

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

## The Most Holy Trinity

June 4, 2023

All Are Welcome

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



Photo: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.  
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*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and  
the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you.*

(2 Corinthians 13)

# Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative

## St. Ann

Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985  
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**

## Nativity

Parish offices and church:  
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860  
Office Hours: By appointment  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**

## Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:  
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950  
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
**Phone: 978-462-2724**

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

Email: [info@hriccatholic.org](mailto:info@hriccatholic.org)

### Pastor

Rev. Timothy Harrison,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
[info@hriccatholic.org](mailto:info@hriccatholic.org)

### Senior Priests in Residence

978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
Rev. William H. McLaughlin  
Rev. George E. Morin  
Rev. Charles Stanley

### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow  
978-887-5350, [paul Dow49@gmail.com](mailto:paul Dow49@gmail.com)  
Deacon John Moranski  
978-432-1443, [jmoranski51@gmail.com](mailto:jmoranski51@gmail.com)

### St. Vincent de Paul

Holy Redeemer St. Vincent de Paul Society  
978-346-8604 x 4  
[hsvdp300@gmail.com](mailto:hsvdp300@gmail.com)  
Immaculate Conception St. Vincent de Paul  
Society  
978-518-0728  
[www.svdnewburyport.org](http://www.svdnewburyport.org)

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Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator  
978-462-2855 [swochak@netzero.com](mailto:swochak@netzero.com)

## May Crowning and First Eucharist Celebrations

*The month of May brought many happy celebrations in the Collaborative including May crownings and First Communion.*



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday (6/3)

4:00pm IC *Harry & Mabel O'Brien Kalashian, Mary Taylor* (Fr. Stanley)

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

### Sunday (6/4)

8:30am **Nativity** *Jozef Kardas & family* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

9:00am IC *Michael Perruccio, Thomas Murray* (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

**11:00am IC** *Domenico & Caterina Maiello* (Fr. Stanley)

### Monday (6/5)

9:00am IC (Fr. McLaughlin)

### Tuesday (6/6)

9:00am IC *Margaret Cohane, Kevin & Elaine Jackson* (Fr. Harrison)

### Wednesday (6/7)

9:00am IC *The Niles, Keefe, Swochak, & Macri families* (Fr. McLaughlin)

### Thursday (6/8)

9:00am IC (Fr. Morin)

### Friday (6/9)

9:00am IC (Fr. Harrison)

### Saturday (6/10)

4:00pm IC (Fr. Harrison)

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

### Sunday (6/11)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Stanley)

9:00am IC *Margaret Powis* (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

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

**11:00am IC** *Angelo Maiello* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

*In your prayers please remember Edward Mueskes 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: [riccatholic.org](http://riccatholic.org) and on Facebook: ([Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)).

## Adoration

As we step into weeks of Ordinary Time, if you are a visitor or parishioner seeking an extraordinary moment of inner transformation, enter Sacred Silence any Thursday or Friday for serene dialogue with Jesus the Lord in the monstrance. His personal loving words to you will not disappoint.

*Enter through the Green Street door only.*



**Place:** IC Church

**Time:** Thursdays: 7 p.m.–8 p.m.

Also: Fridays 9:30 a.m.–12 noon

*Note:* If a Friday funeral is scheduled, or in the absence of a presider, IC Church will remain open for "Sacred Silence" only. Check the HRIC calendar online for updated information.

## Knights Hospitality Sunday

Join us **June 4, after the 9:00am Mass**, in IC St. Louis Hall for Hospitality Sunday. We will have free coffee and donuts for all.

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.



## Hospitality Sunday

1st Sundays after the 9AM Mass | Parish Center



## Food Drive Thank You

Thank you from the Social Action Committee and area food pantries. Your response to the Memorial Day Super Sunday Food Drive was tremendous. We collected over 500 pounds of food and personal care products. These much-needed items will be distributed to three food pantries in Newbury, Merrimac, and West Newbury.

You answered the challenge and the faith witness you've demonstrated will make a big impact on someone's life and they thank you for caring about them.

The bins will remain in the back of all three Collaborative churches, so if you can continue to help, it will be greatly appreciated.

We'll have another Super Sunday during the summer and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can sustain our support of those in need. The collaborative organizers thank you, the pantry volunteers thank you, but most importantly the people and families we are helping thank you sincerely for your generosity. We are making a difference for them.

