Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

Serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

hriccatholic.org

All Are Welcome



Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.

Mark 13:33



Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

"Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters..."

St. Ann

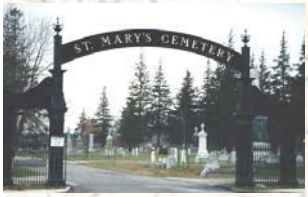
Church: 300 Main St., W. Newbury 01985
Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: info@hriccatholic.org

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

Senior Deacons
Senior Deacon Paul Dow
978-887-5350
Senior Deacon John Moranski
978-432-1443

St. Vincent de Paul
St. Vincent de Paul Society at Holy Redeemer
978-346-8604 x 425
hrsvdp300@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society at Immaculate Conception
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svdp.ic42@gmail.com

St Mary's Cemetery
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Kathy Peavey, HR Cantor
978-360-8756

Tim Richard, IC Music Ministry Director and Organist
978-462-2724
Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator
978-270-4924
Paula Quann, IC Youth Choir
youthchoir@hriccatholic.org

@hriccatholic

Holy Redeemer -Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

hriccatholic

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (11/28)
4:00pm **IC** *Connie Bucci, Henry Therrien, John Cronin Sr.* (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)
4:00pm **Nativity** *Leonard Desmarias* (Fr. Stanley)
Sunday (11/29)
8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)
9:00am **IC** *John Sacco,* Maria Parisi Gammacurta (Fr. Stanley)
10:00am **St. Ann** *Ray Tolosko* (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Dow)
11:30am **IC** *Alan Chu* (Fr. Morin)
Monday (11/30)
9:00am **IC** *Priscilla Arnott* (Fr. Morin)
Tuesday (12/01)
9:00am **IC** (Fr. Harrison)
Wednesday (12/02)
9:00am **IC** *For the Deceased Members of the Niles, Keefe, Swochak, & Macri Families* (Fr. Stanley)
Thursday (12/03)
9:00am **IC** *Peter Shanley* (Fr. Stanley)
Friday (12/04)
9:00am **IC** *Frederick J. Aloi & Family* (Fr. Harrison)
Saturday (12/05)
4:00pm **IC** (Fr. Stanley & Deacon Moranski)
4:00pm **St. Ann** *Thomas O'Neil* (Fr. Harrison)
Sunday (12/06)
8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)
9:00am **IC** *Margaret M. Keeley* (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)
10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)
11:30am **IC** (Fr. Stanley)

In your prayers please remember Mary F. Todd 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: hriccatholic.org as well as our Facebook page.

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

Extra Confession Times during Advent

We will offer extra confession times during Advent on the following days and times. Note additional Confession times take place during Adoration.

Wed., Dec. 9, Nativity Church, Merrimac (3–4 p.m.)
Thurs., Dec. 10, IC Church, Newburyport (6:30–8 p.m.)
Wed., Dec. 16, Nativity Church, Merrimac (3–4 p.m.)
Thurs., Dec. 17, 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.



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. Cemetery plots are available for full-body and cremated remains burials in any denomination



Notice: Upcoming Price Increase

As of January 1, 2027, the price of a cemetery plot will be increasing.

Please contact Mr. Joseph Viel, Mill City Management Corporation, at 978-208-0266 for more information or to schedule an appointment.



Collaborative News

This Week in Our Collaborative

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

Monday, November 30

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

Tuesday, December 1

Women's AA Mtg. 7:00am, *St. Ann Hall*
Faith Formation, Grade 2 3:30pm, *IC Parish Center*
Breaking Bread Meal 4:45pm, *IC St. Louis Hall*
Women at the Well Mtg. 6:30pm, *IC Charity Dining Room*
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, *IC Church*

Wednesday, December 2

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, *IC Nazareth Library*
Eucharistic Adoration 3:00pm, *Nativity Church*
Faith Formation, Grade 2 3:45pm, *Nativity Hall*
Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm, *IC Church*
Pack 26 Cub Scouts Mtg. 5:30pm, *Nativity Hall*

