

**HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
COLLABORATIVE PARISHES**

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 16, 2018

hricatholic.org



*Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
yes, our God is merciful.*

*The LORD protects the simple; I was helpless,
but he saved me. (PS 116:5-6)*

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

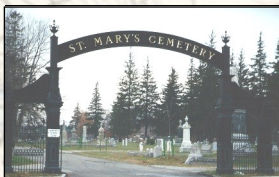
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: holyredeemer@verizon.net

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. Vincent de Paul


Saint Vincent de Paul Society at
Holy Redeemer
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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

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

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

Website: www.hricatholic.org

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Mass Schedule

Saturday (9/15)

4:00pm **IC Assunta "Sue" Termine** (Fr. Morin)

4:00pm **St. Ann Ruth Leo** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (9/16)

7:15am **IC Longin J. & Beatrice B. Kijek** (Fr. Morin)

8:00am **Nativity Catherine Lorenzo** (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC Mary Lou Gannon, Ann McGrath**
(Fr. Morin)

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

11:30am **IC Fred & Raymond Mitchell, Stanley
Baikewicz, Alfredo Lim So, James E. Doyle**
(Fr. McLaughlin)

Monday (9/17)

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

Tuesday (9/18)

7:15am **IC Longin J. & Beatrice B. Kijek**
(Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (9/19)

7:15am **IC Longin J. & Beatrice B. Kijek** (Fr. Morin)

Thursday (9/20)

7:15am **IC Longin J. & Beatrice B. Kijek** (Fr. Morin)

Friday (9/21)

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

10:30am **Port Rehab** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Saturday (9/22)

4:00pm **IC Daniel P. Bradley, Michele M. Bradley,
Dorothy Salvatore, Richard Ring, Jack Graham**
(Fr. McLaughlin)

4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)

Sunday (9/23)

7:15am **IC Larry Howard, Charlie Howard,
Longin J. & Beatrice B. Kijek** (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

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

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

11:30am **IC Confirmation** (Fr. Harrison)

2:30pm **IC Confirmation** (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers, please remember Leo Joseph David Bernier, Catherine M. Cook, and all the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

The Mass

Like You've Never Known It!

Save the dates

Starting Wednesday, September 19, 2018, come for a superb video series presented by Bishop Robert Barron. The AFF Team has previewed all 6 sessions (each with a 1/2 hr. video); we are confident it will transform you through insights, images, and sacred tradition richly layered in this most privileged encounter with Our Lord. Enter into the heavenly realm by God's call and through our response that intimately joins us to His Body & Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It's free. It's life-changing.

Sessions will be facilitated each **Wednesday** from 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. at IC's St. Louis Hall.

September 19: **Eucharist (1-hour video overview/preview of the next 6 sessions)**

September 26: **A Privileged Encounter**

October 3: **Called Out of the World**

October 10: **God Speaks Our Story**

October 17: **Responding to God**

October 24: **Preparing for Sacrifice**

October 31: **The Real Presence Creates Communion**

{Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team}

Women's Evening of Prayer



The next Women's Evening of Prayer will be Wednesday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ann Church, West Newbury.

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

EWTN: Catholic News

Want the latest Catholic News? EWTN News has got you covered. Check this link daily for news about the Catholic Church, and the latest issues in Catholicism. EWTN News: Your Online Catholic Resource.

www.ewtnnews.com/

Pelican Intervention Fund September Fundraiser

Please join us at **Flatbread Pizza, Amesbury from 5pm to 9pm on Tuesday, September 18**. Dine in or take home pizza to enjoy with your family and friends.

A portion of the purchase price will assist us to provide funding for local men and women seeking sobriety through long-term Twelve Step-based residential treatment. We thank you for your continued generosity, support, and prayers.

For more information or to join the Pelican Intervention Fund please call: Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483, Kim Keene 978-430-1408

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, September 17

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

IC Religious Ed. 5:30pm, IC Parish Center

HR Boy Scout Troop 41 Meeting 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Pastoral Plan Leadership Priority Meeting 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Tuesday, September 18

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

Italy Pilgrimage Meeting 6:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Wednesday, September 19

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

Holy Quilters 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

"The Mass" Video Series 1:00pm, IC St. Louis 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, September 20

IC Confirmation Rehearsal (for the 9-23, 11:30 Mass) 5:30pm, IC Church

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

IC Confirmation Rehearsal (for the 9-23, 2:30 Mass) 7:00pm, IC Church

Pastoral Plan Service Priority Meeting 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

Pastoral Plan Welcoming Priority Meeting 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Friday, September 21

Adoration 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

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

Saturday, September 22

St. Ann Choir Rehearsal 3:30pm, St. Ann Church

Sunday, September 23

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. 10:00am, IC Parish Center

RCIA 10:15am, IC Parish Center, Room G19

HR Activities Committee Meeting 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

Mass Scripture Readings: Sept. 16-23, 2018

In praying with the Scriptures, we have the opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Lord while discerning His ever-gracious invitation to love as He loves us.

