

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023

All Are Welcome

hricatholic.org



When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life."

(Pv 31:10-13)

New England Tenors

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Immaculate Conception welcomes the New England Tenors in concert.



**Sunday, November 26
2:00 p.m.**

**Immaculate Conception
Church, Newburyport**

**Tickets are \$20 for adults,
\$12 for children under 12**

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Sponsored by



INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SINCE 1820.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (11/18)

4:00pm **IC** Paul F. Doyle, Alton Tobey (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)

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

Sunday (11/19)

8:30am **Nativity** Katherine & Mike Duda & family (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** Michael Sforza & Janice Papa (Fr. Morin)

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

11:30am **IC** Val & Terese Bernard (Fr. Stanley)

Monday (11/20)

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

Tuesday (11/21)

9:00am **IC** Sandy Lambert (Fr. Stanley)

Wednesday (11/22)

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

Thursday (11/23), Thanksgiving Day

8:00am IC (Fr. Harrison)

Friday (11/24)

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

Saturday (11/25)

4:00pm **IC** Connie Bucci & Robert Cynewski (Fr. Morin)

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

Sunday (11/26)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

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

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)

11:30am **IC** Alan Chu (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

In your prayers please remember Phyllis Hayes and all of the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Vigil Mass is live-streamed online through our website: hricatholic.org.

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Join us for Mass on **Thanksgiving morning at 8:00 a.m.** (Note Mass is 1 hour earlier than usual.) Why not start your day giving thanks to God with your Collaborative family!

Bulletin Information

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

Questions of the Week



Adult: In what ways have you used the gifts that God has given to you for the building of the Kingdom?

Child: How do you use the talents that God has given to you?

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Sometimes, when reading the Bible, the Sacred Authors say some really outrageous things that are meant in extreme hyperbole, to emphasize a particular action or attitude. For example, the story of Jonah portrays the prophet as the most unwilling and unworthy proclaimer of God's Word. When tasked with preaching to the Ninevites by God, Jonah turns and he goes in the opposite direction. When he runs out of land, he then gets on a boat, and continues to put as much distance between himself and those he was supposed to call to conversion. When thrown overboard, a "great fish" swallows him whole and literally spits him back out on the beach...that he might reconsider his ways and do God's Will. And even amidst what surely was half-hearted preaching by a reluctant prophet, the Ninevites were wildly motivated to change their ways. The king himself put on sackcloth and sat in a pile of ashes, declaring that every resident, man and beast alike, should do likewise! I mean, really...even the cattle and sheep? The point here is simple: God's Word is so effective, that even with the very worst of preaching by the least motivated of prophets and the entire city from king to goat was to be found embracing a sincere and heartfelt conversion in sorrow for their sins and seeking mercy from God! Wow! What drama and affect!

Something similar is going on in this weekend's Gospel story about the talents. The word itself is a challenge to move beyond, because it is used so differently in English and modern life. Ask anyone today if they have any talents, and you might get a litany of their hobbies, athletic prowess, and proficient job skills. They might tell you that they are a really good cook or an accomplished musician or a bona fide pickleball champion. As used today, a "talent" could mean that someone is a good, compassionate listener, a confident, experienced parent of 4 or an esteemed business leader. That's all well and fine.

But the word "talent" means something very different in the Scriptures. It referred to an ancient measure of weight that had an extreme monetary value. By some estimates, a talent was about 75 pounds of precious metal, usually silver or gold. So, at today's current price for gold, one talent alone was worth more than 2 million dollars! Now the hyperbole and the outrageous come into view.

(Continued on page 4)

Collection for Retired Religious Sisters

November 18–19

Today's second collection is used to assist religious communities to provide for the retirement and health care needs of Sisters who have served in the Archdiocese. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to the Sisters who have served the Church of Boston so generously for so many years. Your contribution does make a difference. For more information, please contact the Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, November 20

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

Women at the Well Mtg. 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room

Scout Troop 41 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, November 21

Women's AA Mtg. 7:00am, St. Ann Hall

Grade 2 Faith Formation 3:30pm, IC Nazareth Library

Breaking Bread Meal 4:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm, IC Church

Wednesday, November 22

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program 7:00–9:00am, St. Ann Hall

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

Collaborative Offices Close at 12:00 noon

Thursday, November 23, Thanksgiving Day

Collaborative Offices Closed

Friday, November 24

Collaborative Offices Closed

Saturday, November 25

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, November 26

New England Tenors Concert 2:00pm, IC Church

To schedule your group's in-person meeting, contact Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to reserve your space.