## Mom's Book Club

Are you a mom interested in meeting other HRIC moms? Or a mom looking for a good read? Join Lucia and Kim, both moms of little ones, on **June 4** in the IC Charity Dining Room from 10:15–11:30 to discuss Laura Kelley Fanucci's *Everyday Sacrament: The Messy Grace of Parenting*.

## HRIC Playgroup

Come let your little ones play, read, and sing while meeting other parents of young ones in our Collaborative. We meet on Friday mornings from 9:45–11:15 in the IC Conference Room 209. Open to all ages including infants! We will meet through June 23 before our summer break. Contact Kim (mom of Max, 2) at [kimberly.a.schulte@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.a.schulte@gmail.com) for more information. We would love to see you!

## Questions of the Week

**Adult:** Which member of the Trinity do you most address in prayer? Why do you think that is?

**Child:** What do you think of when you make the Sign of the Cross?

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## IC Haiti: Part 7

2020–2022 was a particularly difficult period in the history of Haiti. Not only did Haitians suffer the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic along with the rest of the global community, but they also experienced an unprecedented humanitarian crisis brought on by political, social, and economic violence and chaos. That crisis continues into the present time (June 2023). Costs skyrocketed as food and medical supplies became less accessible due to an ongoing disruption of the transportation system. However, by the grace of God, IC Haiti was able to keep up its commitment to fund the Fr. Marc Piché elementary school and its attendant programs (hot lunch, dental care, and secondary school tuitions), albeit at a higher cost: just over \$70,000 a year during this three-year period. In addition, we contributed to St. Boniface Hospital as it coped with the health and nutrition problems brought on by the crisis.

Fortunately, IC parishioners continued to support our mission to Haiti even when the pandemic caused our church to be closed for much of the time during this period. “Cookies for Haiti” amazingly donated \$7,000 in the summer of 2020 even when there were no parishioners at church to buy cookies. An anonymous donor then matched that \$7,000 total. Wow! Another anonymous donor helped us tremendously to meet our budgetary goals during these three difficult years with several five-figure contributions.

In the later part of 2022, Conor Shapiro, the CEO of Health Equity International (formerly the Saint Boniface Haiti Foundation), spoke at Sunday Masses here to let parishioners know how much the medical community at Saint Boniface Hospital in Fond des Blancs appreciated our supportive partnership. He also spoke at the Parish Center, where parishioners in attendance donated close to \$1,000. Health Equity International is IC Haiti’s eyes on the ground in Haiti, and our mission to Haiti would not be possible without its guidance, oversight, and inspiration.

Two new fundraisers were initiated in November of 2022: a Walk for Water and a Get-Together at the Newburyport Brewery. The walk for water took place at Merrimac Heights Academy, a private special needs school in Merrimac. Students and staff all participated in a short walk to raise funds for IC Haiti. The brewery fundraiser brought people together for a fun time at the NBPT site on Graf Road where IC Haiti Board members held a raffle for a variety of donated items. Both events were not only fundraisers but opportunities for participants to learn about IC Haiti’s mission. Over \$6,000 was raised at these two events. Kudos to MHA walkers and to the local band that performed pro bono at the NBPT brewery event.

## Collaborative Faith Formation

All Faith Formation schedules and registration forms are posted on our website at [www.hricatholic.org/Faith-Formation](http://www.hricatholic.org/Faith-Formation).



**Summer 2023 Faith Formation Week**  
**Grades 3–8 June 26–30 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**  
 Registration forms available online:  
[hricatholic.org/Faith-Formation](http://hricatholic.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.

## CPR Training

We are able to offer additional CPR classes. All are welcome to sign up. The cost is \$50 per person. Pre-registration is required. Sessions are limited to 8 participants each. Call the Collaborative offices at (978) 346-8604 or (978) 462-2724 and let us know which session you would like to attend.

**Saturday, June 17, 9:00 a.m. IC Charity Dining Room**  
**Saturday, June 24, 9:00 a.m. Nativity Hall**

These training sessions are being offered as an extension of our recent purchase of AED and stop bleed/first aid kits for our worship spaces. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for these potentially life-saving kits, please contact Dennis in our offices. Full or partial donations for these sets are welcome and appreciated.

