

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

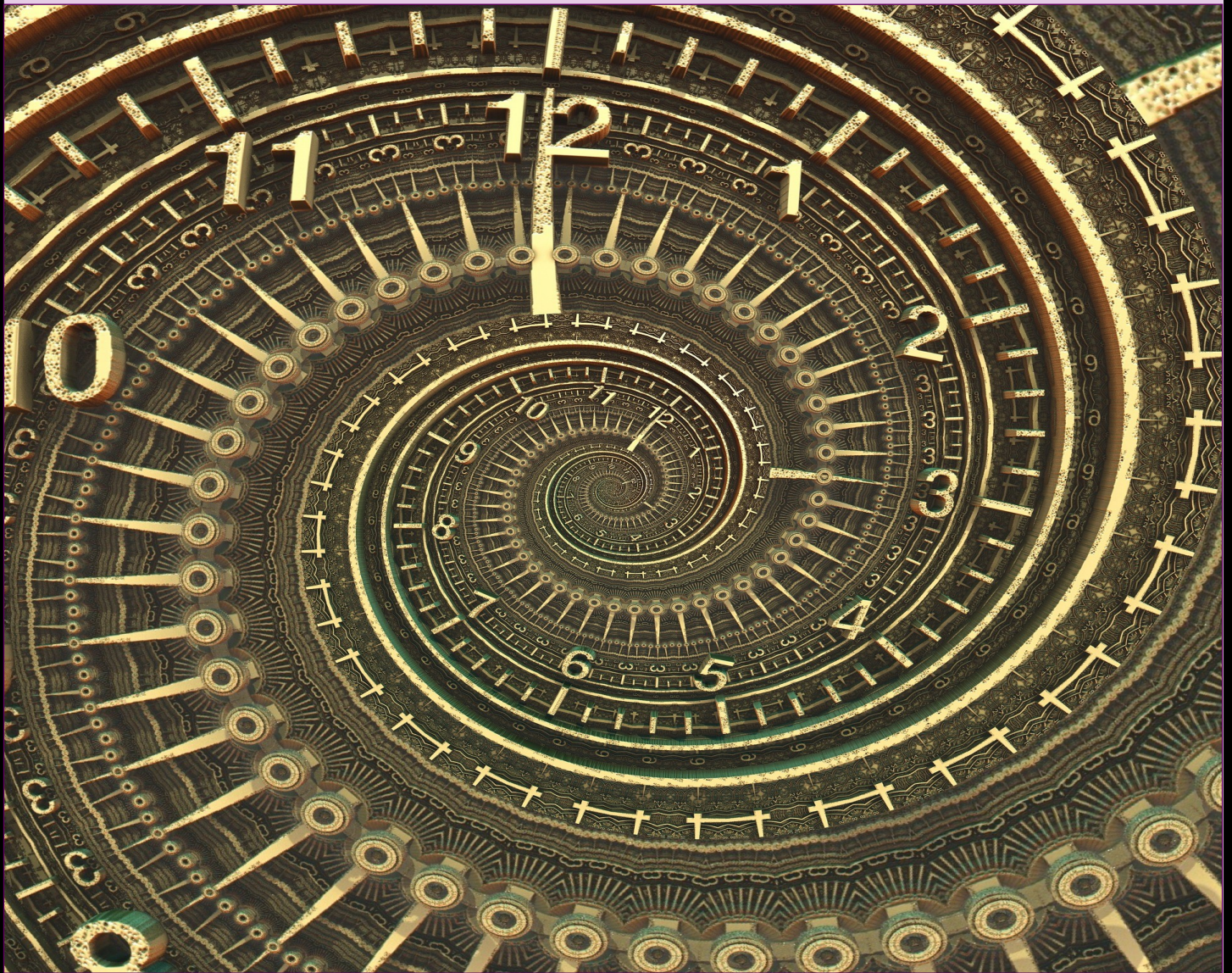
SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome



“Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard ‘delay,’ but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

(2Pt 3:8-9)



