

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

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

*All Are Welcome*

*"The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals." (Zeph 3:17-18)*





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

### Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:

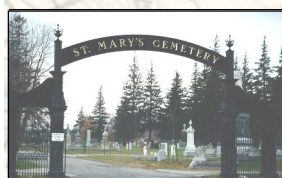
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Phone: 978-462-2724**

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: [info@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto: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](http://www.icsnewburyport.com)



## Collaborative Staff

#### Pastor

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

#### Parochial Vicar

Rev. George E. Morin,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604  
[gemorin1945@gmail.com](mailto:gemorin1945@gmail.com)

#### Weekend Assistant

Rev. James Broderick

#### Senior Priest in Residence

Rev. William McLaughlin

#### Permanent Deacon

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

#### Office Associates

Donald Alunni, Business Manager  
978-462-2724 x 7351  
[dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:dalunni@newburyportcatholic.org)

Sheila Cruise, Receptionist  
978-462-2724 x 7403 or 978-346-8604  
[scruise@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:scruise@newburyportcatholic.org) or  
[holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

Karen Leff, Coordinator of Media Outreach  
[hricbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:hricbulletin@gmail.com)

Linda Temple, Administrative Assistant  
978-462-2724 x7404  
[temple@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:temple@newburyportcatholic.org)

#### Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, Nativity Organist  
[jen.acorn@comcast.net](mailto:jen.acorn@comcast.net)

Drew Donahue, St. Ann Organist  
[drew.donahue@gmail.com](mailto:drew.donahue@gmail.com)

Michael Martin, IC Organist  
[fsteadman@aol.com](mailto:fsteadman@aol.com)

Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director  
978-317-8903  
[donna Postle233@gmail.com](mailto:donna Postle233@gmail.com)

Tim Richard, IC organist  
[trichard23@gmail.com](mailto:trichard23@gmail.com)

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

#### Religious Education

Melinda Burrell, IC Religious Ed.  
978-462-2724 x 7420  
[burrell@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:burrell@newburyportcatholic.org)

Marin Fortune, IC RCIA, 978-462-2724  
[fortune@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:fortune@newburyportcatholic.org)

Doreen O'Leary, HR Religious Ed.  
978-346-8604 x 7  
[reledhrp@gmail.com](mailto:reledhrp@gmail.com)

#### Immaculate Conception School

Joan Sullivan, Principal, 978-465-7780  
[jsullivan@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:jsullivan@newburyportcatholic.org)

#### Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance  
978-462-2724

[bkent@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:bkent@newburyportcatholic.org)

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager  
978-462-2724

[emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:emartinez@newburyportcatholic.org)

Cliff Vandenbulcke, IC School Custodian  
978-465-7780  
[cvandenbulcke@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:cvandenbulcke@newburyportcatholic.org)


#### St. Vincent de Paul


Saint Vincent de Paul Society at  
Holy Redeemer  
978-346-8604 x 8  
[hrrsvdp300@gmail.com](mailto:hrrsvdp300@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](mailto:joeviel@comcast.net)

 Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception  
Collaborative Parishes

 @HRICcatholic

 hriccatholic

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

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (12/15)

4:00pm **IC** (Fr. Harrison)

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

### Sunday (12/16)

7:15am **IC Josef Javor, Ethel & Richard Upchurch** (Fr. Morin)

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

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

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

11:30am **IC Charles & Alma McCarthy** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

### Monday (12/17)

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

### Tuesday (12/18)

7:15am **IC Ethel & Richard Upchurch, George Cooper** (Fr. Harrison)

### Wednesday (12/19)

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

### Thursday (12/20)

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

### Friday (12/21)

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

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

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

### Saturday (12/22)

4:00pm **IC Stanley Jancewicz, John K. Herlihy, John & Katherine Kelley, For the intentions of Stephen Paciulan** (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

### Sunday (12/23)

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

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

9:00am **IC Pamela Barker** (Fr. McLaughlin)

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

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

In your prayers, please remember George Cooper, Lidwine Beevers, Ann Clancy, Olive Fitzgerald, Thomas I. Murphy, and all the faithful departed.

