

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

hricatholic.org



*“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing fan is in his hand
to clear his threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*

(Lk 3:16-17)

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

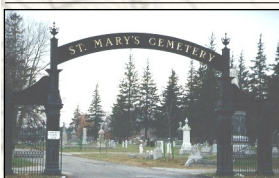
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: info@hricatholic.org

Nativity

Parish offices and church:
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: info@hricatholic.org

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@hricatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, K-grade 8,
Mrs. Joan Sullivan, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



Collaborative Staff (Note new email addresses)

Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
info@hricatholic.org

Senior Priests in Residence

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

Permanent Deacons

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

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Holy Redeemer
978-346-8604 x 8
hsvdp300@gmail.com

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

St Mary's Cemetery

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Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance
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bkent@hricatholic.org

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager
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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

Online:

Website: www.hricatholic.org

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

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

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

- Saturday (12/11)**
 4:00pm **IC** *Liza Mataac Dodson* (Fr. Harrison)
 4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)
- Sunday (12/12)**
 8:30am **Nativity** *For the intentions of Maria Kardas* (Fr. Stanley)
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
 10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 11:30am **IC** *Lena Filomia, Lena Charles, For the intentions of Paul & Cecilia Healy* (Fr. Harrison)
- Monday (12/13)**
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
- Tuesday (12/14)**
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
- Wednesday (12/15)**
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
- Thursday (12/16)**
 9:00am **IC** *Adrienne T. Mosher* (Fr. Morin)
- Friday (12/17)**
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Stanley)
- Saturday (12/18)**
 4:00pm **IC** *Katherine Lombard, John K. Herlihy, John & Katherine Kelley, Rose Thorsen, John D'Ambrosio, For the intentions of Jenny LaBonte* (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)
 4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
- Sunday (12/19)**
 8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
 9:00am **IC** *Tricia Kelly, John Boress, The Dennis Family, The Boress Family* (Fr. Stanley)
 10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC** *Jeanne Baughn, Anna DeFloria* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

In your prayers, please remember Joyce E. Shea and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Vigil Mass is broadcast online through Facebook:
[\(Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes\)](#)

Help Wanted

Bookkeeper/administrative Assistant (Full Time)

Immaculate Conception Parish is looking for a full-time bookkeeper/administrative assistant.

The position provides financial and administrative support services for: Immaculate Conception Parish and School, St. Mary's Cemetery, and Holy Redeemer Parish. This support includes accounts payable, payroll, deposits, and other revenue as well as maintaining records of all parishioner revenue including offertory/tithing.

This is a full-time position with benefits. Work schedule is 30 hours per week in a church office environment.

To learn more, visit our website, hricatholic.org, or to apply, email a cover letter and resume to dlamalfa@hricatholic.org. References required.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

So many of us are significantly removed from our food sources, that most of the Scriptural references and images that would have been obvious and clear in their meaning to our ancestors have become inaccessible to us in this present age.



Take bread, for instance. In order to have bread, you need first to obtain its primary ingredient: flour. In order to have flour, you must have grain to grind-up. In order to access the grain, you must first separate the kernels of grain from the chaff or husk that surrounds it on the stalk of wheat. This all-important process of separation was called winnowing, as it involved first taking the whole stalks of wheat and violently smashing them onto a clear area on the ground. This smashing would then loosen the kernels of grain from the outer husks of chaff. In order to then actually separate one from another, a large woven flattened basket of a fan would then be used to toss the whole mixture up in the air, then with the downward stroke of the fan, the breeze would blow the light, fluffy chaff some distance away from the heavier grains, which would collect in a pile closer to the ground. This was done over and over again until the grains were pure. The chaff would later be useful for burning as a fuel source for the ovens in which the bread was baked.

Flour made up of a mixture of grains and chaff was indigestible and useless. Only when separated, could the real blessing of nutritious, fresh-baked bread become a reality for us.

It is in this same way that sin and evil must be separated from goodness and grace so that the blessings of God's Kingdom may be made manifest for us all. John the Baptist came preaching a primary message of repentance as a way to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. This is just as true today as it was for the people who were to meet the earthly Jesus when He came among them. Sin and evil blind us to God's pathways and make us deaf to God's

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Christmas Mass Schedule

No registration required. Face masks recommended.

