

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

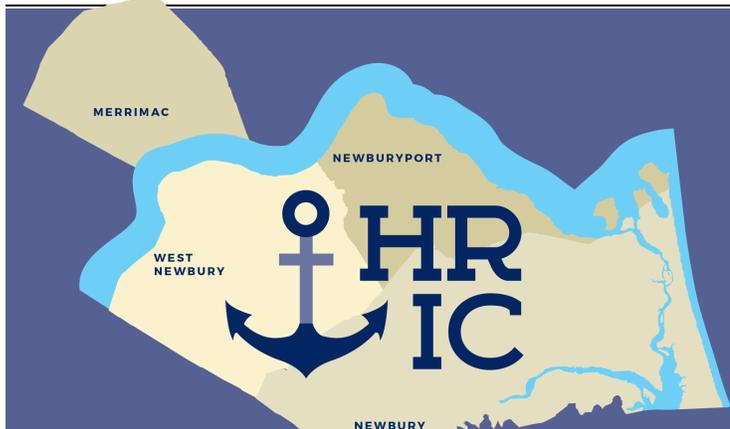
*“John the Baptist
appeared in the desert
proclaiming a baptism
of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.”*

(Mk. 1:4)

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome

Statue of St. John the Baptist from the Baptistry of the Basilica of St. Paul
(Outside the Walls in Rome)



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

“Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters...”

St. Ann

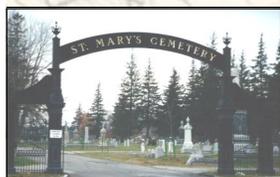
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

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 8:00 a.m.-3:30 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

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St. Vincent de Paul

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St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Immaculate Conception
978-518-0728

St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266
joeviel@comcast.net

www.hricatholic.org

 [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/9)

4:00 pm **IC** *William Lindquist, Ted LoPreste, Jane Connor, Joel Taplin* (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (12/10)

7:15am **IC** *Paul & Rita Clifford, Bob & Ursula Frackiewicz, Virginia Stanley, Rita M. LaFlamme* (Fr. McLaughlin)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
9:00am **IC** *Liza Mataac Dodson, Dick Phillips, Roderick Macdonald, Rita M. LaFlamme, Marie A. Burke* (Fr. Broderick)
10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
11:30am **IC** *Lena Filomia, Lena Charles, Harry Thumser* (Fr. Harrison)
5:00pm **IC Youth Mass** (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (12/11)

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

Tuesday (12/12)

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

Wednesday (12/13)

7:15am **IC** *Fr. Marc A. Piché* (Fr. Morin)

Thursday (12/14)

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

Friday (12/15)

9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
10:30am **Port Rehab** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (12/16)

4:00pm **IC** *Mr. & Mrs. Soon Ki Hong, Edith F. Charest* (Bishop Hennessey)
4:00pm **St. Ann** *Ann LaSelva* (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (12/17)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Broderick)
8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
9:00am **IC** *Rita LaFlamme, Jules Julien Thelusma, Joseph Soares* (Fr. Morin)
10:15am **St. Ann** *Stephen Lynch, Irene Mullen* (Fr. Harrison)
11:30am **IC** *Patricia Doak, Stephen Quinn* (Fr. McLaughlin)

In your prayers, please remember Francis L. Sullivan, Rita LaFlamme, John J. DempSKI, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

An encounter with John the Baptist was never a particularly pleasant event. Aside from hygiene issues and a diet of locusts and wild honey (can you even imagine?!), John was a controversial figure no matter how you approached him. Welcomed by the crowds of ordinary people, he preached something that was largely unaccessible to them: a simple path to forgiveness and reconciliation with God. John didn't accomplish this on his own, but rather pointed to the One who is to come to make all things right. Acknowledging your sins and making a firm commitment to turn away from the things that block God's love in our lives will make ready our hearts to receive the great gift of Salvation in Christ. His words are as true today as they were several millennia ago.



