

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

hricatholic.org

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019



*“You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.
For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed;
the night is advanced, the day is at hand.” (Rm 13:11-12)*

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

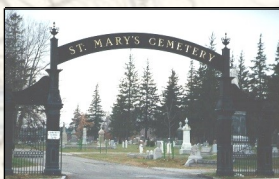
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

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

Pastor

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

Parochial Vicar

Rev. George E. Morin,
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
gemorin1945@gmail.com

Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Paul Dow
978-887-5350, paul Dow49@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

Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, Nativity Organist
jen.acorn@comcast.net

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

Melinda Burrell, Administrative Assistant to Lifelong Faith Formation
978-462-2724 x 7420
burrell@newburyportcatholic.org

Marin Fortune, RCIA, 978-462-2724
fortune@newburyportcatholic.org

Immaculate Conception School

Joan Sullivan, Principal, 978-465-7780
jsullivan@newburyportcatholic.org

Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance
978-462-2724
bkent@newburyportcatholic.org

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager
978-462-2724
emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org

Cliff Vandenbulcke, IC School Custodian
978-465-7780
cvandenbulcke@newburyportcatholic.org

St. Vincent de Paul

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

 [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception 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 (11/30)

4:00pm **IC** *Stephen M. Boy, Connie Bucci, Louise & Charles MacLean, Alice & George Currier, Walter & Stephen Oldak* (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)

Monday (12/2)

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

Tuesday (12/3)

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

Wednesday (12/4)

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

Thursday (12/5)

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

Friday (12/6)

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

1:30pm **Avita** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (12/7)

4:00pm **IC** *Millie Groleau, Robert Auwerda, For the intentions of Terry Mostero* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

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

Sunday (12/8)

7:15am **IC** *Richard Ciaburri, Elizabeth Perkins* (Fr. Morin)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

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

10:15am **St. Ann** *For a Special Intention* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

11:30am **IC** *Lena Filomia, Bridget Mary Bennett* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

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 this evening of prayer and song. Invite your friends.

Questions of the Week

Adult: If you knew Jesus' second coming was going to occur next week, what would you change about your life today?

Child: How will you prepare for Jesus' coming during Advent?

From the Pastor

Savoring Advent

Over the next several weeks, Christian Churches everywhere will be unfolding a brief, but intensely special, season known as "Advent." From its Latin roots, this word means "coming" and highlights the twofold character of this time: to prepare for the coming of the Lord at the end of time and to prepare to celebrate his past birth among us. The first several weeks are focused on the enduring Christian hope that the Lord Jesus Christ will return again in time, an event known as the Parousia or the Second Coming of Christ. This will mark the final judgement of the world and will realize the complete fulfillment of the Kingdom of God. Since the Scriptures are clear that no one knows the day or the hour (see Mt. 24 and Mk. 13), the proper stance of the Christian in all things is to be watchful and ready. Each year, the readings from the prophets and the words of John the Baptist enrich the beginning days of this time of preparation.

Although the Church is always intentionally at least a little out-of-sync with the rest of the world, this healthy tension can be felt most strongly during Advent as we resist the temptation to celebrate the coming feast of Christmas before its proper time. Our churches are veiled in an Advent violet-blue, reminiscent of the pre-dawn sky on a clear night changing from pitch black to the very first colors of light. Rather than the festive decorations, ribbons, and bows that often distinguish the aisles of Macy's and Wal-Mart alike, you are more likely to find a simple Advent wreath marking the passage of time with the successive lighting of candles each week. While the malls and retail stores have been blasting "Deck the Halls" and "We Wish you a Merry Christmas" since before Halloween, our liturgies are much more likely to be found laced with such time-honored Advent hymns as "People Look East," "On Jordan's Bank," "O Come Divine Messiah," and, of course, the classic "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."



(Continued on page 4)

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

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, December 2

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall

Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, December 3

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Rm. 209

Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC Confirmation 2 Class 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Collaborative PPC Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Wednesday, December 4

Holy Jammers Practice 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209

Holy Quilters 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church

Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel

Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Conference Room 209

IC Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, December 5

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

Icons w/ Fr. James Savage 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Welcoming & Ministry Meeting 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Friday, December 6

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

Ultreya 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room/St. James Chapel

AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, December 7

Cursillo Group Reunion 8:00am, St. Ann Church

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, December 8

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 Grade 2 Faith Formation 11:45am, Nativity Hall

IC Confirmation 1 Class 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Baptisms 1:00pm, IC Church

HR Confirmation 2 Class 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Merrimack College, Rogers Center for the Arts
315 Turnpike Street, North Andover

A centuries-old tradition, Lessons and Carols is a heartwarming journey that leads you through centuries of prophecy, culminating in the birth of Christ. This traditional one-hour program blends the lyricism of spoken sacred texts with the joy of live choral music from time-honored hymns and carols of the season for all to reflect upon and enjoy. As we journey through the quiet of Advent toward the Feast of Christmas, Lessons and Carols is a poignant way to pause and mark this important time of the year.