- Sunday, Sept. 16: Isaiah 50:4c-9a, James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35
- Monday, Sept. 17: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33; Luke 7:1-10
- Tuesday, Sept. 18: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 27-31a; Luke 7:11-17
- Wednesday, Sept. 19: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Luke 7:31-35
- Thursday, Sept. 20: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 7:36-50
- Friday, Sept. 21: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13

Please refer to the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures. Go directly to <http://www.hriccatholic.org/blog/lectio-divina> or go to www.HRICcatholic.org and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

R.C.I.A

RCIA classes will begin on September 16 at 10:15 in IC Parish Center Room G19.

The R.C.I.A. program for people interested in joining the Catholic Church and/or learning about the Catholic faith will begin on September 16. Anyone over the age of seven who wishes to become baptized, or has been baptized in another Christian Church and/or is interested in the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation is welcome. If you have a friend or family member who might be interested, please have them contact Marin Fortune: fortune@newburyportcatholic.org.

San Marcos Coffee Sale

September 15-16

Hopefully many of you were able to greet Fr. Ray Richard while he was at IC for 5 weeks visiting his home town of Newburyport as he does every year. He has now returned to his missionary work—serving the poor people of Honduras.

As Catholics, we are called to help the poor to rise out of poverty. Fr. Ray started "The Coffee Project" back in 2003 to help the farmers in his parish to receive a fair price for coffee beans grown on their small family-owned farms.

On September 15/16 you can buy fresh-roasted, whole-bean or ground San Marcos Coffee after most collaborative Masses (\$10/pound).

Thank you for your continued support of The Coffee Project. Call Karen Finnegan with any questions. 978-465-4173.

Offertory Envelopes

You can attend Mass at any worship site in our Collaborative and use your usual offertory envelope. Drop it in the collection and we will deliver it to your home Parish.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

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.

Entertaining Angels: Creating a Culture of Radical Hospitality

The Bible says that when we create a culture of radical hospitality, where every person serves as an open door to Jesus Christ, we "entertain angels" (Hebrews 13:2). With that in mind Holy Family Parish, Amesbury and Star of the Sea Parish, Salisbury have invited the Catholic Hospitality Training Institute to lead a one-day workshop, Entertaining Angels, on Saturday, **October 6, 2018**, from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. The workshop will be held in the parish hall in Amesbury and includes continental breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m., lunch, materials, and a full year of monthly reflections. First Saturday Mass will be offered at 8:00 a.m. The Sacrament of Penance will be available at lunchtime and again at 3:00 p.m. Registration is \$25 per person. Register online at <http://stpaulse.com/livingwater/>. If you have questions or need assistance with online registration, please contact Sue Greaney (978-388-0330 or 978-465-3334, ext. 107 for both numbers).

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.

Film Series Announced

These will be held at the Newburyport Senior Center on Tuesday, Oct. 16 & Oct. 30 and Tuesday, Nov. 20 & 27, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

• *I Am Not Your Negro*

Then 3 films from <https://world-trust.org/films/>

• *Cracking the Codes, The System of Racial Inequality*

• *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*

• *The Way Home: Women Talk about Race in America*

Happy Birthday Fr. Broderick

Fr. Broderick will be turning 93 on Saturday, September 22. Help us celebrate by sending him a card. If anyone would like to send him a card, his address at Regina Cleri is:



60 William Cardinal
O'Connell Way
Boston, MA 02114

Questions of the Week



Adult: What is the cross that you carry today? How do you follow Jesus in the workplace and at home?

Child: What do you think it means to follow in Jesus' footsteps?

Volunteers Needed for Avita of Newburyport

Every Sunday, Avita of Newburyport Assisted Living brings residents to Mass at Holy Redeemer. They are in need of volunteers to escort residents from Avita to church and back on the Avita bus at 9:30 Sunday mornings. Please contact Debra Shapiro at deb@avitaofnewburyport.com or 978-225-7000.

Polish Picnic

Join us for the Saint Lawrence 12th Annual Polish Picnic on Saturday, September 29, 12:00–6:00pm at the Masonic Lodge, Topsfield Road, Ipswich MA. Adults: \$5.00. Members and under 12: free.