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
info@newburyportcatholic.org,
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Rev. Charles Stanley
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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)
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 [hriccatholic](https://www.instagram.com/hriccatholic)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/5)

4:00pm **IC** *Stephen M. Boy, Linda Finnegan, Donna Cook, Josephine Minalio* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

4:00pm **Live Stream** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

Sunday (12/6)

8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

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

9:30pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)

11:30am **IC** *Robert E. Colby* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

Monday (12/7)

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

Tuesday (12/8) *Immaculate Conception*

9:00am **IC** *Elizabeth Perkins, Sean Perkins* (Fr. Stanley)

Wednesday (12/9)

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

Thursday (12/10)

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

Friday (12/11)

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

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)

In your prayers, please remember John Cormier, Margaret Maloney, Ellen Roche, Christina Gallo, Evelyn Levins, 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](#)

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.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

The summer I turned 21, I decided it would be fun to learn how to make beer. I spent some time with a friend who did this more or less regularly and the process seemed fairly simple. Bring a big kettle of clean, pure water to a boil, add your grain, malt, and hops, then allow to cool. Add yeast when the whole thing reaches room temperature or so, transfer to a large bottle with a one-way air valve and wait while the fermentation happens. After several days, filter and transfer the beer into sterilized bottles to await the final fermentation in the bottle, hence giving the beer its slight carbonation as a by-product. Keep it simple, my friend told me. And make sure the bottles are absolutely sterile or the beer will get spoiled.



So I dutifully followed all the steps, measuring this and meticulously following that. The only thing I cheated on a little bit was the beer bottles themselves. Instead of spending hours boiling them on the stove in a scalding water bath, as directed, I sent them on a trip through the dishwasher, with the "high temperature" setting switched to "on." I figured that ought to do it. Anytime that I had used that setting in the past, the dishes came out so hot, I always burned myself trying to handle them. "That's got to be hot enough to kill any bugs..." or so I thought.

As you can imagine, after several days resting in the basement, my homemade beer began to explode, one bottle at a time. Bang! In the middle of the night. Waking me and my family from a sound sleep. I lost about half of my home-brew through these detonations. The rest that survived was mostly undrinkable due to whatever contaminants had remained in the bottles despite my earnest dishwasher efforts to burn them away. Our basement reeked of rotten beer for months after my ill-fated endeavor. Lesson learned. Sterile means sterile, not sort-of-sterile. Got it! At least I never tried to start a craft brewery or work on an infectious disease wing of a hospital. I'll keep my day job.

Speaking of which, although John the Baptist was known not to have taken any strong drink—beer or otherwise—he recognized that in order to properly prepare for The Lord's coming, no contaminants could litter our hearts. So, his mission as the long-promised Herald of the Christ's coming was to invite everyone to turn away from their sins and accept a baptism of repentance. It mattered not what sins

(Continued on page 4)

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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS



Christmas Mass Volunteers Needed

We would like to offer additional Mass times on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for those who wish to attend Mass. We are in need of volunteers to accomplish 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.

Invitation to Participate in the Collaborative Pastoral Council Meetings

In 2019 a Pastoral Council was formed in our Collaborative to assist the Pastor in his responsibilities as the leader of the Collaborative. They serve in a consultative role and there are members from both of our parishes. They have been meeting virtually on Zoom since mid-March and are now meeting once a month, alternating between a Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at 10:00 a.m. We would like to invite any of our Collaborative members to join our meetings on Zoom, giving you a chance to listen to our discussions and to comment or ask questions at certain points in the meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m.** If you are interested in listening in, please send an email to Jim Williamson at jimwilliamson35@gmail.com and to get the Zoom link before the meeting. In addition, if you have any concerns or questions about the work of the Council you can reach out to Jim or contact any Council member.

Collaborative Pastoral Council

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

Questions of the Week

Adult: "Comfort, give comfort to My people" says the Lord. Who in your life needs to hear words of comfort?