Christmas Eve Masses

- 3 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church
- 3 p.m. Nativity (Live streamed on Facebook)
- 4 p.m. St. Ann
- 5 p.m. Nativity
- 5 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church
- 6 p.m. St. Ann
- 7 p.m. Immaculate Conception Church

Christmas Day Masses

- 8 a.m. Immaculate Conception Church
- 9 a.m. Nativity
- 10 a.m. St. Ann
- 10 a.m. Immaculate Conception Church (Live streamed on Facebook)



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, December 13

AA Meeting 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
 Women at the Well Mtg. 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Tuesday, December 14

Breaking Bread Takeout-Only Meal 4:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
 HR Confirmation Prep, Year 1 6:45pm, Nativity Hall
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church
 Knights of Columbus 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

Wednesday, December 15

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library
 New Hope Family Support Group 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Thursday, December 16

Blaze Ministry 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room
 Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, December 17

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church
 AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, December 18

Holy Quilters 9:00am, Nativity Hall
 Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, December 19

IC Faith Formation 10:00am, IC Parish Center
 FORGIVEN Parish Study 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall
 IC Confirmation Prep Year 2 3:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room
 To schedule your group's in-person meeting, contact Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to reserve your space.

(Continued from page 3)

Word. That is why we must turn away from our sins and follow a way of repentance in order to be part of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Fortunately, there are many ways to do this! One is to be about works of mercy and charity. When we are actively doing good and seeking that which is righteous and just, sin has no maneuvering room in our lives. We can mostly "crowd out" sin by focusing our conscious efforts on doing the good and positive things that God invites us to each day, beginning with care of our neighbor. The sacrifices we make for others strengthen our inner commitment to the Lord.

Another way to turn from sin is to involve ourselves in regular and constant prayer. As St. Paul tells us in today's Second Reading: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:6-7) St. Paul was so confident in the power of prayer that he could encourage his communities to "Rejoice always!", even in the midst of suffering and persecution.

It is in this spirit this weekend that we don festive rose-colored vestments and take comfort in the prophet's words to rejoice heartily and sing with a full voice as at a festival! God has answered our prayers and will fulfill all His promises of deliverance and salvation. Even though the days are getting shorter and darkness seems to have the upper hand, as an Advent people, we await the dawning of light that surely will come when the Son of Justice and Righteousness appears. On that "Day of the Lord," all hope will be fulfilled and everything will at last be made manifest. We will see the vindication of our God and the perfection of all that is good and right and holy!



Oh, and on that day, the bread will be amazing!

Gaudete Sunday blessings,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Synod on Synodality

Over the coming months, Catholics from around the world will be participating in the Synod on Synodality. What does that mean? Here in Boston it means that we will be gathering, as parishes and as a diocese to pray together and to invite the Holy Spirit to help us to listen deeply to one another, and we will talk together about how best to do that.

So, for instance, a parish council may get together and ask, "How can we as a parish council do a better job of letting the voices of all our parishioners be heard, even those who are not a part of an inner circle or who might be marginalized for whatever reason?"

The archdiocese and the church around the world will be engaging in the same sort of conversation. We pray that the Lord will open our hearts to Him and to all of our people.



women at the well

Welcome to Women at the Well: A weekly Bible Study for women seeking to grow closer to God and cultivate community!

We meet every **Monday at 6:30 p.m.** If you can't make it to every meeting, please do not worry! This group is designed to allow you to drop in whenever you are able to join us, no pre-reading necessary from week to week.

In-person: IC Charity Dining Room
 Zoom: Email hricwomenatthewell@gmail.com for the link.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

San Marcos Christmas Coffee

December 11-12

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase at all collaborative Masses December 11–12. Perhaps there is a coffee lover on your Christmas list who would enjoy this as a gift, and at the same time you will be helping to support the poor farmers of Honduras. \$10 per pound for this specialty whole bean or ground coffee. Call/text Karen if you missed out and want to see if there is any left 978-270-0183.

Feliz Navidad!

Support after Breast Cancer Loss



Do you know a New England area family who has lost a loved one to breast cancer and is in need of financial and/or emotional support? Runway for Recovery is a Newburyport non-profit that funds families who have lost a loved one to breast cancer.

We aim to reduce the financial and logistical burdens of a loss and bolster families with needed psychological, social, and financial support. Runway for Recovery is committed to being flexible with families in order to address their specific needs. We encourage you to apply and learn more here:

<https://runwayforrecovery.org/familygrants/>

ENGAGE & FORMED

We have a treasure chest of online faith formation resources available free to all in the HRIC community. We encourage you to take full advantage of these resources.

