


# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 27, 2022**

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

*All Are Welcome*



*"You know the time;  
it is the hour now for you  
to awake from sleep.  
For our salvation is  
nearer now than  
when we first believed;  
the night is advanced,  
the day is at hand."*

(Rm 13:11–12)





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

### Nativity

Parish offices and church:  
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860

Office Hours: By appointment

**Phone: 978-346-8604**

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

### Immaculate Conception

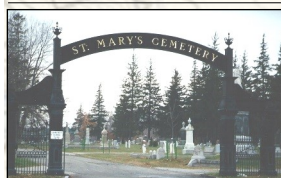
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:  
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Phone: 978-462-2724**

Fax: 978-234-7399

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



### St. Mary's Cemetery

36 Storey Avenue,  
Newburyport 01950

### Immaculate Conception School

1 Washington Street, Newburyport 01950, 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

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978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

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

#### Senior Priests in Residence

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Rev. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

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St. Vincent de Paul Society at  
Holy Redeemer

978-346-8604 x 4

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St. Vincent de Paul Society at  
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#### Online:

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

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

 [hriccatholic](https://www.instagram.com/hriccatholic)

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

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday (11/26)

4:00pm **IC** Robert Cynewski, Connie Bucci  
(Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

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

### Sunday (11/27)

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

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

10:00am **St. Ann** Jerry Mullen (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

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

### Monday (11/28)

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

### Tuesday (11/29)

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

### Wednesday (11/30)

9:00am **IC** Patricia Connolly (Fr. McLaughlin)

### Thursday (12/1)

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

### Friday (12/2)

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

### Saturday (12/3)

4:00pm **IC** Stephen M. Boy, Margaret Childs, Mary & Jack Graham (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

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

### Sunday (12/4)

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

9:00am **IC** Claire Doherty, Ann Fiore (Fr. Harrison)

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

11:30am **IC** Tom & Helen O'Donnell (Fr. Harrison)

*In your prayers please remember 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 broadcast online** through our website: [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org) and on Facebook: ([Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)).

## Ultreya

Our regional Ultreya will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2 at IC Church, Newburyport. Join our brothers and sisters from Amesbury, Haverhill and Newburyport in prayer for those living their weekend.

## Short-Term Rental Needed for Afghan Refugee Family

While continuing to pursue permanent housing solutions for Newburyport's Afghan refugee families, one in particular would benefit greatly from a short-term rental. Do you have or know of a winter rental, or something available for up to six months? Partnering with you to care for this family could make a valuable difference—reach out if you can help. Contact St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 978-465-5351, or [rector@stpaulsnewburyport.org](mailto:rector@stpaulsnewburyport.org).

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I have always had a love-hate relationship with the dawn. Sometimes craving more sleep, especially if it had been a late night before, or if I was called out on some emergency... getting just a few extra winks of sleep can seem like the most important thing in the world. On the other hand, most of the time when I do rouse myself out of bed, I am filled with joy and the hope of a new day...or at least, I am looking forward to that first cup of coffee! It is strange how the aroma of freshly-brewed java can send endorphins surging through our minds and bodies in such a wonderful and predictable way! God bless whoever invented coffee!

The transition from darkness to light has had a profound impact on the human soul from the very beginning of creation. Long before electric lights became a reality, the return of daylight promised vision, clarity, safety, and opportunity for our ancestors and is no less true today. Despite advances in automotive headlight technology, who would rather drive at night if you could make the same trip during the day when you could see better?

The dawn promises the ability to be about our human enterprise—to work, to school, to the marketplace and more. Although human activity can occur at any time of the day or night, there is a tremendous surge in business once the sun begins to come up. It provides the opportunity for us to use this time for our profit and betterment. Or not. The choice is up to us!

It is in this same notion that our new season of Advent reminds us that dawn is approaching in our relationship with the Lord. Just as in terrestrial matters we have choices to make, so too, in celestial and eternal things, we are called upon to embrace this coming light as a moment to re-orient ourselves towards God.

