

HOLY REDEEMER AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLABORATIVE PARISHES

SERVING MERRIMAC, NEWBURY, NEWBURYPORT, AND WEST NEWBURY

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

All Are Welcome

hricatholic.org



*Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether
in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning."*

(Mk 13:35)

175th Anniversary Gala

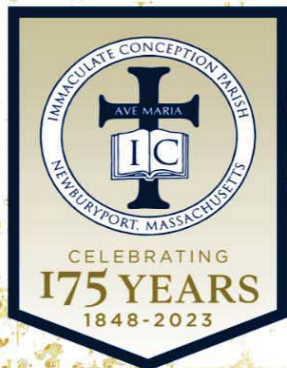
Immaculate Conception
Parish

Friday, December 8, 2023

7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

(Following 5:30 p.m. Anniversary Mass at IC Church)

Steeple Hall, Mission Oak Grill



Join fellow parishioners at the Gala for hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, cash bar, live music with the band PartyOn!, and dancing to celebrate 175 years of faith and service. Tickets are \$50/ person and must be purchased in advance.

Tickets on sale following all IC weekend Masses until sold out.

Questions?

*Contact Melinda in the office: 978-462-2724,
Mary: 508-269-3405, or Jan: 978-270-5128.*

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

Mass Schedule

Saturday (12/2)

4:00pm **IC** *Stephen M. Boy, The O'Connor Family, John (Jack) Gagne* (Fr. McLaughlin & Deacon Dow)
 4:00pm **St. Ann** *John & Ellen Johnson* (Fr. Morin & Deacon Moranski)

Sunday (12/3) **First Sunday of Advent**

8:30am **Nativity** *Leonard DesMarais* (Fr. Harrison)
 9:00am **IC** *Bob, Oscar, & William Moore* (Fr. Stanley)
 10:00am **St. Ann** *Jerry Mullen* (Fr. Harrison)
 11:30am **IC** *Fr. Michael Welch Josephine Minalio* (Fr. Morin)

Monday (12/4)

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

Tuesday (12/5)

9:00am **IC** *Raymond Walter Bratschi* (Fr. Harrison)

Wednesday (12/6)

9:00am **IC** *The Niles, Keefe, Swochak & Macri families* (Fr. Stanley)

Thursday (12/7)

9:00am **IC** *Elizabeth Perkins, Marie A. Burke* (Fr. Morin)

Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass

4:00pm **Nativity** (Fr. Stanley)

Friday (12/8), Immaculate Conception

9:00am **IC** *the McDermott Family* (Fr. McLaughlin)
 9:00am **St. Ann** (Fr. Morin)
 5:30pm **IC** (Bishop Hennessey)

Saturday (12/9)

4:00pm **IC** *The Driscoll Family* (Fr. Harrison)
 4:00pm **St. Ann** (Fr. McLaughlin)

Sunday (12/10) **Second Sunday of Advent**

8:30am **Nativity** (Fr. Morin)
 9:00am **IC** *Tom & 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)

In your prayers please remember Dr. William H. Waters and all of the faithful departed.

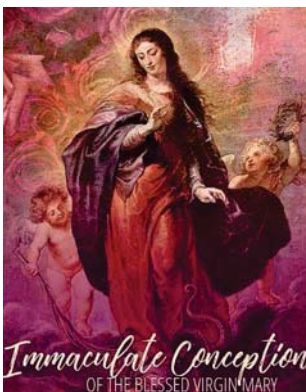
The priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

IC—Immaculate Conception, Newburyport

Nativity—Merrimac

St. Ann—West Newbury

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



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, December 8
 Holy Day of Obligation

Masses in the Collaborative:

Thursday, December 7

4:00pm, Nativity

Friday, December 8

9:00am, St. Ann

9:00am, IC

5:30pm, IC

(Join us for Mass before the Gala)

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,



It is hard to put into words the very human experience of witnessing a sunrise. In the far reaches of the night, before any of the coming light touches our world, the darkness that surrounds us can be profound. It is that time in the very early morning when our personal energy is at its lowest emotionally and spiritually. Our bodies crave sleep and our minds are at their dullest. Our insecurities and worries are usually front and center, whether in our dreams or in our vaguely-waking thoughts. We are weak and drowsy. It is so easy and tempting to turn over and hit the snooze button.

