invites us to enter into its glow and warmth. It is there that we will find life!

It is in this same vein that Isaiah prophesied that Israel will be a beacon for the rest of the world to come and bask in God’s light. As a servant of God, this attraction, this innate power to gather will extend far beyond the Tribes of Israel and will be for all peoples of all times and places.

Last week, we brought to a close the cycle of our Advent-Christmas Season, where we first unpacked the mystery of the two comings of Christ, then celebrated His Nativity, rejoiced in the simplicity of the Holy Family, proclaimed Christ’s destiny to be a light for all nations at Epiphany and finally the empowerment of God’s plan of salvation at the beginning of His earthly ministry in the Baptism of the Lord. When viewed from “30,000 feet,” what God was, is and continues to do in Christ is magnificent in every way.

What is amazing, too, is that we are called to be part of this plan of Salvation through our own baptism. It is a sacrament that calls into action—to proclaim Christ risen from the dead and the hope in Jesus’s Resurrection for all

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Collaborative Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 21

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Wednesday, January 22

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall
Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209
Holy Quilters 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Holy Hour for Life 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
IC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, January 23

Reunion Prayer Group 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209
Holy Hour for Life 6:00pm, Nativity Church
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, January 24

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, January 25

Catechist Morning of Prayer 8:00am, IC Charity Dining Room
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, January 26

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
IC Faith Formation 10:00am, IC Parish Center
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 10:00am, St. Ann Church
HR Faith Formation, Grade 2 11:45am, Nativity Hall
IC Faith Formation, Confirmation 1 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
Unplanned Movie Screening 1:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Baptisms 1:30pm, IC Church

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FORMED provides amazing content 24/7. It's **free** and **easy** to register:

- Visit formed.org
- Click "Sign up"
- Click "I belong to a parish or organization" and type in "Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative" (or type in code JRNDGP) and tap "next"
- Add your name and email and click "sign up"
- You will receive an email that links you to the site

(Continued from page 3)

of us to enjoy the life of Heaven forever. And we are to do this in such a way that we attract others to Christ, just like the light gathered the flying critters in my seminary room those decades ago.

If we stop and think about it, what attracts us to others? I suppose there is the natural, physical attraction that brings people together in relationship and marriage. OK, fair enough. But we are drawn to others for many different reasons, too. Think of those who are kind to us, those who are good listeners, those who seem to have the automatic ability to "get or understand" us. Then, there are those who are always ready to help us out, to encourage us when we are feeling down or the ones in life who always see the best in us. They are the ones who are ready to forgive us when we fail and challenge us to persevere when we are ready to give up. These precious people are our parents, siblings, family, friends, co-workers, classmates, and neighbors. They are like bright, shining lights that lift us up and illumine our days when we need it most. They love us unconditionally and model for us what we hope to embody and return back into our world. Could this be what Isaiah meant about being a light for others?

We are attracted to people who seem to have that consistent, inner ability to inspire and bring hope. We see peace in them, draw strength from their example and encouragement from their triumph over the struggles of life. If you have ever met someone who truly knows what it means to love in this world, you know that there is an inner part of you that says, "I want what they have!" This is what we hope to offer the world in Jesus Christ—that as His disciples in this present age we might embody His selfless love, His sacrificial example, His empathy, His compassion, His forgiveness, His mercy...so completely, that it will shine out into a world that is so often filled with darkness. According to God's plan of salvation, each of us will be called in a wide variety of ways to emulate this love, this light in our own unique circumstances, but it will all have as its ultimate source the same Jesus Christ who is Lord.

In the weeks ahead, we will begin to unpack and break open Jesus' teaching and parables so that we may have a greater understanding of our own baptismal call to holiness. Let us listen well that we, too, might shine brightly before others and draw in those who seek His loving presence.

Winter blessings,

Fr. Timothy Harrison

Pastor

Collaborative Baptisms

We rejoice with the families of our new brothers and sisters who received the Sacrament of Baptism in December.

