

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

hricatholic.org

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 24, 2019



*“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today
you will be with me in Paradise.” (Lk 23:42-43)*

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 8:00 a.m.–3:30 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, Pre K–grade 8,
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com

Collaborative Staff

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Rev. William McLaughlin

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Saint Vincent de Paul Society at
Holy Redeemer
978-346-8604 x 8
hsvdp300@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.hricatholic.org

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Collaborative Parishes](https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Redeemer-Immaculate-Conception-Collaborative-Parishes)

 [@HRICatholic](https://twitter.com/HRICatholic)

 [hricatholic](https://www.instagram.com/hricatholic)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (11/23)

4:00pm **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (11/24)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)
9:00am **IC** *Alan Chu, Dr. Arthur Hewett, Jr., Carmella Herlihy* (Fr. Morin)
10:15am **St. Ann** *The LeBlanc, Saulnier, Boudreau, and Melanson Families* (Fr. Harrison)
11:30am **IC** *John Stuart Bennett, Bart Welch, Francis P. Welch* (Fr. Morin)

Monday (11/25)

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

Tuesday (11/26)

7:15am **IC** *William & Ann DePippo, Robert W. Cynewski* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Wednesday (11/27)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
9:00am **IC School Liturgy** (Fr. Morin)

Thursday (11/28) Thanksgiving Day

8:00am **IC** *Rita LaFlamme* (Fr. Morin)

Friday (11/29)

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

Saturday (11/30)

4:00pm **IC** *Stephen M. Boy, Connie Bucci* (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (12/1)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
9:00am **IC** *Sandra Siemasko, Liza Mataac Dodson* (Fr. Harrison)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
11:30am **IC** *Thomas, Helen, & James Brackett, Kathleen (Kay) Davies* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

In your prayers, please remember James Leonard and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Mass will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Day at **8:00 a.m.** at Immaculate Conception Church. The offertory at this Mass will benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Societies of both of our churches. Please make checks payable to either IC or HR St. Vincent de Paul.



Women's Evening of Prayer

The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ann Church. All women of the collaborative are invited to attend this evening of prayer and song. Invite your friends.



From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."



These words from Luke's Gospel this weekend have followed me from parish to parish, sung gently, humbly, and with great hope at countless funerals over the years. Capturing a tender slice of the human heart, they seem to say, "Now that all is lost, You are my only hope left." How many times have we been forced to confront the awful reality of death and loss? We do everything within our human power to live and celebrate the gifts of life and love as they have been given to us, but every one of us ultimately comes to a moment when no matter what we do, no matter how hard we try, no matter how sincere our prayers and supplications are before God...we experience the end of all that is good in this world. Maybe that end comes peacefully and after a long and blissful life, or maybe it comes in an untimely and unforeseen manner—literally on a day and at an hour we do not expect. Maybe it is preceded with much suffering and pain. But it comes nonetheless and its finality can be deafening and overwhelming.

Some years ago, I had the opportunity with a group of pilgrims from our Collaborative to climb down into what is believed to be Lazarus' tomb in Bethany, just outside of Jerusalem. Shimming down a steep set of stairs carved into the soft rock and then crouching down to get into a small burial chamber with a rocky niche where a body once lay, you could "feel" the weight of the earth above you, the utter silence of death, the complete absence of sunlight and the stale air absent of oxygen and life. Left to himself, Lazarus and anyone else who will find themselves in a tomb would stay there, lifeless and cold forever.

Until Jesus' words, that is, call them to life: "Lazarus, Come out!" "This day, you will be with me in Paradise!" When all hope has been expended, when all is lost, when there is nothing else that can be done, we can still turn to the Lord, who is the only One who can and will turn loss into gain, death into life. "The good thief," as he has come to be known over the years, recognized that Jesus still could bring God's blessing to what was one of the cruelest and worst ways to die. Somehow, there might still be something for him in Jesus' Kingdom. Maybe he had heard about Jesus during his lifetime—not enough to change his ways, but enough to speak to the depths of his heart that Jesus was a good man, a holy man. Although conscious of his own sins and failings, he knew that Jesus didn't deserve this kind of death and condemnation. As a sinner, he knew what it was to be far from God and long for a return, somehow, to the righteousness that he had abandoned.