And yet, our hearts begin to soar and our spirits rejoice as the first glimpses of light begin to brighten the horizon. A new day is upon us, filled with potential and hope. Even if yesterday was miserable, this is a new day—a new opportunity to do things differently, better, and with greater joy. The coming light has a significant and measurable affect on us, boosting our minds and hearts to embrace the new day that is unfolding before our eyes.

The Church has used this image of the impending dawn to help us understand the two-fold character of the Advent season. First, it reminds us that Christ has promised to return in a Second Coming at a time and on a day that we do not know. Every day, week, month, year, decade, and century brings us closer to that moment when He will fulfill that promise. Since we do not know exactly when it will occur, the only reasonable, logical, and practical way to prepare for it is to live our lives today in such a way that will have us ready to welcome Him when He does come, even if it happens at sunset, at midnight, at dawn, or right in the middle of the day. The Light of Christ is coming into the world, just as certain as the dawn will come after the night,

(Continued on page 4)

Collaborative Contacts

Holy Redeemer

4 Green St., Merrimac 01860

Phone: 978-346-8604

info@hriccatholic.org

Immaculate Conception

42 Green St., Nbpt. 01950

Phone: 978-462-2724

Fax: 978-234-7399

info@hriccatholic.org

Office Hours: M–F 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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Karen Leff, Media Outreach Coordinator,

hricbulletin@gmail.com

COLLABORATIVE NEWS

This Week in Our Collaborative

Monday, December 4

AA Mtg. 10:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
Women at the Well Mtg. 6:30pm, IC Charity Dining Room
Novena to Mary, Day 6 7:00pm, IC Church
Scout Troop 41 Mtg. 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

Tuesday, December 5

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
Novena to Mary, Day 7 7:00pm, IC Church

Wednesday, December 6

Holy Jammers Practice 10:00am, IC Nazareth Library
IC Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:15pm, IC Church
Scout Pack 26 Mtg. 5:30pm, Nativity Hall
Novena to Mary, Day 8 7:00pm, IC Church

Thursday, December 7

ICS PTO Mtg. 8:30am, IC St. Louis Hall
Mysteries of the Rosary Series 9:45am, IC Charity Dining Room
HR Prayer Shawl 1:00pm, Nativity Hall
Novena to Mary, Day 9 7:00pm, IC Church

Friday, December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception

AA Mtg. 7:00pm, IC St. Louis Hall
IC 175th Anniversary Gala 7:00pm, Mission Oak Grill

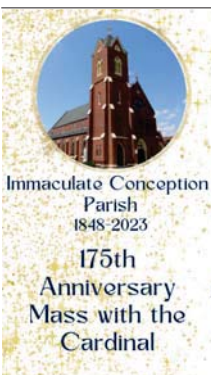
Saturday, December 9

San Marcos Coffee Sales after Masses
Confessions 3:00pm, IC Church

Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

San Marcos Coffee Sales after Masses
Advent/Christmas Festival 10:00am, IC St. Louis Hall
Cardinal Seán Celebrates Mass at IC for the 175th Anniversary 11:30am, IC Church
Reception with Cardinal Seán 12:30pm, ICS Gym
Baptisms 1:00pm, IC Church
IC Confirmation Prep., Year 1 3:30pm, IC St. Louis Hall
HR Confirmation Prep., Year 1 7:00pm, Nativity Hall

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



All are welcome to join
in the liturgy celebrated by
His Eminence Cardinal Seán O'Malley
on Sunday, December 10 at 11:30 a.m.
at 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.

(Continued from page 3)

and we best be ready to embrace the fullness of His love when He comes!

