

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

hricatholic.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

All Are Welcome



Immaculate Conception School (IC)

Give your child/grandchild the greatest gift:

A Catholic Education



Catholic school students develop confidence, build meaningful relationships, and contribute to a strong sense of community.

At the IC your child/grandchild will benefit from:

- High academic standards to prepare for future success
- A safe and disciplined classroom with the freedom to learn
- High-quality teachers, dedicated to fostering the potential and individuality in every student
- A faith-filled, value-based education with lifelong impact

Pre-K Program offers children ages 3 and 4 a flexible schedule of 2, 3, 4 or 5 days per week.

OPEN HOUSE: January 7 & 16 (9-11 am) • Sunday, January 26 (1-2 pm Catholic Schools Week)

PRIVATE TOUR: Call Kelley Pappalardo at (978) 465-7780 for a private tour or more information

Immaculate Conception School is an affordable, private, Catholic elementary school (pre-K to eighth grade) achieving academic excellence in a faith-based environment, preparing young people for success in the 21st century.

One Washington Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 • (978) 465-7780 • icsnewburyport.com

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/21)

4:00pm **IC** Fr. Dick Messina, Angelo & Eleanor Messina, John & Katherine Kelley, Katherine Lombardo, Cliff Bonney (Fr. Harrison)
4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

Sunday (12/22)

7:15am **IC** Regina M. Stronge, Normand Richard (Fr. Morin)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
9:00am **IC** Berj Terzian, Edward H. Grant (Fr. McLaughlin)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
11:30 am **IC** Jeanne F. Baughn, Ellen Kelleher Guillette, Ethel Upchurch (Fr. Morin)

Monday (12/23)

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

Tuesday (12/24) Christmas Eve

4:00pm **IC** (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **IC School Gym** (Fr. McLaughlin)
4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Christiansen & Deacon Dow)
4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
6:00pm **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
6:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (12/25) Christmas Day

12 Midnight **IC** (Fr. Morin)
8:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
10:00am **IC** (Fr. Morin)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Christiansen & Deacon Dow)

Thursday (12/26)

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

Friday (12/27)

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

Saturday (12/28)

4:00pm **IC** John K. Herlihy, William Herlihy, John & Katherine Kelley, Nancy Jones (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (12/29)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
9:00am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
11:30am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

In your prayers, please remember Leslie Ramsay Jr. and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

To Our Visitors

Welcome to our Collaborative! Please visit our website at hriccatholic.org for more information about all the wonderful happenings in our parishes.

Wishing Christmas Blessings to All.

Come to the Open House

See the Holy Family in 50 unique arrangements—mangers from 16 different countries. New this year are scenes from Bangladesh, Panama, Alaska, and Russia. Visit a few favorites from 2018 and many not displayed before.

Date: Sunday, December 29

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

Time: 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Find the cat, a buffalo, a barefoot Blessed Mother, the angel sitting on a gourd, and more.



Door prizes, religious boutique & book treasures, treats—all free. This event is a must-see.



If you would like us to save a spot for you to **showcase your manger**, make your **reservation** so that we can prepare your space for you. Please call 978-462-6191.



{Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team}

Open House Wish Stars

The Star shone over the manger where Jesus lay. Write your prayer asking Jesus where you most wish His light to shine on the world today. Cut out the star and bring it to the Holy Family Open House on December 29 to decorate Nativity Hall with prayers.



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, December 23

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

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

Compassionate Friends 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Collaborative Offices Close at 12:00 noon

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

Collaborative Offices Closed

Thursday, December 26

Collaborative Offices Closed

Friday, December 27

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

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

Saturday, December 28

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, December 29

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 10:00am, St. Ann Church

Holy Family Open House 1:00-4:00pm, Nativity Hall

Christmas Mass Schedule for the Collaborative

Christmas Eve Masses

The 4:00pm Masses fill up quickly. Please arrive early.

