

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2020

hricatholic.org



*“The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.
When he finds a pearl of great price,
he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.” (Mt 13:45-46)*

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:

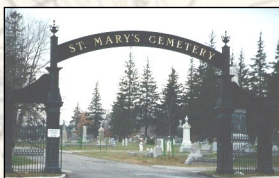
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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, Pre 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,
holyredeemer@verizon.net

Senior Priests in Residence

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Rev. George E. Morin
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St. Vincent de Paul

Saint 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)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (7/25)

4:00pm **Live-Stream**

Sunday (7/26)

9:30am **St. Ann Erwin Batchelder**

11:30am **IC Thomas O'Donnell, Stefan Javor,
Eva Beliveau, Henry Elario, Anne Dooling Clarke**

In your prayers, please remember William Harnois, Peter Kelly, and all the faithful departed.

Saturday Vigil Masses will be broadcast online-only live through [Facebook](#) until further notice.



Find us on Facebook: [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)

Attend a Live Mass

Would you like to attend a live Mass celebrated within our Collaborative? Look for the "Attend a Mass" section on our website: www.hriccatholic.org. Please remember that at this time a **reservation is required to attend** a live Mass. Information about schedules and attendance requirements will be posted there. Additionally, our office staff will be able to assist you if you have any questions or need assistance making a reservation. If you need help registering, please call the offices at (978) 462-2724 for IC or (978) 346-8604 for HR.

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

If you don't have a Facebook page, you can still watch the live stream from your computer, smartphone, or tablet:

1. In your web browser, go to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/>) at the appointed time. (The Facebook link can be found on our [website](#) also.)
2. Click the "videos" link on the Facebook page.
3. The LIVE video should be the first one on the list.

Virtual Rosary

Join Aaron Giard, our Faith Formation director, 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.



From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

There is a wonderful scene at the beginning of the 1997 movie, *Titanic*, where Leonardo DiCaprio's character, Jack Dawson, is involved in a high-stakes poker game. It is the final hand, each player has thrown-in everything of worth that he had (including a pair of tickets for the ill-fated ship's maiden voyage), the bet was called and Jack declares, "Somebody's life is about to change!" I guess I can't print Jack's friend's response in Italian, thinking they had lost everything, but luck was shining (or not) on Jack and Fabrizio that day. They won everything, including the tickets and their fate was set as they boarded the famous liner on its first and last voyage across the sea.



Well, that was fiction, the storyline in the movie, that is. But the idea of going "all-in," of betting everything, including one's future on a single moment of chance is the stuff of many a human drama over the ages. The founding fathers of our nation ended the Declaration of Independence with this line: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." Little did they know just how much they were betting. Many of them would indeed lose their fortunes, their homes, and even their lives in pursuit of this illustrious goal. Decades later, Harriet Tubman, the famous abolitionist and former slave, was "all-in" when she risked everything to rescue approximately 70 people from slavery, leading them to freedom on what is now known as the "Underground Railroad." Of her, Frederick Douglass once wrote, "The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witnesses of your devotion to freedom and of your heroism. Excepting John Brown—of sacred memory—I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than you have."

(Continued on page 4)

90 Days Now—For Your Parish



90-Days Now—For Your Parish is an online supplemental offertory giving program started by the laity to help support parishes during the pandemic.

•**Phase 1** raised \$450,000 for 236 parishes.

•**Phase 2** offers a match gift from a generous anonymous benefactor when the overall campaign reaches \$700,000.

Should you choose to join in this effort, or give again to help reach the match, the Archdiocese has created an easy-to-use link to donate at www.BostonCatholic.org/donate.

All funds go directly to our two parishes.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

About a hundred years later, another great American, Neil Armstrong, was “all-in” when in 1969, almost out of rocket fuel, he committed his fragile lunar lander, the *Eagle*, to proceed over a rocky debris field and be the first human being to successfully land on the moon. His often repeated quote, “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind,” was the understatement of the century.

