

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

First Sunday of Advent

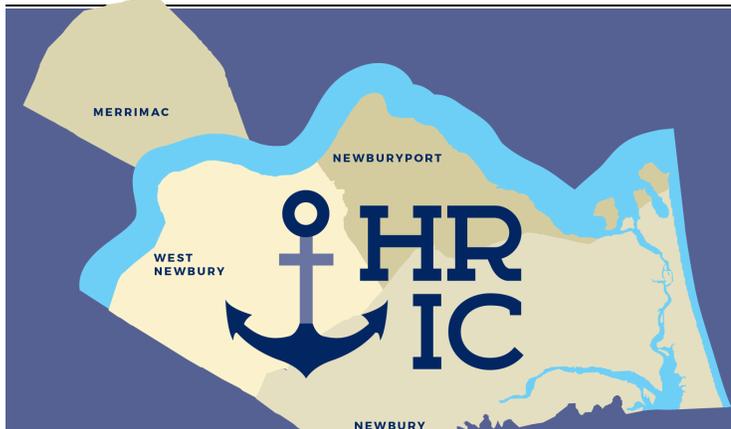
December 3, 2017

hricatholic.org



“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.” (Mk 13:35)

All Are Welcome



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

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

St. Ann

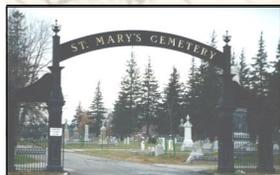
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Nativity

Parish offices and church:
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860
Office Hours: By appointment
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950
Office Hours: M–F 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



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St Mary's Cemetery

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www.hricatholic.org

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/2)

2:00pm **Atria** (Fr. Broderick)
 4:00 pm **IC Regina M. Stronge, Stephen M. Boy, Mary Martin, The Alice & George Currier Family, Louise & Charles MacLean, Walter & Stephen Oldak** (Fr. Harrison)
 4:00pm **Nativity Charlotte Zostautus** (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (12/3)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Morin)
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC Helen & Nick Ebacher** (Fr. McLaughlin)
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC For the intentions of Manyee Wong** (Fr. Broderick)

Monday (12/4)

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

Tuesday (12/5)

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

Wednesday (12/6)

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

Thursday (12/7)

7:15am **IC** (Fr. Morin)
 4:00pm **IC Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception** (Fr. George)
 7:00pm **St. Ann Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception** (Fr. Harrison)

Friday (12/8) Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC School Liturgy Sandy Lambert, Thomas Burton** (Fr. Morin)
 7:00pm **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (12/9)

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

Sunday (12/10)

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

In your prayers, please remember Catherine Maslanka, John Cronin 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,

This weekend, we once again enter into a new annual cycle of the Church's liturgical year. We see this most clearly reflected in the selections of readings and the changing of seasons. For this coming year, we move into what is referred to as "Year B," or the exploration of St. Mark's Gospel.



Every liturgical year begins with a brief season called "Advent." Loosely translated from the Latin word, *adventus*, Advent is understood as a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord, both at the great Solemnity of the Nativity as well as at the end of time. With its close proximity to Christmas and the full-scale assault by the retail-shopping industry, it is very difficult as Christians to truly keep this season as a sacred time of preparation and waiting. Right away, at the beginning of our new year, we are reminded in the Scriptures of what awaits us at the end of time; namely, that the Lord will come at an unexpected moment. No one knows the day or the hour of this "coming," so the only reasonable, prudent thing to do is to be watchful and ready. So how do we do this in the midst of the secular insanity that surrounds us?