Collaborative Contacts

Holy Redeemer

4 Green St., Merrimac 01860

Phone: 978-346-8604

info@hriccatholic.org

Immaculate Conception

42 Green St., Nbpt. 01950

Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399

info@hriccatholic.org

Office Hours: M–F 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Rev. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

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978-462-2724 x405, agiard@hriccatholic.org

Dennis LaMalfa, Business Manager

978-462-2724 x451, dlamalfa@hriccatholic.org

Karen Leff, Media Outreach Coordinator,

hricbulletin@gmail.com

Christmas Flowers

We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for all 3 churches for Christmas. Please do not have flowers delivered to the churches but allow us to purchase them. Place your flower donation envelope in the collection at the churches or mail them to the offices.

Donation deadline is **Monday, December 11 at noon.**

(Continued from page 3)

Knowing that this Master was sometimes ruthless, "harvesting where he did not plant and gathering where he did not scatter," at least one servant fails miserably to read the situation and what was being asked of him. In response to each of the servants' efforts (or lack thereof), the Master indicates that he saw the talents as a small matter, meaning they were only a tiny fraction of his overall wealth. By the details of this parable, the Master was a real shaker and mover, a risk-taker and one who made his money precisely through vigorous trading and sometimes shady deals. His methodology was less than honorable, but the results were stunningly effective.

From one perspective, the servant entrusted with one talent is seen to preserve his personal honor by refusing to participate in such repugnant business practices. By giving back the talent, untouched, he repudiates everything that the Master is about. He was even unwilling to try and make interest on it, lest he be accused of usury.

The moral of the story, however, lies not in the distasteful methodology of the corrupt Master, but in how each servant is judged by his willingness to imitate and embrace the business or work of the Master, to reflect back to the world that they are servants of this Master. A servant, in Jesus' time and place, was not to chart his or her own course in the world, but rather to be all-about whatever was important to the Master, right, wrong, or indifferent. If the Master was all into making money, that is what you were to completely devote yourself to.

This story, of course, is being used as an extreme lens to look at what we disciples are to hold as an attitude in our service to God. We don't have to understand or even agree on everything that our Master, God, is all about. We may even spend our entire lives trying to better discern exactly what is God's Will in various circumstances. But we must be all about doing His Will no matter what! Our honor will not be found in some hyper-personalistic defiance of the Almighty, but rather, our true honor is only found in our faithfulness to God.

In this crazy, upside-down parable, notice that the first two servants were praised not for the money that they made, but rather for their conforming themselves "in small matters" to their Master's methods and ways, such that they are then called to greater responsibilities and best of all, to "share in their Master's joy!" You and I may be praised for many things in this world, including by how much we accomplish and achieve through the use of our many gifts and talents. But if the ultimate goal is to share in our Master's joy -- in the pure bliss of being part of God's eternal Kingdom of Heaven, then our greatest undertaking and best measure of our success will be how closely we model God's love and mercy in this life, that others who encounter us, see not our own ambitions or worldly honor, but rather God's Grace shining through our human fragility. Now THAT, is worth more than any measure of silver, gold, pearls or investment portfolios!

Come, let us share in our Master's joy, no matter how outrageous it may sound!

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Happy Thanksgiving!