This human ideal of throwing caution to the wind and fully committing oneself to a particular cause in order to reap great rewards has the fingerprints of God all over it, I think. It is the lesson of Abraham and Isaac, of Moses leading the people of Israel from slavery to freedom, of the prophets daring to utter God’s Word in opposition to all that has been established...of John the Baptist’s call to repentance and of Jesus’ own sacrifice on the Cross. All-in. Totally committed. Nothing held back.

It is in this same light that we must hear the parable of the great pearl. To experience the fullness of God’s Kingdom, we must open ourselves to it completely, be willing to sell and divest ourselves of any other thing of value in order to possess it. God’s Kingdom is just that good! It is worth THAT much. It is worth that incredible level of risk. And when we do, as Jack’s character in the movie once uttered, our lives will change. We will open ourselves to a kind of love that can barely be put into words. We will live in a way that is completely transformed. We will breathe in a more complete way than we ever could imagine even after tyranny is defeated. We will be free that goes well beyond the removal of mere earthly shackles or institutional racism. We will soar into the heavens to an exponentially higher realm than any human contraption could ever propel us.

In God’s Kingdom, the very meaning of life itself will be transformed. We will be God’s cherished and redeemed daughters and sons forever. It is indeed a pearl of great price!

God has always been all-in for us. What is our level of commitment to the Lord today?

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Prayers for the Sick

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

Priscilla Brown
Brett Burkinshaw
Joe Messina

Ruth Sullivan
Ron Sylvester
Michael Tucker

Parish Membership

Welcome! We invite you to become a member of our Parish communities. Please introduce yourself and register in the parish. Forms are available online at www.hrccatholic.org or you can call the Parish offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to register.



Follow Us on Twitter
@HRICCatholic

IC Office Hours Change

Effective immediately, Immaculate Conception office hours will be from 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday–Friday.

Confessions



Now that the weather is improving, we will begin to offer face-to-face, individual Confessions by appointment. These will take place by an individual appointment 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.

HRIC

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

How can we help you?

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

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

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

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

Collaborative Pastoral Council

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

Council Members

Kathy Betz	Marin Fortune	Lucia Parker
Sue Coppinger	Amy Friend	Mary Schmidt
Deacon Paul Dow	Aaron Giard	Jonathan Temple
Chris Eagan	Tom Hankins	Pat Temple

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Exciting News for You!

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.

The Forming Intentional Disciples Priority Team

Sign up for FORMED

Enjoy a free subscription to **FORMED**
The Catholic Faith. On Demand.

Over 4,000 titles available on almost any device including Roku, Amazon fire TV, Apple TV, Android, and IOS.

FORMED provides amazing content 24/7. It’s **free** and **easy** to register:

- 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

Mass Scripture Readings

July 26–August 2, 2020

Praying with the Scriptures can help us to develop a more intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. What do they reveal about our vocation as Christians and as a Church community to become ever more intentional disciples of Christ? 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, July 26: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52
- Monday, July 27: Jeremiah 13:1-11; Matthew 13:31-35
- Tuesday, July 28: Jeremiah 14:17-22; Matthew 13:36-43
- Wednesday, July 29: Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21; John 11:19-27
- Thursday, July 30: Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matthew 13:47-53
- Friday, July 31: Jeremiah 26:1-9; Matthew 13:54-58
- Saturday, August 1: Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24; Matthew 14:1-12
- Sunday, August 2: Isaiah 55:1-3; Romans 8:35, 37-39; Matthew 14:13-21

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



Bulletin Information

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

Music for Weekend Liturgy

The music program for Saturday’s online-only Liturgy will be added to our website. Please visit hriccatholic.org to download and sing along from home!



Women at the Well Bible Study

We Are Meeting Virtually

We will be meeting virtually until further notice. All are welcome to join in, whether you are a new face or have come before.

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.