The second character of Advent is found in our preparations to celebrate the First Coming of Christ at the Feast of His Nativity—Christmas! As the words of the popular Advent hymn, "People Look East" remind us:

*People, look East. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

Our preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth must include more than simply cleaning the house, putting up a tree with lights or buying gifts for family and friends. It means we also spend time in prayer, pondering all the promises in the Sacred Scriptures of who the Christ would be and the deep mystery of the Lord's birth into our human history in Bethlehem of old. It means that we seek reconciliation and forgiveness when needed, we clothe the naked, give food and drink to the those in need, visit the lonely, and care for those who are imprisoned. God's plan of salvation is dawning upon us and we must be awake and ready to participate fully in its every aspect.

In these days to come, just as the rising sun buoys our spirits, so may the Coming of Christ into our world dispel the darkness of sin and death. May it shine brightly among all we meet and may we bring its glory to all who need a glimmer of hope and a ray of light.

Let us live Advent well by watching and waiting for the Lord!

Fr. Timothy Harrison, Pastor

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, December 7 at Nativity Hall, Merrimac at 2:00 p.m.



Follow Us on Instagram
HRICCatholic

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 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.

Novena to Mary

You are invited to a Novena, as part of the 175th Anniversary celebration in honor of Mary, our patroness, being held in the Immaculate Conception Church at 7:00 p.m. for 9 evenings from Wednesday, November 29 to Thursday, December 7.



Our evenings of prayer and meditation will feature reflections from an ICS teacher and HRIC parishioners on such themes as "Mary As My Friend," "Mary Undoer of Knots," and Purposeful Obedience.

RCIA Corner

This week, let's talk about who is on the RCIA/OCIA "Team." While there is a *director* of the RCIA process at HRIC, and we do have *catechists/teachers* who meet regularly with candidates and catechumens seeking to become Catholic, the RCIA Team is much bigger than this. In fact, "the *entire* community must help the candidates and catechumens throughout the process of initiation." (RCIA, 9) All of the baptized are mandated by Christ to spread the Gospel and to give evidence of their faith. Whether by simply stopping to shake hands and meet them, praying for them, baking for their classes, attending the rituals they pass through, and/or sharing your own story of faith with them, each of us have a part to play in witnessing to our joy and building up future Catholics on their journey. In fact, RCIA begins before people formally reach out to the parish seeking to learn more. It begins in your workplaces and in your relations with friends and strangers—wherever the Holy Spirit might wish to work through your joyful and compassionate witness to inspire a heart to learn more about the Catholic faith and life in Jesus Christ! 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.

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.




NATIVITY PLAY

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS FAMILY FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 10
IC PASTORAL CENTER

10:00–11:15 A.M.

ALL COLLABORATIVE FAMILIES WELCOME!



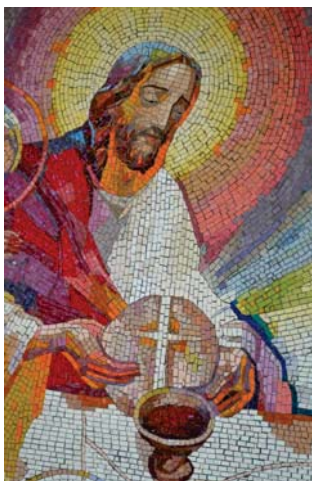
TREATS!



CRAFTS!

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.



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.

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."

Newburyport Choral Society

Under the direction of Music Director Dr. Minji Kim, 100+ voice Newburyport Choral Society will perform a selection of delightful holiday music from various cultures and countries around the world, as well as the holiday classic A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten.

The December 9 (7:30 p.m.) and December 10 (2:30 p.m.) concerts at Belleville Congregational Church, Newburyport, will also feature the Greater Newburyport Children's Chorus, local student readings, a small instrumental ensemble (including harp, piano, and percussion instruments), and even some audience participation. We will celebrate the joy in being together as a community, and honor many unique cultural identities of our shared humanity. For tickets, visit <https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/nbptcs/events/888>.

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.

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 your 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:** What action can you take daily to remind you of Jesus' coming?