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Prayers for the Sick

May the comfort and healing of Christ embrace all in our Collaborative who are suffering from illness, especially:

Patricia Baikewicz	Ed Hardy	Lee Preble
Priscilla Brown	Jane Harney	Donika Pulake
Vasfije Buhali	Terence Healey	Douglas Rose
Autumn Rose	Rosemarie Hines	Maureen Russell
Coulombe	Linda Hofferty	Rob Schweizer
Bill Crounse	Armand Hyatt	Frank Siderio
Drew Daubach	Michael Juralewicz	Yvonne Sloban
Kristen	Arthur LaPointe	Gary Smith
D'Entremont	Helen McCance	Arlene Stoddard
Deb Downie	Patricia Carey	Tom Tribble
Jeanine Ebacher	McCarthy	Michael Tucker
Fowler	Carol O'Neal	Helen Vaillancourt
Ann-Margaret	Eleanora Paciulan	Maddie Villers
Ferrante	Joseph Palumbo	Laurent Vincent
Jay Hanslig	Joanne Pesa	

Contact the Collaborative offices to remove someone or to add someone on our prayer list: 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604.

Novena to Mary

You are invited to begin your Advent preparation with a nightly Novena to the Blessed Mother at Immaculate Conception Church beginning at 7:00 p.m. on November 29 and concluding on December 7. All are welcome to these evenings of testimony, music, reflection, and prayer. Watch the bulletin for details.

Eucharistic Revival Events

Save the Dates

The current crisis in the Church in the United States of many Catholics' misunderstanding of, and even non-belief in, the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is a reality that mandates our urgent attention and evangelization. As part of the **National Eucharistic Revival** currently taking place nationwide, Cardinal Séan O'Malley has asked Archdiocesan parishes to host a Eucharistic Revival event. IC Church has accepted the Cardinal's invitation to host an event for the Merrimack Vicariate.

Thursday December 28, 2023 and Thursday March 21, 2024. Both two-hour events summon Catholics within our Vicariate. Come for all or any part, beginning with communal hymns and inspiring testimonials on Jesus' Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist, followed by one hour of Sacred Silence before the Blessed Sacrament, and concluding with food and fellowship afterwards.

Agenda:

Welcome/Sign-in: IC Church, Green St. Entrance, 6–6:15 pm

Communal singing, witness talks: IC Church, 6–7 pm

Solemn Adoration/Benediction: IC Church, 7–8 pm

Fellowship/Tables of free religious items and reading materials: IC St. Louis Hall, 8–8:30 pm

While this event is **free**, it is also **priceless**, so invite youth, elders, friends, lapsed Catholics! Come, honor our Lord with a resounding AMEN as you experience how hymns, silence, and dusky darkness teach secrets of the heart that only Jesus' Real Presence can impart to us.

Collaborative Faith Formation

**School Year Programs
(K–10, Including Sacramental Prep.)**

Classes have begun for the new school year. It's not too late to register your child!

Faith Formation schedules and registration forms for the 2023–24 school year are available on our website at www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

Baptism

We celebrate this sacrament the second Sunday of each month at IC Church. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.

RCIA Corner

In last week's RCIA Corner, we introduced you to a new catechumen named Nathan. But what is a "catechumen"? A catechumen is someone who, after a period of inquiry where he/she seeks to get to know Christ and His Church a little, but isn't ready to commit to anything yet, has shown signs of conversion to Christ and has expressed a desire to more formally seek the Sacraments and become Catholic. Though not fully members of the Church, the Code of Canon Law tell us "they are united with the Church which already cherishes them as its own." (Can. 204 §1) Interestingly, the Code tells us that "while it invites [catechumens] to lead a life of the gospel and introduces them to the celebration of the sacred rites, it already grants them various prerogatives which are proper to Christians." (Can. 20 §2) For instance, they are permitted to enter into a Christian marriage with a baptized Catholic and are entitled to a Christian funeral and burial, should they die before baptism. May we at the collaborative parishes truly cherish our catechumens!

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, we encourage you (or them) to reach out to Aaron Giard at agiard@hriccatholic.org.

Shawls and Lapghans



Shawls and lapghans are given freely as a gift, to offer comfort and joy! We would be happy to deliver to anyone. Or if you personally would like to give one to a friend, relative or neighbor, please contact Helen at 978-771-4673.

Come join us. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall in Merrimac at 2:00 p.m. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you! All are welcome.