4:00pm Immaculate Conception

4:00pm Immaculate Conception School Gym

4:00pm St. Ann

4:00pm Nativity

6:00pm Immaculate Conception

6:00pm Nativity

Christmas Day Masses

12:00 Midnight Immaculate Conception

8:00am Immaculate Conception

8:00am Nativity

10:00am Immaculate Conception

10:15am St. Ann



Women at the Well Catholic Women's Group

women at the well
catholic women's group

*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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
PASTORAL CENTER
42 GREEN STREET
NEWBURYPORT, MA

MONDAY NIGHTS, WEEKLY
STARTING JAN 6TH
6PM-7:30PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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



Like Us on Facebook
Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

Winter Weather Mass Cancellations

Due to the hazards of travel and the safety of priests and parishioners alike, this winter daily Mass within the Collaborative will be cancelled if Immaculate Conception School, Pentucket Regional, or Newburyport Public Schools, are cancelled or delayed because of inclement weather. WBZ Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at boston.cbslocal.com and we will make every effort to keep our own website and social media updated as well.



In severe situations, it may also be necessary for safety reasons to cancel weekend Masses. Again, please watch WBZ or consult the websites and/or social media for cancellation information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. In all things, God gave us the gifts of wisdom, reason, and prudence. Let's use them wisely this winter and exercise sound judgment when considering going out in severe weather.



Follow Us on Twitter
@HRICCatholic

Cursillo and Ultreya

The Cursillo weekend is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love into your daily life. Many of your HRIC brothers and sisters have experienced this "short course in Christianity" at St. Basil's Salvatorian Center in Methuen, MA and we invite you to include Cursillo as part of your faith journey.

Each month, we gather for an "Ultreya" (onward!) evening of Liturgy, sharing, food, and fellowship at 7:00 p.m. in IC St. James Chapel and Charity Dining Room to continue the Cursillo spirit. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dave & Kelly Colby.

Cursillo Weekends

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

Ultreya Evenings

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Scripture Readings

December 22–29, 2019

All of us are encouraged to start or end our day praying with the Scriptures. Please access the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures. Go to www.HRICcatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, Dec. 22: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24
- Monday, Dec. 23: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25; Luke 1:57-66
- Tuesday, Dec. 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89; Luke 1:67-79
- Wednesday, Dec. 25: Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
- Thursday, Dec. 26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31; Matthew 10:17-22
- Friday, Dec. 27: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97; John 20:1a, 2-8
- Saturday, Dec. 28: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124; Matthew 2:13-18
- Sunday, Dec. 29: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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



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. Waiting with trust in God's promise of love that saves, deepens our faith and we become people of true hope who loved by God are able to love.

During Advent consider joining us weekly for Centering Prayer. As we enter the silence of God's love we assent to God's presence and action within us. Centering prayer is a practice and a discipline. Please consider leaving the noise of world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday from 6:00–7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 209 of the IC Parish Center. Following Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and 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 please contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483.

Questions of the Week



Adult: How is St. Joseph a model of faith for you?

Child: How do you know when God is with you?

Meet the Ministry

IC Knitting Ministry



“. . . Bless my hands. . . blessings be on them and in them. . . may the fruits of their labor be good!” For the next two hours, the Immaculate Conception Knitting Ministry gathers every Tuesday to knit for charity.

The ministry, begun in 2004 by five Daughters of Isabella, continues 15 years later. Two founding members are still active in the 7-person ministry that is bolstered with 1–2 home knitters.

They focus predominantly on prayer shawls, but also knit hats, mittens, and scarves. Over the years, hundreds of winter knits have been donated to various local organizations, including Pettingill House, St. Paul's Community Action, and several school systems.

Shawls take time to create. With fewer members, building backlog is challenging to manage. “We need new members to make more shawls available,” advocating for those in need of comfort. Newcomers are always welcome: parishioners and non-parishioners, experienced or beginners, group or home knitters.

The shawls are knitted following a “knit 3, pearl 3” design representing the Trinity. Each prayer shawl is 60 inches long x 22 inches wide and is made with special “homespun” yarn. Yarn expense can run from \$15–20 per shawl. The members shop sales and are always appreciative of any donations toward their efforts.

