

# HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025

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

All Are Welcome



*Peace*




# Winter Fanfare!

Friday, December 12, 7:30pm & Sunday, December 14, 3:00pm

Immaculate Conception Church

## Songs of Joy & Hope

 **NEWBURYPORT  
Choral Society**  
— EST. 1934 —

Tickets available online:  
[newburyportchoralsociety.org/events](http://newburyportchoralsociety.org/events)



The HRIC Youth Choir will perform with the  
Newburyport Choral Society on:  
Friday, December 12, 7:30pm & Sunday, December 14, 3:00pm

### NEWBURYPORT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

David Yang, artistic director



## WINTER BAROQUE

Music for violin, viola d'amore,  
cello, & harpsichord

**Sunday, December 21 at 3:00**  
Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Tickets available online:  
[newburyportchambermusic.org/  
festival-schedule](http://newburyportchambermusic.org/festival-schedule)





# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday (12/06)

4:00pm **IC** John & Ellen Johnson, Cliff S. Bonney,  
Joseph Patchett (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)  
4:00pm **St. Ann** Joseph Pisano, Anthony & Mary  
Trodella (Fr. Stanley)

### Sunday (12/07)

8:30am **Nativity** the Jatowczyk family (Fr.  
Harrison)  
9:00am **IC** James LaRaia, Henry Therrien, For the  
Intentions of Ed Laverty (Fr. Morin & Deacon  
Moranski)  
10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)  
11:30am **IC** Bill & Ann Graham, Joan & George  
Fox, Marie A. Burke (Fr. Stanley)

### Monday (12/08) Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9:00am **IC** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)  
9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)  
7:00pm **IC** (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Moranski)  
7:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

### Tuesday (12/09)

9:00am **IC** Kenneth White Sonner (Fr. Harrison)

### Wednesday (12/10)

9:00am **St. Ann** Anna & Arthur Crean (Fr. Stanley)

### Thursday (12/11)

9:00am **St. Ann** Elizabeth Perkins (Fr. Morin)

### Friday (12/12)

9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

### Saturday (12/13)

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

### 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)

*In your prayers please remember Joseph Patchett 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 live-streamed online** through our  
website: [hricatholic.org](http://hricatholic.org) as well as our Facebook page.

## Collaborative Baptisms

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

Teagan Mary Alcantara • Zoe Isabella Alcantara •  
Juliette James Bird • Benjamin John Brewer •  
Lucas James Dean • Ruby Lucia Flagg •  
Georgia Eloise McNamara • Cole Christian Montalvo •  
Charlie Lynne Pagliarulo • Scarlett Ruth Smalley •  
Bennett Thompson Souliotis • Henry Daniel Souliotis •  
Mariella Grace Vogel

## 2025 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

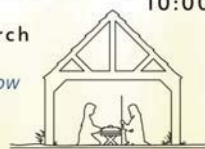
### CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m. IC Church (live stream)  
4 p.m. Nativity Church & Hall

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

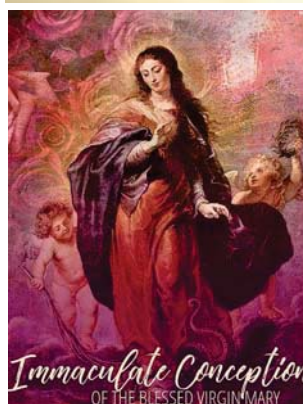
6 p.m. IC Church  
6 p.m. St. Ann Church

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



## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 8  
Holy Day of Obligation

**Masses in the Collaborative:**

**Monday, December 8**

9:00am, St. Ann

9:00am, IC

7:00pm, Nativity

7:00pm, IC

## 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 **Wednesday (12/10), Thursday (12/11), and Friday (12/12).**

There will be no Daily Mass celebrated at IC on these days.