Thursday, December 3

HR Prayer Shawl Mtg. 2:00pm, *Nativity Hall*
Faith Formation, Confirmation Prep. 3:15pm, *IC Youth Ministry Room*
Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm, *IC Church*

Friday, December 4

Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am, *IC Church*
Staff Mtg. 9:45am, *IC Charity Dining Room*
AA Mtg. 6:00pm, *IC St. Louis Hall*
Ultreya Mtg./Mass 6:15pm, *IC Charity Dining Room/St. James Chapel*

Saturday, December 5

Men's Cursillo Reunion Group 8:00am, *St. Ann Church*
Women's Cursillo Reunion Group 9:00am, *IC Nazareth Library*
Confessions 3:00–3:30pm, *IC Church*

Sunday, December 6, 2nd Sunday of Advent

IC High School Praise Singers Rehearsal 10:00am, *IC St. James Chapel*
Faith Formation 10:00am, *IC Parish Center*
KofC Hospitality Sunday 10:00am, *IC Parish Center Lobby*
St. Ann Holiday Coffee/Breakfast 11:00am, *St. Ann Hall*
Baptism Prep. Class 1:00pm, *IC Charity Dining Room*

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

Adoration: Choose Rest

The world is fast, noisy & busy. Why not choose slow, silent and restful? This option is offered every week.

Be renewed. Be choosy. The rest will follow.

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 or no Mass is scheduled)

Prayers for the Sick

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

Lucas Aucamp
Paula Cullen Barnhart
Kathy P. Brodeur
Michael Brenner
Phyllis Collins
Autumn Rose Coulombe
Kristen D'Entremont
Neal DesRoches
Ward Dilmore
Jim Dolan
Deb Downie
Dotty Duval
Ann-Margaret Ferrante
John Flynn
Jeanine Ebacher Fowler
Renee Fowler
John Gutshaw
Jon Haggerty
Ed Hardy
Jane Harney
Chloe Hequet
Loriann Herrick
Matt Hershey
Angela Holloran
Tula Hunt
Emma Hurley
Young Jameson
Gary Johnson
Steve Johnson
Denise Kenneson
Arthur LaPointe
Michael Lichtenstein
Donna Limone
Johannah Lord
Patricia M. Lisa MacDougall
Monica Maguire
Sia Mahalati
Michael Marchese
Robert (Bob) Marks
Michael Martens
Ovidio Martinez
Fr. Bill McLaughlin
Susan Neale
Susan Nolan
Carol O'Neal
Eleanora Paciulan
Jodi Paciulan
Joseph Palumbo
Carol Parks
Joanne Pesa
Elizabeth Pettingell
Polly Pirri
Lorraine Portalla
Angie Reddy
Regina Seely
Yvonne Sloban
Gary Smith
Arlene Stoddard
Susan Sweeney Taylor
Ginamarie Talford
Captain Bill Taplin
Heather Thompson
Michael Tucker
Maddie Villers
Laurent Vincent
Sandra Welch

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

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.

We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall in Merrimac at 2:00 p.m. Our next meeting is **Thursday, December 3**. All are welcome! **Come join us.** Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you!

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.

Questions of the Week



Adult: What can you do beginning this week to remind yourself of Jesus' coming?

Child: How can you prepare your heart for Jesus to arrive?

Collaborative News

Youth Choir News

Christmas Concert

The IC Youth Choir will perform with the Newburyport Choral Society

Friday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets are on sale online at newburyportchoralsociety.org.

Last year's performances sold out! Come and support our young singers! Concerts held in the IC Church.

For more information about youth choir and Praise Singers, please contact Paula Quann: youthchoir@hriccatholic.org.

Pictured below, last year's performance.