As Catholic Christians we believe in the Second Coming of Christ—that Christ will return and gather us to Himself in a great day of judgement. The Scriptures are very clear that no one, not even Christ Himself, but only the Father knows when this will happen. It could be tomorrow afternoon or a million years from now. Nobody knows. And if anyone pretends to know, the Scriptures are also very clear: do not follow them! But the day will come at a time when no one expects it and will catch many off guard, just as despite many warnings to the contrary, people ignored Noah's plea to repent and prepare for a great flood.

So Advent exists to remind us, once again, of our need to get ready to welcome the Lord when He does actually come. We do this in two important ways. First, by examining our lives and "tidying up a bit" where we see sin and its effects. Advent is a time to look with the clarity of daylight at how we are living out our relationships with God and others. If Christ were to come today, what would need to change for that to be a positive experience? Where are the "spiritual dust bunnies" that I have been sweeping under the proverbial carpet in months or years past? Honestly, if any one of us were to come face-to-face with the Lord today, what might He demand that change?



(Continued on page 4)



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## This Week in Our Collaborative

### Monday, November 28

**AA Meeting** 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall  
**Women at the Well Mtg.** 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room  
**Sicily Pilgrimage Mtg.** 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
**Compassionate Friends Mtg.** 7:30pm, IC Conference Room 209

### Tuesday, November 29

**Breaking Bread Takeout-Only Meal** 4:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
**IC Choir Rehearsal** 6:00pm, IC Church

### Wednesday, November 30

**Holy Jammers Practice** 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library  
**HR Fair Committee Wrap-up Mtg.** 1:00pm, Nativity Hall  
**Altar Server Training** 3:45pm, IC Church  
**IC Youth Choir Rehearsal** 4:30pm, IC Church  
**Ministry Committee Mtg.** 6:30pm, IC Nazareth Library

### Thursday, December 1

**HR Prayer Shawl Mtg.** 1:00pm, Nativity Hall  
**Adoration** 7:00pm, IC Church

### Friday, December 2

**Adoration** 9:30am, IC Church  
**AA Meeting** 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
**Ultreya** 7:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room/St. James Chapel

### Saturday, December 3

**Confessions** 3:00pm, IC Church

### Sunday, December 4

**RCIA Mtg.** 9:30am, IC Parish Center, G19  
**RCIA Mtg.** 10:00am, IC St. James Chapel  
**IC Faith Formation, K-8** 10:00am, IC Parish Center  
**Baptism Prep. Session** 1:00pm, IC Charity Dining Room  
**IC Confirmation Prep, Year 2** 3:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall  
**HR Confirmation Prep, Year 2** 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

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

(Continued from page 3)

Secondly, Advent is a time set aside to help us properly prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. For us Christians, it has very little to do with decorating and baking, wrapping paper and tinsel. Rather, the Church invites us to prayerfully ponder the Scriptures that first prepared our hearts to welcome Him two millennia ago. It is about soaking in the words of Isaiah: "Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may instruct us in His ways, and we may walk in His paths." (Is 2:3). It is about patiently waiting in hope for the saving help of the Lord. It is about anticipating all that the promised Christ would fulfill. It is about the expectant joy of knowing that God is about to bless us richly and letting our minds and hearts wander and dream about all that might entail.

To that end, I would warmly invite you and your family to make it a point to keep Advent a sacred season in your home. Buy or make an Advent Wreath and pray the daily prayers that ignite this great hope of Christ. Any four candles will do, any set of greens will suffice. The prayers are available online as are the Scripture readings for the day. Keep it prayerful, keep it simple! Get or make an Advent calendar and count down the days until Christmas. (BTW—rumor has it that SOME Advent calendars even have things like chocolate behind each of the doors.... Now THAT is the way to get into the season!) Play seasonal music—no, not rocking around the you-know-what-tree, but how about: Part 1 of Handel's *Messiah* or many of the other classic Advent hymns that are available. "The Word is Born" by Francis Patrick O'Brien, George Winston's *December*, Marty Haugen's "Night of Silence," *Candled Seasons* by The University of Notre Dame Folk Choir and *Music for Advent II* by the Schola Cantorum of St. Peter's are just a few of my favorites and should be easily available for purchase, download, or streaming this week. If you really want to dive deep into our tradition, see if you can find *Cypriot Advent Antiphons* by Paul Van Nevel: Huelgas Ensemble. While not for the faint of heart, it will take you back to the 13th century in all of its Medieval Latin glory.

