

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024



*Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!*

(Zep. 3:14)

hriccatholic.org

All Are Welcome



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

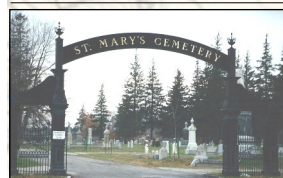
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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. William H. McLaughlin

Rev. George E. Morin

Rev. Charles Stanley

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Paul Dow

978-887-5350

Deacon John Moranski

978-432-1443

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Holy Redeemer

978-346-8604 x 4

hrrsudp300@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society at

Immaculate Conception

978-518-0728

St Mary's Cemetery

Joseph Viel, 978-208-0266

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Assistant/Bookkeeper

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Karen Leff, Coordinator of Media Outreach

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Lifelong Faith Formation

Aaron Giard, Director of Lifelong Faith
Formation

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

agiard@hriccatholic.org

Melinda Burrell, Administrative Assistant,
Lifelong Faith Formation

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Website: www.hriccatholic.org



Immaculate Conception School

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Bud Kent, IC Building Maintenance

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Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager

978-462-2724

emartinez@hriccatholic.org

Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, HR Organist

978-697-1082

Kathy Peavey, HR Vocalist

978-360-8756

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

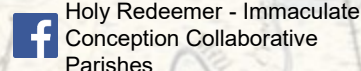
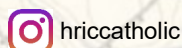
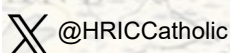
Tim Richard, IC organist

Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator
978-270-4924

Paula Quann, IC Youth Choir
609-519-3236

Confessions

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



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/14)

4:00pm **IC** Katherine Lombardo, Ernest Falvo,
Angelo & Eleanor Messina (Fr. Harrison)

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

Sunday (12/15)

8:30am **Nativity** Tom & Helen O'Donnell
(Fr. Stanley)

9:00am **IC** The Grealish & Corbett families,
Josephine Katz, Ted LoPreste (Fr. Harrison)

10:00am **St. Ann** Joe & Claire Doherty (Fr. Stanley)

11:30am **IC** Jerry Majocha, Guy Bernard
(Fr. McLaughlin)

Monday (12/16)

9:00am **IC** Adrienne T. Mosher, David R. Rock, (Fr. McLaughlin)

Tuesday (12/17)

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

Wednesday (12/18)

9:00am **IC** Jennie LaBonte. John D'Ambrosio
(Fr. Stanley)

Thursday (12/19)

9:00am **IC** Michael S. Bashaw (Fr. Morin)

Friday (12/20)

9:00am **IC** Paul Neil Kane (Fr. Harrison)

Saturday (12/21)

4:00pm **IC** John K. Herlihy, Vincent Forgione, Jean
Lipinski, Michael S. Bashaw (Fr. Stanley & Deacon
Dow)

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

Sunday (12/22)

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

9:00am **IC** Richard & Robert Ring, Emily & Jim
Saccone, James Saccone, Nancy Jones (Fr. Morin)

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

11:30am **IC** Jeanne Baughn (Fr. Morin & Deacon
Moranski)

*In your prayers please remember Anne LaPierre, Janet
Gurski, Julia Fallon, 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.

*View our weekly bulletin online on our website:
hriccatholic.org.*

Christmas Collections

At all of our Christmas Masses, the single collection will be to support the retirement, medical, and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners.

It all comes down to pie.

No, not pi (π) the mathematical constant referring to the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, or approximately 3.14159. Not that kind of pi. But pie! The baked, calorie-laden, mouth-watering kind of pie that we all crave and hunger for this time of the year. There are many varieties to choose from: apple, pecan, pumpkin, mincemeat, blueberry, cherry, banana cream, lemon meringue, coconut custard, and so much more! We all love pie...and left unchecked, our desire is always for more!

