

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

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

*All Are Welcome*



*Icon of St. John the Baptist*

*“John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Lk 3:2-3)*



# **We Would Like to Hear from You**

at our

## **Collaborative Listening Sessions**

### **An Evening of Listening and a Time for Prayer and Sharing**

Healing begins when we share with one another, pray with one another, and work for a better future for our Church.

Realizing that many of us are experiencing all kinds of conflicting emotions and carry many important questions in our hearts because of recurring issues surrounding the sexual abuse crisis, I invite you to attend the continuing series of listening sessions in December. Two more evenings are planned on the following dates:

- **Monday, December 10, 7:00pm, at Immaculate Conception St. Louis Hall, Newburyport**
- **Tuesday, December 11, 7:00pm, at St. Ann Church, West Newbury**

The evenings will begin with prayer and song and will offer an opportunity for those who wish to share their thoughts and concerns to speak.

These will be lead by an outside facilitator and are not meant to be a question and answer session, but rather a time to share and pray together.

I will be present in a listening posture so that I can best hear people's concerns and needs. We will work to make these evenings a safe and affirming environment for all who are able to be present.

I hope you will join us for these important evenings providing a forum for the voices of our Collaborative laity to share thoughts, concerns, and hopes.

As we begin our Advent season and preparations for the joyful celebration of Christmas, let us join as a community to clear our hearts and prepare our minds in reflection before the festivities reach their crescendo later in December.

Fr. Timothy Harrison



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Collaborative Mass Schedule

### Saturday (12/8) Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

7:15am **IC Holy Day** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 9:00am **Nativity Holy Day** (Fr. Morin)  
 4:00pm **IC Bartley "Bart" Welch** (Fr. Morin)  
 4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

### Sunday (12/9)

7:15am **IC Regina M. Stronge, Jan Javor, For the intentions of Ann & Johnny Murphy** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 8:00am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)  
 9:00am **IC Mark Walter Benson, Mary Phelon, Richard Ciaburri** (Fr. Harrison)  
 10:15am **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)  
 11:30am **IC Lena Filomia, Lena Charles, Joel Taplin** (Fr. Harrison)

### Monday (12/10)

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

### Tuesday (12/11)

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

### Wednesday (12/12)

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

### Thursday (12/13)

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

### Friday (12/14)

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

### Saturday (12/15)

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

### Sunday (12/16)

7:15am **IC Josef Javor** (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)

In your prayers, please remember Raymond Heffernan, Eleanor Murphy, Pamela Barker, 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,

Advent can be a difficult time to pray. Let's face it, our world and lives are confronted with an ever-increasing swirl of activities. It can seem like everybody and everything is competing for a chunk of our time and attention. I can't tell you how much junk mail, and now junk emails, I throw away and trash everyday. With a fervor superseded only by political ads during an election season, commercials have overtaken the airwaves and cyberspace alike. Everyone wants us to buy this, participate in that, or festively donate to something or another. It's the "spirit of the season," right?

How about this from St. Paul as a better way to be this Advent: May this be a time that our love for one another will increase. May this be a time when we grow in our perception and understanding of what is truly of value. May this be a time when we find ourselves innocent of sin and actually blameless before God. May this be a time when we look deep into our hearts and bask in the joy and quiet satisfaction that comes from seeing righteousness bearing fruit in our lives. And, may we do all this, not for our own betterment or advantage but solely for the Glory and Praise of God. Could Advent really be like this for us? The answer is yes, if we make time for prayer amidst all the festivity and frivolity.

Our daily liturgies in the Church offer a powerful guide to walking this Advent Season with prayerful purpose. Even if you cannot make it to a daily mass, why not take the time to ponder the readings of the day? You will find a rich treasure-trove of prophetic hope and longing that will deepen your heart's understanding of the true gift that we celebrate at Christmas: Emmanuel, "God with us." A little time spent here in prayer will go a long way to bringing about the peace we all pine for, a peace that is best found in a right-relationship with God and one another. Now that is a gift worth celebrating!

