HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

All Saints Day

November 1, 2020

hriccatholic.org



After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

(Rev. 7:9)

All Are Welcome



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: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Nativity

Parish offices and church: 4 Green St., Merrimac 01860 Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception

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

Office Hours: M–F 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. **Phone: 978-462-2724**

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: info@newburyportcatholic.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, <u>www.icsnewburyport.com</u>



Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison, 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 info@newburyportcatholic.org, holyredeemer@verizon.net

Senior Priests in Residence

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

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow 978-887-5350, <u>pauldow49@gmail.com</u> Deacon John Moranski 978-432-1443, jmoranski51@gmail.com

Office Associates

Donald Alunni, Business Manager 978-462-2724 x 7351 dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org

Sheila Cruise, Receptionist 978-462-2724 x 7403 or 978-346-8604 scruise@newburyportcatholic.org or holyredeemer@verizon.net

Karen Leff, Coordinator of Media Outreach hricbulletin@gmail.com

Linda Temple, Administrative Assistant 978-462-2724 x7404

temple@newburyportcatholic.org

Collaborative Staff

Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, HR Organist 978-697-1082

jen.acorn@comcast.net

Kathy Peavey, HR Vocalist kathypv@comcast.net 978-360-8756

Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director 978-317-8903

donnapostle233@gmail.com

Tim Richard, IC organist trichard23@gmail.com

Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator 978-462-2855

swochak@netzero.com

Lifelong Faith Formation

Aaron Glard, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation 978-462-2724 x 7405 or 978-346-8604 agiard@newburyportcatholic.org

Melinda Burrell, Administrative Assistant, Lifelong Faith Formation

978-462-2724 x 7420

burrell@newburyportcatholic.org

Immaculate Conception School

Joan Sullivan, Principal, 978-465-7780 jsullivan@icsnewburyport.com

Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance 978-462-2724

bkent@newburyportcatholic.org

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager 978-462-2724

emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Redeemer 978-346-8604 x 8 hrsvdp300@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society at Immaculate Conception 978-518-0728

St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266 joeviel@comcast.net

Online

Website: www.hriccatholic.org

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes



@HRICCatholic



hriccatholic

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (10/31)

4:00pm IC (Fr. McLaughlin)

4:00pm Live-Stream (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (11/1)

8:00am Nativity

9:00am IC

9:30am St. Ann

11:30am IC Maria Belesova, Paul M. Doyle

Monday (11/2)

9:00am IC David Kolman

Tuesday (11/3)

9:00am IC Dillon Mercy DeMarco

Wednesday (11/4)

9:00am IC

Thursday (11/5)

9:00am IC

Friday (11/6)

9:00am IC

Saturday (11/7)

4:00pm IC Mary Duggan

4:00pm Live-Stream

Sunday (11/8)

8:00am Nativity

9:00am IC

9:30am St. Ann Dorothy Batchelder

11:30am IC Andrew Filomia, Eunice Campbell, Earle Baughn, For the intentions of Adolf Benca Jr.

In your prayers, please remember Linda Finnegan and all the faithful departed.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

To register to attend an in-person Mass celebrated in our Collaborative, go to the "Attend a Mass" section on our website: www.hriccatholic.org to link to the signup page. Or you can call (978) 462-2724 (IC) or (978) 346-8604 (HR) if you have questions or need assistance making a reservation. At this time a reservation is required to attend a live Mass.

Saturday Live-Stream Vigil Masses are broadcast online through <u>Facebook</u>.