**Cade Robert Curran • Joshua James DeRosa •
Perri Ann Eiserman • Naomi Jean Foley •
Connor Thomas Higgins • Colby William Young**

Follow Us on Instagram
HRICCatholic



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Winter Weather Mass Cancellations



Due to the hazards of travel and the safety of priests and parishioners alike, this winter daily Mass within the Collaborative will be cancelled if Immaculate Conception School, Pentucket Regional, or Newburyport Public Schools, are cancelled or delayed because of inclement weather. WBZ Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at boston.cbslocal.com and we will make every effort to keep our own website and social media updated as well.

In severe situations, it may also be necessary for safety reasons to cancel weekend Masses. Again, please watch WBZ or consult the websites and/or social media for cancellation information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. In all things, God gave us the gifts of wisdom, reason, and prudence. Let's use them wisely this winter and exercise sound judgment when considering going out in severe weather.



Follow Us on Twitter
@HRICatholic

Mass Scripture Readings

January 19–January 26, 2020

Praying with the Scriptures is an intentional way of deepening our relationship with the Lord. Set aside fifteen minutes each day, in the same place, and at the same time. What do each day's Scripture passages reveal to me about our loving Father, our Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? What do the passages reveal about me? What am I being called upon to do, to be? Please access the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures www.HRICatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, Jan 19: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34
- Monday, Jan 20: 1 Samuel 15:16-23; Psalm 50; Mark 2:18-22
- Tuesday, Jan 21: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 89; Mark 2:23-28
- Wednesday, Jan 22: 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Psalm 144; Mark 3:1-6
- Thursday, Jan 23: 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Psalm 56; Mark 3:7-12
- Friday, Jan 24: 1 Samuel 24:3-21; Psalm 57; Mark 3:13-19
- Saturday, Jan 25: Acts 22:3-16; Psalm 117; Mark 16:15-18
- Sunday, Jan 26: Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23

(The free App "**Laudate**" allows you to access the daily Scripture readings on your cell phone.)



Questions of the Week



Adult: If you were asked to do so, how would you explain Jesus to someone who had never heard of Him?

Child: If you were going to tell someone the most important thing that you know about Jesus, what would you say?

Women at the Well Catholic Women's Group

women at the well
catholic women's group

*Do you ever feel like there must be something more than your day-to-day routine?
Looking for a way to connect to other faith-centered women in the midst of a busy work, social or parenting life?
Or maybe you're just searching for a new way to regularly meet and connect with Jesus.*

WELCOME TO A COMMUNITY FULL OF

women just like you

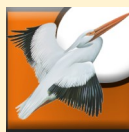
Wherever you are in your faith journey, join us as we meet weekly for *Blessed Is She* bible study, community and friendship as we grow together in Christ.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
PASTORAL CENTER
42 GREEN STREET
NEWBURYPORT, MA

MONDAY NIGHTS, WEEKLY
STARTING JAN 6TH
6PM-7:30PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!

please email HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com if you have any questions

The Pelican Intervention Fund



Thank-you to the IC parishioners for supporting our first annual Pelican Intervention Fundraiser held last November.

With a sold-out audience of over 180 people combined with the tremendous energy and talent of the Boston-based "*Ball in the House*" acapella group, the Steeple Hall at Mission Oak was really rocking!

The event raised more than \$25,000 with 100% of the proceeds going directly to funding local men and women in long term, 12-step based residential sober living.

In 2019, we placed 20 people, and to date have funded a total of 60 people into recovery. Since our beginning in 2015, the Collaborative has been instrumental in your support of our mission and we are extremely grateful to you. Please continue to keep our mission and those that we support in your prayers and thoughts.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, contact Kim Keene 978-430-1408 or visit www.pelicaninterventionfund.org to learn more.