Our next meeting is Thursday, December 7 at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 2:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Office Hours

Collaborative offices will close at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 22 and be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Advent Retreat

Please consider this Individual Directed Advent Retreat

How will you prepare Him room in your heart this Advent? St. John of the Cross tells us, "Where God finds space He enters." God waits patiently for us to make space for Him. This Advent will you keep God waiting or make room for Him?

Your Advent directed retreat will focus on preparing Him room. Readings and reflections will be guided by the teachings of St. John of the Cross and St. Ignatius of Loyola on disordered and unhealthy attachments that block the flow of God's love from entering your heart. Prayer and spiritual direction may help you discover the desires that occupy your heart, direct your choices and actions and compete with your desire for God. Worldly desires can fill the sacred space God will dwell if you desire Him above all else. As you bring the fruits of your prayer and pondering to God and to spiritual direction your desire for God may deepen lessening the power of your unhealthy attachments and creating space for God to fill with His love.

As you celebrate the gift of our loving God, Emmanuel, God with us, with a heart prepared to receive your King may you abide in God as He abides in you. This Christmas may you feel the joy of a heart open to God's gift of unconditional love and rejoice.

Our Advent Retreat will open December 4 and close December 23. However, you may begin at any time during retreat. I will provide information, reflections, prayers, and poems for your prayer and reflection and meet with you for 4 one-hour individual sessions of spiritual direction as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

You may schedule direction sessions throughout the retreat as desired and at your own pace. We will meet via telephone or Zoom on a day and time convenient for you. This offering is designed to provide an affordable, convenient, safe retreat and create an intimate space for you to share yourself deeply with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Retreat Opens December 4, retreat Closes: December 23.

Spiritual Director: Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director, Pastoral Counselor.

Please Call (978) 462-7483 to register or for additional information.

Suggested donation: \$90.00

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

Next delivery is Wednesday, November 22



The HRIC sandwich program is asking for volunteers to help make sandwiches, soups, and casseroles for the Lazarus House Ministry.

Now that the weather is getting cooler the Collaborative sandwich program will be adding **soup** to our deliveries on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Disposable gallon containers can be picked up at St. Ann basement on those days. Any soup is appreciated.

Sandwiches, wrapped individually and cut then bagged, then returned to the original bread loaf sleeve, if you can label what sandwiches are in there, then please do. Cold cuts, cheese, and peanut butter and jelly are appreciated. No condiments on the sandwiches please.

What a fun activity to do for the holidays: get a couple neighbors together and make sandwiches. The casseroles that we were doing in the summer were greatly appreciated so we are also keeping those going if that is preferred. Disposable pans are available for those as well in the basement at St. Ann on Wednesdays or you can use a disposable pan of your own.

Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury from **7:00–9:00 am**.

Questions? Contact hricssandwichprogram@gmail.com.

Newburyport Choral Society

Under the direction of Music Director Dr. Minji Kim, 100+ voice Newburyport Choral Society will perform a selection of delightful holiday music from various cultures and countries around the world, as well the holiday classic A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten.

The December 9 (7:30 p.m.) and December 10 (2:30 p.m.) concerts at Belleville Congregational Church, Newburyport, will also feature the Greater Newburyport Children's Chorus, local student readings, a small instrumental ensemble (including harp, piano, and percussion instruments), and even some audience participation. We will celebrate the joy in being together as a community, and honor many unique cultural identities of our shared humanity.

The Tenors are Coming!

See page 2 of the bulletin.

The Compassionate Friends



The Compassionate Friends provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age, any cause. Visit our website tcfnewburyport.org.

Our next monthly support meeting is Monday, **November 27** in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 from 7:30–9:00 p.m. Contact Mel Yell, 978-764-2547 or Heidi Damiano, 978-360-7525 with questions.

Mysteries of the Rosary Series

Enter into the Mysteries of Christ and rediscover the power of the Rosary! Mysteries of the Rosary integrates deeply reflective insights on the life of Christ, theological truths, and captivating stories together with breathtaking scenery, illuminating sacred art, and inspiring music. Encounters with Christ in the episodes and discussions will lead to even deeper encounters with Him in personal prayer and contemplation. The call to pray is urgent. Join us!

