

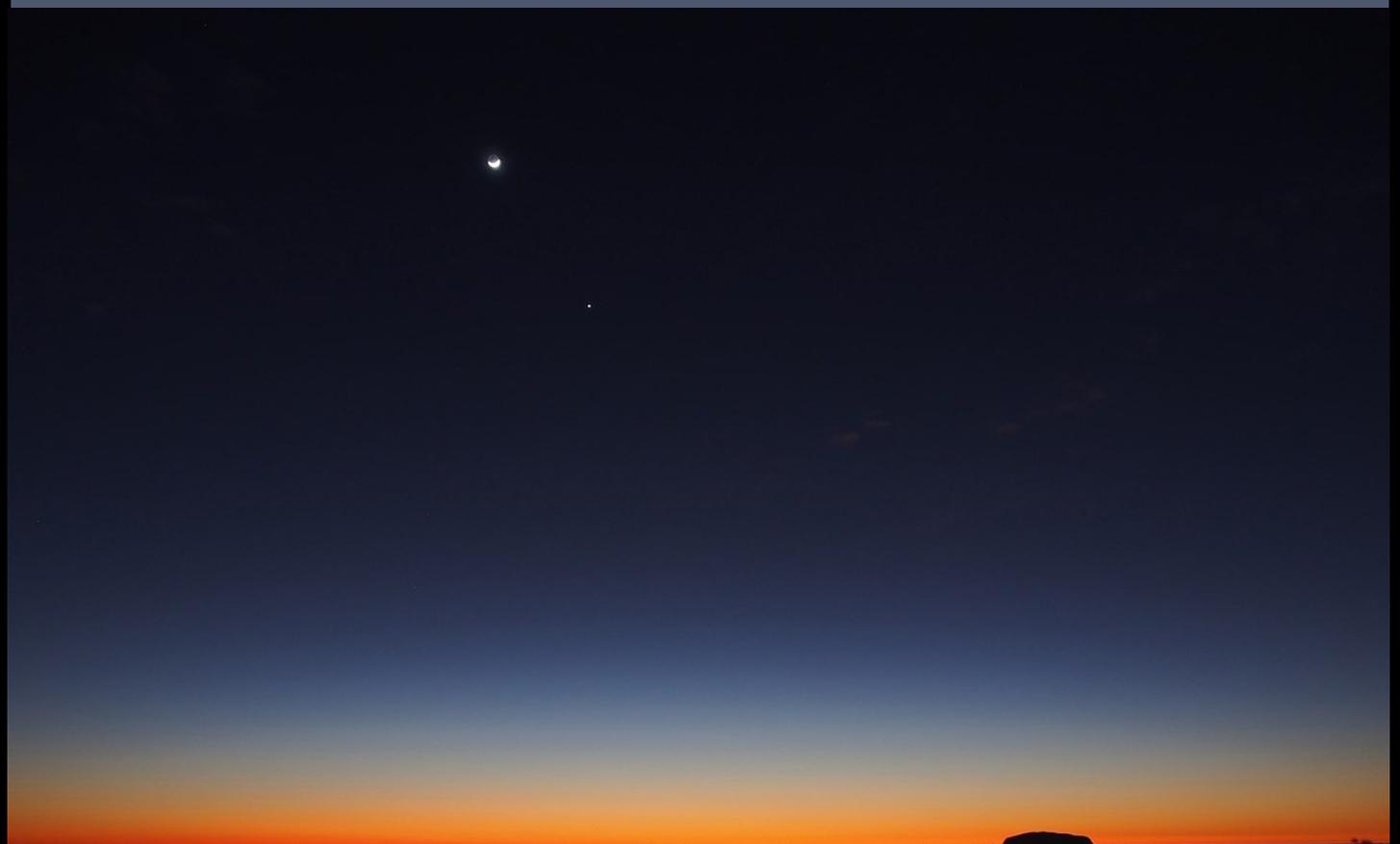
HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016

All Are Welcome



*"You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."
(Rom 13: 11-12)*

OUR COLLABORATIVE

Holy Redeemer Parish



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



Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950
Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am-3:30 pm
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,
Mary Reardon, Principal, Phone: 978-465-7780,
Fax: 978-234-7331, www.icsnewburyport.com



Collaborative Staff

Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604
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Parochial Vicar

