

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

hricatholic.org



“As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.” (Is 61:10-11)

All Are Welcome



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

“Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters...”

St. Ann

Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985

Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Nativity

Parish offices and church:

4 Green St., Merrimac 01860

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:

42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

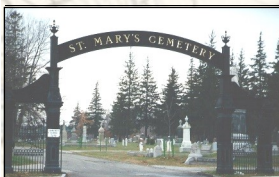
Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: info@newburyportcatholic.org

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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



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Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

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978-518-0728

St Mary's Cemetery

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Website: www.hriccatholic.org

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2020 Christmas Mass Schedule

Holy Redeemer – Immaculate Conception Collaborative

Dear Parishioners,

As we come towards the final days of 2020, we can all say that this year has been unlike any other in recent memory. Despite the many losses and sacrifices made, we still have much to be grateful for, most especially the gift of our Faith and the promise of new life through Jesus Christ. As we look forward to celebrating His birth in just a few days, it is important to realize that our Christmas celebrations will be very different this year as well. Unless we encounter any restrictions or further directives from the Archdiocese or the State, we are intending to offer the following schedule of live, in-person Masses for Christmas. Please be aware of the following:

- **Advanced registration is required** through our [EventBrite](#) system on our [website](#) or by calling our office during business hours (9:00am–2:30pm M–F). The purpose of advanced-registration is to ensure that too many people do not attend any one Mass and to provide an easy way to facilitate contact-tracing, should an exposure to COVID-19 be detected at a later time.

Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis once registration opens on **Wednesday morning December 16 at 7:00am**.

- **Every person, including children, must have their own ticket.** Infants, if held by a parent, are exempt.

Once reserved, tickets must be **printed at home** from the [EventBrite](#) site or can be available through our office by mail or picked up in person no later than 2:30pm on Tuesday, December 22.

- **Tickets will need to be presented for entrance into any Christmas Mass.**

Due to the limits placed on seating by social-distancing requirements, there will be no unregistered walk-ins allowed at any Mass. Please register ahead of time using the [EventBrite](#) system. If the Mass you wish to attend is full or “sold out,” please register for a different Mass or plan to enjoy Mass at home via our live-stream.

- **Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each Mass.** If any line forms at the entrance door, people must stay 6 feet apart from one another while waiting to enter the church.
- **There are no reserved seats.** All seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. At Nativity Church, once the church itself has filled to its limited capacity, any additional seating must be through overflow seating in the church hall, if available. Please note that **IC Church will not have any overflow seating in the school gym** this year because that space has been re-purposed into a classroom for school use.
- **Face masks** are required for the duration of the Mass for all persons, except for children under 5.
- **Social-distancing is required** from anyone not living in your immediate household.

To facilitate necessary safe ventilation, church windows may be kept open during the Mass, so **please dress appropriately for the weather.**

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

- 3pm** Vigil Mass IC Church, Newburyport / This Mass will also be **Live-Streamed** on our [Facebook page](#) as well as available through our [website](#)
- 3pm** Vigil Mass Nativity Church, Merrimac, with overflow into Nativity Hall
- 4pm** Vigil Mass St. Ann Church, West Newbury
- 5pm** Vigil Mass Nativity Church, Merrimac, with overflow into Nativity Hall
- 5pm** Vigil Mass IC Church, Newburyport
- 6pm** Vigil Mass St. Ann Church, West Newbury
- 7pm** Vigil Mass IC Church, Newburyport

Please note that there will be no Midnight Mass at IC Church this year due to curfew considerations.

