

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

hricatholic.org



The Annunciation by Leonardo Da Vinci ca. 1475

“The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary.”

(Lk 1:26-27)

All Are Welcome



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

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

St. Ann

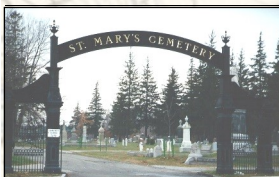
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Nativity

Parish offices and church:
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Phone: 978-462-2724
Fax: 978-234-7399
Email: info@newburyportcatholic.org



St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,
Newburyport 01950

Immaculate Conception School

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



Collaborative Staff

Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
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Rev. George E. Morin
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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


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

Online

Website: www.hriccatholic.org

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

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

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

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 (12/19)

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, James E. Doyle*
(Fr. Harrison)

Monday (12/21)

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

Tuesday (12/22)

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

Wednesday (12/23)

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

Thursday (12/24) Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

3:00pm **IC** This Mass will also be **Live-Streamed**
on our [Facebook page](#) as well as available
through our [website](#).

3:00pm **Nativity**

4:00pm **St. Ann**

5:00pm **Nativity**

5:00pm **IC**

6:00pm **St. Ann**

7:00pm **IC**

Friday (12/25) Christmas Day

8:00am **IC**

9:00am **Nativity**

10:00am **St. Ann**

10:00am **IC** This Mass will also be **Live-Streamed**
on our [Facebook page](#) as well as available through
through our [website](#).

Saturday (12/26)

4:00pm **IC** *John K. Herlihy* (Fr. McLaughlin)

4:00pm **Live-Streamed** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon
Dow)

Sunday (12/27)

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

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

9:30am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

11:30am **IC** *Mary "Kathy" Horgan, Connie Berard*
(Fr. Morin)

In your prayers, please remember 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](#)



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.

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.hriccatholic.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.

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

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.

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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

As these final days before Christmas wind down in anticipation of the great Feast of Our Lord's Birth, I want to take a moment to extend a warm invitation for you to join with the parishes of our Collaborative in celebrating the Nativity of Jesus Christ. This year our churches will have a greatly limited seating capacity due to the requirements of social distancing, so we are offering several opportunities to enjoy Christmas Mass from the comfort of your home through our Live-Stream available on our Facebook page and website. Whether you are able to join us in person or virtually on-line, it is my sincere hope that you experience the same peace and joy that the angels announced in that humble shepherd's field two millennia ago. Although we have every reason to "Deck the Halls" and sing "Fa La La La La, La La La La..." at the top of our lungs, we must remember that Christ came into our world in the utter poverty of a stable, while his parents were displaced travelers, without any of the comforts of home or extended family.



Maybe we feel a little displaced these days, cooped-up at home, our normal holiday plans cancelled or on-hold waiting for a vaccine to deliver us from the pandemic scourge that has dogged us these past 10 months. Maybe we are away from loved ones, isolated from those who would normally surround us with love and care. Maybe we are terrified of the months to come, hoping somehow for better days and a measure of relief. Jesus' coming into our world brings us the promise of all these things and so much more. He is God's pure gift to us that restores everything that was lost and gains for us more than we can imagine.

However you are able to mark this beautiful feast this week, let us pause to ponder with expectant hearts the raw splendor of God's unconditional love for us. Simply, profoundly...O Come, let us adore Him!

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Women at the Well Bible Study

We Are Meeting Virtually

Please email HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com to join us.

Do you ever feel like there must be something more than your day-to-day routine? Looking for a way to connect to other faith-centered women in the midst of a busy work, social or parenting life? Or maybe you're just searching for a new way to regularly meet and connect with Jesus.

WELCOME TO A COMMUNITY FULL OF

women just like you

Wherever you are in your faith journey, join us as we meet weekly for *Blessed Is She* bible study, community and friendship as we grow together in Christ.

WE ARE MEETING VIRTUALLY
DURING THE PANDEMIC
EMAIL US TO JOIN!