Rev. George E. Morin,
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Rev. James Broderick

Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

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Drew Donahue, St. Ann Organist
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Michael Martin, IC Organist
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emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org

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Cliff Vandenbulcke, IC School Custodian
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cvandenbulcke@newburyportcatholic.org

St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Redeemer, 978-346-8604 x 8
hrsudp300@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

Website: hriccatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (11/26)

4:00pm **IC** *Robert W. Cynewski, Audrey Eusko*
(Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **Nativity** *Helen Noone* (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (11/27)

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

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

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

10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

11:30am **IC** *Elizabeth Clark, Kristen T. McGinley,
Louise & Charles MacLean, the Alice & George
Currier Family, Stephen Oldak* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Monday (11/28)

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

Tuesday (11/29)

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

Wednesday (11/30)

7:15am **IC** *William Belair, Miguel Martinez*
(Fr. Morin)

Thursday (12/1)

7:15am **IC**

Friday (12/2)

9:00am **Nativity** *Regina M. Stronge, For the
intentions of Dorothy and Ralph Franzese*

Saturday (12/3)

4:00pm **IC** *Bill Moore, Stephen M. Boy, Bob
Callahan, Ted LoPreste, The Gravallesse Family,
Albert & Mary Salerno, Angelo & Eleanor
Messina, For the intentions of Scott & Marilyn
Callahan*

4:00pm **Nativity**

Sunday (12/4)

7:15am **IC** *Bob MacKinnon*

8:00am **Nativity**

9:00am **IC** *Alice M. Peltier, Alice Wanjiru, Jim
Murphy, Helen Ebacher*

10:15am **St. Ann**

11:30am **IC** *Melva Heer, Jane Schneider,
Carol J. & Jim Murphy*

In your prayers, please remember Daniel J. Twomey, Paul F. Doyle, John J. Silva III, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

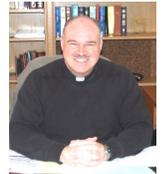
St. Ann—West Newbury

RCIA

RCIA is a program for those over the age of 7 who wish to become Catholic. RCIA meets weekly at 10:15 in the Youth Ministry Room at the IC Parish Center. If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact Marin at 978-462-2724 ext. 7411 or fortune@newburyportcatholic.org.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



I'm not really a morning person. One of the things that I don't like about being a priest is that so much happens in the morning: early morning Mass, morning meetings, the early start of our school, and occasional call to the hospital....

You would think by now, after 25 years of ministry, that I would be used to it all. Maybe that is why God invented coffee. Don't talk to me until I've had a cup or two....

In my spare time, I have enjoyed amateur photography as a hobby. My friends all make fun of me for all of the sunset pictures I've taken over the years. I've got gigabytes and gigabytes worth sitting on my hard drive. Some are truly postcard-worthy. Many are just archived because I cannot resist snapping away when the sun starts its daily dip toward the horizon. But I have so few sunrise pictures.

Again, maybe it is because I'm just not a morning person, but it may also have to do with what St. Paul refers to in his Letter to the Romans: the drowsiness our body clocks inflict on us. Particularly in these late fall days, sometimes it takes a small nuclear device to rouse many of us from our slumber to be about the start of our day in the pre-dawn darkness.

In many ways, this is precisely the experience of Advent. To be awake and struggling to see the light that will assuredly come on the horizon. To be cloaked in darkness, but eagerly seeking the light. To be waiting with anticipation for the first rays of the sun. When the sky begins its ever-so-subtle shift from pitch darkness to the very first hues of the deepest dark violet blue, we know that so much more is to come. When the sun finally bursts above the horizon, its dazzling display is enough to make even the grumpiest of us pause and smile. A new day brings new hope and the promise of new opportunities and life.

In the Church, this brief season of Advent reminds us that Christ is coming into the world. He is the light of the world, and as disciples, we must be watching and waiting for even the faintest glimpse of that light on the horizon. We cannot do that if we are slumbering. We must be awake and alert to welcome the dawn. To this end, we are invited at the beginning of Advent every year to examine how we are living our lives and whether there are any changes that need to be made to better welcome Christ when He comes. It's not simply a quick touch-up before Christmas, but an honest assessment of whether we are really ready to see the Lord when He returns. Advent has this two-fold character: to prepare for the celebration of Christ's first coming at Christmas, and to prepare for His Second Coming on a day and at a time we do not know.