Most especially, I would urge you to use this time well. Christmas and all of the secular hoopla that goes with it can be fun and exhausting in equal measure, but Advent invites us to intentionally slow down and consider our place before God. With gift giving at the forefront of the commercial holiday extravaganza, Advent poses the question of what gift do we make of ourselves to God? What do we offer from our hearts to the poor and to those who are in need, realizing that some of the best gifts come from a sharing of our time and presence and are not necessarily found in a catalog. If Christ were to return to earth with all of the angels in glory before December 25, would He find us watching and ready to greet Him?

Every year, I pull out my favorite bumper sticker that is too precious for me to actually place on my car, but I share it with you here. It reads: "Jesus is coming... look busy!" Now that the dawn is upon us, may we be about many things of the Lord in the weeks ahead!

Happy Advent,  
 Fr. Timothy Harrison

## Sicily Pilgrimage



We are beginning preparations for an upcoming pilgrimage to Sicily and the Amalfi Coast of Italy with an optional extension tour to Loretto and Rome in October 2023. We

are hosting an information night on Monday, November 28 in St. Louis Hall in the Immaculate Conception Pastoral Center for anyone interested in finding out more about this awesome adventure. We will begin with Mass at 6:00 p.m. in St. James Chapel and move to the hall for light refreshments and a short presentation on the trip. For more information, please contact Paul Blanchette at (978) 500-5661 or go to [pilgrimages.com/fathertim-hric/](http://pilgrimages.com/fathertim-hric/).

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## IC Haiti Gives Thanks

As our country and Collaborative have taken time to give thanks for the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us, the Board of Directors of IC Haiti would like to thank all who have generously supported our mission to serve the educational, medical, and recovery needs of the people living on Haiti's southern peninsula. Most recently the Collaborative was visited by Mr. Conor Shapiro CEO of Health Equity International which funds and operates the St. Boniface Hospital complex in Fond-des-Blancs just north of the IC Haiti funded **Father Marc Piché Elementary school** in Puit Chacha. While informing us of the unprecedented humanitarian crisis taking place in Haiti, Conor expressed his sincere gratitude to IC Haiti for our constant support for the school community in Chacha and our consistently generous and timely responses to the medical needs of those who are served directly by the hospital in Fond-des-Blancs.

The Directors of IC Haiti thank our Lord for your generosity and offer you our heartfelt gratitude for contributing to our quarterly second collections, for supporting the Immaculate Conception school children's "Cookies for Haiti" fundraiser, and for attending our fundraiser last Saturday at the Newburyport Brewing Company. Generosity flows from a grateful heart. In your generous support for the people of Haiti, you have truly expressed your gratitude for the many blessings God has graced you with.

## Questions of the Week

**Adult:** What would you change about your life today if you knew Jesus' second coming was imminent?

**Child:** What will you do during Advent to prepare for the coming of Jesus?

## Celtic Advent Personal Directed Retreat

Celtic spirituality celebrates the essential goodness of all God's creations. Encounters with God are grace filled times that heal human hearts and restore us to our original simplicity where we can rest in God. Our Celtic Advent retreat will open November 27 and close December 21. I will provide information, reflections, and poetry and prayers and meet with you for four one-hour individual sessions of spiritual direction during Advent. Schedule direction sessions (via telephone or Zoom on a day and time convenient for you) throughout Advent.

Readings from *Celtic Advent* by David Cole will also provide material for reflection and discussion.

