

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

hriccatholic.org

All Are Welcome



Joy



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

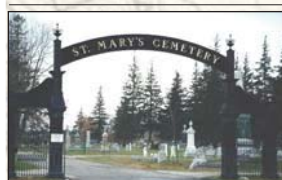
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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, Pre-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. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

Deacons

Deacon John Moranski

978-432-1443

Senior Deacon Paul Dow

978-887-5350

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Holy Redeemer

978-346-8604 x 4

hrrsudp300@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Immaculate Conception

978-518-0728

svdp.ic42@gmail.com

St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266

Office Associates

Christine Breslow, Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper

978-462-2724 x 402

cbreslow@hriccatholic.org

Melinda Burrell, Administrative Assistant

978-462-2724

burrell@hriccatholic.org

Dennis LaMalfa, Business Manager

978-462-2724 x 451

dlamalfa@hriccatholic.org

Karen Leff, Coordinator of Media Outreach

hricbulletin@gmail.com

Lifelong Faith Formation

Aaron Giard, Director of Lifelong Faith
Formation

978-462-2724 x 405 or 978-346-8604

agiard@hriccatholic.org

Melinda Burrell, Administrative Assistant,

Lifelong Faith Formation

978-462-2724

burrell@hriccatholic.org

Website: www.hriccatholic.org



Immaculate Conception School

Joan Sullivan, Principal, 978-465-7780
jsullivan@icsnewburyport.com

Maintenance

Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance

978-462-2724

bkent@hriccatholic.org

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager

978-462-2724

emartinez@hriccatholic.org

Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, HR Organist

978-697-1082

Kathy Peavey, HR Cantor

978-360-8756

Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director
978-317-8903

Tim Richard, IC Organist

Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator

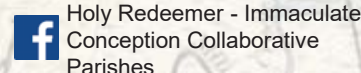
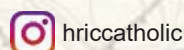
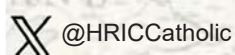
978-270-4924

Paula Quann, IC Youth Choir

609-519-3236

Confessions

Saturdays 3:00-3:30 p.m., IC Church
Or by appointment. (Call Collaborative
offices to schedule.)



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/13)

4:00pm **IC Katherine Lombardo, John E. & Katherine Kelley** (Fr. Morin)
4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (12/14)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Stanley)
9:00am **IC Ann Longleway, Liza Mataac Dodson** (Fr. Morin)
10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)
11:30am **IC Lena Filomia, Lena Charles, Edwin Merhmann, Julia & Thomas Fallon** (Fr. Harrison)

Monday (12/15)

9:00am **St. Ann Edward & Eleanor Hardy, for the intentions of Robert & Marilyn Morgan** (Fr. Harrison)

Tuesday (12/16)

9:00am **IC Carl & Lena Krager, Jerry Majocha** (Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (12/17)

9:00am **IC Michael Hardy, Joseph Patchett** (Fr. Stanley)

Thursday (12/18)

9:00am **IC Alton Tobey, Jenny LaBonte, John D'Ambrosio** (Fr. Morin)

Friday (12/19)

9:00am **IC William & Helen Mullen, for the intentions of Ed Laverty** (Fr. Harrison)

Saturday (12/20)

4:00pm **St. Ann for the intentions of Ed Laverty** (Fr. Stanley)
4:00pm **IC John Kearney Herlihy, Mary Joan Bouchard Kenny** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

Sunday (12/21)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)
9:00am **IC Ally Susan Powers, for the intentions of the O'Flaherty family** (Fr. Stanley)
10:00am **St. Ann Jerry Mullen** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)
11:30am **IC Diane Clemens, Jeanne Baughn, James Carew, James Edward Doyle** (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

HRIC Calendar Sale and Raffle

This year, as a fundraiser for IC School, the Collaborative is offering beautiful 2026 Catholic Art Calendars for sale.



With each purchase of \$10, you will also be entered into a **raffle drawing** for a \$250 prize.

The raffle drawing will be held on January 5, 2026. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact the school office at (978) 465-7780.