## Prayers for the Sick

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

|                    |                 |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Patricia Baikewicz | Jack Flynn      | Carol O’Neal    |
| Priscilla Brown    | Jeanine Ebacher | Lee Preble      |
| Baby Boyle         | Fowler          | Donika Pulake   |
| Vasfije Buhali     | Eddie Gagnon    | Douglas Rose    |
| Autumn Rose        | Charmaine Haan  | Robert Rose     |
| Coulombe           | Hillar Haan     | Maureen Russell |
| Bill Crounse       | Jay Hanslig     | Rob Schweizer   |
| Drew Daubach       | Al Hasapis      | Yvonne Sloban   |
| Kristen            | Terence Healey  | Tom Tribble     |
| D’Entremont        | Sam Kitchen     | Michael Tucker  |
| Ann-Margaret       | Arthur LaPointe | Laurent Vincent |
| Ferrante           | Chet LeBlanc    |                 |

## HRIC BBQ June 17 Celebrating Father’s Day

Want to celebrate the dads in your life in a special way? Join us for the HRIC Father’s Day BBQ on Saturday, June 17 at 5:00 p.m., immediately following the 4:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception. Dining will be on the lawn between the church and the parish center.



Fr. Tim will be flipping burgers and dogs. Chips, watermelon, cookies, and brownies will round out the menu. Vegetarian options too. Top it off with iced tea, lemonade, or Father Ray’s special iced coffee. Cornhole, hula hoops, bubbles, and cotton candy for the kids!

Entertainment provided by choir member and WJOP Jazz World DJ, Sean Goguen from 93.5 Joppa Radio.

Hosted by the HRIC Cursillo Community, there is no charge for the BBQ, but reservations are requested for headcount. Please use the link below to connect to Eventbrite to reserve the number in your party or you may call the office to reserve as well.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/immaculate-conception-175th-anniversary-fathers-day-bbq-tickets-639887359317>

So, when you hear the call of the bagpipes, find your place in line and enjoy food, fun, and fellowship as we honor the men who are a strong and loving presence in our lives.

# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## HR Offertory Collection

|                                            |                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| HR Offertory, May 27–28                    | \$2,327.00        |
| HR Mailed in Offertory, week ending May 26 | \$ 250.00         |
| HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving          | \$ 330.00         |
| <b>Total Weekly Offertory</b>              | <b>\$2,907.00</b> |
| Seminarians                                | \$ 548.00         |
| Grand Annual Goal: \$25,000                | \$19,715          |

The second collection this weekend (June 4) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (June 11) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Holy Redeemer Parish with the second collection noted in the memo.

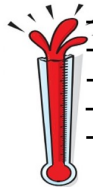
If you would like to mail in your collections, send them to **Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860.**

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



**HR Catholic Appeal**  
Goal: **\$21,665.00**  
To Date: **\$25,660.00**

Visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org) to learn more or to donate.



\$21,665.00  
\$20,000.00  
\$15,000.00  
\$10,000.00  
\$ 5,000.00

SCAN HERE TO  
MAKE YOUR GIFT  
OR VISIT



THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL PUTS

*Faith into Action*

TO SUPPORT  
OUR PARISHES,  
SCHOOLS, AND  
COMMUNITIES.  
AND IT ALL  
STARTS WITH *You*

## HR St. Vincent de Paul

### What is a Vincentian?

What is a Vincentian? Who are we? We can list many things but, of course, **Vincentians are people of prayer.** We pray before and after our meetings, we pray with and for the neighbors we serve, and we promote a life of prayer and reflection, both as individuals and as a community of faith, sharing with our fellow members. Meditating on our Vincentian experiences offers us internal spiritual knowledge of ourselves, others and the goodness of God.

We are always eager to welcome new members. Our calls are coming more frequently now that the social safety nets of the pandemic are being eliminated. We need your help. Please call to learn more. Call 978-346-8604 and leave a voice message.

Of course, your donations are very much appreciated. Simply use the poor boxes in the churches or the envelopes provided in the pews for your donation. Mail to 4 Green St., Merrimac, MA 01860.

Don't forget the clothes collection bin behind the Green St., Merrimac rectory and also beside the Food Mart in West Newbury. As always, we appreciate your generosity.

If you know of someone who needs assistance, please have them call our hotline at 978-346-8604 X4.



**Follow Us on Instagram**  
[HRICatholic](https://www.instagram.com/HRICatholic)

## In God's Garden

### There is Work to be Done!

**All are welcome: Garden Party & Clean up Day**

Join us at St. Ann Church grounds on **Saturday, June 10, 10:00 a.m.**, for our first Annual Garden Party and Clean Up Day at St. Ann Church.