To access the resources of Word on Fire's **ENGAGE**, register at flocknote.com/hriccollaborative or by texting "HRIC" to 84576.

To access **FORMED**, visit (formed.org), click "Sign up," then "I belong to a parish or organization" and type in "Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative" to log in.

Mass Scripture Readings

The Scripture passages read each day at Mass can be found on the United States Council of Catholic Bishops' website at bible.usccb.org. Praying with the Scriptures daily is a wonderful way to deepen our relationship with Our Lord and to discern how best to serve God as an intentional disciple of Christ.

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

If you are a parishioner in the Collaborative and want assistance with grocery store runs, prescription pick ups, meal deliveries, or just receiving a call or note from us to cheer your day, please call the Collaborative offices at **978-462-2724** or **978-346-8604 (ext. 1000)** and let us know how we can help.

Confessions

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

Centering Prayer for Advent

As the days shorten and we enter the darkest season of the year we light Advent candles and anticipate the coming of our Savior, Jesus, the light of the world. In the busyness of preparing for Christmas we may miss the gifts of Advent. During Advent please consider joining us weekly for Centering Prayer. Please consider leaving the noise of the world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday evenings from 6:00–7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Following Centering Prayer Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and share reflections on the words of scripture.

All are welcome to join us as we pray in these ancient Christian traditions and together prepare this Advent to welcome God's gift of His son Immanuel, *God with us, into our hearts and our lives.*

For more information and the Zoom link, contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483.

Advent Study and Penance Services

During Advent, the Collaborative will be hosting a video series on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. "FORGIVEN: The Transforming Power of Confession" by Augustine Institute offers a fresh perspective on God's mercy and the often misunderstood and frequently avoided Sacrament.

Choose one of two options (No RSVP necessary):

1. Watch and discuss the video series **in person** with fellow Collaborative members at IC St. Louis Hall, **10:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m.** Last session: **Dec. 19.**
2. Watch the series **at home** online <https://watch.formed.org/forgiven> using our Collaborative's subscription to FORMED (go to www.hriccatholic.org/formed to learn how to sign up):



- a. Watch Session 3 video by Dec. 20

At the end of Advent, we will host two evening **Advent Penance Services** to celebrate this great Sacrament:

1. **Monday, December 20, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, Newburyport**
2. **Tuesday, December 21, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Church of the Nativity, Merrimac**

For more information or questions, contact Aaron Giard, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation: agiard@hriccatholic.org.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

At-Home Advent Personal Directed Retreat

Welcoming Jesus, The Light of the World

Pondering Jesus' Advent invitation to bring him the darkness of whatever separates you from God, and allowing Jesus, The Light of the World to overcome your darkness with the healing light of God's unconditional love to bring you joy.

During this Advent retreat let Jesus bring you God's light of love and be healed. Through time in prayer, reading, reflection, and spiritual direction you may come to name your personal darkness and be encouraged to bring the darkness of your sorrow, shame, fear, doubt, anger, anxiety, pride, or whatever separates you from God into the light of his unconditional love for healing and may open yourself to receive this gift and be made whole.

This retreat is designed to be affordable, convenient, and safe. You will receive 4 one-hour sessions of spiritual direction via Zoom, telephone, or in person on a convenient day and time. Provided retreat materials will support your journey through Scripture, poems, and spiritual writings.

May this Advent Retreat help you see God's great light of love for you, welcome it as it dawns each time you seek God and allow it to heal you and bring you joy. This is the true gift of Christmas available every day of your life. Welcome Jesus, The Light of the World as you prepare a place for him in your life and your heart this Christmas. Walk with Jesus in the light and share this light of love with the world as he did.

Spiritual Director: Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director.

Call [\(978\) 462-7483](tel:9784627483) or email emccarthy1028@hotmail.com to register and for additional information.

Suggested donation: \$90.00

Adoration:

Be Surprised By Jesus' Love!



It's a new liturgical year, so celebrate this Advent in a posture of praise, of quiet waiting, of attentive listening. Seek Him! Ask for a sign! Hear your heart expand in gratitude for His Incarnation! God is with us in the Monstrance!

