

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022



hriccatholic.org

All Are Welcome

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

(Mt 1:18-20)



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

Nativity

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

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: 978-346-8604

Email: info@hriccatholic.org

Immaculate Conception

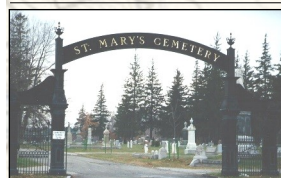
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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

Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399

Email: info@hriccatholic.org



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



Collaborative Staff

Pastor

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

info@hriccatholic.org

Senior Priests in Residence

978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

Rev. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow

978-887-5350, paul Dow49@gmail.com

Deacon John Moranski

978-432-1443, jmoranski51@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at
Holy Redeemer

978-346-8604 x 4

hsvdp300@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Immaculate Conception

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St Mary's Cemetery

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Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator

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

 Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/17)

4:00pm **IC** Katherine Lombard, John K. Herlihy, Roger Cyr, Thomas Burton, Noreen Driscoll family, Margaret Childs (Fr. Morin)

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

Sunday (12/18)

8:30am **Nativity** For the intentions of Charles Kardas (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

9:00am **IC** John D'Ambrosio, Irene & Rene McCarthy, Emily & Jim Saccone, James Saccone, Nancy Jones (Fr. Harrison)

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

11:30am **IC** Jeanne Baughn, Deacon Thomas Reilly, Marcello Angeloni (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (12/19)

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

Tuesday (12/20)

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

Wednesday (12/21)

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

Thursday (12/22)

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

Friday (12/23)

9:00am **IC** Ally Susan Powers (Fr. Harrison)

Saturday (12/24), Christmas Eve

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

4:00pm **ICS Gym** (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)

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

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

6:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

6:00PM **IC Church** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (12/25)

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

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

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

10:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)

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:

hricatholic.org and on Facebook: ([Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)).

Christmas Eve Confessions at IC

Confessions on Christmas Eve at IC Church will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end promptly at 3:30 p.m. to give the priests sufficient time to prepare for the beginning of Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 p.m. Please plan ahead if you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas. Times are also available for individual appointments during the week. Please call our IC office (978-462-2724) and speak with Melinda or Christine for more details.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

In the days before the internet, GPS and navigation apps, I found myself attempting to drive across the country alone. At first, it was an exhilarating adventure—a real taste of freedom and the promise of an open road! Not having any idea how far I would make it each day, I decided to take each day as it came. My destination was Chicago, but I had planned on stopping somewhere around Cleveland for the night. After several stops and multiple conversations with hotel clerks along the way, I discovered, much to my horror, that there was some major convention in town that had everything booked solid. "No vacancy" signs were everywhere. It was getting dark, and I reluctantly continued on the highway, hoping that I could find somewhere to spend the night rather than sleeping in my car or trying to drive straight through. On my official AAA paper map, I saw a reasonably large city called Elyria, just west of Cleveland that held some promise. I was getting tired, and it was approaching 10:00 p.m. that night, so it was Elyria or maybe sleep in a ditch somewhere.

To make matters worse, it had started to rain, making visibility all that much harder. I strained to read the passing highway signs, hoping against hope that I didn't somehow miss the one for Elyria along the way. Finally, through waves of raindrops and road mist, I saw it dimly reflected in the distance. They say your heart leaps when you glimpse the first sign of hope. For me, that night, it was an understatement! I nearly drove off the road I got so excited to be taking the exit to Elyria! That the glazed-over motel clerk at the Quality Inn was unimpressed with my pronunciation of her town's name, correcting me several times during the check-in process (BTW—it is pronounced eh-leer-ee-ah) did nothing to dampen my spirits. I had found a bed to sleep in for that night! All was right with the world, for that moment anyway. I will always remember how awesome it was to see that first sign for Elyria on that wet, dank night.

We humans look for signs all the time, don't we? Although most of us navigate our world electronically these days, we look for many signs throughout the year to give us just a

(Continued on page 4)



Reconciliation and Adoration



Gift yourself some time with Jesus this Advent season. Listen: Jesus is calling you.

Join us on Thursday at IC Church for Adoration and Confession.

Enter from Green Street only, please.

Confession: Thursday, December 22: 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Also Confessions only: Saturday, December 17, before Mass at IC (3:00–3:30)

Adoration: Thursdays: 7 p.m.–8 p.m.

Also Adoration only: 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: hricatholic.org.



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, December 19

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

Cub Scout Pack 26 Mtg. 4:00pm, St. Ann Hall

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

Tuesday, December 20

Breaking Bread Takeout-Only Meal 4:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

IC Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm, IC Church

Knights of Columbus Mtg. 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

Wednesday, December 21

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church

Thursday, December 22

Confessions 6:30–8:00pm, IC Church

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, December 23

Collaborative offices close at 12:00 noon

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Confessions 2:00–3:30pm, IC Church

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

Merry Christmas!