Here are a couple of simple suggestions that may enhance your appreciation of this brief, but beautiful season:

Make or set up a simple **Advent Wreath** in your home. Consisting of nothing more complicated than 4 candles and a circle of greens, this is a time-honored tradition to mark the passage of these weeks of preparation in anticipation of Christmas. Traditionally, we use three violet-colored candles and one rose-colored to mark the different weeks, but you can use white or any color you want. The idea is that the increasing light from the successive lighting of more candles each week casts away the darkening days leading up to the time of the Winter Solstice and anticipates the coming of Christ, who is the Light of the World. A simple Google search will give you many options for prayers and our own website's link to the daily readings will offer a rich Scriptural journey through the days ahead. It can be a wonderful way to gather the family for prayer before a meal. Additionally, children may enjoy opening the doors of an Advent calendar each day or hanging the ornaments of a Jesse tree. There are many ways to enter into the richness of the season!

Plan ahead to **celebrate Christmas well**. On a practical level, unless you want to go hide in your basement for the next 22 days, it may be impossible to escape the premature festivity that encroaches our wider community. Santa Claus, after all, already arrived by train, boat parades through a number of our communities! But try and hold back the full celebration of the holiday until Christmas Eve. There is plenty of good, traditional Advent music that can be downloaded and savored. If you haven't listened to the first movements of Handel's Messiah in a while, THIS is the time to do so! Save as much of the genuine Christmas music as you can for the 24th and beyond, so that you are

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Visit our website for a full list of activities and Masses

www.hriccatholic.org

Monday, December 4

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
 Pastoral Plan Orientation Night 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Tuesday, December 5

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
 Advent Vespers 7:00pm, IC St. James Chapel

Wednesday, December 6

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 Conference Room 209
 IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, IC Church
 Women's Evening of Prayer 7:00pm, St. Ann Church

Thursday, December 7

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

Friday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel
 AA Meeting 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, December 9

IC First Reconciliation 11:00am, IC Church
 HR Grade 4 Activity Day 1:00pm, Nativity Church
 St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, December 10

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, Grades 7–HS Service Learning 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

The Immaculate Conception

December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass times in the Collaborative are as follows:

Thursday, December 7

4:00pm—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport
 7:00pm—St. Ann Church, W. Newbury

Friday, December 8

9:00am—Immaculate Conception (School Liturgy)
 9:00am—Nativity, Merrimac
 7:00pm—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

(Continued from page 3)

not sick and bored with the good stuff by December 26th. Realize that Christmas is a season unto itself, a feast so great, that it is “unpacked” over the course of several weeks, not one evening or day. Consider reflecting this in your decorations. Although everyone’s family traditions are different, at the rectory, we savor our Advent Wreath through Christmas Eve and only set up our Christmas Tree a few days before the 24th, and only fully decorate it going into the feast itself. This way, it is fresh and festive throughout the weeks to come, when we enjoy the fullness of the Christmas Season itself. Remember, we Christians own this feast, not Macy’s or Wal-Mart. In the Church, we celebrate Christmas from Christmas Eve through Monday January 8th with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord.

Make time for prayer. While the Advent Wreath can be a rallying point, the readings found at daily Mass are an excellent guide through this season. Even if you can’t make it to a liturgy on a given day, take a few moments to ponder the Word of God. Savor the feast days. If you haven’t been in a while, consider making time for confession, realizing that 3:30 pm on Christmas Eve is NOT the time to try and “get in a quickie” before the holiday. Plan carefully which Mass you will attend for Christmas, and if you are even remotely considering coming to one of the 4:00pm Vigil liturgies, please come very early to get parking and a seat. Don’t let Mass be an afterthought. Plan ahead and make it special.

Finally, make some time during this season to **care for those in need**. Whether it is volunteering to help with one of our many charitable activities, visiting someone who is sick, homebound, or imprisoned, or maybe just offering a generous contribution to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, IC Haiti, the Pelican Intervention Fund or another helping organization; giving in the name of Christ will open our hearts more fully to His presence among our least brothers and sisters.

Advent is a time to make our hearts ready to welcome the Lord and look towards the dawning of His light as He comes into our world, both now and at the end of time. May it be a season filled with great hope and joy for us all.

Advent Blessings, Fr. Tim Harrison

Advent Vespers Service

2nd Annual Advent Vespers Service

Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. at St. James Chapel (IC Parish Center, 2nd floor). The speaker will be Fr. George Morin; the reflection theme is “Isaiah, Advent’s Prophet.”