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

- 8am** Mass IC Church, Newburyport
- 9am** Mass Nativity Church, Merrimac, with overflow into Nativity Hall
- 10am** Mass St. Ann Church, West Newbury
- 10am** Mass IC Church, Newburyport / This Mass will also be **Live-Streamed** on our [Facebook page](#) as well as available through our [website](#)

A few additional considerations:

- Anyone who is feeling sick, has been recently exposed to COVID-19 or is required to quarantine from exposure or recent travel, **MUST** stay home and may not attend Christmas Mass in person. In these cases, please enjoy one of our Live-Streamed Masses via [Facebook](#) or on our [website](#).
- If you are in a vulnerable health category or live with someone who is, we strongly recommend staying home and enjoying one of our Live-Streamed Christmas Masses via [Facebook](#) or on our [website](#).
- Please realize that this year, due to the extremely limited seating capacity necessary due to social-distancing requirements, we will only be able to accommodate about 25% of those who have traditionally attended our Christmas Masses in years past. Unless you have made an advanced registration, please stay home and enjoy one of our Live-Streamed Masses via Facebook or on our website.

As we work to celebrate the Coming of Christ into world, let us keep one another in prayer for safety, protection, and a swift end to the pandemic. May the Joy of Christ be in our hearts and alive in our care for and service to others.

Christmas Blessings,

Fr. Timothy Harrison,

Pastor

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/12)

4:00pm **IC** *Billie Zabriskie* (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **Live Stream** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (12/13)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin)
9:00am **IC** *Liza Mataac Dodson, Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. Harrison)
9:30am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)
11:30am **IC** *Lena Filomia, Lena Charles, Christina Gallo* (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

Monday (12/14)

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

Tuesday (12/15)

9:00am **IC** *Arthur & Florence Fitzgerald, For the intentions of Megan Marris* (Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (12/16)

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

Thursday (12/17)

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

Friday (12/18)

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

Saturday (12/19)

4:00pm **IC** *Katherine Lombardo, Jeanne Baughn* (Fr. Harrison)
4:00pm **Live Stream** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

Sunday (12/20)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Stanley)
9:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)
9:30am **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)
11:30am **IC** *Christina Gallo* (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Thomas J. Mahon, Mary Ogden and all the faithful departed.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Live-Stream Vigil Masses are broadcast online through [Facebook](#).

 Find us on Facebook: [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](https://www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/)

Watch Mass on Facebook

To watch our Saturday live-stream Masses:

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 from the above link.
2. Click the "videos" link on the page.
3. The **LIVE** video should be the first one on the list.

EWTN: Catholic News

Your Online Catholic Resource. <http://www.ewtnnews.com/>



Christmas Mass Volunteers Needed

We are offering additional Mass times on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for those who wish to attend Mass. We are in need of volunteers to accommodate this.

If you are able to help out at any of our three sites as a greeter, cleaner/sanitizer, Eucharistic Minister, or lector, please contact one of the volunteers listed below to learn how you can help. Thank you.

If you are able to help at HR Masses, please contact Sue Noyes susanjnoyes@gmail.com to learn more.

If you are able to help at IC Masses, please contact Kathie Williamson kathie108a@gmail.com or 978-992-6450.

Mass Scripture Readings

December 13–20, 2020

(Beginning the first week in January 2021, the weekly Mass Scripture Readings will no longer be posted in the bulletin. Instead, parishioners will be directed to the readings online at bible.usccb.org, the site of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. There you will find the readings, be able to listen to them on podcast, and have the opportunity to watch a short reflection piece on the readings offered by a Catholic priest, deacon, religious, or lay person.)

Praying with the Scriptures during the Advent season is a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Christmas. The daily readings capture a sense of hope-filled longing and patient anticipation for God's love and mercy. What do the readings reveal about our vocation as Christians and as a Church community to become ever more hopeful and patient disciples of our Savior, Jesus Christ? Please access the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures. Go to HRICcatholic.org and click on [HRIC Pastoral Plan](#) and then click on [Lectio Divina](#).