Bring your family, friends, or come alone and help us in weeding and planting the garden beds while also enjoying some lemonade, pastries, and conversation with your Holy Redeemer community.

We are blessed to have a parishioner volunteering to mow our church lawn, but we need some help in getting our gardens looking their best. If you enjoy gardening or just digging in the dirt, we can use your help. Please bring your own garden tools...and don't forget your garden gloves! Any perennials you wish to donate will be gratefully appreciated!

In case of rain we will meet on Sunday, June 11, 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Donna Pallone, (978) 683-3632 or [dpallone21@gmail.com](mailto:dpallone21@gmail.com).

## Communion to the Homebound

We would like to offer our Holy Redeemer parishioners the opportunity to receive the Eucharist if you are homebound or unable to attend Mass on a regular basis. If any parishioner knows of someone who might be interested in receiving the Eucharist, please also let us know. This could be a one-time occasion, or a regular schedule could be arranged. Please call Melinda Burrell at 978-462-2724 to schedule a visit.

## 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 or [hvktax@aol.com](mailto:hvktax@aol.com). 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, July 6. at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 2:00 p.m.**

## New Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Altar Servers

Please give thoughtful consideration to becoming a Lector, Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, or Altar Server for St. Ann or Nativity Church. No experience is necessary: we will teach you everything you need to know. Scheduling is very flexible. If you are interested in any of these helpful ministries, please contact the Collaborative office at 978-346-8604. Thank you for your consideration.

# IC 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

## Choir Concert Photos

What a wonderful show! More photos online at [hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org).



## St. Ann & Nativity have 19th Century Roots at IC Parish

### IC's 175th Anniversary History Continued

As we have noted, the number of Catholics in Newburyport and the surrounding towns was increasing rapidly in the 1860's. Catholics in Amesbury initially walked the five miles to Newburyport to celebrate Mass with Fr. Lennon. In 1859, arrangements were made for Mass to be said at Washington Hall on Market Street in Amesbury. Finally, plans were developed for a church on the site of what was initially St. Joseph's Parish.

The Amesbury church was built in 1866 and remained a mission church of Immaculate Conception until 1868 when Rev. John Brady, a curate at Immaculate Conception, was named pastor. This church served the worshippers from Amesbury as well as those from West Newbury and Merrimac (known then as West Amesbury until 1876 when it was separately incorporated).

In 1884, a church was built on Green Street in Merrimac and was dedicated as Nativity of the Blessed Virgin. Nativity remained a mission church of Amesbury until 1891. Its first pastor was Fr. Thomas Moylan.

West Newbury Catholics who initially worshipped in Newburyport and subsequently under the Amesbury church, also had connections in Groveland and Georgetown in the 1860s. West Newbury Catholics began to worship in the Old Town Hall with visiting priests from the surrounding parishes. In 1878, ground was broken at the corner of Church and Main Streets for what was to become St. Ann Church. The first Mass was celebrated on Christmas Day 1879 and remained a mission church of Merrimac's Nativity until 1945.

It could be said, we were a "collaborative" long before we were a collaborative!

## IC Berry Festival

Mark your calendars for the **IC Berry Festival** which will be held on Sunday, July 30 on the grounds of IC Church during Yankee Homecoming. This will be our third festival.

Join us for our next Berry Festival **planning meeting** on **Monday, June 26 at 6:30** in IC St. Louis Hall. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the July 29 Berry Festival is urged to attend this planning meeting.

## IC Parish: 175th Anniversary

### Immaculate Conception Parish celebrates 175 years

In celebration of this milestone of faith and service to the greater Newburyport community, the parish is planning a series of events throughout the year.

A committee has formed to create, plan, and execute these yearlong events, focused on celebrating the history of our parish and our patroness. If you would like to be part of the planning, join our next meeting at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 12** at IC St. Louis Hall. All are welcome.

## 175th Anniversary Prayer

Immaculate Conception Church

1848-2023

Gracious and loving Father, on this 175th anniversary of our Parish, we join in celebration of 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

## Harvest Fair

### Join us and make new friends

As part of the 175th anniversary celebration of IC Church, we are planning to hold a Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 21. It will include a bake sale, artisan/craft tables, a wine rack, Grandma's Attic table, all-holiday table, 175th anniversary commemorative items, and much more.