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.”

Two weeks ago the gospel heard at Mass was Jesus' parable of the talents from Matthew chapter 25:14–30. The point of the Lord's parable is that one day we will be held accountable for the talents He has given us. Did I use them well developing my full potential or did I bury them? And did I use them for the glory of God and for the benefit of my brothers and sisters? Using that as the starting point for my homily, I challenged parishioners to accept a talent (\$5.00) from me and to use it creatively to produce great increase. I am so pleased that 80 people/families took up the challenge. In weeks to come I will keep you informed about their talent projects which should produce some wonderful stories and the results of their undertakings. All profits will go to the Saint Vincent de Paul societies of our collaborative to help them in their work on behalf of those in need. Thanks for accepting the talent and the challenge that goes with it!
—Fr. George

Scripture Study

Scripture Study will meet on December 3

Father Broderick's Scripture Study will meet on December 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the IC Parish Center on the regular scheduled first Sunday of the month. Interested members of the Collaborative are invited to join as we conclude reading the final chapter in *The Acts of the Apostles* and begin reading 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 1–3.

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



Pastoral Plan Orientation Night

December 4, 2017, 7:00 p.m., IC St. Louis Hall

Thanks to all the interested folks who attended the recent Information Night on the Pastoral Plan. An energetic and enthusiastic crowd turned out ready to bring the Plan into fruition.

An Orientation Program is scheduled for Monday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception St. Louis Hall for all who are interested in participating. All are welcome to join as we undertake the important work of the Welcoming, Discipleship, Vocations, and Service priorities.

To register by phone, please call [Sheila Cruise at 978-462-2724](tel:978-462-2724) at the IC Parish Center, weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To register online, please visit the HRIC website at www.hriccatholic.org and follow the dropdown link to “Registration—Pastoral Plan Orientation Night.”

Please join us for this important work.

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. The next *Cursillo* weekend for men is December 7–10. The next *Cursillo* weekend for women is January 4–7.

Ultreya is held in the St. James Chapel in the IC Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. The next *Ultreya* is December 29. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pat Forbes (978-462-1258) or Jonathan Temple (978-809-9337).

Foster Care Info. Session

Thursday, December 7, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

You are invited to attend an information session to learn more about Foster Care and Fostering to Adopt through the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF) at Hope Community Church, 11 Hale St., Newburyport. Foster parents provide a supportive, healing environment for children who have been abused, neglected, or removed from their homes due to unsafe or dangerous conditions. DCF is currently seeking foster parents from every city and town across the state so that children can receive care in the communities where they live and go to school. Learn more at FosterMA-hc.eventbrite.com. Sign-up requested but not required. Walk-ins welcome day of. *Can't make the date? Visit [facebook.com/FosterMA.DCF](https://www.facebook.com/FosterMA.DCF) for a list of other information sessions, or to learn more about DCF <https://www.mass.gov/dcf>.*

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Offertory Collection

November 25–26

\$3741.00

Next weekend's second collection is the monthly.

2017 Grand Annual

Next weekend is our Grand Annual Collection

Last weekend we launched our 2017 Grand Annual Collection. A special Grand Annual letter has been mailed to all registered parishioners. Please return the enclosed pledge card indicating your gift. You may mail it back to the parish office or place it in the collection at Mass on **December 9–10**. Additional pledge cards are available at the entrances to the churches.

This past fall we embarked on an ambitious Capital Campaign, "With One Voice," with a goal of raising \$350,000. This campaign will allow us to address needed updates to our parish facilities. Both St. Ann Church and The Church of the Nativity have several deferred maintenance issues that need our immediate attention.

While the funds raised to date have been a tremendous help to maintaining each church facility, we still need to conduct the Grand Annual collection. The Grand Annual allows us to continue regular ongoing maintenance at the parish as well as support our operating budget by supplementing our Offertory income. Last year we did not conduct a Grand Annual in anticipation of the Capital Campaign. This year it is all the more important that we do so.