2025

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. IC Church (Live streamed)
4:00 p.m. Nativity Church & Hall

(5:45 p.m. Christmas Pageant, IC Church)

6:00 p.m. IC Church

6:00 p.m. St. Ann Church

Reminder: Christmas Eve Masses fill up quickly. Allow extra time to find a seat.

Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. IC Church
8:30 a.m. Nativity Church
10:00 a.m. St. Ann Church
10:00 a.m. IC Church

Daily Mass at St. Ann

Note that the **9:00 a.m. Daily Mass** will be held at **St. Ann Church**, 300 Main St., W. Newbury, on **Monday (12/15)**.

There will be no Daily Mass celebrated at IC on this day.

San Marcos Christmas Coffee

For Sale December 13–14 at all Masses

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted “certified organic” Honduran dark-roasted coffee available for purchase (or pre-order pickup) at all collaborative Masses on **December 13–14**.

Sadly, for the first time you will not see Joseph Patchett assisting with the selling at IC church where he was dedicated to this project for nearly 25 years. We pray for the repose of his soul and welcome the new team members who have volunteered to step in.

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. **\$13 per pound** for this specialty whole bean or ground coffee.

Text or call Karen to pre-order 978-270-0183 for 2 lbs or more.

Prayers for the Sick

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

Lucas Aucamp
Patricia Baikewicz
John Bourque
Kathy P. Brodeur
Michael Brenner
Priscilla Brown
Autumn Rose
Coulombe
Finn Davis
Kristen D'Entremont
Ward Dilmore
Deb Downie
Dotty Duval
Ann-Margaret
Ferrante
John Flynn
Jeanine Ebacher
Fowler
Renee Fowler
Paul Gerroir
John Gutshaw

Ed Hardy
Jane Harney
Chloe Hequet
Loriann Herrick
Matt Hershey
Angela Holloran
Emma Hurley
Carol Johnson
Derek Johnson
Steve Johnson
Michael Juralewicz
Denise Kenneson
Arthur LaPointe
Ed Laverty
David LeBlanc
Michael Lichtenstein
Donna Limone
Johannah Lord
Monica Maguire
Sia Mahalati
Michael Marchese

Michael Martens
Ovidio Martinez
Carol O'Neal
Eleanora Paciulan
Joseph Palumbo
Carol Parks
Joanne Pesa
Elizabeth Pettingell
Rob Schweizer
Regina Seely
Yvonne Sloban
Gary Smith
Arlene Stoddard
Susan Sweeney
Taylor
Captain Bill Taplin
Joyce Tomaselli
Michael Tucker
Maddie Villers
Laurent Vincent
Sandra Welch

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

See our online calendar for more listings. Link on our website: hriccatholic.org.

Monday, December 15

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

Tuesday, December 16

Women's AA Mtg. 7:00am, St. Ann Hall

Breaking Bread Meal 4:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Confessions during Advent 6:00–7:30pm, St. Ann Church

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

Wednesday, December 17

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

Eucharistic Adoration 3:00pm, Nativity Church

Confessions during Advent 3:00–4:00pm, Nativity Church

Thursday, December 18

Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Confessions during Advent 6:30–8:00pm, IC Church

Friday, December 19

Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

AA Mtg. 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, December 20

Quilters Meeting 8:30am, Nativity Hall

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Exploring Catholicism Mtg. 10:00am IC OCIA Room 305

Newburyport Chamber Music Festival Concert 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.

Questions of the Week



Adult: If Jesus was talking about you and your life, what could He say that would show you were His follower?

Child: How can others tell that you are a follower of Jesus?

Centering Prayer for Advent

As the days shorten and we enter the darkest season of the year, we light Advent candles and anticipate the coming of our Savior, Jesus. In the busyness of preparing for Christmas we may miss the gifts of Advent.

During Advent, please consider leaving the noise of the world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday evening from 6:00–7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Following Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and share reflections on the words of scripture. We will read from the passage of St. Luke's Gospel.

