

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

[hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org)

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 8, 2019**



*“On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.” (Is 11:1)*

*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](mailto: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](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

### Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:

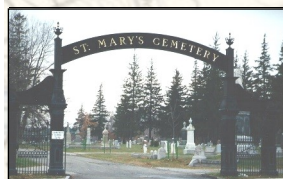
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Phone: 978-462-2724**

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: [info@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto: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](http://www.icsnewburyport.com)



## Collaborative Staff

#### Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
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#### Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

#### Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

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Cliff Vandenbulcke, IC School Custodian  
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#### St. Vincent de Paul

Saint Vincent de Paul Society at  
Holy Redeemer  
978-346-8604 x 8  
[hsvdp300@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:joeviel@comcast.net)

#### Online

Website: [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org)

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

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

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

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (12/7)

4:00pm **IC** *Millie Groleau, Robert Auwerda, Ernest Penta, For the intentions of Terry Mostero,*  
(Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

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

### Sunday (12/8)

7:15am **IC** *Richard Ciaburri, Elizabeth Perkins*  
(Fr. Morin)

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

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

10:15am **St. Ann** *For a Special Intention*

(Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

11:30am **IC** *Lena Filomia, Bridget Mary Bennett*  
(Fr. McLaughlin)

### Monday (12/9) Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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

9:00am **IC School Liturgy** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

### Tuesday (12/10)

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

### Wednesday (12/11)

7:15am **IC** *For a Special Intention* (Fr. Morin)

### Thursday (12/12)

7:15am **IC** *Regina M. Stronge* (Fr. Morin)

### Friday (12/13)

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

### Saturday (12/14)

4:00pm **IC** *Carmella Herlihy* (Fr. Morin)

4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

### Sunday (12/15)

7:15am **IC** *Ted LoPreste, Stephen Messina, Mary & Albert Salerno* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

9:00am **IC** *Deacon Thomas Reilly, Marcello Angeloni, James Leonard* (Fr. Harrison)

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

11:30am **IC** *Lena Charles, For the intentions of those recently married* (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Jennifer Palermo, Yolanda Collins, Gayden Marshall, and all the faithful departed.

**The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.**

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

## Additional Times for Reconciliation during Advent

Additional times for Confessions are available for you during Advent. What a wonderful way to prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas.

IC on Wednesday, December 11, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

St. Ann on Thursday, December 12, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

IC on Wednesday, December 18, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Nativity on Thursday December 19, 6:00–7:30 p.m.



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## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Over the years, we have probably all encountered the phrase, "Hope springs eternal." It encompasses the enduring human resiliency that even when faced with what appears to be utter defeat and destruction, there can arise at any moment, a new movement to life and restoration. This cycle of life coming from death is played out in nature over and over again with our seasonal shifts in weather and climate as well as in our most treasured storytelling, myths, and legends. All one needs to do is dabble in any of the Star Wars movies for the archetypes and characters to embody this recurring theme. Think: Luke Skywalker coming out of the obscurity of Tatooine to become a Jedi Knight and fight the evil empire! Add some popcorn and special effects and you have every making of an epic journey worthy of standing up to any of the classics that helped inspire it from generations before.

In some ways, it is the story of the Savior as well. Echoed in Isaiah's prophecy, "On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom," (Is 11:1) Jesus is the One who would come from the most humble and uninteresting of origins akin to a dead tree stump to become the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Mighty God and Holy One...Nazareth in Jesus' time was a dead end. As Nathanael once said to Philip, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (Jn 1:46) Overshadowed by the nearby Roman trading and cultural center of Zephoris, Nazareth was a humble abode by any standards. Yet God chose this tiny hamlet to be the hometown of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—a place where the simple holiness of daily life would be the perfect environment for the Son of God would grow and became strong, become filled with wisdom; and the favor of God would be upon Him. (see Lk 2:40)

Humble beginnings for something, someone great. Maybe when we look around at our lives, we can relate to Nazareth, Tatooine, and the many other places that embody dead ends and lost causes, failures, and missed opportunities. Maybe we don't see much happening or the reasons to think

(Continued on page 4)



## Christmas Mass Schedule for the Collaborative

### Christmas Eve Masses

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

4:00pm Immaculate Conception

4:00pm Immaculate Conception School Gym

4:00pm St. Ann

4:00pm Nativity

6:00pm Immaculate Conception

6:00pm Nativity

### Christmas Day Masses

12:00midnight Immaculate Conception

8:00am Immaculate Conception

8:00am Nativity

10:00am Immaculate Conception

10:15am St. Ann





## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### This Week in Our Collaborative

