

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

All Are Welcome

hricatholic.org



Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

(Is 40:11)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 175TH ANNIVERSARY

On this milestone weekend, we honor the many priests and religious who serve or have served our parish and school community with commitment, devotion, and joy.

Necrology of IC Clergy

John O'Brien 1848	William J. Maguire 1931–1939	Thomas Lane 1956–1978
Henry Lennon 1848–1871	John C. Fearn 1933–1941	Francis Ritchie 1959–1969; 1972–1985
Mortimer Twomey 1883	Edward T. Dunne 1937–1939	John Morrissey 1960–1961
Francis Hannawin 1889	Joseph F. Sullivan 1939	Gerald P. Kierce 1967–1971
Arther J. Teeling 1871–1893	John Feeney 1939–1941	Daniel Cavanaugh 1971–1972
William Ryan 1893–1929	William J. Riley 1939–1942	Roger Carlin 1977–1980
John B. LaBossiere 1900–1903	James J. Mooney 1941–1954	John Leonard 1978–1987
John J. Flood 1899–1920	Thomas J. Tobin 1941–1948	Robert Barrett 1980–1981
Patrick Buckley 1903–1921	Francis Sexton 1942–1952	Edward Sherry 1985–1993
John F. Kelley 1900–1904	Joseph Murphy 1948–1950	Richard Gosselin 1987–1993
John B. Moore 1920–1924	John R. Crispo 1950–1958	John E. Jusseume 1997–2003
Joseph L. Dunn 1921–1931	Lawrence Keefe 1952–1960	Marc Piché 2003–2010
Edward S. Sullivan 1924–1930	Michael J. Finnegan 1954	Paul W. Berube 2003–2016
Thomas McManmon 1929–1933	Andrew J. Corbett 1954–1956	James Broderick 2003–2016
John H. Quinlan 1930–1933	Joseph W. Sullivan 1958–1960	