Find us on Facebook: Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

Weekend Mass Volunteers

We are in need of **volunteers** who can help with greeting and the **cleaning** of our churches for the weekend Masses. More volunteers are needed as we approach Advent and Christmas in the Collaborative.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sheila Cruise at our Collaborative Offices (978) 462-2724, or (978) 346-8604 or scruise@newburyportcatholic.org.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

A few weeks ago, I was up in New Hampshire enjoying a few days of leaf-peeping with a friend. We decided one evening to enjoy a dinner at a local restaurant indoors, something neither of us have done much of for most of this



year. Like most places these days, the restaurant required us to wear face masks when moving to or from our table, but once seated, we, of course, could remove the masks in order to enjoy the meal. The restaurant was well laid out and the adjoining tables were at a good distance. The staff wore their masks religiously and the meal was carefully served. As far as I could tell, every effort was made to follow the safest practices of the industry. For a precious few moments, I was lulled into forgetting the pandemic and all of the contortions it has forced upon us. After an enjoyable and relaxing meal, we paid the bill and then headed for the door. I got about half way there, only to realize that I had forgotten to put my face mask back on. There was a moment, really a split second, when I considered trying to fish it out of one of my pockets (which one had I placed it into?) Then, seeing a clear path to the door with no one else around (waitstaff or other customers) I made a hasty dash for the door and was outside in the "safe" fresh air once again.

Following COVID19 safety procedures is frustrating. Everything we do, even when we are supposed to be relaxing or on our "down time" is affected by our need to be vigilant against the virus. Although my minor faux pas leaving the restaurant went unchallenged and probably unnoticed by anyone other than myself, it served as a reminder for me not to grow complacent or to give up our good efforts to stay healthy and keep each other safe. Without an effective treatment or vaccine, there is no one action that any of us can take that will be completely effective against spreading this disease. Rather, it is through the many layers of partial protection that we find a modicum of safety and hope.

Right now, it is very apparent that many of us are getting tired of living life under a pandemic. We long for the "before time" when things were easier and more carefree. Sometimes, like during my dinner out, we can momentarily forget the importance of remaining focused on preserving those layers of protection and why we do these things not only for ourselves but also for those around us and in our wider communities. One of the truly insidious aspects of this Coronavirus is the long incubation time before an infected person begins to show signs of illness and, even worse, the fact that so many can be infected, contagious, and yet show no signs of illness at all. That means that potentially any one of us could be either pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic at any given moment. That's scary! It's one thing to feel sick and stay home and away from people because you don't feel well. It's another thing altogether to constantly presume that you could be sick or be a carrier of disease and—always and at every moment—make adjustments to your life so that you minimize the possibility

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COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

of spreading it to others. That's exhausting. But it is the reality of where we are at until an effective treatment or vaccine is made widely available. Left unchecked, the virus, combined with the "normal" rise in seasonal flu infections has the great potential to overwhelm our healthcare systems this fall and winter. Effectively, what that means is that when overrun with patients, our hospitals can no longer treat everyone who gets sick, but must "triage" the patients according to their likelihood of being able to benefit from treatment, devoting the precious care resources first to those most likely to respond to that care. In that nightmare scenario, heart-wrenching decisions would have to be made about who gets care and who will not. It is something that every healthcare worker dreads. It truly is apocalyptic.

Collectively, it is within our power to prevent this nightmare from occurring. Right now, infection rates are rising within our Collaborative as well as neighboring cities and towns. I want to take a moment to remind everyone about the basics of our defense against this modern-day plague and encourage your vigilance. These are:

- ⇒ wearing a face mask at all times when in public, inside buildings or when there is any chance of an encounter with others outside of your home
- ⇒ wearing the face mask properly—that is so that it covers both nose and mouth
- ⇒ maintaining a proper 6-foot social distance from others
- ⇒ washing your hands religiously throughout the day
- ⇒ **staying home** if you feel sick

Now is the time for us to double-down on our efforts to keep each other safe. In the words of St. Paul, "Do not grow weary of doing what is right." (2Thes 3:13) Let us not grow complacent or weary about doing what we know is effective in helping to slow down this spread. This weekend, we celebrate the great feast of All Saints and our enduring hope that one day we might join in their number. Let's not hasten that moment for ourselves or anyone else by failing to engage our God-given gift of reason. Although we are numbingly sick of COVID protocols and procedures, please let us continue to make these small sacrifices for the greater good of our families, friends, neighbors and the many strangers they may benefit. I think God will bless us richly if we do.