Authentic Polish delicacies, Eastern Star Polka Band, raffles, face painting, games, and more. Family-friendly.

Annual High School Fair

Hosted by Immaculate Conception School

Are you exploring options for a High School? Parents and students from all communities are invited to take advantage of this great opportunity. Come join us on **Thursday, September 27, 2018 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** in the ICS Gymnasium, One Washington Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.



For more information call 978-465-7780.

Representatives from Public High Schools, Catholic High Schools, and Prep Schools all over the North Shore and Seacoast will be in attendance to meet with parents and students in grades 6, 7, and 8.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

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.

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.



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@HRICatholic

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Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes



Cor Unum Ministry

Cor Unum Meal Center, located in South Lawrence at St. Patrick Church, is in need of volunteers to serve meals to the poor.

Immaculate Conception and Holy Redeemer Parishes serve breakfast to the poor of Lawrence on the first Saturday of every month. Volunteers meet in the IC parking lot at 5:00am on Saturday morning. The Center serves breakfast from 6:00am to 8:00am. If you are able to give a few hours of your time serving this meal, please contact Larry Lambert at (978) 462-4842 for further information.

Voice of the Faithful 2018 Conference

Attend VOTF's 2018 Conference, Progress and Promise, on Saturday, October 6, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at the Providence, RI Marriott Downtown.

Featured speakers:

Marie Collins, abuse survivor & former Pontifical Commission member and Fassimo Faggioli and Fr. William Clark, theologians.

Register at www.votf.org.

*Voice of the Faithful: Working together to keep
the faith and change the Church*

Bulletin Information

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

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

Coffee After Mass



Please come join us on Sunday, September 16 after the 8:00 Mass in the Nativity Church Hall. A great time to catch up with your parish family or maybe meet a new friend!

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, October 4**.

HR St. Vincent de Paul Society

There is a wonderful way to honor someone who has requested "No gifts, please." You can send a check to Holy Redeemer Saint Vincent de Paul at 4 Green Street in Merrimac. Your donation will honor someone's celebration and will also help those in need. A note will be sent to let that someone know about the donor's meaningful gift. Donations can be made to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other significant occasions.

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

HR Holiday Fair Updates



Plans are being made for our annual **Holiday Fair**. This year, our fair will be Saturday, November 17. Tags will be available soon in the back of both churches for items needed to be purchased for our popular **gift baskets**.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

Offertory, September 8–9 \$2,811.00
 Monthly \$1,638.00

The second collection **this** weekend is the Clergy Health & Retirement Trust.



Catholic Appeal

Goal \$22,862.00
 To Date \$20,435.00



\$22,862
 \$15,000
 \$10,000
 \$5,000

We are pleased to share that Holy Redeemer has raised \$20,435.00 toward the parish goal of \$22,862.00. That's 89% of our goal! Thank you to all who have already pledged support. We need your help to reach our goal. Please give today to help us. Gifts can be made online at bostoncatholicappeal.org or by completing a pledge form available in the backs of the churches.

Activities Committee Meeting

The Activities Committee's next organizational meeting will be Sunday, September 23 at 6:00pm at Nativity Hall. Please plan on attending, we are in need of helpful hands!!

Fall Church Yards Clean-up

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, **September 29** starting at 9:00am at **both** churches. Parishioners are asked to arrive ready to rake, trim, and possibly plant bulbs to ready the yards for winter weather. This is a great time to earn service hours for Confirmation or School.

St. Vincent de Paul Raffle Fundraisers

Parishioner Ted Xenakis has generously agreed to donate the proceeds from two separate 50/50 raffles. The first raffle is associated with his "September to Remember" ice hockey tournament that he sponsors on September 15/16 in Haverhill. A single winner will take home half of the raffle sales and the other half will go to the HR St. Vincent DePaul conference. Tickets are 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5 and 20 for \$10.

The second 50/50 raffle will be for a round of golf at the Bradford Country Club. Tickets are \$10 each. Again, 50% of the proceeds will come back to the HR conference. Conference members will be selling tickets after the Masses on September 15–16 Thanks Ted!

HR Religious Education

All families can find registration forms, class schedules, and calendar events online at: hricatholic.org. Click on *Faith Formation*, then *Holy Redeemer* tab. Collaborative bulletins can be found on this site, too.

Grades 3–6 classes begin Sunday, September 23, at 9–10 a.m. in Merrimac.

Grades 7 and 8 Parent/Student meeting, Tuesday, September 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the hall in Merrimac.