Thursdays, 9:45 a.m. (after daily Mass)
October 26–Dec. 14 (except Thanksgiving)
Charity Dining Room, IC Pastoral Center
Contact Aaron (agiard@hriccatholic.org) for more info.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Nov. 11–12	\$1,809.00
HR Mailed-In Offertory, Week Ending Nov. 10	\$ 405.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 353.00
Total Weekly Offertory	\$2,567.00

Monthly \$1,452.00

The second collection this weekend (Nov. 19) is Retired Religious Sisters. See page 3 for details. No second collection next weekend (Nov. 26).

Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Holy Redeemer Parish with the second collection noted in the memo.

If you would like to mail in your collections, send them to **Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860.**

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hricatholic.org/hr-online-giving.

**HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$8,540.00**



Fair Wrap up Meeting

THAT'S A WRAP!

We will be having a fair wrap up meeting on **Wednesday, November 29 at 6:30** in Nativity Hall.

We will discuss what went well and what did not. Also, we are planning for future events.

Please consider joining our group to share ideas for new activities, or join in and help us with what we have planned.

Our group *may* be considering participating in Old Home Days in Merrimac this August. We *may* take over the Boy Scout chicken BBQ. We will definitely need more help from parishioners if we take over the BBQ.

Please consider coming to our meeting and help support our Parish. Please contact Cindy Quinn at 978-346-0072 if you have any questions.

View our weekly bulletin online on our website:
hricatholic.org.

Holiday Helper Program



Holiday Helper Program is asking the parishioners of Holy Redeemer Parish to donate **new pajamas and socks** for children in need in the Pentucket School District.

Watch for giving trees in the back of both churches with tags with needed sizes for socks and PJs. Sizes range from toddler to adult large (for the older students). Please return your item with the tag on it to the backs of the churches by **December 10**.



HR St. Vincent de Paul



As the holiday season begins, our conference urgently requests your assistance. We have explained our plan to help families at Thanksgiving.

After reviewing a list of approximately 25 families that we have helped in the recent past, our conference will only be able to help 15 of those families with the greatest need. We have agreed to provide \$50 Market Basket gift cards to these families so that they can provide themselves with a Thanksgiving meal. Can we count on you to sponsor one of these families with a donation of a gift card?

We raised over \$3,000 from the St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk. It has already been used to assist needy families. Several "big-ticket" emergency assistance expenses have been addressed—ranging from healthcare, to rent, to heat/hot water, and transportation needs.

Anything that you can provide is greatly appreciated, of course, whether cash or gift cards. Please use the envelopes provided at Nativity and St. Ann and place your donation in the designated poor boxes.

The St. Vincent de Paul conference will also be at the Holy Redeemer Holiday Fair on November 18. Please stop at our table to learn more about the Society and its mission. We are always looking for new members. Please call 978-346-8604 (x4) and leave a message if you're interested in answering the call "to seek and find the forgotten" in our society.

Holy Redeemer Projects

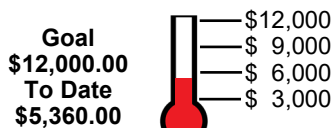
Painting the Interior of St. Ann Church

We are raising funds to give the interior of St. Ann Church a new coat of paint. We need approximately \$9,000 to complete the project. Special envelopes have been included in the monthly packets for those who receive them, or blank ones are available at the back of the church. Once the money has been raised, we will schedule the painting to be done. Many thanks for your support and generosity in helping to complete this work!

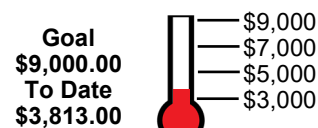
Air Conditioning for Nativity Hall

We are raising the funds to add air conditioning to Nativity Hall. Like the church, we intend to install the heat pump "splits" that have enabled us to enjoy a more comfortable environment for worship this summer. We hope to see this work done for about \$12,000. Special envelopes are included in the monthly packets for those who receive them and blank envelopes are available in the church. Once we have raised these funds, we will proceed with the project. Many thanks for your generosity and support!