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 Emmanuel, *God with us, into our hearts and our lives.*

For more information please contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483

IC Haiti

On the weekend of December 20–21, just before Christmas, the **second collection** at all weekend HRIC Masses will be taken up for IC Haiti. The generosity of parishioners has been outstanding throughout 2025 in support for IC Haiti's ministry to the children of Puit Chacha, Haiti. For the past fifteen years we have provided for their educational, nutritional, safety, and health needs despite all the violent political disruptions and natural disasters in Haiti.

Let us not give up on our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Just as the Good Samaritan didn't give up on the beaten man he found on the road to Jericho. Just as the Prodigal Son's father did not give up on him. Just as Our Crucified Lord did not give up on the thief who was dying at his side. Just as Our Lord has not given up on us.

In this regard, please take some time to reflect upon the inspiring words of Pope Leo at the end of his recent letter "Dilexi Te" to Christians throughout the world.

Our love and our deepest convictions need to be continually cultivated, and we do so through our concrete actions. Remaining in the realm of ideas and theories, while failing to give them expression through frequent and practical acts of charity, will eventually cause even our most cherished hopes and aspirations to weaken and fade away. For this very reason, we Christians must not abandon almsgiving. It can be done in different ways, and surely more effectively, but it must continue to be done. It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing. Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften our hardened hearts. It will not solve the problem of world poverty, yet it must still be carried out, with intelligence, diligence, and social responsibility. For our part, we need to give alms as a way of reaching out and touching the suffering flesh of the poor. (119)

Christian love breaks down every barrier, brings close those who were distant, unites strangers, and reconciles enemies. It spans chasms that are humanly impossible to bridge, and it penetrates to the most hidden crevices of society. By its very nature, Christian love is prophetic: it works miracles and knows no limits. It makes what was apparently impossible happen. Love is above all a way of looking at life and a way of living it. A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today. (120)

We pray you will continue to generously support our HRIC Collaborative's outreach to our poor brothers and sisters in Haiti this Christmas.

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.

Come join us. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you! All are welcome. Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 22 at 2:00 p.m.** at Nativity Hall, Merrimac.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Pelican Intervention Fund

Celebrating our 10-year anniversary



This year we celebrate 10 years of supporting men and women into long term residential 12-step recovery programs. To date, PIF has funded 195 men and women into 12-step programs. This would not have been possible without your generous donations, support and prayers from our Immaculate Conception Collaborative parishioners.

To illustrate the impact you've made, we want to share the experience of one of the 12-step sober homes your donations support, called *412, Inc* located in Malden, MA.

At 412 Inc, we see what happens when someone is ready to recover and what too often stands in their way.

*Insurance doesn't cover sober living residency, the programs it does cover are entirely clinical (aka medically based treatment, i.e., methadone, suboxone, etc.) They treat the body and mind, but not the **spirit**. Too often, people are discharged into the world without the structure, connection, community, and practical principles that real recovery requires.*

*That's where the **Pelican Intervention Fund** changes everything. Pelican steps in to cover that first crucial month in a 12-step-based sober living environment, the bridge between treatment and true recovery. It's often the single factor that determines whether someone stays the course or falls short of the recovery they're seeking.*

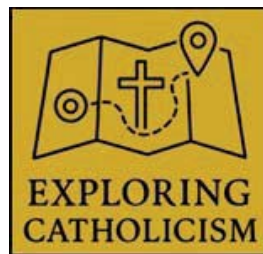
At 412 Inc, we see the results every day. Men who arrive through Pelican's support enter a small, peer-run community where they live and learn the 12 Steps, a time-tested, spiritual program of action that has helped millions recover for good. Here, they rebuild trust, find purpose, and learn to serve others.

*But none of that happens without **Pelican** or without **you**. Your donation to Pelican opens the door for someone to enter a safe, structured, 12-step environment like ours. It gives them what other programs can't: a real shot at lasting change.*

*From everyone at 412 Inc, and from the people whose lives are being rebuilt because someone cared enough to give, **Thank You.**" Benjamin Coffin, Co-Founder, 412 Inc.*

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Kim & Steve Keene Founders of the Pelican Intervention Fund



Explore the Mysteries of the Mass

If you have ever wondered why Catholics sit, stand, kneel, or say certain prayers during Mass – or simply want to understand the meaning behind what happens at the altar – you are warmly invited to a special Teaching Mass.