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

Collaborative Office Hours

Collaborative offices will close at 12:00noon on Friday, December 23 and will be closed all day on Monday, December 26. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, December 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Collaborative offices will be closed on Monday, January 2 for New Year's. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Mass Schedule for the Collaborative

Christmas Eve Masses, Saturday, Dec. 24

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

4:00pm Immaculate Conception (*Live Streamed*)

4:00pm Immaculate Conception School Gym

4:00pm St. Ann

4:00pm Nativity (*Church & Hall*)

6:00pm Immaculate Conception

6:00pm Nativity

Christmas Day Masses

8:00am Immaculate Conception

8:30am Nativity

10:00am St. Ann

10:00am Immaculate Conception



(Continued from page 3)

glimmer that what we seek is right around the corner, or that we are at least on the right path. We plant vegetables in the spring and then look expectantly to see the first shoots break the soil. We watch the weather carefully in the summer months, hoping that our perfect beach day will be filled with blessings. We mark the first frost in the fall, knowing that Thanksgiving and even greater festivities are quickly approaching. And in the midst of winter's ice and chill, we wait for warmer days, a return of the sunshine after the solstice, and the hopeful presence of songbirds to announce the coming vernal equinox. Our seasons produce definitive signs that predictable change is all around us. Reading these signs, just like charting the map of the stars above has been a reliable way to understand our place in the universe and to bring reassurance that hope is upon us.

Even more so than in the natural world, we have sought this same reassurance in our relationship with God. Promises and covenants were made by our ancestors of old with the eternal God of the universe, but we repeatedly wanted some sign here or there that we were still on the right track, or more honestly, how to get back on track when we had gone astray. For example, a rainbow was given in the sky as a sign that we no longer had to fear another flood when it rained, or a Seder meal was celebrated to recall our deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Out of His great love and patience, God sent the prophets to us again and again to remind us of His Covenant and call us to holiness. Most of the time these were needed wake up calls to turn away from sin or to remember His commandments. But every once in awhile God, just because He is God, decided to do something new! And so through Isaiah, He invited Ahaz to ask for a sign. When he refused to engage God's free offer, God decided to give a sign anyway—that the virgin will give birth to a child and they shall call Him Emmanuel.

A virgin-birth! What a powerful, yet also subtle sign that God is doing something extraordinary! Surely the child to be born will be destined for greatness! Coming into the world in an unheard of way, this child must be sent by God to accomplish a special purpose that would later be revealed. The child would be a sign of a new beginning by God, a new expression of God's awesomeness for us to behold. That St. Joseph might have needed a little sign from God through a dream that all was going to be OK is understandable, from a human perspective.

So also this sign given to us this Fourth Sunday of Advent, as we anticipate the coming celebrations of Christmas next weekend. It is a sign of fulfillment and wholeness. Do we not long for God to do something new? Do we not pine for relief from our burdens? Do we not crave One who could satisfy our deepest longings? Do we not look with expectation for One who can heal our broken hearts, wipe away our tears, soothe our wounded souls? Do we not bristle with excitement of the prospect of finally encountering One who could truly heal us and make us whole?

Brighter than a glistening street sign on a rainy night, Emmanuel is THE sign that God loves us and still calls us today to hope in the bright promise of mercy, forgiveness and joy. Follow this sign to new life and God will bless us beyond our wildest imaginations! Let us rest in His peace, confident in the unmerited gift of His love to us this Christmas.

Advent Blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Increase the Deductibility of Your Charitable Giving

People reaching 70½ years old must begin taking withdrawals from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) under the rule for "required minimum distributions" or RMDs. Of course, the distribution means paying taxes on the withdrawn amount.

The Tax Cut and Jobs Act increased the standard deduction. Many individuals who itemized in the past may find that taking the now-higher standard deduction is a better federal tax strategy.

When you take the standard deduction, there is a strict limitation on what you can also deduct for charitable giving. But there is a way for some seniors to still get an increased deduction for their giving, thereby reducing their taxable income even if they don't itemize.

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) can satisfy all or part of the amount of your required minimum distribution from your IRA. If you directly transfer funds from the IRA to a qualified charity, those dollars count toward the RMD for the year, but are not counted as income. You can effectively claim a tax deduction for increased charitable giving without itemizing deductions.