Child: What one thing can you do this week to be a better follower of Jesus? (for example: more loving, caring, helpful at home; hardworking in school)

(Continued from page 3)

anyone had—no matter how small or how great—only that they were willing to let them go and with God's help embrace a path of repentance.

Repentance did not mean forgetting about one's sins or ignoring what they had done, only that they were completely sincere in wanting to leave them behind and live their lives justly and honestly before our God. This was the one requirement for getting ready to welcome the Lord Jesus when He came: a repentant heart. Those who were proud, convinced of their own righteousness or blindly unaware of their need for repentance would risk missing the Lord and being part of this Kingdom. Just like germs in a beer bottle, a soured, spoiled mess awaits anyone who tries to hold on to sin and follow God.

So, this Advent, we once again hear the cry of the Baptist calling us to repentance, inviting us to new life. What will our response be? A meticulous and honest change of heart, or will we be tempted to cut a few corners and settle for something less-than-sterile, less than holy? Advent is a good time to do an honest assessment of how we are living our lives and whether we are truly ready to welcome The Lord when He comes, either at Christmas or at the end of time...you know, whichever comes first.

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

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!

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Tuesday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In-person Mass will be held at IC Church at 9:00 a.m. No reservation is needed for this Mass, but social distancing and capacity limits will be in place.

Mass Scripture Readings

December 6–13, 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 hopeful 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. 6: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8
- Monday, Dec. 7: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
- Tuesday, Dec. 8: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
- Wednesday, Dec. 9: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30
- Thursday, Dec. 10: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
- Friday, Dec. 11: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday, Dec. 12: Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38
- Sunday, Dec. 13: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

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



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

Word On Fire Engage

WORD on FIRE
ENGAGE

Our Collaborative parishes have access to the premium digital video content from Word on Fire, a service known as ENGAGE. Everyone in our Collaborative will benefit from this year-long subscription through the generosity of an anonymous donor.

The films and video presentations that make up ENGAGE feature Bishop Robert Barron, "one of the Church's greatest messengers" and the second most-followed Catholic in the world on social media (behind only Pope Francis.) For many of our older parishioners, a comparison to Bishop Fulton Sheen helps to underscore the giftedness of Bishop Barron as an effective communicator of the Gospel and our Catholic faith.

You and everyone in our Collaborative now have 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 your attention. 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.



"Come and Be"—Silent, Unstructured Prayer Time with Jesus

Immaculate Conception Church, 1:00–1:45 p.m.
Thursdays, December 10 and 17

Notes: There will be 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.
Thursdays, December 10 and 17

EWTN: Catholic News

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

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



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Confessions

We are offering face-to-face, individual Confessions by appointment only. These will take place with one of our priests and will be held outside in the fresh air. 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.

Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina

We welcome all members of our Collaborative community to join us each Wednesday 6:00–7:00 p.m. via Zoom for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer, silently resting in God and surrendering and assenting to God’s presence and action in our lives. This ancient prayer practice opens our minds and hearts to hear God’s words as we continue by reading Sacred Scripture in group Lectio Divina.

For the next 30 minutes we listen to God’s words, ponder and share what we hear the Lord saying to us here and now, and contemplate God’s message to us and let it guide our choices and actions. Both practices strengthen our faith and reliance on God and deepen our personal relationship with God.

For more information, please call Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

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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

Virtual Rosary



Join us for recitation of the rosary live on Facebook twice every week. Pray along with us and add your intentions in the comments on Facebook. www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

IC PARISH



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, or use our **Newly established** website and donate online at www.svdpnewburyport.org.

Christmas Flowers



We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for the church for Christmas. Please do not have flowers delivered to the church but allow us to purchase them. Place your flower donation envelope in the collection box at the church or mail them to IC.

Donation deadline is **Monday, December 7 at noon.**



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IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Nov 21–22	\$1,752.00
Retired Religious	\$ 370.00
IC Offertory, Nov. 28–29	\$1,899.00
Mailed-in Offertory, week ending Nov 27	\$1,050.00

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.