Candelight Taizé

Groveland Congregational Church cordially invites the community to a candlelight meditation service on Sunday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the church, 4 King St., Groveland. (Snow date: February 9) For more information, contact Groveland Congregational Church at 978-372-3463 or visit www.grovelanducc.org.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Unplanned Movie

You might not be on location for the annual *March for Life* in Boston or Washington DC, so come instead for 3 hours to pray, view, and discuss *Unplanned*. This uplifting but graphic drama (not suitable for pre-teens) follows Abby Johnson's conversion from Planned Parenthood abortion clinic director to Pro-Life Advocate.

Date: Sunday, January 26

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Place: IC St. Louis Hall

{Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team}



Catholic TV

Visit www.catholicstv.com for a schedule of the latest program details on America's Catholic Television Network.

Cursillo and Ultreya

The Cursillo weekend is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love into your daily life. Many of your HRIC brothers and sisters have experienced this "short course in Christianity" at St. Basil's Salvatorian Center in Methuen, MA and we invite you to include Cursillo as part of your faith journey.

Each month, we gather for an "Ultreya" (onward!) evening of Liturgy, sharing, food, and fellowship at 7:00 p.m. in IC St. James Chapel and Charity Dining Room to continue the Cursillo spirit. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dave & Kelly Colby.

Cursillo Weekends

February 6	Men
March 5	Women
April 2	Men
April 30	Women
June 4	Women

Ultreya Evenings

January 31
February 28
March 27
April 24
May 29

Collaborative Contacts

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978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
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Karen Leff, Media Outreach Coordinator,
hricbulletin@gmail.com

Linda Temple, Administrative Assistant,
978-462-2724, temple@newburyportcatholic.org

Centering Prayer

If you are searching for the peace the world cannot give please consider joining us at Centering Prayer. Silently resting in God we assent to the Holy Spirit's presence and action in our lives. In Centering Prayer we pray as Jesus prayed. He tells us: "When you pray, go into your private room, shut yourself in, and pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you" (Matt 6:6).

Please consider leaving the noise of world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 209 of the IC Parish Center. Following Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and reflect on the words of scripture.

Contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483 if you are interested in learning more or joining us. All are welcome.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Activities Committee Meeting

The Activities Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Ann Hall, W. Newbury, to organize the up coming BINGO Dinner planned for Saturday, February 29.

Please join our group and consider helping out, joining in, and serving your parish!

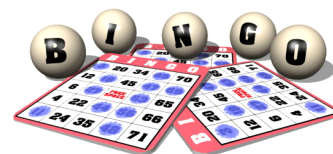
EWTN: Catholic News

Want the latest Catholic News? EWTN News has got you covered. Check this link daily for news about the Catholic Church, and the latest issues in Catholicism. EWTN News: Your Online Catholic Resource.

www.ewtnnews.com/

HR Dinner & BINGO Night

February 29 at Nativity Church Hall
Watch the bulletin for details.



HR Christmas Flowers

The McCarron Family

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Solemnity of Mary, Jan. 1	\$ 823.00
Offertory Jan. 4-5	\$2,795.00
Offertory Jan. 11-12	\$2,494.00
Monthly, Jan. 11-12	\$1,753.00

Next week's second collection supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other.

Please visit uscgb.org/catholicgiving/opportunities-for-giving/latinamerica/index.cfm for more information.

HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$22,050.00



HR Sandwich Program



The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 200 sandwiches are needed each day to feed the hungry.

We are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag. Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, January 22.**

See the Collaborative calendar at www.hricatholic.org for the schedule. Contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.



Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

HR Prayer Shawl



Do you know of any woman, man, or child who needs comfort and could use a Blessed Prayer Shawl or Lap Blanket? Please call Helen Kelley 978-771-4673 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099 for a shawl or more information.

Come join us. Don't know how? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, February 6.**

HR Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs continue for all grades. If you have yet to register it is not too late. Forms as well as a class schedule can be found on our website (hricatholic.org) or call the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x7420) to request information to be sent to you. Please note that Faith Formation classes are not scheduled to meet again until Sunday, February 2.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Sacramental Prep classes for those children anticipating the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist continue to take place.