Religious Who Served the School and the Church

Agnes Ann Fuhs	Celeste Donovan	Joseph Clare Terio	Mary de Sales Driscoll	Mary Zita McManus
Agnes Borgia Donnelly	Clemenza Callahan	Josephine Wathen	Mary Dympna Francis	Maxima Glynn
Agnes Ellen Rose	Cornelia Lowe	Julia Dullea	Mary Edward Phelan	Mechtildes Green
Agnes Eulalia Conley	Domitilla Clare	Julia Mary Grebe	Mary Edwina Bailey	Michaelina Murphy
Agnes Frances Callahan	Dorothy Marie Devine	Kathleen Krumpelman	Mary Elise Clark	Neri Plunkett
Alice Wills	Dula Hogan	Leo Monahan	Mary Evaline McDonough	Pauline Rogers
Alice Adams	Eleanor Maria Cameron	Leonora McGrath	Mary Fidelia Hardigan	Praxedes McNamera
Alma Clare Combs	Elizabeth Ann Carrico	Louis Catharine Kennedy	Mary Florence Burroughs	Prisca Duffy
Anatolia Byrne	Ellen Cecilia Garrity	Louis Frances Head	Mary Frances Prior	Raphael Drollmann
Andrea Scott	Emiliana Cryan	Louisa Jordan	Mary Francina Connolly	Raphaella Willett
Angelica Lohman	Estelle Hassen	Lucille Phipps	Mary Gerard McDermott	Rebecca Rodenbaugh
Angeline Quinn	Ethel Durbin	Madeline Sharkey	Mary Gertrude Meyer	Regina Fidelis Callahan
Anita Hager	Euphrosine Larkin	Margaret Conlin	Mary Giles Welsh	Regina Stickler
Ann Christine Spence	Florence Pike	Margaret Mary Curtin	Mary Grace Callahan	Roberta Sweeney
Ann Ignatius Daly	Frances O'Brien	Marie John Kelley	Mary Hubert Cronan	Rosalie Purcell
Ann Maureen McGrath	Frances Mary Bowles	Marilyn Schuler	Mary Imelda Whalen	Rosalita Forners
Ann Whittaker	Frances Meagher	Martha Mary Moylan	Mary Joanne Kemmitt	Rose Mary Gerlica
Anne Whitehead	Francesca Lavan	Martin Maria Kelley	Mary Josephine Bean	Ruth Babbitt
Anne Ferris	Francis de Sales Lyons	Mary Holt	Mary Kieran Morgan	Sabina Pyle
Anne Beaven	Generosa O'Mealy	Mary Angela Lennon	Mary Loretto Carroll	Sara Madden
Annetta Simoneau	Geraldine Flavin	Mary Anicetus Kennedy	Mary Loyola Graves	Silveria McDonald
Anthony Splaine	Geraldine Marie Heavrin	Mary Antonia Thompson	Mary Lucile Reasbeck	Silvia Kenny
Antonina Egan	Gracia Goyette	Mary Aquin O'Meara	Mary Lucina Sheehan	Stella Donnelly
Augusta Sullivan	Gwendaline Lynch	Mary Aquinas Kelleher	Mary Pasithea Murray	Teresa Michael Mansfield
Barbara Olson	Helen McNulty	Mary Augusta Moran	Mary Patrick Fitzmaurice	Teresina Dorsey
Basil Otis	Helen Glidden	Mary Auxilium Minton	Mary Peter Oberhausen	Tharsilla Farren
Benigna Cotter	Helen Gertrude Fontaine	Mary Braley	Mary Pius Sullivan	Theodora Thornsberry
Bernard Foley	Helen Maria Egan	Mary Carmelia Taylor	Mary Raymond McDonnell	Theodosia Gildea
Bernardine Sienna O'Neill	Helena Clark	Mary Cecilia Nally	Mary Roberta Read	Theonilla Lennon
Carmelite Farley	Ignatia Murphy	Mary Christopher O'Keefe	Mary Ross	Theresa Getchell
Carole Kaucic	Isidore Nevins	Mary Clara Langenbacher	Mary Simeon Moore	Ursulita Tape
Catharine Gerard Dirks	James Maria Spillane	Mary Clarence Kamber	Mary Teresa Jones	Virginia Bauer
Catharine James Cain	Jane Maehtel	Mary Corsini Kenney	Mary Veronica McAuliffe	Virginia Bauer
Catherine Higgins	Jean Burch	Mary Cyril Collins	Mary Victor McDonough	Vitalis McGloin
Catherine Halpin	Joan Robshaw	Mary David Fennessey	Mary Victor Whalen	
Catherine de Ricci Gaffney	Johanna Johnson	Mary de Chantal Diamond	Mary Walsh	
Catherine Rita Donovan	John Baptist Perchard	Mary de Lourdes Macklin	Mary Winifred Coomes	

Priests who served at Immaculate Conception Parish and continue to serve throughout the Archdiocese of Boston

Shawn Allen	John R. Craib	Lihn Nguyen
Paul Aveni	Timothy A. Harrison	John J. Shaughnessy
Derek J. Borek	James T. Kelly	Charles R. Stanley
Michael J. Carew	William H. McLaughlin	Matthew Williams
Christopher Casey	George E. Morin	
Robert L. Connors	Joseph Mozer	



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we are very pleased to welcome Bishop Robert Hennessey and Cardinal Seán O'Malley to Immaculate Conception Parish as we mark its 175th anniversary and patronal feast.



I am so grateful for their presence as well as for the many hours of planning and hard work by the members of our 175th Anniversary Committee that have prepared for this milestone celebration.

Whether you realize it or not, we are only able to mark this important moment in our local Church's history because of the plethora of ways that you and those who have come before us have shared their faith with others. Our faith is a precious gift that is given not only for ourselves but also for our wider community and world. That we have sprouted and grown our community of faith over these many decades, and that it is alive and well today, is great testament to how you have shared your love of God and neighbor richly.