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Each Lenten season, HRIC collects care packs from parishioners for distribution to the homeless on Holy Thursday. Items in 2020 were in the process of being collected at the time of the pandemic surge in Massachusetts. Churches were closed, guidelines from the Archdiocese

limited any external community activities, and receipt of care packs was discontinued. Over the last five years, approximately 1,000 care packs of toiletries, socks, and personal care items have been distributed to a variety of charitable organizations throughout the greater community.

Many of the local organizations served by our program in the past have suspended operations temporarily or have had to modify or redirect efforts on behalf of their clients.

Lazarus House Ministries, located in Lawrence, has been one of the recipients of the care packs program. They are a gospel-based ministry operating since 1983 and welcome all in need in the name of God. The care they provide encompasses food, shelter, clothing, advocacy, education, work preparation, a listening ear, a welcoming heart, and the restoration of dignity and self-respect to people who are poor and in dire need. The amount of people seeking help from Lazarus House has risen from 1,000 served to over 2,000 as a result of the pandemic.

In early July, over 80 care packs were delivered to Lazarus House from our Collaborative. They were received by Ellen Bedrosian with overwhelming gratitude. Many of their clients have lost their jobs, are living on the streets and some of their only meals come from the daily offerings from Lazarus House.

Lazarus House Executive Director, Jeffrey Hassel, explains his dedication to the outreach of his organization, "I am a pastor whose passion is stepping outside of the walls of the church to serve." His message reminds us of our call to service in Matthew 25:40..." Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me".

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's care packs program. Know that your generosity and compassion is loving evangelization and an example of St. Francis' direction to "preach the Gospel, use words when necessary". May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.

Lazarus House Mission

By living the gospel message upon which the ministry is founded, we restore dignity and self-respect to empower guests—poor, underserved, and homeless individuals and families.

Questions of the Week



Adult: If God said to you what He said to Solomon, what gift would you ask for?

Child: What special thing would you be willing to give up to gain the Kingdom of Heaven?

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. Our monthly support meetings are temporarily being held online (due to coronavirus) via Zoom at 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 July 27.

Join our free online meeting by going to <http://zoom.us>, click on "Join a Meeting," enter Meeting ID: 952-104-4920.



A Butterfly's Journey (ABJ) is a separate non-profit to help a broader set of grievers. Barbara is the founder and an Advanced Grief Recovery Method (GRM) Specialist. GRM is the only evidence-based methodology for grief, 7-week-action-based method. GRM classes as well as a free online Resource Center can be found on abutterflysjourney.org. Schedule a free call for more info on ABJ or TCF-GN: <http://bit.ly/GRM-call>.

Archdiocese Web Site

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

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.

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 and our personal relationship with God.

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



**DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK,
BUSINESSES AND CONSUMER BEHAVIOR
ARE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE
SPONSORS ON THE BACK PAGES TO HELP
KEEP THE LOCAL ECONOMY STRONG.**

**ALSO, VISIT THEIR WEBSITES TO SEE HOW THEY
CAN ASSIST YOU WITH ANY OF THEIR SERVICES
YOU MAY NEED THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.**

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Holy Redeemer 9:30 Offertory, July 19	\$783.00
Mailed-in offertory, week ending July 17	\$875.00
90 Days Now Campaign weekly through July 15	\$219.00
(See page 3 for details about this campaign)	

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

Holy Redeemer Parish
4 Green Street
Merrimac MA 01860

HR Sandwich Program Update



We received a call from Good Shepherd and they are not allowed to take things made off site at this time per order of the CDC. We will not be delivering until further notice.

Please consider making a financial donation at <https://lazarushouse.org/ways-to-give/#donate-financially>.

Prayer During the Coronavirus Pandemic

*May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between preserving
their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close
remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of
the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms
around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our
neighbors.
Amen*

Collaborative Website

Visit our **Collaborative Website**, www.hricatholic.org for up-to-date information on what is happening in the Collaborative during these changing times. You can also find links to our Facebook, Instagram, and twitter pages.