Parent meetings will be held prior to each sacrament. Please note the meeting for both parents and children regarding Reconciliation is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 28** at 6:30. The sacrament will be celebrated at the Church of the Nativity on **Saturday, February 1.** More information will be distributed as the date gets closer but please mark your calendars now.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for information regarding the next **Baptism class** which is scheduled for **Sunday, February 2** at 1:00 p.m. in the Charity Dining Room located in the IC Pastoral Center.

Confirmation Prep Classes

The next class for **Year 1 (Grade 9)** is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 in the Nativity Church Hall beginning at 6:30.

Year 2 (Grade 10) class will meet again on Sunday, February 9, from 6:00-7:30 also in the Nativity Church Hall.

Please remember an adult does need to accompany the candidate.

Holy Redeemer Parish Prays For Life

A *Holy Hour for Life* will be held on **Thursday, January 23, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at The Nativity Church.** This is part of the Archdiocesan observance of the National Day of Prayer and Penance marking the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion on demand. A Holy Hour will be held at parishes throughout the Archdiocese to pray for safe travel and a successful pilgrimage to Washington DC for all those attending the annual March for Life. Led by Deacon Paul Dow, we will pray together for those who have been wounded by abortion, for respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and that those who govern us may be guided by justice, truth, and a love for the gift of life. The *Holy Hour for Life* is organized by Boston Deacons for Life in collaboration with the Pro Life Office of the Archdiocese of Boston. Please join us, all are welcome.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, Jan. 11–12 **\$10,809.00**
 Monthly, Jan. 11–12 **\$ 1,747.00**

Next week's second collection supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other.

Please visit uscgb.org/catholicgiving/opportunities-for-giving/latinamerica/index.cfm for more information.

IC Grand Annual
 Goal **\$100,000**
 To Date **\$85,639.00**



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 0.00
Poor Box	\$247.00
Total	\$247.00

Immaculate Conception Parish Prays For Life

A *Holy Hour for Life* will be held on **Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from 6:00–7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center, St. James Chapel.** This is part of the Archdiocesan observance of the National Day of Prayer and Penance. We do this to mark the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion on demand. A Holy Hour will be held at parishes throughout the Archdiocese to pray for safe travel and a successful pilgrimage to Washington DC for all those attending the annual March for Life. The Holy Hour, led by Deacon Paul Dow, we will pray together for those who have been wounded by abortion, for respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, and that those who govern us may be guided by justice, truth, and a love for the gift of life. The *Holy Hour for Life* is organized by Boston Deacons for Life in collaboration with the Pro Life Office of the Archdiocese of Boston. Please join us, all are welcome.

IC Knitting Ministry



The Knitting Ministry meets Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Room 209 in the IC Parish Center. We knit/crochet prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves for charity. Come join this friendly group. New people, ideas, and patterns are always welcome. For more information call Julia O'Connor 978-465-3350 or Frances Ronan 978-462-4972.

Immaculate Conception School



Service learning is an important part of the educational experience for every child at Immaculate Conception. We do service projects as a whole school, such as Valentine's Day placemats for area nursing home residents. The Leadership Team organizes mitten, sock, and coat drives; Thanksgiving dinner baskets for the local food bank; and food collections at our monthly masses. In addition, individual grades support various non-profit organizations that support the sick, the elderly, adults with special needs, and endangered animals. Over the years, many of our students have organized their own initiatives. One that is near and dear to our hearts is "Cookies for Haiti" which was started by Margot Anderson-Song when she was a young student at the IC. A more recent example is "The Blueberry Club." Fourth grade students Brooke, Reece, and Anthony, pictured, have something in common—blue bands on their braces. Notably—IC blue. The trio has pooled their intellectual resources to raise money for national and local organizations. They also make bracelets and other craft items to sell as a way to raise money to donate. In these challenging times it is comforting to know that our children actively believe that they can and do make a difference. These lessons are an important part of an Immaculate Conception education.