Although I understand that many have already voted by mail or early in-person absentee ballots, I would most strongly encourage every registered voter to exercise their right to vote if you have not already done so. As your pastor, I will never tell you who to vote for. That is the realm of your individual, well-formed conscience. Here, the Holy Spirit speaks to you directly and, if we make ourselves docile to the Spirit's guidance, will help move our choices to the good that God calls us to. What I do ask is that you take the time to pray before entering the polling centers, thoughtfully consider each ballot question and candidate for public office, then vote according to your conscience. Afterwards, pray that the choices you have made along with those of your brothers and sisters, and always under God's providence, will bring about great blessings for our

local communities, nation, and world. Please see that our careful, prayerful exercising of this right of citizenship is both a moral duty and obligation before the Lord.

Finally, I want to bring two small changes to your attention with regard to Masses. First, after consultation with our Collaborative Pastoral Council, we will be extending the registration times for weekend Masses to shortly before each begins. This is to give as many who would like to attend a Mass the chance to register and join us. Registration helps us in two important ways: it helps us to make sure that we don't have too many people trying to attend any one Mass so that we can maintain proper distancing in the pews, and it also gives us a convenient way to have an accurate list of those who attended a specific Mass should it be necessary for contact-tracers to reach out to parishioners in the case of an outbreak of COVID-19. Thankfully, we have not yet had any issues. Greeters will still be on-hand at church to take down the names of any who hadn't registered but still might like to attend that Mass provided there are seats still available. I encourage every parishioner who would like to attend a weekend Mass in person to either register ahead of time online through our website, or to call our office during business hours and we will register you over the phone.

The second small change is that we will be expanding our Daily Masses at 9:00 a.m. from Monday through Friday at Immaculate Conception Church beginning Monday, Nov. 2. It is my hope to eventually move the Monday and Friday Masses to St. Ann Church in West Newbury and Nativity Church in Merrimac respectively, but we have not yet received enough volunteers to assist at these Masses as Greeters, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, or Cleaners in those worship spaces. We continue to welcome people to volunteer in these capacities, and once we have sufficient numbers, we will plan to move the Monday and Friday Masses to these Holy Redeemer Churches. In the meantime, we will celebrate Daily Mass at IC. Monday through Friday at 9:00 a.m. Due to the smaller numbers involved, it is not necessary to register ahead of time for Daily Mass, however, a greeter will be present to take down your name for contact-tracing purposes.

As we move into November, let us invoke the prayers of the Saints and remember those who have gone before us into the mystery of death. May the Lord one day reunite us with all of our loved ones at the great banquet table in the Heavenly Kingdom.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Daily Masses

We are now offering Daily Masses Monday–Friday at 9:00 a.m. at IC, Newburyport. No advanced signup required.

We are still in need of more volunteers to help with Daily Mass for St. Ann and Nativity on Mondays and Fridays respectively. Until we gather more volunteers to help with these churches, we cannot offer Daily Mass there. If you are able to help with any of these Masses, please contact Sheila Cruise at our Collaborative Offices (978) 462-2724, or (978) 346-8604 or scruise@newburyportcatholic.org.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Confessions



We are offering face-to-face, individual Confessions by appointment only. These will take place with one of our priests and will be held outside in the fresh air. The weather must be amenable for the appointment; both priest and penitent **must wear a face mask** and practice proper social-distancing during the Confession.

For more information or to schedule a time for Confession, please contact our Collaborative Office at (978) 346-8604 or (978) 462-2724.

Centering Prayer and 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. This ancient prayer practice opens our minds and hearts to hear God's words as we continue by reading Sacred Scripture in group Lectio Divina.

For the next 30 minutes we listen to God's words, ponder and share what we hear the Lord saying to us here and now, and contemplate 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.