We will also post our weekly bulletins on the website for you to view electronically.

HR Faith Formation

School Year Programs

Program information for those students entering Grades K–8 can now be found on our [parish website](#). Registration forms will be available August 1. As always please contact the Faith Formation office should you have any questions.

Summer Programs at IC

The past few weeks found us struggling with how best to continue with a summer program that we have come to look forward to providing every year. We have regrettably decided that, in light of all of the COVID guidelines that are in place to insure everyone's safety, a program such as ours is just not possible. We are working on options for the Fall that we hope will be beneficial for all of our families. Please watch for further details.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Optional plans for the celebration of First Eucharist for those families who have been patiently waiting these past few weeks are currently being made.

Please reach out to the Faith Formation office if you have not received any updated information and/or if you are not sure if all paperwork has been submitted.

Baptism Dates to Remember

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

Confirmation

If you have a child planning on being confirmed this Fall or you need information regarding upcoming Fall classes for a child entering grades 9 or 10, information has been posted on our parish website. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

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 St. Vincent de Paul

The current pandemic impacts all of us but even more so those living at the margins of society economically. We at the HR St. Vincent de Paul conference remind you that our needs to help those people continue in earnest during these extraordinary times.

Our poor boxes are empty. Please continue to find ways to donate to support our efforts. **Please send your donations to HR St. Vincent de Paul, 4 Green St., Merrimac, MA 01860.** Please write the check to "HR Saint Vincent de Paul" to help expedite our banking. We assure you that the mail is checked regularly and your funds will be promptly put to use.



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“WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.” 1 JOHN 4:18

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“Jesus Wept.” John 11:35

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC 11:30 Offertory, July 19	\$1,425.00
Mailed-in offertory, week ending July 17	\$3,042.00
90 Days Now Campaign weekly through July 15	\$ 296.00
<i>(See page 3 for details about this campaign)</i>	

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

Immaculate Conception Parish
42 Green Street
Newburyport MA 01950

Or read below to sign up for online giving.

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 Faith Formation

School Year Programs

Program information for those students entering Grades K–8 can now be found on our [parish website](#). Registration forms will be available August 1. As always please contact the Faith Formation office should you have any questions.

Summer Programs

The past few weeks found us struggling with how best to continue with a summer program that we have come to look forward to providing every year. We have regretfully decided that, in light of all of the COVID guidelines that are in place to insure everyone's safety, a program such as ours is just not possible. We are working on options for the Fall that we hope will be beneficial for all of our families. Please watch for further details.

Confirmation

If you have a child planning on being confirmed this Fall or you need information regarding upcoming Fall classes for a child entering grades 9 or 10, information has been posted on our parish website. Should you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Baptism Dates to Remember

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

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

Optional plans for the celebration of First Eucharist for those families who have been patiently waiting these past few weeks are currently being made.

Please reach out to the Faith Formation office if you have not received any updated information and/or if you are not sure if all paperwork has been submitted.

IC Haiti

The next collection for IC Haiti is scheduled to be taken up on the weekend of August 1–2.

The Board of Directors is pleased to inform you that despite our inability to take up scheduled collections in March and May many parishioners sent in their donations via U.S. Mail. We are most grateful to all who did so.

Back in April we made a donation of \$20,000 to help the hospital in Fond des Blanc build a separate Covid-19 unit. Since that time, parishioner donations have more than made up for that donation. In early July we received the following encouraging update from a representative of the hospital:

The hospital has now seen 136 cases of confirmed or suspected COVID-19, although at the moment there are just three patients hospitalized in the COVID-19 unit on campus. We are also doing contact tracing and surveillance for another 40+ cases at the community level through our network of community leaders and community health workers. Staff and patients/visitors are required to wear masks at all times on campus, and staff working with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients are required to wear PPE including masks, eye shields, face shields, shoe covers, and gowns. I'm pleased to share that we have not had any hospital-based transmission of COVID-19 to staff members, which reflects well on our commitment to infection control protocols. We are in constant contact with infectious disease experts at MGH and Brigham & Women's who are helping us to update our protocols as needed and in accordance with the emerging best practices of health centers around the world on the front lines of the crisis.