We truly appreciate any assistance you can give. We are counting on the many who are able to support our parish in the 2017 Grand Annual drive, at any level of giving. Thank you for your generous support.

Holy Quilters

Do you like to sew? Join the Holy Quilters! We make quilts, pillowcases, hats, blankets, and so much more. We create and donate to many charitable organizations such as The Salem Pantry Backpack Program, Boys and Girls Club, Merrimack Valley Hope Mission, and many others. We meet in the Nativity Church Hall every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. and also one Saturday a month at 8:00 a.m. Our next Saturday meeting is **January 20**. Bring your sewing machine and join us. All are welcome.

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, Merrimack at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, December 7**.

HR Religious Education

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

Grade 10 class at Nativity Hall, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 5 Grade 8 class at Nativity Hall, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9 Grades 4 and 5 Activity Day at Nativity Church/Hall, 1:00–3:30 p.m. Parents are asked to bring snacks for the students to share. The parish will provide water and juice boxes. Thanks!

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.

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.

Contact info: Office of Religious Education

Doreen O'Leary (Rel. Ed. email: reledhrp@gmail.com)

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 the weekend of 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.

Merrimack Santa Parade

Holy Redeemer will be represented this year in the Merrimack Santa Parade on Sunday, December 3. It has been 16 years since the parish has been in the parade. We will not be having the nativity scene float but we do have a Plan B.... Come to the parade and see!

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Saturday Mass at St. Ann

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **St. Ann** in West Newbury on **December 9**.

Women's Evening of Prayer



The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ann Church, West Newbury. The theme this month will be Mary—Mother of God.

All women of the Collaborative are welcome to this wonderful evening of reflection through prayer and music.

Don't Forget to sign up for the Pastoral Plan Orientation Night on December 4. See bulletin page 5 for details.

Sanctuary Candle



For the week of December 3, the Sanctuary Candle at Nativity Church, Merrimac is donated for a Special Intention.

Ecumenical Taize

Why not give yourselves a few moments of prayer and peace at this busy season by attending an ecumenical candlelight "Taize" meditation service at Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King St., Groveland, on Sunday evening, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. The service lasts about ½ hour, with Scripture, short sung refrains, intercessions, and an extended period of silent meditation in the church's candlelit sanctuary. All are welcome. For more information, call the church at 978-372-3463.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer, resting silently in God, facilitates the process of inner transformation. Our prayer without words is one of intention to surrender to God's presence and action in our lives and desire for a closer relationship with God. Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00pm–7:00pm, in the **IC Conference Room 209**. Join us as we pray in this ancient Christian tradition and together deepen our understanding of this prayer in our own spiritual journey. For information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

Newburyport Choral Society

The Newburyport Choral Society will perform its annual Winter Concert on Saturday evening, December 9 at 8:00pm and Sunday afternoon, December 10 at 2:30pm at the Belleville Congregational Church in Newburyport. Entitled "*The Rose and the Night Star*," this festive program will highlight Camille Saint-Saëns' beautiful *Christmas Oratorio*, various musical settings of *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming*, and many other seasonal favorites. The **Greater Newburyport Children's Chorus** will also be featured. For ticket information, visit www.newburyportchoralsociety.org or call 978-462-0650.

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.

Community Service of Nbpt.

During the holidays, Immaculate Conception Church is collecting food for Community Service of Newburyport. Any non-perishable food and personal care products will be greatly appreciated. They especially need pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, cookies, Hamburger Helper, boxed potatoes, crackers, canned fruit, coffee, sugar, tuna, soup, etc. and personal care products such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. Please, no expired non-perishable food. Please leave items in the IC church foyer. Thank you for your generosity.

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 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.

Also we are looking for a volunteer to help sell coffee after the Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Ann.

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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Offertory Collection

November 18–19	\$10,195.00
Retired Religious	\$ 2,849.00
November 25–26	\$10,306.00
Restoration/Renovation	\$ 1,537.00

This weekend's second collection is restoration/renovation. Next weekend's second collection is the Monthly.