Advent blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor



## 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 10**

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

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

**Collaborative Listening Session** 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

**Tuesday, December 11**

**Reunion Prayer Group** 9:00am, IC Conference Room 209

**IC Knitting Ministry** 1:00pm, IC Conference Room 209

**Breaking Bread Meal** 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

**IC St. Vincent de Paul Meeting** 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

**HR Religious Ed., Grades 7 & 8** 6:00pm, Nativity Hall

**HR St. Vincent de Paul Meeting** 6:00pm, Nativity Rectory

**Collaborative Listening Session** 7:00pm, St. Ann Church

**Knights of Columbus** 7:30pm, IC Nazareth Library Room 205

**Wednesday, December 12**

**HR Sandwich Program** 9:00am, St. Ann Hall

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

**ICS PreK, K Sing-a-long** 10:15am, IC St. Louis Hall

**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 13**

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

**Friday, December 14 Collaborative Offices Close 12:00noon**

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

**Staff Advent Luncheon** 12:00noon, IC St. Louis Hall

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

**Saturday, December 15**

**HR Religious Ed., Grade 2 First Reconciliation Service**  
11:00am, St. Ann Church

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

**Sunday, December 16, Third Sunday of Advent**

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

**HR Religious Ed., Grades 3-6** 9:00am, Nativity Hall

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

**IC Religious Ed.** 10:00am, IC Parish Center

**IC Religious Ed., Confirmation** 1:00pm, IC Parish Center

### Christmas Collections

#### Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

The hardworking priests in the Archdiocese of Boston are here for us each day throughout the year. Every Christmas, we hold a special collection for the health and well-being of 580 active and senior priests in good standing. Amid these difficult times for our Church, these priests need your support now more than ever. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to all the 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.*

### San Marcos Christmas Coffee Sale

**This weekend: December 8-9**

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase after all collaborative Masses **this weekend, December 8-9**. Perhaps there is a coffee lover on your Christmas list who would enjoy this as a gift, and at the same time you will be helping to support the poor farmers of Honduras.

\$10 per pound for this specialty whole bean or ground coffee.

Please call Karen Finnegan with questions (978-465-4173).

### Catholic TV

Visit [www.catholictv.com](http://www.catholictv.com) for a schedule of the latest program details on America's Catholic Television Network.

### 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.



### Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to [hricbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:hricbulletin@gmail.com).



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**Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception  
Collaborative Parishes**



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Scripture Readings: Dec. 9–Dec. 16, 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.hricatholic.org/blog/lectio-divina> or to [www.HRICatholic.org](http://www.HRICatholic.org) and click on HRIC Pastoral Plan and then click on Lectio Divina.

- Sunday, Dec. 9: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6
- Monday, Dec. 10: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85; Luke 5:17-26
- Tuesday, Dec. 11: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96; Matthew 18:12-14
- Wednesday, Dec. 12: Zechariah 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38
- Thursday, Dec. 13: Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145; Matthew 11:11-15
- Friday, Dec. 14: Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11:16-19
- Saturday, Dec. 15: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday, Dec. 16: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

## 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!

## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** How can we prepare the way of the Lord?  
**Child:** Can you share the story of your Baptism?

## Pivotal Players: Saints Who Inspire

Saints influence the trajectory of the Catholic Church and Western Civilization too. This is why their biographies matter. Let Bishop Barron's 60 minute DVD series inspire us how to be 21st century evangelists. Part travelogue, part hagiography, 100% uplifting!

**Place:** IC St. Louis Hall, Newburyport

**Time:** 10:00am–11:30am

**Dates:** Tuesdays (specific schedule below)

**Dec 11:** John Henry Newman, Convert

{Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Team}

## 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



## 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.

## Collaborative Contacts

Rev. Timothy Harrison, Pastor,  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

[info@newburyportcatholic.org](mailto:info@newburyportcatholic.org),  
[holyredeemer@verizon.net](mailto:holyredeemer@verizon.net)

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# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## 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 12, Mary Schmidt, presenter on icons of Madonna & Child.

**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}



## 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 1–2	\$10,437.00
Restoration/Renovation	\$ 1,398.00
Thanksgiving St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 753.00

The second collection **this** weekend is the Monthly.

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

IC Grand Annual  
Goal \$100,000  
To Date \$47,805.00



## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Collection	\$ 745.00
Poor Box	\$ 398.00
Total	\$1143.00

## IC Haiti Collection

The next collection for IC Haiti will be taken up the weekend of **December 15–16**. We continue to thank you on behalf of the Haitian people of the village of Puit Chacha who directly benefit from the medical and educational resources made available to them through your generous donations. Over the past decade our IC church community has faithfully remained supportive of this Haitian community. In our own faith journey, we have taken up the call of Jesus to share our resources with those in need. This Advent we have an opportunity once again to respond to the Lord's call to offer hope and needed resources to the people of Haiti. May we respond joyfully.

## Christmas Flower Envelopes

We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for the church for Christmas. You can find the flower envelope in your envelope packet or in the back of the church. It is helpful if you do not have flowers delivered to the church but allow us to purchase them. The deadline for donations is **December 10** at noon.