This offering is designed to provide an affordable, convenient, safe retreat and create an intimate space for you to share yourself deeply with the Holy Spirit.

**Retreat Opens November 27**

**Retreat Closes: December 21**

Four one-hour spiritual direction sessions are scheduled at your convenience and at your pace.

Spiritual director: Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director. Call (978) 462-7483 to register or for information.

Suggested donation: \$85.00

## AED and First Aid Kits

Before COVID, a safety committee was just forming to address many different aspects of our parish gatherings. One of the needs that was discussed was the placement of AED's or automated external defibrillators in our worship spaces and parish halls. Recently, we had a medical situation in one of our spaces where one of these devices might have been helpful prior to Emergency Medical Services arriving. Although we enjoy a very rapid response from the first responders in our area, it is time that we add these devices along with "stop-bleed" kits and updated first-aid kits to each of our gathering spaces. To that end, I would like to invite parishioners who are able to consider making a donation to provide these potentially life-saving kits. We would like to place them in the following locations:

Nativity Church foyer	IC Church foyer
Nativity Hall kitchen	IC Church sacristy
St. Ann Church foyer	IC Pastoral Center St. Louis Hall
St. Ann Church hall	IC Pastoral Center Charity Dining Room kitchen

The cost for each of these complete kits (AED, stop-bleed, and first aid) with their respective cabinets and required supplies is \$1,768.00. With your support, we are hoping to order and have these installed sometime in January. Full or partial donations for these sets are welcome and appreciated for both parishes. Additionally, we have multiple offers from parishioners who are familiar with how to use these devices to do an informal training after weekend Masses once they are installed. Plus, we hope to also offer certification in CPR and basic first aid for anyone who might be interested in going through the training. Stay tuned for more information about where and when. Please contact Dennis LaMalfa in our business office for more information. Thank you for your generosity in the care of others!

## Virtual Rosary



Join us for recitation of the rosary live on Facebook twice every week. Pray along with us and add your intentions in the comments on Facebook. [www.facebook.com/hricatholic/](https://www.facebook.com/hricatholic/)

**Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.**

## New England Tenors

TICKETS:  
ADULT \$20  
CHILD \$10

AVAILABLE  
AT THE  
DOOR

SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 27  
2:00 P.M.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, NEWBURYPORT

SPONSORED BY:  
THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

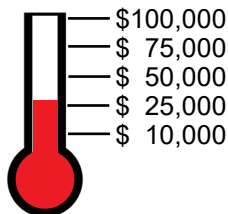
## IC Offertory Collection

The second collection this weekend (Nov. 27) is IC Mission Appeal. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 4) 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 Grand Annual  
Goal \$100,000  
To Date \$27,165.00**



## Adoration is Rest

EUCCHARISTIC  
ADORATION



Maybe use words. Maybe use no words. Simply let the impulse of the Holy Spirit nourish your desire to grow in humility, virtue, age, wisdom and grace. Leave all the rest to Holy One who calls you to savor rest with Him in Adoration's holy hour at dusk. Enter from Green Street only, please.

**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. The calendar link can be found on our website: [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org).

## Confessions

We offer Confessions Saturdays from **3:00–3:30 p.m.** at IC Church. No appointment needed. Confessions are also available at other times and places during the week by appointment only. For more information or to schedule a time for Confession, contact our Collaborative offices at (978) 346-8604 or (978) 462-2724.

## women at the well

We invite all women to come join us at any time, no matter where you may be in your relationship with God. The new study, *Keeping in Balance from Walking with Purpose*, is all about managing life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness rooted in Christ. We meet Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in person at the IC Parish Center and virtually on Zoom. If you have any questions, or would like to join via Zoom, please email [hricwomenatthewell@gmail.com](mailto:hricwomenatthewell@gmail.com) for the link.

If you are unable to make it to every meeting, please do not worry! This group is designed to allow you to drop in whenever you are able to join us, no pre-reading necessary from week to week.