IC Grand Annual
Goal \$85,000
To Date \$63,393.00



IC Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation.

Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. (At this time, Online Giving is available for only IC members.) Parish registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, hriccatholic.org and click the “Links” tab or the Online Giving link on our homepage, then click on “Online Giving” to get to the site. There are four different funds you can choose to contribute to.

If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made.

Any questions? Contact Linda Temple, IC Administrative Assistant 978-462-2724 x7404.

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.

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).

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. **Effective December 1,** prices will increase. 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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November is the month of ALL SOULS

During November, it is **CatholicTV's** privilege to pray for the souls of your **departed loved ones** at each **daily Mass**. If you would like us to pray for them by name, please send us an email at **AllSoulsRemembrance@CatholicTV.org**.

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IC PARISH

Immaculate Conception School



The Immaculate Conception School Leadership Team organized a Thanksgiving Dinner food drive. Groceries were donated by IC families to create Thanksgiving meals for 22 families, including a gift certificate to purchase a turkey. Members of the Leadership Team divided the donations into decorative bags, which included coffee, cocoa mix, cereals, canned vegetables, peanut butter and stuffing mix. The bags were donated to a local food pantry. The outpouring of donations speaks to our community's desire to lend a helping hand, especially when so many are suffering under the strains of the pandemic. The IC community places great value on the importance of teaching our young students that they have the ability and responsibility to help others. The call to service is at the core of the school's mission.

For more information about Immaculate Conception School, please visit our website: www.icsnewburyport.com



Grade 8 Leadership Team members :
Maddie, Kayley and Lila

Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to hricbulletin@gmail.com.

IC Haiti

If you would like to contribute to IC Haiti, please mail checks to **IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA. 01950. Checks should be made out to "IC Haiti."**

We are grateful for your continued generosity during the pandemic. May the Lord continue to bless our ongoing efforts to support the people of Haiti.

We thank Him for offering us a ministry of service to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

HR PARISH

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. **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.

HR St. Vincent de Paul

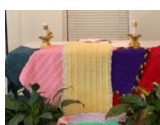
We have ongoing requests for help with rent and utilities. Please consider donating and making a difference. All donations are used to benefit people living in West Newbury and Merrimac.

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



HR SVdP
4 Green Street
Merrimac, MA 01860.

HR Prayer Shawl



Thank you for taking the time to pass on the names of our parish family members who could use some comfort from a prayer shawl. Keep the requests coming! It can be for anyone, anywhere—there is no cost, it is free.

We would like to drop off prayer shawls or lap blankets to anyone you know who needs comfort in our Holy Redeemer Parish family. 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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Nov. 22	\$1,229.00
Retired Religious	\$ 237.00
HR Offertory, Nov. 29	\$ 575.00
Mailed-in Offertory, week ending Nov. 27	\$1,280.00

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

Holy Redeemer Parish
4 Green Street
Merrimac MA 01860

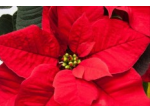
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*Scaffolding is coming down
 and the steeple project is
 almost complete!*



Christmas Flowers



We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for the churches for Christmas. Please do not have flowers delivered to the churches but allow us to purchase them. Place your flower donation envelopes in the collection boxes at the churches or mail them to HR.

Donation deadline is **Monday, December 7 at noon.**

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](https://www.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.

- **Pregnancy Care:** disposable diapers (sizes 3,4,5,6), hooded towels & washcloths, baby & receiving blankets, baby wipes & diaper rash cream, blanket sleepers & onesies sizes NB–24 mos., new outfits size 0–24 mos., baby wash & lotion, & baby food (stages 1,2,3). Please call Dottie Carr (978-363-2909) to arrange for **drop off by December 6.**

- **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.

- **Merrimac Holiday Helpers** is looking for children's pajamas for boys & girls ages 0–18, with the greatest need for elementary-aged children. **These need to be received by December 5.** There will be a drop off box at the Merrimac Fire station.

- 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.

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“Jesus Wept.” John 11:35


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