

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

## The Nativity of the Lord

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

December 25, 2022

All Are Welcome

*"For a child is  
born to us,  
a son is given us;  
upon his shoulder  
dominion rests.  
They name him  
Wonder-Counselor,  
God-Hero,  
Father-Forever,  
Prince of Peace."  
(Is 9:5)*







## 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

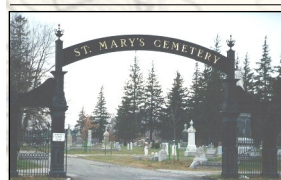
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:  
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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

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

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

#### Senior Priests in Residence

978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

Rev. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

#### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow

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Deacon John Moranski

978-432-1443, [jmoranski51@gmail.com](mailto:jmoranski51@gmail.com)

#### St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Holy Redeemer

978-346-8604 x 4

[hsvdp300@gmail.com](mailto:hsvdp300@gmail.com)

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Immaculate Conception

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Lifelong Faith Formation

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



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[jen.acorn@comcast.net](mailto:jen.acorn@comcast.net)

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Tim Richard, IC organist

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Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator

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



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



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



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Schedule

- Saturday (12/24), Christmas Eve**  
 4:00pm **IC Church** *Also live-streamed* (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), Christmas Day**  
 8:00am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)  
 8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)  
 10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)  
 10:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
- Monday (12/26)**  
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
- Tuesday (12/27)**  
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
- Wednesday (12/28)**  
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. McLaughlin)
- Thursday (12/29)**  
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Morin)
- Friday (12/30)**  
 9:00am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
- Saturday (12/31)**  
 4:00pm **IC Church** *John & Carmella Herlihy, John & Katherine Kelley, Joan O'Brien* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)  
 4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)
- Sunday (1/1)**  
 8:30am **Nativity** *John (Harry) & Helen Thumser* (Fr. Harrison)  
 9:00am **IC** *Joan O'Brien* (Fr. Stanley)  
 10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)  
 11:30am **IC** *For the intentions of David & Patricia Olds on their 25th Anniversary, Ethel & Richard Upchurch* (Fr. Morin)



*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](#)).



## January 1 Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Masses will follow the usual Saturday/Sunday schedule. Join us for Mass!

## Collaborative Website



Visit our **Website**, [www.hriccatholic.org](http://www.hriccatholic.org) for up-to-date information on what is happening in the Collaborative. Find links to our weekly bulletins, our live stream Masses, and our social media pages.

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

One of my favorite movies of all time is the 1983 film, *A Christmas Story*. On the surface, it can seem to have almost nothing to do with any religious understanding of the holiday, save for one fleeting scene of Black Gospel carolers crowding around an oil-drum fire for warmth. "Go Tell It On The Mountain" quickly gets drowned out by rampant commercialism and the secular bacchanalia that has suffocated this precious feast for many decades. The movie, for the un-initiated, is set in or around December of 1940 and is all about a little boy named "Ralphie" who pines for an "official Red Ryder, carbine action, 200-shot, range model air rifle, with a compass in the stock..." for Christmas, as the oft-repeated line goes. Filled with a gentle reminiscent narrative by his present-day self, Ralphie's foibles of trying to suggest his prized object of desire to his parents, teacher, and even old St. Nick himself lead to all sorts of child-exaggerated drama that is lovingly told with humor and a healthy dose of nostalgia. All that makes for a heart-warming holiday movie that has stood the test of time and even won several awards, including being enshrined in the Library of Congress' National Film Registry. There is something in this movie for just about everyone—humor, imperfect but lovable characters, clever story-telling, and a healthy dose of Americana. Any kid who ever got pelted by a snowball or was forced to wear a snowsuit and couldn't lower their arms will certainly find some kinship here!

So, what does any of this have to do with Jesus, one might ask? Well, back out the overt commercialism, look beyond the innate secular setting for most of the film, and what you will find is a genuine human drama about longing, hope, and dreams fulfilled. At the very heart of the story of Christ's birth, is that not exactly what we celebrate this Christmas? Have we not longed and pined for a Savior, who could fulfill all of our deepest human needs? Have we

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Welcome All!