## Immaculate Conception School

There's no better way to bring excitement to a school building than with a book fair! Immaculate Conception is happy that the Scholastic Book Fair was back in-person, to provide students with the opportunity to purchase some new reading material. Pictured, students in the older grades helped younger students as they perused the books and trinkets that were on display. Making purchasing decisions within the budget that each child had led to some delightful conversations between shoppers and helpers. The older students at the IC are a tremendous support to the younger students—especially at the annual book fair. Parent volunteers were on hand to oversee the book fair setup and purchases and enjoy time with the students.



*Deciding between lava slime and animal slime can be daunting!*

*7th grade students helped the 1st Grade to keep within budget!*



*Enchanting storybooks are always popular!*



## Cocoa & Caroling!

**Friday December 9th | 6-8 PM**

Waterfront Parking Lot, 36 Merrimac St, Newburyport

- Stay warm with our **Heated Tent** and **Hot Cocoa**
- Write your own **letter to Santa** with your friends
- Build your own **Christmas Ornament**
- Join the Knights in singing **Christmas Carols**

**Santa Clause** expected to make a special visit!!!

For more info call or text Matt: 978.697.5135



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## 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.svdpnnewburyport.org](http://www.svdpnnewburyport.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

We serve our weekly Breaking Bread meal on Tuesday evenings. It is a hot, nourishing, 3-course dinner which is currently **take out only** and is distributed at the entrance to the IC Parish Center from 4:30–5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

## St. Mary's Cemetery

Immaculate Conception Parish owns and operates a private cemetery located on Storey Avenue. St. Mary's Cemetery is a 35-acre cemetery with consecrated grounds that provides tranquility and peacefulness at those difficult times that we all are faced with. Please visit the parish cemetery and you will find the cemetery to be well-managed and maintained. Cemetery plots are available for full-body and cremated remains burials in any denomination. Call Joseph Viel, Superintendent, at 978-208-0266 to schedule an appointment.

## IC Online Giving

Parish registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office.

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

## The Compassionate Friends



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

Our next monthly support meeting is **November 28** in the IC Parish Center, Room 209 from 7:30–9:00 p.m. Contact Barbara with questions: 978-697-1349 or 617-410-6309, or [barbarajhopkinson@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajhopkinson@gmail.com).

## Free Hair Cuts

Donna Koen, an IC parishioner and licensed hairdresser for over 30 years, is offering free hair cuts to anyone in need. She is willing to travel to your home. Her number is (978) 998-9219. This is a service she has been offering for years for the Newburyport Housing Authority, Salvation Army, and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

She is happy to help our parishioners who are in need.

## IC Mission Appeal: Nov. 26–27

*Mission Appeal by the Benedict XVI Institute for Africa*

As the Church in Africa grows and participates in the New Evangelization of the world Church, the need for a proper formation of the clergy, religious, and laity becomes all the more acute. Integral to this mission of the formation of Church leaders is their formation in theology and spirituality, while paying attention to the cultures of the peoples of the vast continent of Africa.

The purpose of the Benedict XVI Institute for Africa, therefore, is to promote theological and spiritual formation of Church leaders across the African Church, particularly African Theological Faculties, Seminaries, and Religious Houses of Formation. We have been at the forefront of the theological, spiritual, and cultural development across Africa, especially in seminaries, houses of formation, and universities.

The recent years have been very challenging for all, with the COVID 19 pandemic. Unlike the counterparts in the Western world, African seminaries, houses of formation, and schools generally do not have access to computers and WIFI. The Benedict XVI Institute for Africa, therefore, is actively engaging on making these basic tools of learning available to different seminaries and local Churches in Africa, and your support will be very much appreciated.

Yes, the times are tough, but be mindful that your widow's mite could just be a lifeline for many peoples in the continent of Africa, as we struggle to provide not only educational and formational materials, but likewise medical support as well, which is part of the caritas arm of the Benedict XVI Institute for Africa. Thank you so much that you are able and willing to help. Be assured of our prayers for you and yours.