Free and open to the public.

(Continued from page 3)

To truly appreciate the gift that God made to us in Christ, we must learn to empty ourselves, to savor the hunger and thirst that are present in our lives and to bask in the yearnings of the human heart. Too often we want to cover the blemish, to fill in the hole and patch the need. We want the celebration to be immediate, rather than weathering the careful and attentive formulation that leads to it. More than we may realize, these wants and longings are God's way of preparing our hearts for the ultimate coming: for the One who will fulfill us in every way in all times and places and for all eternity. As it is written in Book of Lamentations: "It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord." (Lam 3:26) As these coming days lead us into the darkest time of the year—the Winter Solstice, the ever-increasing light from the Advent wreath reminds us of the coming light: Christ, who is the Light of the World. May the days of this holy season help prepare us to welcome the Savior with expectant joy. Let us watch then, with hopeful and longing hearts for the Lord who is to come. Let us savor Advent!

Fr. Tim Harrison, Pastor

Icons and the Twilight Zone

Rev. James W. Savage—a curator of original icons—will be your Advent prayer guide, describing two-dimensional icons as a gateway to the eternal. His nuanced 90-minute presentation will inform and inspire awe for Eastern sacred art.

Date: Thursday, December 5

Time: 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Location: St. Louis Hall, IC Parish Center, Green Street

Presenter: Rev. James W. Savage

Admission: Free

(Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team)



Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

Newburyport Choral Society

"Christmas with Brass" Concert

The NCS Winter Concert "Christmas with Brass" will take place on December 7 at 7:30 p.m. and December 8 at 2:30 p.m. at Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High Street, in Newburyport. The performances will combine the voices of both the Newburyport Choral Society and The Greater Newburyport Children's Chorus and feature a brass ensemble, and the historic Stevens Organ. Music will range from the Renaissance to the present day, including such works as Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, Giovanni Gabrielli's *Hodie Christus Natus Est* and works by contemporary composers Cecilia McDowall and Kevin Siegfried. Over 150 performers will be under the baton of NCS Music Director Dr. George Case. General admission: adults \$25, seniors/students \$23 in advance, \$30 at the door. For tickets, go to www.newburyportchoralsociety.org.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Scripture Readings

December 1–8, 2019

All of us are encouraged to start or end our day praying with the Scriptures. 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, Dec 1: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44
- Monday, Dec 2: Isaiah 4:2-6; Psalm 122; Matthew 8:5-11
- Tuesday, Dec 3: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Luke 10:21-24
- Wednesday, Dec 4: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23; Matthew 15:29-37
- Thursday, Dec 5: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
- Friday, Dec 6: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27; Matthew 9:27-31
- Saturday, Dec 7: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday, Dec. 8: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

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



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.

Collaborative Pastoral Council

Thank you to all who nominated yourself or others for the Pastoral Council. We received 54 nominations from both parishes. All who were nominated should have received a letter from Fr. Tim inviting you to a meeting on **Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Nativity Hall in Merrimac**. Please email Jim Williamson If you are planning to attend. At this meeting we will go through a time of discernment to choose members of this Council. All parishioners are welcome to attend this meeting.

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 be performing 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}.



Scene from last year's wonderful show.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

CORI Update

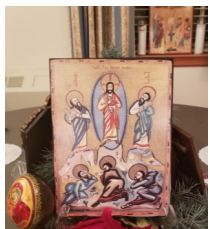
Have you filled out your CORI for 2020?

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.

Advent Vespers Service



Give yourself the gift of an hour to slow down and reflect on Advent's message of anticipation. Engage in traditional Western antiphonal prayer in the presence of Eastern icons that illuminate the eye and expand the soul. A different theme both evenings, so come to both!

Dates: Tuesdays, December 10 & 17

Presenters: Rev. George E. Morin and Mary Schmidt

Place: St. Ann Church, Route 113, West Newbury

Time: 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Admission: Free

{Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team}

Ecumenical Taizé

All are invited to attend the 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 service lasts about 1/2 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! For more information, contact the church at gcuucc@gmail.com or visit the website: www.grovelanduucc.org.

Feast of the Holy Family Open House

Feast on 50+ scenes representing manglers from around the world.