Be aware that a QCD is available only to IRA owners 70½ years or older. And the maximum annual exclusion for QCDs is \$100,000. If you file a joint return, your spouse also can have a QCD and exclude up to \$100,000. For more details read IRS 590-B "Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)." **Always check with your financial advisor or tax preparer before making tax or financial decisions.**

Thank you for considering your parish as part of your charitable giving and estate planning.

Celtic Advent Personal Directed Retreat

You can begin your retreat at any time during Advent.

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. 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 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



Congratulations to some of our newly trained Altar Servers:

Sophia and Andrew Davis and Eleanor Higgins along with veteran server, Milena Mataac, and Fr. Tim

We continue to train and welcome new servers to join us as expand and reintroduce this important ministry within our Collaborative.

And along with the new youth servers, we also are welcoming new adult servers. Pictured is Fr. Tim along with Tom Welch and his mother, Ann.



San Marcos Christmas Coffee

San Marcos Christmas Coffee Sale Now on Dec. 17-18

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase at all collaborative Masses **December 17-18**. You can preorder by voice/text with Karen at 978-270-0183.

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.

Feliz Navidad!

Prayers for the Sick

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

Priscilla Brown
Baby Boyle
Cindy Calcina
Pat Connolly
Bill Crounse
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
Lorraine Zollo

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

IC Haiti Collection and Recent Fundraisers

The final collection of 2022 for Haiti is the weekend of December 17–18. Please be generous!

Since 2008, our Collaborative and other concerned donors have responded to the needs of the Haitian people, particularly those living in the community of Puit Chacha on the southern peninsula. Despite the chaotic humanitarian crisis that is now afflicting Haiti, the Father Marc Piché Elementary school still operates daily providing students with a safe learning environment, a nutritious hot lunch program, regular dental care, and access to healthcare.

However, as the crisis continues, supplies (including food and fuel) dwindle, access to markets is denied, costs soar, and people suffer. We, thanks be to God, remain committed to our brothers and sisters in Haiti, especially to the school community in Puit Chacha.

Just in the past five years, IC Haiti's annual operating cost has averaged close to \$77,000. These costs include the entire school's budget and emergency medical response efforts related to hurricanes, earthquakes, and disease. The current crisis will certainly push costs up even higher in the coming year.

Because of this, the IC Haiti Board of Directors is cognizant of its responsibility to double our efforts to make a greater effort at fundraising. Most recently, Merrimac Heights Academy held a Walk for Water fundraiser for IC Haiti where students and staff raised \$3,000, and the IC Haiti Board held a fundraiser at the Newburyport Brewery which raised \$3,541. We are thankful to all who contributed to these fundraisers, but we will have to do more to meet our expected expenses.

We are most grateful to you, the parishioners of both Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception, and we continue to count on your generosity during the quarterly second collections. For your information, Board members are not compensated, and administrative costs are less than 1% of the moneys we receive. You can be assured your donations are going directly to meet the needs of the people we have been called to serve in Haiti.

If you would like to mail a contribution, send checks to IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA. 01950. Checks should be made out to "IC Haiti."

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 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.

AED and First Aid Kits

Before COVID, a safety committee was just forming to address many different aspects of our Collaborative 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

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!

Fr. Timothy Harrison

Christmas Collections

Next week, at all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org

The Sacrament of the Sick

The **Anointing of the Sick** is one of the seven Sacraments of our Church and is administered by a priest for healing and inner wholeness. Those who are seriously ill, elderly, or are entering the hospital can request to be anointed. Due to varied schedules and availability, it may not always be possible for a priest to come on short notice to offer the Sacrament, therefore it is strongly recommended that you request the Anointing of the Sick **before going in for a hospital stay, upon entering a nursing home, or at the beginning of hospice care.** Please call Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to learn more.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Collaborative Baptisms

We rejoice with the families of our new brothers and sisters who received the Sacrament of Baptism in the month of **November**:

Bailey Elizabeth Clay • Colby Marie Clay • Kensington Marie Clay • Thomas Galligan Cortazar • Wesley Oliver Herman • Margaret Catherine Horst • Robert Kevin Mailhiot • William Patrick Mailhiot • Charlotte Marie Oakes • Charlie Rushford Oberg • Capri Priscilla Paonessa • Sophia Grace Pipan • Declan Mack Ward

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.

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.

Questions of the Week

Adult: How is St. Joseph a model of faith for you?

Child: Do you think it was easy for St Joseph to trust in God?

Collaborative Faith Formation

All Faith Formation schedules and registration forms are posted on our website at 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). Please contact the Faith Formation office (978-462-2724 x405) with any questions or reach out via email to Aaron (agiard@hriccatholic.org) or Melinda (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.

Follow Us on Instagram

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



IC 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.svdnewburyport.org. If you would like to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to "**SVdP of Newburyport**" and drop it into the collection box at Mass or mail it to the parish office at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Breaking Bread to-go Meal

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!