The finished shawls are washed, dried, and packaged in a protective plastic bag. The shawl is blessed with a special prayer. “. . . May God's grace be upon this shawl. . . warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. . .” A prayer note accompanies the shawl: “. . . As you wear this shawl, may you be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in love.”

The prayer shawls are not just for parishioners and are not limited to the sick. They are for anyone needing comfort. Those experiencing illness, addiction, depression, grieving, and isolation have found comfort in the shawls.

438 shawls have been offered since 2004! “We need a means to learn of more people in need. We depend on parishioners and those who visit or bring Communion to hospitals and nursing homes to tell us who needs comfort.” They serve humbly. “We're just doing our little thing. Hopefully this gives somebody comfort. So long as we do that, that's our purpose.”

If you can join in providing comfort through donations, by requesting shawls, or becoming a member, please contact the ministry founders and “Meet the Ministry.”

Julia O'Connor: 978-465-3350

Frances Ronan: 978-462-4972

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Contacts

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

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

Deacon Paul Dow, Permanent Deacon,
978-887-5350, pauldow49@gmail.com

Donald Alunni, Business Manager,
978-462-2724 dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org

Sheila Cruise, Receptionist,
978-462-2724, scruise@newburyportcatholic.org or
978-346-8604, holyredeemer@verizon.net

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

Karen Leff, Media Outreach Coordinator,
hricbulletin@gmail.com

Linda Temple, Administrative Assistant,
978-462-2724, temple@newburyportcatholic.org

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.

Archdiocese Web Site

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

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The Catholic Faith. On Demand.

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- Visit formed.org
- Click "Sign up"
- Click "I belong to a parish or organization" and type in "Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative" (or type in code JRNDGP) and tap "next"
- Add your name and email and click "sign up"
- You will receive an email that links you to the site

HR PARISH

Holy Redeemer Christmas Flowers



Michael Kirwan • Sheila Kirwan • Lloyd Hayes • Wilhelmina Hayes • Michael Fox • Catherine Kirwan • Arthur & Helen Clark • William & Bridget O'Callaghan • Thomas O'Callaghan • Mary Sexton • Francis J. Smith • Olga Tiska • Robert & Edith de Lyon • Charles & Katherine Friel • Bob Nevins • Merrill Ross • Sam Garozzo • Hannelore Petry • Marie & Herbert Lambert • The Parents of Walter & Betty Mann • Stephen Boisselle • Craig Boisselle • Wayne Boisselle • Luanne Buckley • Grace Dobson • Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Frank • The Murphy Family • Walter & Ann Dunn • John Gorski • Gerard Routhier • F. & M. Gallant • J. & T. Gorski • Stephen Crouse • Joanne Crouse • Wilfred Vaillancourt • Jean Basque • Alex Basque • Margaret Carden • Peter Carden • Margaret Ryan • Joe Dollen • The Hobitz & Pepin Families • Joseph Burak • Fran Powers • Doreen O'Leary • Robert Miller • Malcolm Homan • Eugene Wood • Paul Wood • Peter Wood • Barbara Harrison • The Pendergast Family • Gert Bradley • Margaret Sullivan • Joseph Sullivan • Gladys Stearns • Wesley Carpenter • Louise Robbins • Regina Carpenter • A. Hersey, Jr. • Paul Frederick • The Myers & Proposki Family • Ruth Leo • John & Mary Leo • John Leo, Jr. • Lucy Marengis • Josephine Palmieri • Rick Marshall • Winnie Quill • Harry Lucier • Steven Wannamaker • Carol Mullen • Dan Phelan • Deceased relatives of The Heaton/Pontarno Families

HR St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you for responding to our request for food and gas cards during this holiday season. These will go directly to needy families in Merrimac and West Newbury.