Experience the Mass with fresh eyes and ears: discover how the prayers, postures, and gestures engage the whole body in worship, and how even small details can become gateways to grace.

No prior experience is needed.
Come with your questions
or simply come to listen and learn.

**Saturday, December 20th
Meet 3:30 PM in St. Louis Hall
IC Pastoral Center > Chapel (Floor 1)**

For questions or to learn more, contact: Aaron Giard,
OCIA Director, (978) 462-2724, agiard@hricatholic.org

Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

Youth Ministry



*If your child is interested in **any of these ministries**, please call the parish offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 and leave your name, email, phone number, and which ministry interests you.*

High School Youth Ministry

High School Youth Ministry meets on select Sunday evenings from 6:00–7:30 p.m. Fall dates include December 14. Families are encouraged to reach out to Aaron (978-462-2724, giard@hricatholic.org) if interested. Meetings will include informal game and music time and small group Scripture and other faith-based study and conversation. Large group gatherings are in planning stages but will include movie nights, group service projects, prayer experiences, and other activities, generally once a month.

Youth Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

Requirements: must have completed the 2nd grade and received his/her First Communion. **Training:** 3 one-hour sessions in the church.

Lectors

Requirement: Anyone who has been Confirmed. **Training:** approximately 1 one-hour session, on an early evening during the week.

Youth Choir



The Youth Choir will perform with the Newburyport Choral Society on Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m. The concert will be held at Immaculate Conception Church. Tickets may be purchased at newburyportchoralsociety.org.

The Youth Choir will also sing at the 6:00pm Mass at IC Church on Christmas Eve.

Questions, schedule, and/or registration form? Please email Paula Quann: youthchoir@hricatholic.org.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS



Winter Weather Mass Cancellations

Due to the hazards of travel and the safety of priests and parishioners alike, this winter, daily Mass will be cancelled if Newburyport Public schools are cancelled because of inclement weather. Any Faith Formation classes will also be cancelled on such days. WBZ Channel 4 will have the updated school cancellation information. It is also available on their website at boston.cbslocal.com.

In severe situations, it may also be necessary for safety reasons to cancel weekend Masses. Watch WBZ or consult their website for cancellation information. We will also post cancellation information on our website and social media.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. In all things, God gave us the gifts of wisdom, reason, and prudence. Let's use them wisely this winter and exercise sound judgment when considering going out in severe weather.

Collaborative Faith Formation

School Year Programs (K–8, Including Sacramental Prep.)

Registration forms and schedules for 2025–26 are now available on our website: hriccatholic.com/FaithFormation.

Baptism

Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information regarding this sacrament.

Extra Confession Times During Advent

We will offer extra confession times during Advent on the following days and times:

- Dec. 16, St. Ann Church, W. Newbury (6–7:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 17, Nativity Church, Merrimac (during Adoration, 3–4 p.m.)
- Dec. 18, IC Church, Newburyport (6:30–8 p.m.)

Regular Confession times will also be held every Saturday from 3:00–3:30 p.m. at IC, Newburyport.

Adoration

Come spend some quiet time with Jesus this Advent at Adoration.

There will be time for Confession during this week's Wednesday and Thursday Adoration. Please see "Extra Confession Times During Advent" for times.

Wednesdays 3:00–4:00 p.m. Nativity Church

Thursdays 7:00–8:00 p.m., IC Church (enter at Green Street door only)

Fridays 9:30 a.m., IC Church (unless a funeral is scheduled)



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Women's Silent Retreat

December 2025



During the first week of Advent, Fr. Morin led a group of nine women in a silent retreat at St. Joseph's Abbey, in Spencer, MA. *"The Abbey is a cloistered Roman Catholic monastery of monks of the Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance, popularly known as Trappists."* (www.spencerabbey.org).

Each day, silence was broken while joining the monks in celebrating morning lauds, Mass, evening vespers, and nightly compline accompanied by chant, Scripture, and Psalms. Fr. James served as Spiritual Director for the group leading discussion, reflection, and reconciliation.