**Attention vendors:** Are you a local vendor looking to sell your creative treasures? Our committee is looking for up to 15 vendors to fill our gymnasium with artistic holiday items. If you are interested in reserving a table at our IC Harvest Fair or know someone who may be interested, contact Kathie at [Kathie108a@gmail.com](mailto:Kathie108a@gmail.com) and include a picture of the items or crafts you will be selling.

## Harvest Fair Items Needed

### All-Holiday Items

### Grandma's Attic Items

Do you have any "once loved" items from *any holiday* (Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, etc.) that you no longer use or display at home that could be donated to our **All-Holiday Table** at the Harvest Fair?

Or perhaps you have a "gently used" item that could be part of our **Grandma's Attic Table**?

Please help support our Parish's 175th Anniversary Harvest Fair by setting aside your treasures now! Drop off dates will be announced in a future bulletin.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Offertory Collection

|                                            |                    |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| IC Offertory, May 27–28                    | \$3,990.00         |
| IC Mailed in Offertory, week ending May 26 | \$3,015.00         |
| IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving          | \$3,296.34         |
| <b>Total Weekly Offertory</b>              | <b>\$10,301.34</b> |
| Seminarians                                | \$1,004.00         |
| Grand Annual Goal: \$100,000               | \$81,950           |

The second collection this weekend (June 4) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (June 11) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. 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](http://hriccatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving).



**IC Catholic Appeal**  
Goal: \$54,952.00  
To Date: \$50,345.00

Visit [bostoncatholicappeal.org](http://bostoncatholicappeal.org) to learn more or to donate.



\$54,952.00  
\$45,000.00  
\$35,000.00  
\$25,000.00  
\$ 5,000.00

SCAN HERE TO  
MAKE YOUR GIFT  
OR VISIT



THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL PUTS

*Faith into Action*

TO SUPPORT  
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SCHOOLS, AND  
COMMUNITIES.  
AND IT ALL  
STARTS WITH *You*

## Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina

We welcome all members of our Collaborative community to join us each Wednesday 6:00–7:00 p.m. via Zoom for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer, silently resting in God and surrendering and assenting to God's presence and action in our lives, and 30 minutes of reading Sacred Scripture in group Lectio Divina. Both practices strengthen our faith and reliance on God and deepen our personal relationship with God. For more information, please call Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

## Immaculate Conception School

Two Immaculate Conception School students were honored by the Newburyport Human Rights Commission at the 2023 Peace Prize Award Ceremony on May 23 at City Hall. Seventh graders Ailsa Carmisciano and Declan McCarty were chosen by the IC faculty and staff to receive the award as they each embody peace, inclusivity, and caring for others. The Human Rights Commission honors students from all Newburyport schools each year. Also honored was a member of the IC Class of 2019, Jasmine Al Khatib, who is a senior at Newburyport High School.



Pictured after the ceremony, Ailsa and Declan are joined by IC Spanish teacher Mrs. Cristina Meissner (left) and Principal Mrs. Joan Sullivan.

## Sacred Heart Craft Time

Join the Family and Fellowship Ministry **after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on June 11** in the IC Charity Dining Room to make a special group craft to celebrate the upcoming feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



**Follow Us on Twitter**  
@HRICatholic

## Bundle Sunday

**Clothing Donation Event June 24–25**



Bundle up your old clothes for donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. A collection truck will be in the Immaculate Conception church parking lot. Clothing, coats, and shoes of every size will be accepted. No toys or household items. The donation event will take place on Saturday, June 24, from 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 25, from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. Save the date!

## 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](http://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 to-go Meal Dining-in Now Available

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!

## Notice to all Eucharistic Ministers

Please attend a very important meeting of **all** EMs on Thursday, **June 8 at 5:45 p.m.** in IC Church. We will discuss and practice the return next weekend of the Precious Blood.

A training of **new** Eucharistic Ministers will take place on that date at **4:45 p.m.** in the Church. If you are interested in becoming an EM at any of our Collaborative churches, you are invited to attend both the training and the meeting after.

## The Communion Cup

Dear Parishioners,

Several weeks ago, we received word from the Archdiocese that all COVID-era restrictions at Mass were being lifted and that, in particular, we could return to sharing Holy Communion under both forms, which means, among other things, offering the Chalice once again. All this may begin as early as the weekend of June 10–11, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). With strong support from our Collaborative Pastoral Council, I am happy to reintroduce the Communion Cup on that upcoming weekend and warmly extend an invitation to all of you to embrace this fullest form of sharing in Holy Communion.

