

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

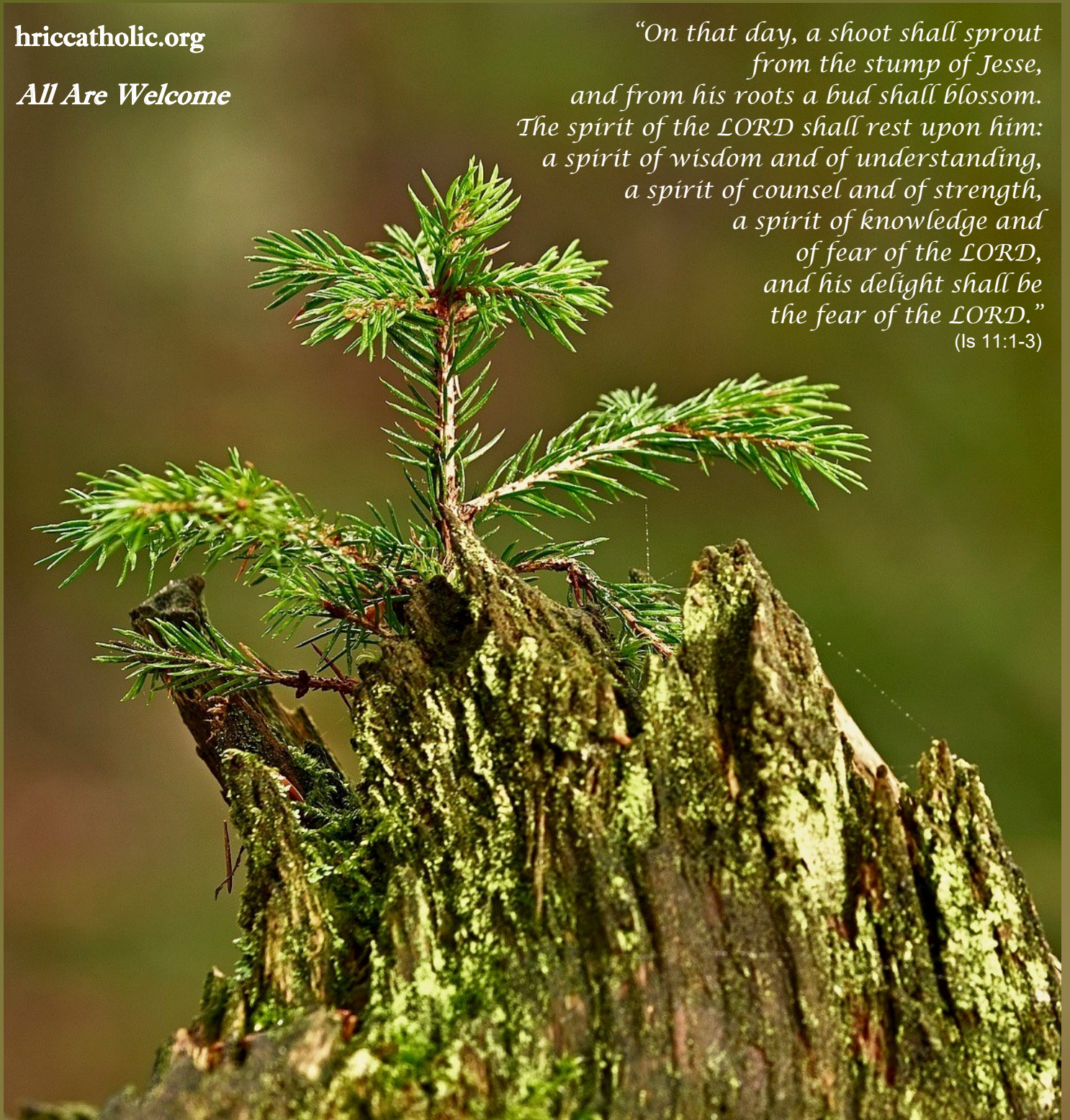
Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

hricatholic.org

All Are Welcome

*"On that day, a shoot shall sprout
from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and
of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be
the fear of the LORD."
(Is 11:1-3)*





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

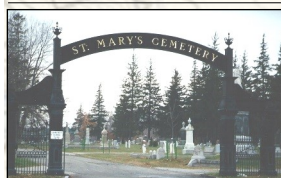
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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

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978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604

Rev. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

Permanent Deacons

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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

978-518-0728

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

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

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/3)

4:00pm **IC** *Cliff S. Bonney, 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, Josephine Minalio* (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (12/5)

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

Tuesday (12/6)

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

Wednesday (12/7)

9:00am **IC** *Marie A. Burke* (Fr. McLaughlin)

Thursday (12/8)

9:00am **IC** *Elizabeth Perkins, O'Connor Family*
(Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)
9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
7:00pm **IC** (Fr. Morin)
7:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

Friday (12/9)

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

Saturday (12/10)

4:00pm **IC** *Margaret Childs, Bob, Oscar, & William Moore* (Fr. Harrison)
4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)

Sunday (12/11)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
9:00am **IC** *Jack & Kate Grealish, Liza Mataac Dodson* (Fr. McLaughlin)
10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
11:30am **IC** *Thomas McDermott, John Hynes, Brett Burkinshaw, Leanne Harriss* (Fr. Stanley)

In your prayers please remember Neal J. Cormier, Robert J. Smith, and 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 and on Facebook: ([Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes](#)).