(Continued on page 4)

Thanksgiving Office Hours

Collaborative offices will close at noon on Wednesday, November 27 and will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS



This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, November 25

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
Voice of the Faithful Mtg 12:30pm, IC Conf. Room 209
Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
Compassionate Friends, 7:30pm, IC Conference Rm. 209

Tuesday, November 26

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Rm. 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC St. Vincent DePaul Mtg. 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR St. Vincent DePaul Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

Wednesday, November 27

Collaborative Offices Closing at Noon
Holy Redeemer 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
IC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, November 28

Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 29

Collaborative Offices Closed

Saturday, November 30

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, December 01

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 10:00am, St. Ann Church
Baptism Class 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
New England Tenors Concert 2:00pm IC Church

New England Tenors Concert

Sunday, December 1, 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of wonderful music to begin the Advent and Christmas season.

The New England Tenors will perform a Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 1, at 2:00 p.m.



Where: Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport

Cost: adults: \$20 per person. Under 12 years: \$12 per person.

Tickets available after all IC Masses or at the door the day of the show.

Complimentary refreshments will be available in the IC School cafeteria at the show's intermission.

{Proceeds benefit the IC Society of St. Vincent de Paul}.

(Continued from page 3)

Maybe Jesus could still help him? Maybe there was still a shred of hope? Maybe?

I often wonder, too, what the conversation between Jesus and the other criminal was like after they both died. Was there a moment of reconciliation, of healing? Did this other criminal who "reviled" Jesus while hanging on the cross have a change of heart before he passed? Was he able to be with the Lord in Paradise as well? Does God's forgiveness through Christ extend to even the most hardened of individuals, who when confronted with the truth of who Jesus is, reflect back even the tiniest ray of God's light? Does God see and recognize that?

Sometimes we pray in the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass, "Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy...." Sometimes that is mercy longed-for that only God knows about. In the end, only God truly knows the human heart and only God can fulfill and satisfy every human hope and desire, no matter how far off-track we get in this life.

So, as we bring this month of remembering and praying for the dead to a conclusion, and as we celebrate this final weekend of our Church's liturgical year, we celebrate Jesus Christ as the King of the Universe. As the ancient hymn from the Letter to the Colossians calls us to ponder: "For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile all things for Him, making peace by the blood of His cross through Him, whether those on earth or those in Heaven." (Col 1:20)

A prayer for every one of us to offer now and always: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." May we always long to hear His reply: "This day, you will be with me in Paradise!"

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Questions of the Week



Adult: What changes in lifestyle does today's Gospel call you to?

Child: When Jesus comes to judge us, what will He be looking for in our lives?

Day of Reflection

It's Christmas, and You're Not Here...

Holy Family and Star of the Sea Parishes extend an invitation to all who will be without loved ones during the Christmas Season. Join us for time of prayer, quiet reflection, and song that will bring a sense of God's loving presence in the midst of the sorrow that surrounds you.

There is no cost for this prayer experience.

Date: Saturday, December 7

Time: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Place: Holy Family Parish Center, Amesbury

Questions and registration:
Rose McBride: 978-388-0330,



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

CORI Update

Have you filled out your CORI for 2020?

The Archdiocese of Boston requires all parish volunteers to fill out a CORI every year, even if you filled out one last year. Now is the time to fill out your CORI for 2020. If you have not filled out your 2020 CORI yet, look for Deacon Paul or Maureen after Mass and they can help you fill it out right then. All you need is your ID and they will help you take care of the rest.



Look for Deacon Paul and Maureen after Masses.

Thank You for Lending a “Hand”

“...the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.” Deut. 15:10

We thank all the following cooks, bakers and servers who made our dinnertime a special part of the Discovering Christ gatherings this fall:

Betty Harrington • Joe Palmer • Betty Knox • Susan DiResta • Mary Zeregian • Candi Skiba • Dora Chu • Susan Stone • Shirley & Jim Noonan • Carol & Michael Cavanaugh • Anne Puricelli • Christine Blanchette • MaryAnn Lawler • Doris Neville • Marcia Cece • Betty Leary • Mary Bragg • Katie LaFlamme • Jim Connolly • Lynne Follansbee • Pat Temple • Hannah Koen • Chris Eagan • Roxanne Abenante • Lisa Colbert • Janet Murphy • Dennis Gonzales • Claire Siebert • Jen Troisi • Eloise Schoeppner • Melinda Burrell • Julie Swochak • Rose Simpson • Cathy Brown • Ann Leonard • Susan Harrington • Suellen Welch • Jan Kolman • Betty Long.

Thank you and God Bless You All.

The Discovering Christ Team

Follow Us on Instagram
HRICCatholic



2nd Annual “Open House”

Feast of the Holy Family Nativity Display

View 35+ manger scenes owned by parishioners.

Invite friends & family to this **free** event.

Browse religious treasures at our Bethlehem Boutique & Bookstore.

Linger for refreshments, an in-house scavenger hunt & door prizes.