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

Browse religious treasures at our "Bethlehem Boutique & Book Nook."

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

Date: Sunday, December 29

Place: Nativity Hall, Church of the Nativity, Green St., Merrimac

Time: 1:00–4:00 p.m.

{Hosted 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 that we can prepare your space for you. 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.

{Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team}

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 6:30pm in St. James Chapel and IC Charity Dining Room to continue the Cursillo spirit. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dave & Kelly Colby.

Cursillo weekends 2019–2020

December 5	Men
January 9	Women
February 6	Men
March 5	Women
April 2	Men
April 30	Women
June 4	Women

Ultreya Evenings

December 6	March 27
January 3	April 24
January 31	May 29
February 28	

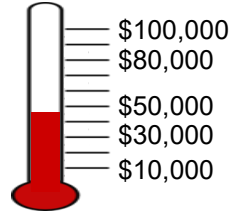
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

The second collection **this** weekend is Ongoing Church Maintenance.

The Second collection **next** weekend is the monthly.

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



Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, December 10** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

If you are interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, growing in faith, obtaining exclusive access to top-rated insurance protections for you or your family, or just connecting with other Catholic men, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at membership@kofc231.org.

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 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. We want to help ensure that a safe and adequate blood supply is available when needed. Please donate 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.

It only takes about an hour of time—and one small pinch—to become a hero to someone in need. Anyone 17 years of age or older, weighing 110 pounds or more, and feeling in good health may be eligible to donate blood. To make an appointment to donate blood call 800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Immaculate Conception School



Integrating the use of technology for student learning positively influences the expression of “student voice” in the classroom. Capturing the thoughts, ideas, and breadth of concept understanding from every student can be enhanced by the use of digital tools. “Seesaw”

is being used across all grades to showcase student learning through videos and slideshows with voice overs. For example, in Spanish, the 8th graders showcased a summer vacation through family photographs and detailed descriptions as the students spoke in Spanish about their personal experience. “Balloons over Broadway” was a 6th grade assignment where students used Google Draw to design a new balloon for the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, and then described their creation in their own words. The 8th grade added background music to commercials they produced to showcase the communities they designed in a “Communities for the Homeless” project. Songs were selected from GarageBand to add emotion to the messages conveyed about homelessness and how society can better address the needs of the homeless. Pictured, the 6th grade creates songs about sedimentary rock that are sung in rap style to the beat of a well known tune. Technology is helping IC students to express themselves in creative ways.



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.

IC Faith Formation

School Year Programs

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

There is no class this weekend due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Class will meet again next week on Sunday, December 8.

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, January 5** with the sacrament scheduled to be celebrated on January 12.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

A meeting for both parents and children to attend regarding Reconciliation is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 11** at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars.

Our Group Reconciliation service here at IC is planned for **Saturday, December 14** at 11:00 a.m.

IC Children's Mass

Last month's re-introduction of the Children's Mass was a great success. Our next Children's Mass will be at the **9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 8**.

Children's Masses will occur whenever there is K–8 Grade Faith Formation at the Parish (typically twice a month). Masses include kid-friendly music from the Children's Choir, an opportunity to sit on the altar steps during the kid-friendly homily, and opportunities for them to serve as gift bearers and ushers. Please also consider bringing a **canned-food good** for your child to bring to the altar as donation to the local food pantry during the Offertory.

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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

The Second collection next weekend is the monthly.

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



HR Altar Server Training



Additional Altar Servers are needed for Nativity and St. Ann Masses. Training will be provided for Grades 4 and up. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Tracy Blais.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

This past fiscal year our conference raised \$25,433.00 and then spent \$25,352.00 to help our clients in need. None of our work would have been possible without your support and monetary donations. Thank you to everyone.

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, January 5** 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 Hall 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**.

Holy Redeemer Giving Trees

The Giving Trees are placed in the churches at the beginning of Advent to help us aid area programs for people in need during the Christmas season. We are currently giving to five programs: Emmaus, Inc. in Haverhill, The Holiday Helper Program for the Pentucket Area, Pregnancy Care Center in Haverhill and Newburyport areas, Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence, and our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Some of the tags on the trees are for specific items that the groups are requesting, including toys and clothing. Please return the **unwrapped** gifts with the tags to the churches by the weekend of **December 15**. This allows time for us to deliver them to the programs for distribution in time for Christmas. We would ask if you take a tag and can't find the specific item that you either return the tag as soon as possible or consider getting a gift card. Thank you for all your generosity in the past, present, and future! If you have any questions, please call Dottie Carr [978-363-2909](tel:978-363-2909).