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, December 8

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses in the collaborative:

9:00am, St. Ann

7:00pm, Nativity

9:00am, IC

7:00pm, IC

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Fear of the Lord.



This has been a point of confusion for me since I was a little kid. On the one hand, we have the big, cataclysmic and vengeful actions of a jealous God that are well-documented in the Old Testament. Then, on the other, we have the gentle, loving images of Jesus Christ calling everyone to love and forgiveness in the New Testament. And then there is our time-honored theology that there is only one God who is immutable. So, to be afraid or not? Live in fear of being zapped into a cinder for every sin and transgression. . . or bask in the warmth of unmerited and overwhelming love, forgiveness and mercy? So . . . "A" or "B"? Which is it?

The answer is a very-nuanced, "both."

Because of our sinfulness, we have every reason to understand our condition as fallen—that is, we have sunk below all that we are capable of before God and therefore rightly deserve alienation from His love and the experience of death as we know it. Because we have both collectively and individually offended an all-good Creator, as mere creatures, we cannot make this right. Our debt of sin is so great, we can never "repay" or make it up to God. So, fearing God's righteous wrath is a very real situation that we must come to terms with.

Then again, because of God's infinite goodness, and exclusively because of God's infinite love and mercy, God sent His only Son to be our Savior—to be en-fleshed among us, die on the Cross for our sins, and rise from dead to enable our eternal reconciliation with God. So in Christ, we have an unmeasurable outpouring of God's mercy and forgiveness. As the Scriptures say, even though our sins be red as scarlet, they will become white as wool. That is unbelievably awesome, no matter how you look at it.

So. . . to quiver in fear or breathe a sigh of eternal relief? Yes to both, no to neither. . . I think, is our best response and maybe what is at the heart of what Isaiah prophesied in this weekend's first reading about the true servant of God. Fear of the Lord is maybe better translated as a profound respect and deep reverence for something truly awesome. We are so overwhelmed with joy at receiving this awesome gift, we don't want to do anything to mess it up. So, there is fear of failure, but it is always tempered by the joy of unmerited forgiveness and love. Isaiah says that the Servant (an image of both Christ and us as disciples) shall take great delight in fearing the Lord. The word "delight" has the undertones of gratitude and joy. So, to fear the Lord invites us to consider our basic stance before God: is it one that primarily involves joy and an intense thankfulness for this gift? Or do we sometimes focus on our failures and become victim to the temptation to shame and futility? Even if we sin repeatedly, God's forgiveness is greater than our collective failures. Even if we become frustrated in trying to find a way out of sinful patterns of behavior, God does not become fatigued in His mercy.

(Continued on page 4)

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, December 5

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

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

Tuesday, December 6

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

IC Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm, IC Church

Wednesday, December 7

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

IC Mini Fair Mtg. 10:00am, IC Charity Dining Room

Altar Server Training 3:45pm, IC Church

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church

Thursday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of Mary

Friday, December 9

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

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

Saturday, December 10

VIRTUS Facilitator Training 8:00am, IC St. Louis Hall

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, December 11

Advent/Christmas Family Festival 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall

RCIA Mtg. 10:00am, IC St. James Chapel

RCIC Mtg. 10:00am, IC Parish Center

Baptisms 1:30pm, IC Church

IC Confirmation Prep, Year 1 3:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

HR Confirmation Prep, Year 1 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)

Even if we fall into despair, God does not abandon us in our weakness. In some ways, Fear of the Lord involves remembering and reminding ourselves of just how great a gift that Christ is to us—immeasurable in every way, awesome beyond awesome, yet He is a brother, friend, and intimate member of our inner family. . . trustworthy, stalwart, and faithful in every way.

Having just celebrated Thanksgiving and reflected on the many gifts we have been blessed with in our lives, Advent beckons us to fill our hearts with gratitude that we may be awake, focused and ready for the Lord when He comes, fearful of missing even a tiny bit of His glory.

Fr. Timothy Harrison

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
Nativity Hall kitchen

St. Ann Church foyer
St. Ann Church hall

IC Church foyer
IC Church sacristy
IC Pastoral Center St. Louis 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



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS FAMILY FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 11
IC PASTORAL CENTER
10:00-11:15 A.M. AT IC
ALL COLLABORATIVE FAMILIES WELCOME!

TREATS!
GAMES!
CRAFTS!

DON'T MISS THE
NATIVITY PLAY AT 11:00
AT ST. LOUIS HALL

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.

Bulletin Information

Email all bulletin submissions by Monday at noon to hricbulletin@gmail.com.

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	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
Jay Hanslig	

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

San Marcos Christmas Coffee Sale December 10-11

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase (or pre-order pickup) at **all Collaborative Masses December 10-11**.

You can preorder by leaving a voice or text message for 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!