Date: Sunday, December 29

Place: Nativity Hall, Church of the Nativity, Merrimac

Time: 1:00–4:00 p.m.

{Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team}



Holy Family Open House

Would you loan us your Nativity to display for 3 hours on the Feast of the Holy Family? Last year, 56 manger scenes—owned by parishioners—were showcased at Nativity Hall. Let’s do it again! Please note: your manger must have a space **reservation**, so please call 978-462-6191. Manger drop off: 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 28. Pick up: Sunday, December 29 at 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are sought to assist with set-up, serve as greeters, or manage our religious articles thrift table, too.

Praying with an Icon

View **original** icons. Learn how to “read” and pray with them. This inspiring presentation by Rev. James W. Savage will feature a few icons from his private collection—a unique opportunity! Invite family and friends of other faiths to this **free** moment of Advent prayerfulness.

Date: Thursday, December 5

Time: 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Location: St. Louis Hall, IC Parish Center

Presenter: Rev. James W. Savage

(Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team)



Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

Ecumenical Taizé

The community is cordially invited to attend the upcoming ecumenical candlelight Taizé meditation service on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. at Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King St., Groveland. This ecumenical service lasts about a half hour and includes Scripture, prayers, petitions, short repeated sung refrains, and a period of silent meditation in the candlelight. A beautiful way to begin the Advent season! All are welcome.

For more information, contact the church at or visit the website: www.grovelanducc.org.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

11/10 Offertory	\$2,866.00
11/10 Monthly	\$1,530.00
11/17 Offertory	\$2,933.00

Today's second collection is used to assist religious communities to provide for the retirement and health care needs of Sisters who have served in the Archdiocese. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to the Sisters who have served the Church of Boston so generously for so many years. Your contribution does make a difference. For more information, please contact the Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637.

**HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$15,413.00**



HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

The conference ordered and delivered 15 turkey dinners to our clients. Next on our list will be help with heating bills. None of this assistance would be possible without your financial assistance and support.

Cookies for Okinawa



We will be sending your homemade Christmas cookies to the Marines stationed in Okinawa this year for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please package 12 cookies in each quart-size Ziploc bag and label the cookie type. We will also package up any Christmas cards or notes of good cheer you may want to send along.

Cookie and card donations will be collected on **Sunday, December 8**. They will be packaged Sunday afternoon to be mailed Monday morning. Donations for postage would be appreciated!

Youth Choir

Calling all singers and bell players!

St. Ann is forming a youth choir (grades K-8) to play the bells and sing at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

Please contact Robin Plisinski, if your child is interested.



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, December 5**.

HR Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs for all grades are underway. If you have yet to register it is not too late. Forms can be found on our website (hricatholic.org) or call the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x7420) to request one be forwarded to you.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Sacramental Prep classes for those children anticipating the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist have begun.

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, December 1** at 1:00 p.m. in the Charity Dining Room located in the IC Pastoral Center.

Confirmation Prep Classes

Year 1 (Grade 9) classes have begun. The next class is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 in the Nativity Church beginning at 6:30 (6:30-8).

Year 2 (Grade 10) class is also underway. The next class for that group is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 from 6:00-7:30 also in the Nativity Church Hall.

Registration forms can be brought to class if you have not yet registered. Please remember an adult does need to accompany the candidate.

Saturday Mass at Nativity

Our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **Nativity, Merrimac** on **December 7**.

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. **150 sandwiches are needed each day as well as large containers of coffee, adobo, and minced garlic.** Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury, from 7:00-9:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.



We are doing our regular delivery on Wednesday, November 27 for all who are able 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. Contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

11/10 Offertory	\$9,727.00
11/10 Monthly	\$1,530.00
11/17 Offertory	\$9,678.00
11/17 Ongoing Church Maintenance	\$1,703.00

Today's second collection is used to assist religious communities to provide for the retirement and health care needs of Sisters who have served in the Archdiocese. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to the Sisters who have served the Church of Boston so generously for so many years. Your contribution does make a difference. For more information, please contact the Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637.

The second collection next weekend is Ongoing Church Maintenance.

IC Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$46,118.00



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 55.00
Poor Box	\$216.00
Total	\$271.00

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 cfnewburyport.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 **November 25**.

Our Annual Candle Lighting (part of TCF Global Memorial) is Sunday, December 8, 7:00–8:00 p.m. at 64 Northern Blvd, Plum Island, Newbury, led by Mel Yell. It is for those who have lost a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age/cause. Please arrive at 6:45. Memorial will include readings, music, and a Memory Tree. Please bring a photo of your loved one, a candle, and an ornament to hang. Extra candles and ornaments will be provided as well as light snacks.