(Continued on page 4)

Bulletin Information

Please supply bulletin information by Monday noon to the collaborative bulletin email: hricbulletin@gmail.com.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our website calendar for more events and details.

www.hricatholic.org

Monday, November 28

AA 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–6 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
Boy Scouts Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall
Merrimac Cub Scouts Den Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Lower Hall
IC PFC 7:00pm, IC School Library
Compassionate Friends 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

Tuesday, November 29

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Religious Ed., Grade 8 6:00pm, Nativity Hall
PPC Meeting 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Wednesday, November 30

Holy Quilters 3:00pm, Nativity Hall
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, December 1

HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Church Hall
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel
Advent Vespers Service 7:00pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, December 2

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
Ultreya 6:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall/St. James Chapel
AA 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Saturday, December 3

HR Grade 1 Activity Day 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
Nativity Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, Nativity Church

Sunday, December 4

Nativity Choir Rehearsal 7:45am, Nativity Church
HR Religious Ed., Grades 3–6 9:00am, Nativity Hall
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 9:45am, St. Ann Church
IC Religious Ed., Grades K–6 10:05am, IC Parish Center
RCIA 10:15am, IC Youth Ministry Room
Collaborative Baptism Class 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room
IC Religious Ed., Grades 7–8 1:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Scripture Study 2:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
Troop 21 Scout Meeting 4:25pm, IC School Cafeteria
HR Religious Ed., Grade 10 6:00pm, Nativity Church Hall

Parish Membership

Welcome all newcomers to our Collaborative! Parish Registration forms are available online at hricatholic.org.

Absent a clock, we know the dawn is at hand by the subtle shift of colors in the night sky. As Christians, we need to point out to our darkened world the sometimes understated or overlooked signs of Christ's loving and saving presence. These are never far from us, but they might need highlighting from time to time for the untrained eye. They include the gift of forgiveness among family members, the patience offered between spouses, the compassion shown to another who is suffering, the refusal to abandon hope in the face of one who is despairing, the gentle presence of a friend, the enduring example of daily prayer in the home, the little sacrifices made to help a neighbor, the generosity offered to overcome rudeness, an unwillingness to judge another, the extra effort made to see the good in one who struggles, the richness of love lavished on the one who needs a friend.

The dawning of Christ in our world will bring about as dramatic a transformation as the most vibrant sunrise ever could. But we must be awake to see and be part of it. Let's caffeine-load if we have to, but let's not miss out on the great joy and many blessings to be found in welcoming the Lord in our midst. And let's make sure not to keep this a secret among ourselves. Let's share this Good News with as many as we can, so that many more can look forward with joy to the coming of the Lord.

Advent Blessings to all,

Fr. Tim Harrison

Pastor

Cursillo/Ultreya

Cursillo is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love and joy into your daily life. The next Cursillo weekend is December 1–4 (men).

All are welcome. The next Ultreya is December 2 at 6:30 at IC St. Louis Hall. If you have questions, feel free to contact either Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

Celebrating the Sacraments

Reconciliation

IC: Saturdays: 3:00pm to 3:30pm or by appointment.

HR: Saturdays before the 4:00pm Mass or by appointment.

Baptism

Call the Parish Office for information and to register.

Marriage

Archdiocesan guidelines request that couples planning to marry in the Church contact the church at least six months prior to the wedding date.

Sacrament of the Sick

This Sacrament should not be seen as only administered when there is danger of death. Please call us if someone is in the hospital, so that we can visit the loved one and have the community pray for them.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Youth Mass

Our next Youth Mass is **Sunday, December 11 at 5:00pm** at Immaculate Conception Parish, Newburyport. **Donations at this Mass** will benefit the Pregnancy Care Center, Haverhill.

Everyone is invited. There will be a service learning experience after Mass until 7:30pm in St. Louis Hall for grades 7–12. We will be making shawls for new moms with the Pregnancy Care Center.