In seeking to understand and respond to John the Baptist's call to prepare the way of the Lord, the question the crowds asked him was: "What should we do?" (Lk 3:10) John's answer, across many varied circumstances, was to avoid greed in all its forms. Whoever had more clothing or food than they needed should share with those who are without. Only take what you are allowed, nothing more. Be satisfied with your station in life, seek restitution only where it is lacking and be content with the pay you normally receive. It is simple: enjoy your slice of the pie, but do not look to take more than your fair share.

How many of us, however, staring down at the succulent treat have, at one point or another, compared and measured to see which was the bigger piece? Which one had a better crust, extra filling spilling out or was cut just ever-so-slightly larger than the others. THAT was the one to get, to grab, to dig into before someone else scoffed it up! And, how many of us have tucked-in for that second piece?! I suppose that only gets spoken of in the confessional....

In some ways, it is the original sin. In tempting Eve, the serpent subtly invited her to compare the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil to all of the others in the

(Continued on page 4)

IC Haiti Second Collection

December 14–15

The chaotically violent conditions in Haiti continue unabated, particularly in the capital city Port au Prince. Still the Fr. Marc Piché elementary school on the south-central peninsula offers school-age children a stable educational environment along with a hot lunch program daily. And our partners at the Saint Boniface Hospital carry on 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing critical medical care to all in need.

Since 2009 IC Haiti has been proud to support the school community in Puit Chacha and the hospital in Fond des Blancs. The continuation of our two Collaborative parishes' mission to Haiti is reliant upon your generous response to Our Lord's call to take care of one another especially those who are most in need.

Once again, we ask you to be generous as the second collection on the weekend of December 14–15 will be taken up to support IC Haiti's mission to Haiti.



This Week in Our Collaborative

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

Monday, December 16

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

Tuesday, December 17

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

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

Wednesday, December 18

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

Adoration 3:00pm, Nativity Church

Confessions During Lent 3:00–4:00pm, Nativity Church

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm, IC Church

Confessions During Lent 6:00–7:30pm, St. Ann Church

Thursday, December 19

Nativity Pageant Rehearsal 3:45pm, IC Church

Confessions During Lent 6:30–8:00pm, IC Church

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, December 20

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

Troop 21 Scouts Mtg. 4:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall

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

Saturday, December 21

Quilters Mtg. 8:30am, Nativity Hall

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Faith Formation, Grades K–8 10:00am, IC Parish Center

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

Questions of the Week



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

Child: What do you do during the day that shows you are a follower of Jesus?

Adoration: Stop By



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)

Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE

(3:15 p.m. Christmas Pageant, IC Church)

4 p.m. IC Church (Live stream)

4 p.m. IC School Gym

4 p.m. St. Ann Church

4 p.m. Nativity Church & Hall

6 p.m. IC Church

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



(Continued from page 3)

Garden of Eden. "The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." (Gn 3:6) And it was all downhill from there! Shame, alienation, hiding, passing the blame, expulsion from Paradise, betrayal, murder, toil, drudgery and death itself were all the result of wanting just a little more pie....

And yet, when we place any created thing—pie, power, riches, or whatever above our duty to serve God and follow His commands, then it will never end well for us. For John, serving God meant serving others, particularly through meeting their daily needs—food, shelter, water, and protecting their God-given dignity. John begrudged no one the basics of life, but was quick to challenge anyone who tried to grab a bigger slice of it for themselves at the expense of others. He was particularly enraged at those who promoted systemic injustice, where the well-oiled machinery of "tradition" ground down the hopes and dreams of so many thousands over many decades of abuse. Way too much pie for too few while the many go without!