We mark 175 years of prayer, community involvement, education, acts of service, many instances of charity, and an enduring presence in this city that has shaped and changed countless lives throughout the years. In Word and Sacrament, through action and steadfast love, we give testimony to the great gift of Salvation offered to us in Christ.

May the Lord continue to bless our present efforts to share our faith and lead us forward in the decades ahead.

Continued Advent Blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor



Immaculate Conception
Parish
1848-2023

175th
Anniversary
Mass with the
Cardinal

All are welcome
to join
in the liturgy
celebrated by

His Eminence Cardinal
Seán O'Malley
on Sunday, December 10
11:30 a.m.
IC Church.

A light luncheon will be served
in the IC School gym
and the opportunity to meet and
greet the Cardinal immediately
following Mass.

Bulletin Information

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

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/9)

4:00pm **IC** the Driscoll Family, John E. and
Katherine Kelley (Fr. Harrison)

4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (12/10)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)

9:00am **IC** Tom and Helen O'Donnell
(Fr. Harrison)

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Stanley)

11:30am **IC** Lena Filomia, Lena Charles, Marie
Funari, Ann Fiore (Cardinal Seán O'Malley)

Monday (12/11)

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

Tuesday (12/12)

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

Wednesday (12/13)

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

Thursday (12/14)

9:00am **IC** John E. and Katherine Kelley
(Fr. Morin)

Friday (12/15)

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

Saturday (12/16)

4:00pm **IC** Adrienne Mosher, Katherine Lombard,
John K. Herlihy, Carol A. Weldon, Al Hasapis
(Fr. Stanley)

4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. Harrison)

Sunday (12/17)

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am **IC** John & Joseph Hynes, Liza Mataac
Dodson (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

10:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin & Deacon Dow)

11:30am **IC** Roger Cyr, James E. Doyle, Pat
McGrath of Dublin, Ireland (Fr. Harrison)

In your prayers please remember Philip Poulin 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.

Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

Confessions during Advent

We have scheduled additional confession times in the
Collaborative during Advent.

In addition to the regular Saturday afternoon time (3:00–
3:30 p.m. at IC), we will also be offering confessions at the
following times and places:

Thursdays December 14 and 21, 6:30–8:00 p.m. at IC
Church.

Wednesdays December 13 at Nativity Church, Merrimac,
December 20 at St. Ann Church, West Newbury, from 6:30
–8:00 p.m.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, December 11

AA Mtg. 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
Cub Scout Mtg. 4:30pm, St. Ann Hall
Women at the Well Mtg. 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room
Scout Troop 41 Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, December 12

Women's AA Mtg. 7:00am, St. Ann Hall
Breaking Bread Meal 4:45pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. 6:15pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm, IC St. James Chapel
HR St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. 7:00pm, St. Ann Hall
Knights of Columbus Mtg. 7:00pm, IC Nazareth Library

Wednesday, December 13

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program 7:00am–9:00am, St. Ann Hall
Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:15pm, IC Church
Confessions during Advent 6:30–8:00pm, Nativity Church

Thursday, December 14

Mysteries of the Rosary Series 9:45am, IC Charity Dining Room
Social Action Committee Mtg. 6:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
Confessions during Advent 6:30–8:00pm, IC Church
Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, December 15

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church
AA Mtg. 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Saturday, December 16

Holy Quilters 8:30am, Nativity Church
HRIC Baby/Toddler Playgroup 10:00am, IC Charity Dining Rm
Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church
Family Ministry Activity 5:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation: K–8 10:00am, IC Parish Center
IC Confirmation Prep., Year 2 3:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Confirmation Prep., Year 2 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Centering Prayer for Advent

In the busyness of preparing for Christmas we may miss the gifts of Advent. Waiting with trust in God's promise of love that saves deepens our faith and we become people of true hope who loved by God are able to love.