Suggested Donations for the Pregnancy Care Center (Cash donations welcome also)

Onesies (sizes S, M, & L)
 Blanket sleepers (sizes NB–24 mos.)
 New outfits (sizes 0–24 mos.)
 Children's socks (infant–24 mos.)
 Stretch sleeper/PJs (sizes NB–24 mos.)
 Diapers/Pampers (sizes 1, 3, 4, 5 [no size 2 please])
 Hooded bath towels & washcloths
 Crib sheets
 Baby blankets & receiving blankets
 Baby wipes & Desitin ointment
 Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby bath/shampoo, lotion, adult shampoo & conditioner, bar soap (regular size)
 Formula (Similac—Powdered)
 Baby food/juices
 Baby bottles
 Infant toys & books
 XL baby gift bags

Office Supplies

Staples or Walmart gift cards
 Copy paper (8 1/2 x 11 size, white, asst'd.)
 White address labels (size 1/2 x 2 5/8")
 Cover/card stock
 Postage stamps (Forever and postcard)

Bathroom/Kitchen needs

Liquid hand soap
 Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues
 Lg. garbage bags
 Ziploc bags (gallon & quart sizes)
 Kitchen-size trash bags
 Cans of coffee (regular)
 Bottled water
 Animal crackers (large containers or snack size)
 Snack crackers (Cheez-Its & Wheat Thins, snack size pkg)
 Light bulbs (75/100 watt & 3 way)

Youth Masses (5:00pm) for the year:

December 11	Immaculate Conception
January 22	Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity
March 12	Immaculate Conception
April 2	Holy Redeemer, Church of the Nativity
May 7	Immaculate Conception

Advent Vespers Service

Experience a prayer-filled hour in the tradition of the Church at Vespers.

Join us on Thursday, **December 1** and **Tuesday, December 13** from 7:00pm–8:00pm at IC's Parish Center.

Put some quietude into your Advent while entering into a Collaborative moment of prayer.

The theme of both evenings is "Waiting in Hope."

Thursday, December 1, the speaker will be Elizabeth McCarthy.

Tuesday, December 13, the speaker will be John Leary.

(Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team)

Questions of the Week

Adult: If you knew Jesus' second coming was going to occur next week, what would you change about your life today?

Child: How will you prepare for Jesus' coming during Advent?

Let Us Hear From You



Disciples in Mission
Archdiocese of Boston

- How can we foster a welcoming community?
- How do we form disciples eager to share their love of Christ?
- How can we assist in the growth of vocations?
- How can we better serve our communities and our Collaborative?

Please Join the Conversation. Contact Our Pastoral Plan Writing Team. We welcome your ideas and participation.

Disciples in Mission Pastoral Plan Writing Team Contacts

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pbfnbpt@comcast.net

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Alex Hasapis
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Dr. Margaret M. McKinnon (Dr. Mag)
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Rich Ryan
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rgryan@comcast.net

Charlotte Vincent
 978-462-9817
picharlie@comcast.net

EWTN: Catholic News

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

First Sunday  of Advent

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

DIM Resources of Interest

For further information on Disciples in Mission:

The New Evangelization:

www.disciplesinmission.com

Helping Catholic leaders build amazing parishes:

www.amazingparish.org

Four Signs of the Dynamic Catholic:

Author Matthew Kelly



Available at the back of each Church:

- Disciples in Mission - Frequently Asked Questions
- Evangelizing Parishes
- Forming Disciples in Mission: workshop schedule and locations
- The Pilot is available on our website - hricatholic.org

Women's Evening of Prayer

There will be a Women's Evening of Prayer on Wednesday, December 21 from 7:00pm–8:00pm in St. Ann's Church. Come take time with the Lord. We will have some readings, music, and quiet prayer and reflection time. All women of the collaborative parishes and friends are invited.

March for Life

The March for Life will be held in Washington, DC on Friday, January 27, 2017. If you are interested in taking part in the March, contact Steve Swochak, (978) 270-4924, swochak@netzero.net. More details will follow in the weeks to come.



Preparing for Mass

Visit <http://liturgy.slu.edu> to read this weekend's Scripture, historical and theological commentaries, and prayerful reflections. It is a great way to get ready to hear and respond to God's Word.

Collaborative Web Site

Visit hricatholic.org for information on Collaborative groups, religious ed., Mass times, events, and more.