Newburyport Chamber Music



The Newburyport Chamber Music Festival once again presents its annual Winter Baroque concert at Immaculate Conception Church on **December 20 at 3:00 p.m.** The program features a mix of Baroque music, 17th- and 18th-century Italian works by Marcello and Castello, a Biber sonata for violin and a Bach sarabande for solo cello. Garth Knox's duo with violin showcases the silver undertones of the viola d'amore ("viola of love").

The world premiere trio sonata, commissioned from Juilliard-faculty harpsichordist Nicola Canzano, "Our Towne," celebrates the history of Newburyport and its unique historic individuals both real and imagined! The concert is an hour and a quarter. There is no intermission.

Admission is via NCMF's Pay-What-You-Can approach to ticketing. Suggested admission is $40 for adults. Students and EBT cardholders attend free. Attendees who can contribute above the suggested admission support NCMF's commitment to making chamber music accessible to everyone throughout the region.

For tickets and additional information, visit newburyportchambermusic.org. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Newburyport Choral Society



The Newburyport Choral Society invites you to its winter concert, "When Jazz Meets Choir," a festive celebration blending soaring choral music with rich jazz harmonies, improvisation, and beloved holiday traditions. The program features composer Will Todd's electrifying Mass in Blue, accompanied by a live jazz band featuring piano, bass, saxophone, and drums, with internationally renowned soprano soloist Katherine Whyte.

Audiences will also enjoy seasonal favorites, including music by Duke Ellington and Leonard Bernstein, performances by the Youth Choir of Immaculate Conception Church and the NCS Chamber Singers, a beautiful candlelight selection, and opportunities to sing along with familiar holiday carols. Experience the joy of music as jazz meets choir this December! All are welcome! For information and tickets, visit www.newburyportchoralsociety.org/events.

Friday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church

Christmas Flower Donations

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 at the churches or mail them to the offices. Donation deadline is Sunday, December 13 at noon.



Collaborative News



24-Day Advent Bible Challenge: The Gospel of St. Luke

Advent begins Sunday, November 29

Join the **24-Day Advent Bible Challenge** to make this Advent truly meaningful! Simply read and reflect on one chapter of St. Luke's Gospel per day for 24 days starting on the first day of Advent: November 29. By Christmas Day you will have read about the entire life of Christ! It's easy, it's fun, you don't have to leave your house, and no sign-up is required!

So grab your Bible and create a prayer corner to embark on the challenge by yourself, gather your family around the tree each evening, or meet with friends to form an Advent prayer group. However you choose to take on the **24-Day Advent Bible Challenge**, the result will be a deeper appreciation of the Christmas season as we all await and prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Let's all accept the **24-Day Advent Bible Challenge** and encourage each other to stay with it until the end of Advent. Our Collaborative will be all the stronger because of it!

Use this festive **bookmark** to track your progress throughout Advent. Cut on the dashed line and fold in half, lengthwise. Glue or tape to secure the two sides together and tuck it in your Bible.

Are you ready to take up the challenge for a merrier, richer Christmas?

Note: St. Luke's gospel can be found online at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: https://bible.usccb.org/bible/luke/0.

Centering Prayer for Advent

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 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 coinciding with the *Advent Bible Challenge*. 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.

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program 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 Eve. Because The Good Shepherd Soup Kitchen typically receives a larger number of generous food donations prior to the holiday, **we are *suspending* the program for Wednesday, December 23.**

If you would like to make a monetary donation to Lazarus House for Christmas meals, you may do so at St. Ann during the delivery date listed below.

Thank you for your continued generous support of this important program!