Merry Christmas! We are glad to see you! Our bulletin highlights the many activities in the Collaborative. There are a variety of events and groups for many interests. Come, share your gifts.



*St. Ann, W. Newbury*



*Nativity, Merrimac*



*IC, Newburyport*

Our collaborative is comprised of 3 churches: Immaculate Conception Parish and Nativity and St. Ann (which make up Holy Redeemer Parish).



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## This Week in Our Collaborative

**Monday, December 26**

**Collaborative Offices Closed**

**Tuesday, December 27**

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

**IC Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm, IC Church**

**Wednesday, December 28**

**Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library**

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

**Thursday, December 29**

**Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church**

**Friday, December 30**

**Adoration 9:30am, IC Church**

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

**Saturday, December 31, New Year's Eve**

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

*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)*

not looked, expectantly, for One who could right every wrong, heal every hurt, fix every mistake? Over the centuries, have we not sought to find and discover anew this promise-fulfilled each Christmas, when we celebrate God doing something unexpected and certainly undeserved?

Ralphie's passionate, if misguided, efforts to get his toy gun for Christmas echo the resilience of the human heart. Beyond any quest for material things, humanly, do we not seek the eternal? Saint Augustine once wrote in his *Confessions*, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." Recognizing that, we have a built-in homing beacon that seeks our Creator and won't rest until we have filled ourselves with Christ. There is a beautiful line at the end of the movie when Ralphie (spoiler alert!) is sleeping soundly with his newly-acquired Christmas gift, and his older-self narrates the moment as "all was right with the world," for that moment anyhow. Is that not what we seek permanently with God? For all things to be made right with each other and with our God? In Hebrew, the lofty word is "Shalom," meaning a kind and quality of peace that is based on profoundly right-relationships.

For us Christians, Christ is that gift who brings peace beyond our wildest understanding of what that could be. Just as through our human misadventures, mistakes and multitude of wrong turns, the reception of this gift seems improbable if not downright impossible, at the end and without truly deserving any of it, Christ is given to us as a free and unmerited blessing. This is good news for us today as we mark His birth once again: for those who suffer will find relief. Those who have been sidelined by injustice or misunderstanding will find solid footing. Those who have been beaten down by prejudice and hatred will be vindicated and lifted up. Those who are victims of violence and war and famine will be fully restored. Those whose sins are as red as crimson will be washed as white as wool. Those who have born the great burden of trying to broker peace when all seem to be screaming for war will find satisfaction. Those who hunger and thirst for the very basic necessities to live in this world will find an abundance of rich, juicy food and tasty wine, as is alluded in Isaiah's vision (From Ch. 25). Those who simply want to be free to love as completely as their hearts dream will find a magnificence in Christ that goes well beyond what human speech could ever convey. Christ, truly, will make all things, all people, all places, and all times right with the world and with our God. He is the best, greatest, and the original Christmas present we have ever been given or ever will receive. We rejoice today and always at the awesomeness of this gift!

This Christmas, whether you are the recipient of a "major award," get invaded by the Bumpass' dogs or discover the joy of "Chinese turkey," I pray that you and your family may find an abundance of joy from receiving God's gift of pure love to us in Christ. May His Peace dwell richly in our hearts this day and always.

Merry Christmas to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

## Centering Prayer/Lectio Divina

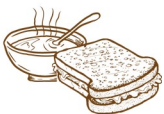
We welcome all members of our Collaborative to join us Wednesdays 6:00–7:00 p.m. via Zoom for 30 minutes of Centering Prayer and 30 minutes of reading Sacred Scripture in group Lectio Divina. Both practices strengthen our faith and reliance on God and deepen our personal relationship with God. For more information, call Elizabeth McCarthy, 978-462-7483.

## Collaborative Office Hours

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

## HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

**Next delivery is December 28**



The HRIC Collaborative Soup & Sandwich Program (formerly the HR Sandwich Program) is asking for volunteers to help make sandwiches for the Lazarus House Ministry. We deliver on the second and fourth

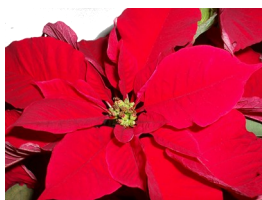
Wednesdays of the month. Thank you to all who have been donating since we started up again. We are delivering over 150 sandwiches every date, and are now bringing 5 gallons of soup.