 **Child:** How can you get ready for Jesus to come into your heart?

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

IC Offertory Collection

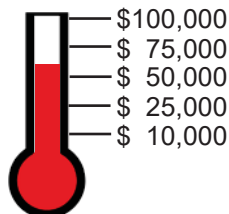
IC Offertory, Nov. 18–19	\$4,301.00
IC Mailed-in Offertory, Week Ending Nov.17	\$3,025.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$2,979.34
Total Weekly Offertory	\$10,305.34
HRIC Mission, Nov 13–15	\$4,415.00
Retired Religious Sisters, Nov 18–19	\$1,714.00
IC Offertory, Nov. 25–26	\$3,222.00
IC Mailed-In Offertory, Week Ending Nov. 24	\$1,135.00
IC Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$29,79.34
Total Weekly Offertory, Nov 25–26	\$7,336.34
St. Vincent de Paul, Thanksgiving Collection	\$1,252.00

The second collection this weekend (Dec. 3) is Ongoing Church Maintenance. The second collection next weekend (Dec. 10) is the Monthly.

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

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

**IC Grand Annual
Goal \$100,000
To Date \$58,350.00**



Seeking Volunteers: Offertory Collectors

We are hoping to resume passing the collection baskets and bringing up the gifts at Mass as soon as possible. To do this we need to recruit men and women who are willing to do this on a somewhat regular basis.

There would be one or two “captains” appointed for each Mass and they would arrange for the 6 collectors who would be needed at each Mass. All collectors would need to fill out a CORI form and a volunteer form. One of the current greeters would recruit a family or individuals for the Offertory Procession and would organize the Procession at the proper time. If you are interested, would you please email Jim at jimwilliamson35@gmail.com and let him know of your interest. Thank you for considering this request.

Immaculate Conception School

The Immaculate Conception School community gathered together for a Thanksgiving prayer service just before dismissing for the Thanksgiving holiday. The prayer service was led by the Pre-K and Kindergarten students with the help of their oldest buddies, 8th grade. The prayer service began with the Pre-K students processing down the center aisle carrying letters of the alphabet that spelled out “Thank You God.” During the intentions, the Kindergarten students named the groups of people they wanted us to pray for, such as doctors and nurses, farmers, grocery store workers, and our families. The prayer service concluded with the Pre-K and Kindergarten students singing, “A Gift To You” by Betsy Hernandez.



The IC is purposeful in providing opportunities for children of different ages within the school to interact with each other. This is a key component to cultivating a feeling of family and strength within the community. The 8th grade students guided the Pre-K and Kindergarten children through the prayer service in the most supportive way. The children enrolled at the IC are part of a caring community where developing work ethic is cultivated for a life-lasting impact. Give us a call to schedule a tour to learn more about Immaculate Conception School and the benefits of an IC education. 978-465-7780 www.icsnewburyport.com.

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

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 PARISH



Immaculate Conception
Parish
1848-2023

175th Anniversary Upcoming Events

Friday, December 8

5:30 p.m. Mass: Join us for the 175th Mass for the Feast of Immaculate Conception. A beautiful liturgy will be celebrated by Bishop Hennessey in honor of our patroness.

Then head down the street to the Mission Oak Grill for the 175th Gala!

7:00 p.m.: Anniversary Gala at Steeple Hall, Mission Oak Grill

Join fellow parishioners at the Gala for hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, cash bar, music, and dancing to celebrate 175 years of faith and service. Tickets are \$50/ person and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will be on sale following all IC weekend Masses until sold out. Questions? Contact Melinda: 978-462-2724, Mary: 508-269-3405, or Jan: 978-270-5128.

Sunday, December 10

11:30 a.m. Mass: His Eminence Cardinal Séan O'Malley will celebrate Mass in honor of the 175th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception

12:30 p.m.: Meet and greet the Cardinal in the IC School gym.

Knights Hospitality Sunday

Join us **this Sunday, December 3, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass**, in IC St. Louis Hall for Hospitality Sunday. We will have free coffee and donuts for all.

All men of the Collaborative, 18 years or older, are welcome to join the Knights. We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the IC Nazareth Library. For more information call 978-225-0804 or email kofc231@outlook.com.



Hospitality Sunday

1st Sundays after the 9AM Mass | Parish Center



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 6–February 14 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 5, 2024. Check payments should be made out to Immaculate Conception School or cash is accepted.