Thursdays in IC Church: 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fridays in IC Church: 9:30 a.m.–noon*

*preempted when a funeral is posted in HRIC online calendar. The calendar link can be found on our website: hriccatholic.org.

Facebook Mass

To watch our **Saturday 4:00 p.m. live-stream Mass:**

1. Go to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/>) at the appointed time. If you don't have a Facebook page, you can still watch the live stream from your computer, smartphone, or tablet using the above link.
2. Click the "videos" link on the page.
3. The **LIVE** video should be the first one on the list.



Christmas Collections



healthier priests.
stronger communities.

The strength of our communities depends on the well-being of our priests who tirelessly serve others.

SUPPORT OUR PRIESTS THIS CHRISTMAS

donate now

— OR —

SCAN HERE for Venmo, Google/Apple Pay, PayPal via Givebutler.



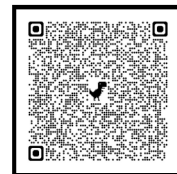
Supports our priests in good standing



Join the Knights!

Second Tuesdays at 7pm
IC Parish Center Library

For More Info:
Matt Blanchette
978.697.5135
kofc231@gmail.com



New Hope Family Support Group

First & Third Wednesday of every month

For More Info:
Corey Beaver
781.854.2541
3foldrecovery@gmail

3 FOLD RECOVERY

HOSTED BY Corey Beaver
INTERVENTIONIST & RECOVERY COACH

New Hope
Family Support
Group

Immaculate Conception
422 Green Street
Newburyport, MA 01850

St. Louis Hall at 7:00 PM
1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month

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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Dec. 4–5	\$1,333.00
Ongoing Church Maintenance, Dec. 4–5	\$ 581.00
Mailed In Offertory, week ending Dec. 3	\$1,396.00
Catholic Appeal	\$18,565.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 12) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 19) is IC Haiti. Make checks payable to "IC Haiti."

If you would like to mail in your collections, send them to

Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hricatholic.org/hr-online-giving.

HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$13,320.00



Nativity & St. Ann Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating **St Ann Church** for Christmas on Sunday, December 19 directly after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. **All are welcome. Many hands makes light the work.**

We will be decorating **Nativity Church** for Christmas on Wednesday, December 22 at 1:00 p.m. **All are invited and needed to come help prepare the church for Christmas!** Please call Cindy Quinn (978-346-0072) with questions.

HR Christmas Giving 2021

Emmaus House will continue with their arrangement with Target online. Go to Target.com/gift-registry/gift/emmaus2021registry. There will be items of different values. Items will be sent directly to Emmaus House. They would also like \$25.00 gift cards from Target, WalMart, and Amazon. Mail cards to Denise Arnold, Volunteer & Gifts-in-Kind Manager, D'Youville Center for Social Justice, 101 Winter Street, Haverhill MA 01830

HR St. Vincent de Paul is asking for monetary donations and \$25.00 Market Basket gift cards, which may be left in the metal boxes at the doors of the churches.

Pregnancy Care Center is looking for Amazon, Target, and Walmart gift cards, as well as cotton sleepers, pjs, and blanket sleepers (sizes newborn–24 mos.), **children's socks (sizes infant–24 mos.)**, onesies and new outfits (sizes 0–24 mos.). **Also needed are disposable diapers (sizes 3–6)**, pacifiers, teething, baby bottles, and bibs. These may be left in the basement of St. Ann Church **by December 17** or call Dottie Carr: 978-363-2909 to arrange pickup or drop off.

Thank you all for your generosity and thoughtfulness at this time!

An Invitation to Holy Redeemer from IC Haiti

Since 2009, IC Haiti has been a 501 c 3 incorporated, tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Through it, parishioners of the Immaculate Conception parish and other kind donors built and have continued to support the Fr. Marc Piché elementary school in the town of Puit Chacha, Haiti.

Now IC Haiti would like to invite you, the parishioners of Holy Redeemer parish, to join in this worthy ministry in Haiti. IC Haiti is the sole financial support for the school in Puit Chacha which provides education to approximately 200 children from kindergarten to 6th grade. As you are well aware Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas; and since 2009, whenever Haiti has suffered a devastating natural disaster such as an earthquake or hurricane, IC Haiti has responded with emergency medical relief funding through Health Equity International, formerly known as St. Boniface Haiti Foundation, and its hospital complex a few miles north of Puit Chacha.