MONDAY NIGHTS
6:30PM-8PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!

please email HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com if you have any questions

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.

Collaborative Pastoral Council

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

Kathy Betz
Beth Brennan
Sue Coppinger
Steve DiCamillo
Deacon Paul Dow

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

HRIC Pastoral Council Meeting Summary

The HRIC Pastoral Council met on Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Our meetings always begin with prayer and an educational segment. This month Aaron Giard, our Director of Lifelong Formation, gave us an overview of our Middle School and Confirmation religious formation programs. We heard brief reports from some of our committees, especially our "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" committee and our Communications group. The "Continuing Business" section had us discussing the Christmas Mass schedule; "Divine Renovation" as a possible format for building up our community in the future; and the Cardinal McCarrick issue and its impact on the Church and our community. Other issues are touched on every month, including how will we get people back into our churches post-pandemic and how might we better communicate with parishioners. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Watch the bulletin for information on how to tune in to the meeting.

Questions of the Week

Adult: Name one area in your life that you find to be impossible. During this week, ask God to assist you with that area of your life.



Child: God has a wonderful plan for you. What can you do each day to listen to God?

Christmas Office Hours

Collaborative offices will close at 12:00 noon on Christmas Eve, December 24, and will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25. Offices will reopen on Monday, December 28 at 9:00 a.m.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Are you feeling isolated and alone during the pandemic?



Neighbors Helping Neighbors volunteers would love to give you a call to chat or send you a note. We know that this is a difficult period for everyone, particularly to those who live alone. Let us help brighten your day! If you would be interested in receiving a call or note, please call the HRIC offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 and leave your name, address and phone number and we will reach out to you.

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF

Fertility Awareness & Natural Family Planning

COME TO KNOW YOUR BODY & EXPERIENCE THE AUTHENTIC LOVE THAT YOU WERE MADE FOR.

A FREE Introductory Session with a certified NFP Instructor

January 20th at 7PM on Zoom

Please email HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com with 'NFP Session' in the subject line to receive the Zoom link.



Have you ever been curious about the hows and whys of the natural cycles of your body? Have you ever wondered if there is more to intimacy than what the culture has to say about it?

Come to know your body, track your own unique cycle and experience the authentic love that you were made for with Natural Family Planning & Fertility Awareness! This is not your grandma's rhythm method. Steeped in the scientific and biological truths of how our bodies function, learn how you can come to know your fertile periods and track what you see based on your natural bodily indicators. The freedom, empowerment, confidence, and wonder that come with knowing these truths are just an added bonus.

We're happy to offer a **FREE Introductory Session with a certified NFP Instructor** for anyone who may be curious about where to begin.

Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Please email HRICWomenAtTheWell@gmail.com with "NFP Session" in the subject line to receive the Zoom link.

"The truth will set you free" John 8:32

Mass Scripture Readings

December 20–27, 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. 20: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
- Monday, Dec. 21: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45
- Tuesday, Dec. 22: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56
- Wednesday, Dec. 23: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66
- Thursday, Dec. 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (Mass of the day)
- Thursday, Dec. 24: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (Christmas Eve Mass)
- Friday, Dec. 25: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
- Saturday, Dec. 26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
- Sunday, Dec. 27: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

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



Online Nativity Display

Share your Nativity photos for the Feast of the Holy Family

We cannot meet in person to share our Nativity sets this year on the Feast of the Holy Family (December 27) as in years past.

Instead, we will post photos of your Nativity sets on our website and Facebook page.

After you set up your display at home, snap a picture and send it to us via email (hricbulletin@gmail.com) or Facebook Messenger (@hriccatholic). We will post the photos beginning December 26.