**The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.**

*IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport*

*Nativity—Merrimac*

*St. Ann—West Newbury*

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

When was the last time you were at a festival? They can come in all kinds of shapes and sizes from smaller, more intimate gatherings to arena-sized vastness. Joy and a surrender of everyday cares are hallmarks of the celebrations, as are singing, dancing, and spontaneous merriment. Some years ago I was able to take in a Red Sox game at Fenway Park when they came from behind to beat the Yankees in the ALCS. Now talk about festivity?! "Sweet Caroline" was never sweeter!



This weekend is known as Gaudete Sunday from the Latin translation of Phil. 4:4–5—meaning "Rejoice" and sets a joyful tone as we make ever more proximate preparations to celebrate the Lord's coming. Certainly there is much for us to rejoice over. God sent his only son to be our Savior, born to us in the person of Jesus. We have been joyfully giving thanks for this greatest of all gifts ever since.

But do we ever think of God rejoicing over us? The first reading from the prophet Zephaniah tells us, "The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals." (Zeph. 3: 17–18) God rejoicing over us? After all the mess we have made of our world and after all of the times we have sinned collectively and transgressed God's laws? And God still wants to rejoice over us? So much so, that God Himself will break into song and dance. . .all because God is so happy about us?! Really?

Yes!

This is an amazing truth: God's love for us can never be diminished by our failures. It is with an overwhelming love that we have been created in God's image, brought into reality and sustained in being by God's continuous and sustained love for us. Nothing can take away from that fundamental, underlying reality. Even when we sin and turn away from God, God does not turn away from us. His response, always, is: Jesus. The salvific love of God is so

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Online Christmas Bulletin

Watch for our online-only Christmas edition of the bulletin. It will be packed full of news and photos from the Collaborative. Look for the bulletin on December 24 on our website: [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org), on Facebook: [Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](https://www.facebook.com/HolyRedeemer-ImmaculateConceptionCollaborativeParishes), on Twitter: [@HRICatholic](https://twitter.com/HRICatholic), and on Instagram: [hriccatholic](https://www.instagram.com/hriccatholic).

## Archdiocese Web Site

Visit [www.bostoncatholic.org](http://www.bostoncatholic.org) for the latest news and information around the Archdiocese of Boston.



**Follow Us on Twitter**  
**@HRICatholic**



## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### This Week in Our Collaborative

#### Monday, December 17

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

**Fenwick Christmas Concert** 12:30pm, IC Church

**HR Boy Scout Troop 41 Mtg.** 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

#### Tuesday, December 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 (Christmas Party)** 6:00pm,  
Nativity Hall

#### Wednesday, December 19

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

**Holy Quilters** 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

**IC Youth Choir Rehearsal** 4:30pm, IC Church

**Adoration** 6:00pm, IC St. James Chapel

**Centering Prayer** 6:00pm, IC Conference Room 209

**IC Adult Choir Rehearsal** 7:00pm, IC Church

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

#### Thursday, December 20

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

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

#### Friday, December 21

**Adoration** 8:00am, IC St. James Chapel

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

#### Saturday, December 22

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

#### Sunday, December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Nativity Choir Rehearsal** 7:45am, Nativity Church

**HR Coffee Social after Mass** 9:00am, Nativity Hall

**St. Ann Choir Rehearsal** 9:45am, St. Ann Church

**Decorate Nativity Church for Christmas** 10:00am, Nativity  
Church

### Christmas Collections

#### Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

Among the gifts you give this Christmas season, please consider contributing to a **special Christmas collection for the health and well-being of 580 active and senior priests in good standing** in our Archdiocese. Amid these difficult times for our Church, our hardworking priests need your support now more than ever. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to all priests, including our senior priests, who have devoted their lives to our Church... and to all of us. To donate online, please visit [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) or text the word PRIEST25 to 20222 to donate \$25. *Msg. and data rates may apply.*

*(Continued from page 3)*

comprehensive that God could not offer anything other than joy over us who have been redeemed in Christ. It's that complete. So, yes: divine singing, dancing, and gladness! It will be amazing in ways we cannot begin to fathom in the here and now. Fenway is great, but this will be better!