## Prayers for the Sick

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

Lucas Aucamp	Ed Hardy	Ovidio Martinez
Patricia Baikewicz	Jane Harney	Carol O'Neal
John Bourque	Chloe Hequet	Eleanora Paciulan
Kathy P. Brodeur	Loriann Herrick	Joseph Palumbo
Michael Brenner	Angela Holloran	Carol Parks
Priscilla Brown	Emma Hurley	Joanne Pesa
Autumn Rose	Carol Johnson	Elizabeth Pettingell
Coulombe	Derek Johnson	Rob Schweizer
Finn Davis	Steve Johnson	Regina Seely
Kristen D'Entremont	Michael Juralewicz	Yvonne Sloban
Ward Dilmore	Denise Kenneson	Gary Smith
Deb Downie	Arthur LaPointe	Arlene Stoddard
Dotty Duval	Ed Laverty	Susan Sweeney
Ann-Margaret	David LeBlanc	Taylor
Ferrante	Michael Lichtenstein	Captain Bill Taplin
John Flynn	Donna Limone	Joyce Tomaselli
Jeanine Ebacher	Johannah Lord	Michael Tucker
Fowler	Monica Maguire	Maddie Villers
Renee Fowler	Sia Mahalati	Laurent Vincent
Paul Gerroir	Michael Marchese	Sandra Welch
John Gutshaw	Michael Martens	

## COLLABORATIVE NEWS

### This Week in Our Collaborative

See our online calendar for more listings. Link on our website: [hriccatholic.org](http://hriccatholic.org).

**Monday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

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

**Tuesday, December 9**

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

**Faith Formation, Grade 2** 3:30pm, IC Nazareth Library

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

**IC St. Vincent de Paul Mtg.** 6:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

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

**IC Choir Rehearsal** 7:00pm, IC Church

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

**Wednesday, December 10**

**HRIC Soup & Sandwich Dropoff** 7:00–9:00am, St. Ann Hall

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

**Eucharistic Adoration** 3:00pm, Nativity Church

**Faith, Fun, Fellowship Comm. Mtg.** 6:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

**Thursday, December 11**

**Overcoming our True Enemy Series** 9:45am, IC St. Louis Hall

**HRIC Prayer Shawl Mtg.** 2:00pm, Nativity Hall

**Friday, December 12**

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

**Newburyport Choral Society Concert** 7:30pm, IC Church

**Saturday, December 13**

**San Marcos Coffee Sales at All Masses**

**Pastoral Council Mtg.** 9:00am, Nativity Hall

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

**Sunday, December 14, Third Sunday of Advent**

**San Marcos Coffee Sales at All Masses**

**HR Coffee Hour** 9:30am, Nativity Hall

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

**DAR Mtg.** 1:00pm, Nativity Hall

**Newburyport Choral Society Concert** 3:00pm, IC Church

**Youth Ministry Mtg.** 6:00pm, IC Youth Ministry Room

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

### 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.



# COLLABORATIVE NEWS

## 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**



Friday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.

and

Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m.

*Come and support our young singers! Performances will be held at Immaculate Conception Church. Tickets may be purchased at newburyportchoralsociety.org*

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

## Questions of the Week



**Adult:** What can you do to help advance the cause of justice and peace where you live?

**Child:** What would the world be like if everyone did what God wanted us to do?

## 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.

## HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

**Next delivery is Wednesday, December 10**



This program delivers soup, sandwiches, and casseroles to the Good Shepherd Center in Lawrence on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.

**Sandwiches:** Popular sandwich choices are cold cuts with cheese, or peanut butter & jelly. Please do not use condiments. We ask that sandwiches be cut and individually wrapped, then placed in the bread wrapper. Please label the bread wrapper with the variety of sandwich inside.

**Soups and Casseroles:** Make your specialty soup or casserole! One-gallon soup containers as well as foil casserole pans are available in the St. Ann Church Hall on Wednesday mornings during sandwich drop off. Please label your soup or casserole donation and include any heating instructions.

**Also welcome:** any other goodies you can donate: cookies, powdered drink mixes, chips, granola bars, fresh fruit, etc.

Drop off is at St. Ann Church, West Newbury from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

If you would like more information or have any questions about the HRIC Soup and Sandwich program, scan the QR code.