Centering Prayer is a practice and a discipline. Daily periods of silent prayer shift focus from self to God. As God becomes the center of our being the vicissitudes and storms of life affect us less. Living out of God as our Center we experience the peace the world cannot give. Following Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina enriches and instructs us as we listen to and share reflections on the words of scripture through which the Holy Spirit moves our hearts.

Please consider leaving the noise of world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday evenings from 6–7 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.

For information, contact Elizabeth McCarthy 978-462-7483.

Christmas Mass Schedule for the Collaborative

Please be aware that because of how Christmas falls this year, on the weekend of December 24, all Sunday morning Masses on the 24th will be for the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Also note that the 11:30 a.m. Mass at IC Church on Sunday, December 24 will be eliminated due to the impending celebration of Christmas Eve later that day. All Sunday afternoon/evening Masses on December 24 and all morning Masses on Monday, December 25 will be for Christmas itself.

Christmas Eve Masses, Sunday, Dec. 24

The 4:00pm Masses fill up quickly. Please arrive early.

4:00pm Immaculate Conception (Live Streamed)
4:00pm Immaculate Conception School Gym
4:00pm St. Ann
4:00pm Nativity (Church & Hall)
6:00pm Immaculate Conception

Christmas Day Masses

8:00am Immaculate Conception
8:30am Nativity
10:00am St. Ann
10:00am Immaculate Conception



HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

Next delivery is Wednesday, December 13



The HRIC sandwich program is asking for volunteers to help make sandwiches, soups, and casseroles for the Lazarus House Ministry.

Now that the weather is getting cooler the Collaborative sandwich program will be adding **soup** to our deliveries on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Disposable gallon containers can be picked up at St. Ann basement on those days. Any soup is appreciated.

Sandwiches, wrapped individually and cut then bagged, then returned to the original bread loaf sleeve, if you can label what sandwiches are in there, then please do. Cold cuts, cheese, and peanut butter and jelly are appreciated. No condiments on the sandwiches please.

What a fun activity to do for the holidays: get a couple neighbors together and make sandwiches. The casseroles that we were doing in the summer were greatly appreciated so we are also keeping those going if that is preferred. Disposable pans are available for those as well in the basement at St. Ann on Wednesdays or you can use a disposable pan of your own.

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

Questions? Contact hricsandwichprogram@gmail.com.



Follow Us on Instagram
HRICCatholic

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Prayers for the Sick

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

Patricia Baikewicz	Ed Hardy	Lee Preble
Priscilla Brown	Jane Harney	Donika Pulake
Vasfije Buhali	Terence Healey	Douglas Rose
Autumn Rose	Rosemarie Hines	Maureen Russell
Coulombe	Linda Hofferty	Rob Schweizer
Bill Crounse	Armand Hyatt	Frank Siderio
Drew Daubach	Michael Juralewicz	Yvonne Sloban
Kristen	Arthur LaPointe	Gary Smith
D'Entremont	Helen McCance	Arlene Stoddard
Deb Downie	Patricia Carey	Tom Tribble
Jeanine Ebacher	McCarthy	Michael Tucker
Fowler	Carol O'Neal	Helen Vaillancourt
Ann-Margaret	Eleanora Paciulan	Maddie Villers
Ferrante	Joseph Palumbo	Laurent Vincent
Jay Hanslig	Joanne Pesa	

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

Super Sunday for Food Pantry Donations

Your generosity since the food collection program started has been greatly appreciated. The beneficiaries in West Newbury, Merrimac, and Newbury/Newburyport are thankful that you have stepped up to help them. Unfortunately, the need is growing and the number of families who depend on our help is approaching 700. Our Collaborative can help the pantries to fill the void.

On Christmas weekend (12/23–12/24), we are asking everyone to bring at least an item or two...but any amount is appreciated. Give the Christmas spirit to someone who may not have enough to eat or cannot keep themselves clean due to the high cost of personal care products. Challenge yourself to help make a difference in your community!

