

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

All Are Welcome

hricatholic.org



John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." John 1:26-27



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

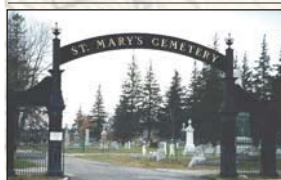
Parish, church, rectory, and offices:
42 Green St., Newburyport 01950

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, 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,

Mill City Management Corporation

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burrell@hriccatholic.org

Website: www.hriccatholic.org



Immaculate Conception School

Joan Sullivan, Principal, 978-465-7780
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978-462-2724

bkent@hriccatholic.org

Eddie Martinez, IC Facilities Manager

978-462-2724

emartinez@hriccatholic.org

Music Ministry

Jennifer Acorn, HR Organist

978-697-1082

Kathy Peavey, HR Vocalist

978-360-8756

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

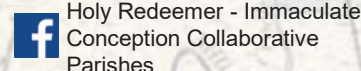
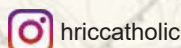
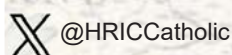
Tim Richard, IC organist

Steve Swochak, IC Music Coordinator

978-270-4924

Confessions

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



COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/16) Third Sunday of Advent

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) Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Nativity (Fr. Harrison)

9:00am IC John & Joseph Hynes, Liza Mataac
Dodson, Roger Gagnon

(Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Moranski)

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

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

Monday (12/18)

9:00am IC John D'Ambrosio, For the Intentions of
Jenny Labonte (Fr. McLaughlin)

Tuesday (12/19)

9:00am IC Alton Tobey & Lena Maccarone
(Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (12/20)

9:00am IC William Plant (Fr. Stanley)

Thursday (12/21)

9:00am IC Joyce Meekins (Fr. Morin)

Friday (12/22)

9:00am IC (Fr. Harrison)

Saturday (12/23) Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00pm IC Jack Walsh & Richard Barro, Edward &
Eleanor Hardy, Michael Hardy
(Fr. Stanley & Deacon Dow)

4:00pm St. Ann (Fr. Harrison & Deacon Moranski)

Sunday (12/24) Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am Nativity (Fr. McLaughlin)

9:00am IC (Fr. Morin)

10:00am St. Ann (Fr. Harrison & Deacon
Moranski)

11:30am IC NOT SCHEDULED THIS WEEK

In your prayers please remember all of the faithful departed.

The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

Saturday Vigil Mass is live-streamed online through our
website: hriccatholic.org.

Christmas Mass Schedule

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, December 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



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."



Follow Us on Instagram
HRICatholic

Confessions 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:

Wednesday December 20 at St. Ann Church, West Newbury, from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Thursday December 21, 6:30–8:00 p.m. at IC Church

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.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, December 18

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

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

IC 175th Committee Mtg. 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall

Scout Troop 41 Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, December 19

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

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

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

IC Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm, IC Church

Wednesday, December 20

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library

IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:15pm, IC Church

Confessions during Advent 6:30–8:00pm, St. Ann Church

Thursday, December 21

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

Adoration 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, December 22

Adoration 9:30am, IC Church

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

Saturday, December 23

Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Note: all Sunday morning Masses on 12-24 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 to prepare for Christmas Eve later that day.

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

Like Us on Facebook

Holy Redeemer - Immaculate Conception Collaborative Parishes

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.

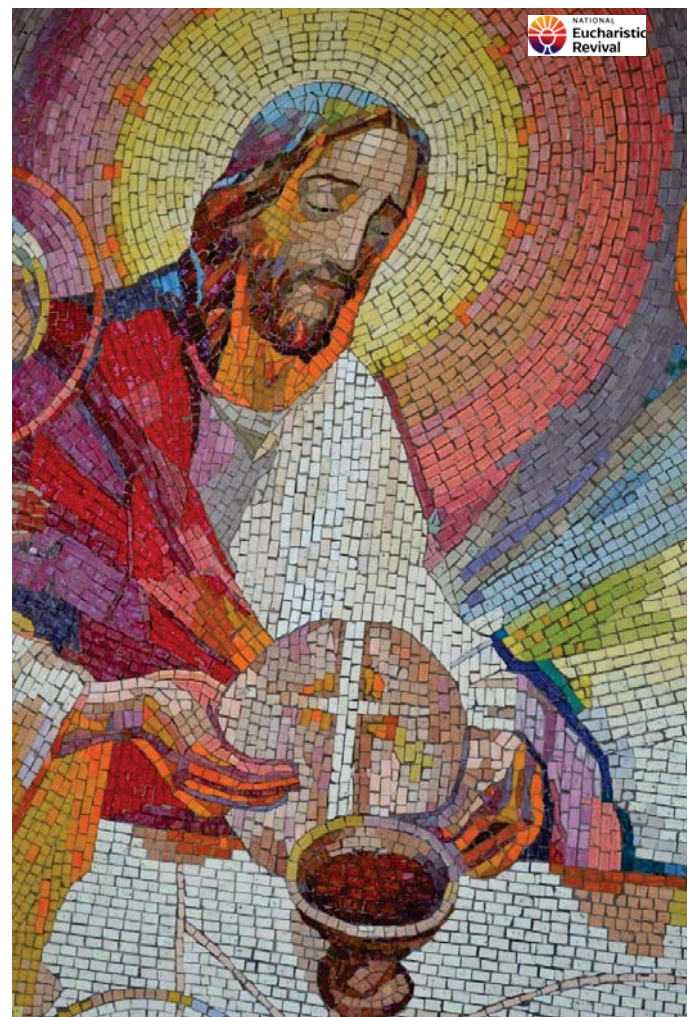
Please consider leaving the noise of world and the busyness of your day behind for an hour on Wednesday evenings from 6–7 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.