Since it has been 3 years that we have been without it, I want to take a few moments here and explain a little about why this is so important and also respond to some common questions that frequently accompany the sharing of the Chalice. To begin with, it is critical that all of us understand the “why” behind this ancient practice.

Before the time of Jesus, the Cup of Blessing was an integral part of both the Jewish Passover meal itself as well as common at the weekly Friday evening Sabbath meal, where a blessing is offered to God in gratitude for His many gifts. The Cup of Blessing symbolized many things, but most especially God’s favor upon those who shared in it. To produce wine required the actions of many hands, time, and an abundance of favorable weather, rain, sunshine, and patience. Skilled laborers were needed to properly prune the vines, water and fertilize the soil so that just the right amount of nutrients reached the roots. At just the right moment, the entire community would be called upon to go out into the vineyard to harvest the grapes as they ripened. Many people would be involved in picking, sorting, crushing, and pouring this new infant wine into wineskins for fermentation and maturing. Then all waited for the wine to reach its peak, when it was shared with all. To have an abundance of good, quality wine was seen as a tremendous blessing from God, as God had such a powerful hand in bringing it about.

It is this Cup of Blessing (the third of four cups of wine used in the Passover meal/Seder supper) that Jesus is believed to have offered to His disciples at the Last Supper. “Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” (Mk 14:23–25) In this moment, Jesus transforms an already-rich symbol of God’s potent blessing into the very sharing of Himself, His sacrifice to be offered on the Cross, His resurrection from the dead,

His offer of new eternal life with the Father. To follow His command to “take and eat, take and drink, do this in remembrance of me,” means our full participation in His One sacrifice, and thus our full participation in the fruits of that One sacrifice, namely the forgiveness of our sins and life everlasting!

As St. Paul would later write in his First Letter to the infant Church at Corinth, “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.” (1Cor 10:16–17) Thus we also express our unity by sharing in one bread and one cup. One of Jesus’ most fervent prayers during His earthly ministry was that we be one with each other. “I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.” (Jn 17:21–22) This unity is expressed in many ways, but none more powerfully than in our sharing in the One Bread and One Cup.



So, we share Holy Communion in obedience to the Lord’s command, as a sign of our full participation in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection and as an expression of our profound unity in Christ. The Real Presence of Christ offered to us in Holy Communion is true food and true drink that means we share in eternal life. “Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son

of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.” (Jn 6:53–58) Because of God’s great love for us through Christ, we are invited regularly to share in this highest gift and greatest of blessings.

So, now on to some Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q:** All during COVID and for many years in the past we only received Holy Communion in the form of bread. Why is receiving under both forms better?
- A:** While it is the Church’s teaching that whether a person receives under one form or both (either Host or Chalice,) they receive the full Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ; receiving Holy Communion under both forms (Bread and Wine) together, however, is the full sign of Communion as instituted by Christ. It more clearly represents the sacred meal that is being offered and more fully shows how God satisfies our hunger and quenches our thirst for His love. It is how Christ instituted the Eucharist for us.
- Q:** Why don’t we use individual communion cups like some of the Protestant churches?
- A:** As mentioned above, it has long been our Church’s tradition to share Holy Communion from a common cup. This preserves the communal nature of our sharing in Communion as well as more clearly shows our unity as a community of faith.
- Q:** Sometimes we have seen people trying to receive by intinction (dipping the Host into the Chalice of Precious

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Blood.) Why isn't this allowed?

•A: While some different communities may have had this practice in the past, currently it is not allowed in the Archdiocese of Boston except in some special circumstances, and only with the Bishop's permission. There are reasons of hygiene to be considered as well, given that there are far more germs on people's hands than on their lips, thus the act of intinction brings a much greater risk of contaminating the Precious Blood. The words of Jesus, too, are clear: "Take and drink."

•Q: Doesn't drinking from the Chalice pose a health risk? Isn't that why it was forbidden during COVID?