Let's have some fun with this special Christmas Super Sunday and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will be impacting hundreds in our local communities. The Collaborative organizers thank you, the pantry volunteers thank you, but most importantly the people and families we are helping thank you sincerely for your generosity. We are making a difference for them.

A prayer for the service work we are expected to do:

Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters. Inspire in us both words and actions to comfort those who labor and are burdened. Make us serve them truly after the example of Christ and at whose command all people may be raised up to a new hope.

Christmas Flowers

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

Donation deadline is Monday, December 11 at noon.

Collaborative Faith Formation

**School Year Programs
(K–10, Including Sacramental Prep.)**

It's not too late to register your child for class!

Faith Formation schedules and registration forms for the 2023–24 school year are available on our website at www.hriccatholic.org/Faith-Formation.

Baptism

We celebrate this sacrament the second Sunday of each month at IC Church. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.

Adoration

Be There Because Jesus Is There!

Enter the mystery of Jesus truly present in the Monstrance. You needn't understand. Just come. Be. Because He is there. Let Jesus lead. Be changed by His presence.

Place: IC Church (enter at Green Street door only)

Time: Thursdays 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fridays 9:30 a.m.

Place: IC Church

Enter through the Green Street door only.



Eucharistic Revival at IC Church

In an effort to restore this country's flagging faith in Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist, Bishops across the country have organized a National Eucharistic Revival, urging parishes on the local level to host events that celebrate Jesus' Real Presence. Cardinal Seán O'Malley is promoting this initiative, and Immaculate Conception Church in Newburyport has accepted the opportunity to host a National Eucharistic Revival event.



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

Join us on **December 28, 2023** from **6:00–8:00 p.m.** for a night of communal hymns, personal testimonies, and one hour of Sacred Silence in Adoration of the Holy Eucharist. Food and fellowship will follow the event.

This night will be an opportunity to come closer to Jesus by being in His Presence in the Holy Eucharist. Because this is an event meant to reinvigorate faith in Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist, please feel free to invite anyone you know who is interested in drawing closer to our Lord.

If you have any questions about this event, please feel free to contact the National Eucharistic Revival point person at IC, Sean Goguen at 339-927-5777.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

IC Haiti

The fourth and final collection weekend for IC Haiti in 2023 takes place **December 16–17**. The December collection is the initial collection for the 2024–2025 school year. **Please make checks payable to IC Haiti.**

Thanks to the continued generosity of parishioners and other supporters, IC Haiti was able to fully fund the 2023–2024 school budget of \$70,150. 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 at our website: ichaiti.org. Also, for your information, our funding of the annual school budget covers all the following expenses: teacher salaries, school supplies, building maintenance, a breakfast and hot lunch program, teacher training, secondary school scholarships for graduates of the elementary school, a Pediatric Dental Program, and indirect costs related to Health Equity's facilitation and oversight of the entire program.

Once again, we ask for your generosity to support IC Haiti's ministry to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Despite the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti brought on by political unrest, gang violence, and widespread poverty, we still want to offer the people we serve there to hold out hope for the future of their children. IC Haiti's motto remains "I see Haiti; I see hope."

Scout Troop 21 Blood Drive

Please continue supporting your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers by donating blood on **Thursday, December 21 at the Newburyport Elks Club Function Hall, 25 Low Street, from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.** To make an appointment to donate blood call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

RCIA Corner

For whom is RCIA intended? In its fullest sense, RCIA is geared towards unbaptized persons above the age of reason (7). However, it also includes the rites and process that welcomes Protestant Christians into full communion with the Catholic Church (we call these *candidates* for the Sacraments once they publicly declare their desire). We accept most Trinitarian Protestant baptisms as valid, but not Confirmation or Eucharist, and so we celebrate these Sacraments for the first time with our candidates at their initiation. Due to the fact that Orthodox Christians validly receive the Sacraments from bishops/priests who enjoy apostolic succession, even though not in communion with Rome, if an Orthodox wants to join the Roman Catholic Church, there is merely a profession of faith in order for this person to be welcomed into full communion. There are also cases of people who were baptized Catholic as a baby, but received no more Sacraments growing up. These individuals do attend sessions with the RCIA group and often receive the remaining Sacraments with others joining the Church.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, we encourage you (or them) to reach out to Aaron Giard at agiard@hriccatholic.org.