Remaining 2026 scheduled Soup & Sandwich delivery date at St. Ann Hall 7:00–9:00 a.m.
December 9 Scheduled delivery ~~December 23~~ (*Suspended*)

Collaborative News

Advent Retreat

Joy to the World, The Lord Is Come

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; Ps.16 :11

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room and Heaven and nature sing. The lyrics of this beautiful Christmas carol reveal truths supported by scripture that will guide our Advent retreat. We will focus on the message of the carol's first four lines in light of scripture and faith. Questions will be offered for prayer and reflection to support your retreat work.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

The lasting source of true joy in this world is God our Father. Out of love for us, God sent his beloved son into the world to live among us and share our human nature. Acknowledging Jesus as our savior, who reveals and leads us to God our Father and sends us the Holy Spirit of God is the path to joy. We will explore your desire to live in the Joy of God's love through your sharing the fruits of reflection when we meet.

Let earth receive her King

Jesus is the gift of God's love for his creation. However, humans must choose to receive this gift of Emmanuel, God with us. Receiving Christ into our heart and surrendering to follow him is a gift we can offer to God.

Let every heart prepare Him room

We have been given free will, and so we can ignore or refuse this gift of the Incarnation. Yet, if we desire Christ to dwell within us, we must choose him above all else and make room for him to dwell within us. Seeking joy in the things of this world will keep us unsatisfied and restless. Following Jesus' path is the way to joy.

And Heaven and nature sing

God is present in all he has created out of love for us. Finding God in the created world can bring you joy and lead you to God.

Based on your desires, I will provide readings from scripture and spiritual writers for prayer and reflection. Spiritual direction sessions will provide time to share what emerges from your experience of being with God, sharing your desire and listening in quiet. You may schedule each of your four Zoom spiritual direction sessions as desired, at your own pace throughout the retreat. As we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit's wisdom, I will listen deeply as you share, and together we allow the Holy Spirit to move us and bless and guide our sharing. This offering is designed to provide an affordable, convenient retreat that creates an intimate space for you to share yourself deeply with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

May your retreat prepare and open your heart to receive the gift of Jesus and celebrate with joy his coming to dwell in our world and within your heart.

Retreat opens November 30. Retreat 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. Please call (978) 462-7483 to register or for additional information. Suggested donation: $110.00

WREATHS across AMERICA
LIVE ★ WITH ★ PURPOSE

December 19, 2026
National Wreaths Across America Day

Help Brigadier General James Brickett-Old Newbury Chapter, NSDAR, honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December.
To make a donation online visit wreathsacrossamerica.org/MA0158P or scan the QR code.

Online Giving

Both HR and IC offer Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring (weekly or monthly) donation. Getting started is easy—you need to be a registered member of one of our parish communities. Parish registration forms are available on the website or contact the Collaborative offices.

Once you register with the parish, or if you are already a registered parishioner, visit our website, hriccatholic.org, and click the "Links" tab, then on "HR Parish Online Giving" or "IC Parish Online Giving" to get to the appropriate site.

Questions? Contact Christine Breslow at 978-462-2724.

IC Haiti

For those of you who are unfamiliar with our ministry to the Father Marc Piché school community in south-central Haiti, there is an eight-part historical overview on our Collaborative website: hriccatholic.org/ic-haiti.

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."

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.

Collaborative Faith Formation

Confirmation preparation (**grade 8**) meets for regular classes every Sunday except holiday weekends. All other grades are also underway.

Grades K–1 and 3–7 meet in-person roughly every other Sunday from 10:05–11:20 a.m. at IC.

Grade 2 Sacramental preparation meets every week: Sunday morning or Tuesday afternoon at IC, Newburyport or **NEW!** Wednesday afternoon at Church of the Nativity, Merrimac.

If you have not yet registered your child, please do so ASAP and contact Deacon Aaron Giard at 978-462-2724 to get caught up.

Baptisms

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

Immaculate Conception Church

IC Offertory Collection

No second collection this weekend (Nov. 29). The second collection next weekend (Dec.6) is Ongoing Church Maintenance.