- Sunday, Dec. 13: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Monday, Dec. 14: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27
- Tuesday, Dec. 15: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32
- Wednesday, Dec. 16: Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23
- Thursday, Dec. 17: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
- Friday, Dec. 18: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
- Saturday, Dec. 19: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25
- Sunday, Dec. 20: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

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



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Growing up, one of the cherished places in our home wasn't actually inside our house, but was found out in the backyard, beyond the grass and away from the trees. It was our family garden. Each year my father would dig and till the soil in the late spring when the ground became soft and the sun began to warm things up a bit from the winter chill. Rows were laid out and string carefully stretched to mark where each type of vegetable and fruit would be planted. Seeds that had been carefully organized and prepared in our basement over the winter were meticulously placed in each earthen furrow, covered over with dirt and attentively watered to set their growth in motion.



We planted corn and tomatoes, peas, carrots, cucumbers, summer and zucchini squash, wax and green beans, watermelon, rhubarb, and leafy green lettuce. On a good year, sunflowers and pumpkins were planted to finish off the harvest season. As a kid, the garden was a magical place, full of mystery as to how all of these plants could produce good, tasty food for us to eat. I learned to treasure the rich, full flavor of sun-ripened tomatoes, eat the peas right out of their pods and crunch fresh rhubarb stalks into small dixie cups of sugar. We all took turns watering the garden, plucking up the weeds (the weeds, and only the weeds, now!), fertilizing as needed and sometimes putting up chicken wire to keep the wild rabbits out, although they were awfully cute! It was sacred ground, if ever there was any, revered and prized as a place that brought-forth and celebrated life.

It is this potent image of a garden, teaming with an abundance of life, that Isaiah uses to describe God's plan for renewing the earth. Justice and praise are the crops that will bring delight to God's harvest. Our own joy at working in this garden is a fruit in and of itself. The rich, late-summer feast of righteousness will bring the completeness we all long for.

This notion of God's Kingdom as a garden invokes several qualities of the "Gardener" that are worth taking note of during our Advent journey. To begin with, gardening requires a lot of patience. What is planted today takes weeks to sprout and months to grow into maturity. Nothing happens overnight. So it is with the things of God – they take time to spread their roots and inch their way up out of the soil. When we long for the harvest, we must often patiently await its fulfillment on a timeline that is not our own. Advent is a season to ponder time itself and our meager place in it. The things of God grow on the scale of millennia and eons, not hours and days. And yet, we participate in their growth every day by our own contributions of watering, fertilizing and weeding; of prayer and fasting, our imperfect efforts to love, show mercy, and offer forgiveness.

Sometimes the produce of a garden yields something different than expected! We planted what we thought were beans only to discover that eggplant had grown! It is amazing how much little, tiny seeds can look alike or get

inadvertently mixed with others. There can be joy at discovering new growth. God ultimately determines what grows and what does not. And our God is a God of surprises!

There is also to be found a deep and lasting satisfaction when a successful harvest is realized. All the sweat, hard work, aching muscles, bug bites, sunburn, and constant, vigilant attention pay off in an abundance of lushness that satisfies our deepest cravings. Advent reminds us that while we may struggle here in this time and place to bring about something that is never fully realized in our present moment, we are invited to the fullness of the harvest when God draws all things to their rightful conclusion. Our faith, our daily faithfulness, our everyday sacrifices all lead us towards a great banquet feast the likes of which we can barely conceive. The Gospel reminds us, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied!" It will all be worth it!

So, this Advent season, when the earth seems frigid and bare and our COVID-stricken world longs for healing, may we be the bearers of Isaiah's vision of fruitful patience and stalwart fidelity. For our God truly comes to announce a year of vindication, a time of true and lasting joy for us all. Watch for it, for it will surely come...and it will be glorious!

Advent Blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

"Come and Be"

**Silent, Unstructured
Prayer Time
with Jesus**



Immaculate Conception Church, 1:00–1:45 p.m.
Thursday, December 17
There is NO Adoration/Benediction during this time, just silence and Jesus in the Tabernacle

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Immaculate Conception Church, 7:15–8:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 17

Follow Us on Instagram
[HRICatholic](https://www.instagram.com/HRICatholic)



Register to Attend Mass

To register to attend an in-person Mass celebrated in our Collaborative, go to the "Attend a Mass" section on our website: www.hricatholic.org to link to the signup page. At this time **a reservation is required to attend** a live Mass for capacity limits and contact tracing purposes.