San Marcos Coffee Sale

December 9–10

We will have a large order of freshly-roasted Honduran coffee available for purchase (or pre-order pickup) at Masses on December 9–10. You can preorder by leaving a voice or text message for Karen on 978-270-0183. Perhaps there is a coffee lover on your Christmas list who would enjoy this as a gift, and at the same time you will be helping to support the poor farmers of Honduras. \$10 per pound for this specialty whole bean or ground coffee.

Note: If attending the IC 11:30 Anniversary Mass on December 10, be sure to pre-order and arrange alternate pickup with Karen since coffee will not be sold at the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

Feliz Navidad!

Advent Retreat

How will you prepare Him room in your heart this Advent? St. John of the Cross tells us, "Where God finds space He enters." God waits patiently for us to make space for Him. This Advent will you keep God waiting or make room for Him?

Your Advent directed retreat will focus on preparing Him room. Readings and reflections will be guided by the teachings of St. John of the Cross and St. Ignatius of Loyola. Prayer and spiritual direction may help you discover the desires that occupy your heart, direct your choices and actions and compete with your desire for God. Worldly desires can fill the sacred space God will dwell if you desire Him above all else. As you bring the fruits of your prayer and pondering to God and to spiritual direction your desire for God may deepen, lessening the power of your unhealthy attachments and creating space for God to fill with His love.

Our Advent retreat opens December 4 and closes December 23. However, you may begin at any time during the retreat. I will provide information, reflections, prayers, and poems for your reflection and meet with you for 4 one-hour individual sessions of spiritual direction as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

You may schedule direction sessions throughout the retreat as desired and at your own pace. We will meet via telephone or Zoom on a day and time convenient for you. This offering is designed to provide an affordable, convenient, safe retreat and create an intimate space for you to share yourself deeply with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Retreat opens December 4, retreat closes December 23.

Spiritual Director: Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director, Pastoral Counselor.

Please Call (978) 462-7483 to register or for additional information. Suggested donation: \$90.00

Questions of the Week

Adult: How do you say "yes" to God?



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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Dec. 2-3	\$4,719.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Dec. 1	\$1,570.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,193.09
Total Weekly Offertory, Dec. 2-3	\$9,482.09
Ongoing Church Maintenance, Dec 2-3	\$1,413.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 10) is the Monthly. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 17) 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: hriccatholic.org/IC-Online-Giving.

IC Grand Annual Goal \$100,000
To Date \$60,250.00



IC Giving Trees



We can bring peace to our community by helping neighbors in need. There is an Advent project in the entry of the church, provided by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The tags displayed on branches and gathered in bowls each represent a need that can be met with a gift card. Please choose a tag and return the gift card during the weeks ahead. The cards can be placed in the collection boxes near the doors of the church. Your gifts will be made available to local residents who call on

the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for help during 2024. Thank you for helping us to help others!

IC St. Vincent de Paul

If you know someone living in Newbury/Newburyport who needs assistance, please suggest that they call our **help line 978-518-0728**. We are ready to assist.

You can now make online donations on our website: www.svdpnnewburyport.org. If you would like to mail in your donation, please make your check payable to "**SVdP of Newburyport**" and drop it into the collection box at Mass or mail it to the parish office at 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Breaking Bread 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

The 22nd Annual North Pole Express took place on Saturday, December 2. Despite cloudy skies, God's love was shining down on the Immaculate Conception School parent volunteers as they provided a delightful Christmas experience for almost 3,700 riders. Passengers were immersed in Christmas magic from the moment they arrived at the Newburyport train station. A 20-foot tall



Mrs. Claus arrives on Engine #1. Photo courtesy of L. Tangorra.