So, the next time you are having a bad day and life seems to be a bit too much to bear, just recall the vision that Zephaniah and St. Paul offer us this weekend. There is much festivity just ahead. . . enough to lift us from the present darkness that can seem so overwhelming and brighten even the most gloomy of nights. Sweet Caroline, indeed!

Continued Advent blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison

### Holiday Office Hours

Collaborative offices will close on Friday, December 21 at 12:00 noon. Offices will be closed on Christmas Eve, December 24, and Christmas Day, December 25. Offices will reopen on Wednesday, December 26 at 8:00am.

Collaborative offices will close on Friday, December 28 at 12:00 noon. Offices will be closed on New Year's Eve, December 31, and New Year's Day, January 1. Offices will reopen on Wednesday, January 2 at 8:00am.

### Fr. Broderick's Address

For anyone who would like to send a Christmas greeting to Fr. Broderick, his address at Regina Cleri is:  
60 William Cardinal O'Connell Way  
Boston, MA 02114

### Winter Weather Mass Cancellations

Due to the hazards of travel and the safety of priests and parishioners alike, this winter daily Mass within the Collaborative will be cancelled if Immaculate Conception School, Pentucket Regional, or Newburyport Public Schools, are cancelled or delayed because of inclement weather. WBZ Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at [boston.cbslocal.com](http://boston.cbslocal.com) and we will make every effort to keep our own website and social media updated as well.

In severe situations, it may also be necessary for safety reasons to cancel weekend Masses. Again, please watch WBZ or consult the websites and/or social media for cancellation information.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. In all things, God gave us the gifts of wisdom, reason, and prudence. Let's use them wisely this winter and exercise sound judgment when considering going out in severe weather.



### Third Sunday of Advent

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Scripture Readings: Dec. 16–Dec. 24, 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. Please refer to the HRIC webpage to learn about Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures. Go to <http://www.hriccatholic.org/blog/lectio-divina> or to [www.HRICcatholic.org](http://www.HRICcatholic.org) and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, Dec. 16: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18
- Monday, Dec. 17: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72; Matthew 1:1-17
- Tuesday, Dec. 18: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72; Matthew 1:18-25
- Wednesday, Dec. 19: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71; Luke 1:5-25
- Thursday, Dec. 20: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Luke 1:26-38
- Friday, Dec. 21: Song of Songs 2:8-14; Psalm 33; Luke 1:39-45
- Saturday, Dec. 23: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56
- Sunday, Dec. 24: Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

## Celebrating the Sacraments

### Reconciliation

IC: Saturdays: 3:00pm to 3:30pm or by appointment.  
HR: Saturdays before the 4:00pm Mass or by appointment.

### Baptism

Call the Parish offices for information and to register.

### Marriage

Archdiocesan guidelines request that couples planning to marry in the Church contact the church at least six months prior to the wedding date.

### Sacrament of the Sick

This Sacrament should not be seen as only administered when there is danger of death. Please call us if someone is in the hospital, so that we can visit the loved one and have the community pray for them.

## Pilgrimage to Ireland

Join us for an enriching journey through the Emerald Isle in 2019! We depart May 13, 2019 for a memorable pilgrimage through various sites of unparalleled beauty, historic significance, and religious importance. Our tour will include visits to Dublin, Galway, the Dingle Peninsula, Kilarney, the Ring of Kerry, Clonmacnoise, Knock, and more.

For more information, visit: [www.pilgrimages.com/fathertim-hric](http://www.pilgrimages.com/fathertim-hric) or contact Paul Blanchette at (978) 500-5661. Come on a Faith Journey with us!