This year alone our expenses to run the school along with its hot lunch and dental care programs and to provide medical care to hurricane victims amounted to \$83,000. Our yearlong administrative costs amounted to less than 2 tenths of one percent of our total expenditures. We do our best to be good stewards of the donations people make to support IC Haiti's ministry to the people we have been called to serve.

The final quarterly collection of 2021 for IC Haiti will be taken up the weekend of December 18–19. On the Sunday prior to the collection, a member of the Board of Directors for IC Haiti will make a direct appeal for your generosity and provide a brief update on our ministry to the people and school community of Puit Chacha, Haiti.

Should you choose to donate to IC Haiti, please **make out checks to "IC Haiti."** You may put your donation into the second collection boxes around the churches or mail them anytime: **IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.**

Thank you. And, please keep our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers.

Stuart Meurer, *President of the IC Haiti Board of Directors*

HR Prayer Shawl

If you know of anyone who needs a prayer shawl, please contact Helen hvktax@aol.com or 978-771-4673. 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.

Greeters Needed

We are looking for friendly, welcoming folks to greet people at Masses at Holy Redeemer. One greeter is needed for each Mass. There is a **particular need** for greeters at the 10:00 a.m. (Sunday) Mass at St. Ann, but we could also use more greeters at the 4:00 p.m. Masses at both St. Ann and Nativity.

Would you like to serve in this role? Please contact Sue Noyes at susanjnoyes@gmail.com

HR & IC

Faith Formation

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

Faith Formation classes have started for all grades. If you have not yet registered your family, class schedules and registration forms can be found on the parish website at hriccatholic.org.

School Year Programs

Information regarding the fall 2021 schedule for those children entering Grades K–8 has been posted on the Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org. Registration forms are also available. Please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x7405) with any questions or reach out via email to Aaron at agiard@hriccatholic.org or Melinda at burrell@hriccatholic.org.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Registration forms as well as schedules for those children who will be preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist have been posted to the Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org. Please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x7405) with any questions or reach out via email to Aaron at agiard@hriccatholic.org or Melinda at burrell@hriccatholic.org.

Baptism

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at IC on Sunday, December 12 at 1:30 p.m. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for information.

Confirmation

Information regarding the fall 2021 Confirmation Prep schedule for grades 9 & 10 has been posted along with registration forms on the Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org. Please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x7405) with questions or email Aaron agiard@hriccatholic.org or Melinda burrell@hriccatholic.org.

Holy Communion in the Hand

One COVID-related restriction we are still being asked to do by the Archdiocese is to *receive Holy Communion only in the hand*.

Those distributing Communion on the tongue would be required to stop and sanitize their hands after every person whom they gave Communion to. So at this time everyone is being asked to only receive Communion in the hand. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue to recover from the pandemic.

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
Fr. Drew Christiansen
Charmaine Haan
Hillar Haan
Joe Messina
Jerry Mullen
Vincent Oberhofer

Maureen Russell
Rob Schweitzer
Mary Shachok
Ruth Sullivan
Ron Sylvester
Michael Tucker
Jim Williamson

IC PARISH

IC St. Vincent de Paul



If you know someone living in Newbury/Newburyport who needs assistance, please suggest that they call our **help line 978-518-0728**. We are ready to assist.

To donate, you can visit our website to donate online at www.svdpnnewburyport.org, or drop your donation (checks payable to "SVdP of Newburyport") into the collection box at Mass, or mail it to the parish office at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Breaking Bread to-go Meal

Tuesday evenings **takeout only meals** 4:30–5:30 p. m. at the entrance to the IC Parish Center. All are welcome!

Win Cash!

IC school annual holiday calendars are now available.

For over 20 years, IC School has run a holiday calendar fundraiser. Each \$10 calendar gives individuals 40 chances to win a grand total of \$5,000 in cash prizes. A winner is drawn each day from January 8–February 15 to receive a cash prize of \$100, \$200, \$300, or \$400.

Calendars are available at IC School, IC Church lobby, and the IC Parish Center.

To enter, fill out the buyer's name and contact information in the space at the bottom of the calendar. Cut it off and return both the ticket stub and the money to the school office or to the Parish Center office. Check payments should be made out to Immaculate Conception School or cash is accepted.