## Substitute Custodians

IC Parish is looking for substitute Custodians to work on an as-needed basis. Duties would include cleaning, event setup, and snow removal. If you are interested in becoming a substitute custodian, please contact Christine or Melinda in the IC offices, 978-462-2724.

## Like Us on Facebook

[Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception](#)  
[Collaborative Parishes](#)



## Wedding Coordinators Needed

Would you like to serve your church in a meaningful and enjoyable way? Then consider being a wedding coordinator. All that's needed is a friendly face and the basics of hospitality. Approximately one hour of rehearsal and approximately two hours on the day of the wedding are required. You will be trained and compensated. If you're interested in this rewarding position and want more information, please call Christine or Melinda in the IC offices, 978-462-2724.



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## HR Offertory Collection

No second collection this weekend (Nov. 27). The second collection next weekend (Dec. 4) 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: [hriccatholic.org/hr-online-giving](http://hriccatholic.org/hr-online-giving).

**HR Grand Annual  
Goal \$25,000  
To Date \$5,980.00**



## Saturday Mass at St. Ann

Please remember that our Saturday 4:00pm Mass will move to **St. Ann, W. Newbury** for the month of **December**.

## HR Online Giving

To get started you need to be a registered member of Holy Redeemer Parish. Registration forms are available on the website or contact the parish office.

To learn more visit our website, [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org) and click the "Links" tab, then "HR Parish Online Giving" to get to the site.

Questions? Contact Christine Breslow, 978-462-2724 x 402

## HR Holiday Fair Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported our **Holiday Fair**. The donations for the basket table and silent auction were tremendous. The nearly new table had wonderful trinkets donated and the bake table was a big hit with all the donated treats.

We couldn't have asked for a better day to serve soups and chowders for our lunch! With all the delicious aromas coming from the kitchen, the hall smelled delightful.

**Thank you** to everyone who bought and sold raffle tickets, volunteered, donated, baked, cooked, and attended the fair! We truly have a great parish family!! Watch next week's bulletin for photos of the event.

## HR Fair Wrap-up Meeting

The Activities Committee will be having a fair "wrap up" meeting on Wednesday, November 30 at 1:00 p.m. in the Nativity Hall. We will be reviewing the outcome of our Holiday Fair. We will also be discussing future events. All are welcome and encouraged to join our Activities Committee!

## HR St. Vincent de Paul

*"... And lying at his door was a poor man named **Lazarus**, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table." (Lk 16:20)*

The Holy Redeemer SVdP conference is seeing an increase in the needs of those unfortunate in our area. Your kind and generous donations over the years have helped tremendously, *but the cries for help continue*.

Jesus told us the poor and needy would always be with us. We are all called to raise our awareness and "see" the face of Lazarus in those in need that we encounter. Our donations will not solve widespread poverty but **your donations do make a difference**. If someone is without water or electricity, your donations collectively can make a huge difference to that person or family.

With the overall cost of living increasing and the onset of cold weather, we ask that you consider some of **our stories** (see below) and continue to give generously. There are envelopes in the pews at both St. Ann and at Nativity churches, or simply use the poor boxes in these churches. Make checks out to HR SVdP. If you know of someone who needs help, please have them call our hotline at 978-346-8604 X4.

Please give what you can so that we can continue to *make a difference in the lives of the poor around us*.

This year our conference helped a family regain the common convenience of hot water. Your donations made it possible to pay this otherwise unaffordable plumbing bill. Their name is *Lazarus*.

## 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. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you! We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall in Merrimac at 2:00 p.m. **Our next meeting is Thursday, December 1. All are welcome!**

## Greeters Needed



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We could still use a few more greeters. High school students and adults are welcome. In particular, we need greeters at the 4:00 p.m. Masses at both Nativity and St. Ann. This little task simply involves smiling and saying hello, handing out bulletins, or perhaps giving directions to the restroom or the ramp.