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

National Eucharistic Revival Event

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.

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

Prayers for the Sick

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

Patricia Baikewicz	Jay Hanslig	Joanne Pesa
Priscilla Brown	Ed Hardy	Lee Preble
Vasfije Buhali	Jane Harney	Donika Pulake
Martha Collins	Terence Healey	Douglas Rose
Autumn Rose	Rosemarie Hines	Maureen Russell
Coulombe	Linda Hofferly	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	Maddie Villers
Ann-Margaret	Eleanora Paciulan	Laurent Vincent
Ferrante	Joseph Palumbo	

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. We are making a difference for them. Thank you!

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.

Questions of the Week



Adult: How can you live out the promise of your Baptism daily?

Child: Why do you think it is important to keep promises?

View our weekly bulletin online on our website:
hricCatholic.org.

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.

Eucharist: Body and Soul Therapy in a Monstrance

Whatever ails, Jesus heals. His secret therapy for living well today and for how you will enter eternity is "hiding" in plain view! Accept Jesus' wordless prescription during Adoration. Come to Adoration. Be. Then be healed.

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

Time: Thursdays 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Fridays 9:30 a.m.



Christmas Collections

Next week, at all our Christmas Masses, our only 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. Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit clergytrust.org.

Gracias and Feliz Navidad!

Thank you HRIC for a successful Christmas coffee sale to assist the poor farmers of Honduras. We even sent Cardinal Seán home with a couple of bags of San Marcos coffee!

A shout out to our confirmation candidates Cameron Garbardi and Connor Keefe who did the heavy lifting, tedious labeling, and pre-order preparation. We may have a few more pounds left over to sell as you are reading this so text/call Karen 978-270-0183 if you missed out.

Paz y Bien a Todos!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Dear Parishioners,

I want to express a heartfelt **Thank You!** to everyone who came together to help celebrate our 175th Anniversary this past weekend on and around the Patronal Feast of our parish. I am deeply grateful to all of the members of the 175th Committee, the Gala Committee, as well as the Immaculate Conception Adult Choir for their hard work in planning, preparing, and celebrating this important milestone for our faith community. It was a job well-done!

Below are the words of Bishop Fenwick that were reprinted from the May 8, 1852 edition of *The Boston Pilot* newspaper on the occasion of the Blessing of the Cornerstone of Immaculate Conception Church on April 27, 1852:

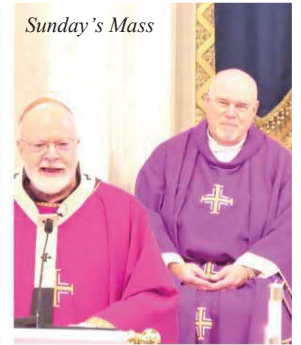
Such a thing had never before happened in Newburyport. It is an old town lately elevated to the rank of a city. It is a quiet, old-fashioned New England town with a reputation for Puritanism that has long caused it to be regarded as the most precise place in precise, straight-laced Massachusetts. It has, like Salem, Plymouth, and some other New England towns, a grave, wrinkled, old witch look about it, as if it were haunted by the ghosts of the old puritans, and the witches tossed by them in blankets, drowned, hanged or otherwise put out of misery. In a town like this, the ceremonies attending the commencement of a Catholic Church constituted an event to be remembered long. Indeed it appeared to some of the worthy decedents of the Pilgrims that the Pope had taken solemn possession of the town.

The inhabitants turned out in a body to assist at the ceremony. A few of the more fanatical were filled with horror and concern, and they shut themselves up in their houses, exclaiming "Ichabod! Ichabod, the glory hath departed from Newburyport!" But the great mass of citizens were interested spectators of the functions that day.