For more information, please call Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

Mass Scripture Readings

November 1-8, 2020

Praying with the Scriptures can help us to develop a more intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. What do they reveal about our vocation as Christians and as a Church community to become ever more intentional disciples of Christ? Please access the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures. Go to www.HRICcatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, Nov. 1: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14;1 John 3:1-3;
 Matthew 5:1-12a
- Monday, Nov. 2: Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11; John 6:37-40
- Tuesday, Nov. 3: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 14:15-24
- Wednesday, Nov. 4: Philippians 2:12-18; Luke 14:25-33
- Thursday, Nov. 5: Philippians 3:3-8a; Luke 15:1-10
- Friday, Nov. 6: Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 16:1-8
- Saturday, Nov. 7: Philippians 4:10-19; Luke 16:9-15
- Sunday, Nov. 8: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

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

2020-2021 CORI

If you are a volunteer you must fill out a $\underline{\mathbf{C}}$ riminal $\underline{\mathbf{O}}$ ffender $\underline{\mathbf{R}}$ ecord $\underline{\mathbf{I}}$ nformation Form every year.

The Archdiocese of Boston requires all clergy, all parish staff (full and part-time), and all volunteers (18 years of age and older) who minister to or have the potential for unmonitored access to children, youth, elderly, or the disabled will undergo an annual CORI check.

No matter what you volunteer to do, if your duties are carried out on parish property, or under the parish name, you must be CORI-ed every year.

Please see your Ministry Leader, a Deacon, or a Priest for a CORI form. It must be completed and your identity verified, then placed in the collection box, or mail it to the CORI Coordinators: Deacon Paul Dow and Maureen Dow to:

Immaculate Conception Church 42 Green St Newburyport, MA 01950. Thank you for what you do.

Candlelight Taizé

The community is warmly welcomed once again for a meditation service on Sunday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. at Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King St. in Groveland. This ecumenical service is based on those held at the Taizé community in France. It consists of scripture, prayers, song, petitions, and an extended period of silence in the church's beautiful candlelit sanctuary. Because of Covid, we will be listening to the chants instead of singing them. The theme of this service will be God's love, presence and support through every difficulty. Masks and social distancing required.

For more information, you can contact the church at 978-372-3463, gccucc@gmail.com or www.grovelanducc.org.

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- 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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Prayers for the Sick

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

Dan Bedard Priscilla Brown Brett Burkinshaw Joe Messina Ruth Sullivan Ron Sylvester Michael Tucker

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Are you feeling isolated and alone during the pandemic?



Neighbors Helping Neighbors volunteers would love to give you a call to chat or send you a note. We know that this is a difficult period for everyone, particularly to those who live alone. Let us help brighten your day! If you would be interested in receiving

a call or note, please call the HRIC offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 and leave your name, address and phone number and we will reach out to you.

Word On Fire Engage

Everyone in our Collaborative now has free access to the entire Word on Fire digital video library.

You can watch any of Bishop Barron's films or study programs whenever you want, on any device!

To access the resources of Word on Fire's ENGAGE, please register at flocknote.com/hriccollaborative or by texting HRIC to 84576. Once you register, you will have access to ENGAGE.

Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to <a href="https://hittps

Questions of the Week

Adult: Think about some of your favorite saints. Then think about what Jesus taught in speaking about the Beatitudes. How are the attitudes described in the Beatitudes reflected in the lives of the saints you chose?



Child: One of the ways to be blessed or happy that Jesus mentioned in today's Gospel is to be a peacemaker. What are some ways that you can be a peacemaker at home or with your friends?

Virtual Rosary

Join us for recitation of the rosary live on Facebook twice every week. Pray along with us and add your intentions in the comments on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

At-Home Retreat

Please join us for a Directed At-Home Retreat.

Staying on the interior path in these turbulent times of social upheaval, uncharted health challenges, unwanted change, powerlessness, loss, limitations, separation from loved ones, uncertainty, and anxiety may be difficult as you struggle with life's daily challenges and the present chaos and uncertainty, Yet, the very darkness we seek to avoid, if embraced with faith, may present opportunities to experience God's unconditional, ever present love within, sustaining and transforming us through our suffering by connecting us to hope that flows from God. This hope is not tied to good or future outcomes. This hope sustains us in the present regardless of external circumstances or conditions.