#### Monday, December 9

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

**Discipleship Priority Meeting** 6:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

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

#### Tuesday, December 10

**IC Knitting Ministry** 1:00pm, IC Conference Rm. 209

**Breaking Bread Meal** 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

**IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting** 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

**IC Family Day Planning Meeting** 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

**Advent Vespers** 7:00pm, St. Ann Church

**HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting** 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

**Knights of Columbus** 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library

#### Wednesday, December 11

**HR Sandwich Program** 9:00am, St. Ann Hall

**Holy Jammers Practice** 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209

**Holy Quilters** 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

**IC Youth Choir Rehearsal** 4:30pm, IC Church

**Adoration** 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel

**Centering Prayer** 6:00pm, IC Conference Room 209

**IC Faith Formation Reconciliation Parent/Child Mtg.** 6:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall/IC Church

**IC Choir Rehearsal** 7:00pm, IC Church

**Women's Evening of Prayer** 7:00pm, St. Ann Church

#### Thursday, December 12

**Reunion Prayer Group** 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209

**Rosary for Life** 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel

**Reunion Prayer Group** 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

#### Friday, December 13

**Adoration** 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

**IC Faculty Advent Luncheon** 12:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

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

#### Saturday, December 14

**Holy Quilters** 8:00am, Nativity Hall

**IC Faith Formation First Penance** 11:00am, IC Church

**Nativity Choir Rehearsal** 3:30pm, Nativity Church

#### Sunday, December 15

**Nativity Choir Rehearsal** 7:45am, Nativity Church

**HR Faith Formation** 9:00am, Nativity Hall

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

**HR Faith Formation** 11:15am, St. Ann Hall

*(Continued from page 3)*

anything will change any time soon. I would like to suggest this Advent, in the midst of our Podunk-ness, that we pause to consider our long history with the God of the Universe and just what the Lord is capable of doing, has done, and has promised to do for us through Jesus Christ. The phrase, "hope springs eternal" barely hints at the sheer drama of what we have been personally invited into by the saving action of Jesus Christ.

Consider the facts: The God of the Universe created everything out of love. He created the human race for His personal delight, making us little less than gods ourselves, the highest expression of Creation because we were made in the image of the Creator. Though through our misuse of the gift of free will we had sinned and abandoned God, the Lord reached out to us over and over again through the prophets and offered us a covenant that gave us hope. Ultimately, God sent His only Son to be born among us, like us in all things but sin. He would live with us, laugh with us, dance with us, and ultimately would give his life for us on the Cross so that we might be with Him forever in Heaven. All that, just for us. All that from a place, which like Bethlehem, that was barely on a map. All that from what outward appearances would indicate was "no-whereville."

The lesson for us is simple: God works powerfully and purposefully where we least expect Him to, at a time and in a place that no one thinks any good will come from, among the people and in the situations that the world has written off and ignored as insignificant and unimportant. There: hope springs anew...to eternity!

This Advent, may we open our eyes and hearts to what God is accomplishing in our midst for the salvation of all.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

### Winter Weather Mass Cancellations

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

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

### A Festival of Lessons & Carols

*Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.*

Merrimack College, Rogers Center for the Arts, 315 Turnpike Street. North Andover

As we journey through the quiet of Advent toward the Feast of Christmas, Lessons & Carols is a poignant way to pause and mark this important time of the year. **Free and open to the public.**

### San Marcos Christmas Coffee Sale December 14-15

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase after all collaborative Masses on December 14-15. 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.

Call Karen Finnegan with questions (978-465-4173).

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Scripture Readings

December 8–15, 2019

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

- Sunday, Dec 8: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12
- Monday, Dec 9: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
- Tuesday, Dec 10: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96; Matthew 18:12-14
- Wednesday, Dec 11: Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103; Matthew 11:28-30
- Thursday, Dec 12: Zechariah 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38
- Friday, Dec 13: Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday, Dec 14: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday, Dec. 15: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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



## Centering Prayer for Advent

As the days shorten and we enter the darkest season of the year we light advent candles and anticipate the coming of our Savior, Jesus, the light of the world. In the busyness of preparing for Christmas we may miss the gifts of Advent. Waiting with trust in God's promise of love that saves, deepens our faith and we become people of true hope who loved by God are able to love.