What John wouldn't tolerate, what he had no time for, was falsity and pretend. There were two reasons for this. First, God knows what is in people's hearts long before they ever get around to approaching Him. There is no fooling God! So let's not waste time dancing around the harsh reality of sin and death in our lives. If you want to live, name your sins and be done with them. Otherwise, get out of the way of those who do! The second reason is that time was precious. John knew he had only a short amount of time to herald the coming of the Savior. He knew he was offending those who thought themselves to be righteous and in no need of conversion. He also knew that the moment of Christ's coming was imminent. So, he had to reach as many people as possible, try and touch as many hearts as he could so that the Son of Man would find a welcome upon His arrival...their hearts docile to His Word.

In many ways, Advent is our time to embrace John's message and take up his efforts to prepare the way of the Lord. I cannot recommend a strict diet of locusts and wild honey and in these winter days definitely suggest wearing more than camel's hair and leather belt...but we must make John's mission our own. No one likes to be reminded of their own sinfulness. No one likes to be called-out by another or challenged to re-think how they are living their lives. Yet if we don't engage the demanding persona and mission of the Baptist, will we truly be ready to greet the Lord when He comes? If we have patterns of un-repentant sin in our lives, it will block our ability to see and be part of what God is doing in our midst. If we constantly fail to see our need for on-going conversion and repentance, can we really hope to be part of the fullness of God's Kingdom?

Advent reminds us that we still have time, but that there is an urgency to make things ready. Just look at all the preparations we go through to celebrate "the holidays" with all of our human guests. What might we need to do to welcome the Divine?

Fr. Timothy Harrison,
Pastor



Like Us on Facebook

**Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes**

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Visit our calendar at hriccatholic.org for a complete listing of activities.

Monday, December 11

AA Meeting 10:30am & 7:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC Religious Ed., Grades 1–8 6:00pm, IC Parish Center
HR Boy Scouts Troop 41 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, December 12

IC Knitting Ministry 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209
Breaking Bread Meal 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Religious Ed., Grades 7 & 8 6:00pm, Nativity Hall
IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Knights of Columbus 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library, Room 205

Wednesday, December 13

HR Sandwich Program 9:00am, St. Ann Hall
HR Holy Quilters 2:30pm, Nativity Hall
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church
Adoration 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel
Centering Prayer 6:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church
HR St. Vincent de Paul 7:00pm, Nativity Rectory

Thursday, December 14

Bishop Fenwick Concert 12:45pm, IC Church
Rosary for Life 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel
Advent Vespers 7:00pm, IC St. James Chapel

Friday, December 15 Collaborative Offices Close 12:00noon

ICS Staff Retreat 8:20am, IC Charity Dining Room
Collaborative Staff Luncheon 12:00noon IC St. Louis Hall
AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, December 16

HR First Reconciliation 11:00am, Nativity Church
St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, December 17

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–8 10:05am, IC Parish Center
IC Religious Ed, Confirmation Years 1 & 2 1:00pm, IC Church

All Care Hospice

Looking for Ways to Give Back this Season? If so, All Care Hospice needs you! All Care Hospice is currently seeking caring, compassionate people to offer comfort and support to our patients and families through companionship. As part of the care team, volunteers serve a vital role in affecting the quality of our patients' lives. All Care Hospice serves the North Shore, Merrimack Valley and Greater Boston. Volunteer opportunities available close to home!

For more information or to enroll in a training, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Maureen Burge at 781-244-1129.

Christmas Mass Schedule for the Collaborative

Please note: There are no 7:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. Masses at IC on December 24.

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



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 please 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.

All are welcome to join us as we pray in this ancient Christian tradition and together prepare this Advent to welcome the Savior into our hearts and our lives.

The Centering Prayer group meets every Wednesday evening from 6:00pm to 7:00pm in the IC Parish Center Nazareth Library. For more information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

Advent Vespers Service

2nd Annual Advent Vespers Service

Thursday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. at St. James Chapel (IC Parish Center, 2nd floor). The speaker will be Mary Schmidt; the reflection theme is "The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mystical Rose."