Email your photos to hricbulletin@gmail.com
 Message us on Facebook: [@hriccatholic](https://www.facebook.com/hriccatholic)
 DM us on Instagram: [hriccatholic](https://www.instagram.com/hriccatholic)

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

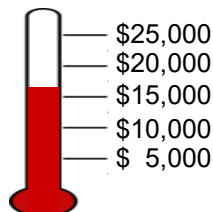
HR Offertory Collection

Mailed-in Offertory, week ending Dec. 11 \$2,765.00

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

Holy Redeemer Parish
4 Green Street
Merrimac MA 01860

HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$15,315.00



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 St. Vincent de Paul



Throughout the pandemic, the SVdP Conference has been helping those in need in Merrimac and West Newbury. Clients continue to seek help with rent and utilities and the Conference has also distributed food and gas gift cards. Your donations have gone directly to our clients and will continue to assist them.

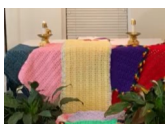
Because there is no giving tree this year, SVdP is encouraging Christmas gift giving through checks. Please write checks to HR SVdP and mail them to 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860. Cash and checks can also be left in the poor boxes at the rear of each churches.

Thank you for remembering those in need and making a difference. Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a safe and healthy 2021.

Archdiocese Web Site

Visit www.bostoncatholic.org for the latest news and information around the Archdiocese of Boston.

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.

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. 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 along with registration forms. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Word On Fire Engage

WORD on FIRE
ENGAGE

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

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

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

We are excited to bring ENGAGE to you. Along with **FORMED** (formed.org), we now 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.



EWTN: Catholic News

Want the latest Catholic News? EWTN News has you covered. EWTN News: Your Online Catholic Resource.
<http://www.ewtnnews.com/>

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 www.haverhillbank.com

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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Mailed-in Offertory, week ending Dec. 11 **\$2,783.00**

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 \$75,267.00



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)



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[Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)

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 ICS Holiday Calendar is Here!!



The Immaculate Conception School holiday “Ring in the New Year” calendar is here! This annual fundraiser is the perfect holiday gift for everyone on your list! Just \$10 buys a chance to win 40 cash prizes. Fill out the tear-off stub of the calendar and send it to the school to be included in the daily cash prize drawings starting January 9, 2021 to February 16, 2021. Total cash prizes for the fundraiser is \$5,000, with daily winnings from \$100 to \$400. Winners are announced in the Collaborative Sunday Bulletin—prizes are mailed directly to the winners.

Proceeds from the calendar fundraiser support the educational experience for the children of Immaculate Conception School. During this time of the pandemic, financial support for our Catholic school has never been more important. The IC provides in-person, hybrid and remote learning for all students. All students join together each day for prayer, discussion, and synchronous learning of new material.

Please support the IC by purchasing a holiday calendar for everyone on your shopping list.

Let us know how many calendars you need by emailing Businessoffice@icsnewburyport.com or by calling the school Business Office at 978-465-7780. Credit card payments are accepted as well as personal checks made out to “Immaculate Conception School.” All transactions are handled by the Business Office. Calendar stubs must be returned to the school by Wednesday, January 6 to be included in the daily drawings.

The Immaculate Conception School community wishes you a very Merry Christmas!!

The Pelican Intervention Fund



The Pelican Intervention Fund is dedicated to supporting men and women on their journey from addiction to recovery. The Pelican Intervention Fund offers hope for sustained recovery for adults who live in the communities of Amesbury, Byfield, Georgetown, Groveland, Ipswich, Merrimac, Newbury, West Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, and Salisbury. If you have any questions contact Kim Keene 978-430-1408 or visit www.pelicaninterventionfund.org to learn more.

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.svdnewburyport.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.

St. Mary’s Cemetery

Immaculate Conception Parish owns and operates a private cemetery located on Storey Avenue. St. Mary’s Cemetery is a 35-acre cemetery with consecrated grounds that provides tranquility and peacefulness at those difficult times that we all are faced with. Please visit the parish cemetery and you will find the cemetery to be well-managed and maintained. Cemetery plots are available for full-body and cremated remains burials in any denomination. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent, at 978-208-0266 to schedule an appointment.

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