Greed, when subtly woven into human culture over long periods of time, molders into a confoundingly invasive infection that powerfully resists any and all efforts to correct or remove it. And yet John fearlessly confronts sin in all of its ways by calling people to name and acknowledge it before God, trusting in His mercy and forgiveness. Sin, John knows, cannot stand the light of God's righteousness. Exposed for what it is, it withers and fades just like mildew in bright sunlight. God's offer of Salvation in Christ breaks the cycle of sin-begetting-sin, of that constant and warped desire to relentlessly seek more pie than we need. Even the Israelites in the desert struggled with this craving for more pie, when they gathered more manna than they needed for that day: "Moses said to them, 'Let no one leave any of it over until morning.' But they did not listen to Moses, and some kept a part of it over until morning, and it became wormy and stank. Therefore Moses was angry with them." (Ex 16:19–20). Greed simply cannot be part of God's Kingdom—neither here and now, nor in the time to come.

Thus, if Advent calls us to watch for the day of Christ's coming, it must be an active watching—a time of confronting injustice, of seeking within our own spheres of influence and in the midst of our daily circumstances the righteousness that is worthy of God. And it all comes down to pie: enjoying the slice that is genuinely ours, but always with respect to making sure our many neighbors' slices are equally savored by them and all are well cared-for to the greater Glory of God.

That's pie, as it was meant to be!

Advent Blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

Christmas Pageant

Join us for a Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve at IC Church. The pageant will feature children from our Faith Formation program.

The pageant will begin at 3:15 p.m., before 4:00 Christmas Eve Mass begins (the pageant is about 20 minutes long).

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

San Marcos Coffee Sale

December 14–15

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 14–15**. 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. *Feliz Navidad!*

Prayers for the Sick

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

Rosemarie Anderson	Jeanine Ebacher Fowler	Carol O’Neal
Patricia Baikewicz	Ed Hardy	Eleanora Paciulan
John Bourque	Jane Harney	Joseph Palumbo
Kathy P. Brodeur	Chloe Hequet	Joanne Pesa
Priscilla Brown	Armand Hyatt	Elizabeth Pettingell
Vasfije Buhali	Justin Johnson	Donika Pulake
Autumn Rose	Michael Juralewicz	Rose Raimo
Coulombe	Arthur LaPointe	Rob Schweizer
Bill Crounse	Michael	Yvonne Sloban
Drew Daubach	Lichtenstein	Gary Smith
Kristen D’Entremont	Johannah Lord	Arlene Stoddard
Deb Downie	Monica Maguire	Taylor
Ann-Margaret	Sia Mahalati	Captain Bill Taplin
Ferrante	Ovidio Martinez	Tom Tribble
John Flynn	Patricia Carey	Michael Tucker
Renee Fowler	McCarthy	Maddie Villers
		Laurent Vincent

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.

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 2 at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 2:00 p.m. You are welcome to join us!

Looking for Yarn Donations

We are always looking for **yarn donations**. Do you have some leftover yarn from an old project? Maybe a family member who no longer knits or crochets? We are asking for **only full skeins and no wool yarn** (we have some who are allergic to wool.). Contact Helen at 978-771-4673 and she will arrange to pick it up.

All-Pilgrimage Reunion Mass

Join us for an All-Pilgrimage Reunion Mass and Social on **Thursday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m.** in Nativity Church and Hall. Anyone who attended one of our pilgrimages is invited to join us.

MEDJUGORJE



\$2,949 per person
from Boston (BOS)

*All Pricing Based on Double Occupancy.
Pricing available from any airport:
www.206tours.com/airports

Optional 4 nights Post Tour to Dubrovnik and Split:
May 06 – 10, 2025
\$1,873 per person

April 28 - May 06, 2025



The HRIC Pilgrimage Ministry is excited to announce two Pilgrimages for 2025. Website registration is open now for both of these fantastic itineraries (links below).

Medjugorje: www.206tours.com/cms/blanchette/medjugorje/

(Booking Code PB042825)

France: www.206tours.com/cms/blanchette/france/
(Booking Code: PB101325)

Great Shrines & Saints of France

October 13 - 25, 2025

\$7,149 per person from Boston (BOS)

All prices based on double occupancy.
Pricing available from any airport: www.206tours.com/airports



Spiritual Director:
Fr. Tim Harrison

Group Leaders:
Paul & Christine
Blanchette

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

HRIC Soup & Sandwich Program

There will be NO Soup and Sandwich delivery on Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25.