Join in a Collaborative experience of the centuries-old prayer form in the Tradition of the Catholic Church: music, antiphonal prayer, reflection.

(Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team)



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

From the Parochial Vicar

“Well done good and faithful servant.”

The parable of the talents found in Matthew 25: 14–30 inspired 80 parishioners/families to take up the challenge and use a talent (\$5.00) I gave at church a couple of weeks ago to produce a great abundance to aid in the charitable works of the Saint Vincent de Paul Societies of our Collaborative. To date I have received \$1,058.00! Thank you and well done. Here are a couple of great stories. Luis Lebron writes: “I accepted the challenge, took your \$5.00 to Minuteman Press in Newburyport, and had 10 tickets printed. Each ticket asked for a \$20.00 donation to the St. Vincent de Paul fundraiser, in lieu of which the person would receive one hour of free carpentry or painting to be done by me. I sold the ten tickets, and so here is your \$200.00 to St. Vincent de Paul.” And from an anonymous participant: “I bought a box of chocolates with the \$5.00 you gave me, I found a sale for buy one get one free so the box only cost \$5.00. I brought the box to our family Thanksgiving dinner. Opened the box and placed it in the other room away from the dining room with this sign on it: Chocolates for St. Vincent de Paul—All donations will be used to help the poor—Please donate as you enjoy the chocolates!! I put out a container marked: St. Vincent de Paul. There were only 12 of us but I collected \$17.00.” Once again, thanks to all those who took up the challenge of the talents. More updates to follow and good stories too!

–Fr. George

EWTN: Catholic News

EWTN News: Your Online Catholic News Resource.

<http://www.ewtnnews.com/>

Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on January 7, 2018

Note Change in Schedule

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will **not** meet on December 17 on the regular scheduled third Sunday of the month but will resume its regular schedule on January 7, 2018 at 2:00pm in the IC Parish Center. This would be an ideal time for interested members of the Collaborative to join the study group as we begin reading St. Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*. This letter was probably written in Corinth several years prior to Paul's actual arduous voyage to Rome as a prisoner. This is Paul's longest letter and widely considered to be his masterpiece. We will read and discuss Chapters 1 through 3.

Our beloved teacher, Father Broderick, not only explains the meaning of the Scripture passages, but also presents rich description of the period and places cited, as well as the culture and practices of the people involved. He connects the events in the New Testament to Old Testament prophecies and events, as well as to our own time. This is a worthwhile way to spend an hour and fifteen minutes on a Sunday afternoon. All are invited to attend these sessions and grow in knowledge and faith.

Youth Masses

Youth Masses are celebrated as a collaborative. Students take part in the ministries during the Mass. Folk music, with guitar, is featured. Youth Masses begin at 5:00pm. All ages are welcome to this lively celebration.

Our next Youth Mass is December 10 at IC, Newburyport

December's Charity: Pregnancy Care Center

Visit www.hriccatholic.org/Youth-Ministry for a full list of suggestions. Some items needed include:

Baby Gifts (New):

onesies (sizes small, medium, & large) • blanket sleepers: sizes NB to 24 months • new outfits: sizes 0 to 24 months • children's socks: infant to 24 months • stretch sleeper/PJs: sizes NB to 24 months • 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 • baby bath/shampoo • lotion • formula: Similac, powdered • baby food, juices • baby bottles • infant toys and books • XL baby gift bags

Toiletries:

toothpaste • toothbrushes • adult shampoo, conditioner • bar soap, regular sizes

Office Supplies:

Staples/Walmart gift cards • copy paper, 8½ x 11, white & asst'd. colors • white address labels (size ½" x 2⅝") • 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 pkgs. • light bulbs, 75 & 100 watt & 3 way • Wal-Mart gift cards

Gift Cards & Cash Donations Always Welcome.

Cursillo

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.