Scripture for the Week

27	Sun	Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
28	Mon	Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
29	Tue	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
30	Wed	Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22
1	Thu	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
2	Fri	Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
3	Sat	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
4	Sun	Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

HOLY REDEEMER HOLIDAY FAIR

Fair Raffle Winners

The 2016 Holiday Fair was a huge success, making over \$10,000 for the Holy Redeemer Parish. Congratulations to our Raffle winners:

Arthur Bibeau,
Karen Christopher
Rita Stogryn

Thank you to everyone who donated, baked goodies, worked, and made soups. The popular crowd-pleasing soups this year were Shrimp Stir Fry made by John Mulvaney and Italian Sausage made by Bill Crouse.

Plans are underway for next year... save the date: Saturday, November 18, 2017!



Lunch, silent auction, shopping, gift baskets, raffles, and goodies: What a wonderful way to start the holiday season.



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

Next weekend's second collection is the monthly.

Outdoor Nativity Figurines Update



We are happy to say all but three outdoor Nativity figurines were chosen off the boards to be donated by our families of Holy Redeemer.

But, only three figurine pictures and checks have been returned so far. We can't order the figurines or arrange installations at the churches until we know we can pay for them. We are concerned that we will not receive the Nativity sets by Christmas.

Please, if you took a picture of a figurine, return the picture and your check ASAP. Drop the envelope with the picture and your check in the collection basket, hand it to Father, mail to 4 Green St., Merrimac 01860 or call Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072.

HR St. Vincent de Paul

With your support, our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference has been able to deliver turkey dinners to 15 local families. Thank you very much.

If you are writing a check for us, please write the check to HR Saint Vincent de Paul. That will help expedite our banking.



Holy Redeemer Giving Trees



The Giving Trees, which will be placed in both churches at the beginning of Advent, help us aid area programs for people in need during the Christmas season.

We are currently giving to five programs: Emmaus, Inc., Haverhill, The Holiday Helper Program for the Pentucket Area, Pregnancy Care Center, Haverhill and Newburyport areas, Lazarus House Ministries, Lawrence, and our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Some of the tags on the trees are for specific items that the groups are requesting, including toys, clothing, and food pantry items. Please return the **unwrapped** gifts with the tags to the churches by the weekend of **December 10-11**. This allows time for us to deliver them to the programs to be distributed in time for Christmas.

We ask if you take a tag and can't find the specific item, that you either return the tag to the tree as soon as possible or consider a gift card. Thank you for all your generosity in the past, present, and future. Please call Dottie Carr 978-363-2909 with questions.

HR Religious Education

Tuesday, November 29

Grade 8 class, 6-7:30pm, Merrimac

Saturday, December 3

Grade 1 Activity Day, beginning at 1:00pm in Merrimac. The parish provides water and juice boxes. Snacks would be appreciated. Please plan on attending the 4:00pm Mass with your family; it concludes our day.

New Email Address

The Office of Religious Education at Holy Redeemer has a new email address. Please change it in your contacts: reledhrp@gmail.com.

HR Parish Planning Study

We have been conducting a Parish-wide Planning Study to formulate a strategy for addressing some needed improvements to our parish facilities. Both St. Ann's Church and the Church of the Nativity have a number of deferred maintenance issues and other possible projects that need our attention.

Careful consideration and thoughtful planning is required for us to move forward. This is why **input from our parishioners is of the utmost importance at this time**. Your opinions and suggestions will enable us to formulate a final plan that will help meet the needs of our entire parish.

Every registered household has already been mailed a questionnaire so this study would include your valued input. The survey form is strictly confidential and no names will be attributed to any direct or indirect quotes. Please complete and return the questionnaire within 10 days. You may mail it to Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, 01860, place it in the collection at Mass, or drop it off at the parish office in Merrimac.

The questionnaire is also available on-line at our parish website: www.hriccatholic.org. Please make every effort to participate in the survey process so that we may complete this study with your open and honest input.

Thank you for your continued support.

HR Prayer Shawl

Would you like to help those in need this winter without it costing you anything? Come join us at 1:00pm on **Thursday, December 1**, at Nativity Hall in Merrimac. We will knit/crochet hats, scarves, and mittens for Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, the group supported by our Parish youth. We will provide yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks, and patterns. We can even teach you to knit/crochet. Can't make it on December 1? Gather your own group at a time convenient for you, give us a call, and we'll provide you with everything you'll need.