## Knights of Columbus

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held on **Tuesday, December 11** at 7:30pm in the IC Nazareth Library, Room 205. We welcome new members to this long-standing group of Catholic men. For more information, contact us at [memberships@kofc231.org](mailto:memberships@kofc231.org), (978) 572-0231.

## Immaculate Conception School



The 18th Annual North Pole Express fundraiser for Immaculate Conception School was held on December 1. A holiday chill was in the air and the beaming sun made for a picture perfect day. Hundreds of parent and alumni volunteers carried out their assigned roles in perfect harmony as each train to the North Pole was loaded with excited children, many dressed in Christmas pajamas. Cocoa and cookies, songbooks and Santa, bells, elves, and musicians were all aboard for a memorable experience for all. Our utmost gratitude to organizers Tara McQuaid, Bianca Riethmueller, and Amy Pironti, and the many volunteers whose collective efforts made this year's North Pole Express an overwhelming success. Together we make a GREAT team!



*Some of our helpers*

## Storage Space Needed

IC North Pole Express is in need of storage space (10ft x 12ft x 8ft) for our large Polar Village wooden items from 12/1/18–12/7/19. Please contact Tara McQuaid if you are able to help. Thank You!

## The Compassionate Friends



The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age, any cause. Visit our website at

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

The December meeting/candle lighting ceremony will be on **Sunday, December 9 at 7:00pm** at Barbara's home (64 Northern Blvd, Plum Island, Newbury). The monthly meeting will follow at 8:00pm.

Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Contact Barbara for questions on either TCF or ABJ.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Religious Education

### 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

Classes for Grades 9 & 10 are scheduled for December 16 at 1:00pm. 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

Baptism information: [www.hriccatholic.org/Baptism](http://www.hriccatholic.org/Baptism)

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 at 978-462-2724 to register your child or for more information.

### 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.



*The IC Children's Choir performing at the 9:00 Mass on the feast of Christ the King.*

## ICP Christmas Fair

Thank you so very much to everyone who gave so generously of their time; and to those who donated so many wonderful items to make our Christmas Fair a success. This event could not have happened without you!

A special thank you to **Eddie Martinez** for all of his help in so many ways. It was truly appreciated!



*Many items to choose from at the fair.*



## 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.

## 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.



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## HR Offertory Collection

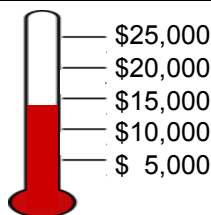
Offertory, December 1–2 \$3,174.00

Thanksgiving St. Vincent de Paul \$ 152.00

The second collection **this** weekend is the Monthly.

Please note that the November 17–18 Offertory Collection noted in last week's bulletin was incorrectly stated. The correct amounts are Offertory: \$3,191.00, Retired Religious: \$1,482.00.

HR Grand Annual  
Goal \$25,000  
To Date \$14,135.00



## 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**.

## 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 are always in need of more sandwich donations. To help, please make sandwiches by using 1 loaf of bread and sandwich meat (**No condiments added**), individually wrap the sandwiches and place them back into the bread bag. Deliver the bread bag to St. Ann Church, West Newbury, by **9:00 a.m.** on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next sandwich delivery date is **Wednesday, December 12**.

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

## HR St. Vincent de Paul Society



We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in becoming part of a wonderful organization, contact Dave Olds.

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

## HR Religious Education

Sun., 12/9 **Grades 3–6 classes** at Merrimac, 9:00–10:00am

Tues., 12/11 **Grades 7–8 classes** at Merrimac 6–7:30pm

Sat., 12/15 **First Penance Celebration** at St. Ann Church, West Newbury for our second graders, 11:00am

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

## 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 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.

## Holy Redeemer Giving Trees

The Giving Trees are placed in the churches at the beginning of Advent to help us aid area programs for people in need during the Christmas season. We are currently giving to five programs:

- Emmaus, Inc. in Haverhill
- The Holiday Helper Program for the Pentucket Area
- Pregnancy Care Center in Haverhill and Newburyport areas
- Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence
- Our St. Vincent de Paul Society

Some of the tags on the trees are for specific items that the groups are requesting, including toys and clothing. Please return the **unwrapped** gifts with the tags to the churches by the weekend of **December 9**. This allows time for us to deliver them to the programs for distribution in time for Christmas. We would ask if you take a tag and can't find the specific item that you either return the tag as soon as possible or consider getting a gift card. Thank you for all your generosity in the past, present, and future! If you have any questions, please call Dottie Carr, 978-363-2909.