Nativity Hall Air Conditioning



St. Ann Painting Project



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Nov. 11-12	\$4,272.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Nov.10	\$1,651.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$2,979.34
Total Weekly Offertory	\$8,902.34
Monthly	\$1,238.00

The second collection this weekend (Nov. 19) is Retired Religious Sisters. See page 3 for details. No second collection next weekend (Nov. 26).

Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Immaculate Conception Parish with the second collection noted in the memo. If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

You can also sign up for online giving. Visit our website to learn more: hriccatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving.

**IC Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$49,185.00**



IC St. Vincent de Paul

If you know someone living in Newbury/Newburyport who needs assistance, please suggest that they call our **help line 978-518-0728**. We are ready to assist.

You can now make online donations on our website: www.svdnewburyport.org. If you would like to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to **"SVdP of Newburyport"** and drop it into the collection box at Mass or mail it to the parish office at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Breaking Bread Meal

We serve our weekly Breaking Bread meal on Tuesday evenings. It is a hot, nourishing, 3-course dinner. Supper is served from 4:45-5:30. Those who prefer to continue "Grab & Go" can pick up at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Seeking Offertory Collectors

We are hoping to resume passing the collection baskets and bringing up the gifts at Mass as soon as possible. To do this we need to recruit men and women who are willing to do this on a somewhat regular basis.

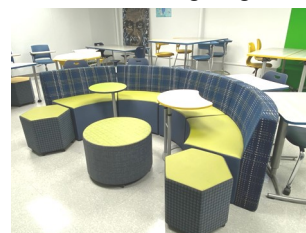
There would be one or two "captains" appointed for each Mass and they would arrange for the 6 collectors who would be needed at each Mass. All collectors would need to fill out a CORI form and a volunteer form. One of the current greeters would recruit a family or individuals for the Offertory Procession and would organize the Procession at the proper time. If you are interested, would you please email Jim at jimwilliamson35@gmail.com and let him know of your interest. Thank you for considering this request.

Immaculate Conception School

Classroom furniture for students that promotes learning, collaboration, and comfort has been a focus at Immaculate Conception School since Election Day, 2019. That was the date the first batch of brightly colored flexible furniture was delivered to the school by KI Furniture. Royal blue tables and lime green, white, and royal blue swivel chairs on wheels were the first coloration of classrooms ordered for the middle school. Immediately, the students' experience in school changed. Within hours, teachers noticed an increase in conversation, energy, attention, and engagement. Despite the doubt, chairs that swivel and roll effortlessly were not a distraction. They were everything but. The classrooms could be reconfigured within seconds to enable the furniture placement to pair with or enhance the learning activity. The possibilities were endless, which helped to open teachers' minds in a very positive way.



Since then, ongoing conversations with KI Furniture have focused on planning and designing additional areas and classrooms within Immaculate Conception. Having classroom layouts and suggested furniture options is step one to visualizing and imagining an upgrade to a room. One area of particular focus has been the Innovation Lab, which opened just over a year ago. This STEM space is available to all grades as an alternate learning environment. Although not in the budget at this time, the dream for cutting edge furniture is on the school's mind!



Couch style seating, high tables and a variety of desks appeal to different types of learners.

Recently, KI Furniture developed a program that loans an entire classroom of furniture to select schools to try out. As if they knew of our dream, the IC was chosen to receive the "Live and Learn" classroom, which was delivered on Election Day, pictured. For the next month or so, students and teachers will offer feedback on the 9 different chairs and 8 different table tops. We are excited to share our experience with the product development team at KI Furniture.



Grade 8 students test out the different ways that individual chairs can be used.

Immaculate Conception School offers a dynamic educational experience rooted in faith-based values. The work ethic of our students and expectation for respectful, courteous behavior is respected and valued by the community. Give us a call to learn more about all that an IC education offers! 978-465-7780 www.icsnewburyport.com Pre-K 3 to Grade 8.



Follow Us on Instagram
HRICcatholic

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH



Immaculate Conception
Parish
1848-2023

175th Anniversary Upcoming Events

Friday, December 8

5:30 p.m. Mass: Join us for the 175th Mass for the Feast of Immaculate Conception. A beautiful liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop Hennessey in honor of our patroness.

Then head down the street to the Mission Oak Grill for the 175th Gala!