Thank you all who participate in this extremely worthwhile program. Your unfailing support throughout the year in providing delicious soups, sandwiches and casseroles to those in need is very much appreciated! You are truly following Jesus directive to love your neighbor!

Advent Retreat

Silent Night, Holy Night

The hymn "Silent Night" conveys the essence of the Incarnation's powerful mystery and the transforming gifts the Word made flesh and dwelling among us brings. We hear the music and are quieted. The words touch our hearts with its message of peace, light, awe, hope, and salvation. We see Mary holding her child and sense God is near, his love unconditional. All is calm. All is bright.

This Advent retreat will respond to your longing by exploring contemplative spirituality. Contemplative prayer and practices of silence, solitude, service, and living in the present moment may help you experience God's presence in daily life and move you from living in your head to living from your heart, your center and truest self where God abides.

Our Blessed Mother will be our guide and example as we explore this contemplative, receptive way, this openness to God through silence and surrender.

I will provide material from scripture and contemplative works for reading and reflection and meet with you for four in-person or Zoom spiritual direction sessions you schedule throughout retreat. 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.

Retreat Opens Dec. 1; Retreat Closes Dec. 24

Spiritual director: Elizabeth McCarthy, Certified Spiritual Director, MA Pastoral Counseling.

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

Suggested donation: \$90.00

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.

Extra Confession Times During Advent

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

Wednesday **Dec. 18** from 3–4 p.m. at **Nativity**

Wednesday **Dec. 18** from 6–7:30 p.m. at **St. Ann**

Thursday **Dec. 19** from 6:30–8 p.m. at **IC**

Collaborative Faith Formation

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

Faith Formation schedules and registration forms for the 2024–25 school year are available on our website at www.hricatholic.org/Faith-Formation. Please be sure to check out the new information for Confirmation prep.

Baptism

We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism on the second Sunday of each month at IC Church at the 11:30 Mass. Please call the Collaborative offices (978-462-2724 or 978-346-8604) for more information.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation moved from grade 10 to grade 8. As a result, our Faith Formation and Sacramental preparation process have changed. Help us to spread the word to families of middle schoolers who may not be aware.

HR Cookbooks for Sale

If you would like to purchase a copy of the HR parish cookbook, they are available in the IC parish offices during business hours. Stop in and ask for Melinda. They are \$15 each and make great gifts!



Centering Prayer for Advent

During Advent please consider joining us weekly for Centering Prayer. 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.

Please consider leaving the noise of 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. During Advent 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

HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Dec. 7-8	\$2,999.00
HR Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Dec. 6	\$ 557.50
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 277.00
Total Weekly Offertory, Dec. 7-8	\$3,833.50

Monthly, Dec 7-8	\$1,570.00
The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	\$ 328.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 15) is IC Haiti. **Make checks payable to "IC Haiti."** See page 3 of the bulletin for more details. No second collection next weekend (Dec. 22).

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

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

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

**HR Grand Annual
Goal \$25,000
To Date \$18,835.00**



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Save the Date

An appreciation dinner for all Holy Redeemer volunteers will be held on **Saturday, March 8 after the 4:00 p.m. Mass** at Nativity. It will be held in Nativity Hall. As the date gets closer, we will send out invitations and ask for an R.S.V.P.

The dinner is sponsored by the Collaborative Ministry Committee.

Save Your Baskets for the Fair

The "Basket Table," for next year's Holiday Fair, would like you to save any baskets you may get this Christmas. Please leave them in the back of either church and we will recycle them for next year's fair. Also, we like to use 1½ – 2" wired ribbon for our bows. If you come across any good bargains at Christmas!