Confirmation rehearsal with Candidates and Sponsors is Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ann Church, West Newbury.

Sunday, Sept. 30, **Grades 3–6** classes 9–10:00 a.m.

Grade 2 meeting with parents and students at Nativity, Merrimac (meeting in the church), 9–10 a.m.

Confirmation

Confirmation Rehearsal is Wednesday, September 26 at St. Ann Church in West Newbury at 7:00 p.m. Please attend with your sponsor, if possible, or a parent.

Confirmation Mass(es) are at St. Ann Church at 1:00 p.m. and a smaller group at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on **Saturday, September 29, 2018**. Bishop Hennessey will be presiding at both celebrations. If any candidates, sponsors, or parents would like to serve during the Mass, let me know on Retreat Day on September 16. Attendance for all of the above is mandatory.

Contact Info: Office of Religious Education

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

St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor



The annual Friends of the Poor walk is on **Saturday, September 29** (The Feast of St. Vincent DePaul!) Come join our conference members as we walk to raise awareness for the needs of the poor in the communities of our collaborative. The walk will start at Cashman Park in Newburyport at 9:00am and proceeds along the waterfront for a gentle 3K round trip. We will be distributing donation envelopes after Mass on September 22–23. Donations are important but your participation on Saturday the 29th is equally important to show to those we encounter on the walk that the Society is working to address the needs of the poor in our communities—and that you are part of that work.

Envelopes and instructions for check donations will be distributed after Mass on September 22–23. Thank you for your interest and support.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, September 8–9 \$9,219.00
Monthly \$1,754.00

The second collection **this** weekend is Clergy Health & Retirement Trust. The second collection **next** weekend is Restoration/Renovation.

“Walk for the Poor”



Please join our St. Vincent de Paul “Walk for the Poor” on Saturday, September 29

Cashman Park, Merrimac St., Newburyport, Distance- 3K
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.—Walk starts at 9:30 a.m.

Free T-shirts to all walkers with \$60 or more in donations (otherwise T-shirts are \$10).

All monies raised stays within our community to assist the needy with: food, clothing, assistance with utility payments, and even rent assistance so no needy person is forced into homelessness. The IC and HR Conferences assist any person requesting assistance within Newbury, West Newbury, Merrimac, and Newburyport, regardless of race, ethnic origin, or religious affiliation

We Need You to Help Us to Help Others!

You can register to walk, sponsor a walker already registered or support our Annual Fundraiser with a donation at: www.fopwalk.org/event/2258.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 19.00
Poor Box	\$ 228.00
Total	\$ 247.00

IC Annual Back-to-School New Socks and Underwear Drive

Our Annual Sock and Underwear drive is underway. Bins for your donations are at the doors of the IC Church. Please donate socks and underwear for school children ages 5–18 years old. Packages collected will go to the Community Service Center and will be distributed to those in need. Thanks so much for your generosity.

IC Knitting Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group will meet **Tuesday, September 18** at 1:00pm in room 209 in the IC Parish Center. We knit/crochet prayer shawls, hats, mittens, scarves for charity.

Come join us; we meet every Tuesday at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call Julia O'Connor 978-465-3350 or Frances Ronan 978-462-4972.

Immaculate Conception School



The “Back-To-School Open House Night” for parents of IC students will be held on **Tuesday, September 18**. This informative evening begins in the school gym at **6:30 p.m.** with a welcome from Mrs. Sullivan, staff introductions, and a brief welcome from the PTO President and the North Pole Express

Co-Chairs. Parents visit their children’s classrooms to hear about academic programs and plans for the year from grade level teachers. Specials teachers will be on hand to distribute information as well. Tables in the gym will have volunteer sign-up sheets for our fundraisers and parent organizations, as well as a table to complete CORI forms. Open House Night is a wonderful evening for IC parents and guardians to come together as a community.

Catechetical Sunday

This year, the Church celebrates *Catechetical Sunday* on September 16. The theme is “Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ.” Those who the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. We will celebrate the blessing of catechists at the 9:00am liturgy.

Prayer for Catechists

O God, our Heavenly Father, you have given us the gift of these catechists to be heralds of the Gospel to our parish family. We lift them up to you in thanksgiving and intercede for them concerning their hopes and needs. May we be attentive to the presence of your Word in them, a Word that lifts up and affirms, calls forth and challenges, is compassionate and consoles. We pray that our parish family will always be blessed with those who have responded to the call to share in Christ’s prophetic mission as catechists. May we too be open to the universal call to service that Christ addresses to all of his disciples, contributing our gifts to the communion of faith, the Church. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayer for Family Commitment

Loving and merciful Father, who instituted the family as an instrument of your fruitful love and raised it to be a sacrament of the love of your Son for his Church, send forth your Holy Spirit to forgive us for our sinful failures, to heal the personal and social wounds that afflict us, to bring consolation to the vulnerable among us, and to enable us to reach out in compassionate care to all those families in need. Make possible within us and for us what only you can do. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers provided by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/enlisting-witnesses/index.cfm>

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.