2017–2018 Calendar

Ultreya	Cursillo Weekend
December 29	January 4–7 (Women)
February 2	February 8–11 (Men)
February 23	March 1–4 (Women)
April 6	April 5–8 (Men)
April 27	May 3–6 (Women)
June 1	June 7–10 (Women)

Ultreya is held in the St. James Chapel in the IC Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

San Marcos Christmas Coffee

Sale December 9–10

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase **after all collaborative Masses—both at Immaculate Conception and Holy Redeemer—on December 9–10.**

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.

Please call Karen Finnegan to learn more (978-465-4173).

Collaborative Website

Visit our **Collaborative Website**, www.hriccatholic.org for up-to-date information on groups, meetings, religious ed., Mass times, and current events. See our new, expanded calendar; view our current and archived bulletins; link to other Catholic websites; or check out the photos section. We have so much happening.

Parish Membership

We welcome all newcomers to our Parish communities and hope you take an active part in parish life. Please introduce yourself and register in the parish. Forms are available online at www.hriccatholic.org or you can call the Parish offices.

Community Food Pantry

First Parish Church of Newbury Community Food Pantry, 20 High Road, Newbury, is open every Friday from 3:00pm–5:00pm for anyone in need in the Collaborative's towns as well as Georgetown, Rowley, and Salisbury. The volunteers are very welcoming and no one is made to feel uncomfortable when visiting. No registration or proof of residency required. Fresh fruit and vegetables, many types of frozen meats, pasta, and desserts, as well as an array of canned goods, toiletries, etc. are available.

If you would like to donate, nonperishable goods, personal hygiene products, and/or pet food may be dropped off on Sunday mornings from 9:30–11:30am. Grocery store gift cards as well as cash/checks (made out to "First Parish" and write "food pantry" in the memo) are always welcome.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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.) Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office. Once you register, visit our website, hriccatholic.org and click the "Links" tab, 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.

Pre-Planning/At-Need Burial Space

Immaculate Conception Parish owns and operates a private cemetery located on Storey Avenue. St. Mary Cemetery is a 35-acre cemetery with consecrated grounds that provides tranquility and peacefulness at those difficult times that we all are faced with. Please visit the parish cemetery and you will find the cemetery to be well-managed and maintained. Cemetery plots are available for full-body and cremated remains burials in any denomination. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent at 978-208-0266 to schedule an appointment.

IC Knitting Ministry



We meet Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the IC Parish Center, Room 209. We knit shawls, hats, mittens, and scarves and bring prayers and hope to people who are sick and to their caregivers and to celebrate happy occasions. We also distribute hats and scarves to homeless children. Our membership is open to all. Please join us for knitting, fellowship, and tea (and goodies).

If you know anyone who needs a prayer shawl or for more information please call Frances Ronan 978-462-4972 or Julia O'Connor at 978-465-3350.

Knights of Columbus

We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at (978) 572-0231 or membership@kofc231.org.



The Knights of Columbus meet the second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is **Tuesday, December 12** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205.

Scripture for the Week

- 10 Sun** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
- 11 Mon** Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
- 12 Tue** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- 13 Wed** Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
- 14 Thu** Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
- 15 Fri** Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
- 16 Sat** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- 17 Sun** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Bulletin Information

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

December 2-3 \$10,144.00
 Restoration/Renovation \$ 1,582.00
 St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Collection \$2,047.00

This weekend's second collection is the Monthly.
 Next weekend's second collection is IC Haiti. **Please make checks payable to IC Haiti.**



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$185.00
Poor Box	\$180.00
Total	\$365.00

2017 Grand Annual

If you did not bring your pledge card with you to Mass this weekend, please mail it back to the parish office or place it in the collection next weekend.
 Thank you for your support.

SVdP Advent Project

"Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." Matthew 25:45

How can we respond to the lesson provided in the Gospel of Matthew? Where do we find people in need of clothes, or food, or shelter? Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul strive to be responsive to the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering, or the deprived so that we may bring them God's love. You can **help us help others** during Advent by donating gift cards from grocery stores, department stores, gas stations, and pharmacies.