## Planning Ahead for the Holidays

The 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month are the scheduled delivery dates for the HRIC Soup and Sandwich Program. However, the 4th Wednesday in December falls on the day before Christmas. Because The Good Shepherd Soup Kitchen typically receives a large number of generous food donations prior to Christmas, **we are suspending the program for Wednesday, December 24.** Thank you for your continued generous support of this important program!

**Remaining 2025 Scheduled Soup & Sandwich Delivery Dates:**

**December 10**

**December 24 (Suspended)**

## 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 2lbs or more.**

# COLLABORATIVE NEWS



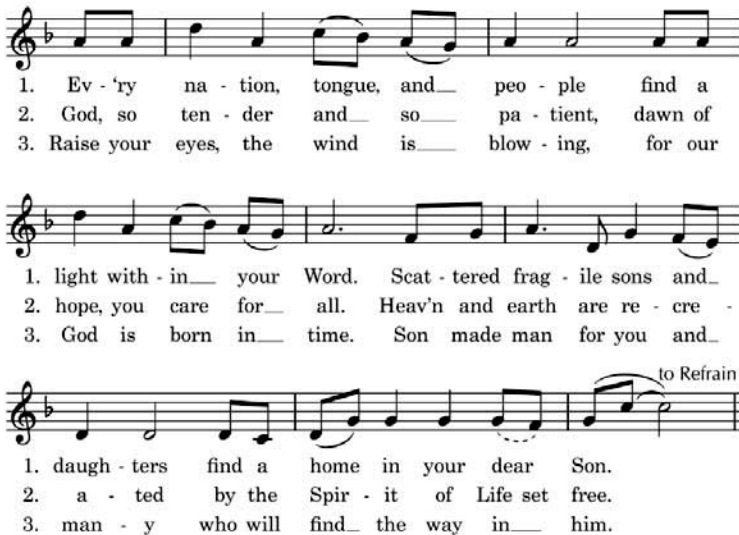
## Pilgrims of Hope Hymn for the Jubilee Year 2025



Refrain



Verses



Text: Pierangelo Sequeri; tr. by Andrew Wadsworth Music: Francesco Meneghello

## Collaborative Contacts

**Holy Redeemer**  
4 Green St., Merrimac 01860  
**Phone: 978-346-8604**  
info@hriccatholic.org

**Immaculate Conception**  
42 Green St., Nbpt. 01950  
**Phone: 978-462-2724**  
Fax: 978-234-7399  
info@hriccatholic.org

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

Rev. Timothy Harrison, Pastor  
978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604, info@hriccatholic.org

Christine Breslow, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper  
978-462-2724 x 402 cbreslow@hriccatholic.org

Melinda Burrell, Administrative Assistant  
978-462-2724 x 420, burrell@hriccatholic.org

Aaron Giard, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation  
978-462-2724 x405, agiard@hriccatholic.org

Dennis LaMalfa, Business Manager  
978-462-2724 x451, dlamalfa@hriccatholic.org

Karen Leff, Media Outreach Coordinator  
hricbulletin@gmail.com

## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and  
the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen



## 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.

## Advent Retreat

*Jesus, the Light of the World*

This Advent, prepare your heart to celebrate the light of  
God's love coming into the world through Jesus' birth  
centuries ago, the coming of God's light into your heart more  
deeply this Christmas and the waiting in hope for his coming  
again.

I will provide material for reading and reflection from scripture  
and a variety of spiritual teachers that reflect the retreat's  
theme and your unique desires. We will meet in person or by  
zoom for spiritual direction sessions you schedule throughout  
retreat.

Retreat opens November 24 and closes December 24. Begin  
retreat any time you choose. Four one hour spiritual  
direction sessions scheduled at your convenience. Spiritual  
Director Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director, MA  
Pastoral Counseling.

Call 978-462-7483 to register or for additional information.