We have had a number of requests for assistance with rent, car insurance, and past due utility bills. As the conference has no overhead, the full amount of your monetary donations is directed to our clients. Thank you for your caring and have a blessed Christmas.

EWTN: Catholic News

Want the latest Catholic News? EWTN News has got you covered. Check this link daily for news about the Catholic Church, and the latest issues in Catholicism. EWTN News: Your Online Catholic Resource.
www.ewtnnews.com/

HR Youth Choir



Calling all singers and bell players! St. Ann is forming a youth choir (grades K-8) to play the bells and sing at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. Contact Robin Plisinski if your child is interested.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Offertory Dec. 14–15

\$3,940.00

The Christmas collection is Clergy Health & Retirement Trust.

Christmas Collections

Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas collection at all Christmas Masses supports the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, visit clergyfunds.org.

HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$18,865.00



HR Sandwich Program

The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month.



We will not be doing our regular delivery the week of December 25.

See the Collaborative calendar at www.hricatholic.org for the schedule. If you have questions please contact Dottie Carr at 978-363-2909.

Coffee After Mass



Join us for **coffee and donuts** after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Nativity Church Hall on Sunday, **December 22**. Come join us in wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

HR Christmas Decorating

St. Ann

We will be decorating St. Ann Church for Christmas on Sunday, December 22 immediately after the 10:15 Mass.

All are welcome to help. Many hands makes light the work.

Nativity

We are looking for **help!** Our small group of volunteers who decorate the church for Christmas are asking for assistance in hanging wreaths, fluffing bows, moving the giving tree and decorating it, setting up chairs in the hall for Christmas Eve, placing the Nativity sets, decorating the choir loft, setting out flowers and more.

Please come help. We will start decorating after our coffee and donuts on Sunday, December 22 (about 10:00am).

HR Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs for all grades are taking place. If you have yet to register it is not too late. Forms as well as class schedule can be found on our website (hricatholic.org) or call the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x7420) to request information be sent to you.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

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

Parent meetings will be held prior to each sacrament. Please note the meeting for both parents and children regarding Reconciliation is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 28** at 6:30. The sacrament will be celebrated at the Church of the Nativity on **Saturday, February 1**. More information will be distributed as the date gets closer but please mark your calendars now.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for information regarding the next **Baptism class** which is scheduled for **Sunday, January 5** at 1:00 p.m. in the Charity Dining Room located in the IC Pastoral Center.

Confirmation Prep Classes

The next class for **Year 1** (Grade 9) is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14 in the Nativity Church Hall beginning at 6:30.

Year 2 (Grade 10) class will meet again on Sunday, January 5 from 6–7:30 also in the Nativity Church Hall.

Please remember an adult does need to accompany the candidate.

Family Activity Day

We are planning the first of two **Family Activity Days** geared towards those students who are being home schooled this year as well as for those students who took part in the IC summer program this past summer.

The first Day will be held at IC on **Saturday, January 11** followed by another gathering on **Saturday, March 7** at the Church of the Nativity.

Please mark your calendars to join with us as we gather for some fun, prayer, and learning about the Faith.

Both “days” will begin with a light breakfast at 8:30am and will conclude at 12:00pm. If interested please RSVP to the Faith Formation Office.

HR Prayer Shawl

Do you know of any woman, man, or child who needs comfort and could use a Blessed Prayer Shawl or Lap Blanket? Please call Helen Kelley 978-771-4673 or Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099 for a shawl or more information.

Come join us. Don't know how? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, January 2**.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory Dec. 14–15 \$12,882.00
 IC Haiti \$12,451.00

The Christmas collection is Clergy Health & Retirement Trust.

Immaculate Conception School



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

Christmas Collections

Clergy Health & Retirement Trust

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas collection at all Christmas Masses supports the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, visit clergyfunds.org.

IC Grand Annual
 Goal \$100,000
 To Date \$57,226.00



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection \$ 5.00
 Poor Box \$178.00
 Total \$183.00

IC Knitting Ministry



The Knitting Ministry meets Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Room 209 in the IC Parish Center. We knit/crochet prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves for charity. Come join this friendly group. New people, ideas, and patterns are always welcome.