7:00 p.m.: Anniversary Gala at Steeple Hall, Mission Oak Grill

Join fellow parishioners at the Gala for hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, cash bar, music, and dancing to celebrate 175 years of faith and service. Tickets are \$50/ person and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will be on sale following all weekend Masses until sold out. Questions? Contact Melinda: 978-462-2724, Mary: 508-269-3405, or Jan: 978-270-5128.

Sunday, December 10

11:30 a.m. Mass: His Eminence Cardinal Séan O'Malley will celebrate Mass in honor of the 175th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception

12:30 p.m.: Meet and greet the Cardinal in the IC School gym.

Knights of Columbus

All men of the Collaborative, 18 years or older, are welcome to join the Knights. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the IC Nazareth Library. For more information about our meetings or to join the Knights, call 978-225-0804, email kofc231@outlook.com.

Also, all are welcome to join us for **Hospitality Sunday** on the first Sunday of every month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the IC Parish Center for free coffee and donuts.

Win Cash!

IC School Annual Holiday Calendars are now available. For over 20 years, IC School has run a holiday calendar fundraiser. Each \$10 calendar gives individuals 40 chances to win a grand total of \$4,800 in cash prizes. A winner is drawn each day from January 6–February 14 to receive a cash prize of \$100, \$200, or \$300. Calendars are available at IC School, IC Church lobby, and the IC Parish Center. To enter, fill out the buyer's name and contact information in the space at the bottom of the calendar. Cut it off and return both the ticket stub and the money to the School Office or to the Parish Center office no later than January 5, 2024. Check payments should be made out to Immaculate Conception School or cash is accepted.

IC Online Giving

To get started, you To get started you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish. Registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office. You can also register online.

To learn more visit our website, hriccatholic.org and click the "Links" tab, then click on "IC Parish Online Giving" to get to the site or contact Christine Breslow, 978-462-2724 x 402.

175th Anniversary Prayer

Immaculate Conception Church

1848-2023

Gracious and loving Father, on this 175th anniversary of our Parish, we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present.

We praise You for all the joy we have shared in these years of faith and fellowship. We pray for all who together make up this community of Your people.

Through the guidance and intercession of our Patroness, may we be ever mindful of the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the strength of the Holy Spirit who renews all things.

May our Parish continue to grow as a home for all who seek Your love and mercy. Mary, Queen of Peace, conceived without original sin, pray for us. Amen



Bible Study

Some Collaborative members are looking for people who may be interested in joining a Bible study on Wednesday mornings following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at IC. We would meet in the IC parish center weekly. If you are interested, contact Melinda at 978-462-2724.

Free Hair Cuts

Donna Koen, an IC parishioner and licensed hairdresser for 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.

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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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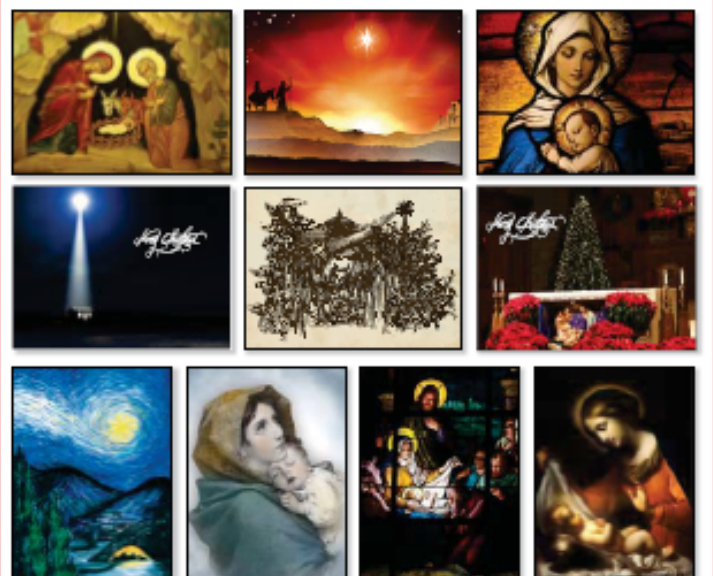
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