Rudolph welcomed guests as they approached the Polar Village from their cars, along with a huge teddy bear and snowman. The Polar Village tent housed the bakery and gift shop which sold wooden train whistles, blinking Christmas headbands, rings, and necklaces. Mrs. Claus was available for pictures at the train station after arriving on Newburyport Fire Department's Engine #1, along with a fully decorated landscape that provided endless picture opportunities for families.

The middle school students, dressed as Santa's elves, joined musicians and Christmas storybook characters who walked through the cars as they rode from Newburyport to the North Pole. Santa boarded the train when it stopped at the North Pole, allowing him to speak to every child as they traveled back to Newburyport. Every train passenger left with a little gift of cocoa to enjoy at home.

The North Pole Express is Immaculate Conception School's biggest fundraiser of the year and has become a beloved tradition for many families. Bob Hoffman, who has volunteered for years as a Platform Manager, took an annual picture with a family that he met 5 years ago. Bob marveled at the fact that he has become part of that family's Christmas tradition. Noticeable



Platform Managers. Bob Hoffman, far right. Photo courtesy of L. Capobianco

this year was the large number of families, some three generations in tow, that donned matching Christmas pajamas for the event. There was no shortage of smiles and excitement from the children, and compliments from the adult riders about the experience that Immaculate Conception creates.



Family in matching Elf movie outfits. Photo courtesy of L. Tangorra

The North Pole Express is made possible by dedicated and committed Immaculate Conception

School families who collectively volunteer thousands of hours over the course of a year to provide this event on the North Shore. It is an example of the deep sense of community that represents the values and mission of Immaculate Conception School.

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Dec. 2-3	\$1,966.00
HR Mailed-In Offertory, Week Ending Dec. 1	\$ 405.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 306.25
Total Weekly Offertory, Dec 2-3	\$2,677.25
Ongoing Church Maintenance, Dec. 2-3	\$ 804.00

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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: hrccatholic.org/hr-online-giving.

**HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$11,775.00**



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. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at Nativity Hall in Merrimac at 2:00 p.m. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you! All are welcome.

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 4 at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 2:00 p.m.

Communion to the Homebound

We would like to offer HR parishioners the opportunity to receive the Eucharist if you are homebound or unable to attend Mass on a regular basis. If any parishioner knows of someone who might be interested in receiving the Eucharist, please also let us know. This could be a one-time occasion, or a regular schedule could be arranged. Please call Melinda Burrell at 978-346-8604 to schedule a visit.

Decorating for Christmas at St. Ann & Nativity



We will be decorating **St. Ann Church** on Sunday, **December 17 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.** We can use some muscle. All are welcome.

We will be decorating **Nativity Church** on Sunday, **December 17 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.** Please stay after Mass and lend a hand. Lots of help is needed.

Helping this Holiday Season

Merrimac Holiday Helper Program is looking for pajamas and socks for school-aged children. Tags will be on the trees for specific children. Please be sure to return the tag and item **by December 10 (this weekend).**

Emmaus House is looking for \$25.00 gift cards from Target, CVS, and Walgreens. They are registered with Target for online shopping: go to Target.com, choose registry, first name: **Emmaus**, last name: **Inc.**, click wish list, view registry. You should be able to send it to Emmaus directly.

Pregnancy Care Center is looking for **new** onesies, (newborn-2T), blanket sleepers (newborn-2T), outfits (newborn-2T), crib sheets, baby wipes, diaper rash cream, baby bottles, **new** maternity clothing (leggings dresses, pajamas- sizes s-xl), gift cards from Walmart, Amazon, and Target. Paper towels, toilet paper. Toiletries for baby & Mom (bath wash, lotion, soap, shampoo & conditioner, etc.)