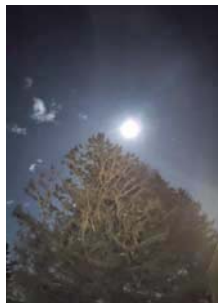
It's a small world: Ann Messina and Sally Talford discovered a connection to Fr. James from Holy Rosary Church and School and the former Venerini Sisters in Lawrence and delighted in conversing with him in Sicilian.



Brother Jude invited us to share in the rich collection of relics the Abbey has acquired. Housing relics of over 100 prominent saints including Anne and Joachim, St. Anthony and Mary Magdalene. He meticulously maintains this sacred collection he considers our "family in faith."

We were treated to the full supermoon following the snowfall. It was the last full moon of the year and will retain the title of "the highest moon in the sky" until 2042!

The Abbey's healing graces flow both from the monastic prayer life inside the Abbey, as well as from the natural surroundings of the Abbey's 900 acres.



We thank Fr. James, Brother Jude, the Guest Masters, and all the monks at the Abbey for welcoming us so warmly into their monastic life. May our Lord and Savior bless the St. Joseph Trappist community with a joyous Christmas and a peaceful, hope-filled New Year. We look forward to our visits in the future.

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 the Collaborative offices at 978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604 to learn more.

IC PARISH

IC St. Vincent de Paul

Serving Our Neighbors in Need

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues its mission of bringing hope and assistance to those in need within our parish and community. Through your generous donations and prayers, we are able to make a real difference in people's lives.

If you or someone you know is facing hardship, please reach out to us. All requests are handled with compassion and confidentiality.

Helpline: 978-518-0728 (Volunteers respond to this line 24/7.)

Donations: www.svdnewburyport.org or drop it in the Poor Box at the Green St. entrance of IC Church.

Your kindness and support make this work possible. Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ in our community.








Breaking Bread Meal

We serve our weekly Breaking Bread meal on Tuesday evenings. It is a hot, nourishing, 3-course dinner. Supper is served from 4:45–5:30. Those who prefer to continue "Grab & Go" can pick up at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!

IC SVdP Annual Report

Dear Parish Family,

On behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. Your donations have made a profound difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. As we complete another year of service, our Annual Report to the Archdiocese shows that:

-  We received 202 calls to our help line.
-  We were able to assist 272 individuals.
-  We conducted 118 face-to-face meetings to provide personal care and compassion.
-  We paid rents for 19 families, helping them avoid eviction.
-  We provided food assistance to 71 people.
-  We covered auto repairs for 16 families, ensuring they could continue working and caring for their loved ones.
-  We served 50–60 people each week in our dining room and prepared 35 additional take-out meals at the "Breaking Bread" free meal Tuesday.

Beyond these direct services, your prayers and encouragement have strengthened our outreach. The oven used for our Breaking Bread free meal on Tuesdays was constantly in need of repair. Hearing of this challenge, our Society applied for a grant from the State of Massachusetts under the section "Helping to Alleviate Food Insecurity." We were blessed to be approved for \$20,000, which allowed us to purchase a new commercial oven and a refrigerator. This investment ensures that our Tuesday meals will continue to be served with dignity, reliability, and love.

These numbers and stories are more than statistics—they represent families kept in their homes, meals shared at tables, and hope restored in times of hardship. None of this would have been possible without your kindness and commitment to living out the Gospel message of charity.

Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ in our community. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Dec. 6–7	\$7,490.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Dec. 5	\$1,101.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,617.00
Total Weekly Offertory, Dec. 6–7	\$12,208.00
Ongoing Church Maintenance, Dec. 6–7	\$1,296.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	\$1,362.00

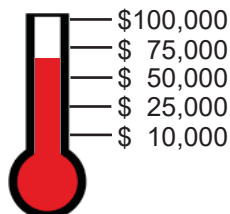
The second collection this weekend (Dec. 14) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 21) is IC Haiti. Please make checks payable to "IC Haiti."