Sandwiches need to be **individually wrapped or bagged** and returned to the bread wrappers. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are requested at this time, also cold cuts and/or cheese sandwiches. Please, no condiments. **Large** containers of coffee, Adobo, and minced garlic are also welcome. They are also looking for fresh vegetables (not potatoes). Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury, from 7:00–9:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. (Door on the larger parking lot side of the church).

Any questions please contact Jill: [dobsondollis@aol.com](mailto:dobsondollis@aol.com) or Tom at [Tom@grellafinancial.com](mailto:Tom@grellafinancial.com).

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## HR Christmas Flowers



Donations from/in memory of: Bob Nevins • Francis J. Smith • Olga Tiska • Helen Clark • Arthur Clark • Elizabeth Dow • Henry Dow • Tom Seddon • Al & Jean Basque • Peter & Margaret Carden • Judy Flynn • Joe Dollen • Mr. & Mrs. Flynn • The Children of the Boisselle Family and Luanne Buckley • Maureen Heaton and the Deceased Family Members • Jack Gorski • Gerard Routhier • Gallant Family • Gorski Family • The Murphy Family • Deceased Members of The Lumsden Family • Ann & Walter Dunn • Barbara Burak • Joe Burak • Robert & Edith deLyon • Charles & Katherine Friel • Michael & Sheila Kirwan • Catherine & Michael Kirwan • Michael & Thomas Fox • Lloyd & Wilhelmina Hayes • Joe & Mary Mannion • Wilfred A. Vaillancourt • Maurice James Crounse • Joanne Crounse • Stephen Michael Crounse • The Myers Family • The Proposki Family • Catherine & Stephen Lorenzo • The Rollins Family • Pat & Jack Kelly • Rita & Joe Sullivan • De Stearns • Gert Bradley • Dan Micherone • John H. Thumser • Helen D. Thumser • Robert M. Thumser

## IC Christmas Flowers

Donations from/in memory of: The LoPreste Family • The Gravalles Family • The Messina Family • George & Mark Kalashian • Chuck Fraley • Harry & Mabel Kalashian • John & Kathleen Kelley • George & Mary Kalashian • Harry & Mabel Kalashian • Chuck Fralay • John Hansen • Fred & Kay Goduti • Marilyn Goduti • Lou Ann Cusa • Stanley E. Baikewicz • Joseph & Alison Baikewicz • Stephen & Catherine Bogue • The Bogue Family • Paul & Sharon Baker • JoEllen Cox-Mulica • Douglas Mulica • Stephen M. Boy • Harold, Dorothy, & Ann Daley • Virginia M. Reardon • William L. Reardon • Maureen & Roley Waddell • Robert Cynewski • Ruth & Gilbert Cormier • The Lapres' Family • Genevieve Sullivan • The Cynewski Family • Jim Thistle • Ann E. Port • Cecile Vincent • Frances Hasapis • Alfredo Salgado • Maria Salgado • Liberta Mota • Alfredo Sousa • Maria Rosario • Vicente, Mima, & Ia • George H. Lawler Jr. • Barbara A. Lawler • Mary Adelaide Lawler • George H. (Buzzie) Lawler III • The Zerigian Family • The Packard Family • The Coughlin Family • Anna & Arthur Crean • Mr. Edward G. Reardon • Margaret H. Doyle • Jeremiah W. Doyle • Amy E. Shoemake • Mr. & Mrs. O. Pettingell • Raymond J. Haley • The Haley Family • The McKeown Family • Stanley Jancewicz • Bernice Rembis • Sadie & George Seliga • Mr. & Mrs. George Evans • Mr. & Mrs. William House Sr. • Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Dowling • C. W. Keopple Jr. • Theresa Vogler • George, Regina, & Christopher Laite • Ladislaus & Veronica Kobuszewski • Rev. Robert & Emily Laite • Rev. John Leonard • Robert & Shirley Walton • Edward Jancewicz • Vaus Amburgh & Jancewicz Families • Tom Smolaki • Charlotte McLaughlin • James & Caroline Doyle • Paul Doyle • Josephine Minalio • Cala & Breeze • Louis, Priscilla, & Diane Rega • Irene & Roger McEmber • Emma & Harry Thorpe • John & Elina Friedrich • Mark Walter Benson • Mary & Clement Duggan • Theresa & Dan Cleary • Corey Morrison • David Morrison • Barney, Ann, & Marianne Tobias • Everett, Rosemary, & Rickey Meade • William & Mary Cashman • Otto & Dorothy Miller • George Hendrickson • Helena Thurlow • Michael & Mary Carey • William Patrick O'Connor • Karen Hoskins • Prescott E. Tulloch • Marjorie E. Tulloch • William Blackmore • Russell, Dorothy, & Thomas Burton • The Sullivan Family • The Furbush Family • The Kelleher Family • Mildred Mozier • Charlotte McLaughlin • Gordon McLaughlin • Matthew Eaton • Bob Jackson • Ollie Mozier • Allen Mozier • Jim Munson • Lorraine Field • The Herlihy's • The Fremont-Smith Family • The Macdonald Family • Anita Sappan • The Taylor Family • The Bosher Family • The Coffin Family • The Buechler Family • Audrey & Tom Melican Sr. • Tom Melican Jr. • Larry Kolesar • Edna & Carl Bragg Sr. • Bill & Janelle Beck • Bill Gurczak • William & Alice Fletcher • Kristen Chencus • Michael Turchinets • JoAnn Van Amburgh • Rosemary LeVangie • James J. LaVangi Jr. • Jane L. Volpone • Gerald S. Volpone Sr. • Betty & Francis Finneran