St. Vincent DePaul (See below)

Volunteers during Confessions for Advent

We are looking for parishioners from St. Ann and Nativity to be present in the churches during Wednesday night Confessions from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on December 13 (Nativity Church) and December 20 (St. Ann Church).

This is a wonderful opportunity to attend Confession and sit in the silence of the church to pray or read. There is nothing to do—just be a presence in the church during Confessions. To volunteer, contact Melinda at 978-346-8604. Thank you.

HR St. Vincent de Paul

Then the righteous will answer him and say, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?"

And the king will say to them in reply,
**"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these
least brothers of mine, you did for me."**

Matthew 34-40

The Gospel reading from last week reminds us that our devotion to Jesus is shown in the acts of kindness "for one of these least brothers of mine." These acts of kindness bring us closer to Jesus. The Holy Redeemer conference strives to serve the hungry and the needy among us... strangers that we welcome as friends. Please help us in that mission with your continued donations.

Once again, our conference will be using the Giving Trees at Nativity and St. Ann to solicit donations. Simply grab one of our yellow cards from the tree and return it with your gift cards donation to Dottie Carr or drop in the Poor Boxes in each church. An even easier way to donate would be to scan the QR code on the yellow tag and donate online or go to <https://bit.ly/stvincent-holy-redeemer> to donate. As always, anything that you can give is greatly appreciated.





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St. Ann

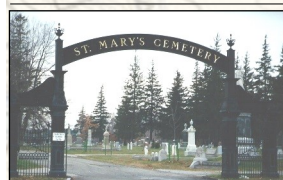
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Rectory: 46 Maple St., W. Newbury 01985
Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: info@hricatholic.org

Nativity

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Phone: 978-346-8604
Email: info@hricatholic.org

Immaculate Conception

Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
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Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
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Fax: 978-234-7399
Email: info@hricatholic.org



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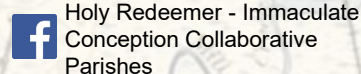
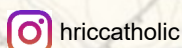
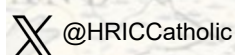
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978-360-8756

Donna Postle, IC Music Ministry Director
978-317-8903
Tim Richard, IC organist
Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator
978-270-4924

Confessions

Saturdays 3:00-3:30 p.m., IC Church
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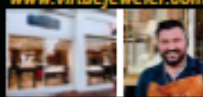


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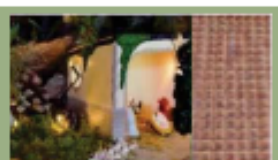
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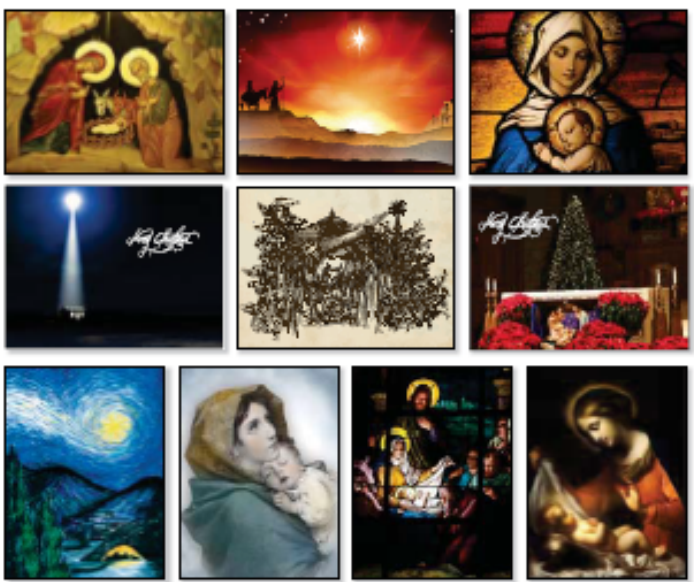
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