During Advent consider joining us weekly for Centering Prayer. As we enter the silence of God's love we assent to God's presence and action within us. We say "Yes" to His invitation to be transformed into people of true hope. Simply resting in God in silence, we surrender and come to know in our hearts God's unmerited, unconditional love for us and transformed by this grace we can share His love in daily life.

Centering prayer is a practice and a discipline. Daily periods of silent prayer shift focus from self to God. As God becomes the center of our being the vicissitudes and storms of life affect us less. Living out of God as our Center we experience the peace the world cannot give.

Please consider leaving the noise of world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday from 6:00–7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 209 of the IC Parish Center. Following Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and share reflections on the words of scripture.

All are welcome to join us as we pray in these ancient Christian traditions and together prepare this Advent to welcome God's gift of His son Immanuel, *God with us*, into our hearts and our lives.

For more information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978 462-7483

## Collaborative Parishioners awarded Cheverus Medal

**Sue Noyes** of Holy Redeemer and **Steve Swochak** of Immaculate Conception were awarded the Cheverus Medal by Cardinal Sean O'Malley at a daytime prayer service at Holy Cross Cathedral on November 24.

Introduced in 2008 at the end of the Boston Archdiocese's bicentennial year, this yearly award ceremony recognizes local Catholics for their dedicated service to the Church.

Recipients are nominated by their pastor and ultimately approved by Cardinal O'Malley. The criteria establishes that the nominee be a layperson who has served the parish over an extended period of time and has done so in a quiet, humble, and often, unrecognized fashion.

The medal is named for Boston's founding bishop, Jean-Louis Lefebvre de Cheverus, who led the diocese from 1808 until his return to France in 1824. The silver medal, with an image of Bishop Cheverus, includes the Bishop's coat of arms on the reverse side with the motto "diligamus nos invicem" (let us love one another) "The Cheverus Medals are a way...that we say thank you to God and thank you to our brothers and sisters in the household of faith," Cardinal O'Malley said.

**Steve Swochak**, Coordinator of Music Ministry, at IC, is a familiar face. parish. Steve and his wife Julie live in Salisbury and worship at Immaculate Conception. Steve can be found playing guitar at the 9:00am Mass, participating and leading the Youth Choir in the monthly IC School liturgies, being a cantor at funerals and weekly liturgy, and singing in the adult choir. His unfailing dedication to the Church, his infectious smile, and his willingness to help others are his hallmark traits.



**Susan Noyes**, is a selfless volunteer who trains and schedules the lectors and Extraordinary Ministers for Holy Redeemer throughout the year. Ready to step in wherever she is needed, she has been a good friend to Father Drew Christiansen who helps with Easter and Christmas Masses. A generous, caring, and humble person, she genuinely serves the parish and the Church with great love. Sue and her husband Jim live in West Newbury and are parishioners at St. Ann.

"Although this was an easy decision to recommend Sue and Steve to the Cardinal for recognition, there are so many other generous parishioners who also serve the parishes of our Collaborative with distinction," said Fr. Tim. "I look forward to celebrating their many gifts of service in the months ahead as well." In recent years, Loretta Haley from Immaculate Conception Parish and Cindy Quinn from Holy Redeemer Parish have also received the Cheverus Medal, honoring the many ways they serve their respective parishes. It is a true blessing for our Collaborative to be served by such humble, joyful, and faith-filled individuals.

Congratulations Sue and Steve!



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## CORI Update

### Have you filled out your CORI for 2020?

The Archdiocese of Boston requires all parish volunteers to fill out a CORI every year, even if you filled out one last year. Now is the time to fill out your CORI for 2020. If you have not filled out your 2020 CORI yet, look for Deacon Paul or Maureen after Mass and they can help you fill it out right then. All you need is your ID and they will help you take care of the rest.



Look for Deacon Paul and Maureen after Masses.

## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** In your own sphere of influence, what situations call out for justice and peace? What can you do about them this week?

**Child:** What would the world be like if everyone did what God wanted us to do?

## Cursillo and Ultreya

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

Each month, we gather for an "Ultreya" (onward!) evening of Liturgy, sharing, food, and fellowship at 6:30pm in St. James Chapel and IC Charity Dining Room to continue the Cursillo spirit. All are welcome. For more information, contact Dave & Kelly Colby.