IC SVdP Giving Tree

The fourth candle of Advent is called the "Angel Candle" and symbolizes peace. This name comes from the fact that the angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace. This week we are reminded that Jesus came to bring peace to our hearts and to our world!

We can bring peace to our community by helping neighbors in need. There is an Advent project in the entry of the church, provided by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The tags displayed on branches and gathered in bowls each represent a need that can be met with a gift card. Please choose a tag and return the gift card during the weeks ahead. The cards can be placed in the collection boxes near the doors of the church. Your gifts will be made available to local residents who call on the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for help during 2023.

Thank you for helping us to help others!

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.

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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

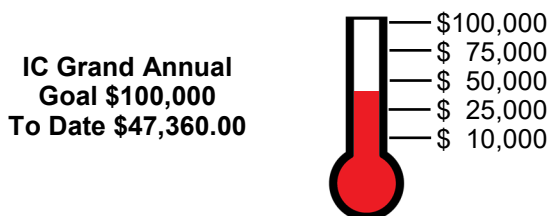
IC Offertory, Dec. 10–11	\$2,530.00
Monthly	\$1,268.00
Mailed in Offertory, week ending Dec. 9	\$3,158.00
Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,456.34

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 18) is IC Haiti. **Make checks payable to IC Haiti.** All Christmas collections support Boston Clergy Trust. See page 6 of the bulletin for details on both of these collections.

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

If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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



IC 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 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

Troop 21 Blood Drive

Scout Troop 21 Linked Units of Newburyport, MA and the American Red Cross are teaming up to boost blood supply. The uncertainties of the times in which we live require a new commitment to maintain a constant community blood supply. Please continue supporting your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers by donating blood on **Thursday, December 22, 2022 at the Newburyport Elks Club Function Hall, 25 Low Street, from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

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-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

Thank you for your support and understanding during these challenging times.

Knights of Columbus



All men of the Collaborative, 18 years or older, are welcome to join the Knights.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the IC Nazareth Library.

For more information about our meetings or to join the Knights, call 978-225-0804 or email kofc231@gmail.com.

Immaculate Conception School

The Immaculate Conception School 21st Annual North Pole Express was held on December 3, 2022. This fundraiser is a community building event where school parents, past and present, as well as school friends volunteer to create a magical train ride to the North Pole for area families. This Christmas tradition has been adjusted due to the pandemic, but still includes a beautifully decorated Polar Village, characters and musicians on the train, as well as Santa and his Elves. Mrs. Claus's Bakery offers riders delicious cinnamon rolls, salted-caramel cheesecake, marshmallow topped brownies, and take-home gingerbread cookie decorating kits. The Mercantile had light-up spinning toys, blinking hats and antlers, wooden train whistles, and Christmas books for sale. A photo with Mrs. Claus while listening to live music provided by Central Catholic High School Band, St. Thomas Aquinas High School Jazz Band, and the Austin Prep Choir was a happy diversion for children who were eager to board the train to see Santa. In all, 3,000 riders had a wonderful trip, entertained by the talented and dedicated parents and teachers of the IC. Proceeds from the fundraiser support the academic experience of IC students in grades Pre-K to 8th.



Teachers, volunteers, and their children enjoyed photo opportunities in the Polar Village.

Teachers Bridget Lacefield as Mrs. Claus and Cristina Meissner as one of Santa's elves provided a photo opp for riders in the Polar Village.



Teacher Bridget Lacefield and Parish/School Business Manager Dennis LaMalfa helped riders board the train at the Newburyport Train Station.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Dec. 10–11	\$1,411.00
Monthly	\$1,985.00
Mailed in Offertory, week ending Dec. 9	\$ 337.50
Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 325.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 18) is IC Haiti. **Make checks payable to IC Haiti.** All Christmas collections support Boston Clergy Trust. See page 6 of the bulletin for details on both of these collections.

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.

HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$11,620.00



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.

St. Ann Church Decorating

We will be decorating St. Ann Church for the Christmas season on **Sunday, December 18 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass.** All are welcome.

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.

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/hriccatholic/

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

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)



A mother of 3 has broken her hip and cannot work. She is behind in her electric bill. Our conference has allowed her to keep her lights on while she recuperates and looks for work. Her name is Lazarus.

With the overall cost of living increasing and the onset of cold weather, we ask that you consider some of **our stories** (see above) 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.*

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.

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, January 5. All are welcome!**

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!**

Holiday Fair Baskets for 2023

We will be collecting baskets for next year's fair. Please consider donating your empty wicker baskets by leaving them in the back of either church.

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.



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