For more information call Julia O'Connor 978-465-3350 or Frances Ronan 978-462-4972.

Christmas Greeters Wanted

We are looking for Christmas Greeters to help us welcome the many who will join us to celebrate the Birth of Jesus at the Christmas Masses at IC.

If you are planning to attend one of our Christmas Masses:

4:00pm	Church	Midnight	Church
4:00pm	School	8:00am	Church
6:00pm	Church	10:00am	Church

Would you consider coming a little early and welcoming people at one of the Church doors, and offering a wish for a Blessed Christmas?

If you would like to help, please contact:
 Jonathan Temple or MaryAnn Lawler.

The Compassionate Friends

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

Our monthly support meetings are held in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 at 7:30–9:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Our next meeting is **December 23**.

Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ.

Troop 21 Boy Scout Blood Drive

Scout Troop 21 of Newburyport, MA and the American Red Cross are teaming up to boost blood supply. We want to help ensure that a safe and adequate blood supply is available when needed. Please donate blood on **Thursday, December 26** at the Newburyport Elks Club/Function Hall, 25 Low Street, Newburyport. Donor hours are 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Faith Formation

School Year Programs

School year programs for all grade levels are taking place. If you have not yet registered it is not too late. Forms and the class schedule can be found on our website (hriccatholic.org) or call the Faith Formation office for information.

The next class for Grades K–8 will be Sunday, January 5.

Confirmation

The next Confirmation Prep class for **Year 1** (Grade 9) will be held Sunday, January 5 from 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Class for **Year 2** (Grade 10) will meet again on Tuesday, January 7 from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Please remember an adult does need to accompany the candidate to class.

Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724) for information regarding the next **Baptism class** which is scheduled for **Sunday, January 5** with the sacrament scheduled to be celebrated on January 12.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

If your child was not able to participate in the group Reconciliation service held here at IC, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Beginning in January, the children's classes will focus on preparing them for their First Eucharist. Please mark your calendars now for the first **parent meeting** scheduled for **Tuesday, February 25** at 6:30.

Family Activity Day

We are planning a **Family Activity Day** geared towards those students who are being home schooled this year as well as for those students who took part in our summer program this past summer.

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 11** to join with us as we gather for some fun, prayer, and learning about the Faith.

The "day" will begin with a light breakfast at 8:30am and will conclude at 12:00pm. If interested please RSVP to the Faith Formation Office.

Follow Us on Instagram
HRICatholic



Free Hair Cuts



Donna Koen, a parishioner and licensed hairdresser of over 30 years, is offering free hair cuts to anyone in need. She is willing to travel to your home. Her number is (978) 998-9219.

This is a service she has been offering for years for the Newburyport Housing Authority, Salvation Army, and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

She is happy to help our parishioners who are in need.

Wanted: Cooks

The St. Vincent de Paul dinner held each Tuesday at the IC Parish Center is in need of help for one evening each month. The team of two chefs would be assisted by experienced volunteers helping prepare the meal in the Parish Center kitchen. We are a welcoming group! Please visit our kitchen and observe the process of preparing and serving a free meal to a group of appreciative guests. We gather late afternoon on Tuesdays and serve at 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Bunny Chiasson, 978-465-5810.

Adoration & Rosary

Please join us for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration in IC's St. James Chapel in the Parish Center.

- **Wednesdays** from 6:00–6:30 p.m.
- **Thursdays** from 6:30–7:00 p.m., including recitation of the Rosary for Life.
- **Fridays** drop in any time from 8:00 a.m.–noon. During the last hour we pray the Divine Mercy chaplet and conclude with Benediction.

No prior experience necessary. Come and learn how powerful it is to pray before the Real Presence of our Lord.



"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Donning the many hues of the Advent season, parishioners wearing various shades of rose gathered with Fr. Tim after Mass on Gaudete Sunday.

SVdP Advent Project

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