## 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 ([aguard@hriccatholic.org](mailto:aguard@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.

## Adoration: Make It a Weekly Ritual

Routines subdue chaos. Weekly morning rituals like Friday Adoration define the attitudes you'll take into daily tasks. Weekly evening rituals like Thursday Adoration, wash away the dross and dial in weekend duties performed as intentional, prayerful encounters with Christ. Adoration is the interior access door! Leave the chaos outside.

**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

EUCCHARISTIC  
ADORATION



## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### Increase the Deductibility of Your Charitable Giving

Below is some information that was shared with me that may be helpful to you. 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.

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

### 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.

### 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.*

### Christmas Collections

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit [www.clergytrust.org](http://www.clergytrust.org)

### 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
	IC Pastoral Center St. Louis
St. Ann Church foyer	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

### 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).



# 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	Jay Hanslig
Baby Boyle	Terence Healey
Cindy Calcina	Sam Kitchen
Pat Connolly	Maureen Russell
Bill Crounse	Rob Schweizer
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	Yvonne Sloban
Jack Flynn	Tom Tribble
Jeanine Ebacher Fowler	Michael Tucker
Charmaine Haan	Laurent Vincent
Hillar Haan	Lorraine Zollo

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

## 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.

## 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/](https://www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/)

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

## Like Us on Facebook

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



## Social Action Committee

In the next couple of months, Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Parishes are looking to form a Social Action Committee for our Collaborative. The purpose of the committee will be to aid those in need in our local communities as well as in the poorer areas of the world. If you or a member of your family are interested in becoming involved, please attend the formation meeting to be held on January 19 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Louis Hall in the IC Pastoral Center. We are particularly interested in getting younger parish members involved, so if your son or daughter has a community service requirement, this would be the perfect opportunity to satisfy it. For more information or if you have suggestions, please contact Greg Jablonski: [gjabbe@gmail.com](mailto:gjabbe@gmail.com).

## IC Haiti

The IC Haiti Board of Directors thanks all of you who responded to our recent appeal on behalf of the people of Haiti. The situation there is still ominous with widespread violence and food shortages. The Fr. Marc Piché elementary school is still open, and we remain steadfast in our service to the school community in Puit Chacha. There are both immediate basic needs and long-range commitments to the school, so ongoing fundraising is a necessity for our mission to Haiti. Your generosity has been and continues to be a blessing from God.

For those who would like to contribute to *IC Haiti*, please know that your donation would be most appreciated. There are three ways you can do so:

1. Make your offering through the second collection, using an envelope marked *IC Haiti*. Checks should be made out to *IC Haiti*.
2. Send a check made out to *IC Haiti* through the mail to *IC Haiti*, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.
3. Donate online through PayPal at our website: [ichaiti.org](https://www.ichaiti.org).