During this five-week retreat you will have opportunities for three individual one-hour sessions of spiritual direction by phone or zoom scheduled at your convenience.

Retreat Packet material will support learning through teachings from the works of Richard Rohr, *Wisdom Path*; Order-Disorder-Reorder; Cynthia Bourgeault, *Mystical Hope;* Paul Coutinho, SJ., *Sacred Darkness* and others as wells as poems, prayers, and questions for reflection.

During retreat time, through prayer, reading, learning, reflection, group sharing, and individual spiritual direction you will be aided to name and explore your own experience of present darkness and challenges to staying on the interior path and guided to become more aware of the inner path to hope.

This retreat is designed to be affordable, convenient, and safe. It will begin with a group Zoom meeting to discuss the retreat's theme and prepare participants for our interior journey through darkness to hope The group will meet again during the third week with Zoom to share reflections and responses to material read and support each other as the retreat continues. The closing session will provide participants an opportunity to share the fruits of retreat, continued desires, questions, and responses to embracing the darkness and opening to the hope that holds us now.

Entering the darkest time of the year acknowledging and embracing your own darkness during this retreat may prepare you for your Advent journey. Nourished by a new and truer understanding of hope and the interior path to its source may prepare you to gift God by acting on your desire for a more conscious and constant contact with the source of hope that lives within your center where your loving, living God dwells waiting for you to seek him as the eternal light that shines in the darkness of life.

Opening Session (held twice for your convenience) Tuesday, November 10 *repeated* Friday, November 13, 6:00–7:00 p.m. ZOOM

Third and Fifth week Sessions: Dates to be determined by group

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

Suggested donation: \$90.00

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Oct. 24–25 Ongoing Church Maintenance Mailed-in Offertory, week ending Oct 23 \$1,862.00 \$ 463.00 \$2.852.00

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.

IC Grand Annual Goal \$85,000 To Date \$19,140.00



Grand Annual Continues

The initial results of our 2020 Grand Annual Appeal are extremely encouraging! Many parishioners have already pledged their support. If you did not receive a Grand Annual pledge card in the mail, there are extras available at the entrance to the church. You may also contact the Collaborative office and one will be mailed to you.

These have been challenging times for our families. Our parish family is no different. As a result of the pandemic, we anticipate a deficit at each parish this year. In previous years, the Grand Annual was used for special maintenance projects. This year, it is essential for our weekly operations and ongoing maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

We know the well-being of our parish is important to you. That's why we are asking for your extra support for this year's Grand Annual. We truly appreciate any assistance you can give. We understand that some households face financial difficulties. We are counting on the many who are able to support our parish in the 2020 Grand Annual drive, at any level of giving.

Thank you for your generous support.

Tribute to Fr. Broderick

To all of you who have so generously donated to the tribute for our dear Fr. Broderick, we humbly convey our gratitude. Donations of all amounts have allowed us to reach the needed price of \$1,800 to complete our mission. Any remaining money will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

The monument will read as follows:

In Memory of Father Jim Broderick Sept. 22, 1925 – Aug. 31, 2020 "Love One Another"

In the upper corner will be a cross and opposite corner a picture of Father. The monument will be upright rather than flat to the ground. It should be in place by late November. Again, all of you made this possible. Thank you.

IC Faith Formation

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

School Year Programs

Program information for those students entering Grades K–8 can be found on our <u>parish website</u>. **Registration forms are also available.** As always, please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 ext. 7405 or email <u>agiard@newburyportcatholic.org</u>) should you have any questions.

Confirmation

Confirmation prep classes for both Grades 9 and 10 have begun.

Information regarding these sessions can be found on the Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org along with registration forms. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Collaborative Offices (978-462-2724) for further information regarding the celebration of the sacrament.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Information regarding First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Prep. can be found on the collaborative website at hriccatholic.org.