We are most grateful for both Bishop Hennessey and Cardinal Seán O'Malley for their presence and prayerful support for our parish community this weekend and always.

Advent Blessings to all,

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor



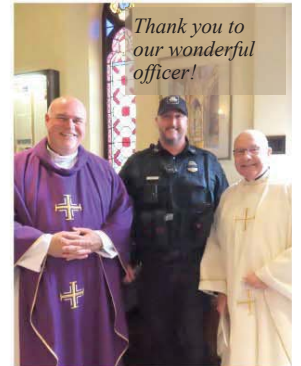
Sunday's Mass



We were pleased to welcome some former clergy who served at Immaculate Conception Parish in years past. From left to right: Fr. Derek Borek, Fr. Matt Williams, Fr. Tim Harrison, Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Fr. George Morin, Deacon John Moranski, Fr. Bob Connors, and Fr. Charlie Stanley.



With the Cardinal



Thank you to our wonderful officer!



Gala fun



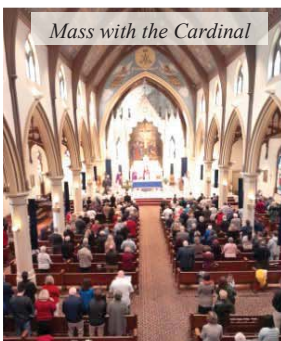
The Cardinal, sharing his homily during the Mass.



Reception after Sunday's Mass



Reception after Sunday's Mass



Mass with the Cardinal



Mayor Reardon at the Gala



Bishop Hennessey greets guests after Mass

175TH ANNIVERSARY



Knights of Columbus with Bishop Hennessey



Immaculate Conception School students celebrated Mass for the Patronal Feast of the School and Parish.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception



Bishop Hennessey passes by the Knights of Columbus Color Guard on the Patronal feast of the Immaculate Conception



Mass with Bishop Hennessey



Praying the Eucharistic Prayer during Mass with the Cardinal



A tasty treat awaited all who attended the reception in the school gym afterwards.



Gala fun



Gala fun

IC students gather with the Cardinal following Mass on Sunday with a welcome banner signed by the whole school community.



IC Faith, Fun, & Fellowship Committee

After such a glorious and fun gala on Friday, December 8 to celebrate our 175th Anniversary a group of parishioners shared our hopes with one another that having that much fun as a parish is something we'd love to do more often.

We are reaching out to all our fun-loving parishioners to join in! We will be having our first meeting of Immaculate Conception Parish's Faith, Fun and Fellowship Committee after the New Year. If you would like to be a part of our parish's new committee please contact Nancy Rose via text at 978-270-1579. Thank you and let the fun continue!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

IC Offertory, Dec. 9–10	\$3,493.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Dec. 8	\$7,003.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$3,193.09
Total Weekly Offertory, Dec. 9–10	\$13,689.09
Holy Day: Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8	\$1,738.00
Monthly, Dec 9–10	\$1,010.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 17) is IC Haiti. **Please make checks payable to "IC Haiti."** No second collection next weekend (Dec. 24). See page 5 for Christmas collections (Clergy Trust).

Unless otherwise indicated, make out checks to Immaculate Conception Parish with the second collection noted in the memo. If you would like to mail in your envelopes, send them to Immaculate Conception Parish, 42 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

**IC Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$60,950.00**



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.svdnewburyport.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! **Note:** There will be no Breaking Bread meal on December 26.

Immaculate Conception School

The Immaculate Conception School 8th grade class holds an annual Christmas Store and helps their younger schoolmates secretly shop for family and friends. With the list of people they want to shop for in hand, the 8th grade students, sporting "Santa's down the chimney" hats, help each child select the perfect gifts. Then, the eighth graders



Reece and Lindsay help Millie and Emma shop for gifts in the housewares section. (Left to right)

Photo courtesy of L. Capobianco

wrap and tag each individual gift for the younger schoolmate to take home and put under their Christmas tree. On Christmas morning the young students hand out their gifts to their family members who had 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 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. The 8th graders take such good care of their younger schoolmates, making sure that their choices are well thought out and affordable, given their budget. The conversations that take place while the 8th grader wraps all the gifts is really very endearing. The 8th 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.



Eve helps Tae study her list. Photo courtesy of L. Capobianco

Millennium Gospel Choir

Performing at Immaculate Conception Church,
Sunday, January 7, 2:30 p.m.



Don't miss this opportunity to get your praise on and enjoy an afternoon of holiday, spiritual, and gospel music performed by the renowned Millennium Gospel Choir of Boston.