### Cursillo Weekends

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

### Ultreya Evenings

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

## L'Arche Boston Open House

Come and celebrate the beginning of the festive season with your neighbors in the only L'Arche community in New England. Join us on Saturday, December 14, from 1–3 p.m. at Pat House, 9 Valley Street, Merrimac.

## Women's Evening of Prayer



The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be Wednesday, **December 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Ann Church. All women of the collaborative are invited to this evening of prayer and song. Invite your friends.

## Feast of the Holy Family Open House

Feast on 50+ scenes representing manglers from around the world.

Invite friends & family to this **free** event.

Browse religious treasures at our "Bethlehem Boutique & Book Nook."

Linger for refreshments, an in-house scavenger hunt, and door prizes.

**Date:** Sunday, December 29

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

**Time:** 1:00–4:00 p.m.

{Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team}



## Holy Family Open House

Would you loan us your Nativity to display for 3 hours on the Feast of the Holy Family? Last year, 56 manger scenes—owned by parishioners—were showcased at Nativity Hall. Let's do it again! Please note: your manger must have a space **reservation**, so that we can prepare your space for you. Please call 978-462-6191.

Manger drop off: 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 28. Pick up: Sunday, December 29 at 4:00 p.m.

{Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team}

## Advent Vespers Service



Give yourself the gift of an hour to slow down and reflect on Advent's message of anticipation. Engage in traditional Western antiphonal prayer in the presence of Eastern icons that illuminate the eye and expand the soul. A different theme both evenings, so come to both!

**Dates:** Tuesdays, December 10 & 17

**Presenters:** Rev. George E. Morin and Mary Schmidt

**Place:** St. Ann Church, Route 113, West Newbury

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

**Admission:** Free

{Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team}

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# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, Nov. 23–24	\$8,524.00
Retired Religious	\$3,205.00
Offertory Nov. 30–Dec. 1	\$8,810.00
Ongoing Maintenance	\$1,743.00

The second collection this weekend is the Monthly.

The second collection next weekend is IC-Haiti. **Please make checks payable to IC-Haiti.**

IC Grand Annual  
Goal \$100,000  
To Date \$46,118.00



## The Compassionate Friends

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

Our Annual **Candle Lighting** (part of TCF Global Memorial) is **Sunday, December 8, 7:00–8:00 p.m.** at 64 Northern Blvd, Plum Island, Newbury, led by Mel Yell. It is for those who have lost a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age/cause. Please arrive at 6:45. Memorial will include readings, music, and a Memory Tree. Please bring a photo of your loved one, a candle, and an ornament to hang. Extra candles and ornaments will be provided as well as light snacks.

## Free Hair Cuts

Donna Koen, a parishioner and licensed hairdresser of over 30 years, is offering free hair cuts to anyone in need. She is willing to travel to your home. Her number is (978) 998-9219. This is a service she has been offering for years for the Newburyport Housing Authority, Salvation Army, and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

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

## Troop 21 Boy Scout Blood Drive

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

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

## Immaculate Conception School



Give the gift of an Immaculate Conception School education this Christmas! We inspire our students to serve the Lord, the community as we cultivate leadership qualities. Come take a tour to see our saints and scholars in action. Contact the IC at 978-465-7780.



Leadership Team Grades 6–8

## Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, December 10** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

If you are interested in helping those in need, serving our parish, growing in faith, obtaining exclusive access to top-rated insurance protections for you or your family, or just connecting with other Catholic men, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you. We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at [membership@kofc231.org](mailto:membership@kofc231.org).

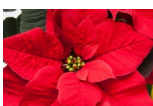
## IC Knitting Ministry



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

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

## Christmas Flower Envelopes



We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for the church for Christmas. You can find the flower envelope in your envelope packet or in the back of the church. It is helpful if you do not have flowers delivered to the church but allow us to purchase them. The deadline for donations is **Monday, December 9 at noon**.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Haiti Update

Thanks to the artistic creativity and thoughtful initiative of Alyson Rose, a recent graduate of the IC grammar school, and to the generosity of her family and fellow parishioners, the sale of her cards depicting our church building raised \$3265 for IC Haiti. Other students from IC have also made significant financial contributions during this past year through their cookie sale and lemonade stand. The IC school community can be most proud of these students who have inspired us all by their efforts to care for their “unseen” brothers and sisters in Haiti.