Suggested donation: \$95.00



# HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

## HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Nov. 22–23	\$2,189.00
HR Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Nov. 21	\$ 925.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 513.00
<b>Total Weekly Offertory, Nov. 22–23</b>	<b>\$3,627.00</b>
Retired Religious Sisters, Nov. 22–23	\$1,467.00
HR Offertory, Nov. 29–30	\$3,910.00
HR Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Nov. 28	\$ 0.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 535.00
<b>Total Weekly Offertory, Nov. 29–30</b>	<b>\$4,445.00</b>

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 7) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 14) 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](http://hricatholic.org/hr-online-giving).

**HR Grand Annual  
Goal \$25,000  
To Date \$15,860.00**



## 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

### Our Conference by the Numbers

Our recently submitted annual report speaks to the works of our ten members that your generosity has allowed.

- Logged approximately 800 hours of service in the year
- Conducted over 60 in-home and in-person visits
- Delivered over 50 gift cards for food, gasoline, and clothing
- Made rental assistance payments of over \$15K to prevent evictions
- Made heat and water payments of over \$12K to prevent shut-offs

Your kindness and understanding of the “least among us” is truly at work.

Your kind donations in any form are always greatly appreciated. Please use the envelopes in the pews at 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**.



## Merrimac Santa Parade

Look for the Holy Redeemer Activities Committee's float in **Merrimac's Santa Parade, Sunday, December 7**. Our float is decorated with the 12 Days of Christmas. The parade starts at 1:00 p.m. and is usually done around 2:00 p.m. It starts at the Sweetsir School on Church Street and ends at the Donaghue School near Locust Street. Come out and give us a big wave!

## Decorate Nativity 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!

## Giving this Holiday Season West Newbury Food Pantry Donations

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 West Newbury Council on Aging. The West Newbury COA (Sage Center), located in the Town Office Building, organizes and runs this important source of nutrition, toiletries, and paper goods for residents of West Newbury and surrounding communities who need a little extra help. Any time you feel you can assist in stocking the West Newbury Food Pantry shelves to aid those in need, the collection tubs will be there waiting to hold your donations. Non-perishable, un-expired food, toiletries, or paper goods donations are greatly appreciated by those who utilize the pantry services.

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

## Pentucket Holiday Helper

We are collecting **hats, mittens, and gloves**, all sizes, for the Pentucket Holiday Helper Program. Please bring in your donations to both churches by **Sunday, December 7**.

## St. Ann Giving Tree

In the spirit of Christmas, we need your help in supporting the following charitable organizations: **Pregnancy Care Center, Emmaus House, Lazarus House, and HR St. Vincent de Paul Society.**

1. Take a tag from the Giving Tree and purchase the item wished for on it.
2. Return the item(s) **unwrapped, with the tag** to the bin at the back of St. Ann, and we will deliver your gift(s) to the charity of your choice.
3. Gifts must be returned by **Sunday, December 7**.

Let's show Christ's love for those in need this Christmas. Thank you.

## HOLY REDEEMER PARISH



St. Ann  
Blessing  
of the  
Outdoor  
Nativity  
and  
Cookie  
Exchange  
Social.



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

### 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

### Knights Hospitality Sunday



Join us **Sunday, December 7, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass**, in IC Parish Center for Hospitality Sunday sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. We will have free coffee and donuts for all.

All men of the Collaborative, 18 years or older, are welcome to join the Knights. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the IC Nazareth Library. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.** in the IC Nazareth Library. For more information call 978-225-0804 or email [kofc231@outlook.com](mailto:kofc231@outlook.com).

### IC Outdoor Nativity



In honor of our parish's patronal feast day, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Monday, December 8), we turn to Mary, contemplating her "yes" to God: a "yes" that opened the door to salvation for humanity. The following is an excerpt from a homily by St. Bernard of Clairvaux contemplating the moment the Angel Gabriel awaits Mary's answer. As you read, reflect: how can you open your heart and soul in a more profound "yes" to God, as Mary did, this Advent? It may very well be a "yes" that reverberates through time and space.