IC Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. (At this time, Online Giving is available for only IC members.) Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office. Once you register, visit our website, hriccatholic.org and click the "Links" tab, then click on "Online Giving" to get to the site. There are four different funds you can choose to contribute to. If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made. Any questions? Contact Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant 978-462-2724 x7404.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Adoration & Rosary

Please join us for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration in IC's St. James Chapel in the Parish Center.

- **Wednesdays** from 6:00–6:30 p.m.
 - **Thursdays** from 6:30–7:00 p.m., including recitation of the Rosary for Life.
 - **Fridays** drop in any time from 8:00 a.m.–noon. During the last hour we pray the Divine Mercy chaplet and conclude with Benediction.
- No prior experience necessary. Come and learn how powerful it is to pray before the Real Presence of our Lord.

Wanted: Cooks

The St. Vincent de Paul dinner held each Tuesday at the IC Parish Center is in need of help for one evening each month. The team of two chefs would be assisted by experienced volunteers helping prepare the meal in the Parish Center kitchen. We are a welcoming group! Please visit our kitchen and observe the process of preparing and serving a free meal to a group of appreciative guests. We gather late afternoon on Tuesdays and serve at 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Bunny Chiasson, 978-465-5810.

Call for Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors

We are seeking additional Lay Ministers to assist at Mass

What is an **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion**? Often referred to as simply a "Eucharistic Minister" an EM is a lay person who assists the priest in distributing Holy Communion at Mass. While the priest or deacon is viewed by the Church as the "ordinary minister of Holy Communion," because of the large number of people attending Mass, it would be impractical or impossible for the clergy alone to offer Communion to so many. EMs are trained to help for precisely this reason. At most Masses at IC, we usually need 4 or 5 trained EMs to allow our Communion procession to go smoothly. It is an important role. EMs may also volunteer to take the Blessed Sacrament to those who are ill or otherwise unable to attend Mass i.e., nursing homes, hospital, in home, etc.

What is a **Lector**? A Lector is a lay person who assists at Mass by reading passages from the Old and New Testament and leading the Universal Prayer or "Prayers of the Faithful" at Sunday Mass when the Deacon is not present.

Both Lectors and EMs are baptized, confirmed, practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church and living a life of prayer and service within our community.

If you or someone you know might be interested in serving in either of these two ministries or have any questions about what it means to serve, please contact Mary Zerigian, or Mary Ann Lawler. Training will be provided.

IC Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs continue to take place for all grade levels.

If you have not yet registered it is not too late. Forms and the class schedule can be found on our website (hriccatholic.org) or call the Faith Formation office for information.

Classes will not meet this weekend (1/19) due to the holiday. We will reconvene on Sunday, January 26.

Confirmation

The next Confirmation Prep class for **Year 1** (Grade 9) will be held Sunday, January 26, from 1:00–2:30.

Class for **Year 2** (Grade 10) will meet again on Tuesday, February 4 from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Please remember an adult does need to accompany the candidate to class.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for information regarding the next **Baptism class** which is scheduled for **Sunday, February 2** with the sacrament scheduled to be celebrated on February 9.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Beginning this month, the children's classes will focus on preparing them for their First Eucharist. Please mark your calendars now for the first **parent meeting** scheduled for **Tuesday, February 25** at 6:30. Please also remember to complete and submit the **First Eucharist registration form** if you have not already done so.

The Compassionate Friends



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

Our monthly support meetings are held in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 at 7:30–9:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Our next meeting is **January 27**.

Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ at barbarajhopkinson@gmail.com.

Free Hair Cuts



Donna Koen, a parishioner and licensed hairdresser of over 30 years, is offering free hair cuts to anyone in need. She is willing to travel to your home. Her number is (978) 998-9219.

This is a service she has been offering for years for the Newburyport Housing Authority, Salvation Army, and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

She is happy to help our parishioners who are in need.