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. 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

Christmas Flowers



We are taking monetary donations and memorials for the purchase of flowers for all 3 churches for Christmas. Please do not have flowers delivered to the churches but allow us to purchase them. Place your flower donation envelope in the collection box at the churches or mail them to IC offices at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Donation deadline is Monday, December 12 at noon.

Increase the Deductibility of Your Charitable Giving

Dear Parishioners,

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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

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.

Newburyport Choral Society

Please join us for our Winter Concerts Saturday, December 10, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 11, 2:30 p.m. at Belleville Congregational Church.

Titled "In Terra Pax" (Peace on Earth), we will feature John Rutter's series of spirited English carols in *When Icicles Hang*, and Gerald Finzi's *In Terra Pax*, a beautiful setting of the Nativity story. The chorus will also premier Zanaida Robles' *Guidelines*, an NCS-commissioned work that sets the sublime poetry of Newburyport's own Rhina Espaillat to music. The Greater Newburyport Children's Chorus will perform music with us and also some of their own holiday selections.

For information and tickets: www.newburyportchoralsociety.org.

The Pelican Intervention Fund



We provide funding for non-profit, 12-step residential sober homes for economically challenged men and women struggling with addiction. Questions? Contact Kim Keene 978-430-1408 or visit www.pelicaninterventionfund.org

to learn more. Donations can be made to "The Pelican Intervention Fund at ECCF"

Essex County Community Foundation, 175 Andover Street, Danvers, MA 01923

Advent Candlelight Taizé Meditation Service

Take a few moments from the hustle and bustle of this season to pray in the beautiful candlelit sanctuary of Groveland Congregational Church (4 King St., Groveland) on Sunday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m.

Taizé prayer is a simple form of ecumenical Christian prayer centered on scripture, silence, and song. The worship space is illuminated with a multitude of candles; the music consists of simple repeated refrains, enabling the worshippers to enter into prayer. There will be readings from scripture, petitions, and a time of silent prayer.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can find the service on the church's Facebook page. For more information, contact the church at 978-372-3463 or www.grovelanducc.org.

IC Haiti

May the Lord continue to bless our ongoing efforts to support the people of Haiti. We thank Him for offering us a ministry of service to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you would like to contribute to IC Haiti, please mail checks to **IC Haiti, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA. 01950. Checks should be made out to "IC Haiti."**

Questions of the Week

Adult: What do you think it means to prepare the way of the Lord, and how do you do it?

Child: What was your Baptism like?

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.

Confirmation Roundup

Fifty-four young men and women received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as they were confirmed this Fall in our Collaborative.

We wish to give thanks to Most Reverend Robert F. Hennessey for making our celebrations very special for those who were confirmed along with their families and guests.

May the newly confirmed be assured of our continued prayers as they take the next step in their journey of faith.

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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Nov. 19–20	\$1,452.00
Retired Religious Sisters	\$ 622.00
Mailed in Offertory, week ending Nov. 18	\$ 200.00
Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 378.00

HR Offertory, Nov 26–27	\$1,593.00
Mailed in Offertory, week ending Nov. 25	\$ 518.00
Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 378.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 4) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 11) is the Monthly. 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: hricatholic.org/hr-online-giving.

HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$8,755.00



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.

HR Holiday Fair Raffle Winners

\$500.00—Loretta Haley
\$300.00—Melissa McCartney
\$200.00—Colleen Cox



2022 Holiday Fair: Great gifts, great food, great crowd. Watch next week's bulletin for fair totals.



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)

Recently, we helped a local resident with rent while she works with Elder Services and other resources in the region to help her manage her finances. *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.

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 online 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 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

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.

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

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.svdnpnewburyport.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.

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.

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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

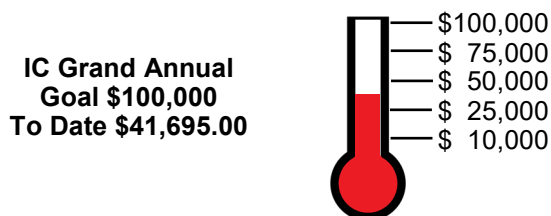
IC Offertory, Nov. 19–20	\$3,346.00
Retired Religious Sisters	\$1,831.00
Mailed in Offertory, week ending Nov. 18	\$ 945.00
Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,825.59

IC Offertory, Nov 26–27	\$3,500.00
IC Mission Appeal	\$2,128.00
Mailed in Offertory, week ending Nov. 25	\$1,525.00
Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,825.58

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 4) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 11) is the Monthly. 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: hricatholic.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, hricatholic.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

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.



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- 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 School

The Immaculate Conception School students collected food to create Thanksgiving dinner baskets for area families in need. Each basket was stuffed with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner, plus dessert, cereals, mac and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, coffee, and tea. Also included was a gift card to an area grocery store for perishables and a fresh turkey. The Middle School Leadership Team oversees this service project by assigning each grade a food item to contribute. Monetary donations of over \$900 were also donated by school families. The IC is especially thankful for the Newbury Food Pantry and for the meaningful opportunity to help students recognize the value and importance of food donations.



The 8th graders, pictured, loaded the donations into the Parish pick-up truck for delivery to the Newbury Food Pantry.

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.

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.

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