This past month, IC Haiti funded school transportation during the 2019–2020 school year for graduates of the Fr. Marc Piché Immaculate Conception elementary school



(K–6) to attend 7th and 8th grade classes in Fond des Blancs. We received the following note from Conor Shapiro, CEO of Health Equity International (formerly St. Boniface Haiti Foundation) which serves as our conduit to the school community in Haiti:

*“Your continued support makes a tremendous difference in the lives of the children and teachers at the Fr. Marc Piché School in Chacha. Thanks to this generous gift, children in Fond des Blancs will no longer have to walk for miles each day to attend school. For these children, your gift means more time with their families, more time to study, and more time to play. Your support drives this vital work – thank you.”*

The final collection this year for IC Haiti will take place the weekend of December 14–15. We thank you in advance for your continued generosity and support for our mission to the community of Puit Chacha, Haiti.

## Wanted: Cooks

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

Contact: Bunny Chiasson, 978-465-5810.

## IC Faith Formation

### School Year Programs

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

### Confirmation

The next Confirmation Prep class for **Year 1** (Grade 9) will be held this Sunday, December 8 from 1:00–2:30 p.m.

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

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

### Baptism Dates to Remember

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

### First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

A meeting for both parents and children to attend regarding Reconciliation is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 11** at 6:30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.

Our Group Reconciliation service here at IC is planned for **Saturday, December 14** at 11:00 a.m.

## IC Children's Mass

Last month's re-introduction of the Children's Mass was a great success. Our next Children's Mass will be at the **9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 8**.

Children's Masses will occur whenever there is K–8 Grade Faith Formation at the Parish (typically twice a month). Masses include kid-friendly music from the Children's Choir, an opportunity to sit on the altar steps during the kid-friendly homily, and opportunities for them to serve as gift bearers and ushers. Please also consider bringing a **canned-food good** for your child to bring to the altar as donation to the local food pantry during the Offertory.

## SVdP Advent Project

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



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## HR Offertory Collection

Offertory Nov. 23–24      \$3,154.00  
Retired Religious      \$1,087.00

The Second collection **this** weekend is the monthly.

HR Grand Annual  
Goal \$25,000  
To Date \$15,413.00



## Cookies for Okinawa



We will be sending your homemade Christmas cookies to the Marines stationed in Okinawa this year for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please package 12 cookies in each quart-size Ziploc bag and label the cookie type. We will also package up any Christmas cards or notes of good cheer you may want to send along.

Volunteers will be packaging the cookies today **Sunday, December 8, at 1:30 in Nativity hall**. Bring your cookies to us and we will include them in our packages.

## HR Sandwich Program

The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 150 sandwiches are needed each day. **Large** containers of coffee, adobo, and minced garlic are needed. Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury, from 7:00–9:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, December 11**.



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

See the Collaborative calendar at [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org) for the schedule. If you have questions please contact Dottie Carr at 978-363-2909.

## Youth Choir

**Calling all singers and bell players!**



St. Ann is forming a youth choir (grades K–8) to play the bells and sing at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

Please contact Robin Plisinski, if your child is interested.

## St. Ann Christmas Decorating

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

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

## HR Faith Formation

### School Year Programs

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

### First Reconciliation/First Eucharist

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

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

### Baptism Dates to Remember

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

### Confirmation Prep Classes

**Year 1** (Grade 9) classes have begun. The next class is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 in the Nativity Church Hall beginning at 6:30 (6:30–8).

**Year 2** (Grade 10) class will meet this Sunday (December 8) from 6–7:30 also in the Nativity Church Hall. Registration forms can be brought to class if you have not yet registered. Please remember an adult does need to accompany the candidate.

## HR Holiday Fair Raffle Ticket Winners

\$500 winner: Debbie Noel

\$300 winner: Tammy St. James

\$200 winner: O'Friel family

## Holy Redeemer Giving Trees

The Giving Trees are placed in the churches at the beginning of Advent to help us aid area programs for people in need during the Christmas season. We are currently giving to five programs: Emmaus, Inc. in Haverhill, The Holiday Helper Program for the Pentucket Area, Pregnancy Care Center in Haverhill and Newburyport areas, Lazarus House Ministries in 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 and clothing. Please return the **unwrapped** gifts with the tags to the churches by the weekend of **December 15**. This allows time for us to deliver them to the programs for distribution in time for Christmas. We would ask if you take a tag and can't find the specific item that you either return the tag as soon as possible or consider getting a gift card. Thank you for all your generosity in the past, present, and future! If you have any questions, please call Dottie Carr [978-363-2909](tel:978-363-2909).