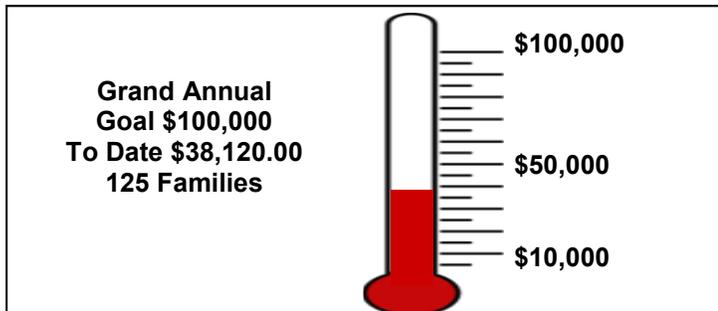


If you need information or a blessed prayer shawl, they are free, please call Helen Kelley, 978-771-4673, Connie Cormier, 978-363-2020, Terry Duhamel 978-384-8099.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

The second collection this weekend is the Restoration/Renovation. The second collection next weekend is also the Restoration/Renovation.



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Poor Box	\$ 146.00
Collection	\$ 5.00
Total	\$ 151.00

Community Service of Newburyport

During the month of November, Immaculate Conception Church is collecting food for the pantry at Community Service. Any non-perishable food and personal care products would be greatly appreciated. They especially need spaghetti sauce, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, coffee, cookies, and crackers. Please check the expiration dates on these products. Personal care products that are needed include shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, and toilet paper. Please leave the items in the church foyer. Thank you for your generosity.

The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild or sibling—any age, any cause.



Our monthly support meetings are held in Room 209 of the IC Parish Center at 7:30–9:00pm on the fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is November 28.

We host an Annual Memorial Candle Lighting on the second Sunday of December. This year it will be Sunday, December 11 from 7:00–8:00pm, followed by refreshments and an optional discussion. The candle lighting event will be held at TCF chapter leader Barbara Hopkinson's home, 64 Northern Blvd, Plum Island, Newbury. 978-697-1349 or barhop@comcast.net for questions.

Immaculate Conception School



Dear Friends,

The Christmas season is officially underway, and I can feel the spirit all around me. Nowhere is this spirit blazing more brightly than among the many volunteers who come together to prepare for our annual North Pole

Express (NPE), taking place this Saturday, December 3rd.

For sixteen years, the Immaculate Conception School (IC) has produced this spectacular event. Over 350 volunteers including teachers, faculty, students and parents, alumni and local residents join together, giving their time and talents to create the enchanting atmosphere that brings families back year after year.

Father Tim and I will be among the 35 “readers” sharing the story of the *The Night Before Christmas* to the over 3,700 riders on their way to the North Pole. Two hundred and fifty gallons of cocoa will be prepared and distributed by 105 food servers. Other volunteers include 35 conductors, 30 merchandise salespeople, 30 platform managers, 32 decorators, 30 ticket scanners, 3 musicians, 3 sound technicians, 35 cleaners, 8 characters and 75 elves! This event requires approximately 7,000 volunteer hours—a remarkable example of how our community comes together in love and spirit.

The proceeds from this event, along with the generous donations of our school sponsors and in-kind contribution, help to defray the cost of tuition for students attending the IC. We are so grateful for this support.

I want to thank everyone for their commitment of time, talent, and enthusiasm, especially Tara McQuaid and Bianca Riethmueller, chairs of this event. The North Pole Express is a truly magical experience for children and parents alike!

Sincerely, Mary Reardon, Principal

Upcoming Events

Tuesday Tours ~ IC school tours, including classroom visits, second Tuesday of each month, 9:00–11:00 a.m. Call Mrs. Kelley Pappalardo at (978) 465-7780.

Open House ~ Sunday, January 29, 12:30–2:00 p.m.

Fashion Show ~ Sunday, March 5, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

135th Gala ~ Friday, May 19, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

IC School Calendar Sale

It's that time of year again! Immaculate Conception School will be selling Holiday Calendars after IC Masses for \$10 each. Each calendar gives individuals 40 chances to win a total of \$5,000 in cash prizes. Beginning Christmas Eve through February 1, daily winners are randomly chosen to receive cash prizes of \$100, \$200, \$300, or \$400. Participants can win as often as their number is drawn. The names of the winners will be announced in the Communicator and the Parish bulletin. The school will also contact each winner directly.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

New England Tenors

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Immaculate Conception will sponsor an upcoming concert. The New England Tenors will be performing at IC Church on Sunday, November 27 at 2:00pm. Don't miss these talented tenors. As in past years, they will be sharing the program with some of our IC choirs. Hopefully we will have some surprise guests joining the choirs.