The donated cards can be placed in the collection basket during any of the Masses during Advent. Donors of the gift cards can be assured that their generosity provides a meaningful, helpful response for a local neighbor during a time of need.

What we do for the poor is not something we do for God; our work is what we allow God to do through us.

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 December 11 at noon.

Immaculate Conception School North Pole Express



IC-Haiti Update/Collection

The second collection for IC-Haiti will be taken up the weekend of December 16-17. We hope you will continue to support this outreach service program we as a parish have taken on since 2009. The Fr. Marc Piché Immaculate Conception elementary school in Puit Chacha offers a quality educational program and hot meals to over 200 students within a well-constructed school building that has provided shelter to the local residents during storms.

Recently we received the following note of gratitude from our colleagues at the Saint Boniface Haiti Foundation:

"Thanks to IC Haiti for their support of the Fr. Marc school, which is helping increase access to high quality education for children in the Fond des Blancs area. As IC Haiti and St. Boniface Hospital have increased the number of good jobs in the area, more and more children look forward to staying in their community and giving back by working at the hospital, in the schools, or in other businesses that have grown up in the community because of these opportunities and services. The Fr. Marc school is starting many young people on this path and is a key part of the region's development potential."

Thank you, fellow IC parishioners, for choosing to see the needs of our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ and for continuing to support them through IC-Haiti.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Religious Education

Amoris Laetitia...Pope Francis

Pope Francis released the Exhortation on the Family. We continue to review the various statements from the Holy Father.

A love that reveals itself and increases: In #135: It is not helpful to dream of an idyllic and perfect love needing no stimulus to grow. A celestial notion of earthly love forgets that the best is yet to come, that fine wine matures with age. As the Bishops of Chile have pointed out, "the perfect families proposed by deceptive consumerist propaganda do not exist. In those families, no one grows old, there is no sickness, sorrow or death.... Consumerist propaganda presents a fantasy that has nothing to do with the reality which must daily be faced by the heads of families". It is much healthier to be realistic about our limits, defects, and imperfections, and to respond to the call to grow together, to bring love to maturity, and to strengthen the union, come what may.

School Year IC Religious Education Classes

Registration for the School Year Religious Education Class is ongoing. Registration form:

<http://www.hricatholic.org/IC-Children-s-Religious-Education>

Classes: December: Sunday 10 and Monday 11.

Next Classes:

- Gr. K–8 Sunday, December 17 10:05–11:05am.
- Gr. 1–8 Monday, December 18 6:00–7:10pm.

Baptism

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

Please pre-register for the class.

Jan. 7 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm

Dec. 10 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm

Confirmation

Confirmation monthly session is Sunday, December 17 at 1:00–3:00pm in the IC church. Reminder: candidate and adult (sponsor, parent, or another adult) to attend each session. **Catholic School candidates and adults**—next session Sunday, February 4 at 1:00pm in the Charity Dining Room, Room 114. For information and registration go online:

<http://www.hricatholic.org/Confirmation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish>.

First Eucharist

Information/registration for 2017–2018 First Reconciliation and Eucharist is posted on our website: <http://www.hricatholic.org/First-Eucharist--First-Reconciliation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish>. Make up class for candidates on **The Mass** is on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 10:15am and Monday, Dec. 11 at 6:15pm.

Landings

Landings for Returning Catholics will begin a new session on Tuesdays 7:30–9:15pm at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac beginning Tuesday, January 30. If you know of anyone interested, please contact Dr. Mag McKinnon for more information 978-462-2724.

Youth Mass—Sunday, December 10: See p. 5 for Details

Service activity after Mass: 6:00–7:30pm. Pizza and then **creating fleece items for Pregnancy Care Center** new moms and infants in the hall. Please sign up through Signup genius.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4caaa72eaaff2-sunday>

Fleece blankets will be on sale in the church vestibule. Proceeds to benefit Pregnancy Care Center. You can donate a blanket at the Youth Mass or take as a gift for someone.