Also, please remember to return your Fair lawn signs so that we can use them again next year.



Thanks to all who helped set up the outdoor creche at St. Ann. It is lovely!

St. Ann Tree of Need Gift Tags



If you took a tag from the Tree of Need and were not able to return your gift items last week for Emmaus House, St. Vincent de Paul, or the Pregnancy Care Center, you can still do so after Masses this weekend (December 14-15).

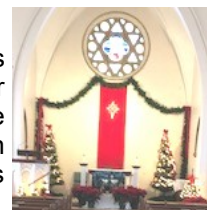
There is a bin at the entrance to the church where you can place your items. Thank you for your incredible generosity.

Decorating St. Ann Church for Christmas

Christmas is coming.

Let us prepare for His birth.

We will be decorating for Christmas Masses at St Ann on Sunday, December 22 directly after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. We could use your help—10 minutes or an hour. All would be helpful. Many hands make light the work. Merry Christmas!



Activities Committee Meeting

The Activities Committee will have its next meeting on Sunday, December 29 at 11:30 a.m. at Nativity Hall.

**HAPPY
Birthday**

Final preparations for Fr. George's 80th birthday reception on January 11 will be discussed. Please, come join us!

HR St. Vincent de Paul

Our Conference by the Numbers

Our annual report has been submitted and we'd like to share some statistics from 2024. As has been our practice every year, 100% of fundraising and donation money is returned to the community! Where does the assistance go?

- 57% goes toward housing assistance, rent, etc.
- 23% goes toward utilities: oil, gas, and electric
- 5% goes toward food, gift cards, etc.
- 15% goes toward miscellaneous: car repair, insurance, gasoline, and clothing

Where does the money come from? 85% from parishioners and 15% from fundraisers and other donations. Here are some other important 2024 statistics: 2 new members, 34 in-person/home visits, and over 650 hours of service. In return we receive boundless spiritual consolation, countless smiles, hugs, and notes of gratitude. If you want to become part of this rewarding ministry please contact Dave Olds at 978-914-5443 or call the message line at 978-346-8604.

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

Don't forget to grab a tag off the Giving Trees and make a Gift Card donation to St. Vincent de Paul!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Dec. 7-8	\$5,189.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Dec. 6	\$4,032.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$2,768.27
Total Weekly Offertory, Dec. 7-8	\$11,989.27

Monthly, Dec. 7-8	\$1,172.00
The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	\$ 498.00

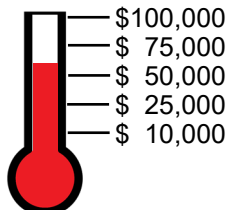
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If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to **Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.**

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 \$60,033.00**



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.svdnewburyport.org or scan the QR code. 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

No Breaking Bread Meal will be served on Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31.

Advent Giving Trees

The trees are up in the vestibule decorated with tags for gift cards to Market Basket/Shaw's, CVS/Walgreens, gas, and Walmart. The gift cards which you purchase enable us to help our neighbors in need throughout the coming year. You may drop the gift cards in the Collection Boxes during any Mass.

Thank you for your generosity,
Your IC St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Knights of Columbus

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, January 14 at 7:00 p.m.**

Immaculate Conception School

The Immaculate Conception School 8th grade class holds an annual Christmas Store for the school children to secretly shop for family and friends. The Christmas Store offers gift selections for all ages and types of activities and hobbies. From men's socks, oven mitts, crystal jewelry, back scratchers, holiday hats, and pet toys, there is something for everyone. With the list of people they want to shop for in hand, the 8th grade students help each child select gifts while keeping to their budget. They wrap and tag each gift so the younger schoolmate can place them under their Christmas tree. On Christmas morning the young students hand out their gifts to their family members who have no idea that they shopped for them. The close relationship between the older and younger students is fostered through the joyful experience of shopping and wrapping for loved ones. The eighth graders take such good care of their younger schoolmates, making sure that their choices are well thought out and affordable. The conversations that take place while the 8th grader wraps all the gifts is really very endearing. The eighth grade students at Immaculate Conception School play an important role each year in providing experiences for the younger students. They look forward to their role as leaders and value the relationships that are fostered through annual traditions.