As part of the continued celebration of the 175th anniversary of Immaculate Conception Parish, the choir will entertain with classic and contemporary selections sure to inspire everyone's participation.

The concert is free and open to the community.



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Dec. 9–10	\$1592.00
HR Mailed-In Offertory, Week Ending Dec. 8	\$1115.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 306.25
Total Weekly Offertory, Dec 9–10	\$3013.25
Holy Day: Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8	\$749.00
Monthly, Dec. 9–10	\$1426.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 17) is **IC Haiti**. Please make checks payable to "IC Haiti." No second collection next weekend (Dec. 24). See p. 5 for Christmas collections (Clergy Trust).

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 \$12,975.00



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

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 right)

Volunteers during Confessions for Advent

We are looking for parishioners from St. Ann and Nativity to be present in St. Ann during Wednesday night Confessions from 6:30–8:00 p.m. on December 20.

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.

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.

HR St. Vincent de Paul

Have you spent time reflecting on your plans for Advent? How can we spend these days of Advent in preparation? Your plans may include prayer. Perhaps a personal agenda to contact an old friend or make a new friend. Or perhaps you may have a charitable agenda. Our conference is seeing a marked increase in requests for help in our local community. Acts of charity during Advent have special meaning for those who give and those who receive.



Once again, our conference is 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 (seen here), also 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.





Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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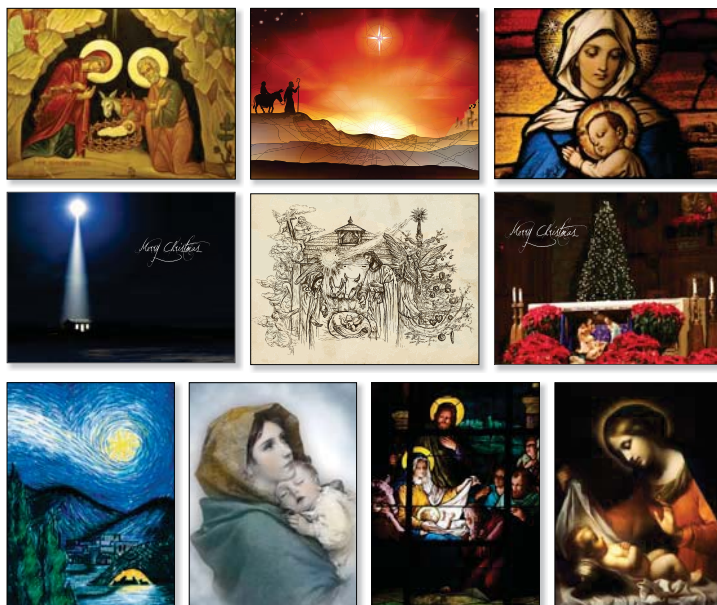
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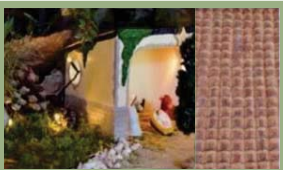
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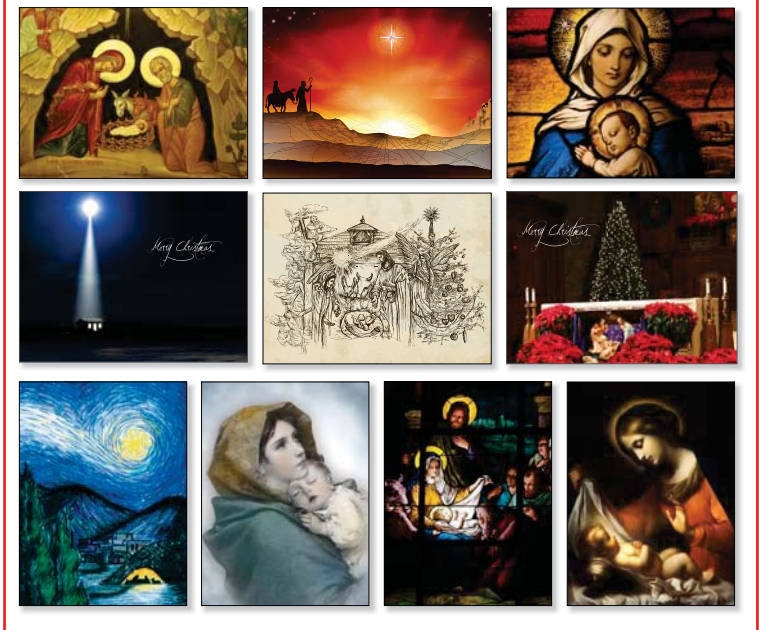
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