## Christmas Mass Schedule for the Collaborative

### Christmas Eve Masses

*The 4:00pm Masses fill up quickly. Please arrive early.*

4:00pm Immaculate Conception  
4:00pm Immaculate Conception School Gym  
4:00pm St. Ann  
4:00pm Nativity  
6:00pm Immaculate Conception  
6:00pm Nativity

### Christmas Day Masses

12:00midnight Immaculate Conception  
8:00am Immaculate Conception  
8:00am Nativity  
10:00am Immaculate Conception  
10:15am St. Ann



## 3rd Annual Advent Vespers

### Praying with Icons

Take a moment for slowing down and quieting the soul with traditional Western antiphonal prayer blended with presentations on icons. Experience Eastern spirituality through iconography, chant, illumination, and silences.

**Place:** St. James Chapel (IC Parish Center, 2nd floor)

**Time:** 7:00–8:00 p.m.

**Date:** Wednesday, December 19, Fr. George Morin, presenter on icon of St. George. A light collation of Russian/Polish foods concludes AFFT's Icon and Advent series. All are welcome.

*{Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team}*



## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

**Child:** Talk about the importance of keeping promises.



*This photo was taken during our Collaborative's recent trip to the Icon Museum in Clinton, MA. What a wonderful experience!*

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Greeters for Christmas Masses

Please join us to greet parishioners and guests at one of the Christmas Masses in our collaborative community. Christmas Mass times are:

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24	Christmas Day
4:00pm IC Church	12:00midnight IC
4:00pm IC School Gym	8:00am IC
4:00pm St. Ann	8:00am Nativity
4:00pm Nativity	10:00am IC
6:00pm IC	10:15am St. Ann
6:00pm Nativity	

We are hoping to have greeters at all the Masses to welcome everyone as they arrive for services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We would love to have you greet with us. If interested, please contact Sherry Robbins at 978-502-3798.

## 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.

## “Open House”

### Feast of the Holy Family



*Manger scenes from families across the Collaborative and from around the world will be displayed by their owners.*

Honor the Holy Family while sharing an experience with your own family.

Mangers spotlight our Catholic belief in the incarnation of Jesus. Come for the tableaux or the treats or the door prizes, but **come!** Give an invitation to a loved one as a stocking stuffer: baskets with **free** mini scrolls will be available in all the churches.

**Place:** Nativity Hall, Merrimac

**Date:** Sunday, December 30

**Time:** 1:00pm-4:00pm

**Do you have a family manger for our “Open House” display?** Share your heirloom for one afternoon! Enjoy answering questions about it from guests!

Set-Up Times at Nativity Hall:

Saturday, Dec. 29, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 30, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

RSVP: Mary Schmidt: 978-462-6191. **Please reserve a space in advance** so the team has table provisions awaiting your manger.

{Hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Team}

## Cursillo and Ultreya

The Cursillo weekend is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love into your daily life. Many of your HRIC brothers and sisters have experienced this “short course in Christianity” at St. Basil’s Salvatorian Center in Methuen, MA and we invite you to include Cursillo as part of your faith journey.

Each month, we gather for an “Ultreya” (onward!) evening of Liturgy, sharing, food and fellowship at 7pm in St. James Chapel to continue the Cursillo spirit. All are welcome. Please join us! For more information, contact Jonathan Temple 978-809-9337 or Pat Forbes 617-899-0424.

### Cursillo weekends 2019

January 3	Women
February 7	Men
March 7	Women
April 4	Men
May 2	Women
June 6	Women
October 3	Men
November 7	Women

### Ultreya Evenings

January 4	February 1
March 1	March 29
April 26	May 31

## Centering Prayer for Advent

As the days shorten and we enter the darkest season of the year we light advent candles and anticipate the coming of our Savior Jesus, the light of the world. In the busyness of preparing for Christmas we may miss the gifts of Advent. Waiting with trust in God’s promise of love that saves, deepens our faith and we become people of true hope who loved by God are able to love.