Call the offices at (978) 462-2724 for IC or (978) 346-8604 for HR if you have questions or need assistance making a reservation.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Confessions

We are offering face-to-face, individual Confessions by appointment only. These will take place outdoors. The weather must be amenable for the appointment; both priest and penitent **must wear a face mask** and practice proper social-distancing during the Confession.

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

San Marcos Christmas Coffee Sale Dec. 12-13

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase (or pre-order pickup) after all collaborative Masses December 12-13. You can preorder by leaving a voice or text message for Karen on 978-270-0183. 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.

Feliz Navidad!

Candlelight Taizé

Live-Streamed Advent Candlelight Service at Groveland Congregational Church

The community is warmly welcomed to attend the live-streamed ecumenical Candlelight Taizé meditation service on the Groveland Congregational Facebook page on Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Taizé prayer is a simple form of ecumenical Christian prayer centered on scripture, silence and song. It involves singing and listening to the word of God in an atmosphere of silence and peace.

For further information, please contact the church at 978-372-3463 or www.grovelanducc.org.

Daily Masses

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

We are still in need of volunteers to help with Daily Mass for St. Ann and Nativity on Mondays and Fridays respectively. Until we gather more volunteers to help with these churches, we cannot offer Daily Mass there. If you are able to help with any of these HR Masses, please contact Sue Noyes susanjnoyes@gmail.com to learn more.

Prayers for the Sick

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

Dan Bedard
Priscilla Brown
Brett Burkinshaw
Joe Messina

Vincent Oberhofer
Ruth Sullivan
Ron Sylvester
Michael Tucker

Collaborative Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council for the Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative serves in an advisory capacity to the Pastor on matters of importance to the Collaborative. Since February, the original members have been focused primarily on addressing sacramental needs and safety during the pandemic.

Members of the Pastoral Council 2020

Father Tim Harrison, Chair
Jim Williamson, Vice Chair
Mary Bragg, Secretary

Chris Eagan
Amy Friend
Aaron Giard
Paula Higgins
Deacon John Moranski
Lucia Parker
Carol Robertson
Jonathan Temple
Pat Temple

Kathy Betz
Beth Brennan
Sue Coppinger
Steve DiCamillo
Deacon Paul Dow

HRIC

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

How can we help you?



Some in our Collaborative may have challenges getting everyday needs accomplished during the COVID-19 emergency.

Holy Redeemer-Immaculate Conception Collaborative *Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program* can help those in need within our communities of Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury. The focus of the program is to comfort and nurture our parish community and send its faith, love, and generosity outward by offering meaningful ways to love and serve our greater communities as this pandemic continues to pose a threat.

If you are a parishioner in the Collaborative and want assistance with fundamental needs such as grocery store runs, prescription pick ups, meal deliveries, etc., please call the Collaborative offices at **978-462-2724** or **978-346-8604** and let us know how we can help.

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- PROTECT YOUR FAMILY-
- INSPIRE OTHERS-

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Matt 28:6

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Dec. 5–6 **\$2,456.00**
Ongoing Church Maintenance **\$ 348.00**
Mailed-in Offertory, week ending Dec 4 **\$6,839.00**

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

Immaculate Conception Parish
42 Green Street
Newburyport MA 01950

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

IC Grand Annual
Goal \$85,000
To Date \$65,318.00



IC Haiti's December Collection



The final IC Haiti collection for 2020 takes place the weekend of December 19–20. We thank you in advance for your contribution to support the education, health, and well-being of the 164 students who attend the Fr. Marc Piché Elementary School in Puit Chacha and the 43 students who have advanced to the secondary school in Fond des Blanc. Due to inflationary costs brought on by the pandemic, our current expenses to fund all school-related operations have increased by 33% over last year's costs. Fortunately, we have been blessed through your generosity to be able to meet these expenses. Your ongoing support continues to make a significant difference in the community we serve in Puit Chacha by providing education, a school hot-lunch program, dental hygiene services, and a ready emergency shelter for this community we have been called to serve.