Evelyn puts a lot of thought into her gift choices, while Nathan keeps track of the budget.



Nora has picked out a basket of gifts with Anna's help.



Liam has Chloe all set to put her gifts under her Christmas tree!

IC PARISH

Help Send IC to DC

Please visit Beach Plum Flower Shop from **through December 15** for your Christmas florals and greenery.

Mention **Immaculate Conception School** and 10% of your purchase will go towards sending our 8th graders to Washington DC this spring.

Beach Plum Flower Shop is located at 50 Water Street Suite 301 (in the Tannery) in Newburyport.

Win Cash!

IC School annual holiday calendars are now available. For over 20 years, IC School has run a holiday calendar fundraiser. Each \$10 calendar gives individuals 40 chances to win a grand total of \$4,800 in cash prizes. A winner is drawn each day from January 4–February 12 to receive a cash prize of \$100, \$200, or \$300. Calendars are available at IC School, IC Church lobby, and the IC Parish Center. To enter, fill out the buyer's name and contact information in the space at the bottom of the calendar. Cut it off and return both the ticket stub and the money to the School Office or to the Parish Center office no later than January 3, 2025. Check payments should be made out to Immaculate Conception School or cash is accepted.

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.



Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception
Collaborative Parishes

Recitation of the Rosary

Join us for recitation of the rosary Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. (before 9:00 Mass) in person at IC Church or on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/hriccatholic/



Newburyport Choral Society

On Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 15 at 2:30 p.m. the Newburyport Choral Society, under the direction of Dr. Minji Kim, will perform a selection of beautiful holiday music that expresses joy, love, remembrance, and spiritual connection. This year the performances will take place at Rupert A. Nock Middle School auditorium, 70 Low Street, Newburyport.

Entitled "Luminous Night," this festive Winter Concert program features the 120-voice chorus, piano, and organ accompaniment by Dr. Kirsten Helgeland, as well as a string quartet and percussion instruments. All are welcome! For information, visit www.newburyportchoralsociety.org/events.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS



Nancy Rose was the proud winner of the IC Harvest Fair's "Dinner with Fr. Tim" Raffle!



Nancy and her family enjoyed a wonderful meal created and cooked by Fr. Tim himself. All attending agreed that every bite was FANTASTIC and sharing the evening with Frs. Tim and Charlie was wonderful.

Women's Advent Retreat



During Advent's first week, Fr. George led a group of women in a silent retreat at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, MA.

Silence was broken to join the monks in celebrating morning Mass and in quietly praying the Liturgy of the Hours from pre-dawn Vigils to bedtime Compline prayers.

Solitude was complemented with gatherings for rosary, Scripture reading, and for conferences, private conversations, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Simeon, a Trappist monk and priest.

Key take-aways for Advent and year 'round from Fr. Simeon's reflections on Luke's Zacchaeus story: When we seek to see Jesus and ready ourselves to be "findable", we encounter Jesus who is always seeking to find and to save she/he who is lost.

We thank Abbot Dom Vincent, Fr. Simeon, the Guest Master monks, and all of the monks at the Abbey for welcoming us so warmly into their monastic home and life. May our Lord and Savior bless St. Joseph's Trappist community with a joyous Christmas and a peaceful, hopeful New Year.

"St. Joseph's Abbey is a cloistered Roman Catholic monastery of monks of the Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance, popularly known as Trappists." (spencerabbey.org).

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"Jesus Wept" John 11:35

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A large, detailed pink rose is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page. The rose is shown in a close-up, with many layers of petals visible, creating a sense of depth and texture. The color is a soft, vibrant pink.

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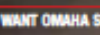
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