Please reach out to the Faith Formation office with any questions you might have.

For those families whose child was prepared for First Eucharist last spring, but has yet to receive the sacrament, arrangements can still be made for your family. We would be happy to help you with this.

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.) Parish registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, hriccatholic.org and click the "Links" tab or the Online Giving link on our homepage, 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 CHURCH

IC Haiti Update

We are blessed to report that the impacts of the COVID-19 virus in Haiti have been minimal compared to other regions of the world, including the United States. We received an update from Puit Chacha earlier this month that the school is up and running.

Like schools here, the Fr. Marc Piché elementary school in Chacha closed for classes back in March. St. Boniface Hospital's community health team immediately began to conduct education sessions around Chacha, with participants that included the school staff. In July, the students started returning once each week to pick up nutrition assistance kits as well as homework packets to complete. Fortunately, now that students are back for inperson learning, the school's classrooms have the space to accommodate social distancing. It should be noted the school staff worked diligently to source masks, additional chairs, disinfecting supplies, and materials for additional handwashing stations throughout the space.

Throughout the time of the pandemic, the hospital health team has been consulting with the school on effective distancing measures, proper hygiene, and infection control protocols, including a process for referring symptomatic students to the hospital for testing. Thus far, there haven't been any infections at the school. The hospital's community outreach program will continue to monitor the Chacha community for symptoms of an outbreak.

There are 164 students attending school at Chacha this semester. 176 children are enrolled but 12 did not return after the COVID-19 closure. It's anticipated that they will return for the spring semester in November. In addition, there are graduates of the Fr. Marc elementary school who are attending secondary school in Fond des Blanc. The move up to secondary school has been made possible by tuition scholarships provided by IC Haiti.

As a community of faith, let us continue to keep the community of Puit Chacha, Haiti, in our thoughts and prayers. Our parish's financial support, even during a time of pandemic when parishioners' own financial situations have been sorely strained, has kept hope alive in the Chacha community by continuing to make education and health services available. Thanks be to God for sustaining us in this ministry.

Stuart Meurer, President, IC Haiti Board of Directors

IC St. Vincent de Paul

Breaking Bread to-go Meal



Our weekly Immaculate Conception Breaking Bread meal has transitioned to a to-go only meal format. The time for pickup is Tuesdays from 4:30–5:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish Center.

If you would like to donate to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, please send checks payable to "Society of St. Vincent de Paul" to Immaculate Conception Church, 42 Green Street, Newburyport MA 01950.

Immaculate Conception School



Since last March, educators across the country have worried about the impact of remote learning on student achievement due to COVID. Last spring, public schools limited learning to the review of previously taught concepts, which was predictably going to limit growth in student achievement. Educators pondered whether

or not to test students immediately upon their arrival back in school in September to measure the deficit in the learning gap, with concern about imparting additional emotional stress on students. Our state's vision of a full return to school for all children is not where we landed in September, and thus the administering of standardized tests to determine the gap in learning was off the table.

Immaculate Conception School has had an advantage over large public school districts throughout the pandemic. From March through June, we continued to deliver instruction of new material in all grades. In September, we started school on September 2, as planned, offering 5 full days a week of in-person instruction to our working families, and a hybrid or fully remote schedule to others. We tested our students in September to determine if a learning gap had occurred since last spring and were delighted with what we found.

The IC administers NWEA MAP Tests three times a year in September, January, and May to students in grades 2-8. MAP tests measure student growth as well as achievement against national norms for Math, Reading and Language Usage, and Science for grades 5-8. The computerized tests are adaptive in that students answer an individualized series of questions based on success. An analysis of Immaculate Conception School students' scores from Winter 2020 to Fall 2020 shows an increase in national achievement level across all areas. Grade 3-8 students who maintained or increased in Math: 63%, Reading: 79%, Language Usage: 75% and Science (Gr 6-8) 71%. Individual grade breakdowns for Math, Reading, Language Usage, and Science reveals students maintained or increased in all areas for all grades, with the exception of only one area—Gr 6 Math where 48% increased their score while 52% dropped.