During Advent please consider joining us for Centering Prayer. As we enter the silence of God’s love we assent to God’s presence and action within us. We say “Yes” to His invitation to be transformed into people of true hope. Simply resting in God in silence, we surrender and come to know in our hearts God’s unmerited, unconditional love for us and transformed by this grace we can share His love in daily life.

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

The Centering Prayer group meets every Wednesday evening from 6:00pm–7:00pm in the IC Parish Center.

For more information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Offertory Collection

Offertory, December 8–9	\$9,355.00
Monthly, December 8–9	\$1,556.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 731.00

The second collection this weekend is IC-Haiti. Please make checks payable to IC-Haiti.

IC Grand Annual  
Goal \$100,000  
To Date \$56,705.00



## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 20.50
Poor Box	\$ 323.00
Total	\$ 343.50

## IC Haiti Collection

The 215 students of the Fr. Marc Piché School in Puit Chacha, Haiti, are almost halfway through another successful year of learning and growing. This school year we gave out 21 scholarships for students, which has allowed them to attend a regional high school for grades 7–13. Similar to this year, we hope to support our entire 6th grade graduating class with scholarships so they can continue on to high school next year.

In addition to academic learning, IC Haiti continues to support lunch, dental, and community outreach programs. The outreach is particularly important right now as the community is addressing an outbreak of malaria in the region. Education and awareness are the keys to addressing life-threatening issues. With our own IC community's generous support, we are making a huge impact on the Chacha community, and we know that providing education to the youth is a way to make long-term change in Haiti.

This week's second collection is for IC Haiti. Thank you in advance for your support.

IC Haiti Board of Directors



## IC Knitting Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets Tuesdays 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



Father George leads a field trip for 8th grade to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

## Newburyport VIP Card

Pick up a **free 2018 Newburyport VIP Card** and a discounts list from the table in the back of the church. The VIP Card helps raise money for Immaculate Conception Church and gives you discounts at 180 Greater Newburyport restaurants and retailers. Use the 2018 card for free until the end of the year and if you are interested in purchasing 2019 Cards for yourself or as a gifts, **place an order** at: <https://www.newburyport.com/immaculate-conception-church/>  
Questions: [VIPcard@Newburyport.com](mailto:VIPcard@Newburyport.com)

## Boy Scout Blood Drive



Boy Scout Troop 21 of Newburyport and the American Red Cross are teaming up to boost blood supply. Please continue supporting your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers by donating blood on Thursday, December 27 at the Newburyport Elks Club Function Hall, 25 Low Street, Newburyport. Donor hours are 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

It takes about an hour of time—and one small pinch—to become a hero and give the “Gift of Life” to someone in need. Anyone 17 years of age or older, weighing 110 pounds or more and feeling in good health may be eligible to donate blood. To make an appointment to donate blood call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## St. Vincent de Paul Thank you

The Immaculate Conception Society of St. Vincent de Paul has gratefully received many donations given to us at Thanksgiving. As we have many requests for assistance in providing food, rent, utilities, and medical needs, your kindness will make it possible for us to help many persons in need of these basic necessities.

We give thanks to you and the Lord for your generosity.

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

### IC Religious Education

Religious Ed. Office: 978-462-2724

#### Fall Programs

Classes for Grades K–8 are held Sunday mornings from 10:05–11:05. Registrations still being accepted. For more information contact the Religious Ed. Office.

**Substitutes** are needed should one of our catechists not be available. Perhaps you and another parent could co-teach? Please consider helping us in this capacity.

#### Confirmation

Registrations are still being accepted for those students who wish to prepare for Confirmation. Please call the Religious Ed. Office for more information.

#### Baptism Dates to Remember

Please call the Parish Office for information regarding what is needed to **pre-register** for the next Baptism class scheduled for Sunday, January 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Our group Baptism will be celebrated on January 13.

#### Reconciliation / First Eucharist

We are preparing our students for the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

The group Reconciliation will take place Saturday, January 5 at 11:00am.