Contact Barbara with questions: barbarajhopkinson@gmail.com.

Troop 21 Boy Scout Blood Drive

Scout Troop 21 of Newburyport, MA and the American Red Cross are teaming up to boost blood supply. Consider donating blood on **Thursday, December 26** at the Newburyport Elks Club/Function Hall, 25 Low Street, Newburyport. Donor hours are 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

To make an appointment to donate call 800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Immaculate Conception School



Over the last month, the students at the IC have experienced some changes that will make a difference in their learning. Flexible furniture arrived for the Math Lab and the Library, addressing the need for movement, comfort, and reduced fatigue in a learning environment.

The Library (pictured) has a new look with tables that transform the space into a classroom while still preserving



the use of the room as a Library. The tables can easily stack in the corner to create an open space for movement, theatrical presentations,

or story hour. The Math Lab has interlocking tables that provide an expanded work surface that amply accommodates students' Chromebooks, workbooks, and whiteboards, all of which are tools used for every lesson.

(pictured) On test days, the table pieces separate easily for privacy and distance. Chromebooks are available to all students in grades 1–8,

which expand the learning options and engage students. The addition of digital tools establish individualized learning pathways and offer options that promote student voice as well as address differences in students' learning styles and provide instant feedback for teachers on student progress through administrative dashboards.



Visit the IC for a personal tour and conversation about how we are addressing the needs of 21st Century learners. Contact Principal Joan Sullivan at 978-465-7780.

Visit the IC for a personal tour and conversation about how we are addressing the needs of 21st Century learners. Contact Principal Joan Sullivan at 978-465-7780.

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.

Christmas Flower Envelopes

We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for the church for Christmas. You can find the flower envelope in your envelope packet or in the back of the church. It is helpful if you do not have flowers delivered to the church but allow us to purchase them. The deadline for donations is December 9 at noon.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Haiti Update

Thanks to the artistic creativity and thoughtful initiative of Alyson Rose, a recent graduate of the IC grammar school, and to the generosity of her family and fellow parishioners, the sale of her cards depicting our church building raised \$3265 for IC Haiti. Other students from IC have also made significant financial contributions during this past year through their cookie sale and lemonade stand. The IC school community can be most proud of these students who have inspired us all by their efforts to care for their "unseen" brothers and sisters in Haiti.

This past month, IC Haiti funded school transportation during the 2019–2020 school year for graduates of the Fr. Marc Piché Immaculate Conception elementary school



(K–6) to attend 7th and 8th grade classes in Fond des Blancs. We received the following note from Conor Shapiro, CEO of Health Equity International (formerly St. Boniface Haiti Foundation) which serves as our conduit to the school community in Haiti:

"Your continued support makes a tremendous difference in the lives of the children and teachers at the Fr. Marc Piché School in Chacha. Thanks to this generous gift, children in Fond des Blancs will no longer have to walk for miles each day to attend school. For these children, your gift means more time with their families, more time to study, and more time to play. Your support drives this vital work – thank you."

The final collection this year for IC Haiti will take place the weekend of December 14–15. We thank you in advance for your continued generosity and support for our mission to the community of Puit Chacha, Haiti.

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.



Thank you to everyone who came to this year's IC Christmas Fair.

We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! It was a tremendous success! And thank you to everyone who volunteered and worked so hard to make it not just a success, but so enjoyable.

Our Parish is blessed having all of you in it!



IC Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs for all grade levels are underway. If you have not yet registered your child/ren, it is not too late. Forms can be found on our website (hriccatholic.org) or call the Faith Formation office to request one.

Confirmation

The next Confirmation Prep class for **Year 1** (Grade 9) will be held on Sunday, December 8 from 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Class for **Year 2** (Grade 10) is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 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, December 1** with the sacrament scheduled to be celebrated on December 8.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Sacramental Prep classes are underway for those children anticipating the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Parent meetings will be held prior to each sacrament. The first meeting for parents and children to attend prior to Reconciliation is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 11** at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars now. Our group Reconciliation service here at IC is planned for **Saturday, December 14** at 11:00 a.m. More information will be made available in the weeks ahead.

SVdP Advent Project

At this time of year we thank God for his many blessings. We do the best we can to take care of one another, and we look forward to opportunities to help those in need, especially at the holidays. During Advent, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is grateful to receive donated gift cards from parishioners. The gift cards (from grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, and clothing/houseware stores) are used during the year to help people in Newbury and Newburyport who contact the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for help. Please visit the Advent display in the front of the church. Donate gift cards by placing them in the collection basket at any Mass. Thank you for helping us to help others.