Again this year, the IC will subscribe to a digital tool called Edmentum "Exact Path," which pairs directly with students' MAP test scores, to challenge students in skills that their MAP test results identified as areas for improvement. The challenges are delivered skill-by-skill in Math, Reading, and Language Usage, which students tackle at their own speed. Exact Path is personalized for students and provides teachers with detailed information about student growth and success.

The IC will measure student achievement again in January, if the COVID impacted learning environment permits it. MAP tests or not, the IC will continue to deliver instruction to students on new material for the duration of the school year. We are dedicated to and focused on our students' academic success and growth, which is at the core of our mission.

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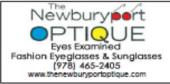
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Grand Annual Continues

We are seeing extremely encouraging initial results for our 2020 Grand Annual Appeal! Several parishioners have already pledged their support. If you did not receive a Grand Annual pledge card in the mail there are extras available at the entrances to the churches. You may also contact the Collaborative office and one can be mailed to you.

These have been challenging times for our families. Our parish family is no different. As a result of the pandemic, we anticipate a deficit at each parish this year. In previous years, the Grand Annual was used for special maintenance projects. This year, it is essential for our weekly operations and ongoing maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

We know the well-being of our parish is important to you. That's why we are asking for your extra support for this year's Grand Annual. We truly appreciate any assistance you can give. We understand that some households face financial difficulties. We are counting on the many who are able to support our parish in the 2020 Grand Annual drive, at any level of giving.

Thank you for your generous support.

HR Prayer Shawl



In the past, we have waited for requests for a prayer shawl or lap blanket and given it to the person requesting it. It can be for anyone, anywhere—there is no cost, it is free.

We will continue to do this! We want to do more. We would

like to drop off prayer shawls or a lap blanket to anyone you know who needs comfort in our Holy Redeemer Parish family. So, if you know of anyone, please give their name to Helen 978-771-4673 or hvktax@aol.com.

If you know the address that we can deliver to, maybe a favorite color, that would be helpful but not necessary.

We will not intrude at this difficult time but simply leave it at their door.

HR Faith Formation

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

School Year Programs

Program information for those students entering Grades K–8 can be found on our <u>parish website</u>. **Registration forms are also available.** As always, please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 ext. 7405 or email <u>agiard@newburyportcatholic.org</u>) should you have any questions.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Please reach out to the Faith Formation office with any questions you might have.

For those families whose child was prepared for First Eucharist last spring, but has yet to receive the sacrament, arrangements can still be made for your family. We would be happy to help you with this.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for further information regarding the celebration of the sacrament.

Confirmation

Confirmation prep classes for both Grades 9 and 10 have begun.

Information regarding these sessions can be found on the Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org along with registration forms. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

HR Sandwich Program



Good Shepherd cannot take foods made off site at this time per order of the CDC. We will not be delivering until further notice.

Please consider making a financial donation to Lazarus House: https://lazarushouse.org/ways-to-give/#donate-financially.

HR St. Vincent de Paul



During these difficult times, we have seen increased requests for food cards, as well as help with rent and utilities. Please consider donating to assist those in need. Donations can also be put in

the poor boxes at both churches. Thank you for remembering those who need our support during COVID.

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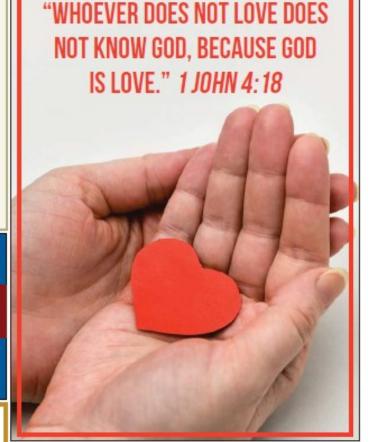
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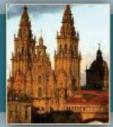
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