The Compassionate Friends

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

Our next monthly support meeting is **December 27** in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 at 7:30–9:00 p.m. Contact Barbara for questions at barbarajhopkinson@gmail.com.

Questions of the Week

Adult: In today's Gospel, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required from them? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. In your life today, how do you show repentance?

Child: John the Baptist tells the crowd to share what they have and make other good choices to prepare for Jesus. What is something you can do this week to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth?

IC SVdP Giving Tree

Please pick a gift card tag from the SVdP Giving Tree in the vestibule of IC Church. Once you purchase the gift card noted on the tag, return it via the collection boxes at the church. These gift cards are given to help those in need throughout the entire year. Thank you.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

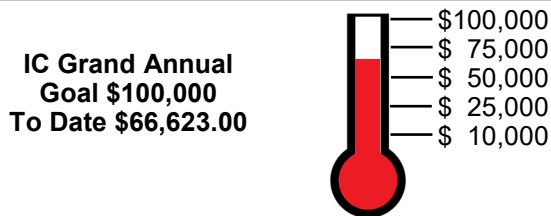
IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Dec. 4–5	\$3,405.50
Ongoing Church Maintenance, Dec. 4–5	\$ 722.00
Mailed In Offertory, week ending Dec. 3	\$1,308.00
Catholic Appeal	\$50,275.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 12) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 19) is IC Haiti. Make checks payable to "IC Haiti."

If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to **Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950**

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hriccatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving.



IC Haiti Appeal

The final quarterly collection of 2021 for IC Haiti will be taken up on the weekend of December 18–19. On the Sunday prior to the collection, a member of the Board of Directors for IC Haiti will make a direct appeal for your generosity and provide a brief update on our ministry to the people and school community of Puit Chacha, Haiti.

During the upcoming season of Advent, all of us are encouraged to deepen our relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer and acts of mercy. Although we are thousands of miles away from Haiti, we have been invited since 2009 to see our Haitian brothers and sisters with the eyes of Christ. Let us continue to support them with our prayers and almsgiving.

Please use the special IC Haiti envelopes and **make out checks to "IC Haiti."** You may put your envelopes into the collection boxes around the church or send them to: **IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.**

Troop 21 Blood Drive

Scout Troop 21 of Newburyport, MA and the American Red Cross this holiday season are teaming up to boost blood supply and help ensure that a safe and adequate blood supply is available when needed. Please continue supporting your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers by donating blood on **Thursday, December 23, 2021 at the Newburyport Elks Club Function Hall, 25 Low Street, from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

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 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

Thank you for your support and understanding during these challenging times.

Immaculate Conception School



Immaculate Conception School held the 20th anniversary North Pole Express on Saturday, December 4. After a year off due to the pandemic, it was truly exciting to be able to offer this beloved Christmastime experience to area residents. The school embarked on making the magic happen this year after surveying parents who would be responsible for volunteering at the fundraiser. We were surprised to find a resounding willingness from our school parents to ride the train, volunteer in the Polar Village, and work together in groups to organize this important event. We then surveyed the Middle School students' families to understand their comfort level in having their children volunteer as elves on the train. Based on responses from both parent volunteers and student volunteers, jobs were adjusted to allow volunteer opportunities that met a variety of comfort levels. The NPE organizers did a fabulous job adjusting parts of the experience to be covid-friendly and also conform to on-train restrictions set by the MBTA. Adjustments were made to the design of the Polar Village to minimize large groups from gathering in confined areas. The number of riders on each train was also reduced to allow space between families but also to minimize the large crowd that would gather in the Polar Village while waiting to board the train. We added a beautiful stage for Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves to wave at a safe distance yet still allow for picture taking opportunities. We also adjusted how customers shopped at The Mercantile and The Bakery, which then enabled us to use the large tent as a warming station for the volunteers. Train times were adjusted to allow a crew to sanitize each train car after each ride. Although MBTA guidelines did not allow for food and drink to be consumed on the ride, each rider left the train with a little goodie bag of cocoa mix and cookies to enjoy at home. The weather was perfect—a little crispness in the air and shining sun. Our North Pole riders came off the train smiling, but the smiles were especially plentiful among the IC volunteers who came together, once again, to create a magical experience for everyone.

Platform Managers escorted passengers to the train cars to ensure each family was seated together.



Grade 3 teacher Shayne Ostrowski, dressed as an Elf, poses with her students, Evie and Lauren.

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