Again, thanks to all who have continued to support IC Haiti during these troubling times. We expect to hear soon how the Fr. Marc Piché Elementary School in Puit Chacha will proceed for this coming school year. The Board of Directors has approved the payment of salaries for the teachers and staff even if the school doesn't operate as it normally would due to the pandemic.

If you would like to donate to the August collection, please send in your money or check (made out to “IC Haiti”) via U.S. Mail to: **IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Immaculate Conception School

Choosing the right high school is part of the fall experience for 8th grade students at the IC. For some, the obvious choice has been unfolding for years. Family connections to area high schools and New England boarding schools provide some with the opportunity to continue a family legacy. Some approach high school in search of new opportunities while others look to continue current areas of interest. Despite each child's unique circumstances, area secondary schools are eager to share information with our families. It is a well-known fact that IC students are prepared for the demands of high school, have a strong work ethic, are dedicated to community service, and are eager to get involved beyond the classroom. Pictured is the annual IC High School Fair, attended by 28 New England private high schools and boarding schools, where admissions representatives shared their schools with our middle school families.



The coronavirus pandemic has forced many adjustments to the school experience. Gatherings, such as a high school fair, must be redesigned to bring an end result through a new process. Finding new ways to navigate the admissions process is a challenge that the IC is already tackling, to best guide the educational experience of our students after graduation. Students in 7th and 8th grade were recently asked about plans for high school. The results have provided the school office with feedback that will assist us in connecting families with schools of interest. Twenty-five families responded to the survey, sharing the types of schools that interest our students. Eighty-eight percent of our students are interested in continuing in Catholic education, 66% are considering public high school, and 64% want to know more about private day schools. (Student answers reflect all types of schools they are considering.) No one indicated they are considering a boarding school at this time.

The top three Catholic high schools of interest were Central Catholic in Lawrence (82%), Bishop Fenwick in Peabody (73%), and St. Thomas Aquinas in Dover, NH (55%). Other area Catholic high schools of interest were Austin Prep in Reading, Malden Catholic, St. John's Prep in Danvers, and St. Mary's in Lynn.

Sixty-four percent of the students surveyed were interested in private day schools. Schools peaking the most interest were Governor's Academy (56%), Phillips Exeter Academy (44%) and Bradford Christian Academy and Phillips Academy-Andover, both at 38%. Other private schools of interest were Pingree, Portsmouth Christian Academy, Berwick Academy, Waring School, Brooks School, Whittier Technical School, and Essex Technical School.



Visiting any school can provide a "feel" for the environment that speaks beyond factual information and program offerings. Meeting students, faculty, and admissions teams can prompt a sense of belonging and connection that truly means something when students envision where they want to spend the next four years. School "shadow days" and open house events may not be an option in the months to come, so individualized admissions sessions are being planned as an alternative. An abundance of top-notch high schools and private day schools are eager to connect with our students, which makes finding the right high school a little easier for the Class of 2021. The IC administration and faculty play an integral part of helping students find the right fit for high school, fostered by strong working relationships with high school admissions teams and knowing the interests, academic strengths, and personality of every one of our students. An education at Immaculate Conception School lays the foundation for lifelong learning, showing compassion for others, and contributing to a community of caring people.

For more information about the IC and the benefits of a Catholic education, please visit icsnewburyport.com.

IC St. Vincent de Paul

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.

If you would like to donate to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, **please send checks payable to "Society of St. Vincent de Paul" to Immaculate Conception Church, 42 Green Street, Newburyport MA 01950.**

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