Please contact the Religious Ed. Office to register your child or for more information.

### IC Liturgical Ministers

The signup sheet for those wishing to serve at one of the Christmas Liturgies and for New Year's Day is now available in the sacristy. If you know what Mass you will be attending, please don't wait to secure a spot!

We are still missing CORIs. Please complete and submit this form to the Parish Office as soon as possible as they are past due. Forms are available in the sacristy.

Also, be aware that the Archdiocese **will not** accept copies so please submit your form in person or by mail.

Remember when submitting your CORI form by mail, a **picture ID** must also be submitted for verification purposes.

### St. Vincent de Paul Advent Project

There is an Advent project displayed in the main entry of the Immaculate Conception Church. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, parishioners are invited to take tags from the display. The tags are for gift cards that can be purchased from food stores, pharmacies, gas stations, and department stores. Please return the gift cards to the church by placing them in the collection basket at any Mass during Advent. The cards will be used by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in response to requests for help from our local neighbors in need. We thank you for helping us to help others.

## HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

### 12 Days of Christmas Float

Holy Redeemer's float was ready for Merrimac's Santa Parade but the parade was cancelled because of the weather.

Our float was the 12 Days Of Christmas. Are you aware: The Partridge in a pear tree was *Jesus Christ*. Two turtledoves were the *Old and New Testaments*. Three French hens stood for *faith, hope, and love*. The four calling birds were the *four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*. Five golden rings recalled the *Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament*. The six geese a-laying stood for the *six days of creation*. Seven swans a swimming represented the *seven gifts of The Holy Spirit*. Eight maids a-milking were the *Beatitudes*. Nine ladies dancing where the *Fruits of the Holy Spirit*. 10 lords a leaping were the *10 Commandments*. 11 pipers piping stood for the *11 faithful Disciples*. 12 drummers drumming symbolize the *12 points of belief in the Apostles Creed*.



### HR Sandwich Program

The Holy Redeemer Sandwich Program delivers soup/salad and sandwiches to the Lazarus House Ministry twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The sandwiches go to the Good Shepherd Center on Park Street in Lawrence. 200 sandwiches are needed each day to feed the hungry.



**We will not be delivering sandwiches on the fourth Wednesday of December. Hope you all have a Merry Christmas.**

See the Collaborative calendar at [www.hricatholic.org](http://www.hricatholic.org) for the schedule. Contact Dotty Carr at 978-363-2909 with questions.

### Saturday Mass at Nativity

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **Nativity, Merrimac** on **December 29**.



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## HR Offertory Collection

Offertory, December 8–9	\$3,557.00
Monthly, December 8–9	\$2,030.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 500.00

HR Grand Annual  
Goal \$25,000  
To Date \$14,945.00



## HR Prayer Shawl



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

Come join us. Don't know how? We will teach you to knit or crochet and give you yarn. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 1:00pm. Our next meeting is **Thursday, January 3.**

## Coffee After Mass

Please join us for a coffee social on Sunday, December 23 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 Religious Education

Sun., 12/16	Grades 3–6 class w/ party at Nativity Hall, 9:00–10:00am
Tues., 12/18	Grades 7–8 class w/party at Nativity Hall 6–7:30pm

Please continue to pray for our students that received First Penance at St. Ann Church last Saturday. After our Christmas break they will be preparing for their First Communion.

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



Grade 5 Advent Wreath Making

## HR Christmas Decorating

All are invited to come help decorate our **Nativity** Church for Christmas! Please plan on joining us on Sunday, December 23 at 10:00am (after the coffee hour).

Help decorate **St. Ann** Church for Christmas! We will decorate after the 10:15 Mass on Sunday, December 16.

## Activities Committee Meeting

The Activities Committee will meet at Nativity Hall on Thursday, January 24 at 6:45pm. All are welcome.

## 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.



2018 Holiday Fair photos

What a wonderful turnout for our Parish Fair. The Activities Committee thanks everyone who donated and attended our "Little Church Fair." We broke records!