Mesi (thank you)

Questions of the Week

Adult: What is there to admire about John the Baptist?



Child: This week the pink candle (symbolizing joy) is lit on the Advent wreath. Why should we be joyful?

IC Faith Formation

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

School Year Programs

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

Confirmation

Confirmation prep classes for both Grades 9 and 10 have begun. Information regarding these sessions can be found on the Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org along with registration forms. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Baptism

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

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Information regarding First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Prep. can be found on the collaborative website at hriccatholic.org. Please reach out to the Faith Formation office with any questions you might have.

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

Christmas Volunteers



We are in need of additional **Greeters and Cleaning volunteers** in the church for the fast-approaching holiday season.

If you can assist IC in continuing to be able to have "in-person Masses" please contact Kathie Williamson at kathie108a@gmail.com or 978-992-6450.

Greeters need to arrive 30 minutes prior to Mass time to check people in and perhaps take temperatures (if we are still in the Red Zone).

IC Scouts Blood Drive

Scout Troop 21 of Newburyport, MA and the American Red Cross are teaming up to 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 24, 2020 the Newburyport Elks Club—Function Hall located at 25 Low Street, Newburyport, MA 01950. 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 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Immaculate Conception School



The eighth grade students at Immaculate Conception School are intricately involved in providing several beloved experiences for the school community. However, keeping some of the school traditions alive has been challenging during the pandemic. Thanks to a lot of planning and coordinating by parent volunteers, the annual Christmas Store was held last week with a few adjustments. Held over four days to reduce the number of shoppers in the Christmas Store at any one time, little shoppers selected gifts for family members from tables and tables of merchandise.



Jackson helps Kellen decide on his gifts.

The eighth grade students served as personal shoppers for the younger children, helping them pick out items without going over their budget. It was adorable to watch and listen as the older students coached their younger schoolmates as they deliberated over which gifts to buy! After selecting items for everyone on their shopping list, the next stop was the wrapping station, where the eighth graders helped wrap and tag every gift. The gifts were loaded into a shopping bag, ready to head home with the little one to place under the family's Christmas tree. Secretly shopping for family members is a magical experience that the younger children adore. It also provides a

wonderful opportunity for relationships to be fostered across the ages within our school.

We are grateful to the parents who shopped for merchandise for the Christmas Store for months ahead of time. Our dedicated parents' constant support of our school's mission has enabled Immaculate Conception School to preserve traditions in these trying times. All proceeds go towards graduation festivities for the Class of 2021. Merry Christmas!!

Lily has picked out some great gifts with Margaret's help!



The Compassionate Friends



The Compassionate Friends of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age, any cause. Our monthly support meetings are being held online (due to coronavirus) 7:30–9:00 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month. Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Our next meeting is **December 28**. Join our free online meeting by going to <http://zoom.us>, click on "Join a Meeting," enter Meeting ID: 952-104-4920.

Newburyport Youth Services

The YWCA Greater Newburyport & Newburyport Youth Services have partnered (along with several social service agencies) to create one community gift giving program. There are many ways to get involved. You can sign up as a family, company, group of friends, or any combination. There is a link on their website to make a monetary donation on line and another to sign up to be an Elf. Visit newburyportma.myrec.com.



IC St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Tags

IC SvDp is collecting for those in need this Christmas. Please remember to pick up a tag from the trees by the front doors when you exit Mass. We would like to ask everyone to be safe and if they touch a tag, please take that tag. "Help us to help others."

IC St. Vincent de Paul

We have recently launched our new website: www.svdpnewburyport.org. Through our website, you can make an online donation.