Chapter 7: Towards a Better Education of Children

261 Obsession, however, is not education. We cannot control every situation that a child may experience. Here it remains true that "time is greater than space." In other words, it is more important to start processes than to dominate spaces. If parents are obsessed with always knowing where their children are and controlling all their movements, they will seek only to dominate space. But this is no way to educate, strengthen and prepare their children to face challenges. What is most important is the ability lovingly to help them grow in freedom, maturity, overall discipline and real autonomy. Only in this way will children come to possess the wherewithal needed to fend for themselves and to act intelligently and prudently whenever they meet with difficulties. The real question, then, is not where our children are physically, or whom they are with at any given time, but rather where they are existentially, where they stand in terms of their convictions, goals, desires and dreams. The questions I would put to parents are these: "Do we seek to understand 'where' our children really are in their journey? Where is their soul, do we really know? And above all, do we want to know?"

Fall Religious Programs

Fall Registration is available now. www.hricatholic.org/IC-Children-s-Religious-Education. Classes begin Sunday, Sept. 16, 10:05–11:05am and Monday, Sept. 17, 5:30–6:30pm.

Catechists are need for Religious Education:

Sundays 10:05–11:05am Grade 6
Mondays 5:30–6:30pm Grades 5–6, 7–8

Baptism

Baptism info.: www.hricatholic.org/Baptism

Please pre-register for the class.

Oct. 7 Parent Class—Charity Dining Room 1:00pm
Sept. 16 Group Baptism—Church 1:00pm
Oct. 14 Group Baptisms—Church 1:00pm

First Reconciliation and Eucharist Registration has begun. Orientation and session on Reconciliation on **Sunday, October 14** at 2:30pm in the Church.

1st Sacraments information: <http://www.hricatholic.org/First-Eucharist-First-Reconciliation-Immaculate-Conception-Parish>

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.

Our monthly support meetings are held in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 at 7:30–9:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. Our next meeting is **September 24**.

Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ at barbarajhopkinson@gmail.com.

IC Confirmation Information

Confirmation Years 1 and 2: Please be working on your service activities. You need 24 hours over a two-year period.

Confirmation Junior-Grade 11 Note: We have two Confirmation Masses. Candidates will celebrate their Confirmation on Sunday, September 23 at the 11:30am Mass or the 2:30pm Mass with Bishop Hennessey. Candidates are to confirm their Mass preference time with the Religious Education office and number of guests.

Confirmation Rehearsals are Thursday, September 20: 5:30pm for the Sunday, September 23 11:30am Mass and 7:00pm for the Sunday 2:30pm Mass.

Confirmation Orientation for Parents only on Sunday, **September 16 at 2pm in the Church.** This meeting is for parents with candidates in Year 1, Catholic school candidates in Year 2, and any family that is new to Confirmation at IC.

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

Confirmation session is October 28 at 1:00pm in the Church for Years 1 and 2.

IC Parish Boosters

Two big events are being planned:

- Saturday, September 29—Yard Sale 9:00am–2:00pm
- Saturday, December 1—Christmas Fair

Contacts: Phone: 978-462-2724 or email:

Mag McKinnon mmckinnon@newburyportcatholic.org or Melinda Burrell burrell@newburyportcatholic.org

Yard Sale

Location: IC School Gym

Cost: \$25 for space and table. Those selling personal items are to take with them what does not sell.

Activities include: Food (coffee, pastries, hot dogs, chips, dessert, soda, and water), a White Elephant Sale, and a 50/50 raffle.



The parish will host a **White Elephant Sale** of items donated to the parish. We are asking for the following:

- Donated homemade baked goods
- Clean items: gently used toys, books, dvds, cds, etc.
- Please: **no clothes or large appliances**

Donated **items** for White Elephant table can be dropped off at Parish Center Youth Room—ground floor.

Donated **baked goods** can be dropped off at the Parish Center Kitchen—ground floor.

Volunteers needed: Signup Genius page: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4caaa72eaaff2-yard>

Dealers Welcome: Signup Genius page: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4caaa72eaaff2-dealer>.