•A: We encountered many restrictions and modified practices during COVID. Some were helpful and necessary, others, in hindsight, were less so. Restricting the use of the common Communion cup during COVID was done out of an abundance of caution and with regard to the safety of all, including those who were struggling with weakened immune systems and compromised health. Going back several decades, the Church approached the CDC. (The Centers for Disease Control) not once but twice and asked if the sharing of a common Communion cup has ever been known to be a source of the spread of disease. In both instances, the CDC responded by saying that although it could not rule out the possibility of such an event, it was not aware of any outbreak of disease spread from the sharing of the cup. To further reduce the possibility of the spreading of disease, the manner in which Holy Communion from the Chalice is administered is carefully done. Metal (non-porous) Chalices are used. Clean Purificators (the cloth napkins used at Communion) wipe both sides of the rim of the Chalice after each communicant. The Chalice itself is carefully rotated in between each communicant so that it has a chance to dry after being wiped. Although we believe that the wine becomes the Precious Blood of the Lord during the Mass, it retains the slightly antiseptic quality of alcohol, further reducing the chance of spreading an illness. All these things taken together provide for a measure of safety in sharing the Chalice among healthy communicants.

•Q: So, is it safe to drink from the Cup on a regular basis?

•A: Yes, if you are otherwise healthy and don't suffer from a compromised immune system.

•Q: Is there anyone who should refrain from receiving Holy Communion from the Cup?

•A: Anyone who is sick and considered contagious or exhibits any form of nasal / gastrointestinal illness should refrain from receiving the Precious Blood (and indeed, attending Mass in person) until such time that they have completely recovered from their illness. Women who are pregnant should consult with their doctor about whether receiving the Precious Blood is appropriate for them. Once again, although we believe that the wine has become the Blood of the Lord, it still retains the "accidents" (physical properties) of wine with alcohol. In this same line, those who suffer from substance-use-disorder or those who are recovering alcoholics might consider refraining from receiving for this same reason, though individual circumstances affect people in different ways. What is permissible for one may not work well for others who are more sensitive to the effects of alcohol. In all things, please use prudence and common sense.

•Q: What about those who are gluten-intolerant? Are they able to receive from the Chalice?

•A: Depending on a person's reaction to gluten, it may be

best for them to either be the first person in line to receive from a particular Cup, or to make arrangements ahead of time to receive from their own, personal Chalice that is set aside only for them. Because a small piece of the priest's Host is intentionally placed in one of the Chalices during the Fraction Rite and because this Chalice is sometimes used for general distribution, this is best worked out ahead of time with the priest.

•Q: What about children? Are they allowed to receive?

•A: Yes, provided that they have been properly prepared, have already celebrated their First Holy Communion and have the permission of their parents.

•Q: What happens if some of the Precious Blood is spilled or drips? Isn't this a sacrilege?

•A: Our Ministers of Communion (clergy and laity) are trained how to handle this and will carefully cover the spill on the floor with the Purificator until it can be properly cleaned after Mass. Please remember that the Lord gave us these elements—bread and wine, fully aware that there would be times when crumbs and spillage would occur. It is far more important that we receive confidently these lavish gifts of God's Real Presence for our spiritual nourishment rather than worry about an occasional mishap. The reverent attention of all involved will keep these moments to a minimum.

•Q: Why can't we use grape juice, like some other Protestant churches do?

•A: The Catholic Church requires that we use pure wine made only from grapes for use as Communion. It cannot contain any other ingredients and must have an alcohol content of 11% or higher. Jesus used real wine at the Last Supper, as would have any faithful Jew during the Passover celebration. We honor and are part of an ancient and rich tradition that requires our faithfulness to the actions and directives of Christ through the Church.

•Q: If for whatever reason I choose not to receive Holy Communion from the Chalice at a given Mass, what should I do? Just walk by and ignore the Cup?

•A: Even if not receiving from the Chalice on a given week, a communicant should always pause briefly and make a slight bow of the head to the Chalice to acknowledge the Real Presence of the Lord contained in the Precious Blood, just as one would do if passing by a Minister of the Host.

I hope that this article has been helpful in preparing our communities to welcome and embrace a return to sharing Holy Communion under both forms in the weeks ahead. I also understand if some people are not yet ready to return to all of our former practices in the time before COVID. But I do hope that everyone will prayerfully reflect on the nature of our shared Eucharistic meal and in the weeks and months ahead seek to celebrate it in its fullest manner for the sake of all. Please do not hesitate to approach me or any of our clergy or staff if you have any questions or concerns.

May the Lord bless us richly in the time ahead!

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

## Eucharistic Ministers Needed

**Please consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion at any of our Masses at any of our Collaborative churches. We will teach you everything you need to know. Join us for a meeting on Thursday, June 8 at 4:45 p.m. at IC Church.**

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