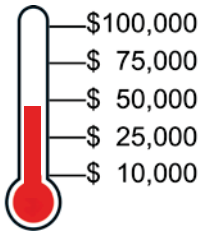
Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to ***Immaculate Conception Parish*** *with the second collection noted in the memo.*

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

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

IC Grand Annual

Goal $100,000.00
To Date $43,940.00



IC Advent Giving Trees

Advent is here and we have put up new giving trees in the vestibule. The beautiful trees were made by parishioner and woodworker, Tom Howard for the IC St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you Tom! The tags on the branches each represent a need that can be met with a gift card. Please choose a tag, return the gift card, and place it in the collection boxes near the doors of the church. Your gifts will be made available to local residents who call on us for help during the year. Thank you for helping us help others!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

A Heartfelt Thank You

As we celebrate the blessings of this Thanksgiving season, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Immaculate Conception extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our **"Neighbors Helping Neighbors" walk.**

Every step taken, every donation made, and every prayer offered helps us continue our mission of serving those in need. Our Help Line (978-518-0728) rings daily with requests for assistance with rent, winter heating bills, and many other urgent needs. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to respond with both compassion and practical support.

You remind us that when a parish comes together, hope grows stronger and no neighbor has to face hardship alone.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

With gratitude and blessings,

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Immaculate Conception Conference

Tuesdays Breaking Bread Meal: Free, hot, three-course meal served 4:45–5:30 p.m. in the IC St. Louis Hall dining room. Take-out meals available at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Immaculate Conception School

A Thanksgiving tradition at Immaculate Conception School is a food collection of delicious dinners to donate to the Newbury Food Pantry. Three hundred and thirteen pounds of food was donated last week by school families—a collection that asked each grade to donate a food item to contribute to the meals. The food pantry was thrilled to receive our donation at a critical time of year that is so focused on the food we share as families at Thanksgiving.



Pictured are the Wilson children, who together with their mom delivered the school's donation to the pantry. They were inspired to meet the volunteers who work at the pantry and to hear how things are organized and how food is distributed to area families. It was a connection to the ongoing school donations that was very meaningful to the Wilsons. They have already volunteered to deliver next year's Thanksgiving dinner donations to the food pantry.

The Immaculate Conception School community is grateful for the collaborative relationship we have the Newbury Food Pantry and the opportunity for the school children to support a local cause. We wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!!

Knights Hospitality Sunday



Join us **Sunday, December 6, 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.

The Parable of the Talents



In last Sunday's Gospel passage Jesus told a parable about a man who was about to go on a journey. But before he went, he gave his servants "talents" hoping that while he was gone each would make the most of the "talents" he had given them. At last Sunday's 9:00 a.m. Mass, Fr. George challenged members of the community to accept a "talent" from him and to creatively use it in order to return not only the "talent" but whatever profit it might produce! We look forward to seeing the results. For those who are participating, thank you for accepting the challenge.

Please return your "talent" and profit and a note describing your "talent project" by **December 20** in an envelope addressed "My Talent Return." All profits received will benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Immaculate Conception Parish. Thank you.

Holy Redeemer Parish

HR Offertory Collection

No second collection this weekend (Nov. 29). The second collection next weekend (Dec.6) is Ongoing Church Maintenance.

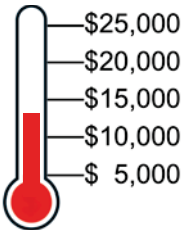
Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to ***Holy Redeemer Parish*** *with the second collection noted in the memo.*

If you would like to mail in your collections, send them to **Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA 01860.**

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

HR Grand Annual

Goal $25,00.00
To Date $13,385.00



HR St. Vincent de Paul

Welcoming the Advent Season



Advent means paying closer attention to where God is already quietly at work in ordinary days—in an unexpected kindness, a moment of patience, or a pause for prayer before the noise of the day begins. We offer this prayer:

Lord Jesus, as this new liturgical year begins, quiet the rush of my mind and wake my heart to your presence. Teach me how to wait—not with worry or distraction, but with patient hope and open hands. Bless my home and my daily work during these weeks of preparation. Give me eyes to recognize you in the people I meet, and courage to share your light wherever there is shadow. Come, Lord Jesus, and make me ready to welcome you. Amen.