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 15.50
Poor Box	\$262.00
Total	\$277.50

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.

IC School Calendars

A reminder that students of Immaculate Conception School will be selling holiday calendars for \$10 each this weekend after Mass. With 40 chances to win on each calendar, they make a great gift or stocking stuffer as well as benefiting the school.

Immaculate Conception School



The 2nd Grade students have recently spent a lot of time looking out their classroom windows—observing birds. Mrs. Lacefield strategically placed several bird feeders along Green Street to create an “observation center” for her students. Throughout the day, students record

data about the birds that visit the feeders. The results foster a wide range of discussions in math, science, and writing opportunities in language arts. As their observation skills develop, the children will begin to notice the variations in song and the characteristics of individual birds. Their heightened awareness that birds have unique markings and movements will spark curiosity and wonder about other animal species. The joy of involving young children in an in-depth study of birds is that many continue to look to the skies and delight in hearing a familiar bird call, long after the project is over.



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.

Don't Forget to sign up for the Pastoral Plan Orientation Night on December 4. See bulletin page 5 for details.

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.

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 #134: All this occurs through a process of constant growth. The very special form of love that is marriage is called to embody what St. Thomas Aquinas said about charity in general. "Charity," he says, "by its very nature, has no limit to its increase, for it is a participation in that infinite charity which is the Holy Spirit... Nor on the part of the subject can its limit be fixed, because as charity grows, so too does its capacity for an even greater increase." Saint Paul also prays: "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another" (1 Th 3:12), and again, "concerning fraternal love...we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more" (1 Th 4:9-10). More and more! Marital love is not defended primarily by presenting indissolubility as a duty, or by repeating doctrine, but by helping it to grow ever stronger under the impulse of grace. A love that fails to grow is at risk. Growth can only occur if we respond to God's grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become ever more frequent, intense, generous, tender, and cheerful. Husbands and wives "become conscious of their unity and experience it more deeply from day to day". The gift of God's love poured out upon the spouses is also a summons to constant growth in grace.

School Year IC Religious Education Classes

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

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

Classes: December: Sunday 3 and Monday 4.

Next Classes:

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

Baptism

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

Please pre-register for the class.

Dec. 3 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.hriccatholic.org/Confirmation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish>.

First Eucharist

Information/registration for 2017–2018 First Reconciliation and Eucharist is posted on our website: <http://www.hriccatholic.org/First-Eucharist--First-Reconciliation--Immaculate-Conception-Parish>. Makeup class for Parents on **The Mass** is on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 10:15am in the hall. Make up class for candidates on **The Mass** is on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 10:15am and Monday, Dec. 11 at 6:15pm. Our next gathering is for **First Reconciliation Celebration** on **Saturday, Dec. 9** at 11:00am in the church.

Landings

Landings for Returning Catholics will begin a new session on Tuesdays 7:30–9:15pm at Church of the Nativity, Merrimack 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

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.

IC Haiti Update

The next 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. We are happy to let you know that more and more of the students who complete their schooling in Chacha are continuing their education in an upper level school in the Fond des Blancs area. To make sure students are well prepared to make this transition, we have been supporting ongoing training for teachers.

Earlier in the fall, the Fr. Marc school held a teacher training session for teachers from the wider Fond des Blancs community, as well as some educators from Les Cayes. Principal Alson Jeune explained, "the idea was to close some gaps in our education system and to help our kids have better pedagogic support. We were focusing particularly around reading and writing, which have been big gaps for many primary school students in rural Haiti." This was the second teacher training session that the Fr. Marc school has run with support from IC Haiti and the Saint Boniface Haiti Foundation. Nadege Dorce, a fifth-year teacher at the school, said the training engaged teachers in simulation exercises with reading techniques specifically geared to address the various problems students were having with reading. "We learned things like expressive reading, new methods for teaching reading, and how to teach students to answer questions from material they have read. I feel like I now have a better approach to take with my students. This training has been very helpful."