Tickets will be on sale at the door. Make plans to begin the Advent and Christmas season with joyful harmony.

Newburyport App/ VIP Card Fundraiser

The Newburyport App/VIP Card is the perfect Christmas Gift, and is a great way to save on your Christmas shopping expenses. What is the Newburyport VIP Card & Mobile App? It's a local loyalty program that gives you discounts **every time** you visit the 180 Greater Newburyport participating local businesses, it helps raise money for Immaculate Conception Church, and it drives business to our local small business owners. The Newburyport App allows users to view discounts and display their VIP Card on Apple and Android devices.

Purchase a VIP Card for \$25 and \$10 of your purchase is donated to Immaculate Conception Church. View discounts at <https://www.newburyport.com/newburyport-vip/> or by downloading the "Newburyport" App. You can purchase the VIP Card/ Newburyport App directly through the "Newburyport" App, online at <https://www.newburyport.com/immaculate-conception-church/> or after all Masses the weekend of December 3 and 4.

If you have questions or would like help downloading the App, contact VIPcard@Newburyport.com.



IC Knitting Ministry

We meet every Tuesday from 1:00–3:00pm at the IC Parish Center, Room 209 to knit prayer shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves for the sick and their caregivers and to celebrate happy occasions. We have made and distributed hats and scarves to the hundreds of homeless children in our area. Come help us keep these boys and girls warm this winter and to send joy to our friends experiencing illness. Membership is open to all. No experience necessary. If you know anyone who needs a prayer shawl or for more information, call Frances Ronan, 978-462-4972 or Julia O'Connor, 978-465-3350.

IC Christmas Flowers

We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for the church for the Christmas season. You can find envelopes in the IC church for your donations. It is helpful if you do not have flowers delivered to the church but allow us to purchase them. The deadline for donations is **December 12 by noon**.

IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

Pope Francis released the Exhortation on the Family. In the weeks to come, you will be introduced to various statements from the Holy Father.

Jesus Restores and Fulfills God's Plan—In #66—"The covenant of love and fidelity lived by the Holy Family of Nazareth illuminate the principle which gives shape to every family, and enables it better to face the vicissitudes of life and history. On this basis, every family, despite its weakness, can become a light in the darkness of the world. Nazareth teaches us the meaning of family life, its loving communion, its simple and austere beauty, its sacred and inviolable character. May it teach how sweet and irreplaceable is its training, how fundamental and incomparable its role in the social order (Paul VI, Address in Nazareth, 5 January 1964).

Religious Education Classes

School Year Registration is ongoing. Class: 11/28.

No class on Nov 27—Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Grades K–6: Next classes: 12/4 and 12/5.

Grades 7–8: Next class: 12/4.

Baptism

Baptism info: <http://www.hriccatholic.org/Baptism>

Dec. 4 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm

Dec. 11 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

The next Confirmation sessions are:

- Sunday, December 11 following the 5:00pm Youth Mass in the hall—making shawls for new moms with Pregnancy Care Center.
- Sunday, January 29 from 3:00-5:00pm in the Church for Years 1 and 2. The candidate and his/her sponsor, parent, or another adult are to attend the session.

Forgive Offenses Willingly

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph 4: 31-32).

The Our Father is an incredibly powerful prayer. It is also full of wisdom. Pray it slowly, and let the words "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" sink deep into your heart.

Fr. James Mallon...Scandalous Mercy

When we receive mercy, we are filled with mercy and will be merciful. There is no shortcut. The key to being free of hurt, resentment, bitterness, and unforgiveness, the key to living out the spiritual work of mercy of forgiving all injuries is to cry out to God for mercy for our own sins and to experience the scandalous, unjust, lavish, outrageous mercy of God. When we experience this at the depth of our being it will utterly transform us. Our attempts to hold on to past grievances and harden our hearts to those who have caused us injury will seem to be mere comedy. Indeed, when we contemplate our injuries and those who inflicted them upon us, we see that some may still be inexcusable, but none will be unforgiveable. (*Beautiful Mercy: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love so we can share it with Others*, Dynamic Catholic, pp. 151, 155-156).