HOLY REDEEMER HOLIDAY FAIR

Fair Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make the HR Holiday Fair a success! The fair is a great time to bring our community together, working to help support our parish.

Also, congratulations to our **raffle winners**:

1st prize, \$500, Tom Dunphy
2nd prize, \$300, Mary Hardway
3rd prize, \$200, Marie Pierce



HOLY REDEEMER PARISH

HR Offertory Collection

HR Offertory, Nov. 18–19	\$2,131.00
HR Mailed-In Offertory, Week Ending Nov. 17	\$ 770.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 353.00
Total Weekly Offertory, Nov 25–26	\$3,254.00
Retired Religious Sisters, Nov 18–19	\$ 778.00

HR Offertory, Nov. 25–26	\$1,392.00
HR Mailed-In Offertory, Week Ending Nov. 24	\$ 575.00
HR Weekly Online Offertory Giving	\$ 353.00
Total Weekly Offertory, Nov 25–26	\$2,320.00

St. Vincent de Paul, Thanksgiving Collection \$ 406.00

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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 \$11,735.00**



Holy Redeemer Projects

**Nativity Hall
Air
Conditioning**

**Goal
\$12,000.00**



**St. Ann
Painting
Project**

**Goal
\$9,000.00**



Painting the Interior of St. Ann Church

Air Conditioning for Nativity Hall

A big shout out to the HR Activities Committee.

Money raised from the 2023 Holiday Fair will be put toward the goals for the St. Ann interior painting and the Merrimac Hall air conditioning. We will continue to update you on the progress of these projects.

Thank you for all you do for Holy Redeemer Parish!

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.

St. Ann Coffee Hour

*St. Ann Church Welcomes All to the Return of Our
"Coffee And..."*

We welcome all to join us on the first Sunday of every month for St. Ann's "Coffee And..." coffee social. We will meet on **Sunday, December 3**, after the 10:00 Mass. We hope you will join us in the church hall, for coffee and baked goods, to visit with old friends, and to make new ones. For your convenience, the side door on the parking lot side will be open with easier access to the hall.



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**.

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)

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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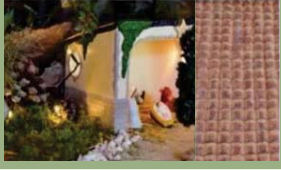
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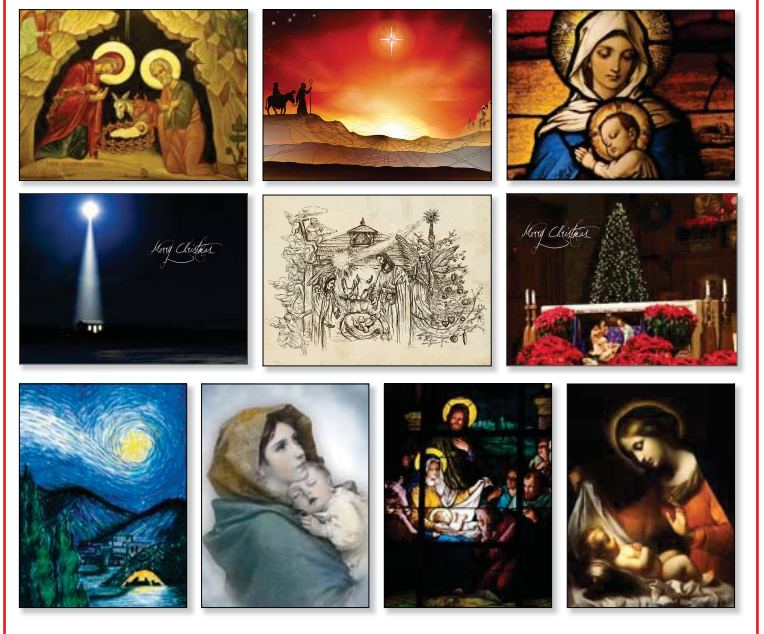
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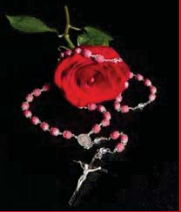
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