IC Religious Ed. Assembly



Our Next Assembly is for Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego

Sunday, December 10 (10:50 a.m.) and Monday, December 11 (6:50 p.m.), Religious Education will host a prayer celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, and St. Juan Diego, Patron of Indigenous Peoples, in St. Louis Hall. All are welcome to join in this gathering.

Newburyport in WWII

The Museum of Old Newbury will sponsor an encore presentation of lifelong parishioner Jean Foley Doyle's documentary *Newburyport in WW II* on Sunday, December 10 from 2–4 pm at the Newburyport Public Library. The film debuted in October and received rave reviews from its first public audience.

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.

The **December meeting** is Christmas Day, so it will be held after the Annual Candle Lighting on Sunday, December 10.

Annual Candle Lighting is part of a Global memorial by TCF. Our local chapter's candle lighting:

Date: Sunday, December 10

Time: 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. (please arrive at 6:45 p.m.)

Place: Hopkinson home, 64 Northern Blvd, Plum Island, Newbury, MA

Optional: Followed by TCF December Chapter meeting 8:00–9:00 p.m.

Note: Memorial includes candles, music, and readings. Light refreshments served. Bring a photo of your child/grandchild/sibling and an ornament to hang on our Memory Tree. Candles provided.

Contact Barbara J Hopkinson, founder and chapter leader, for questions on either TCF or ABJ at (617) 410-6309 or info@abutterflysjourney.org.



IC Religious Ed. Kateri Assembly

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

December 2-3

\$4,115.00

This weekend's second collection is the Monthly.

2017 Grand Annual

This weekend is our Grand Annual Collection

Today is our Grand Annual Collection. All parishioners have been asked to return their pledge card to church this weekend. If you did not receive a Grand Annual pledge card in the mail there are extras available at the entrance to the church.

If you did not bring your pledge card to Mass with you this weekend please bring it next weekend or mail it to the parish office this week. Your participation in the Grand Annual Collection is sincerely appreciated. Thank you.

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. 200 sandwiches are needed each day to feed the hungry.

We are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag. Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, December 13.**

See the Collaborative calendar at www.hricatholic.org for the schedule or contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

HR Christmas Decorating

All are welcome to assist with decorating and preparing our churches for Christmas. Join us at St. Ann on Sunday, December 17 after the 10:15 Mass and at **Church of the Nativity** on Friday, December 22 after the 9:00 Mass.

HR Prayer Shawl

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

Come join us. Don't know how? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, January 4.**

HR Religious Education

Sunday, Dec 10 **Grades 3-6 classes** at Nativity Hall, 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

Youth Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, 5:00 p.m. All are invited.

Tuesday, Dec. 12 **Grades 7 & 8 Christmas Party** at Nativity Hall, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16 **First Penance Celebration** at Nativity Church, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, Dec 17 **Grades 3-6 classes** at Nativity Hall, 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

Youth Mass: See p. 5 for Details

Our next Youth Mass is **Sunday, December 10** at 5:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Newburyport. Offertory collection (envelopes and items) for the Pregnancy Care Center.

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, clothing, and food pantry items. Please return the unwrapped gifts with the tags to the churches by **this weekend, December 9-10.** This allows time for us to deliver them to the programs to be distributed 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. Questions? Call Dottie Carr, 978-363-2909.

Merrimac Santa Parade



Holy Redeemer float was a crowd favorite at the Merrimac Santa Parade with the 12 Days of Christmas. Thanks to Gretchen Handerson, Laura Homan, Elaine Drolet, Joyce Nevins, Jen Acorn, Kathy Peavey, Roberta Homan, Patti Wendt, Dorine Gorski, Lindy Davis, John Mulvaney, Cindy Quinn, Nicholas Parker, and Mary Evitts. Thanks to Bob Handerson for being our driver, Dennis Brody for donating the generator for our music, and Jacob and Aaron Peavey for working our sound system.