*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 Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$72,430.00**



IC Advent Giving Trees



Once again, the Giving Trees are set up in the vestibule with tags for gift cards. Simply take a tag and return it with your gift card to the collection boxes at the front and rear of IC Church or you may put them in the collection baskets during Mass. The need is great. Your gift cards enable us to help our neighbors in need.

Thank you,
IC St Vincent de Paul Conference

IC Outdoor Nativity Scene and Baby Jesus Blessing

Join us on **Sunday, December 14 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass** (10:00 a.m.) for a blessing of our new, life-sized Nativity scene on High Street in Newburyport, followed by cocoa and cookies.



Also: bring in the baby Jesus figurines from your home Nativity scenes to have them blessed.

Immaculate Conception School

Immaculate Conception School North Pole Express: A Heartfelt Thank You

Our 24th Annual North Pole Express was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication of our volunteers—Immaculate Conception School parents, staff, alumni, and the Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parish community.



This beloved tradition and major school fundraiser kicked-off with Mrs. Claus arriving at the Polar Village on a Newburyport fire truck, delighting children and families. The magical train journey to the North Pole, where Santa and his elves came aboard, created memories for all. Every child received a beautiful silver bell, a golden ticket, and cookies on the train. Riders took home some cocoa and chocolates—making the

day a magical experience for all!

We are grateful for everyone's hard work and generosity, and to the many families who board the train with us each year to visit the North Pole.



The strength and commitment of our community is truly amazing. Thank you for making this event possible and for joining us in providing families with such a beloved Christmas tradition!



Merry Christmas!!

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.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Dec. 6-7	\$2,466.00
HR Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Dec. 5	\$ 360.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 535.00
Total Weekly Offertory, Dec. 6-7	\$3,361.00
Ongoing Church Maintenance, Dec. 6-7	\$1,008.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	\$ 369.00

*The second collection this weekend (Dec. 14) is the Monthly.
The second collection next weekend (Dec. 21) is IC Haiti.
Please make checks payable to "IC Haiti."*

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 \$16,900.00**



HR Coffee Socials

Nativity will hold a coffee hour on Sunday, December 14 after the 8:30 Mass. All are welcome.



HR St. Vincent de Paul

Be a "Cheerful Giver"

On this Advent Sunday of Joy, consider increasing your joy through your generosity!

From St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 9:7-8:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Thank you for picking up a tag from the Giving Tree for gift cards. These will be distributed to those in need in the days and weeks ahead.

Your kind donations in any form are always greatly appreciated. Please use the envelopes that can be found on tables at the main entrances of St. Ann and Nativity churches for your donations. These can be mailed or placed in the poor boxes. Reminder: **Make sure to make checks payable to HR St. Vincent de Paul.**



West Newbury Food Pantry Donations

December Focus: Personal Care Items

St. Ann supports our local West Newbury Food Pantry by providing collection bins in the church foyer and ensuring the donations are delivered to the pantry. Because personal care items are not covered under the SNAP program, St. Ann is focusing donations during the month of December on these important items that give those in need the dignity of personal hygiene.

Items needed:

bath tissue (individual rolls)	shampoo
paper towels (individual rolls)	conditioner
tooth brush	bar soap
tooth paste	deodorant

Any donation is gratefully accepted. Thank you very much for your continued, generous support of St. Ann and our local community!

For more information about the West Newbury Food Pantry, contact Jen at 978-363-1100 x 1134.

Merrimac Senior Center Drivers

Merrimac's Senior Center is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to local Merrimac residents Monday and/or Friday from approximately 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Brienne Walsh, Executive Director, at 978-346-9549.

Help Decorate HR Churches for Christmas

Help needed with decorating Nativity Church for Christmas.

Please plan to come Sunday, December 21 after the 8:30 Mass. We need help with hanging banners, hanging star lights, placing figurines, assembling trees and decorating with lights and ornaments. The more the merrier!

Help needed with decorating St. Ann Church for Christmas.

We will be decorating the church on Sunday, December 21 directly after the 10 a.m. Mass. If you have a few minutes and would like to help, that would be great. Many hands makes the work load lighter.

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