Would you like to help? Please contact Sue Noyes at [susanjnoyes@gmail.com](mailto:susanjnoyes@gmail.com).



# HR PARISH

## HR Christmas Giving 2022

**HR St. Vincent de Paul** is asking for monetary donations and \$25.00 Market Basket gift cards, which may be left in the metal boxes at the doors of the churches or you can use the envelopes in the pews at both St. Ann and at Nativity churches or mail checks to HR St. Vincent de Paul Society, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860. Make checks out to HR SVdP.

**Merrimac Holiday Helpers** is looking for pajamas for school-aged children, including adult sizes for older students.

### Pregnancy Care Center:

- Blanket sleepers: newborn–24 mos.
- New outfits: 0–24mos.
- Diapers: sizes 3, 4, 5, 6
- Crib sheets
- baby food: stages 1, 2, 3
- Baby bottles, pacifiers, and teethingers

They are also on line at <https://tinyurl.com/PCCGivingTree>  
These gifts will be shipped directly to Pregnancy Care Center.

**Emmaus House** is looking for \$25.00 gift cards from Target, Market Basket, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Marshalls, and Burlington Coat Factory. If you prefer to order online: [www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/2022holiday](http://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/2022holiday) and you should be able to have them shipped to Emmaus House directly. If not, you can leave them at either church.

**All items to be delivered must be dropped off by December 11 at either church.** If ordering online, please use the same date for ordering deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Dottie Carr 978-363-2909

## HR Coffee & Donuts Social

We will be offering coffee and donuts for **everyone** after the 8:30 Mass on Sunday, December 18 followed by **church decorating** for Christmas for all those who would like to help. Please join us.

## Nativity Church Decorating

**Help** is needed to decorate Nativity Church for Christmas. **Sunday, December 18**, after the 8:30 Mass, we will need some muscle to help move statues, hang banners, string lights and more. Please mark your calendar to stay after Mass, have some coffee and lend a hand.

Flowers will be delivered on Friday, December 23 at 10:00 a.m. Anyone able to come help with the flowers, it would be greatly appreciated.

Any questions call Cindy Quinn 978-346-0072

## Holiday Fair Lawn Signs

Those who were helpful in taking and displaying our Holiday Fair lawn signs may return the signs to the back of either church and we will collect them. **Thank you!**

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Prayers for the Sick

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

Priscilla Brown  
Cindy Calcina  
Bill Crouse  
Ann-Margaret Ferrante  
Jack Flynn  
Jeanine Ebacher Fowler  
Charmaine Haan  
Hillar Haan  
Jay Hanslig

Terence Healey  
Sam Kitchen  
Maureen Russell  
Rob Schweizer  
Yvonne Sloban  
Tom Tribble  
Michael Tucker  
Laurent Vincent

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

## Bulletin Information

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

## Collaborative Faith Formation

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

### School Year Programs (Grades K–10)

School year Faith Formation and Sacramental preparation schedules and registration forms are available on the website at ([hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation](http://hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation)). Please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x405) with any questions or reach out via email to Aaron ([agiard@hriccatholic.org](mailto:agiard@hriccatholic.org)) or Melinda ([burrell@hriccatholic.org](mailto:burrell@hriccatholic.org)).

### Baptism

We have resumed our schedule of celebrating this sacrament the second Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the IC Church. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.

## Centering Prayer for Advent

During Advent please consider joining us weekly for Centering Prayer. Consider leaving the noise of the world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday evenings from 6:00–7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Following Centering Prayer Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and share reflections on the words of scripture. All are welcome to join us as we pray in these ancient Christian traditions and together prepare this Advent to welcome God's gift of His son Immanuel, *God with us, into our hearts and our lives*.

For more information and the Zoom link, contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483.

## Snow Removal Volunteers

We are looking for **volunteers to assist with snow removal** at all 3 churches, the rectories, and the IC school this winter. If you are interested in helping us out, please call Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to learn more.

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