Through your generosity, our conference was able to provide $100 Market Basket gift cards to *20 families* in Merrimac and West Newbury. There were many hugs and expressions of thanksgiving that came from your acts of kindness. Thank you for your donations.

Your kind donations in any form to help our neighbors 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.

Christmas Coffee Social

December 6, St. Ann Hall All are welcome!

Please join us after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Ann for some holiday fun!



In place of our regular coffee social, we will be celebrating the holiday season with a **special menu** including pancakes, quiche, and salads as well as our regular delicious baked goods.

If you would like to help with baking or set-up, please contact Donna Pallone, (978) 904-5682.

Advent Giving Tree Donations at St. Ann



Please consider helping the Emmaus House, Pregnancy Care Center, or HR St. Vincent de Paul Society make Christmas special for one of their clients. **Tags** listing the requested items or wish list for each charity are **available on the Christmas tree in the back of St. Ann Church**. All your donations are greatly appreciated.

Return your donations to St. Ann by **Sunday, December 6**, so each charity has time to distribute them to their recipients.

HR Holiday Helper Program

The **Holiday Helper Program** has asked Holy Redeemer to help this Christmas season with efforts to collect **socks** and cans of **hearty soups** and **stews**. The program assists people of all ages. Last year the program helped 63 children and 70 seniors. Please bring your unwrapped donations by **Sunday, December 13**. Donations may be left in the back of **either church** marked **"Holiday Helper."**

Help Others This Christmas

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the *Thanksgiving* Food Bag collection! Here is an email of gratitude from Jen at the West Newbury Food Pantry:

Thanks so much for the wonderful donations organized for the food pantry. Please let your congregation know how grateful we are for the generosity and support! The food donated is a huge help!
Very sincerely,
Jennifer Vincent - Nutrition Program Coordinator SAGE Center



The **Food Pantry at the West Newbury Senior Center** (Sage Center) also puts together **25 Christmas Dinner Food Bags** to be distributed to residents of West Newbury Senior Housing and Meals on Wheels clients. As with the Thanksgiving Dinner Food Bags, the center does not cook the meals, rather it provides recipients with a ham and all the fixings needed to make a delicious Christmas dinner at home.

Christmas is such a blessed time! As the Magi honored the newborn King with wonderful gifts, let us honor our Savior with scrumptious offerings for our neighbors in need! Please bring your donations to Mass and place them in the food bins marked *West Newbury Food Pantry* located in **St. Ann's** foyer. They will be brought to the West Newbury Senior Center.

The **deadline** for Christmas Dinner Food Bag donations is **December 11**.

Please check the dates on your donations to make sure they will not expire before January 1, 2027.

Scalloped potatoes (small box)	Candy canes
Box or microwave mac & cheese	Box cookies
Canned Green Beans	Canned Carrots

The West Newbury Senior Center runs a food pantry for all area residents—no questions asked. You can help keep the food pantry stocked all year by bringing non-perishable food donations to Mass at St. Ann and leaving them in the foyer bins. The Senior Center, located on the first floor of the West Newbury town office building also has donation bins in the foyer for drop off during business hours Mon.–Fri.

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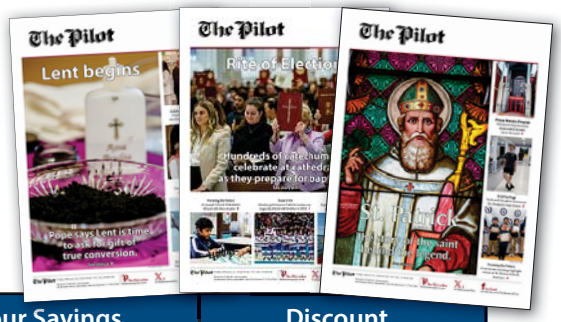
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