**JWAYE NWEL\***

*\*Merry Christmas in Creole, the common language of Haitians*

## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** Reflecting on the members of the Holy Family, what is it about Joseph that speaks to you?

**Child:** What "gift" can you give to Jesus this Christmas?



Some photos from our Advent/Christmas Festival put on by the Faith Formation students on December 11.



## 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.

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

## IC Offertory Collection

All Christmas collections support Boston Clergy Trust. See page 6 of the bulletin for details on this collection. The second collection next weekend (Jan. 1) 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 \$47,360.00**



## IC Online Giving

Immaculate Conception Parish provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly) donation.

Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Immaculate Conception Parish community. Parish registration forms are available in the foyer of the church or at the parish office.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, 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. There are four different funds you can choose to contribute to.

If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made.

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

## 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.svdPnewburyport.org](http://www.svdPnewburyport.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!

## Immaculate Conception School



*The students, faculty, and staff of Immaculate Conception School wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.*

## 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](mailto:kofc231@gmail.com).

## Wanted: Smiling Faces to Welcome People to Our Church

After the last 2 years, we want to create a warm, welcoming experience for all our parishioners and visitors. First impressions matter.

We are seeking individuals, couples, or families willing to come to Mass 15 minutes early and warmly welcome parishioners to that day's celebration. You can select the Mass you usually attend and how often you would like to serve.

If this ministry interests you, please email Kathie Williamson: [Kathie108a@gmail.com](mailto:Kathie108a@gmail.com) and indicate which Mass you will attend.

## 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.



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## HR Offertory Collection

All Christmas collections support Boston Clergy Trust. See page 6 of the bulletin for details on this collection. The second collection next weekend (Jan. 1) 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 envelopes, 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: [hrccatholic.org/hr-online-giving](http://hrccatholic.org/hr-online-giving).

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



## HR Online Giving

Holy Redeemer now provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or a recurring (weekly or monthly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of Holy Redeemer Parish community. Parish registration forms are available on the website or contact the parish office.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, [hrccatholic.org](http://hrccatholic.org) and click the “Links” tab, then on “HR Parish Online Giving” to get to the site. There are three different funds you can contribute to: Offertory, Monthly, and Grand Annual.

If you manage your other bills online, why not give to your Church online? It is safe and secure and you get to decide exactly when and to where your gift will be made.

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

## 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, January 5. All are welcome!**

## Holy Redeemer Activities Committee

The HR Activities Committee organizes events and socials for Holy Redeemer Parish. We would love for you to join us and hear your ideas! Want to get involved? Contact Cindy at [cynwinquinn@aol.com](mailto:cynwinquinn@aol.com)

## HR St. Vincent de Paul

Jesus was born in a filthy, cold, and forgettable place. A stable, fit for the most lowly of animals. The Son of God is placed in a manger. A manger—a trough used to feed the animals in the stable, **not** a cradle! The nativity scene represents poverty in its most extreme form. And yet, God the Father desires His son to be born in this place.



Why would God choose to reveal Himself to us in this way?

Because He desires to be close to us! He desires to be close to us in our hardships—so we can be *transformed*. God became like us on this day, so He could walk with us in the fullness of our lives. God is with us, here and now.

As such, let us all share in the hardships of all. Our conference continues to help those among us less fortunate...those in poverty and with hardships beyond their means. Please help us *transform* the lives of those that we help.

There are envelopes in the pews at both St. Ann and Nativity churches, or simply use the poor boxes. Make checks out to **HR SVDP**. Market Basket gift cards are much appreciated.

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*.

## 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 [susanjnyes@gmail.com](mailto:susanjnyes@gmail.com).

## 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.

## Mass Scripture Readings

The Scripture passages read each day at Mass can be found on the United States Council of Catholic Bishops' website at [bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org). Praying with the Scriptures daily is a wonderful way to deepen our relationship with Our Lord and to discern how best to serve God as an intentional disciple of Christ.



(The free App "**Laudate**" allows you to access the daily Scripture readings on your cell phone.)

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