If you would like to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to "**SVdP of Newburyport**." You may drop it 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

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

HR PARISH

HR St. Vincent de Paul

We have ongoing requests for help with rent and utilities. Please consider donating and making a difference. All donations are used to benefit people living in West Newbury and Merrimac.

Checks can be made out to Holy Redeemer St. Vincent de Paul and mailed to



HR SvDp
4 Green Street
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HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Dec. 6 \$ 560.00

Mailed-in Offertory, week ending Dec. 4 \$3,055.00

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

Holy Redeemer Parish
4 Green Street
Merrimac MA 01860

HR Grand Annual
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To Date \$13,640.00



Looking for Volunteers

We are in need of **greeters, cleaning volunteers, lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers** for the churches for the fast-approaching Christmas season.



If you would like to assist HR please contact Sue Noyes susanjnoyes@gmail.com to learn more.

HR Faith Formation

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

School Year Programs

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

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Information regarding First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Prep. can be found on the Collaborative website at [hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org). Please reach out to the Faith Formation office with any questions you might have.

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

Baptism

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

Confirmation

Confirmation prep classes for both Grades 9 and 10 have begun. Information regarding these sessions can be found on the Collaborative website: [hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org) along with registration forms. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Holy Redeemer Christmas Giving 2020

As with all things this year, our gift giving will be different. Thank you to all who are able to help this year.

- **Emmaus House** is doing online ordering. Go to Target.com, then gift registry. First name: Emmaus, last name: inc. There will be items of different values. There will also be a shipping fee. Items will be sent directly to Emmaus House.

- **St. Vincent de Paul** is asking for monetary donations, which may be left in the metal boxes at the doors of the churches. Please make checks out to HR St. Vincent de Paul.

- We have added a West Newbury project to our list this year. **Fostering Care** seeks to help children in foster care and their foster families by providing basic necessities and personal care items. Help by putting together a backpack for a child. Only new-with-tags items please. All items should be packed into a new backpack. Label the bag as to gender, size, and season either with a note tucked in the pocket, a piece of tape, or tie a note to the top handle. There is a drop box at The Big Scoop at Long Hill Farm, West Newbury. Items needed:

Infant–size 3:

Clothing: pajamas, 2 pairs of socks, diapers

Toiletries: baby wipes, tear-free body wash, fluoride-free toothpaste and toothbrush, baby hairbrush or comb

Other Items: baby bottle, pacifier, crib- or lap-size blanket, small stuffed animal, board book

Sizes 4–9:

Clothing: Pajamas, 2 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of underwear
Toiletries: body wash or soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrush, hairbrush or comb

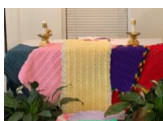
Other Items: blanket, small stuffed animal, small activity such as a coloring book, puzzle, Legos, etc., age-appropriate book

Sizes 10–18:

Same as above with the addition of deodorant and feminine hygiene products.

Gift cards to CVS, Target, Walmart, and Amazon are always welcome. Whenever possible, we include gift cards in the teen backpacks.

HR Prayer Shawl



We would like to drop off prayer shawls or lap blankets to anyone you know who needs comfort in our Holy Redeemer Parish family—there is no cost, it is free. So, if you know of anyone, please give their name to 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.

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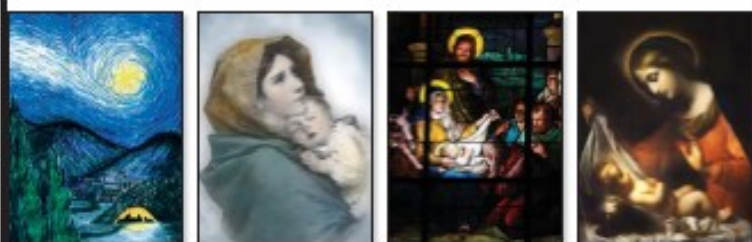
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