*You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.*

*The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.*

*Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise.... This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.*

*Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word....*

*Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.*



### 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 PARISH

## IC Offertory Collection

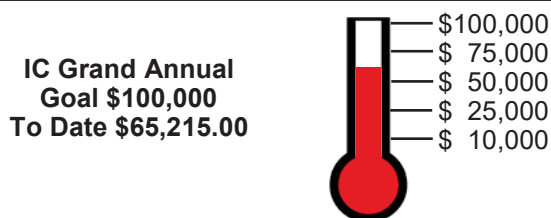
IC Offertory, Nov. 22–23	\$5,449.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Nov. 21	\$2,544.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,453.00
<b>Total Weekly Offertory, Nov. 22–23</b>	<b>\$11,446.00</b>
Retired Religious Sisters, Nov. 22–23	\$3,208.00
IC Offertory, Nov. 29–30	\$5,660.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Nov. 28	\$ 780.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,617.00
<b>Total Weekly Offertory, Nov. 29–30</b>	<b>\$10,057.00</b>

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 7) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 14) 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: [hrrcatholic.org/ic-online-giving](http://hrrcatholic.org/ic-online-giving).



## 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.

Recently, with your support, we were able to help a single mother of three pay for much-needed car repairs—ensuring she could continue getting to work and caring for her family. We also provided food and other essentials to help them through a difficult time.

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.svdpnwburyport.org](http://www.svdpnwburyport.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!

## Immaculate Conception School

Immaculate Conception School proudly announces the outstanding academic achievements of our students in grades 5–8 for the first quarter. We recognize and celebrate the hard work, dedication, and high standards upheld by our student body.

This quarter, an impressive 92% of students earned honor roll status by achieving a score of 80 or higher in all classes. This accomplishment reflects our school's core expectation: students are called to do all the work, all the time—and they continue to rise to the challenge.

We also congratulate the 28% of students who received the Principal's Award by earning a remarkable 95 or higher in every class. Their commitment to excellence sets a shining example for all. Additionally, three students were honored with the Citizen Award for maintaining exemplary conduct and effort across all subjects. We are grateful for their leadership and positive influence within our school community.

Parent support is a key part of our students' success. A remarkable 96% of families attended the parent-teacher conferences in mid-November, demonstrating the strong commitment our community places on education. Support from the teachers is never ending. Their guidance, encouragement, and dedication help each student reach their full potential, both academically and in character. This partnership between home and school creates a foundation for each child's success.

Especially inspiring is the impact when students transfer to Immaculate Conception in middle school and earn honor roll status for the first time. Surrounded by peers who focus on academic achievement, new students often experience a renewed dedication to their studies. They take pride in their accomplishments and almost immediately set a new academic goal for the coming quarter. Seeing students congratulate each other on their academic success is reflective of the caring feelings they have for each other.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all these students and their families. Their accomplishments inspire us all to strive for greatness in both academics and character. Keep up the great work!

## 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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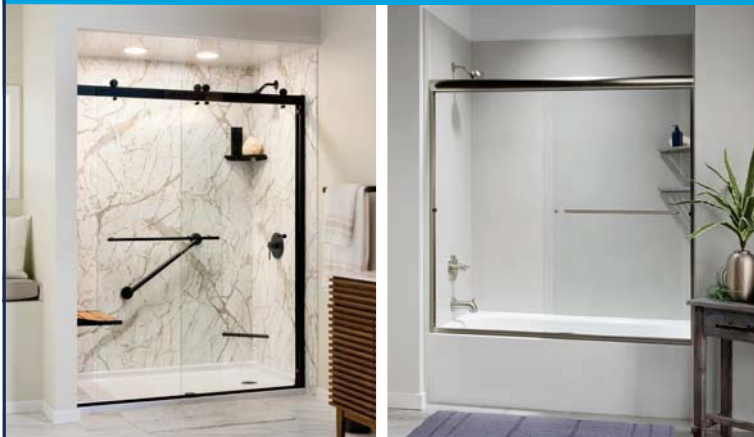
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